

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 26, 2007/Vaisakha 6, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Secretary-General may please call the names of the Members who are to take oath.

SHRI DEVWRAT SINGH (Rajnandgaon)

SHRI GHURAN RAM (Palamu)

SHRIMATI YASHODARA RAJE SCINDIA (Gwalior)

SHRI VASANTRAO MORE (Erandol)

SHRI HARIBHAN JAWALE (Jalgaon)

SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO (Ramtek)

11.05 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of four of our former colleagues, Shri S.N. Singh, Shrimati Bonily Khongmen, Shri Ghamandi Lal Bansal and Shri Ram Raghunath Chaudhary.

Shri S.N. Singh was a Member of the Fifth Lok Sabha from 1971 to 1977 representing Jhunjhunu Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan.

Shri Singh was also a Member of the Rajasthan

Legislative Assembly for four terms from 1957 to 1962, 1967 to 1971, 1993 to 1998 and 1999 to 2003.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Singh was the Member, Rules Committee from 1972 to 1974 and Committee on Petitions from 1974 to 1975. He was also the Member, Bhartiya Bhasha Samiti from 1971 to 1973 and Central Advisory Committee for National Cadet Corps from 1973 to 1974.

An advocate by profession, Shri Singh was an active social worker. He worked relentlessly for the upliftment of rural poor. He was also a Member of the High Power Committee on Agriculture Reforms in Rajasthan.

Shri S.N. Singh passed away on 17th February, 2007 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan at the age of 81.

Shrimati Bonily Khongmen was a Member of the First Lok Sabha from 1952 to 1957 representing Autonomous Districts Parliamentary Constituency of Assam.

Earlier, Shrimati Khongmen was a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly from 1946 to 1951. During his tenure, she held with distinction of the office of Deputy-Speaker of the Assembly.

An active Parliamentarian, Shrimati Khongmen was a Member of the Panel of Chairmen in Lok Sabha. She also served as a Member of the Estimates Committee during 1955-56.

An able administrator, Shrimati Khongmen was Chairperson of the Assam Public Service Commission from 1960 to 1962. She was a Member of the Union Public Service Commission from 1963 to 1970. She also served as Chairperson of the Nagaland Public Service Commission from 1970 to 1974 and of the Nagaland Pay Commission in 1975.

Shrimati Khongmen was Member, Advisory Councils of Khasi, Jaintia and Makir Hills till 1952. She was also a member of the Indian Red Cross Society.

An educationist of repute, Shrimati Khongmen was

unanimously elected twice as a Member of the Guwahati University Court. She was actively associated with the establishment of several schools in the Assam Hills and strived hard for providing basic education amongst tribals.

An active social worker, Shrimati Khongmen was a member of the Young women Christian Association, Chairperson of the Eastern Indian Women's Association, Chairperson of the Indian Council of Child Welfare, Meghalaya, Vice-Chairperson of the Jeebon Roy Memorial Welfare Institute and other social and educational institutions.

Shrimati Khongmen was a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly at New York in 1955.

Shrimati Bonily Khongmen passed away on 17th March, 2007 at Shillong, Meghalaya at the age of 94.

Shri Ghamandi Lal Bansal was a Member of the First Lok Sabha from 1952 to 1957 representing the then Jhajjar-Rewari Parliamentary Constituency of erstwhile Punjab State.

Shri Bansal was a Member of the Rules Committee of the House from 1955 to 1956.

A multi-faceted personality, Shri Bansal served as the Secretary-General, Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chairman and Treasurer of G.B. Pant Memorial Society and Treasurer, Indian Council of Youth. Shri Bansal was also Member of the Indian Council of World Affairs and of the Governing Body of Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi.

A widely traveled person, Shri Bansal represented the International Chamber of Commerce at the Fifth Session of the E.C.A.F.E. in 1949. He attended International Labour Conferences held at Geneva, Switzerland in 1950 and 1951.

Shri Ghamandil Lal Bansal passed away on 19th March, 2007 at New Delhi at the age of 93.

Shri Ram Raghunath Chaudhary was a Member of

Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabhas from 1998 to 2004, representing Nagaur parliamentary constituency of Rajasthan.

Earlier, Shri Chaudhary was a Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly for three terms from 1972 to 1985. He served as Member of Estimates Committee and Public Undertakings Committee in Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Chaudhary was Member, Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers during Twelfth Lok Sabha. In Thirteenth Lok Sabha, he was Member, Committee on Industry and Committee on Official Languages.

An agriculturist and a well-known social worker, Shri Chaudhary was associated with various social and agro institutions. He served as Chairman of the Young Farmers' Forum, Rajasthan; Nagaur District Land Development Cooperative Bank Limited, Nagaur and Agro Sales and Manufacturing Cooperative Limited, for three years. He was member of National Farmers' Educational Welfare Society, New Delhi; Bhartiya Krishak Samaj; Food and Agricultural Organisation of India and Agricultural Prices Commission of India.

A sports enthusiast, he worked hard for promotion of sports in his State. A widely traveled person, Shri Chaudhary attended Agricultural Exchange Programme and the International Forum for Youth Exchange at United States of America.

Shri Ram Raghunath Chaudhary passed away on 6th April, 2007 at Ajmer, Rajasthan at the age of 74.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House also expresses its shock and grief over the terrorist attacks in Algiers on 11th April, 2007 which resulted in the death of more than thirty civilians and

injuries to more than hundred and sixty persons. The attack on the office of the Prime Minister and the Interior Minister of the Government of People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, is deplorable.

The House also expresses its shock and grief over the terrorist incidents in Casablanca in April, 2007 aimed at the civilian population and at disrupting peace.

The scourge of terrorism cannot be condoned in any form and must be confronted with determination and firmness.

The House reiterates the solidarity of the people of India with their Algerian and Moroccan brethren in their common struggle against the menace of global terrorism.

The House strongly condemns these terrorist attacks on innocent civilians and expresses its empathy with the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.13 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while.*

11.14 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

[English]

Arrest of Member and condemning Commission of alleged offence by Member.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East) : Sir, what about human trafficking...(Interruptions)

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb the Speaker.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is a bad precedent and a very bad gesture. You are interrupting the Speaker. There is a limit to it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If anybody is so impatient, he may go out.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, on 18th April, 2007 a communication was received in my office from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Indira Gandhi International Airport Unit intimating about the arrest of Shri Babubhai K. Katara, M.P., under various sections of Indian Penal Code and the Passport Act. The Member concerned is now under police custody.

I discussed the matter with the hon. Leaders of different Parties yesterday, and it was unanimously agreed that the House should not only express its concern but should also condemn the commission of the alleged offence by the Member of this august House. Accordingly, on behalf of the House and on my behalf, I strongly disapprove the conduct of the Member and condemn the same.

I wish to state that the House is distressed and expresses its firm determination to take all necessary action so that the dignity of the House is not tarnished.

Considering the gravity of the situation, I propose to hold a meeting of the hon. Leaders of different Parties in the House so that a course of action can be decided upon

*Not recorded.

as to how such matters may be dealt with in future so that the prestige of this great institution is upheld.

In these circumstances, I request Shri Katara not to attend the sittings of the House till the matter has been deliberated upon by the Leaders and a decision is taken.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House will take up Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, please give me a chance. I have to raise a very important matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please give me two minutes. I request all of you to please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Yadavji, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Hon. Members, I can only express my greatest regret and I also condemn this behaviour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall hear you at 12 O'clock.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing? Nothing is being recorded and nothing is being heard. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I earnestly request all the hon. Members to let the Question Hour begin.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, what are you doing? At 12 O' clock, I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I express my deep anguish at what is happening in this House. It seems that the hon. Members are not interested to go on with the proceedings of the House.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Effectiveness of Polio Drops

*321. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of children who have been afflicted by polio despite administration of polio drops to them during the last three years; and

(b) the preventive measures taken by the Government to ensure the effectiveness of the polio drops being administered to the children?

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) Details of the number of children afflicted by polio after receiving polio drops during the last three years are given below:—

| Year | No. of Children who received polio drops | No. of Children afflicted with polio after receiving polio drops |
|------|--|--|
| 2004 | 168,762,772 | 128 |
| 2005 | 172,137,685 | 66 |
| 2006 | 172,145,088 | 649 |

(b) The preventive measures taken by the Ministry for ensuring quality and effectiveness of the Oral Polio Vaccine are as follows:—

- (i) Oral polio vaccine which is used in the polio programme is procured from WHO prequalified suppliers. Before its use in the field, the samples of each batch of the vaccines are tested by the Central Drug Laboratory (CDL) Kasauli, for its potency. After getting satisfactory report from CDL, the vaccine is dispatched to the State/districts.
- (ii) Oral polio vaccine is a heat sensitive vaccine and required to be stored in appropriate temperature for maintaining its potency. Accordingly, the Oral Polio Vaccine is stored at the State/Regional stores in the Walk-In-Freezer (WIF). At the district/Block/Primary Health Centre (PHC), the vaccine is stored in Ice Lined Refrigerator (ILR). The vaccine is transported from the district/block/PHC stores to the site of vaccination in vaccine carriers to maintain the appropriate temperature and to avoid any loss of potency of the vaccine.
- (iii) Oral Polio Vaccine vial used in the country has Vaccine Vial Monitor (VVM) on it. The VVM is

a heat sensitive monitor that changes colour on exposure to heat and allows the user to decide whether the vaccine inside the vial is potent and can be used. All vaccination teams are trained before the polio campaigns to ensure that they read and interpret the indications in the vaccine vial monitor. Strict monitoring and supervision of the vaccine vial monitor is done at the district/block/PHC/vaccination site level.

- (iv) Random samples of Oral polio vaccine are picked up from the field and tested in the Central Drug Laboratory (CDL) to check potency.
- (v) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is undertaking an in-depth study for sero-prevalence of antibodies against polio type 1 and type 3 viruses in Western Uttar Pradesh districts.

[English]

Growth of Telecommunications

*322. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :
SHRI UDAY SINGH :

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

- (a) whether the Government owned telecom companies have failed to keep pace with the private sector companies in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the growth of telecommunications in the private sector has registered a growth higher than that of the public sector; and
- (d) if so, the details of the plans formulated to augment the public telecom growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Sir, the growth in telecom sector in

the country during the last three years is mainly driven by mobile telephony. Both public sector and private sector have risen to the occasion in this regard. The growth in public sector in this segment during the last three years has been 397% whereas, the figure for private sector for the same period is 324%.

(b) BSNL and MTNL have made plans for addition of 15 million capacity for telephones and additional 6 million broadband capacity during the next year. The PSUs are continuously modernizing their network and providing State of Art services to their customers at highly competitive tariff.

Modernisation of Medical Equipments in Hospitals

*323. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has any Central scheme of assistance to upgrade and modernize the medical equipments in the State Government-run hospitals in the coming Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the latest equipments are not available even in the Medical Colleges; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for strengthening the Government Hospitals and Medical Colleges with the latest equipments?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (d) Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, it is proposed to strengthen 13 existing Medical College Institutions in terms of infrastructure and equipments. List of Institutions being upgraded is given the enclosed statement. The Government of India is investing Rs.100 Crores for each institution and the State Government's share is Rs. 20 Crores and subsequent recurring, maintenance and manpower costs. In respect of SVIMS, Tirupati, the TTD

trust is bearing half of the cost i.e. Rs. 60 Crores and the GOI share is only Rs. 60 Crores. Likewise, in respect of IMS (BHU) Varanasi, which is a GOI institution, Rs. 20 Crores is being provided by Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The upgradation exercise has been initiated for the above institutions. The Central Technical team has visited all the institutions, for gap analysis and assessment of requirement. The upgradation broadly envisages strengthening the existing departments, through procurement of equipments. It is also proposed to build a Super Speciality Block, Nursing College, OPD etc. for many of the institutions. The upgradation work would be carried out in phases. Most of the equipments for existing departments are proposed to be procured in 2007-08. Civil construction work for new building for most of the institutions is expected to be completed by 2008 and 2009. Equipment required for these buildings would be procured accordingly.

Considering the need to further support the State Governments in strengthening of Government medical colleges, in the interest of medical education, the matter has been taken up with the Planning Commission for starting a new scheme during the 11th Plan. For this purpose, an amount of Rs. 35 crores has been allocated for the year 2007-08.

Statement

Upgradation of 13 medical institutes under PMSSY

The following 13 medical institutes have already been identified for upgradation under PMSSY.

1. Government Medical College, Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir)
2. Government Medical College, Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir)
3. Kolkatta Medical College, Kolkatta (W.B.)
4. Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Luknow (U.P.)

5. Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU, Varanasi (UP)
6. Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad (A.P.)
7. Sri Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati (A.P.) (50% cost of upgradation will be borne by the TTD Trust)
8. Government Medical College, Salem (T.N.)
9. Patliputra Medical College and Hospital, Dhanbad (Jharkhand)*
10. B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
11. Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore (Karnataka)
12. Grants Medical College and Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai, (Maharashtra)**
13. Government Medical College, Thrivananthapuram, (Kerala)

N.B.

Government of Jharkhand has been requested to reconsider the option of upgradation of Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences at Ranchi.

- ** The upgradation is pending as the matter is subjudice in Nagpur Bench of Mumbai High Court on selection of this institution, instead of the Medical College at Nagpur.

[Translation]

Preparation of List of BPL Persons

*324. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has prepared a list of those living below the poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details thereof;

(d) whether the list being prepared has several discrepancies and mistakes owing to which it is not likely to serve the stated purpose;

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

(f) whether the Government has received complaints from the State Governments regarding identification of BPL families;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (h) The number and proportion of people living Below the Poverty Line in the country is estimated by the Planning Commission at the national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization and the Ministry of Rural Development conducts the BPL Census through the State Governments and UT Administrations to identify the families living Below the Poverty Line in the rural areas who could be assisted under various programmes of the Ministry. This exercise generally coincides with every Five Year Plan.

For the 10th Five Year Plan, detailed guidelines were issued to the States/UTs to conduct the BPL Census 2002. These guidelines were issued on the recommendations of the Expert Group, and followed the Methodology of Score Based Ranking of the rural households, and for this purpose 13 socio-economic parameters were prescribed. The survey work had started in 2002 itself, however, in the mean time, Hon'ble Supreme Court passed a stay order on deletion of any name from the existing list during

one of the hearings of the Civil Writ Petition No.196 of 2001 on 5.5.2003 in the matter of PUCL V/s Union of India. The stay has since been vacated on 14.2.2006 and the States and UTs have already been advised to finalise the list of BPL families for the rural areas.

The Ministry of Rural Development has taken appropriate steps to ensure that the BPL list based on BPL Census 2002 is prepared in a transparent manner. For this purpose, Gram Sabha has been authorized to approve the BPL list at the village level. A provision has been made to provide the photocopy of the survey form on demand to any body to reveal as how the scores have been given. A two-stage appeal mechanism has also been introduced. Any objection can be filed before the SDM/Tehsildar as the case may be and people still having objections can file an appeal with the District Collector. These files are to be decided in a time bound manner. Instructions have also been issued to display the list at the Panchayat Headquarters and also to display it on the website.

On the directions of the Supreme Court, a provision has also been made to allow new names to be added and ineligible names deleted from the BPL list on a continuous basis during the period to which the list applies. Therefore, the guidelines provide for an in-built system to redress the grievances of the people, if any and to remove any discrepancy in the list.

Some States wanted a higher limit on the number of BPL families to be identified. However it was clarified that the guidelines already provide that the number of BPL families can be identified in such a way that it should be equal to the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 or the adjusted share whichever is higher. In addition another 10% families could be added to account for transient poor which gives adequate flexibility to the States.

[English]

Transplantation of Human Organs

*325. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has appointed a Committee to review the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ninety per cent of the recipients of human organs are male and most of the organ donors are women;

(d) whether there is any proposal to make provisions in the Act to protect the health of women;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Delhi High Court vide its order dated 06.07.2004 in CWP No. 813/2004 had appointed a Committee to review the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 (THOA) and the Rules framed thereunder. The Committee had submitted its report to the Government. Wider consultation with various stake holders has been considered necessary by the Government.

(c) Such percentage-wise details are not being maintained.

(d) to (f) No special provision is proposed to be made in THOA, 1994, with particular reference to women donors, as the Act is gender neutral.

Decrease in the Birth of Female Children

*326. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an alarming decrease in the number of female child births and their survival in many States;

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

(c) the steps undertaken by the Government to stop such a disturbing trend?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) Sex ratio in India has declined over the century from 972 in 1901 to 927 in 1991. The sex ratio has since gone up to 933 in 2001. In contrast, the child sex ratio for the age group 0-6 years in 2001 is 927 girls per thousand boys against 945 recorded in 1991 Census. The Census 2001 figures further reveal that the child sex ratio is comparatively lower in the affluent regions, i.e., Punjab (798), Haryana (819), Chandigarh (845) Delhi (868), Gujarat (833), and Himachal Pradesh (896). State/UT wise Sex ratio and child Sex ratio as per 1991 and 2001 Census is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has undertaken a number of initiatives for strict implementation of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC and PNDT) Act as well as for creating awareness on the issue among the stakeholders and general public.

National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) having representatives of Department of Women and Child Development, National Commission for Women, Indian Council for Medical Research as members, undertakes periodical visits to the districts with low child sex ratio (0-6 years) to oversee the implementation of the Act at ground level. The National Support and Monitoring Cell has been constituted as a mechanism to help Appropriate Authorities in apprehending actual wrong doer who are committing female foeticide/abetting female foeticide. The Governments of India undertook training of trainers from State Judicial Academies at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.

It is, nevertheless, recognized that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behaviour and prejudices. A number of activities to create awareness on the issue are being undertaken. The initiatives include meeting with the organizations working

against sex selection, involvement of the medical professionals, religious leaders to spread the message, requesting police training academies and schools to include the issues in curriculum of their training, telecasting of PNDT spots on private satellite channels and Doordarshan, and involvement of elected representatives etc. A 'Save the Girl Child' Campaign with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls has been launched.

District Magistrates have also been requested to regularly review the implemented of the PC and PNDT Act alongwith other programmes in their district.

Statement

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

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

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|------|-----|
| Bihar | 907 | 919 | 953 | 942 |
| Sikkim | 878 | 875 | 965 | 963 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 859 | 893 | 982 | 964 |
| Nagaland | 886 | 900 | 993 | 964 |
| Manipur | 958 | 978 | 974 | 957 |
| Mizoram | 921 | 935 | 969 | 964 |
| Tripura | 945 | 948 | 967 | 966 |
| Meghalaya | 955 | 972 | 986 | 973 |
| Assam | 923 | 935 | 975 | 965 |
| West Bengal | 917 | 934 | 967 | 960 |
| Jharkhand | 922 | 941 | 979 | 965 |
| Orissa | 971 | 972 | 967 | 953 |
| Chhattisgarh | 985 | 989 | 974 | 975 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 912 | 919 | 941 | 932 |
| Gujarat | 934 | 920 | 928 | 883 |
| Daman and Diu* | 969 | 710 | 958 | 926 |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli* | 952 | 812 | 1013 | 979 |
| Maharashtra | 934 | 922 | 946 | 913 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 972 | 978 | 975 | 961 |
| Karnataka | 960 | 965 | 960 | 946 |
| Goa | 967 | 961 | 964 | 938 |
| Lakshadweep* | 943 | 945 | 941 | 959 |
| Kerala | 1,036 | 1,058 | 958 | 960 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| Tamil Nadu | 974 | 987 | 948 | 942 |
| Pondicherry* | 979 | 1,001 | 963 | 967 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands* | 818 | 846 | 973 | 957 |

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

*Union Territory.

Role of National Sports Federations

*327. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the role being played by various existing National Sports Federations in the country;

(b) the achievements made by the federations in promoting sports; and

(c) the control/check exercised by the Government over these Federations?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) The National Sports Federations (NSFs) are responsible and accountable for the overall management, direction, control, regulation, promotion, development and sponsorship of various sports disciplines. The recognized NSFs undertake various programmes for promotion of their respective sport such as spotting of talent, holding of national championships for Sub-Junior, Junior and Senior Categories, organization of international sports events in the country, selection of teams for participation in international sports events, training/coaching of national teams, procurement of equipment required for training etc.

(b) The NSFs in coordination with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports are undertaking various programmes as per agreed Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) for the promotion of the sports disciplines concerned. As a result

of these efforts, the performance of Indian sportspersons has shown some improvement at the international level in recent years. Details of the achievements of Indian sportspersons at major multi-disciplinary sports events held in recent past are given below:—

| S. No. | Name of the Event | Host Country | Medals Won | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|--------|--------|-------|
| | | | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
| 1. | Asian Games, 2002 | Busan, Korea | 11 | 12 | 13 | 36 |
| 2. | Commonwealth Games, 2002 | Manchester, U.K. | 30 | 22 | 17 | 69 |
| 3. | Afro-Asian Games, 2003 | Hyderabad (India) | 19 | 32 | 29 | 80 |
| 4. | South Asian Federation Games, 2004 | Islamabad, Pakistan | 101 | 59 | 31 | 191 |
| 5. | Olympic Games, 2004 Athens | Athens, Greece | 00 | 01 | 00 | 01 |
| 6. | Commonwealth Games, 2006 | Melbourne, Australia | 22 | 17 | 11 | 50* |
| 7. | SAF Games, 2006 | Colombo, Sri Lanka | 118 | 69 | 47 | 234 |

*Note : Judo and Wrestling were not included as an event and Weightlifting had only one medal for each weight category thereby reducing the number of medals available as compared to the Commonwealth Games 2002

Apart from above the disciplines of Athletics, Archery, Rowing, Table Tennis, Tennis, Yachting, Chess, Billiards and Snooker, Weightlifting, Badminton etc. have shown marked improvement in the performance at the international level and this has been possible as a consequence of the efforts of NSFs concerned backed by the requisite support of the Ministry and SAI.

(c) The National Sports Associations/Federations are autonomous bodies registered under the Societies Registration Act. Government of India does not interfere in their day-to-day functioning. However, under the scheme of 'Assistance to National Sports Federations,' the Government supplements the efforts of the recognized

National Sports Federations by providing financial assistance for holding national/international sports events in India, participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, training and arrangements for coaches, both Indian and foreign, procurement of equipment and consumables etc., as per agreed Long Term Development Plans.

To ensure that the NSFs maintain certain basic standards and norms with regard to their internal functioning, provision has been made for the recognition of one National Sports Federation in each discipline under the scheme for which guidelines have been prescribed.

In order to ensure transparency in selection processes, the Ministry has appointed Government Observers in each discipline to oversee the selection process and submit reports to the Government. Assistance is released only after the accounts and utilization certificates of the assistance given, if any, for the previous event are submitted. As per the provisions of the General Financial Rules, the Ministry also issues necessary permission to CAG to conduct the audit of the NSFs receiving financial assistance of more than Rupees one crore in a financial year. The guidelines under the scheme of "Assistance to National Sports Federations" also provide for action by way of suspension/de-recognition in the event of irregularities such as unfair elections, misutilisation of funds, functioning against the interests of sports etc.

Emphasis on Priority Areas

*328. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has emphasized on the viability and regulation of a few priority areas such as rural economy, and public services, management of urban areas, financial system to ensure cost effective investment in infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister in an address at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2006 emphasized five challenges to engage the country over the next decade. These are : (i) revitalisation of the rural economy, (ii) improved delivery of essential public services, (iii) improved management of urban areas, (iv) preparing

financial system for greater inclusion and increased global integration and (v) establishing a regulatory culture to facilitate cost-effective private investment in infrastructure.

(c) For the rural economy the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at achieving a growth rate of 4% in agriculture sector. For that there is a focus on improving rural connectivity, scaling up of irrigation potential creation, watershed management, rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge, revitalization of the extension system which links universities and best practices to farmers, etc. The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme (APDRP) are being implemented to augment irrigation and power respectively. Bharat Nirman is a time-bound business plan for action in rural infrastructure over the four-year period (2005-2009). Under Bharat Nirman, action is proposed in the areas of irrigation, rural roads, rural housing, rural water supply, rural electrification and rural telecommunication connectivity. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been launched for a seven-year period beginning 2005-06. In the area of health, the National Rural Health Mission (NHRM) has been set up with the objective of providing accessible, affordable, accountable and effective health care delivery especially to the poor and the vulnerable sections of the society and bridge gaps in health care. In education, the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) is being implemented to provide elementary education to all children in the 6-14 years age group. For global integration of the Indian economy, there has been a progressive reduction in the tariff rates. The Budget for 2007-08 has proposed reduction in the peak customs tariff rate to 10%. A Committee on Infrastructure has been set up under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister with the objective of initiating policies that ensure time-bound creation of world class infrastructure delivering services matching international standards and developing structures that maximize the role of public-private partnerships in the field of infrastructure.

Penalty on Operators

*329. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has decided to make 2007 the year of the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the TRAI Act, 1997 leaves very little scope for the regulator to regulate issues pertaining to quality of services and has no power to impose penalties on the erring operators;

(d) if so, whether the TRAI has sought more powers to take on the defaulting operators;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation Paper in January, 2007, to institutionalize the system of handling consumer complaints. TRAI has decided to hold workshops in different parts of the country to create awareness among consumers and to build the capacity of consumer organizations.

(c) Section 11 (b)(v) of TRAI Act entrusts TRAI with the functions of laying down standards of Quality of Service to be provided by the Service Providers, ensuring the quality of service and conducting periodical survey of such service provided by Service Providers so as to protect the interest of consumers of telecommunication service.

As per the procedure contained in Section 34 of TRAI Act, TRAI has to file a complaint before a Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate or a Chief Judicial Magistrate of first class to try the cases pertaining to quality of service. Section 29 of TRAI Act provides the penalty that can be imposed by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or a Chief Judicial Magistrate of first class.

(d) to (f) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has sent a consolidated revised proposal to Department of Telecommunications in February, 2007, to consider various amendments in the TRAI Act, 1997, including amendment of Section 34 of TRAI Act.

Golden Quadrilateral Project

*330. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

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

(a) the details of the length of the Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) Project yet to be constructed, State-wise;

(b) the details of the length targeted to be constructed alongwith the areas/stretches during the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the total amount likely to be spent on this construction?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The state-wise details of length of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) Project yet to be constructed is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The state-wise details of length of targeted to be constructed alongwith the areas/stretches during 2006-07 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The Government approved the cost of GQ as Rs. 25,055 crore (at 1999 prices) excluding escalations and variations. The expenditure incurred upto February, 2007 is Rs. 26,350.14 crore, including variations and escalations. The likely expenditure on projects on GQ during 2006-07 is estimated at Rs.1604 crore, out of which

Rs.1431.23 crores have already been spent till February, 2007.

Statement-I

State-wise details of length of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) Project yet to be constructed

All Figures are in km.
(As on 28.2.2007)

| S.No. | State | To be constructed |
|-------|-------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Bihar | 12 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|---------------|-----|
| 2. | Jharkhand | 8 |
| 3. | Karnataka | 51 |
| 4. | Orissa | 119 |
| 5. | Uttar Pradesh | 110 |
| 6. | West Bengal | 6 |
| Total | | 306 |

Statement-II

State-wise details of target length of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) for 2006-07

Length in km.

| S. No. | Package | State | NH. No. | Length (Km) | Targeted Length 2006-07 |
|--------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Mohania - Sasaram | Bihar | 2 | 45 | 12.64 |
| 2. | Sasaram - Dehri-on-Sone | Bihar | 2 | 30 | 15.45 |
| 3. | Barachati - Gorhar | Bihar/Jharkhand | 2 | 80 | 13.58 |
| 4. | Gorhar - Barwa Adda | Jharkhand | 2 | 78.75 | 26.50 |
| 5. | Tumkur Bypass | Karnataka | 4 | 13 | 7.00 |
| 6. | Belgaum - Dharwad | Karnataka | 4 | 62 | 32.00 |
| 7. | Harihar - Chitradurga | Karnataka | 4 | 77 | 42.70 |
| 8. | Haveri - Harihar | Karnataka | 4 | 56 | 10.28 |
| 9. | Hubli - Haveri | Karnataka | 4 | 64.5 | 6.06 |
| 10. | Chitradurga - Sira | Karnataka | 4 | 66.7 | 15.79 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----|---------|--------|
| 11. | Satara - Kagal | Maharashtra | 4 | 133 | 8.00 |
| 12. | Katraj - Sarole | Maharashtra | 4 | 28.5 | 10.00 |
| 13. | Katraj Realignment | Maharashtra | 4 | 9 | 4.60 |
| 14. | Bhubaneswar - Khurda | Orissa | 5 | 26.3 | 4.13 |
| 15. | Laxmannath - Baleshwar | Orissa | 60 | 53.41 | 29.17 |
| 16. | Bridges | Orissa | 5 | 11.587 | 11.587 |
| 17. | Sunakhala - Ganjam | Orissa | 5 | 55.713 | 6.25 |
| 18. | Kanchipuram - Poonamalee | Tamil Nadu | 4 | 56.4 | 39.93 |
| 19. | Varanasi - Mohania | UP/Bihar | 2 | 76 | 11.59 |
| 20. | Sikandara - Bhaunti | Uttar Pradesh | 2 | 62 | 1.02 |
| 21. | Handia - Varanasi | Uttar Pradesh | 2 | 72 | 34.02 |
| 22. | Etawah - Rajpur | Uttar Pradesh | 2 | 72.825 | 0.86 |
| 23. | Agra - Shikohabad | Uttar Pradesh | 2 | 50.83 | 8.46 |
| 24. | Fatehpur - Khaga | Uttar Pradesh | 2 | 77 | 2.54 |
| 25. | Kanpur - Fatehpur | Uttar Pradesh | 2 | 51.5 | 4.19 |
| 26. | Allahabad Bypass (Contract III) | Uttar Pradesh | 2 | 44.708 | 2.10 |
| 27. | Allahabad Bypass (Contract II) | Uttar Pradesh | 2 | 38.987 | 2.29 |
| 28. | Kharagpur - Laxmannath | West Bengal | 60 | 65.86 | 2.00 |
| 29. | Dhankuni - Kolaghat | West Bengal | 6 | 54.4 | 1.73 |
| 30. | Bridges | West Bengal | 6 | 1.732 | 1.73 |
| 31. | Vivekananda Bridge and Approaches | West Bengal | 2 | 6 | 3.64 |
| Grand Total | | | | 2069.84 | 371.84 |

[Translation]

Testing of Medicines

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

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to further examine the medicines already procured under the schemes being executed with the assistance from the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of companies blacklisted after conducting inquiries in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the measures taken by the government to prevent recurrence of such irregularities in future; and

(e) the details of the review of the system conducted during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (e) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided in consultation with the World Bank to conduct a review of the quality and quantity of pharmaceuticals and medical goods supplied under the Bank financed health sector projects.

Ministry is currently in the process of appointing a suitable consultancy firm to carry out this review. Action against companies/others shall be taken after the results of the review are available and irregularities are reported.

In order to strengthen the procurement process, the Ministry has set up a separate Empowered Procurement Wing (EPW) to consolidate, streamline and strengthen the procurement function. The wing also aims at inter-alia building adequate capacities for procurement both in the Centre and the States.

Eradication of Blindness and Leprosy

*332. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

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

(a) the Central assistance provided to the States for eradication of blindness and leprosy, particularly in backward and rural areas;

(b) the amount released for this work so far during the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government for utilization of the Central assistance or grants;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any monitoring cell has been set up for the purpose of evaluation of this programme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) and National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) are centrally sponsored schemes uniformly in implementation in States/UTs including backward and rural areas of the country. Statements showing Central assistance released to States/UTs under NPCB and NLEP during the current financial year (2006-07) are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Central Assistance provided under NPCB and NLEP are utilized by States/UTs as per the approved Annual Action Plan each year in accordance with the guidelines and pattern of assistance approved for these programmes during the 10th Five Year Plan.

(e) and (f) Monitoring and evaluation is a regular process under NPCB. The programme is regularly monitored at District, State, Central and Regional levels by the implementing agencies. As a part of evaluation of the programme, Cost Benefit Analysis survey, Beneficiary Assessment Survey, Evaluation of NGOs, Evaluation of IOL Training, Rapid Assessment Survey and Facility Survey were undertaken.

Under NLEP, there is an inbuilt system of monitoring of monthly epidemiological situation report at District, State and Central level.

Evaluation of the programme was carried out in the form of Leprosy Elimination Monitoring (LEM) exercise undertaken with WHO support through National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) to assess the

programme achievements in identified indicators during the year 2002, 2003 and 2004. These exercises were carried out to assess the progress of integration of leprosy services with General Health Care System, quality of MDT services and to identify any potential issues of programme implementation.

Another independent evaluation study was also carried out through the Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur, in April-May 2005 to evaluate the programme achievement status at the close of the World Bank supported Second National Leprosy Elimination Project.

The observations and recommendations of these evaluations are being used to suitably modify programme strategy from time to time.

Statement-I

National Programme for Control of Blindness Expenditure to States/UTs as Cash, Kind GIA to DBCS/SBCS/NGOs

Rs. in Lakhs

| S. No. | States/UTs | 2006-2007* | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|------|------------------|------|-------------------|---------------|------------|
| | | Cash Grants | | GIA to SBCS/NGOs | | GIA for Commodity | Total Release | Total Exp. |
| | | Release | Exp. | Release | Exp. | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Major States | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 586.00 | 0.00 | 56.60 | 642.60 | 56.60 |
| 2. | Bihar | 0.00 | 0.00 | 214.50 | 0.00 | 207.92 | 422.42 | 0.00 |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 88.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 | 138.00 | 0.00 |
| 4. | Goa | 15.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 28.60 | 43.60 | 0.00 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 48.00 | 0.00 | 288.00 | 0.00 | 113.20 | 449.20 | 113.20 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-------|-------------------|--------|------|---------|------|---------|---------|---------|
| 6. | Haryana | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 75.75 | 175.75 | 75.75 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 122.84 | 122.84 | 122.84 |
| 8. | Jammu and Kashmir | 15.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 15.00 | 0.00 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 0.00 | 0.00 | 140.00 | 0.00 | 129.80 | 269.80 | 129.80 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 40.00 | 0.00 | 408.00 | 0.00 | 187.50 | 635.50 | 187.50 |
| 11. | Kerala | 0.00 | 0.00 | 30.00 | 0.00 | 84.80 | 114.80 | 84.80 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 175.00 | 0.00 | 406.00 | 0.00 | 181.57 | 762.57 | 181.57 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 65.00 | 0.00 | 572.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 637.00 | 0.00 |
| 14. | Orissa | 19.00 | 0.00 | 121.00 | 0.00 | 110.00 | 250.00 | 110.00 |
| 15. | Punjab | 0.00 | 0.00 | 54.00 | 0.00 | 86.60 | 140.60 | 86.60 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 0.00 | 0.00 | 581.50 | 0.00 | 106.60 | 688.10 | 106.60 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 242.00 | 0.00 | 1083.00 | 0.00 | 68.60 | 1393.60 | 68.60 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 300.00 | 0.00 | 741.00 | 0.00 | 93.40 | 1134.40 | 93.40 |
| 19. | Uttaranchal | 33.00 | 0.00 | 42.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 75.00 | 0.00 |
| 20. | West Bengal | 15.00 | 0.00 | 258.00 | 0.00 | 150.80 | 423.80 | 150.80 |
| Total | | 967.00 | 0.00 | 5713.00 | 0.00 | 1854.58 | 8534.58 | 1568.06 |

North Eastern

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|------|------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 4.00 | 0.00 | 27.00 | 0.00 | 60.00 | 91.00 | 60.00 |
| 2. | Assam | 0.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 | 0.00 | 180.00 | 330.00 | 180.00 |
| 3. | Manipur | 4.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 78.00 | 82.00 | 78.00 |
| 4. | Meghalaya | 3.00 | 0.00 | 120.00 | 0.00 | 36.73 | 159.73 | 36.73 |
| 5. | Mizoram | 9.00 | 0.00 | 74.00 | 0.00 | 24.00 | 107.00 | 24.00 |
| 6. | Nagaland | 4.00 | 0.00 | 24.00 | 0.00 | 34.67 | 62.67 | 34.67 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-------|---------|-------|------|--------|------|--------|---------|--------|
| 7. | Sikkim | 5.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 12.00 | 17.00 | 12.00 |
| 8. | Tripura | 11.00 | 0.00 | 175.50 | 0.00 | 32.50 | 219.00 | 32.50 |
| Total | | 40.00 | 0.00 | 570.50 | 0.00 | 457.90 | 1068.40 | 457.90 |

UTs

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|------|------|-------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.00 | 0.00 |
| 2. | Chandigarh | 4.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 12.00 | 16.00 | 12.00 |
| 3. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4. | Daman and Diu | 4.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 7.00 | 11.00 | 7.00 |
| 5. | Delhi | 0.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 | 116.60 | 166.60 | 116.60 |
| 6. | Lakshadweep | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7. | Pondicherry | 0.00 | 0.00 | 12.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 | 62.00 | 50.00 |
| Total | | 8.00 | 0.00 | 65.00 | 0.00 | 185.00 | 258.60 | 185.60 |

Central Cell 669.90 669.30

Grand Total 1015.00 0.00 6348.50 0.00 2498.08 10531.48 2881.46

*= Provisional.

Statement-II

*National Leprosy Eradication Programme
State-wise Amount Released during 2006-07 (As on 15.03.2007)*

(In lakhs)

| S. No. | State/UT | Cash Assistance to State Society | Kind (Cost of Drugs)# | Grant-in-aid to State Leprosy Societies | Grand Total |
|--------|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 21.34 | 16.78 | 138.86 | 176.98 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|-------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 5.00 | 0.33 | 45.58 | 50.91 |
| 3. | Assam | 1.25 | 11.93 | 71.28 | 84.46 |
| 4. | Bihar | 39.16 | 58.93 | 0.00* | 98.09 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 16.93 | 52.26 | 110.01 | 179.20 |
| 6. | Goa | 0.53 | 2.12 | 2.83 | 5.48 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 25.79 | 38.27 | 59.44 | 123.50 |
| 8. | Haryana | 5.00 | 0.00 | 47.66 | 52.66 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 6.35 | 0.96 | 60.69 | 68.00 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 11.64 | 7.76 | 47.07 | 66.47 |
| 11. | Jammu Division | 3.71 | 0.00 | 18.74 | 22.45 |
| 12. | Kashmir Division | 3.71 | 0.51 | 13.52 | 17.74 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 14.29 | 33.11 | 18.00 | 65.40 |
| 14. | Kerala | 7.41 | 0.00 | 54.26 | 61.67 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 23.82 | 6.22 | 0.00* | 30.04 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 17.99 | 49.95 | 205.34 | 273.28 |
| 17. | Manipur | 0.75 | 1.34 | 21.37 | 23.48 |
| 18. | Meghalaya | 1.00 | 0.47 | 17.35 | 18.82 |
| 19. | Mizoram | 5.00 | 0.40 | 32.38 | 37.78 |
| 20. | Nagaland | 3.00 | 0.43 | 40.29 | 43.72 |
| 21. | Orissa | 28.22 | 64.87 | 28.09 | 121.18 |
| 22. | Punjab | 5.00 | 0.00 | 41.06 | 46.06 |
| 23. | Rajasthan | 16.93 | 0.00 | 89.51 | 106.44 |
| 24. | Sikkim | 1.50 | 0.43 | 19.24 | 21.17 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| 25. | Tamil Nadu | 15.35 | 25.27 | 145.83 | 186.45 |
| 26. | Tripura | 6.00 | 0.67 | 6.83 | 13.50 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 74.10 | 101.50 | 317.16 | 492.76 |
| 28. | Uttaranchal | 11.94 | 3.05 | 29.76 | 44.75 |
| 29. | West Bengal | 20.11 | 94.14 | 192.40 | 306.65 |
| 30. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0.50 | 0.48 | 0.00* | 0.98 |
| 31. | Chandigarh | 0.25 | 1.40 | 3.00 | 4.65 |
| 32. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 1.00 | 0.35 | 2.75 | 4.10 |
| 33. | Daman and Diu | 4.75 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.75 |
| 34. | Delhi | 0.50 | 4.85 | 44.81 | 50.16 |
| 35. | Lakshadweep | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00* | 0.50 |
| 36. | Pondicherry | 0.50 | 0.00 | 7.24 | 7.74 |
| Total | | 400.82 | 578.78 | 1932.35 | 2911.95 |

* Funds have not been released to states as these are having sufficient unspent balance to carry out the approved state action plan activities during 2006-07.

Free MDT drugs are being provided by WHO on the basis of demand received from States/UTs.

[English]

Development of Ayurveda Industry

*333. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has been extending support for the development of Ayurveda industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is no full fledged Drug Standardization Machinery to regulate research development, collection of raw materials and production of drugs; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) Department of AYUSH has been supporting overall development of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy drug industry in the following ways:—

- (i) Department of AYUSH has notified the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and provided a subsidy of upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs to manufacturing units for becoming GMP compliance. In the 11th Plan, an enhanced subsidy for establishment of an in-house quality control laboratory would be given to manufacturing units.
- (ii) Department AYUSH has constituted Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Pharmacopoeia Committees to lay down pharmacopoeial standards and Formularies for providing assistance to the industry for making good quality medicines.
- (iii) Government of India has constituted Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine and Central Council for Research in Homeopathy which carry out research for the overall development of these systems and for standardization of classical drugs as well as clinical validation of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy formulations. AYUSH drug industry is associated with the pharmacopoeial and research work.
- (iv) Government of India have set up a National Medicinal Plants Board for encouraging in-situ conservation and ex-situ cultivation of medicinal plants with a view to make the industry sustainable.
- (v) Various other incentives are also being provided to AYUSH industry for participation in Arogya/ Trade Fairs/Exhibitions in India and abroad. Department of Commerce also offers a number of incentives to AYUSH industry for developing export market and for registration of products in other countries. Pharma Research and Development Fund administered by the Department of Science and Technology was also available to the AYUSH drug industry.
- (vi) Planning Commission has given in principle approval to a scheme for development of common facilities for AYUSH industry cluster in the 11th Plan to promote associative behaviour

among small and medium manufacturing units so that they can come together, create and maintain common facilities for quality control, sophisticated packing machines and marketing assistance, etc.

(c) and (d) The enforcement of Indian Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules with respect to Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs is the responsibility of the State Governments. 29 State Drug Testing Laboratories have been financially assisted for their upgradation. Assistance is also available to the State Governments to strengthen their drug enforcement mechanism for proper regulation of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drug. The details of measures taken by the Central Government for promotion of drug standardization and research and promotion and in-situ conservation and ex-situ cultivation of medicinal plants has been mentioned above.

[Translation]

Status of Expressways

*334. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of work on the construction of the 'Expressways' which was undertaken to link the peripheral areas of National Capital Territory Region of Delhi with the cities of neighbouring States such as Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in order to ease the flow of traffic.

(b) the estimated amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on the said projects;

(c) the ratio of fund sharing between the States concerned and the Union Government; and

(d) the target date of starting and completion of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Construction of an Expressway on "Build Operate and Transfer" (BOT) basis has been taken upto divert traffic not destined for Delhi. This will also link the peripheral areas of National

Capital Territory of Delhi. This expressway comprises of two parts viz Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) and Western Peripheral Expressway (WPE). EPE has been declared as National Expressway (NE II) and the National Highways Authority of India is its implementing agency. Land in a length of initial 4.7 km. has already been acquired by the Government of Haryana and is to be handed over to NHAI and 679 hectares of land has been acquired by NHAI. The Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for EPE has submitted the draft DPR to NHAI.

For Western Peripheral Expressway (WPE) which does not form part of the National Highway System, Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) is the implementing agency on behalf of the Government of Haryana. The Concession Agreement has been signed with M/s. KMP Expressway Projects Ltd., on 31.01.2006 and the Concessionaire has achieved financial closure on 08.01.2007. Earthwork and other allied activities are in progress.

(b) and (c) As per the preliminary estimates the cost of the project including the cost of land acquisition is Rs. 4120 crore. Cost of land acquisition for the entire project is to be shared between the Governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana in the ratio of 50: 25: 25 respectively. Funds for viability gap, if required, would be provided by the Union Government.

(d) Work on WPE has already commenced and is targeted for completion by 29.07.2009. Work of construction of EPE is scheduled for commencement by 01.02.2008 and completion by 31.01.2011.

[English]

Telemedicine Facilities

*335. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI :

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to provide telemedicine facilities in every district in the country; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented in different States?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) At present, Government does not have a proposal to provide telemedicine facilities in every district in the country. However, different projects with the application of Telemedicine for health care services have been undertaken by the Department of Space, Department of Information Technology and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in different parts of the country including the far flung areas.

Department of Space has provided telemedicine facilities at 142 centres including those at remote/rural/district hospitals and health centres which are connected to 34 specialty hospitals for tele-consultation and tele follow up while the Department of Information Technology has provided telemedicine facilities in 29 districts on a pilot basis.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has initiated an Integrated Disease Surveillance Projects (IDSP) under which all States and District Headquarters as well as Government Medical Colleges will be connected for data transfer, video conferencing and education with a focus on surveillance, early detection and response to the epidemic prone diseases. So far the network has been set up at 86 locations spread over 13 States. Under OncoNET India Project, it is being proposed to link all the 25 Regional Cancer Centres in the country and develop further linkages with some peripheral centres for tele-consultation and tele-follow up.

Setting up of An Education Bank

*336. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recently approved a proposal for setting up of an "Education Bank" in the country for providing loans to students belonging to economically weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether loans to students by the proposed bank would be given at concessional rates; and

(d) if so, the likely rate of interest to be charged by the proposed bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Toll Tax Collection on National Highways

*337. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several public and private agencies are engaged in the task of collection of toll-tax on the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints from the local people against collection of toll tax by these agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government monitors the work of these agencies engaged in the task of toll-tax collection; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) User's fee (Toll) on National Highways are being collected through Public and Private agencies as the per National Highways Act, 1956 and associated Rules made thereunder. The National Highways-wise details of agencies are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) During the last one year, thirty five complaints were received from the users of the facilities in respect of gross irregularities and corruption in collection of fee, misbehaviour of staff of fee collecting agencies, delay in issue of monthly passes and overcharging of fees.

(e) and (f) The activities of these agencies are being monitored in the following way:—

1. Surprise checks and frequent inspections.
2. By engaging local fee auditors.
3. By appointing round the clock Toll Supervisors.
4. By sending decoy customer.
5. On the spot observation at toll plaza of all the transactions for a defined period by an agency.

Statement

Details of Toll Collecting Agency as on 16.3.2007

| S. No. | NH No. | No. of Sections/ Bridges for collection of fee | No. of Private Agencies | No. of Public Agencies |
|--------|--------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | 1 | 3 | 3 | — |
| 2. | 2 | 6 | 6 | — |
| 3. | 3 | 6 | 6 | — |
| 4. | 4/4B | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| 5. | 4/45 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 6. | 4 | 1 | — | 1 |
| 7. | 5 | 16 | 16 | — |
| 8. | 6 | 10 | 6 | 4 |
| 9. | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 10. | 7/46 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 11. | 8 | 18 | 18 | — |
| 12. | 8A | 3 | 3 | — |
| 13. | 8B | 2 | 2 | — |
| 14. | 9 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 15. | 11 | 1 | — | 1 |
| 16. | 11A | 1 | 1 | — |
| 17. | 11B | 1 | — | 1 |
| 18. | 12 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 19. | 13 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 20. | 17 | 5* | 4 | 1 |
| 21. | 19 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 22. | 21 | 2 | 2 | — |
| 23. | 22 | 1 | 1 | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|--------|---|---|---|
| 24. | 23 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 25. | 24 | 4 | 4 | — |
| 26. | 27 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 27. | 29 | 2 | 2 | — |
| 28. | 31 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 29. | 37A | 1 | 1 | — |
| 30. | 39 | 2 | 2 | — |
| 31. | 42 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 32. | 43 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 33. | 45 | 2 | 2 | — |
| 34. | 46 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 35. | 47 | 4 | 4 | — |
| 36. | 47A | 1 | 1 | — |
| 37. | 48 | 2 | 2 | — |
| 38. | 49 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 39. | 50 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 40. | 56 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 41. | 60 | 3 | 3 | — |
| 42. | 72 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 43. | 73 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 44. | 74 | 2 | 2 | — |
| 45. | 75 | 2 | 2 | — |
| 46. | 76 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 47. | 79/79A | 2 | 2 | — |
| 48. | 88 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 49. | 96 | 2 | 2 | — |
| 50. | 97 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 51. | NE-1 | 2 | 2 | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 52. | 112 | 1 | 1 | — |
| 53. | 113 | 1 | — | 1 |
| 54. | State Road (port connectivity) | 1 | 1 | |
| Total | | 43 | 40 | 3 |

*Out of 5 Nos., one includes four bridges located within 80 km.

[English]

**Network Upgradation and Capacity
Building by BSNL**

*338. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is considering to double its turnover to reach US \$20 billion in the next three years;

(b) if so, whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is also making efforts for network upgradation and capacity building; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) to (c) BSNL has planned for following addition in its customer base in next three years besides continuous upgradation of its network.

| Type of Equipment | Net addition in Customers |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| GSM Mobile | 105 Million |
| Broadband | 18 Million |
| Wireless in local loop (WLL) | 8 Million |

Revenue of BSNL is expected to increase from the present level of US \$9 billion to US \$20 billion during 2010-11.

[Translation]

Regional Cancer Centres

*339. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Regional Cancer Centres in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more such centres under the scheme in view of the increasing number of cancer patients; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) Under the Regional Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), this Ministry has so far recognized 25 Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs) in different States/UTs to fill up the gaps in treatment of cancer and for providing efficient and cost effective treatment to poor and needy patients. A list of RCCs is given in the enclosed statement. The Government proposes to recognize at least one RCC in each State and more RCCs in populous States. Under the XIth Plan, further RCCs, which meets the prescribed norms, will be supported on receipt of proposals from the Government/ Institutions.

Statement

List of RCCs

| | |
|--|--|
| Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh | Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram |
| Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, West Bengal | Gujarat Cancer Research Institute, Ahmedabad, Gujarat |
| Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, Karnataka | MNJ Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh |
| Regional Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Pondicherry Regional Cancer Society, JIPMER, Pondicherry |
| Acharya Harihar Regional Centre for Cancer Research and Treatment, Cuttack, Orissa | Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati, Assam |
| Regional Cancer Control Society, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh | Tata Memorial Hospital Mumbai, Maharashtra |
| Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh | Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, Bihar |
| Indian Rotary Cancer Institute (A.I.I.M.S.), New Delhi | Acharya Tulsi Regional Cancer Trust and Research Institute (RCC) Bikaner, Rajasthan |
| R.S.T. Hospital and Research Centre, Nagpur, Maharashtra | Regional Cancer Centre, Pt. B.D. Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak, Haryana |

Pt. J.N.M. Medical College, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Civil Hospital, Aizawal, Mizoram

Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh

Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow

Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar.

Government Arignar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu

Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Manipur, Imphal.

[English]

Setusamudram Ship Channel Project

*340. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any geo-technical feasibility study has been conducted with regard to the Setusamudram Ship Channel Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any section of the public has expressed their concern to protect the heritage of "Rama's Bridge";

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the marine life, ecology and the heritage of 'Rama's Bridge'?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) To assess the dredgability and the quantity of sub-soil to be dredged, Geotechnical Studies such as Bathymetry, Sub-Bottom Profiling, Vibrocoring and Borehole Investigations have been conducted.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received against undertaking the project claiming that the Rama's Bridge will be damaged by the project. No scientific proof has been found regarding the existence of any ancient man-made structure in the proposed Setusamudram Ship Channel alignment.

(e) Environmental Impact Assessment was carried out by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur. As per their advice, the alignment was selected away from the Gulf of Mannar National Marine Park. Detailed Environmental Monitoring Programme is being carried out as per the conditions mentioned in the environmental clearance for the project. Government has constituted a High Level Monitoring Committee to assess the impact on environment and advise the Setusamudram Ship Channel Project Authorities. As far as 'Rama's Bridge' is concerned, none of the Studies carried out so far reveal the existence of any man-made structure in the project alignment.

[English]

Entry Norms for private Airlines

*341. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has made entry norms tougher for the private airlines;

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

(c) its likely impact on the aviation industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b)

Since Civil Aviation is a capital intensive industry requiring maintenance of high technical and safety standards, it needs to be ensured that only financially sound companies operate scheduled airlines services. The Government has, accordingly, decided to revise the minimum equity requirements for issue of "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) for scheduled air transport operations.

For Airlines operating aircraft with take off mass exceeding 40,000 kgs., the equity requirement has been raised to Rs. 50 crores from Rs. 30 crores for 5 aircraft. For each addition of upto five aircraft, additional equity investment of Rs. 20 crores will be required. As for Airlines operating aircraft with take off mass not exceeding 40,000 kgs. the equity requirement has been raised to Rs. 20 crores from Rs. 10 crores for 5 aircraft. For each addition of upto five aircraft, additional equity investment of Rs. 10 crores will be required.

There would be no need for insisting on further enhancement of equity once paid up equity and reserves of Rs. 100 crores are available with the airlines.

(c) Existing private Scheduled airlines will have to ensure that their minimum equity/net worth requirements comply with the revised criteria within a period of one year. This will further ensure that only companies having financial strength and sound business plans enter the scheduled air transport sector.

Encroachment on the Lands of the Airports

*342. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether lands belonging to airports at different places is under encroachment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these encroachments in the vicinity of airports are posing a danger to the aircraft while landing or taking off; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to evacuate the encroachers?

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

(b) Details in respect of Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports and restructured airports are as under:—

Land encroached (in acres) Mumbai - 247, Juhu - 29 and Nagpur - 13, in Maharashtra; Satna - 150 and Bhopal - 30 in Madhya Pradesh; Hyderabad - 97, Rajamundhary - 8, Tirupati - 0.3 and Visakhapatnam - 0.2 in Andhra Pradesh; Amritsar - 83 in Punjab; Kolkata - 75.7 in West Bengal; Ahmedabad - 20 and Rajkot - 1 in Gujarat; Ranchi - 9 in Jharkhand; Gaya - 5 in Bihar; Delhi-1 and Safdarjung - 1.5 in Delhi; Lucknow - 17 in Uttar Pradesh; Port Blair - 1.5 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Union Territory) and Belgaum-1 in Karnataka.

(c) Standard operating procedures safeguard the flight path of landing and take-off of aircraft at all the airports. However, the encroachments are source of bird attraction which cause some amount of operational risk to aircraft. They also cause security concern at the airports.

(d) AAI regularly takes up issues of removal of encroachments with the concerned State Governments. Mumbai International Airport Private Limited (MIAL) has already entered into an agreement with Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) for relocation and rehabilitation of slums of CSI Airport, Mumbai. It has also floated an Expression of Interest (EOI) on 18.4.2007 to invite developers for providing land and taking up construction of tenements for rehabilitation of the slum dwellers as per a scheme of the Government of Maharashtra.

Laying of New Rail Tracks

*343. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether surveys have been conducted by the

Railways for laying new rail tracks in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the tracks out of the new tracks which are proposed to be given priority by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) and (b) 127 new line surveys have been completed in last three years i.e. 54 in 2004-05, 36 in 2005-06 and 37 in 2006-07.

(c) Ongoing new lines projects have been priorities in following categories:-

- (i) Last mile projects with expenditure of more than 60% incurred already and balance funds required being less than Rs. 100 cr.
- (ii) Viable/Operationally required projects.
- (iii) National Projects, projects in Assam and North East region, cost sharing with State Governments, Defence funded projects and projects covered under Public Private Partnership.
- (iv) Others ongoing projects of new lines not covered in above categories (i, ii and iii).

Economic Viability of Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

*344. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

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

(a) whether the economic viability and security implications of the Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project have been examined;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure safety from all angles before the pipeline is laid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (c) Indian side had appointed Ernst and Young as the Financial Consultant and ILF, UK as the Technical Consultant for preparation of the pre feasibility report of Iran Pakistan India Pipeline Project.

The Project has been found to be feasible. The price of gas against the alternate fuel prices will determine the economic viability of the pipeline project. Iran has given a formula for determining gas price at the Iran-Pakistan border. Two other issues namely Transportation Tariff and Transit Fee are under discussion between India and Pakistan. Once these issues are decided, the price of gas at Pakistan India border would be known and then, a decision on the purchase of gas through Iran-Pakistan-India Pipeline Project will be taken. As per current indications, pipeline within Iran upto Iran-Pakistan Border will be laid and operated by an agency to be nominated by Iran. Iran has offered to sell gas at Iran-Pakistan Border and all responsibilities for the safety and security of the pipeline within Iran will vest with Iran. In the Pakistan Territory, out of 1035 KMs, 800 KMs pipeline will be carrying the gas for both Pakistan and India. The safety and security for the pipeline and gas within Pakistan would be provided by the Pakistan Government for which a Transit Fee would be levied. Discussions on all these issues are continuing.

It has been agreed that the pipeline proposed to be laid in Iran, Pakistan and India will be constructed as per the international standards incorporating all the safety features as per prescribed standards and specifications. It is envisaged to provide round-the-clock communication and supervisory control system all along the pipeline.

[Translation]

Reservation for SCs/STs and Minorities in the Corporate Sector

*345. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that Assocham has set up four task forces to work on the issue related to implementation of affirmative action for reservation of jobs for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and minorities in the Corporate sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any report from Assocham in this regard;

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

(e) the other steps proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) reportedly have set up the following task forces for SCs/STs and Minorities:-

(i) Task Force on Affirmative Action;

(ii) Development of education of SC/ST/Minorities/ Girls and other disadvantaged groups.

(c) The Government has received the report of the task force listed at (i) above under the title "Concrete steps by Indian Industry on inclusiveness for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

(d) and (e) A Coordination Committee under the Chairpersonship of Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister has been formed in October, 2006 to evolve a time bound concrete action programme taking into account the useful suggestions and action points received from various stakeholders.

Mentally Challenged Children and Adults

*346. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to open learning institutions for the mentally-challenged children and adults so as to bring about an improvement in their abilities and to ensure that they get proper care; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. -

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Education to Muslims

*347. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Sub-Committee, under the Chairmanship Shri Vimal Tharoat of the Planning Commission, recommended allocation to the tune of Rs. 5,460 crore in the Eleventh Plan for education to Muslims;

(b) if so, whether it has also recommended for innovative methods and programmes to educate the Muslims;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the 11-point programme envisaged for Muslims by the Sub-Committee; and

(e) the manner in which the Ministry, in coordination with the Ministry of Human Resource and Development and others, is planning to implement the recommendations of the said Sub-Committee?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) In the context of the formulation of

the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012), the Planning Commission constituted a Working Group on "Empowering the Minorities". Dr. Zoya Hasan, Professor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University was the chairperson of the Working Group which had 27 other members. The Working Group formed three sub-groups. Dr. Vimal Thorat was the chairperson of the sub-group on educational development. The submissions of these sub-groups were internal to the deliberations of the Working Group and were taken into account while finalizing the report of the Working Group submitted to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has not finalized the Eleventh Plan as yet.

**Voluntary Retirement/Resignation by
Personnel in Defence Forces**

*348. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a rising trend among the personnel in the Defence Forces to seek voluntary retirement or resign;

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

(c) the number of defence personnel who have sought voluntary retirement or resigned during each of the last three years, Force-wise; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Governmental in this regard?

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

(a) to (d) The force-wise number of Defence officers who sought voluntary retirement or resigned during each of the last three years, excluding Medical Officers, and who were discharged on acceptance of their application are as under:-

| Year | Army | | Navy | | Air Force | |
|------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | Seeking Discharge | Approved for Discharge | Seeking Discharge | Approved for Discharge | Seeking Discharge | Approved for Discharge |
| 2004 | 435 | 290 | 116 | 112 | 238 | 238 |
| 2005 | 536 | 365 | 176 | 168 | 284 | 171 |
| 2006 | 811 | 464 | 257 | 176 | 207 | 80 |

The personnel below the rank of officers who have been granted voluntary retirement in the last three years, force-wise is as under:-

| Year | Army | Navy | Air Force |
|------|-------|------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2004 | 15727 | 9 | 371 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------|-------|----|------|
| 2005 | 10534 | 9 | 986 |
| 2006 | 8994 | 13 | 1222 |

The main reasons identified for personnel seeking pre-mature retirement are:-

(a) supersession for promotion

(b) being placed in a permanently low medical category

(c) compassionate reasons, such as, looking after ailing parents/children/siblings, to look after ancestral property, attend to litigation etc.

(d) failure to acquire minimum technical qualifications prescribed for promotion

(e) increase in employment opportunities on the civil side.

Remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard are:—

(a) allowing time-bound promotions upto the rank of Colonels and equivalent

(b) undertaking the married accommodation project for overcoming the shortage of family accommodation

(c) creation/upgradation of posts upto the rank of Colonels and equivalent to hasten promotion

(d) creation of the rank of Colonel (Time-Scale) and equivalent for time-bound promotion of superseded officers

(e) professional courses for superannuating officers.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Tourism in the Concurrent List

*349. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had considered inclusion of 'Tourism' in the Concurrent List of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government had sought the views of the State Governments in the matter;

(d) if so, the details of the States which have supported the proposal; and

(e) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The issue of inclusion of Tourism in the Concurrent List of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution had earlier been examined by the Ministry of Tourism. The Ministry had written to all the 35 States/UTs in order to have a consensus on the proposal of including the subject of tourism in the Concurrent List. The issue was also discussed in the Conference of the Chief Ministers/State Tourism Ministers in October 2001 as well as in the meeting of State Tourism Ministers in September 2002. While 29 States/UTs had supported this proposal, 6 States/UTs, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu, had opposed it.

Since "Tourism" is not appearing in any of the three lists of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution, the Central Government is competent to legislate on any matter under the residuary powers. After detailed examination and taking into account all the factors, it has been decided that the matter should be dropped.

[English]

Availability of Fruits for Food Processing Industries

*350. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to establish the total quantity of fruits available for food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a huge quantity of fruits is wasted every

year due to non-existence of proper storage facility in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (d) The production of fruits in the country (2004-2005) was 492.94 lakh tonnes. State-wise annual data base for horticulture produce is maintained by National Horticulture Board under Ministry of Agriculture. However, no specific survey to establish the total quantity of fruits available for food processing Industries has been conducted, the level of processing is estimated at 2.2% for fruits and vegetables. According to the Vision 2015 report prepared by Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of Agricultural food items, (including fruits) is estimated to be about Rs. 58000 Crore, occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to lack of adequate post harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc. Wastage of fruits and vegetables is estimated to be of the order of 22% due to such inadequate facilities.

The Government, through its schemes for financial assistance and other promotional measures, facilitates creation of food related infrastructure aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, through its plan schemes during X Plan, has been promoting development of infrastructure for food processing industries including for cold storage, special type of cold storages with controlled/modified atmosphere facility and cold storages as integral part of processing units or part of processing units or part of common facilities in food park. During the X Plan, the Ministry has implemented a scheme for cold chain whereunder assistance upto 25% of the cost of Plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs was admissible to all implementing agencies. During the XI Plan, the Ministry is working on

launching a revamped comprehensive Cold Chain infrastructure scheme for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels - farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centers and Strategic Distribution Centres.

In addition, a new scheme of Mega Food Park during XI Plan is presently under discussion with the Planning Commission to provide a mechanism to bring farmers, processors and retailers together and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimize wastages and improve farmers's income. The Mega Food Park is envisaged to provide state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The initiatives being undertaken by the Ministry are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of post harvest/cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages

Availability of Hotel Rooms

*351. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether India lags behind its South Asian competitors in terms of availability and affordability of hotel rooms as well as number of tourists visiting the country as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 29, 2007;

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

(c) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) The figure for foreign tourist arrivals (provisional) for 2006 is 4.43 million which is 13% more than the previous year. Similarly, the percentage increase in foreign tourist arrivals in 2005 was 13.2% over 2004 as compared to a global increase of 4%. Even the foreign tourist arrivals from the

South East Asia region to India has shown an increase of 15.4% in 2005 as compared to 2004. As such there has been a shortage of hotel accommodation in the country. As per the study conducted by FICCI, the current demand and supply gap in the hotel rooms all over the country is 1,50,000 rooms.

(c) Ministry of Tourism has been in regular touch with the State Governments and the various Land Owning Agencies for creation of land banks. These agencies have been asked to allocate land on joint venture/revenue sharing basis and also to provide incentives and benefits to facilitate the growth of the accommodation sector in the country. They have also been requested to increase the FAR/FSI in respect of the existing hotels. Ministry of Tourism has floated new schemes for bringing the unorganised accommodation sector into the approved category and guidelines have been finalized to approve the following units—Time Share Accommodation, Guest Houses, Apartment Hotel, Incredible India Bed and Breakfast Establishments. In the budget proposal 2007-08, the Ministry of Finance has granted a 5 year Tax Holiday to hotels of 2, 3, and 4 star categories set up between 1.4.2007 to 31.3.2010 in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and districts of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad.

Bed and Breakfast Scheme

*352. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently launched Bed and Breakfast Scheme permitting private house owners to rent out a portion of their accommodation to the tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of cities in which the said scheme has been launched; and

(d) the number of applications received from the house owners under the scheme and the number out of them permitted as on 31st December, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the main requisite of the scheme is that only those home owners, who are able to offer a minimum of one room or a maximum of five rooms of prescribed specification and who are physically residing in the house are eligible to apply for this scheme. The idea is to provide a clean and affordable place for foreign and domestic tourists and an opportunity to stay with an Indian family to experience local customs and traditions and relish authentic local cuisine.

(c) This scheme has been launched all over the country and a pilot project has been taken up in Delhi.

(d) 102 applications have been received under the scheme and 5 approvals have been granted as on 31st December, 2006.

Consumption of Petroleum Products

*353. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether the consumption of petroleum products was estimated to reach 120.4 mt. by the terminal year of the 10th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the actual consumption of petroleum products at the terminal year of the 10th Five Year Plan;

(c) the percentage of consumption of petroleum products being met by indigenous production; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the domestic production during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (d) As per the 10 Five Year Plan, Planning Commission had projected petroleum products consumption at 120.4 million metric tonnes (MMT) in 2006-07, the terminal year of 10th Plan. As per figures available upto February, 2007, the estimated consumption during 2006-07 is projected to be around 119 MMT.

As per figures available for the period April, 2006-February, 2007, 92% of demand of petroleum products was met through indigenous production as per details give below:—

April 2006 to February, 2007

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Production of petroleum products (i): | 126.989 MMT |
| Export of petroleum products (ii) | 27.574 MMT |
| Product available for domestic consumption (iii)=(i)-(ii) | 99.415 MMT |
| Consumption of petroleum products (iv): | 108.272 MMT |
| % of consumption met by petroleum products (iii)/(iv) : | 92% |

As against the total installed refining capacity of 148.97 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA), production of petroleum products from refineries and fractionators during the period upto February, 2007 is 126.989 MMT. During the 11th Plan, an additional refining capacity of 92 MMTPA is expected to be added.

With the indigenous production of crude oil not keeping pace with the domestic requirements, the import dependence of crude oil has reached about 73% in 2006-07. Following steps are being taken to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities in the country to meet the growing demand.

- (i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration

for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

- (ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production
- (iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.
- (iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.
- (v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.
- (vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.
- (vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

Exodus of Scientists from DRDO

*354. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large number of scientists have left their jobs in the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the number thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the extent to which this brain drain has affected the projects of DRDO;
- (d) whether the Government has made any proposals to offer incentives to scientists to rest the exodus;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to attract more talented scientists to DRDO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (f) During the last five years (2002-2006) 1007 scientists have left their jobs from DRDO due to increased opportunities available in private sectors. The rate of attrition is marginally higher compared to private sector industries.

There has been no substantial impact of such attrition on completion of DRDO projects. The deficiencies are made up through regular recruitments.

A comprehensive proposal of incentives to arrest exodus of scientists has already been submitted by DRDO and is under active consideration by the Government. Comprehensive proposal has also been submitted to the Sixth Central Pay Commission.

DRDO has adopted a dynamic approach for recruitment of talented people with desired competency. DRDO conducts campus interviews in reputed institutions, like Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. DRDO also recruits scientists through Scientists Entry Tests (SET) and fresh Ph.D scholars under Registration of Students with Scholastic Aptitude (ROSSA). Image building exercise has been strengthened to attract young talents.

Central Assistance for Construction of Hostels and Residential Schools

*355. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments, particularly from the Government of Gujarat for matching Central

assistance for construction of Babu Jagjivan Ram Hostels and residential schools for Scheduled Caste boys and girls under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon and the quantum of Central assistance released so far and likely to be released for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Central assistance amounting to Rs.109.56 lakhs has been released to the Government of Gujarat during 2006-07 for construction of one hostel each at Babu Jagjivanram Pratisthan (Government Girls Hostel) at Mehsana and Junagarh.

The State-wise release of central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Hostels for SC girls and boys during the year 2006-07 is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| S. No. | Name of State/UTs. | Girls Hostel 2006-07 | Boys Hostel 2006-07 |
|--------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1012.50 | 246.30 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 300.20 | 345.09 |
| 6. | Goa | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|---|
| 7. Gujarat | 109.56 | 0.00 | |
| 8. Haryana | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 9. Himachal Pradesh | 69.08 | 0.00 | |
| 10. Jammu and Kashmir | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 11. Jharkhand | 19.54 | 182.13 | |
| 12. Karnataka | 222.00 | 408.00 | |
| 13. Kerala | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 14. Madhya Pradesh | 163.47 | 711.43 | |
| 15. Maharashtra | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 16. Manipur | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 17. Meghalaya | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 18. Mizoram | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 19. Nagaland | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 20. Orissa | 369.72 | 0.00 | |
| 21. Punjab | 20.00 | 0.00 | |
| 22. Rajasthan | 62.78 | 307.05 | |
| 23. Sikkim | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 24. Tamil Nadu | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 25. Tripura | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 26. Uttar Pradesh | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 27. Uttaranchal | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 28. West Bengal | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0.00 | 0.00 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---|
| 30. Chandigarh | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 32. Daman and Diu | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 33. Delhi | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 34. Lakshadweep | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| 35. Pondicherry | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total | 2348.85 | 2200.00 | |

Railway Freight Corridor Project

*356. SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Japanese International Cooperation Agency has submitted its report for the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Kolkata phase of the railway freight corridor project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted;

(d) whether the Railways are preparing a separate feasibility report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) to (c) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is conducting a feasibility study for the development of Dedicated Freight Corridors on the Delhi-Mumbai Western

Corridor and Ludhiana-Sonnagar Eastern Corridor. The Study is likely to be completed by October 2007.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. (RITES) has submitted a Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey (PETS) report in January 2007 for the both the corridors. As per the report, the 1483 kms. long Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Mumbai) to Tughlakabad/Dadri Western Corridor and the 1279 kms. long Ludhiana to Sonnagar Eastern Corridor is estimated to cost a total of over Rs. 28,000 crores. RITES has been asked to conduct a feasibility study for extension of Eastern corridor to Kolkata area in view of possibility of increase in freight traffic on account of proposed deep sea port.

[Translation]

Import of Crude Oil

*357. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of the crude oil imported from various countries particularly Saudi Arabia during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the foreign exchange spent thereon during the said period, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any scheme to save the foreign exchange being spent on the import of crude oil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) The details of crude oil imported from various countries including Saudi Arabia during the last three years and 2006-04 (April-Dec'06) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The details of foreign exchange spent on the

import of crude oil during the same period is as under:—

| Year | | Value (Million US\$) |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 2003-04 | — | 18,268 |
| 2004-05 | — | 25,990 |
| 2005-06 (Prov.) | — | 38,776 |
| 2006-07 (April-Dec. Prov.) | — | 36,560 |

(c) and (d) Various measures are being taken to substantially accelerate exploration activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production which include the following:—

- i. Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of NELP.
- ii. Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.
- iii. Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.
- iv. Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.
- v. Arresting decline from ageing fields.
- vi. Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.
- vii. Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

Statement

(Qty. in MMT)

| Regions | S. No. | Country | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 (Apr.-Dec) | 2006-07 |
|--------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Middle East Region | 1. | Iran | 8.619 | 9.614 | 11.423 | 10.281 |
| | 2. | Iraq | 3.883 | 8.330 | 11.225 | 10.220 |
| | 3. | Kuwait | 10.880 | 11.355 | 10.495 | 8.496 |
| | 4. | Neutral zone | 3.231 | 0.148 | 2.263 | 1.494 |
| | 5. | Oman | 0.241 | 0.136 | 0.342 | 0.000 |
| | 6. | Qatar | 0.708 | 1.187 | 0.461 | 1.482 |
| | 7. | Saudi Arabia | 23.551 | 23.929 | 25.289 | 18.159 |
| | 8. | UAE | 8.431 | 6.428 | 8.020 | 6.584 |
| | 9. | Yemen | 1.967 | 3.508 | 3.560 | 3.082 |
| | | Sub Total | 61.511 | 64.635 | 73.079 | 59.799 |
| Other Regions | 10. | Algeria | | | 0.255 | |
| | 11. | Angola | 2.378 | 2.441 | 1.653 | 1.264 |
| | 12. | Azarbaijan | | | 0.216 | 0.496 |
| | 13. | Brazil | 0.848 | 0.292 | 0.290 | 0.422 |
| | 14. | Brunei | 0.539 | 0.807 | 0.481 | 0.568 |
| | 15. | Cameroon | | 0.346 | 0.186 | |
| | 16. | Congo | | 0.135 | | |
| | 17. | CoteDivoire | | | | 0.145 |
| | 18. | Egypt | 3.616 | 2.117 | 1.931 | 1.516 |
| | 19. | Equador | | 0.151 | 0.287 | |
| | 20. | Equatorial Guinea | 0.415 | 1.659 | 0.566 | |
| | 21. | Equitorial Kenya | | | | 0.292 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--------------|-----|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 22. | Gabon | 0.639 | 0.275 | 0.406 | 0.141 |
| | 23. | Kazakistan | | | | |
| | 24. | Libya | 1.721 | 1.465 | 0.907 | |
| | 25. | Malaysia | 3.412 | 3.429 | 3.464 | 3.702 |
| | 26. | Mexico | 2.498 | 2.279 | 1.438 | 0.848 |
| | 27. | Nigeria | 11.074 | 15.081 | 13.545 | 10.524 |
| | 28. | Russia | 0.144 | 0.155 | | 0.263 |
| | 29. | Sudan | 0.809 | 0.328 | 0.253 | 0.156 |
| | 30. | Thailand | | 0.266 | 0.161 | |
| | 31. | Venezuela | 0.830 | | 0.291 | 1.461 |
| | 32. | Vietnam | | | | |
| | 33. | West Africa | | | | |
| | | Sub Total | 28.923 | 31.226 | 26.330 | 21.798 |
| Total | | | 90.434 | 95.861 | 99.409 | 81.597 |

Railway Projects

*358. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN :
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are considering to bear the States' share of expenditure on the railway projects proposed to be undertaken in various States from Railway funds;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have received proposals from various States in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

**Functioning of CPSEs without
Chief Executives**

*359. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are functioning without full time Chief Executives and a number of posts of functional Directors are also lying vacant for a long time in the CPSEs.

(b) if so, the details of such CPSEs alongwith details of the vacant posts;

(c) the reasons for delay in filling up such vacant in these CPSEs; and

(d) the time by which these vacant posts are likely to be filled in?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :
(a) and (b) As per available information, 4 posts of Chief Executives and 32 posts of functional Directors in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are lying vacant for more than six months. The list of 36 vacant board level posts indicating the date of vacancy is enclosed as statement.

(c) The reasons for delay in some of the Board level appointments include, delay in obtaining vigilance clearance, approval of competent authority, delay in taking over of charge by the appointee, sudden vacancies arising, court cases, revival of posts kept in abeyance by the concerned Ministries, etc.

(d) The appointments of Chief Executives and Functional Directors in CPSEs are made by the concerned Administrative Ministries/Departments on the basis of recommendations made by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), and after obtaining the approval of competent authority. The Government has issued detailed guidelines indicating the time frame for filling up such posts in CPSEs. The PESB recommendations should be made at least 6 months in advance of the date of occurrence of vacancy and are sent to the concerned Ministry/ Department for completing other formalities.

Statement

Details of Board level vacancies in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) existing for more than six months (as on 17.04.07)

(i) Board level vacancies in CPSEs where recommendations of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) are awaited.

| S. No. | Name of the Post | Date of Vacancy |
|--------|--|-----------------|
| 1. | Director (RandD), Indian Oil Corporation | 22.11.05 |
| 2. | Director (Tech), Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited | 30.03.06 |
| 3. | Director (Finance), Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited | 24.05.06 |
| 4. | MD, NERAMAC | 03.10.06 |

(ii) Board level vacancies in CPSEs where recommendations have been sent to the concerned Ministries/Departments and awaiting approval.

| S. No. | Name of the Post | Date of Vacancy |
|--------|--|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Director (C&M), Indian Tourism Development Corporation Limited | 16.03.05 |
| 2. | Director (CS), Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Limited | 04.07.06 |
| 3. | Director (BTandC), Shipping Corporation of India Limited | 01.03.06 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--|----------|
| 4. | Director (Technical), Hindustan Latex Limited | 24.04.06 |
| 5. | Director (Technical), Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited | 19.07.06 |
| 6. | Director (Marketing), Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited | 19.07.06 |
| 7. | Director (Marketing and CP), Central Warehousing Corporation | 15.11.05 |
| 8. | MD, Braithwaite and Company Limited | 01.04.06 |
| 9. | Director (Marketing), Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited | 05.05.06 |
| 10. | CMD, Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited | 01.07.06 |
| 11. | Director (NP&M), Railtel Corporation of India Limited | 18.07.06 |
| 12. | Director (Commercial), Steel Authority of India Limited | 18.08.06 |
| 13. | Director (Marketing), National Textiles Corporation Limited | 22.05.06 |
| 14. | Director (Op), Cochin Shipyard Limited | 11.10.06 |
| 15. | Director (Finance), Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. | 01.09.06 |
| 16. | Director (Projects), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited | 07.09.06 |
| 17. | Director (HR), National Textiles Corporation Limited | 22.05.06 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|---|----------|
| 18. | Director (Finance), Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited | 05.05.06 |
| 19. | Director (Projects), Rail Vikas Nigam Limited | 05.09.06 |
| 20. | CMD, Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited | 30.03.06 |

(iii) Board level vacancies in CPSEs where approval of competent authority has been obtained but incumbent is yet to join.

| S. No. | Name of the Post | Date of Vacancy |
|--------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Director (Production), Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited | 16.06.05 |
| 2. | Director (Technical), Scooters India Limited | 13.09.05 |
| 3. | Director (Finance), Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited | 02.12.05 |
| 4. | Director (MS), Ennore Port Limited | 01.07.06 |
| 5. | Director (Finance), National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited | 01.09.06 |
| 6. | Director (Finance), Central Warehousing Corporation | 15.11.05 |
| 7. | Director (Pers), Central Warehousing Corporation | 15.11.05 |
| 8. | Director (Works), IRCON International Limited | 01.09.05 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|---|----------|
| 9. | Director (Marketing), MMTC Limited | 19.09.06 |
| 10. | Director (P&M), Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited | 17.08.06 |
| 11. | Director (Finance), Braithwaite and Company Limited | 30.03.06 |
| 12. | Director (Finance), Electronic Corporation of India Limited | 09.10.06 |

CMD : Chairman-cum-Managing Director.

MD : Managing Director.

Imposition of Cess for Development of Unviable Non Metro Airports

*360. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to impose a cess to fund the development of unviable non metro airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount likely to be generated therefrom; and

(c) the strategies to be adopted for development of these airports to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) At present, no such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Terminal Buildings with associated infrastructure and air side facilities (Runway, Taxiway and Apron) will be developed by Airports Authority of India

(AAI) at the 35 selected Non-Metro airports utilizing its internal resources. The city side development of these airports will be done in Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

Introduction of Modern Technology in Coal Mines

3073. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for the introduction of modern technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the mines of SECL identified by Coal India Limited (CIL); and

(d) the extent to which the introduction of modern technology is likely to boost the underground production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Adoption of modern technology is a continuous process. Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies including South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) have introduced modern technologies in some of their underground (UG) and opencast (OC) mines in line with global trend. UG mines in CIL have been gradually mechanized by introducing side discharge loaders (SDLs), Load haul dumpers (LHDs), belt conveyors, roof bolting machines etc. Continuous miner technology and Powered Support Longwall Technology have been tried in some underground mines for obtaining higher production, productivity and safety. In OC coal mines, CIL is using dragline and shovel dumper operations and higher capacity equipments, input crushing conveying and surface miner technologies depending upon the requirement.

(c) Sheetaladhara Kurja mine, Khairaha UG mine and Rani Atari UG mine have been identified for

introducing continuous miner technology. Haldibari, Ketki and Vijay (West) UG have been identified for introducing low capacity continuous miner. SECL is also planning to introduce blasting gallery method in one of their mines in Chirimiri area.

(d) As a result of introduction of modern technology, the underground production at the end of XI plan is likely to be around 54 million tonnes.

By-pass Ring and Half Ring Road

3074. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the construction of by passes, ring roads and half ring roads taken up or proposed to be taken up under Build Operate Transfer (BOT) and Build Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) schemes during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the by passes for which proposals have been sent by the Governments of Karnataka and other States during the last three years;

(c) whether these proposals have been approved by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (e) The details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Hoarding on National Highways

3075. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of

SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any rules/guidelines to prevent the placement of big hoardings on national highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the new measures being taken by the Government for regulating the placement of the hoardings of various advertisement agencies/political parties on the national highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) As per Ministry's policy, no advertisements/hoardings are allowed on National Highway land except informatory signs of public interest. However, under the policy of private sponsorship of road signs and greening of National Highway, the private entrepreneurs are allowed to depict the name/logo of their company in a sign of specified dimension.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Instructions have been issued to executing agencies for removal of unauthorized hoardings.

Allocation of Funds to Bihar

3076. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to Bihar during the year 2005-2006 from various funds;

(b) the details of progress as result thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is satisfied with the progress made in the State; and

(d) if not, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) The approved outlay for the Annual Plan 2005-06 of Bihar, which was financed through State's resources and various items of Central Assistance, was Rs. 5329.65 crore against which the State Government have reported an expenditure of Rs. 4465.50 crore which is more than 83% of the approved outlay.

(c) The State Government have taken a number of initiatives in terms of administrative reforms, decentralization and simplification of procedure, delegation of powers, etc. resulting in increase in the level of expenditure during 2006-07.

(d) Does not arise.

Complaints Redressal Machineries

3077. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the achievement of Complaints/Grievances redressal machineries in Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) whether the Government proposes to enact a law to make the system more effective; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) Each Ministry/Department and Public Sector Undertaking has an internal grievance redress machinery, as grievances are redressed in a decentralised manner. The Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (PRRAMS) developed by the Department has facilitated lodging of grievances on line from any geographical location and also viewing status of redressal by complainants.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Research Contracts

3078. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU :
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has awarded research contracts to Consultants, NGOs, Academic and Research Organizations etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the progress made in this regard;

(c) whether the research contracts are illustrated on the website of the Ministry;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the internal process in deciding the topics of the research contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) The Planning Commission under its Social Economic Research (SER) Scheme provides grants-in-aid to Research Organizations/Universities/Academicians/Researchers for undertaking research studies which are relevant for the programmes and policies of the Planning Commission.

(b) The list of research studies approved during the last three years (2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06) and the progress made in this regard is given in the enclosed Statements I, II and III respectively.

(c) and (d) The completed research projects alongwith the reports are illustrated on the website of the Planning Commission.

(e) The proposal received in Socio-Economic Research (SER) unit is examined in consultation with the subject matter division and the concerned Member in the

Planning Commission to examine the relevance of the subject for the programmes and policies of the Planning Commission. The proposal is also examined by the Internal Finance Cell of the Planning Commission for examination of the financial aspects. After which the

proposal is placed before a committee of Group-of-Advisers (GOAs) under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary/Secretary of the Planning Commission. The minutes of their meeting are placed before the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission for approval before approving the research study.

Statement-I

Planning Commission

(SER Division)

Studies approved and their progress during the year (2003-04)

| S. No. | Name of University/Institute | Title of the Study | Status/Progress |
|--------|--|---|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Natural Resources India Foundation, New Delhi | Pilot study project on the Mechanism or sustainable dev. And promotion of herbal and medical plants - Uttaranchal | Completed |
| 2. | Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, New Delhi | Evaluation of Socio Economic Dev. In small Areas | Completed |
| 3. | Gramin Vikas Sewa Sansthan, West Bengal | Impact of Minor Irrigation project on Economic Dev. in Six Tribal Majority Districts of Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal | Completed |
| 4. | Social Policy Research Institute, Jaipur | Inter Regional Economic Inequalities in Rajasthan | Completed |
| 5. | Noble Social and Educational Society, Tirupati, A.P. | Status of Education Among Muslim Minorities in A.P. and U.P. | Completed |
| 6. | Institute of Dev. Studies, University of Lucknow, (U.P.) | A study of the Problems of Sick Small Scale Industries in UP and suggested strategies for their Revival | Completed |
| 7. | Centre for Media Studies, New Delhi | Research study on Continuing Education Programme: An Impact Study | Completed |
| 8. | Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi | Economic Reforms and Regional Disparities in Economic and Social Development in India | Completed |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---|---|-----------|
| 9. | Tripude College of Social Work, Nagpur | Migrant Tribal Women and Girls in Ten Cities: A Study of their Socio-Cultural and Economic Status and Conflict with Special Reference to Social Intervention | Completed |
| 10. | Indian Institute of Education, Pune | A Study of Extent and Causes of School Drop-outs in Primary Schools in Rural Maharashtra | Completed |
| 11. | Sampradaan-Indian Centre for Philanthropy (SCIP), New Delhi | A review of the Charities Administration in India and Feasibility of setting up a National Charities Commission | Completed |
| 12. | Council for Economic and Social Research, New Delhi. | Evaluation of Indira Aawas Yojana in Orissa | Completed |
| 13. | Institute of Human Development, New Delhi. | Employment Generation in Uttaranchal: Constraints and Opportunities | Completed |
| 14. | G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad. | Rural Housing and Living Condition of People Settled in Rural Uttar Pradesh | Completed |
| 15. | Vision Foundation for Development Management, New Delhi. | Social Audits and Gram Sabha/Panchayati Raj - A Study of Present Status and Recommendation of Methods to Make it Viable Instrument for Sustainable Programme Delivery | Completed |
| 16. | National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Guwahati - for Assam | Efficacy and Effectiveness of Food for Work Programme Element in the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) | Completed |
| 17. | Developing Countries Research Centre (DCRC), University of Delhi - for Orissa | Efficacy and Effectiveness of Food for Work Programme Element in the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) | Completed |
| 18. | XLRI, Jamshedpur - for Bihar | Efficacy and Effectiveness of Food for Work Programme Element in the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) | Completed |
| 19. | Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad - for Andhra Pradesh | Efficacy and Effectiveness of Food for Work Programme Element in the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) | Completed |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---|--|-----------|
| 20. | Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai - for Maharashtra | Efficacy and Effectiveness of Food for Work Programme Element in the Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) | Completed |
| 21. | G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad - for Uttar Pradesh | Efficacy and Effectiveness of Food for Work Programme Element in the Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) | Completed |
| 22. | DEBATE, Bhopal - for Madhya Pradesh | Efficacy and Effectiveness of Food for Work Programme Element in the Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) | Completed |
| 23. | BL Centre for Devt., Research and Action, Lucknow | Micro Finance and Empowerment of SC Women—Self Help Groups in UP and UA | Completed |
| 24. | Bonded Labour Liberation Front, Jantar Mantar, New Delhi | Mazdoorvani Programme on All India Radio | Completed |

Statement-II*Planning Commission***(SER Division)****Studies approved and their progress during the year (2004-05)**

| S. No. | Name of University/Institute | Title of the Study | Status/Progress |
|--------|--|---|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi | Evolving Methodology for Participatory Micro Level Planning | Completed |
| 2. | Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, Delhi | India and China in WTO; Building Complementarities and Competitiveness in the External Trade Sector | Completed |
| 3. | Mathura Krishna Foundation for Economic and Social Opportunity and Human Resource Development (MAKER) Muzzafarpur, Bihar | Socio-Economic conditions of Adolescent Girls - A Study of Backward Districts of Poverty Dominated States | Completed |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--|--|-----------|
| 4. | Centre for Rural Development and Environment, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh | Development of Agriculture and Allied Activities in Madhya Pradesh through KVKs | Completed |
| 5. | Society for Economic and Social Transition (SEST), New Delhi | Rural Cluster Development - A Case Study | Completed |
| 6. | Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies, Bhubneswar, Orissa | Making JF work towards Forest Conservation in Orissa; some conceptual, Institutional and Participatory Issues | Completed |
| 7. | Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi | Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Execution and Implementation of Plan Projects in Union Territories without Legislature | Completed |
| 8. | Haryana Institute of Rural Development, Nilokeri (Karnal) | Mobilization and Management of Financial Resources by Panchayati Raj Institutions – A Study of Haryana State | Completed |
| 9. | The EFI Social and Labour Research Foundation, Mumbai | Employment Generation in Post Globalization Era in Greater Mumbai | Completed |
| 10. | NIPFP, New Delhi | A Study Paper on State Finances | Completed |

Statement-III*Planning Commission***(SER Division)****Research Studies approved and their progress during the year (2005-06):**

| S. No. | Name of University/Institute | Title of the Study | Status/Progress |
|--------|--|--|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Institute of Social Development, Udaipur | Empowerment of women through Participation in PRIs | Completed |
| 2. | Centre for Market Research and Social Development, New Delhi | Evaluation/Impact Assessment of Rural Sports Programmes in India | Completed |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---|---|-----------|
| 3. | Centre for Development alternatives, Ahmedabad | Multiple Impact of Droughts and Assessment of Drought Policy in Selected States in India | Ongoing |
| 4. | Agricultural and Rural Development Consultancy Society, Bhubaneswar | A Study of food related Nutrition Deficiency in KBK District of Orissa | Ongoing |
| 5. | Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi | Estimation of National Parameters for Project Appraisal in India | Ongoing |
| 6. | Socio Economic and Educational Development Society, New Delhi | Tribal Handicraft- an option for livelihood of Tribal Community in the States of Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Arunachal Pradesh | Completed |
| 7. | EKATARA-Society for Development Alternatives for Women, New Delhi | Evaluation of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) in selected Blocks of M.P. | Ongoing |
| 8. | Foundation for Public Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi | Mobilizing Resources through Reform of State non-taxes sources for plan Development | Completed |
| 9. | Sulabh Institute of Development Studies, Patna | Empowerment of elected schedule cast members of PRIs in Bihar | Completed |
| 10. | Society for Integration and Development Action, Jabalpur | Impact of the provisions of Panchayat Act, 1996 on Tribal Development in Mandla and Dindori Districts of Madhya Pradesh | Ongoing |
| 11. | Development Support Centre, Ahmedabad | Action Research in Participatory Irrigation Management in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh | Ongoing |
| 12. | Integrated Research and Action for Development, New Delhi | Decentralized Procurement: Fiscal and Welfare Implications | Ongoing |
| 13. | G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad | Public Distribution System of Essential Commodities as Social Safety Net | Completed |
| 14. | M.P. Institute of Social Science Research, Bhopal | Chronic Poverty in Remote Tribal Areas | Ongoing |
| 15. | Consumer Unity and Trust Society, Jaipur | Comparative Study of Regulatory Frame Work in Infrastructure Sector: Lessons for India | Ongoing |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--|---|-----------|
| 16. | Asian Society for Entrepreneurship Education and Development, New Delhi | Comparative Study of Self Help Groups formed by SGSY and NABARD in Northern India | Ongoing |
| 17. | S.P. Memorial Shiksha Niketan Samiti, Assam | Psycho Socio Impact of Terrorist Violence Activities on Women and Children | Ongoing |
| 18. | Equity Foundation, Patna | Economic Participation of Women in Bihar | Ongoing |
| 19. | India Development Foundation, Gurgaon | Construction of Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) : 2003-04 | Completed |
| 20. | Singamma Sreenivasan Foundation, Bangalore | Strengthening the capacity of elected women in preparation of village level planning in women led Panchayat | Completed |
| 21. | Basti Area Development Council, Orissa | Comparative Study on Infant Mortality and Fertility among Rural Tribal and Urban Slum Population in Balasore District of Orissa | Ongoing |
| 22. | Sankalap, New Delhi | Evaluation of the scheme of setting up education complexes in low literacy pockets for the development of Women's literacy | Ongoing |
| 23. | Samya-Centre for Equity Studies, New Delhi | Policy Exclusion of Urban Poor in India | Ongoing |
| 24. | Dr. Durga Das Roy, Emeritus Fellow, UGC. Formerly Professor of Economics, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata | Mid-Term Evaluation study of the composition and working of Swarna Jayanti Gram Sworozgar Yojana in 24 Paragana District of W.B | Ongoing |
| 25. | Institute of Social Development, Udaipur | Impact of scheme of training and rehabilitation on the socio-economic improvement of Scavengers in Rajasthan | Ongoing |
| 26. | Solidarity of the Nation Society, Gonda | Functioning and Performance of Swa-Shakti and Swyam Siddha Projects in India | Ongoing |
| 27. | The Energy Resource Institute, New Delhi | A Proposal for HIV/AIDS intervention for the Indian Industry throughout the supply chain on HIV/AIDS | Completed |

[Translation]

Discontinuance of Central Schemes

3079. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has proposed/suggested for discontinuing a large number of Central Schemes/programmes related to various Ministries;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision in regard to the recommendations of the Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Commission has recommended any alternate schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (f) While preparing a Plan, Planning Commission conducts Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise. The primary purpose of this exercise is to ensure convergence, efficiency and efficacy of schemes according to Plan priorities and targets, and also the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. The Commission in its internal exercise towards Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) for the 11th Plan, proposed to discontinue 113 Centre Sector Schemes. However, on subsequent consultations with various Ministries/Departments, 40 of these identified Centre Sector Schemes were retained in their Annual Plan 2007-08. The ZBB exercise would be continued further during the formulation of 11th Plan in consultation with Ministries/Departments. Ministry-wise list of these 40 schemes is enclosed at statement.

Statement

| S.No. | Name of Schemes initially proposed to be discontinued by Planning Commission but subsequently retained for 2007-08 | BE 2006-07 (Rs. crore) |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Department of Agricultural and Cooperation | | |
| 1. | Watershed Development Council | 1.35 |
| 2. | Strengthening Agmark Grading and Export Quality Controls | 1.15 |
| 3. | Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (SFAC) | 38.00 |
| 4. | Secretariat Economic Service | 8.55 |
| Ministry of Coal | | |
| 5. | Detailed Drilling in Non-CIL Blocks | 11.61 |
| 6. | Environment Measures and Subsidence Control | 55.90 |
| 7. | Research and Development | 21.09 |
| 8. | Coal Controller Organization | 0.22 |
| 9. | Information Technology | 3.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--|--|--------|
| Ministry of Commerce | | |
| 10. | Footwear Design and Dev. Institute | 1.00 |
| 11. | Director General of Foreign Trade | 4.86 |
| 12. | DGCI and S | 4.00 |
| 13. | Computerization in DGS and D | 4.00 |
| Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion | | |
| 14. | Modernization and Strengthening of Patent Office (Revenue) | 14.00 |
| Department of Public Enterprises | | |
| 15. | Counseling, Retraining and Re-deployment | 30.87 |
| Department of Heavy Industry | | |
| 16. | Restructuring of PSEs under DHI | 87.82 |
| Ministry of Labour | | |
| 17. | Modernization of Machine Tabulation Unit | 0.90 |
| Department of Secondary and Higher Education | | |
| 18. | Joint Indo Mongolian School at Mongolia | 1.00 |
| 19. | Dr. Zakir Hussain Memorial College Trust | 1.50 |
| 20. | Grants-in-aid to Institutions: NIEPA (changed name NUEPA) | 5.00 |
| Ministry of Textiles | | |
| 21. | Technology Upgradation Fund (TUFs) | 550.00 |
| 22. | NIFT | 11.00 |
| 23. | R and D including TRAs | 1.00 |
| 24. | Export Promotion Studies | 1.00 |
| 25. | Institute of Textile Management, Coimbatore | 5.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|--|---------------|
| Ministry of Urban Development | | |
| 26. | Pilot Project on Solid Waste Management near Airport in few selected Cities | 35.00 |
| Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation | | |
| 27. | UNDP Assistance for National Strategy for Urban Poor | 9.00 |
| Ministry of Information and Broadcasting | | |
| 28. | Acquisition and exhibition of archive films | 0.73 |
| 29. | Establishment of computerized management/up gradation of infrastructure of CBFC | 0.50 |
| 30. | Training and Skill Development (SRFTI) (New Scheme) | 2.56 |
| 31. | "Monitoring and Modernization of Certification Process" (formerly "Organization of training courses and studies") (CBFC) | 1.86 |
| 32. | HRD aspects including scholarship and exchange programmed, (FTII, Pune) | 0.10 |
| 33. | HRD aspects including scholarship and exchange programme, (SRFTI, Kolkata) | 0.23 |
| 34. | Up gradation and Modernization of FTII | 2.05 |
| 35. | (a) Export promotion through Film Festivals in India (DFF) | 3.53 |
| 36. | Grant-in-aid to FFSI and NGOs engaged in anti-piracy work (Main Sectt.) | 0.20 |
| 37. | Setting up of Museum of Moving Images | 7.00 |
| 38. | Film festival Complex - Alteration and Additions - Major work | 3.18 |
| Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports | | |
| 39. | State Sports Academy | 4.00 |
| Ministry of Culture | | |
| 40. | I.G.N.C.A. | 0.50 |
| Total | | 934.26 |

[English]

Utilization of Fund

3080. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

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

(a) whether his Ministry has failed to utilize its budgetary allocation fully;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the percentage of funds which remain unutilized during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) For the year 2006-07, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had been allocated an outlay of Rs.11305 crore (Plan) which was reduced to Rs.10000 crore at RE stage. This reduction was largely due to unspent balances lying with States and slow pace in fulfillment of necessary financial requirements for further releases in respect of certain programmes. As this

allocation is for the period 1.4.2006 to 31.3.2007, it would not be possible to indicate the amount remaining unutilized at this stage.

Vacancies in OIA

3081. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of posts are lying vacant in the Ministry;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to fill the vacant posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (e) Some posts are vacant in the Ministry. The bulk of the vacancies are in the support staff such as LDCs/UDCs, Stenographers and Peons. The category-wise details of the vacant posts, reasons for vacancies and action taken to fill these vacancies are indicated in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of vacant posts in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs

| Name of the Post | No. vacant | Reasons for vacancy | Action taken to fill up |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Ministry | | | |
| Principal Private Secretary | 1 | Repatriation-MEA cadre post | MEA requested to send a panel |
| Section Officer | 1 | Promotion of incumbent | MHA, being cadre authority, requested to nominate an officer |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------------------------------------|----|--|---|
| Private Secretary | 1 | Reversion of individual | MHA, being cadre authority, requested to nominate an officer |
| Accountant | 2 | Post meant for Pay and Account office | Action to fill being taken by Pr. CCA |
| Assistant | 2 | Promotion of incumbents | MHA, being cadre authority, requested to nominate Assistants |
| Personal Assistants | 2 | Nominated Persons yet to join | |
| Jr. Hindi Translator | 2 | Vacant since creation | Department of Official Languages have been repeatedly requested to fill the posts |
| Steno. Grade 'D' | 11 | Vacant since creation | MHA, being cadre authority, requested to nominate Stenographers |
| Upper Division Clerk | 4 | Vacant since creation | MHA, being cadre authority, requested to nominate officials |
| Lower Division Clerk | 8 | Vacant since creation/transfer of 2 incumbents | MHA, being cadre authority, requested to nominate officials |
| Daftry/Peopn | 11 | Vacant since creation | Recruitment action in progress |
| Protector of Emigrants Offices | | | |
| Protector of Emigrants (DS level) | 1 | Nominated person not joined | Fresh nomination received. Expected to joint shortly |
| Assistant | 1 | Repatriation | Fresh panel under preparation |
| Lower Division Clerk | 1 | Repatriation | Fresh panel under preparation |
| Stenographer Gr. 'D' | 1 | Selected person did not join | Fresh panel under preparation |

[Translation]

**Restrictions on Religious Practices
by Hindus**

3082.SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister
of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindus staying in some Muslim countries are not allowed to perform religious functions i.e. Cremation, Pooja Path etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of such countries;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with these countries; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to their own traditions and customs, certain Muslim countries discourage observance of Hindu rituals in public.

(c) and (d) As and when such issues are brought to the notice of the Government, the latter takes up the matter with the countries concerned.

[English]

Recommendation of Second ARC

3083. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the second Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended that the Lok Pal be given a constitutional status and keep PM out of the Ombudsman's jurisdiction.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring judges under its ambit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement containing the recommendations of the second Administrative Reforms Commission in this regard is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The second Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended in para 2.9.23 of its Fourth Report for constitution of 'A National Judicial Council' for recommending appointment of Supreme Court and High Court judges by a collegium having representation of the executive, legislature and judiciary. It should also be entrusted with the task of oversight of the judges and to enquire into judicial misconduct and impose minor penalties. It can also recommend removal of a judge, if so warranted to the President.

Statement

Extracts of the recommendation of second Administrative Reforms Commission made in its Fourth Report

4.3.15 Recommendations:

- a. The Constitution should be amended to provide for a national Ombudsman to be called the Rashtriya Lokayukta. The role and jurisdiction of the Rashtriya Lokayukta should be defined in the Constitution while the composition, mode of appointment and other details can be decided by Parliament through legislation.
- b. The jurisdiction of Rashtriya Lokayukta should extend to all Ministers of the Union (except the Prime Minister), all state Chief Ministers, all persons holding public office equivalent in rank to a Union Minister, and Members of Parliament. In case the enquiry against a public functionary establishes the involvement of any other public official along with the public functionary, the Rashtriya Lokayukta would have the power to enquire against such public servant(s) also.
- c. The Prime Minister should be kept out of the jurisdiction of the Rashtriya Lokayukta for the reasons stated in paras 4.3.7 to 4.3.11.
- d. The Rashtriya Lokayukta should consist of a

serving or retired Judge of the Supreme Court as the Chairperson, an eminent jurist as Member and the Central Vigilance Commissioner as the ex-officio Member.

- e. The Chairperson of the Rashtriya Lokayukta should be selected from a panel of sitting Judges of the Supreme Court who have more than three years of service, by a Committee consisting of the Vice President of India, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India. In case it is not possible to appoint a sitting Judge, the Committee may appoint a retired Supreme Court Judge. The same Committee may select the Member (i.e. an eminent jurist) of the Rashtriya Lokayukta. The Chairperson and Member of the Rashtriya Lokayukta should be appointed for only one term of three years and they should not hold any public office under the government thereafter, the only exception being that they can become the Chief Justice of India, if their services are so required.
- (f) The Rashtriya Lokayukta should also be entrusted with the task of undertaking a national campaign for raising the standards of ethics in public life.

[Translation]

Nehru Yuva Kendra

3084. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA :
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to include new districts for establishing Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK);

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise and the time by which these Kendras are likely to be set-up;

(c) the criteria/norms for releasing funds under the schemes;

(d) the details of the funds released by the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(e) the details of the target set and achieved by NYKs;

(f) whether NYKs were shifted from certain districts;

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

(h) whether there is any separate provision for the SCs/STs under these schemes; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) has district Kendras in 500 districts at present. For extension of the NYK to the remaining 123 districts, it is proposed to adopt a phased approach, linked to the number and level of activity of youth clubs in each district.

(c) Funds are released under various schemes as per the approved Annual Action Plan and project proposals of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.

(d) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports provide block grant to NYKS for establishing and conducting various programmes. The details of funds released by NYKS to their Kendras, State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) Details of the targets and achievements are indicated in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. In the year 2003-04, one NYK office was shifted to district Harda from Indore on administrative ground.

(h) and (i) There is no separate provision for SCs/STs under the Scheme implemented by NYKS. However, the guidelines stipulate the participation of SCs/STs in all the programmes and field activities of NYKS.

Statement

Details of funds released during the last three years State-wise

| S. No. | Name of State/UTs | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|--------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 4435123 | 5603632 | 10568228 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 18127440 | 20507408 | 45151310 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1858802 | 2086819 | 4903206 |
| 4. | Assam | 18775187 | 23523121 | 42065116 |
| 5. | Bihar | 27821019 | 30670254 | 44298367 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 857058 | 2540975 | 1910872 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 5885992 | 5706819 | 5163436 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 441445 | 402539 | 479173 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 953853 | 822984 | 794991 |
| 10. | Delhi | 1833005 | 3741802 | 3584545 |
| 11. | Goa | 1632040 | 1563013 | 1764348 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 13111507 | 12902700 | 19293796 |
| 13. | Haryana | 6417507 | 14226964 | 17282880 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 5114736 | 13845181 | 13542267 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 5353922 | 13706877 | 17834663 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 10914440 | 14724244 | 20329597 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 15221722 | 16500038 | 12608883 |
| 18. | Kerala | 17654416 | 12786039 | 14496660 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 269121 | 346320 | 73800 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 44807226 | 31114471 | 27519380 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 25085463 | 22873182 | 22275059 |
| 22. | Manipur | 8119856 | 8674937 | 15937636 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 3178473 | 3547855 | 8628915 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 1538353 | 2162022 | 3350532 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 4227708 | 4740842 | 7220342 |
| 26. | Orissa | 15195844 | 18289593 | 44255144 |
| 27. | Pondicherry | 1740259 | 2041628 | 5841904 |
| 28. | Punjab | 5189180 | 11285224 | 11726665 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 11720136 | 27213031 | 19955041 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 2159034 | 3243082 | 5921526 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 24161784 | 25391547 | 36912318 |
| 32. | Tripura | 2834906 | 3507716 | 5998762 |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 49895802 | 66151027 | 99108962 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | 9619191 | 15224975 | 14484665 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 20469418 | 24922190 | 44435462 |
| Total | | 386620948 | 466591051 | 649718421 |

Statement-II**Details of Target Set and Target Achieved by NYKS**

| Programmes | Target set | | | Target achieved | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------|---------|
| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Regular Programmes | | | | | | |
| Youth Club Development Prog. | 1500 | 1500 | 1500 | 2034 | 1412 | 1336 |
| Vocational Training Programmes | 2000 | 2000 | 2000 | 3987 | 5501 | 4929 |
| Awareness Campaign | 1500 | 1500 | 1500 | 2349 | 1365 | 1352 |
| Work Camps | 1500 | 1500 | 1500 | 1643 | 1404 | 1337 |
| Sports Promotion Programmes | 1500 | 1500 | 1500 | 2247 | 1558 | 1864 |
| Workshops and Seminars | 500 | 500 | 1000 | 1487 | 687 | 962 |
| Cultural Programmes | 1500 | 1500 | 1500 | 2067 | 1512 | 1888 |
| Celebrations of National/International Days/Weeks | 6000 | 6000 | 7500 | 8696 | 11556 | 11245 |
| Adventure Promotion Programmes | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 873 | 889 | 614 |
| Training in Self Employment Projects (TSEP) | — | — | 500 | — | — | 320 |
| District Level Youth Convention | — | — | 500 | — | — | 182 |
| Schemes of the Ministry | | | | | | |
| National Service Volunteers | 4400 | 4400 | 5000 | 4362 | 4324 | 5000 |
| Youth Development Centre | 5000 by 10th Plan | 5000 by 10th Plan | 5000 by 10th Plan | 139 | 705 | — |
| Awards to Outstanding Youth Clubs | | | | | | |
| District Youth Club Awards | 500 | 500 | 500 | 290 | 347 | 398 |
| State Youth Club Awards | 35 | 35 | 35 | 25 | 25 | 31 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|-----|------|------|
| National Yough Club Award | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Financial Assistance to Youth Clubs | — | — | — | 532 | 1499 | 3977 |
| Rural Sports Clubs | — | — | — | 150 | 171 | 322 |
| RITYDC | — | 5000 by 10th Plan | 5000 by 10th Plan | — | 120 | 44 |
| Rashtriya Sadhbhawna Yojna | — | — | 5911 | — | — | 4798 |

Grants to Bharat Scouts and Guides

3085.SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has provided any grant to the Bharat Scouts and Guides for its activities;

(b) if so, the details of the activities and the grant provided during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government grants any priority/concession to the Youths trained by the Bharat Scouts and Guides in employment matters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The activities of Bharat Scouts and Guides include; President Scouts/Guides Testing Camps, Workshop/Seminars/Training Courses, Training Camps (Project Advancement), Youth Programmes/Forums/Adventure Programmes/Gatherings, Inter-State/Inter-Regional Cultural Exchange Programmes, Environmental Awareness and Nature Study Camps; Unit Leaders

Conference for Scouters/Guiders, Periodical Meets, Coordination of Scouting/Guiding activities. The details of grants-in-aid released to the Bharat Scouts and Guides, New Delhi during the last 3 years are as under:—

| | | |
|---------|---|-------------------|
| 2004-05 | — | Rs. 1,00,00,000/- |
| 2005-06 | — | Rs. 1,45,00,000/- |
| 2006-07 | — | Rs. 1,10,00,000/- |

There is no provision under the Scheme to allocate funds State-wise.

(c) and (d) No priority/concession is provided by the Union Government to the youth trained by the Bharat Scouts and Guides in matter of employment. However, the Indian Railways annually recruit Rashtrapathi Awardees of Rovers and Rangers trained by the Bharat Scouts and Guides at Group C and Group D levels. Similarly, State Governments grant incentives at their level which vary from State to State.

[English]

Change in Funding Pattern for Centrally Sponsored Schemes

3086.SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sustained pressure from Assam and other North-Eastern States for a change in the Funding Pattern for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the region;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Chief Ministers of North Eastern States have been requesting for change in the funding pattern of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for NE states to 90:10 (Centre : State share) on the ground of state's own poor resources.

(c) It would be difficult to change the funding pattern of a few states in an ad-hoc manner. States need to manage their finances better and raise additional resources.

Private Cellular Company

3087.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the private cellular companies that are providing their services in Maharashtra, location-wise;

(b) the number of SIM Cards provided in these areas; and

(c) the details of the criteria prescribed by these cellular companies for providing SIM Cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Following private companies have been licenced to provide Access Services (including mobile services) in the state of Maharashtra:-

| Sl. No. | Name of Private Access Services Licensees | Name of Service Area |
|---------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | M/s. BPL Mobile Communications Limited | Mumbai |
| 2. | M/s. Hutchison Essar Limited | Mumbai |
| 3. | M/s. Bharati Airtel Limited | Mumbai |
| 4. | M/s. Reliance Infocomm Ltd. | Mumbai |
| 5. | M/s. Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. | Mumbai |
| 6. | M/s. IDEA Cellular Limited | Mumbai |
| 7. | M/s. Aircel Limited | Mumbai |
| 8. | M/s. IDEA Cellular Limited | Maharashtra |
| 9. | M/s. Hutchison Essar Cellular Limited | Maharashtra |
| 10. | M/s. Bharti Airtel Limited | Maharashtra |
| 11. | M/s. Reliance Infocomm Ltd. | Maharashtra |
| 12. | M/s. Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. | Maharashtra |
| 13. | M/s. Aircel Limited | Maharashtra |

Maharashtra Service Area includes Goa and excludes Mumbai Service Area.

(b) As on 28th February, 2007, the number of mobile phones (including Wireless in Local Loop) provided by private companies are 86,37,547 in Mumbai service area and 1,01,84,239 in Maharashtra Service Area.

(c) Access Services Providers are required to ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as a subscriber. As per prevailing instructions, they are required to obtain duly filled up

Customer Acquisition Forms (CAF)/Subscriber Acquisition Forms (SAF), photograph, identity proof and address proof before providing any mobile connection.

[Translation]

Licence to Pharmaceutical Units

3088. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD :

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

(a) whether there is any policy for issuing of licence of Pharmaceutical Units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued any new guidelines regarding issuance of licence to Pharmaceutical Units by amending the present procedure for issuance of licence;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to set up Central Pharmaceutical Authority; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Drugs are manufactured by the pharmaceutical units under the specific manufacturing licences granted in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to setup Central Drug Authority of India as an autonomous body under the Ministry of H and FW with ten divisions dealing with

specific subjects. The bill for amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to provide statutory basis for the authority will be introduced in the Parliament for approval.

[English]

Additional Fund for Chiranjeevi Yojana

3089. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to sanction additional amount of Rs. 2200 lakhs for the Chiranjeevi Yojana; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) A recommendation for grant of Rs. 2200 lakhs for the Chiranjeevi Yojana has been received from a Hon'ble Member of Parliament. This Ministry has, however, allocated a sum of Rs. 8.52 crores for the financial year 2006-07 for a centrally sponsored scheme called Janani Suraksha Yojana, which is substantially similar to Chiranjeevi Yojana.

Chiranjeevi Yojana has been implemented in the State of Gujarat only from December, 2005 and that too in a pilot mode in five districts. The state has extended the scheme in all the districts of the State only recently. It has been decided by the Government of India that before the request for additional Grant is considered, an impact evaluation study of Chiranjeevi Yojana on the targeted groups of beneficiaries, needs to be conducted.

Genetically Modified Soya Oil

3090. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether genetically modified soya oil being imported is injurious to health;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Import of any article of Genetically Modified (GM) food, including GM Soya Oil is regulated under the Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986. As per the provisions of EPA 1986, approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee under Ministry of Environment and Forests is required to ensure that it is safe for human consumption.

Vacancy in PG Seats

3091.DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Postgraduate Medical (both degree and diplomas) seats in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of seats that are lying vacant during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that all the Postgraduate seats are filled up in each institute every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) There are approximately 6202 medical seats (degree and diploma) available in Government institutions (except Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh) in the country. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to fill up its seats. As regards filling up of 50% All India Quota Post Graduate Medical seats

in Government institutions (except in the States of Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh) by the Central Government, as per the scheme approved and devised by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, it is stated that as per the information received from various Government medical colleges, a total number of 3101 seats (2230 Degree seats + 871 PG/Diploma seats) were available for the academic year 2007-08 under 50% All India Quota for allotment to candidates who qualify All India PG Entrance Examination through counselling by Directorate General of Health Services. The State-wise PG Medical Degree/Diploma seats under All India Quota 2007 are given in the enclosed statement. The data relating to number of PG seats in private medical institutions are not available.

Statement

Statewise PG Degree/Diploma Seats under All India Quota-2007

| S. No. | State | Degree | Diploma | Total |
|--------|------------------|--------|---------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Assam | 77 | 32 | 109 |
| 2. | Bihar | 100 | 25 | 125 |
| 3. | Chandigarh | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 16 | 6 | 22 |
| 5. | Delhi | 108 | 31 | 139 |
| 6. | Goa | 18 | 4 | 22 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 259 | 66 | 325 |
| 8. | Haryana | 44 | 14 | 58 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 17 | 6 | 23 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 37 | 15 | 52 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 95 | 80 | 175 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------------|---|------|-----|------|
| 12. Kerala | | 112 | 74 | 186 |
| 13. Madhya Pradesh | | 146 | 82 | 228 |
| 14. Maharashtra | | 265 | 86 | 351 |
| 15. Orissa | | 118 | 0 | 118 |
| 16. Pondicherry | | 31 | 4 | 35 |
| 17. Punjab | | 79 | 0 | 79 |
| 18. Rajasthan | | 172 | 13 | 185 |
| 19. Tamil Nadu | | 161 | 176 | 337 |
| 20. Uttar Pradesh | | 277 | 68 | 345 |
| 21. West Bengal | | 91 | 89 | 180 |
| Total | | 2230 | 871 | 3101 |

Reconstitution of National Commission on Population

3092.SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the national commission on population has been reconstituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the commission has completed the task assigned to it;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which its report is likely to be submitted; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The National Commission on

Population (NCP) was reconstituted on 11 April 2005 with 40 members under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission are Vice Chairman of the Commission. The membership also includes the Chief Ministers of the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala and Tamil Nadu apart from a number of experts.

(c) to (e) The Terms of Reference of the Commission are as under:—

- (i) To review, monitor and give directions for the implementation of the National Population Policy with a view to achieve population stabilization by promoting synergy between demographic, educational, environmental and developmental programmes.
- (ii) To promote intersectoral coordination in planning and implementation across government agencies of the Central and State Governments.
- (iii) To facilitate the development of a vigorous people's movement in support of the National efforts at Population Stabilisation.
- (iv) And also to facilitate initiatives to improve performance in the demographically weaker States in the country.

The Commission functions as per the terms of reference given above. However, in the first meeting of the reconstituted NCP, five Groups of Experts for Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have been constituted to identify weaknesses in their health delivery systems and to suggest measures to improve the health and demographic status of these States. The reports of these Groups are in the final stages of preparation.

Financial Assistance to Sports Persons

3093.DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has provided financial assistance from the Rashtriya Kalyan Kosh to sports persons from North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided to these sports persons during the last three years till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) Under the Scheme of National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons, financial

assistance is given in the form of a monthly pension of upto Rs. 2500 per month to outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears who are living in indigent circumstances. Lump sum financial assistance upto Rs.40,000 is also given for medical treatment in case of injury. Sportspersons who suffer from fatal injury during training for, or while participating in, International Competitions, are also provided assistance upto Rs.1.00 lakh. The Scheme, is open to eligible sportspersons from all over India.

(c) Under the Scheme, pensions are not given State-wise. However, a list indicating the names of sportspersons given pensions under the National Welfare Fund Scheme during the last three years is enclosed at statement.

Statement

*Names of Sportspersons who are availing pension facilities under
'National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons'*

| Sl. No. | 2003-04 | Sl. No. | 2004-05 | Sl. No. | 2005-06 |
|---------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Sh. Babu Lal | 1. | Sh. Babu Lal | 1. | Sh. Babu Lal |
| 2. | Ms. Nilima Vasant Ponkshe | 2. | Ms. Nilima Vasant Ponkshe | 2. | Ms. Nilima Vasant Ponkshe |
| 3. | Sh. Y.H. Yantata | 3. | Sh. Y.H. Yantata | 3. | Sh. Y.H. Yantata |
| 4. | Sh. Gora Chand Seal | 4. | Sh. Gora Chand Seal | 4. | Sh. Gora Chand Seal |
| 5. | Ms. Beni Ghosh | 5. | Ms. Beni Ghosh | 5. | Ms. Beni Ghosh |
| 6. | Ms. Pavithra Chandra | 6. | Ms. Pavithra Chandra | 6. | Ms. Pavithra Chandra |
| 7. | Sh. Netai Chand Bysack | 7. | Sh. Netai Chand Bysack | 7. | Sh. Netai Chand Bysack |
| 8. | Sh. Suhas Chatterjee | 8. | Sh. Suhas Chatterjee | 8. | Sh. Suhas Chatterjee |
| 9. | Sh. Sameer Banerjee | 9. | Sh. Sameer Banerjee | 9. | Sh. Sameer Banerjee |
| 10. | Sh. Gurcharan Singh | 10. | Sh. Gurcharan Singh | 10. | Sh. Gurcharan Singh |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| 11. | Sh. Nikhil Kumar Nandy | 11. | Sh. Nikhil Kumar Nandy | 11. | Sh. Nikhil Kumar Nandy |
| 12. | Ms. Jaspreet Kaur | 12. | Ms. Jaspreet Kaur | 12. | Ms. Jaspreet Kaur |
| 13. | Sh. Robin Hazra | 13. | Sh. Robin Hazra | 13. | Sh. Robin Hazra |
| 14. | Sh. H.L. Prabhakar | 14. | Sh. H.L. Prabhakar | 14. | Sh. H.L. Prabhakar |
| 15. | Sh. C.P. Chandra | 15. | Sh. C.P. Chandra | 15. | Sh. C.P. Chandra |
| 16. | Sh. Prabhunath Patra | 16. | Sh. Prabhunath Patra | 16. | Sh. Prabhunath Patra |
| 17. | Md. Kakkadan | 17. | Md. Kakkadan | 17. | Md. Kakkadan |
| 18. | Sh. Raghunath Mahapatra | 18. | Sh. Raghunath Mahapatra | 18. | Sh. Raghunath Mahapatra |
| 19. | Smt. C.K.K. Pillai | 19. | Smt. C.K.K. Pillai | 19. | Smt. C.K.K. Pillai |
| 20. | Sh. K. Eshwara Rao | 20. | Sh. K. Eshwara Rao | 20. | Sh. K. Eshwara Rao |
| 21. | Sh. A Sussy | 21. | Sh. A Sussy | 21. | Sh. A Sussy |
| 22. | Sh. Sameer Kumar Roy | 22. | Sh. Sameer Kumar Roy | 22. | Sh. Sameer Kumar Roy |
| 23. | Sh. Suprvot Chakraborty | 23. | Sh. Suprvat Chakraborty | 23. | Sh. Suprvat Chakraborty |
| 24. | Sh. Ajoy Kumar Chatterjee | 24. | Sh. Ajoy Kumar Chatterjee | 24. | Sh. Ajoy Kumar Chatterjee |
| 25. | Sh. Abul Hassan Ahmed | 25. | Sh. Abul Hassan Ahmed | 25. | Sh. Abul Hassan Ahmed |
| 26. | Sh. Rajyya Bosi | 26. | Sh. Rajayya Bosi | 26. | Sh. Rajayya Bosi |
| 27. | Sh. V. Mookan | 27. | Sh. Mookan | 27. | Sh. Mookan |
| 28. | Sh. Jayaraman | 28. | Sh. Jayaraman | 28. | Sh. Jayaraman |
| 29. | Sh. Ramchandra B. Parab | 29. | Sh. Ramchandra B. Parab | 29. | Sh. Ramchandra B. Parab |
| 30. | Sh. P. Ravindran | 30. | Sh. P. Ravindran | 30. | Sh. P. Ravindran |
| 31. | Sh. N.S. Thakur | 31. | Sh. N.S. Thakur | 31. | Sh. N.S. Thakur |
| 32. | Smt. Raniben Nakum | 32. | Smt. Raniben Nakum | 32. | Smt. Raniben Nakum |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| 33. Sh. Saik Babu | | 33. Sh. Saik Babu | | 33. Sh. Saik Babu | |
| 34. Sh. V.B. Pillai | | 34. Sh. V.B. Pillai | | 34. Sh. V.B. Pillai | |
| 35. Smt. Baghwan Devi | | 35. Smt. Baghwan Devi | | 35. Smt. Baghwan Devi | |
| 36. Sh. O.P. Sathyan | | 36. Sh. O.P. Sathyan | | 36. Sh. O.P. Sathyan | |
| 37. Sh. K. Balagopal | | 37. Sh. K. Balagopal | | 37. Sh. K. Balagopal | |
| 38. Smt. Ramrati Devi | | 38. Smt. Ramrati Devi | | 38. Smt. Ramrati Devi | |
| 39. Sh. M. Gabriel | | 39. Sh. M. Gabriel | | 39. Sh. M. Gabriel | |
| 40. Sh. N.S. Francis Xavier | | 40. Sh. N.S. Francis Xavier | | 40. Sh. N.S. Francis Xavier | |
| 41. Sh. R.V. Govardhan | | 41. Sh. R.V. Govardhan | | 41. Sh. R.V. Govardhan | |
| 42. Sh. H. Loknath | | 42. Sh. H. Loknath | | 42. Sh. H. Loknath | |
| 43. Sh. S. George | | 43. Sh. S. George | | 43. Sh. S. George | |
| 44. Sh. Gurudev Singh | | 44. Sh. Gurudev Singh | | 44. Sh. Gurudev Singh | |
| 45. Sh. E. Rama Krishana Rao | | 45. Sh. E. Rama Krishana Rao | | 45. Sh. E. Rama Krishana Rao | |
| 46. Sh. T.I. Chacko | | 46. Sh. T.I. Chacko | | 46. Sh. T.I. Chacko | |
| 47. Sh. Bhujanga Rao | | 47. Sh. Bhujanga Rao | | 47. Sh. Bhujanga Rao | |
| 48. Smt. K.K. Jadhav | | 48. Smt. K.K. Jadhav | | 48. Smt. K.K. Jadhav | |
| 49. Sh. Nirmal Kumar Bose | | 49. Sh. Nirmal Kumar Bose | | 49. Sh. Nirmal Kumar Bose | |
| 50. Sh. M.J. Rathnam | | 50. Sh. M.J. Rathnam | | | |
| 51. Ms. Soma Bose | | | | | |
| 52. Sh. N. Pappna | | | | | |
| 53. Ms. Rikta Dhar | | | | | |
| 54. Sh. Shyam Lal Verma | | | | | |

[Translation]

Vacant Land

3094.SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the land of the Postal Wing and the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) lying vacant in Faizabad, Barabanki, Sultanpur, Basti, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Jaunpur in eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the date from which the said plots of land are lying vacant and the purpose for which they were purchased;

(c) the purpose for which the said plots of land are being used currently and the names of agencies using them;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the government for utilization of the land; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (e) Sir, the information is being collection and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Exodus of Indians

3095.SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is constant and steady increase in the exodus of Indian from the country in the recent years;

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

(c) the number of offices of Protectors of Immigrants functioning in the country, location-wise;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to open more offices of Protectors of Immigrants in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the locations identified for the same; and

(f) the time by which the new offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) There has been an increase in the workers outflow from the country in the recent years. The details of emigration clearance taken for employment during the last three years is given hereunder:

| Year | No. of workers (in lakhs) |
|------|------------------------------|
| 2004 | 4.75 |
| 2005 | 5.49 |
| 2006 | 6.77 |

(c) There are 8 offices of the Protectors of Emigrants under the administrative control of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. These offices are located in the cities of Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Cochin, Thiruvananthapuram and Hyderabad.

(d) to (f) At present there is no proposal to open more offices of the Protectors of Emigrants.

Transfer of Central Assistance to States

3096.SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the basis of transfer of Central assistance to the Annual Plans of the States;

(b) the rationale for considering the chosen criteria/formula including the year in which the said criteria/formula was formulated;

(c) whether any State has requested for revision of the formula or for inclusion of other parameters for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) The allocation of Central Assistance from Centre to States for the Annual Plans of States comprises of Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) and Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for special and other programmes. Allocation of NCA is based on the Gadgil-Mukerjee Formula as approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December 1991. Gadgil-Mukerjee Formula takes into account, *inter alia*, population, per capita income, performance of tax effort, fiscal management and progress in respect of national objectives specifically in the area of population control, elimination of illiteracy, on-time completion of EAPs and land reforms. Allocation for EAPs and special and other programmes are based on the relevant guidelines and criteria which are specific for each of these programmes.

(c) to (e) In the 51st Meeting of the National Development Council (NDC), the State of Rajasthan suggested that Gadgil Formula may be revised by giving weightage to the geographic area, index of infrastructure development and percentage of SC/ST population. A change in the criteria for allocation of Central Assistance requires the approval of the NDC. There is no proposal at present to change the criteria for allocation of Central Assistance to States.

Indo-Nepal Border Demarcation

3097.SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pillars in the border areas marking

the demarcation on international border in Kishanganj district have allegedly been dismantled by the Nepalis;

(b) if so, the details of the land allegedly occupied by the Nepalis;

(c) whether the Government of India has taken up the matter with the Government of Nepal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government of Nepal thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) There have been attempts to dismantle border pillar No. 108 and Sub-pillar no. 133/2 in April 2005 and July 2005 respectively and land encroachment in their vicinity in Kishanganj District.

(c) to (e) Such incidents have been taken up expeditiously with the Government of Nepal. These matters have been addressed by joint inspections and repair and replacement of border pillars by the concerned authorities of both governments.

Indo-China Talks

3098.SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any talks between India and China were held on January 17 and 18, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome therefrom;

(c) whether China has illegal/unjustified claim over Indian soil;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to counter the false propaganda of China about Arunachal Pradesh in the International forum?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The ninth round of talks between the Special Representatives of India and China was held in New Delhi from 16-18 January 2007. The two Special Representatives continued their discussions on a framework for the boundary settlement on the basis of the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of India-China Boundary Question signed on 11 April 2005.

(c) to (e) China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 square kilometres in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 square kilometres of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. China illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector. In the Middle Sector, China illegally claims about 2000 square kilometres of Indian territory. Government have conveyed to the Chinese side that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India.

MoUs between India and China

3099.SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has signed any Memorandum of

Understandings (MoUs) with China during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details of the MoUs signed; and

(c) the benefits accrued to India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The list of MoUs signed between India and China since 2002 are enclosed statement.

(c) In recent years, India-China relations have witnessed all-round progress. During the State visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to India from November 21 to 23, 2006, the two sides issued a Joint Declaration that spelt out a ten-pronged strategy to upgrade India-China relations to a qualitatively new level, and to further substantiate and reinforce their Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. Both sides believe that comprehensive economic and commercial engagement is a core component of their Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. The broadbasing of the relationship through enhanced cultural, scientific, educational, tourism and people-to-people contacts is being actively pursued. In this context, the two sides have signed a number of bilateral documents in a wide variety of spheres. These documents which are at various stages of implementation have helped to consolidate and diversify India-China bilateral relations.

Statement

| Sl.No. | Year | Subject Matter of MoU/Agreement |
|--------|------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | 2002 | MoU on the Application of Phytosanitary Measures between the Ministry of Agriculture of India and the State General Administration of the People's Republic of China for Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine. |
| 2. | 2002 | MoU between ISRO and the China National Space Administration on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|------|---|
| 3. | 2002 | MoU between the Department of Science and Technology of India and the Chinese Academy of Sciences on Cooperation in Science and Technology |
| 4. | 2002 | Agreement between India and China on cooperation in the field of Tourism |
| 5. | 2002 | MoU between the Ministry of Water Resources of India and the Ministry of Water Resources of China upon the provision of hydrological information of the Yaluzangbu/ Brahmaputra river in flood season by China to India |
| 6. | 2002 | MoU Approved Tourism Destination Status |
| 7. | 2003 | Memorandum between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Expanding Border Trade |
| 8. | 2003 | MoU on Cooperation between the Ministry of Law and Justice of the Government of India and the Supreme People's Prosecution Service of China |
| 9. | 2003 | Executive Programme on Educational Cooperation and Exchange between the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and Ministry of Education, China |
| 10. | 2003 | Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Exporting Mangoes from India to China between the Ministry of Agriculture of India and General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China |
| 11. | 2003 | MoU on Simplifying Visa Procedures between the Government of India and the Government of China |
| 12. | 2003 | MoU for Enhanced Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy between the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of India and the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of China |
| 13. | 2003 | MoU for Cooperation in the field of Ocean Science and Technology between Department of Ocean Development, Government of India and State Oceanic Administration, China |
| 14. | 2003 | MoU between the Department of Science and Technology of India and the National Science Foundation of China |
| 15. | 2003 | MoU between the Government of India and the Government of China on the Reciprocal Establishment of Cultural Centres in their Capitals |
| 16. | 2003 | Executive Programme of Cultural Exchanges between the Government of India and the Government of China for the years 2003-2005 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|------|--|
| 17. | 2005 | Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question |
| 18. | 2005 | Protocol on Modalities for the Implementation of CBMs in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas |
| 19. | 2005 | Report of the India-China Joint Study Group on Comprehensive Trade and Economic Cooperation |
| 20. | 2005 | Agreement on Mutual Administrative Assistance and Co-operation in Customs Matters between India and China |
| 21. | 2005 | MoU on Civil Aviation |
| 22. | 2005 | Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of Grape from India to China between the Ministry of Agriculture of India and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China |
| 23. | 2005 | Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export Bitter Gourds from India to China between the Ministry of Agriculture of India and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China |
| 24. | 2005 | MoU on Cooperation between the Indian Council of World Affairs, India and the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, China |
| 25. | 2005 | MoU on the Launch of the India-China Financial Dialogue |
| 26. | 2005 | MoU between the Ministries of Water Resources of India and China upon Provision of Hydrological Information of the Sutlej/Langqen Zangbo River in Flood Season by China to India |
| 27. | 2005 | Protocol on India China Film Cooperation Commission |
| 28. | 2005 | Memorandum on the Construction of an Indian Style Buddhist Temple on the Western Side of The White Horse Temple in Luoyang, China |
| 29. | 2005 | MoU for Cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs of India and the Ministry of Public Security of China |
| 30. | 2006 | MoU for enhancing cooperation in the field of oil and natural gas |
| 31. | 2006 | MoU for exchanges and cooperation in the field of defence |
| 32. | 2006 | MoU on S and T cooperation |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|------|---|
| 33. | 2006 | Protocol on the Establishment of Consulates-General at Guangzhou and Kolkata |
| 34. | 2006 | Protocol on Cooperation between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China |
| 35. | 2006 | Agreement on the Issue of Property of the Consulate General of India in Shanghai |
| 36. | 2006 | Agreement on Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion |
| 37. | 2006 | MoU on Inspection of Export Cargo (Iron Ore) |
| 38. | 2006 | Protocol on Phytosanitary Requirements for Exporting Rice from India to China |
| 39. | 2006 | MoU between Forward Markets Commission of India and China Securities Regulatory Commission regarding Commodity Futures Regulatory Cooperation |
| 40. | 2006 | MoU on Cooperation between the India Institute of Public Administration and the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China |
| 41. | 2006 | Agreement on Forestry Cooperation |
| 42. | 2006 | MoU between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences |
| 43. | 2006 | Exchange Programme on Cooperation in the Field of Education |
| 44. | 2006 | MoU on Cooperation in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage |
| 45. | 2006 | Agreement on Preventing Theft, Clandestine Excavation and Illicit Import and Export of Cultural Property |
| 46. | 2006 | MoU on undertaking joint exploration and production and acquisition of oil and natural gas resources |

National Discipline Scheme

3100.DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

be pleased to state :

(a) the details of decentralization of National Discipline Scheme;

(b) whether under the scheme, teachers were allocated with the condition that the grant for their pay and allowances on actual cost will be borne by the Union Government;

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

(d) whether the requisite grant has not so far been released by the Union Government to the state;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the grant is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) The National Discipline Scheme was originally started in 1954 and evolved into an integrated Scheme named the National Fitness Corps. In accordance with a decision taken by the Central Government that the services of employees under the Scheme would be transferred to the State Governments, the National Discipline Scheme (renamed the National Fitness Corps) was decentralized in July, 1972 and the National Discipline Scheme Directorate was closed down. Employees under the National Discipline Scheme were transferred to the State Governments and absorbed in the services of the concerned State Governments from varying dates after the 1st July 1972.

(b) The National Discipline Scheme Instructors (NDSIs) were absorbed as Physical Education Teachers (PETs) in various schools under the control of the State Governments concerned on condition that the Central Government would meet in full the expenditure on the pay and allowances of these absorbed instructors, if necessary, for as long as they remained in service.

(c) The details of liability claims towards pay and allowances of National Discipline Scheme Instructors as projected by various State Governments are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) to (f) The Union Government have so far reimbursed the expenses to the tune of Rs.124 crores to ten State Governments, from whom liability position towards pay and allowances of NDS Instructors had been received and verified. Due to want of reconciliation of assessment as well as insufficient annual budgetary allocation for the National Discipline Scheme, it would not be possible or feasible to clear the entire liability of the State Governments, which is roughly estimated to be around of Rs. 278 crores, within a definite time frame.

Statement

Details of reimbursement claimed by State Governments towards pay and allowances of NDS Instructors absorbed in Services of the State Governments

| S. No. | Name of the State | No. of NDSIs transferred to States | Reimbursement of expenditure by the Government of India | Outstanding amount claimed by State Governments (As on 13.3.2007) |
|--------|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 1. | Bihar | 78 | 3,10,00,000/- | Rs. 17,31,461/- |
| 2. | Gujarat | 420 | 1,42,19,440/- | Rs. 18,86,64,951/- |
| 3. | Haryana | 342 | 12,15,54,000/- | Rs. 14,66,29,541/- |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
|-------|------------------|-------|------------------|----------------------|
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh | 170 | 6,52,90,000/- | Rs. 12,93,67,426/- |
| 5. | Kerala | 184 | 1,84,00,000/- | Rs. 8,69,25,169/- |
| 6. | Madhya Pradesh | 358 | 2,27,00,000/- | Rs. 37,49,89,269/- |
| 7. | Maharashtra | 1216 | 34,79,80,365/- | Rs. 42,93,55,792/- |
| 8. | Punjab | 604 | 13,23,50,270/- | Rs. 26,26,51,995/- |
| 9. | Rajasthan | 534 | 17,33,60,000/- | Rs. 60,64,00,000/- |
| 10. | Uttar Pradesh | 802 | 25,02,42,691/- | Rs. 54,83,51,935/- |
| Total | | 4,844 | 1,23,70,96,766/- | Rs. 2,77,50,67,539/- |

Indo-China Participation on Global Issues

3101. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and China have agreed to participate on Global issues like energy security, environment protection, cross border violence and host of other issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of strategies formulated to solve the issues between India and China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) During the State visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to India from November 21 to 23, 2006, the two sides have agreed to cooperate in various fields including in trade, industry, finance, agriculture, water resources, energy, environment, transportation, infrastructure, information technology, health, education, media, culture, tourism, youth affairs. On the issue of energy security, we agreed to make joint efforts, bilaterally as well as in multilateral fora, to diversify the

global energy mix and to increase the share in it of renewable energy sources. During the visit of Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Murli Deora to China on December 15 and 16, 2006, both sides signed on MoU on undertaking joint exploration and production and acquisition of oil and natural gas resources. On environment protection, both sides agreed to intensify consultations on sustainable development, bio-diversity, climate change and other related environmental issues of common concern. They also agreed to step up cooperation in wildlife conservation, particularly in tiger conservation. Both sides also agreed to strengthen their efforts to fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism, and the linkages between terrorism and organised crime and illicit arms and drugs trafficking. The two sides agreed to revitalise and broaden the India-China Dialogue Mechanism on Counter-Terrorism.

Protectors of Emigrants Offices

3102. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of offices of Protectors of Emigrants

(PoEs) functioning in the country to process emigration clearance emigrating for employment abroad;

(b) whether some officers are operating from rented premises;

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

(d) the amount of money incurred on rented premises;

(e) whether the Government has any plan to accommodate these offices to function from their own building;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which these offices are likely to function from their own buildings?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) There are 8 offices of the Protector of Emigrants (PoEs) under the administrative control of this Ministry located at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Cochin and Thiruvananthapuram.

(b) to (d) Due to non-availability of suitable Government accommodation, the PoE offices at Mumbai, Chennai, Cochin, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram are presently housed in rented premises at a monthly rental liability of approximately Rs. 2.39 lakh/-.

(e) to (g) The Ministry of Urban Development has been requested to provide suitable Government accommodation for the PoE offices presently functioning from rented space. Efforts are being made to obtain such accommodation early.

Financial Assistance for Hospitals in Kerala

3103. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for financial assistance to start nine women and children's hospitals in Kerala under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala has requested for financial assistance for an amount for Rs. 27 crore @ Rs. 3 crore per Hospital to start nine Women and Children's Hospitals in Kerala under National Rural Health Mission.

(c) These new Hospitals would be by the upgradation of existing Community Health Centres (CHC's) to Women and Children Hospital. The Government of Kerala has already been released an amount of Rs. 20.00 lakhs/CHC for up gradation of CHCs to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). Facility survey of these CHC's have been completed by the Government of Kerala. Further funds would be provided as per the request of the State in its Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) under NRHM (2007-2012).

[Translation]

Deputation of Government Officers to Private Sector

3104. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government allows its officers to go to private sector on deputation;

(b) if so, the duration of such deputation and the basis thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines for such deputation have been included in the Companies Act;

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

(e) whether capable officers are attracted by the high salaries offered by the private sector;

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the benefit likely to be accrued to the Government if officers are sent on deputation to private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :

(a) Rule 6(2)(ii) of the respective Cadre Rules of All India Services allows deputation of IAS and IPS officers to private sector by the Central Government in consultation with the concerned State Government.

(b) As per the guidelines under Rule 6(2)(ii) of the cadre Rules, an officer may be on deputation for a maximum of 7 years in the first 30 years of service. Beyond 30 years of service, no limit to the period of deputation is prescribed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Guidelines are only required under the Cadre Rules of the All India Services.

(e) to (g) The general principle of public interest is the overriding factor in deciding deputations under Rule 6(2)(ii) to private bodies. Factors such as general reputation of the organisation and the nature of its business are to be examined in each case. Deputations to private Sector are expected to lead to enrichment of the experience of the officers.

Converting National Highways into Four-Lanes

3105.SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE :

SHRI RAKESH SINGH :

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from various State Governments including Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka for converting some of the National Highways into four lanes under the Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No, Sir. The Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana was only under proposal stage and was not approved by the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Debt Burden of Households

3106.SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Sample Survey Organisation's data states that 26 per cent of the rural and 17.5 per cent of the urban households were under debt in 2003;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of households under debt in that year;

(c) the steps taken in the intervening period to ameliorate their conditions; and

(d) the latest assessment about the percentage of rural and urban households under debt burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a), (b) and (d) As per the National Sample survey carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 2003, the estimated incidence of indebtedness in India and in various States were as given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Government is implementing various poverty alleviation programmes like (i) Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), (ii) Sampurna Grammeen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), (iii) Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) and (iv) National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).

Statement

Incidence Of Indebtedness (IOI)

| State | Incidence of Indebtedness (% household) | |
|------------------|--|-------|
| | Rural | Urban |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 42.3 | 29.8 |
| Assam | 7.5 | 6.0 |
| Bihar | 21.8 | 9.5 |
| Jharkhand | 12.0 | 6.6 |
| Delhi | — | 1.5 |
| Gujarat | 28.1 | 21.4 |
| Haryana | 27.3 | 16.0 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 15.3 | 10.1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------------|------|------|
| Jammu and Kashmir | 3.6 | 5.0 |
| Karnataka | 31.3 | 18.6 |
| Kerala | 39.4 | 37.3 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 26.1 | 17.7 |
| Chhattisgarh | 19.8 | 13.2 |
| Maharashtra | 27.5 | 15.2 |
| Orissa | 26.4 | 19.2 |
| Punjab | 25.7 | 13.1 |
| Rajasthan | 33.8 | 16.5 |
| Tamil Nadu | 31.3 | 25.5 |
| Uttaranchal | 5.5 | 6.8 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 23.4 | 13.0 |
| West Bengal | 21.8 | 17.1 |
| India | 26.5 | 17.8 |

[Translation]

Survey on BPL Families

3107.SHRI SITARAM SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in the country, especially in Bihar, to identify the people living Below Poverty Line (BPL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which this survey is likely to be conducted; and

(d) the name of the agency conducting the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development provided financial and

technical assistance to the States and UTs to conduct the BPL Census in the beginning of a Five Year Plan to identify the BPL families in the rural areas who could be provided assistance under various programmes of the Ministry. For the 10th Five Year Plan, the guidelines were issued for conducting the BPL Census 2002, however, its results have been delayed because of the stay order passed by the Supreme Court on 5.5.2003 while hearing the Writ Petition No.196 of 2001 in the matter of PUCL V/s Union of India. The BPL Census is conducted by the State Governments through door-to-door survey covering 100 rural households. The survey is conducted by the State Government agencies.

The BPL Census, 2002 is to be conducted by using the methodology of Score Based Ranking of the rural households for which 13 socio-economic parameters have been prescribed. After the vacation of the stay on 14.2.2006 by the Supreme Court, the process of finalizing the BPL list, after getting it approved by the Gram Sabha and completion of two-stage appeal mechanism, is in progress in the States including Bihar. The Survey work under BPL Census 2002 has already been completed in almost all the States including Bihar.

CBI Raids in Maharashtra

3108. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been CBI raids on various Government Departments and Institutions in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds and documents seized in above said raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of searches conducted in various Government Departments and Institutions in Maharashtra during the last three years is as under:—

| Year | Number of searches |
|------|--------------------|
| 2004 | 43 |
| 2005 | 53 |
| 2006 | 45 |

(c) No separate record is maintained by the CBI centrally about the details of funds and documents seized as these form part of records of the individual cases.

[English]

Allotment of Coal Blocks to Rajasthan

3109. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Rajasthan Vidhyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. for allotment of coal blocks for meeting the power requirement of the State;

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

(c) the details of the coal blocks being considered for allotment to Rajasthan for the purpose;

(d) whether these blocks will be able to meet the requirement of the State; and

(e) if not, other measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (e) The Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) had applied for allocation of Baitarni West, Chendipada and Mandakini B coal blocks through the Government

company dispensation route in response to letter dated 7th November, 2006 of Ministry of Coal. However, subsequently RRVUNL informed vide their letter No. RVUN/CMD/Fuel/D.40 dated 29.01.2007 that their applications may be treated as withdrawn. However, Government of Rajasthan has requested for allocation of Parsa East and Kente Basant coal blocks in favour of RRVUNL. These blocks have been earmarked for allocation to power projects to be awarded based on tariff based competitive bidding. Rajasthan Government has been informed accordingly.

Upgradation of Trivandrum Medical College

3110.SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount allocated under the Prime Minister Swasth Suraksha Yojana for the upgradation of Trivendrum Medical College is insufficient;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala seeking sanction for additional allotment for completing the upgradation work;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the financial assistance is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) An outlay of Rs.120 crores has been approved for upgradation of the Trivandrum Medical College, under PMSSY. Out of this, the Central Government assistance in the form of civil construction and procurement of equipments would be limited to Rs.100 crores and the remaining Rs. 20 crores shall be borne by the State Government/Institution. The upgradation work would be carried out in phases by the Central Government. Most of the equipment for existing departments are proposed to be procured in 2007-08. Civil construction work for SSB

is expected to be completed by 2008-09. Equipment required for the building would be procured accordingly. There is no proposal for sanction of additional funds.

Exodus of Specialist Doctors

3111.SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of senior specialist doctors who have left AIIMS to join private hospitals during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) According to AIIMS, 29 Senior Specialist Doctors have left the Institute during the last 3 years. The Faculty members have either taken Voluntary Retirement or resigned from the service of the Institute on their personal grounds.

Development of Heritage Route

3112.SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY :

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3013 answered on 13.12.2006 regarding development of heritage route and to state :

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken over the route for its development and maintenance;

(b) if so, whether any budget allocation has been made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) There is no change in the status in reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3013 on 13.12.2006 regarding development of Ahmedabad-Dandi Heritage Route NH-228.

[Translation]

Policy for Organising National Games

3113.SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy regarding grant of sponsorship and for deciding the year and the month organising National Games in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not organizing these games at fixed intervals with reference to previous years;

(d) whether interest towards organising these games has receded;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to consider framing a policy to ensure the organisation of these games at definite fixed intervals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) The National Games are allotted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) General Assembly. The IOA has informed that there is no policy for awarding sponsorship and this is decided by the Organising Committee (OC) of the National Games concerned. The Games are to be organized every two years. The dates for the Games are determined by the OC in consultation with Indian Olympic Association

(c) Owing to some reasons as natural calamities, non-completion of infrastructure in time, paucity of funds, these Games could not be held at fixed intervals during previous years.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There is a great demand from the States for allotting the National Games.

(f) and (g) No such policy is under consideration at present.

[English]

Promotion of Underground Mining by CIL

3114.SHRI AMITAVA NANDY :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) is looking for overseas technical and financial tie-ups to promote underground mining in a big way;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) Production from underground mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) is to be enhanced to level of 54.56 million tonnes by the year 2011-12 (terminal year of XIth Plan period) from the present level of about 45 million tonnes. The majority of this additional underground production has to come through introduction of mass production technology like long-wall and introduction of continuous miners. Apart from significant capital requirement, equipment needed for this are not indigenously available. In view of this CIL has to source supply of equipment from overseas countries involving technical as well as financial tie-ups.

(b) and (c) Presently CIL has taken up an exercise to formulate a road map for achieving higher targets from its underground mines.

**Foreign Assistance for Integrated Disease
Surveillance Programme**

3115. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI :
SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY :
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :

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

(a) whether the WHO is closely working with Government of India in providing technical assistance to its Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme;

(b) if so, names of the States getting assistance from WHO, World Bank and other International Agencies under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme during 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(c) the details of the assistance received by each State so far;

(d) the number of persons benefited by such assistance in those States so far; and

(e) the role of NGOs, if any, in implementing the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) WHO provides technical assistance for implementation of Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (DSP) in various States/UTs. IDSP is a World Bank assisted project and is being implemented to cover all the States of the country in phased manner.

IDSP is targeted to benefit entire population of the country and is being implemented in 9 States of Phase I – Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram and Kerala. The project is also being implemented in another 14 States/UTs of Phase II of IDSP – Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Tripura, Chandigarh,

Pondicherry, Delhi, Nagaland. Rest 12 States/UTs are under Phase III.

(e) Under IDSP, Indian Medical Association is being involved to facilitate surveillance of diseases covered under the project.

Speed Post Gold Service

3116. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new service "Speed Post Gold" launched by the Government recently is successful;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to extend the service throughout the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) Speed Post Gold Service was initially launched between Delhi and Mumbai in the nature of a test run and later extended to four metro cities. The performance and business potential of the service is under assessment. The question of further extension of the service will be taken thereafter.

[Translation]

Funds for AIDS Programme

3117. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds incurred on AIDS control programme under the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the success achieved by this programme;

(c) whether the Government proposes to allocate more funds for the programme for the 11th plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Rs. 2030.90 crore has been spent upto the 28th February, 2007 within the 10th Plan period of 2002-07.

(b) The implementation of the project has led to stabilization of cases of HIV infection at a level of less than 1% in the general population during the last 3 years.

(c) and (d) A tentative budgetary allocation of Rs. 6800 crore has been requested under NACP - III during 11th Plan (2007-12).

Visit of Foreign Minister of Pak to India

3118.SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Pakistan has visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the bilateral agreements that have been signed during the visit;

(d) whether the issue of cross-border terrorism was also raised during the talks; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri visited India on February 20-22 leading his country's delegation for the 5th India-Pakistan Joint Commission meeting. The Joint Commission meeting was held in New Delhi on February 21, 2007. It was co-chaired by EAM and Pak Foreign

Minister. The meeting reviewed the progress of the eight Technical Level Working Groups on Agriculture, Health, Science and Technology, Information, Education, IT and Telecommunications, Environment and Tourism. The reports of all the eight Technical Level Working Groups were presented at the Joint Commission and discussed. An agreement on 'Reducing the Risk from Accidents Relating to Nuclear Weapons' was signed during the visit.

(d) and (e) Both sides noted that the Joint-Anti-terrorism Mechanism, established to identify and implement counter-terrorism initiatives and investigations, would meet on 6 March 2007. They condemned the blasts in Delhi-Attari Express in which 68 people were killed.

Constitution of Road Safety Board

3119.SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE :
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :

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

(a) the total percentage amount that is being spent out of the Central Road Fund by the Union Government for bringing down the frequency of road accidents;

(b) whether treatment and rehabilitation facilities have been provided to the people who got injured or died in such road accidents during the last two years; and

(c) the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No part of the Central Road Fund is earmarked for bringing down the frequency of Road Accidents.

(b) and (c) Provision of treatment and rehabilitation facilities is basically the responsibility of the State Government. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

also provides assistance to the States/UTs under the scheme of 'Assistance for Capacity Building' for upgradation of emergency services/trauma care facilities in hospitals including those located near the National Highways for the purpose of treatment of accident victims. This Ministry provides ambulance to States/UTs to evacuate victims of accident to the nearest medical centre under National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS).

[English]

Unsatisfactory Service by BSNL/MTNL

3120.SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the latest survey by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has revealed that the quality of service provided by the Government/Private Telecom Operators is way below satisfactory as reported in the Calcutta edition of the 'Telegraph' dated January 29, 2007;

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

(c) whether the MTNL and BSNL are the worst performers on overall satisfaction scale in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Sir, as per the report submitted by an independent agency appointed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for undertaking customer satisfaction survey for both Basic and Cellular Mobile Services, the Service Providers who were surveyed do not meet the benchmark criteria for some of the

parameters. The detailed results of the Customer Satisfaction Survey, Service Area-wise are given in enclosed Statement I and II.

- Demand of services outpacing the capacity of the network.
- Inadequate network provisions.
- Point of Interconnection (POI) congestion.
- Spectrum constraint at some places.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per the Survey Report, almost all the telecom service providers including MTNL and BSNL have not met the benchmark for "Overall Customer Satisfaction".

(e) The steps taken by the Government are give below:-

- The performance of operators is monitored by TRAI through quarterly performance monitoring reports.
- POI congestion is being monitored by TRAI on monthly basis.
- TRAI is also conducting customer satisfaction survey on quarterly basis.
- Coordinating spectrum utilization with the existing operators.
- Holding meetings with operators with regard to POI congestion and other issues of Quality of Service.
- Facilitate interaction with local bodies for setting up cell sites of mobile network.
- BSNL and MTNL are continuously monitoring and upgrading their network and the support facilities in order to keep pace with the growing demand.

Statement-I**Customer Satisfaction Survey of Cellular Mobile Service QE September 2006**

| S. No. | Name of the Service Providers | Sample Size | % Satisfied with | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------|---------------|--|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | Provision of service | Billing performance | | Help services | Network performance Reliability and Availability | Maintain-ability | Overall customer satisfaction | Supplem-entary services |
| | | | | post-paid | Pre-paid | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| | Benchmark | | >95% | >90% | >90% | >90% | >95% | >95% | >95% | >95% |
| | Circle-A | | | | | | | | | |
| | AP | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Airtel | 401 | 99 | 92 | 100 | 99 | 82 | *** | 79 | 99 |
| 2. | BSNL | 401 | 96 | 98 | 100 | 98 | 80 | *** | 80 | 99 |
| 3. | Hutch | 400 | 99 | 100 | 100 | 98 | 81 | *** | 80 | 99 |
| 4. | Idea | 402 | 96 | 98 | 100 | 100 | 82 | *** | 79 | 97 |
| 5. | Rel comm | 399 | 98 | 96 | 100 | 99 | 78 | *** | 83 | 83 |
| 6. | Tata | 400 | 97 | 92 | 100 | 100 | 69 | *** | 80 | 86 |
| | Gujarat | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. | Airtel | 404 | 100 | 95 | 90 | 45 | 89 | 45 | 71 | 95 |
| 8. | BSNL | 402 | 97 | 90 | 94 | 50 | 81 | *** | 75 | 100 |
| 9. | Hutch | 401 | 98 | 92 | 89 | 50 | 86 | 100 | 72 | 95 |
| 10. | Ideal | 400 | 99 | 97 | 95 | 49 | 86 | 100 | 75 | 96 |
| 11. | Rel comm | 401 | 99 | 94 | 96 | 49 | 87 | 75 | 78 | 97 |
| 12. | Tata | 200 | 99 | 84 | 94 | 43 | 81 | 100 | 77 | 97 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|--------------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Karnataka | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13. | Airtel | 423 | 72 | 85 | 74 | 94 | 70 | 90 | 71 | 91 |
| 14. | BSNL | 404 | 70 | 88 | 69 | 91 | 71 | 88 | 70 | 97 |
| 15. | Hutch | 375 | 72 | 85 | 71 | 94 | 69 | 82 | 70 | 97 |
| 16. | Rel comm | 399 | 70 | 86 | 67 | 94 | 71 | 86 | 69 | 94 |
| 17. | Spice | 398 | 68 | 80 | 70 | 95 | 71 | 69 | 68 | 95 |
| 18. | Tata | 402 | 66 | 79 | 71 | 95 | 71 | 79 | 69 | 94 |
| Maharashtra | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19. | Airtel | 401 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 88 | 96 | 80 | 86 | 84 |
| 20. | BPL | 399 | 100 | 99 | 98 | 97 | 99 | *** | 86 | 90 |
| 21. | BSNL | 400 | 95 | 100 | 84 | 53 | 95 | *** | 82 | 90 |
| 22. | Idea | 400 | 100 | 100 | 99 | 92 | 95 | *** | 89 | 94 |
| 23. | Rel comm | 400 | 100 | 100 | 98 | 99 | 98 | *** | 90 | 84 |
| 24. | Tata | 198 | 99 | 100 | 98 | 94 | 97 | *** | 86 | 92 |
| Tamil Nadu | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25. | Aircell | 496 | 95 | 67 | 92 | 74 | 90 | 55 | 72 | 95 |
| 26. | Airtel | 401 | 95 | 57 | 95 | 83 | 91 | 62 | 74 | 96 |
| 27. | BPL | 444 | 96 | 79 | 94 | 79 | 90 | 49 | 72 | 92 |
| 28. | BSNL | 453 | 98 | 79 | 95 | 82 | 85 | 56 | 72 | 97 |
| 29. | Rel comm | 345 | 98 | 63 | 95 | 80 | 90 | 53 | 73 | 96 |
| 30. | Tata | 159 | 98 | 65 | 86 | 57 | 91 | 35 | 69 | 90 |
| Circle-B | | | | | | | | | | |
| Haryana | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31. | Airtel | 250 | 81 | 86 | 98 | 89 | 87 | 43 | 74 | 67 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|---------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| 32. | BSNL | 249 | 93 | 100 | 98 | 85 | 79 | 68 | 72 | 65 |
| 33. | Hutch | 250 | 99 | 100 | 99 | 85 | 88 | 43 | 71 | 55 |
| 34. | Idea | 252 | 98 | 86 | 99 | 94 | 92 | 44 | 75 | 59 |
| 35. | Rel comm | 278 | 100 | 87 | 99 | 92 | 92 | 100 | 79 | 73 |
| 36. | Tata | 250 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 92 | 90 | 75 | 78 | 64 |
| Kerala | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37. | Airtel | 251 | 90 | 67 | 84 | 64 | 90 | 48 | 70 | 97 |
| 38. | BPL | 260 | 96 | 60 | 92 | 64 | 89 | 38 | 71 | 96 |
| 39. | BSNL | 248 | 94 | 69 | 87 | 61 | 89 | 44 | 70 | 99 |
| 40. | Idea | 252 | 94 | 57 | 83 | 60 | 90 | 31 | 68 | 92 |
| 41. | Rel comm | 399 | 94 | 75 | 83 | 65 | 90 | 35 | 69 | 95 |
| 42. | Tata | 394 | 92 | 73 | 86 | 60 | 90 | 49 | 70 | 97 |
| MP | | | | | | | | | | |
| 43. | Airtel | 250 | 100 | 100 | 99 | 82 | 91 | 74 | 83 | 99 |
| 44. | BSNL | 256 | 100 | 76 | 100 | 79 | 90 | 73 | 82 | 96 |
| 45. | Idea | 259 | 99 | 100 | 98 | 78 | 90 | 70 | 82 | 99 |
| 46. | Rel comm | 254 | 99 | 100 | 99 | 79 | 89 | *** | 84 | 100 |
| 47. | Rel Tel | 249 | 100 | 82 | 98 | 79 | 88 | 80 | 84 | 98 |
| 48. | Tata | 251 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 78 | 89 | 85 | 83 | 97 |
| Punjab | | | | | | | | | | |
| 49. | Airtel | 306 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 96 | 94 | 84 | 81 | 85 |
| 50. | BSNL | 182 | 96 | 100 | 99 | 90 | 89 | 100 | 80 | 90 |
| 51. | Hutch | 253 | 99 | 97 | 99 | 94 | 93 | 88 | 82 | 92 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|------------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| 52. | Rel comm | 395 | 99 | 98 | 99 | 90 | 94 | 82 | 81 | .93 |
| 53. | Spice | 291 | 100 | 96 | 100 | 90 | 80 | 93 | 78 | 90 |
| 54. | Tata | 200 | 100 | 100 | 98 | 90 | 94 | 99 | 83 | 97 |
| Rajasthan | | | | | | | | | | |
| 55. | Airtel | 264 | 98 | 87 | 79 | 69 | 94 | 61 | 74 | 76 |
| 56. | BSNL | 269 | 96 | 77 | 86 | 67 | 69 | 19 | 69 | 72 |
| 57. | Hutch | 240 | 95 | 95 | 91 | 75 | 92 | 44 | 79 | 80 |
| 58. | Rel comm | 261 | 96 | 93 | 87 | 68 | 95 | 54 | 78 | 86 |
| 59. | Tata | 253 | 98 | 100 | 91 | 61 | 89 | *** | 79 | 82 |
| UP-E | | | | | | | | | | |
| 60. | Airtel | 249 | 83 | 100 | 86 | ** | 100 | *** | 69 | ** |
| 61. | BSNL | 280 | 81 | 62 | 77 | ** | 1 | *** | 61 | ** |
| 62. | Hutch | 281 | 84 | 43 | 78 | ** | 100 | *** | 67 | ** |
| 63. | Rel comm | 295 | 76 | 56 | 80 | ** | 1 | *** | 62 | ** |
| 64. | Tata | 287 | 93 | 57 | 96 | ** | 100 | *** | 83 | ** |
| UP-W | | | | | | | | | | |
| 65. | Airtel | 263 | 98 | 99 | 98 | 80 | 80 | 68 | 75 | 80 |
| 66. | BSNL | 263 | 95 | 71 | 100 | 75 | 73 | 78 | 74 | 91 |
| 67. | Hutch | 255 | 98 | 92 | 97 | 80 | 81 | 93 | 79 | 91 |
| 68. | Idea | 278 | 98 | 90 | 99 | 68 | 73 | 80 | 74 | 90 |
| 69. | Rel comm | 258 | 99 | 88 | 99 | 80 | 79 | 91 | 78 | 95 |
| 70. | Tata | 257 | 99 | 100 | 95 | 82 | 69 | 91 | 76 | 97 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| West Bengal | | | | | | | | | | |
| 71. | Aircell | 253 | 99 | 100 | 95 | 54 | 74 | 67 | 76 | 97 |
| 72. | Airtel | 253 | 97 | 100 | 79 | 49 | 78 | *** | 66 | 89 |
| 73. | BSNL | 253 | 99 | 100 | 86 | 55 | 76 | *** | 67 | 96 |
| 74. | Hutch | 253 | 100 | 100 | 77 | 50 | 80 | 70 | 67 | 87 |
| 75. | Rel Tel | 253 | 100 | 100 | 92 | 36 | 45 | 41 | 72 | 88 |
| 76. | Rel comm | 253 | 100 | 100 | 95 | 58 | 74 | 50 | 59 | 98 |
| 77. | Tata | 253 | 100 | 100 | 82 | 36 | 64 | 44 | 66 | 86 |
| Circle-C | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assam | | | | | | | | | | |
| 78. | Aircell | 252 | 97 | 72 | 100 | 90 | 86 | 100 | 80 | 100 |
| 79. | Airtel | 254 | 98 | 89 | 98 | 86 | 88 | 100 | 78 | 100 |
| 80. | BSNL | 253 | 91 | 83 | 99 | 87 | 85 | 100 | 74 | 100 |
| 81. | Rel Tel | 253 | 95 | 74 | 79 | 77 | 71 | 60 | 68 | 92 |
| Biher | | | | | | | | | | |
| 82. | Airtel | 252 | 98 | 100 | 100 | 53 | 79 | 100 | 72 | 98 |
| 83. | BSNL | 255 | 99 | 67 | 98 | 42 | 76 | 42 | 68 | 99 |
| 84. | Rel comm | 252 | 99 | 100 | 100 | 58 | 83 | 93 | 75 | 99 |
| 85. | Rel Tel | 254 | 98 | 100 | 98 | 52 | 78 | 50 | 72 | 99 |
| 86. | Tata | 252 | 99 | 100 | 98 | 50 | 74 | 80 | 73 | 98 |
| HP | | | | | | | | | | |
| 87. | Airtel | 278 | 99 | 100 | 97 | 78 | 97 | 87 | 81 | 98 |
| 88. | BSNL | 263 | 96 | 100 | 98 | 71 | 95 | 87 | 80 | 99 |
| 89. | Rel comm. | 129 | 100 | 100 | 97 | 86 | 86 | 67 | 79 | 98 |
| 90. | Rel Tel | 229 | 100 | 100 | 97 | 90 | 85 | *** | 82 | 99 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| 91. | Tata | 108 | 99 | 100 | 99 | 75 | 82 | 100 | 82 | 97 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | | | | | | | | | | |
| 92. | Aircell (Dishnet) | 23 | 100 | 100 | * | 94 | 99 | *** | 89 | 96 |
| 93. | Airtel | 239 | 78 | 85 | 96 | 60 | 79 | 13 | 72 | 95 |
| 94. | BSNL | 317 | 61 | 84 | 78 | 53 | 69 | 8 | 61 | 88 |
| NE | | | | | | | | | | |
| 95. | Aircell (Dishnet) | 252 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 88 | 92 | 100 | 81 | 100 |
| 96. | Airtel | 255 | 99 | 74 | 98 | 91 | 86 | *** | 81 | 100 |
| 97. | BSNL | 253 | 100 | 73 | 93 | 77 | 79 | 84 | 72 | 97 |
| 98. | Rel Tel | 252 | 100 | 29 | 89 | 77 | 78 | 73 | 74 | 99 |
| Orissa | | | | | | | | | | |
| 99. | Aircell (Dishnet) | 252 | 99 | 100 | 88 | 68 | 69 | 100 | 73 | 99 |
| 100. | Airtel | 252 | 97 | 93 | 88 | 82 | 68 | 90 | 73 | 97 |
| 101. | BSNL | 251 | 89 | 79 | 91 | 76 | 60 | 90 | 70 | 97 |
| 102. | Rel comm | 255 | 94 | 100 | 93 | 72 | 70 | 91 | 72 | 96 |
| 103. | Rel Tel | 253 | 96 | 100 | 91 | 72 | 62 | 90 | 70 | 93 |
| 104. | Tata | 253 | 96 | 68 | 90 | 68 | 69 | 89 | 73 | 95 |
| Circle-M | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chennai | | | | | | | | | | |
| 105. | Aircell | 652 | 99 | 51 | 96 | 94 | 80 | 78 | 90 | 96 |
| 106. | Airtel | 529 | 98 | 67 | 98 | 92 | 86 | 86 | 93 | 97 |
| 107. | BSNL | 583 | 89 | 57 | 94 | 88 | 80 | 68 | 86 | 96 |
| 108. | Hutch | 603 | 98 | 55 | 99 | 91 | 76 | 90 | 89 | 96 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|----------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 109. | Rel comm | 567 | 96 | 47 | 98 | 91 | 79 | 84 | 90 | 96 |
| 110. | Tata | 182 | 100 | 36 | 96 | 94 | 86 | 62 | 87 | 91 |
| Delhi | | | | | | | | | | |
| 111. | Airtel | 615 | 97 | 62 | 91 | 74 | 86 | 73 | 85 | 87 |
| 112. | Hutch | 649 | 96 | 61 | 93 | 73 | 85 | 78 | 85 | 88 |
| 113. | Idea | 583 | 97 | 55 | 96 | 67 | 79 | 75 | 84 | 91 |
| 114. | MTNL | 555 | 98 | 54 | 94 | 70 | 82 | 55 | 84 | 88 |
| 115. | Rel comm | 589 | 98 | 53 | 96 | 75 | 83 | 72 | 86 | 90 |
| 116. | Tata | 604 | 98 | 45 | 97 | 69 | 79 | 68 | 85 | 93 |
| Kolkata | | | | | | | | | | |
| 117. | Airtel | 595 | 99 | 90 | 89 | 77 | 85 | 83 | 87 | 91 |
| 118. | BSNL | 604 | 99 | 72 | 98 | 64 | 81 | 68 | 86 | 94 |
| 119. | Hutch | 600 | 99 | 82 | 91 | 76 | 86 | 64 | 88 | 91 |
| 120. | Rel comm | 600 | 100 | 82 | 96 | 73 | 87 | 75 | 90 | 96 |
| 121. | RISL | 600 | 98 | 11 | 98 | 69 | 79 | 60 | 89 | 97 |
| 122. | Tata | 601 | 99 | 100 | 96 | 62 | 83 | 55 | 88 | 95 |
| Mumbai | | | | | | | | | | |
| 123. | Airtel | 590 | 98 | 98 | 95 | 64 | 99 | 96 | 96 | 100 |
| 124. | BPL | 587 | 95 | 97 | 98 | 70 | 92 | 78 | 92 | 98 |
| 125. | Hutch | 586 | 95 | 96 | 98 | 68 | 94 | 89 | 93 | 100 |
| 126. | MTNL | 584 | 98 | 94 | 99 | 75 | 90 | 86 | 92 | 98 |
| 127. | Rel comm | 505 | 91 | 89 | 99 | 81 | 68 | 88 | 85 | 97 |
| 128. | Total | 600 | 93 | 96 | 99 | 69 | 87 | 83 | 91 | 96 |

(*) Mean Subscriber is either unable to answer or did not access the service or no incidences reported.

Statement-II**Customer Satisfaction Survey for Basic Service**

| S. No. | Name of the Service Providers | Sample Size | % Satisfied with | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | Q-III Provision of Service | Billing Performance | Help Services | Network Performance Reliability and Availability | Maintain-ability | Overall Customer Satisfaction | Supple-mentary Services |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | Benchmark | | >95% | >90% | >90% | >90% | >95% | >95% | >95% |
| | A-Circle | | | | | | | | |
| | AP | 1465 | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Airtel | 253 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 92 | *** | 96 | 99 |
| 2. | BSNL | 599 | 100 | 98 | 99 | 93 | 100 | 96 | ** |
| 3. | Rel comm | 251 | 99 | 99 | 98 | 90 | *** | 94 | 97 |
| 4. | Tata | 362 | 100 | 100 | 99 | 92 | *** | 96 | 99 |
| | Gujarat | 1041 | | | | | | | |
| 5. | Airtel | 1 | 100 | * | ** | 100 | *** | 100 | ** |
| 6. | BSNL | 249 | 100 | 72 | 51 | 97 | 59 | 80 | 100 |
| 7. | Rel comm | 410 | 100 | 67 | 36 | 96 | 100 | 77 | 100 |
| 8. | Tata | 381 | 100 | 93 | 39 | 97 | 65 | 79 | 100 |
| | Karnataka | 1411 | | | | | | | |
| 9. | Airtel | 602 | 78 | 83 | 97 | 96 | 97 | 94 | 100 |
| 10. | BSNL | 411 | 89 | 93 | 97 | 92 | 99 | 92 | 100 |
| 11. | Tata | 398 | 68 | 83 | 94 | 90 | 96 | 89 | 96 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---------------------|---|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| Maharashtra | | 1192 | | | | | | | |
| 12. Airtel | | 4 | 80 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 99 | ** |
| 13. BSNL | | 399 | 91 | 99 | 88 | 100 | 79 | 94 | 70 |
| 14. Rel comm | | 394 | 100 | 99 | 99 | 100 | 100 | 99 | 94 |
| 15. Tata | | 395 | 99 | 99 | 98 | 100 | 100 | 97 | 77 |
| Tamil Nadu | | 1426 | | | | | | | |
| 16. Airtel | | 427 | 95 | 92 | 90 | 88 | 74 | 90 | 99 |
| 17. BSNL | | 387 | 80 | 92 | 81 | 89 | 79 | 87 | 99 |
| 18. Rel comm | | 201 | 94 | 93 | 69 | 95 | 90 | 93 | 98 |
| 19. Tata | | 411 | 95 | 96 | 80 | 93 | 87 | 92 | 98 |
| B-Circle | | | | | | | | | |
| Chhattisgarh | | 454 | | | | | | | |
| 20. BSNL | | 454 | 95 | 91 | 63 | 92 | 90 | 90 | 98 |
| Haryana | | 720 | | | | | | | |
| 21. Airtel | | 103 | 100 | 93 | 86 | 92 | 82 | 90 | 94 |
| 22. BSNL | | 401 | 53 | 100 | 72 | 96 | 83 | 88 | 100 |
| 23. Rel comm | | 216 | 99 | 100 | 85 | 97 | 93 | 94 | 100 |
| Kerala | | 688 | | | | | | | |
| 24. Airtel | | 50 | 65 | 100 | 64 | 100 | 78 | 93 | 100 |
| 25. BSNL | | 320 | 73 | 95 | 71 | 100 | 81 | 91 | 98 |
| 26. Rel comm | | 318 | 72 | 96 | 70 | 100 | 83 | 91 | 99 |
| MP | | 893 | | | | | | | |
| 27. Airtel | | 244 | 98 | 89 | 85 | 80 | 87 | 85 | 95 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-----|--------------------|-------------|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| 28. | BSNL | 425 | 95 | 81 | 78 | 81 | 80 | 82 | 100 |
| 29. | Rel comm | 224 | 99 | 93 | 76 | 84 | 94 | 88 | 100 |
| | Punjab | 1059 | | | | | | | |
| 30. | Airtel | 91 | 98 | 100 | 90 | 99 | 100 | 97 | 100 |
| 31. | BSNL | 254 | 98 | 97 | 88 | 98 | 96 | 96 | 100 |
| 32. | HFCL | 464 | 95 | 96 | 88 | 97 | 98 | 95 | 89 |
| 33. | Rel comm | 250 | 97 | 100 | 94 | 99 | 99 | 95 | 100 |
| | Rajasthan | 939 | | | | | | | |
| 34. | BSNL | 483 | 75 | 91 | 67 | 88 | 71 | 80 | 93 |
| 35. | Rel comm | 201 | 95 | 95 | 70 | 94 | 86 | 89 | 100 |
| 36. | Shyam | 255 | 92 | 96 | 74 | 95 | 95 | 91 | 86 |
| | UP-W | 400 | | | | | | | |
| 37. | Airtel | 90 | 100 | 99 | 79 | 91 | 100 | 92 | 100 |
| 38. | BSNL | 158 | 100 | 66 | 79 | 92 | 71 | 83 | 100 |
| 39. | Rel comm | 152 | 95 | 93 | 85 | 93 | 88 | 92 | 100 |
| | UP-E | 646 | | | | | | | |
| 40. | Airtel | 107 | 90 | 92 | 60 | 86 | 67 | 82 | 100 |
| 41. | BSNL | 386 | 76 | 69 | 56 | 74 | 82 | 76 | 97 |
| 42. | Rel comm | 153 | 97 | 90 | 60 | 84 | 89 | 79 | 100 |
| | Uttaranchal | 92 | | | | | | | |
| 43. | BSNL | 92 | 100 | 61 | 70 | 97 | 96 | 96 | 100 |
| | WB | 501 | | | | | | | |
| 44. | BSNL | 249 | 90 | 87 | 70 | 90 | 98 | 89 | 100 |
| 45. | Rel comm | 252 | 96 | 99 | 61 | 93 | 100 | 90 | ** |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|--|---|-------------|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|
| C-Circle | | | | | | | | | |
| Assam | | 250 | | | | | | | |
| 46. BSNL | | 250 | 80 | 83 | 44 | 87 | 78 | 87 | 100 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | | 25 | | | | | | | |
| 47. BSNL | | 25 | 76 | 96 | ** | 100 | 94 | 91 | ** |
| Bihar | | 451 | | | | | | | |
| 48. BSNL | | 251 | 77 | 72 | 76 | 87 | 59 | 80 | 100 |
| 49. Rel comm | | 200 | 94 | * | 54 | 81 | 82 | 82 | 100 |
| HP | | 422 | | | | | | | |
| 50. BSNL | | 256 | 86 | 95 | 89 | 86 | 73 | 75 | 100 |
| 51. Rel comm | | 166 | 100 | * | 91 | 93 | 91 | 83 | 100 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | | 193 | | | | | | | |
| 52. BSNL | | 193 | 58 | 82 | 63 | 85 | 67 | 76 | 73 |
| Jharkhand | | 250 | | | | | | | |
| 53. BSNL | | 250 | *** | 36 | 75 | 77 | 57 | 69 | ** |
| NE2 | | 749 | | | | | | | |
| 54. BSNL | | 250 | 76 | 70 | 61 | 48 | 68 | 76 | ** |
| 55. BSNL | | 499 | 55 | 66 | 52 | 82 | 80 | 56 | 100 |
| Orissa | | 449 | | | | | | | |
| 56. BSNL | | 250 | 83 | 61 | 64 | 75 | 66 | 82 | 88 |
| 57. Rel comm | | 199 | 95 | 75 | 59 | 80 | 91 | 85 | 99 |
| M-Circle | | | | | | | | | |
| Chennai | | 2966 | | | | | | | |
| 58. Airtel | | 889 | 93 | 96 | 87 | 94 | 88 | 90 | 99 |
| 59. BSNL | | 1097 | 69 | 92 | 92 | 88 | 76 | 86 | 99 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|----------------|---|-------------|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|-----|
| 60. Rel comm | | 234 | 96 | 97 | 90 | 93 | 95 | 93 | 99 |
| 61. Tata | | 746 | 90 | 94 | 93 | 93 | 92 | 93 | 97 |
| Delhi | | 3041 | | | | | | | |
| 62. Airtel | | 619 | 93 | 86 | 62 | 86 | 92 | 85 | 93 |
| 63. MTNL | | 1216 | 86 | 84 | 67 | 85 | 84 | 83 | 90 |
| 64. Rel comm | | 599 | 95 | 88 | 76 | 84 | 92 | 88 | 86 |
| 65. Tata | | 607 | 93 | 88 | 68 | 85 | 90 | 87 | 91 |
| Kolkata | | 1100 | | | | | | | |
| 66. Airtel | | 253 | 98 | 93 | 61 | 89 | 33 | 88 | 80 |
| 67. BSNL | | 598 | 94 | 81 | 53 | 80 | 87 | 76 | 100 |
| 68. Rel comm | | 249 | 92 | 87 | 83 | 90 | 66 | 93 | 88 |
| Mumbai | | 2461 | | | | | | | |
| 69. Airtel | | 603 | 100 | 100 | 84 | 100 | 86 | 97 | 100 |
| 70. MTNL | | 761 | 68 | 97 | 68 | 91 | 82 | 86 | 100 |
| 71. Rel comm | | 643 | 86 | 93 | 64 | 94 | 79 | 89 | 100 |
| 72. Tata | | 454 | 100 | 100 | 78 | 99 | 87 | 94 | 100 |

,(*) : Could not respond as the subscriber had not faced any situation. These operators are treated as meeting the benchmark.

Functioning of Primary Health Centres

3121.SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of Health Centres in various States;

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

(c) if so, the recommendations submitted by Survey Committee; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Council of Applied Economics Research (NCAER) was delegated the task of evaluation of Sub-Centres. The Data was collected

from 1040 Sub-Centres in 130 districts covering 30% of the districts of 14 major States of India. The States covered are Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, MP, Punjab, UP, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam and Jharkhand.

(c) and (d) Major conclusions and Recommendations of NCAER on "Working of Sub-Centres in selected States of India" are—

- (i) Average number of Villages covered per SC is high as 9 in Jharkhand. The average population per SC is also high. It recommends that the population norms for establishing as SC should be reduced drastically. The number of villages per SC also needs to be brought down to manageable limits.
- (ii) Lack of permanent SC building is an important constraint in the functioning of SCs. SCs in rented buildings keep on shifting thus creating information gap among the users. Permanent SC buildings provide an incentive to furnish it properly. The sample data shows that compared to SCs in rented buildings those having owned and rent free buildings have significantly higher proportion of furniture items. Permanently owned buildings is a precondition for improving the quality of delivery and utilization of services. It is also desirable that ANM and Anganwadi Worker house both in a common compound to avoid duplication of certain services. For better service delivery SC building should be located at a central place.
- (iii) Shortage of staff is quite high and almost half the SCs are functioning without Male Health Worker. The data shows that significantly higher proportion of respondents from the SCs with both ANM and MHW are "fully satisfied"

therefore appointing MHW alongwith ANM in all the SCs should be done on priority basis.

- (iv) A higher proportion of ANMs expressed a need training, in order to meet new responsibilities. ANM have to spent a lot of time in the field, keeping her away from the Sub-Centre. It has been suggested that she be provided with a mobile phone, which will enable the users to keep track of her.
- (v) Sensitization of staff, especially towards the requirement of downtrodden in the society and an increase in services like weekly visit by a doctor, labour room, bed facility will increase the popularity of Sub-Centres.
- (vi) Irregularity in the disbursement of salary to the staff is a serious problem especially in Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. Analysis of data reveals that shortage of equipment and medicines is a serious problem.

The above recommendations have been shared with the concerned State Governments for rectifying the drawbacks as per Provisions under the Implementation Framework approved for the National Rural Health Missions (NRHM).

National Monitoring System

3122.CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Monitoring System (NMS) located at Lodhi Road, New Delhi and maintained by the National Telecom Region under BSNL, New Delhi has been rendered unworkable;

(b) if so, since when alongwith reasons therefor;

(c) the initial cost of the project and the subsequent expenditure incurred till its closure; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to revive the closed system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. System has not been closed but has developed fault some time back.

(c) Initial procurement cost was approximately Rs. 67 Crores. Expenditure on National Monitoring Scheme (NMS) is a part of operational expenditure of the unit concerned and is not separately identifiable.

(d) Assistance of the system supplier has been sought to diagnose and rectify the fault.

[Translation]

Demand of Coal

3123. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand of coal for construction sector has increased during the current year;

(b) if so, whether dependence on coal import has been increasing;

(c) the quantum of coal obtained from the coal deposits in the country during the current year;

(d) whether the imported coal is being/has been procured at cheaper rates;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total segments of construction sectors for which coal is being imported in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (c) Coal demand is a function of growth of national economy. The demand of coal has been increasing as the national economy is steadily doing well. Coal demand for construction sector is not assessed separately. It is assessed for sectors like Power, Steel, Cement etc. The estimated total demand of coal in the country of 474.18 million tonnes in 2006-07 is planned to be met from domestic supply of 432.39 million tonnes. This leaves a gap of 41.31 million tonnes which will be met by imports. Import of coal is resorted to due to limited indigenous availability of coking and low ash non-coking coal, and consideration of location specific landed cost.

(d) to (f) Government do not import coal. Since coal is under Open General Licence (OGL), consumers are free to import coal based on their requirements. By and large at present the cost of imported coal is higher than the cost of indigenous coal, on a comparable basis, except in some specific coastal based locations.

[English]

Assistance for RTI Implementation

3124. ADV. SURESH KURUP :

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any communication from the various State Governments seeking financial assistance for implementing the Right to Information Act, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :

(a) to (c) State Governments like the Government of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura and Uttarakhand had sought Central assistance for implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The Parliament has, by law, cast an obligation on the State Governments to implement the Act. The State Governments are required to meet the statutory obligation out of their own funds.

Fault in Cordect WLL System

3125. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cordect WLL System installed in various parts of the country has developed faults due to which instrument sets are not functioning;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government purposes to conduct an enquiry into the non-functioning of Cordect WLL System;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for replacement of Cordect WLL Systems by a new efficient system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Sir, the Cor-dect WLL systems installed in various parts of the country are working satisfactorily in general. However, sometimes due to the following reasons, instrument sets become faulty:-

- (i) Inbuilt battery of the instrument does not get fully or adequately charged due to inadequate availability of commercial mains supply in rural/ semi urban areas.
- (ii) High fluctuation in commercial mains supply causes damage to the internal system of the instrument.
- (iii) In lightening prone areas, instrument sets as well as the equipment are susceptible to more faults than in other areas.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

Research on Stem Cell

3126. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD :

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a comprehensive policy for promotion of Stem Cell Research;

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

(c) the names of places where centres have been set up or are proposed to be set up for Stem Cell Research;

(d) the names of the diseases which are being

treated successfully through Stem Cell Research as of now and the names of diseases that the likely to be treated through Stem Cell Research in future;

(e) whether All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the Post Graduate Institute (PGI), Chandigarh and the Vellore Medical College (VMC) are working on the experimental research on Stem Cell; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in consultation with other agencies had developed the guidelines for Stem Cell Research and Regulation which has been recently revised by ICMR and Department of Biotechnology jointly as Draft Guidelines for Stem Cell Research and Therapy, 2006. According to the guidelines, stem cell research should be promoted in the country in the view of its potential for clinical use, ensuring at the same time proper regulatory climate for such research and the according to ICMR, the following centers are doing work related to Stem Cell Research:-

- (i) Institute of Immunohaematology, Mumbai.
- (ii) AIIMS, New Delhi.
- (iii) L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.
- (iv) The National Brain Research Centre, Gurgaon.
- (v) The National Center for Cell Sciences, Pune.
- (vi) Reliance Life Sciences.
- (vii) Manipal ACU Nova.

Department of Bio-Technology proposes to

set up Stem Cell Research Centres at the following places:-

- (i) CMC, Vellore.
- (ii) PGI, Chandigarh.
- (iii) KEM, Mumbai.
- (iv) SGPGI, Lucknow.

(e) and (f) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the Premiere Health care centre of the country is involved in clinical studies on stem cell therapies in different clinical conditions particularly Cardiovascular diseases.

In addition, Department of Biotechnology has envisaged plans for creating infrastructure in the stem cell research arena. The department has mooted plans to create a stem cell center at CMC Vellore and PGI, Chandigarh, KEM Mumbai and SGPGI, Lucknow.

Overcharging and Cheating of Consumers by Operators

3127. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

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

(a) whether the cases to overcharging and cheating of the consumers by STD/ISD/PCO operators have come to the notice of the Government;

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

(c) the number of operators against whom action has been taken during the last two years, circle-wise;

(d) the number of operators whose licences have been cancelled;

(e) whether the Government has any mechanism to ascertain such cases;

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

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Sir, few cases of overcharging and cheating of consumers by STD/ISD/PCO operators have been reported during the last two years i.e. 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto (28.2.2007).

(b) to (d) the details of complaints received and action taken is given in the enclosed statement. Licenses/Agreements of seven (7) PCO operators have been cancelled.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Broadly, the following mechanism is in place in BSNL/MTNL to prevent misuse of PCOs by the Franchisees:-

(i) Periodical surprise checks are carried out by field staff of BSNL/MTNL to check any kind of misuse including overcharging and tampering with the PCO machine installed by the franchisees.

(ii) Only Type Approved instrument is allowed to be used by the PCO operator.

(iii) Periodical surprise checks of the PCO franchisees are also carried out by the Vigilance Cells of BSNL/MTNL to ensure that the guidelines of provision of PCOs are followed scrupulously by them.

(g) Does not arise in view of (e) and (f) above.

Statement

Circle-wise details of number of complaints received and action taken against PCO Operators

| S. No. | Name of Circle | Number of complaints received during last two years | Action Taken |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | Nil | Nil |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 544 | Warning issued for corrective action = 544 |
| 3. | Assam | Nil | Nil |
| 4. | Bihar | Nil | Nil |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | Nil | Nil |
| 6. | Gujarat | 128 | Notice issued=127. PCO disconnected and licence cancelled=1. |
| 7. | Haryana | Nil | Nil |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | Nil | Nil |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | Nil | Nil |
| 10. | Jharkhand | Nil | Nil |
| 11. | Karnataka | Nil | Nil |
| 12. | Kerala | Nil | Nil |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------------|-----|--|---|
| 13. Madhya Pradesh | Nil | Nil | |
| 14. Maharashtra | 27 | Notice issued=15. Oral warning issued=12. | |
| 15. North-Eastern-I | Nil | Nil | |
| 16. North-Eastern-II | Nil | Nil | |
| 17. Orissa | Nil | Nil | |
| 18. Punjab | Nil | Nil | |
| 19. Rajasthan | 2 | Licence cancelled=1. Warning issued=1. | |
| 20. Tamil Nadu | 76 | Warning issued for corrective action = 76. | |
| 21. Uttar Pradesh (East) | Nil | Nil | |
| 22. Uttar Pradesh (West) | 5 | PCOs disconnected and licence cancelled=5. | |
| 23. Uttaranchal | Nil | Nil | |
| 24. West Bengal | Nil | Nil | |
| 25. Calcutta | 6 | Warning issued=6. | |
| 26. Chennai | 5 | Warning issued=5. | |
| 27. Delhi | 4 | Warning issued=3. | |
| 28. Mumbai | 1 | Action is being taken | |

*[English]***NACO Programmes**

3128. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has begun its various phases of operations for AIDS Control Programme;

(b) if so, the details of the work done so far during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the results achieved so far in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir. National AIDS Control programme (NACP-Phase I and II) is operational since 1992. Currently phase-II is being implemented. The third phase of NACP will begin in April, 2007.

(b) and (c) In order to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, the Government of India is implementing National AIDS Control Program has focused on up-scaling the targeted intervention among high risk groups, behaviour change communication for improved awareness specifically among women and children and expanding the prevention care, support and treatment of HIV infected persons including management of opportunistic infections and provisions of free antiretroviral drugs and mainstreaming the HIV intervention strategies. The state-wise and cumulative number of voluntary counseling and testing centers, prevention of mother to child transmission centers, ART centers, Community Care Centres, STD Clinics and Blood banks and their performance is given in the enclosed statements I-V. As a result of the activities overall prevalence of HIV has been sustained at less than 1% in general population for last 3 years in all the states and UT's except AP, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Manipur.

Statement-I

Cumulative Number of Facilities Under National AIDS Control Program (As on March, 2007)

| Type of reporting Unit | Blood Banks* | | | | STD | | | | VCTC | | | | PPTCT | | | | ART | | | | CCC | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | | | | | | |
| All India | 1968 | 2079 | 2164 | 752 | 618 | 864 | 735 | 1400 | 2216 | 331 | 1023 | 1812 | 51 | 100 | 52 | 92 | 122 | | | | | | | |
| Ahmedabad MACS | 9 | 9 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 3 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 180 | 193 | 211 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 107 | 109 | 221 | 63 | 63 | 115 | 3 | 13 | 17 | 29 | 40 | | | | | | | |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Assam | 56 | 59 | 59 | 20 | 23 | 23 | 18 | 24 | 29 | 2 | 4 | 21 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Bihar | 48 | 52 | 53 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 44 | 63 | 64 | 7 | 42 | 42 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Chandigarh | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Chennai MACS | 35 | 35 | 38 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Chhattisgarh | 9 | 9 | 11 | 13 | 16 | 47 | 9 | 4 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Daman and Diu | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| Delhi | 40 | 50 | 53 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 18 | 37 | 43 | 10 | 10 | 16 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Goa | 7 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gujarat | 151 | 159 | 159 | 32 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 34 | 36 | 0 | 10 | 36 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Haryana | 48 | 50 | 50 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 13 | 19 | 19 | 0 | 19 | 19 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 13 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 0 | 13 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 21 | 21 | 22 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jharkhand | 32 | 38 | 41 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 7 | 12 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Karnataka | 145 | 145 | 156 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 34 | 34 | 36 | 46 | 46 | 81 | 4 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 15 |
| Kerala | 129 | 134 | 134 | 20 | 20 | 22 | 10 | 19 | 40 | 0 | 14 | 15 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 114 | 114 | 115 | 51 | 51 | 52 | 32 | 32 | 50 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Maharashtra | 206 | 207 | 222 | 54 | 54 | 72 | 58 | 59 | 551 | 50 | 51 | 547 | 8 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 8 |
| Manipur | 3 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 20 | 9 | 9 | 20 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Meghalaya | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mizoram | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mumbai MACS | 48 | 56 | 57 | 13 | 13 | 18 | 27 | 38 | 65 | 14 | 26 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nagaland | 9 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 11 | 18 | 10 | 17 | 41 | 10 | 16 | 42 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| Orissa | 51 | 57 | 68 | 26 | 26 | 29 | 20 | 20 | 51 | 0 | 3 | 30 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pondicherry | 13 | 13 | 13 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Punjab | 70 | 73 | 76 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 13 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rajasthan | 62 | 68 | 71 | 36 | 37 | 45 | 32 | 32 | 34 | 6 | 6 | 19 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sikkim | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tamil Nadu | 207 | 223 | 223 | 57 | 100 | 100 | 70 | 633 | 634 | 88 | 639 | 639 | 13 | 13 | 5 | 30 | 38 |
| Tripura | 6 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 133 | 145 | 147 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 70 | 71 | 83 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Uttaranchal | 18 | 21 | 22 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 16 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Bengal | 77 | 78 | 84 | 26 | 33 | 33 | 20 | 26 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 27 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

*Out of these 1136 blood banks are financially supported by NACO.

Statement-II**Status As on March 2007**

| State | Blood Bank | | | PPTC | | | VCTC | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---|---------|---------|
| | Blood Units Collected | | | No. of new ANCs accepted HIV test | | | No. of persons tested for HIV/AIDS at VCTC | | |
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| All India | 4266478 | 4882238 | 4201986 | 171010 | 1298200 | 1467598 | 874070 | 1339193 | 1525151 |
| Ahmedabad MACS | 99393 | 166700 | 94896 | 2860 | 10744 | 12788 | 8107 | 11330 | 8669 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 3967 | 3039 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2327 | 0 | 0 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 359815 | 370299 | 382690 | 0 | 175236 | 318956 | 231398 | 305952 | 415065 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 1499 | 1668 | 2087 | 0 | 58 | 2500 | 374 | 1265 | 3546 |
| Assam | 63195 | 76616 | 83485 | 149 | 2002 | 3841 | 4367 | 6524 | 13058 |
| Bihar | 41106 | 50008 | 34725 | 1055 | 18521 | 29098 | 18935 | 213229 | 56373 |
| Chandigarh | 51493 | 54736 | 53953 | 11326 | 19182 | 16648 | 10995 | 9495 | 7714 |
| Chennai MACS | 77390 | 107488 | 175888 | 0 | 12258 | 37907 | 14704 | 29532 | 27543 |
| Chhattisgarh | 19017 | 28840 | 22868 | 0 | 225 | 205 | 3145 | 4596 | 6049 |
| Dadra and Nagar Havelli | 3398 | 4087 | 2197 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 533 | 1574 | 402 |
| Daman and Diu | 128 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Delhi | 193980 | 273242 | 267317 | 14875 | 29101 | 38638 | 71027 | 87928 | 103032 |
| Goa | 11095 | 8550 | 10613 | 1064 | 1964 | 4999 | 9103 | 8244 | 8823 |
| Gujarat | 460225 | 510450 | 476027 | 3420 | 21203 | 39094 | 38271 | 84480 | 72100 |
| Haryana | 121106 | 126197 | 113345 | 24 | 2629 | 13960 | 13022 | 16795 | 21084 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Himachal Pradesh | 16531 | 15671 | 12003 | 0 | 12 | 643 | 6076 | 7391 | 4131 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 34729 | 42153 | 38667 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3027 | 5711 | 5819 |
| Jharkhand | 51325 | 66667 | 69298 | 0 | 0 | 160 | 1587 | 2806 | 3854 |
| Karnataka | 351192 | 353917 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66935 | 69964 | 4888 |
| Kerala | 136122 | 263076 | 228515 | 4222 | 23292 | 35128 | 5536 | 11387 | 23464 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 161247 | 179829 | 164511 | 509 | 2416 | 2503 | 12386 | 12936 | 21273 |
| Maharashtra | 166230 | 194436 | 71087 | 24410 | 127175 | 196503 | 51242 | 67886 | 117604 |
| Manipur | 30076 | 13651 | 12294 | 2169 | 11263 | 18691 | 9601 | 13765 | 26120 |
| Meghalaya | 3685 | 3244 | 3739 | 0 | 0 | 2832 | 79 | 201 | 347 |
| Mizoram | 12974 | 14304 | 12502 | 22 | 1268 | 3021 | 4402 | 6396 | 6617 |
| Mumbai MACS | 22029 | 210104 | 215645 | 38995 | 80922 | 91076 | 77585 | 107583 | 104929 |
| Nagaland | 1525 | 2394 | 2641 | 783 | 5933 | 6544 | 5381 | 13642 | 17918 |
| Orissa | 133031 | 160091 | 146574 | 0 | 1418 | 16213 | 7209 | 20841 | 40130 |
| Pondicherry | 7220 | 12623 | 12805 | 0 | 6269 | 13234 | 5608 | 11538 | 12759 |
| Punjab | 129007 | 209842 | 202245 | 0 | 1360 | 4595 | 6261 | 9370 | 17456 |
| Rajasthan | 97861 | 215934 | 253978 | 1537 | 2652 | 10868 | 5306 | 19314 | 25570 |
| Sikkim | 1777 | 1507 | 1078 | 43 | 522 | 1365 | 537 | 731 | 661 |
| Tamil Nadu | 399681 | 312146 | 226900 | 0 | 668443 | 463481 | 125316 | 101948 | 264313 |
| Tripura | 9846 | 14767 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 211 | 287 | 0 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 314798 | 316368 | 285524 | 0 | 3006 | 6236 | 29514 | 37406 | 36101 |
| Uttaranchal | 23292 | 31788 | 34101 | 337 | 501 | 992 | 12269 | 9500 | 15867 |
| West Bengal | 487503 | 515736 | 487796 | 63210 | 68625 | 77879 | 11679 | 27626 | 31872 |

Statement-III

| State | STD Attendance and Condom Distribution | | | | | | ART | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2005 | 2006 |
| | No. of | No. of | No. of | No. of | No. of | No. of | Total Number of | |
| | Patients Attending the STD Clinic/OPD | Condoms Distributed (Lakhs) | Patients Attending the STD Clinic/OPD | Condoms Distributed (Lakhs) | Patients Attending the STD Clinic/OPD | Condoms Distributed (Lakhs) | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| All India | 1583258 | 7424.9 | 1889579 | 10058.5 | 1345423 | 12659.5 | 23784 | 52169 |
| Ahmedabad MACS | 3207 | 0 | 3307 | 0 | 2331 | 0 | 4777 | 11809 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 631 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0.8 | 0 | 0 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 217340 | 604.8 | 201784 | 1345 | 172490 | 1577 | 1903 | 6668 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 182 | 10 | 138 | 6 | 119 | 7.3 | 4 | 0 |
| Assam | 1888 | 20 | 6595 | 30 | 7506 | 5 | 33 | 140 |
| Bihar | 35687 | 285 | 47847 | 580 | 20932 | 205 | 0 | 385 |
| Chandigarh | 3257 | 25 | 3021 | 5 | 2357 | 13.5 | 605 | 961 |
| Chennai MACS | 8544 | 0 | 19071 | | 20637 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chhattisgarh | 35389 | 30 | 20905 | 368 | 28338 | 541.4 | 0 | 0 |
| Daman and Diu | 523 | 2 | | 1 | | 6 | | |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 1560 | 2 | | 2 | | 3.6 | | |
| Delhi | 21766 | 95 | 18977 | 190 | 11610 | 243 | 2050 | 3175 |
| Goa | 3728 | 26.5 | 1606 | 30 | 904 | 20 | 209 | 348 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|-------|
| Gujarat | 93821 | 380 | 100275 | 810 | 57078 | 1087 | 1303 | 1356 |
| Haryana | 31572 | 240 | 53739 | 290 | 39712 | 245 | 0 | 178 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 176622 | 80 | 164005 | 55 | 35019 | 57 | 36 | 101 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 5550 | 0 | 5172 | 35.1 | 3308 | 33 | 0 | 103 |
| Jharkhand | 336 | 190 | 919 | 55 | 32953 | 292.7 | 0 | 141 |
| Karnataka | 22617 | 365 | 27326 | 1070 | 667 | 1200 | 2480 | 4983 |
| Kerala | 3513 | 100 | 33733 | 34 | 14334 | 70 | 803 | 1591 |
| Lakshadweep | 0 | 0.8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0.9 | 0 | 0 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 183175 | 1774.4 | 286317 | 460 | 215743 | 1973.1 | 18 | 355 |
| Maharashtra | 43054 | 165.8 | 85170 | 895 | 105671 | 800 | 6280 | 11279 |
| Manipur | 831 | 15.8 | 732 | 10 | 409 | 36 | 1056 | 2473 |
| Meghalaya | 421 | 10 | 706 | 0 | 394 | 7.5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mizoram | 18154 | 10 | 16718 | 0 | 15013 | 20 | 0 | 34 |
| Mumbai MACS | 33400 | | 45030 | 0 | 67517 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nagaland | 482 | 10 | 4051 | 0 | 3473 | 7.5 | 149 | 323 |
| Orissa | 96699 | 249.7 | 136679 | 276.3 | 101804 | 222.1 | 0 | 42 |
| Pondicherry | 1267 | 4 | 2481 | 34 | 2352 | 5 | 60 | 60 |
| Punjab | 4904 | 181.8 | 13283 | 175 | 10968 | 268.3 | 0 | 318 |
| Rajasthan | 11713 | 930 | 20962 | 506.5 | 16078 | 1151 | 510 | 1227 |
| Sikkim | 110 | 1 | 22 | 1 | 56 | 2.4 | 0 | 2 |
| Tamil Nadu | 207166 | 210 | 251255 | 1040 | 143032 | 427 | 0 | 0 |
| Tripura | 645 | 6 | 1341 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|-----|------|
| Uttar Pradesh | 264394 | 1022.3 | 245160 | 1444.6 | 162958 | 1480 | 955 | 2038 |
| Uttaranchal | 13554 | 127 | 22467 | 55 | 16174 | 4 | | 41 |
| West Bengal | 35556 | 250 | 48785 | 250 | 33488 | 640 | 553 | 2038 |

Statement-IV**State-wise HIV prevalence among ANC and STD Population : 2003-2005**

| State | HIV Prevalence in ANC | | | HIV Prevalence in STI cases | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|------|------|-----------------------------|------|-------|
| | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1.25 | 2.25 | 2 | 21.47 | 16.4 | 22.8 |
| Karnataka | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 10.4 | 12 | 13.6 |
| Maharashtra | 1.25 | 1.25 | 1.25 | 10 | 10.4 | 10.4 |
| Manipur | 1.25 | 1.5 | 1.25 | 13 | 7.2 | 12.2 |
| Nagaland | 1.13 | 1.43 | 1.63 | 0.98 | 1.72 | 3.5 |
| Tamil Nadu | 0.75 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 9.64 | 8.4 | 9.2 |
| Gujarat | 0.38 | 0.13 | 0.25 | 4.47 | 3.6 | 2 |
| Goa | 0.5 | 1.1 | 0 | 14.62 | 16 | 14.01 |
| Pondicherry | 0.13 | 0.3 | 0.25 | 2.45 | 5.7 | 4.22 |
| Assam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.89 |
| Bihar | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 0 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 0 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 1.81 | 1.8 | 0.49 |
| Rajasthan | 0 | 0 | 0.13 | 6.08 | 2.92 | 5.6 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 0 | 0.25 | 0 | 0.55 | 0.8 | 0.4 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| West Bengal | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.84 | 1.61 | 0.88 | 2.16 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0.2 | 0.43 | 0.45 | 0 | 0 |
| Chhattisgarh | 0.75 | 0 | 0.25 | 2.13 | 2.8 | 2.83 |
| Delhi | 0.13 | 0.38 | 0.25 | 6.52 | 7.98 | 9.15 |
| Haryana | 0.25 | 0 | 0.13 | 1.2 | 0.93 | 1.3 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.4 |
| Jharkhand | 0 | 0 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.1 | 0 |
| Kerala | 0 | 0.33 | 0.25 | 1.88 | 2.78 | 2.82 |
| Orissa | 0 | 0.5 | 0.25 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 4 |
| Punjab | 0.13 | 0.25 | 0.13 | 1.6 | 1.16 | 1.07 |
| Uttaranchal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.37 | 0 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 0 | 0.08 | 0 | 2.6 | 0.16 | 0 |
| Meghalaya | 0.35 | 0 | 0 | 0.25 | 0 | 0 |
| Mizoram | 2.08 | 1.25 | 0.88 | 3.8 | 1 | 3 |
| Sikkim | 0.25 | 0 | 0.3 | 0 | 0 | 0.86 |
| Tripura | 0 | 0.3 | 0 | 2.8 | 0.7 | 1.2 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0.58 | 0 | 0.58 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 0.4 |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0.25 | 0 | 0.3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chandigarh | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0 | 0.8 | 1.8 | 1 |
| Daman and Diu | 0.32 | 0.38 | 0.13 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Statement-V*Year-wise Status of Targeted Interventions*

| S. No. | State | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|--------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| 2 | Ahemdabad | 21 | 25 | 26 |
| 3. | Andhra Pradesh | 117 | 109 | 109 |
| 4. | Arunachal Pradesh | 7 | 9 | 9 |
| 5. | Assam | 29 | 27 | 57 |
| 6. | Bihar | 17 | 42 | 38 |
| 7. | Chandigarh | 12 | 12 | 14 |
| 8. | Chhattisgarh | 15 | 17 | 15 |
| 9. | Chennai | 20 | 15 | 21 |
| 10. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 11. | Daman and Diu | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| 12. | Delhi | 38 | 37 | 49 |
| 13. | Goa | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 14. | Gujarat | 87 | 108 | 108 |
| 15. | Haryana | 2 | 16 | 20 |
| 16. | Himachal Pradesh | 9 | 21 | 21 |
| 17. | Jammu and Kashmir | 2 | 6 | 6 |
| 18. | Jharkhand | 9 | 7 | 7 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|----------------|-----|------|------|
| 19. | Karnataka | 29 | 39 | 39 |
| 20. | Kerala | 56 | 60 | 33 |
| 21. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22. | Madhya Pradesh | 8 | 12 | 12 |
| 23. | Maharashtra | 33 | 37 | 37 |
| 24. | Mumbai (MC) | 22 | 22 | 30 |
| | AVERT | 31 | 26 | 39 |
| 25. | Manipur | 42 | 57 | 57 |
| 26. | Meghalaya | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 27. | Mizoram | 24 | 37 | 37 |
| 28. | Nagaland | 22 | 41 | 41 |
| 29. | Orissa | 21 | 33 | 36 |
| 30. | Pondicherry | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| 31. | Punjab | 11 | 21 | 16 |
| 32. | Rajasthan | 9 | 17 | 39 |
| 33. | Sikkim | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| 34. | Tamil Nadu | 82 | 54 | 60 |
| | APAC | 38 | 52 | 52 |
| 35. | Tripura | 19 | 16 | 25 |
| 36. | Uttaranchal | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| 37. | Uttar Pradesh | 35 | 21 | 61 |
| 38. | West Bengal | 35 | 56 | 68 |
| Total | | 933 | 1087 | 1220 |

[Translation]

Procurement of Sub-standard Medicines

3129. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

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

(a) whether any irregularities and administrative mismanagement have been found in the procurement of medicines in the CGHS dispensaries/Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of cases of procurement of poor quality medicines for the CGHS dispensaries/Government hospitals detected during the last two years and the action taken in such cases;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the working of the said dispensaries/hospitals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Medicines to CGHS dispensaries are procured and supplied on the basis the list of finalised generic drugs through Medical Stores Depot (MSD) Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (HSCC). Before the medicines are dispatched by the firms, samples of the medicines are tested and are also inspected by officials from the CGHS. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has not come across supply of poor quality medicines.

(c) and (d) Improvement in functioning of CGHS is a continuous process and simplification of its procedure to make it more user friendly. Empanelment of private hospitals and diagnostic centres, to complement the facilities available to the beneficiaries under CGHS is a major step aimed at providing medical facilities round the

clock. Empanement of hospitals and diagnostic centres is a continuous process and more private hospitals and diagnostic centres can come into the empanelled category at any point of time.

Computersation of CGHS in a phased manner has been taken up, setting up of Advisory/Grievance redressal, Committee at the dispensary level and also a pilot project has already been initiated to out-source the settlement of MRC claims through Third Party Administrators, a process has also been initiated to prepare a CGHS Manual for information of the beneficiaries. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to provide the best facilities to the beneficiaries in terms of highly trained technical manpower, latest machinery and equipment etc.

[English]

Committee on Road Safety

3130. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expert committee on creation of a body for road safety and traffic management set up in November 2005 has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per direction of the Committee on Infrastructure chaired by the Prime Minister, a Committee was setup to deliberate and recommend creation of a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Management under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, Sr. Fellow, The Energy Research Institute. The Committee has submitted its report on 20.2.2007. The main recommendations of the Committee include:—

- Creation of an apex body i.e., National Road Safety and Traffic Management Board at National level to promote road safety and improve traffic management in India with members/experts from the field of Road Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Traffic Laws, Medical care etc. through an Act of Parliament. The funding of this Board would also be governed by the Act.
- The proposed Board would have regulatory as well as advisory functions.
- The Board would set standards, designs for mechanically propelled vehicles and also set safety standards in consultation with Indian Road Congress for the design, construction and operation of the National Highways including road infrastructure and furniture as their regulatory functions.
- In its advisory role, the Board would advise Government or various road safety aspects.
- Creation of similar State level bodies.
- The Committee inter-alia recommended apportionment of minimum 1% of total proceeds of cess on diesel and petrol to be available for National Road Safety Fund.

(c) As per procedure, before acceptance of the recommendation consultation with various Ministries/ Departments/State Governments is pre-requisite. This Ministry has drawn up action plan in this regard.

New Deposits of Coal

3131.SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has found new deposits of coal in the country;

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

(c) the measures undertaken by the Government to commercially exploit the new deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) During the year 2006, the Inventory of Geological Resources of Coal in India, prepared by Geological Survey of India (GSI) has increased by 1871 Million Tonnes as indicated below:-

| Date of Estimation | Total Estimated Geological Resources of Coal in India (in Million Tonnes) |
|--|---|
| As on 1.1.2007 | 255,172 |
| As on 1.1.2006 | 253,301 |
| Addition of Coal Resources during 2006 | 1,871 |

Apart from it, Geological Survey of India has identified a new coalfield (Ulla-Gamhardih area) to the east of Bishampur coalfield in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh. The investigation is in preliminary stage.

(b) This increase in coal reserve has occurred due to estimation of additional resources of coal in blocks where exploration has been concluded in 2006. The details of new identified deposits (in 2006) state-wise and location-wise are given as below:-

| State | Coalfield | Additional Coal Resources (Mt) | Name of blocks |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| West Bengal | Raniganj | 520 | Trans Damodar, Mahanpur + *Some blocks explored by GSI |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------|-----------------|------|---|
| Jharkhand | West Bokaro | 186 | Padrangi |
| Jharkhand | North Karanpura | 229 | Dumri, Kerandari-A |
| Madhya Pradesh | Singrauli | 19 | Jingurdah (Bottom Seam only) |
| Chhattisgarh | Hasdo - Arand | 8 | *Blocks explored by GSI |
| Maharashtra | Wardha Valley | 173 | Pauni-III Borda |
| Maharashtra | Kamptee | 55 | Saoner-IV, Saoner Phase-II Extn. |
| Maharashtra | Nand-Bander | 366 | North West of Nand |
| Andhra Pradesh | Godavari Valley | 315 | Siddavaram, + *some blocks explored by SCCL |
| Total | | 1871 | |

*The blocks explored by GSI and Singareni Collieries Companies Ltd. (SCCL).

(c) The Mahanpur, Jhingurdah, Pauni-III, Borda, Saoner-IV, Saoner Phase-II Extension blocks are Coal India Limited (CIL) blocks and will be exploited according to the systematic production programme of CIL. The Trans-Damodar, Dumri and Kerandari-A blocks are allotted as captive blocks and will be exploited by the allottees whereas the Padrangi is a non-CIL block to be worked by future allocatee. The block explored by SCCL will be exploited by them.

The regionally explored North West of Nand, Siddavaram and other coal blocks explored by Geological Survey of India need further detailed exploration after which commercial exploitation can be visualized/ascertained.

Who Norms for Healthcare Infrastructure

3132. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Health Organisation (WHO) has

specified norms of five beds per 1,000 population as reported in the 'Times of India' dated December 28, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) the existing availability of beds in the Government Hospitals in the rural as well as in the urban areas in the country; and

(d) the scheme formulated by the Government to create the required healthcare infrastructure to meet the WHO specified norms of five beds per 1,000 population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) It is informed that WHO has not specified any norms for health infrastructure. However, the report refers to the Master Plan of Delhi.

(c) 111872 beds are available in the Rural Hospitals and 292813 beds are available in the Urban Hospitals in the country.

(d) 'Health' is a State subject and it is for the concerned State Government to create the required healthcare infrastructure.

Emergency Treatment in Private Hospitals

3133.SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is mandatory for private hospitals to provide emergency treatment to patients/accident victims who are brought to their hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private hospitals do not provide medical care to patients who seek emergency treatment;

(d) if so, the action taken against these hospitals;

(e) the details of the Government and the private hospitals in Delhi and number of accident victims who were brought and treated in these hospitals during the last two years;

(f) details of the accident victims treated and died during last two years; and

(g) the details of the action taken against the Government and private hospitals by the Government of NCT of Delhi for not providing emergency treatment to patients/accident victims during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Government to monitor the functioning of private hospitals. However, Section 134 (a) of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 already provides that "it shall be the duty of every registered medical practitioner or the doctor on the duty in the hospitals immediately to attend to the injured person and render medical aid or treatment without waiting for any procedural formalities".

(e) to (g) Details of the accident victims admitted and died in the following hospitals during the last two years is as under:—

| Year | Safdarjung Hospital | | Dr. RML Hospital | |
|------|---------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | Admission | Death | Admission | Death |
| 2005 | 8886 | 1239 | 3494 | 125 |
| 2006 | 8957 | 1349 | 2580 | 113 |

Information relating to number of patients treated in private hospitals is not maintained centrally.

Expansion of Telecom Service

3134.SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a severe spectrum crunch leading to deterioration in quality of telecom services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will affect the expansion of telecom services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (d) To meet the quality of mobile telecom services, introduction of additional Base Trans-receiver Stations (BTSs), adopting microcell architecture and techniques such as installation of Boosters, adequate number of inter-operator junctions, interconnection infrastructure, etc., are required besides necessity for adequate radio frequency spectrum.

(e) A Project has been taken up to provide an alternate communication network, based on the Optical Fiber Cable system, for one of the existing wireless users, which would release some radio frequency spectrum for the mobile telephony services.

List of BPL Families in Maharashtra

3135. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has given instruction to make BPL list on certain number/quota in Maharashtra and other States;

(b) if so, whether the list Union Government has prepared the final list of BPL families in Maharashtra;

(c) if so, whether the list has been made on actual basis or on quota basis;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has fixed the limit of list of BPL families;

(f) if so, the fate of those BPL families who exceed the quota;

(g) whether the Union Government proposes to change quota formula and fix some specific criteria to identify actual BPL families and prepare the list; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (e) Under the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Rural Development for conducting the BPL Census 2002 for the 10th Five Year Plan, all the States including Maharashtra have been advised to identify the BPL families in the rural areas in such a way that it should not exceed the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 or the Adjusted Share as worked out by the Planning Commission, whichever is higher. Another 10% is allowed to account for "transient poor".

The BPL Census was conducted by the States/UTs through door-to-door survey by covering 100% rural households for which the Ministry of Rural Development provided technical and financial assistance. The results of the BPL Census 2002 have been delayed because of the stay order passed by the Supreme Court on 5.5.2003 while hearing Writ Petition No.196 of 2001 in the matter of PUCL V/s Union of India. The Government of Maharashtra has not yet finalized the BPL list.

(f) to (h) The States have been given the option to identify the number of BPL families equal to the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 or Adjusted Share whichever is higher in addition to another 10% to account for transient poor. This provides enough flexibility to the States to identify the adequate number of BPL families in the rural areas under the BPL Census 2002.

Shortage of Serum for Rabies

3136. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any shortage of serum required to treat rabies and of anti-serum treatment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to increase the production of serum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No shortage of Anti Rabies Serum (ARV) and Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) required for the treatment of rabies have been reported.

(c) The production capacity of the institutions manufacturing these drugs are sufficient to meet the requirement in the country.

Bid for Asian Games in 2014

3137. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India proposes to bid for the Asian Games, 2014;

(b) if so, the status of the preparedness of the country for hosting the Games; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on creating the infrastructure and other arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) A bid has been submitted by Delhi as the host city. There are other bids too, notably by the city of Incheon in the Republic of Korea. The decision on the bid will be taken at the Olympic Committee of Asia (OCA) meeting Kuwait to be held on 16-17 April, 2007.

(b) The preparations for the Games would commence only after Delhi succeeds in its bids. We are confident of hosting the Games if the decision goes in our favour.

(c) Very preliminary assessment at this stage indicate an estimated expenditure of around Rs.1800 crore, which includes expenditure on Venue Infrastructure, Overlays and Conduct of the Games. In addition to these there may be expenditure on account of international zone etc. in Games Village, Security related measures and creation/upgradation of civic infrastructure which would be difficult to quantify at this stage.

Incentives to Sportspersons

3138. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the incentives provided by the Government to

the sportspersons involved in Football, Hockey, Badminton, Lawn Tennis, Cricket and other sports discipline;

(b) the reasons for giving special attention to cricket as compared to other sports discipline;

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage sportspersons for taking up other sports discipline other than cricket in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) The primary responsibility for the development of various sports disciplines, including Football, Hockey, Badminton, Lawn Tennis and Cricket, vests in the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned. The Government supplements their efforts through financial assistance for holding national/international sports events in India, participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, training and arrangements for coaches, both Indian and foreign, procurement of equipment and consumables etc., as per agreed Long Term Development Plans. In this connection, detailed discussions are also being held with the various NSFs and other stakeholders like the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Sports Authority of India (SAI) etc., to further streamline the process of identification and nurturing of talent, development of well-planned strategies for the identification of elite sportspersons capable of winning medals and related training requirements such as exposure and participation in events at the international level, and other measures for the planned development of different sports disciplines. In addition, Government is also providing assistance to meritorious sportspersons for purchase of equipment, provision of scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad, under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and through the 'National Sports Development Fund'.

(b) The Government does not provide any financial assistance to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (Men).

(c) to (e) With a view to broad basing sports, action is being taken by the Sports Authority of India for scouting and nurturing talent and training identified sportspersons at the sub-junior, junior and senior levels by providing vital inputs such as coaching, infrastructure and equipment support, sports kits, competition exposure etc. under the following schemes:-

- (i) National Sports Talent Context (NSTC) Scheme;
- (ii) Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) Scheme;
- (iii) SAI Training Centres (STC) Scheme;
- (iv) Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme; and
- (v) Centre for Excellence Scheme.

Under these Schemes, special emphasis is being given to encouraging sportspersons to taken up various sports disciplines other than Cricket.

The Ministry is also considering launching a scheme under the title of 'Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan' with a view to providing basic sports infrastructure and arrangements in Panchayat areas to enable access for vast sections of the rural youth to organized games and sports facilities, both as an essential ingredient of youth development and for significantly widening the catchment area for the identification and nurturing of sports talent.

Moreover, Government is encouraging sports and sportspersons at various levels including schools, colleges and rural areas under its 'Scheme of Incentives for Promotion of Sports Activities' which has the following components:-

- (a) Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons
- (b) Rural Sports Programme
- (c) Promotion of Sports and Games in School

(d) Sports Scholarships

(e) National Sports Development Fund

The Government also provides awards to outstanding sportspersons, including cricketers.

Shortage of Materials and Accessories by Telecom Circle

3139.SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Telecom Circles are facing shortage of material and accessories;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to meet the shortage in each telecom circle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Sir, a large number of materials and accessories are required for telecom network and at any given time, there can be some shortages.

(b) At present, shortage in most telecom circles are mostly in respect of VRLA batteries, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Integrated Fixed Wireless Terminals (IFWTs), Poly Insulated Jelly Filled Cable, New Technology Equipment for land lines, broadband ports, Jointing Kits, Digital Satellite Phone Terminals, drop wire, Optical Fibre Cable.

(c) To meet the shortages, tenders have been floated and Advance Purchase Orders/Purchase Orders have also been placed in many circles or are in process. In other cases, tenders are planned.

[Translation]

Extension Granted to IAS/IPS Officers

3140.SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has given extension of service to several IAS and IPS officers;

(b) if so, the names of the officers to whom extension of service has been granted alongwith the period of extension during the last two years;

(c) the details of the rules governing extension of services;

(d) the number of officers who have applied for the extension of services during the last two years; and

(e) the reasons for providing extension of services to the said officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :

(a) and (b) A total of 6 IAS and 5 IPS officers have been granted extension in service during the period from 1/1/2005 till date. Their names and periods are as follows:—

| Name (IAS) | Date From | Date To |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---------|
| Shri Shekhar Dutt, IAS (MP:69) | 1/8/05 to | 31/7/07 |
| Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, IAS (UP:66) | 14/6/04 to | 13/6/07 |
| Shri V.K. Duggal, IAS (UT:68) | 31/3/05 to | 31/3/07 |
| Shri R.M. Premkumar, IAS (MH:68) | 1/9/05 to | 28/2/06 |
| Shri Vijay Bakaya, IAS (JK:70) | 1/4/06 to | 31/5/06 |
| Shri T.K. Dewan, IAS (AP:69) | 1/5/06 to | 31/7/06 |

| Name (IPS) | Date From | Date To |
|--|-------------|----------|
| Shri V.N. Deshmukh, IPS (MH:73) | 30/4/05 to | 31/7/05 |
| Shri Kamal Kumar, IPS (AP:71) | 1/10/06 to | 31/10/06 |
| Shri P.K.H. Tharakan, IPS (KL:68) | 30/6/05 to | 31/1/07 |
| Shri E.S.L. Narasimhan, IPS (AP:68) | 30/11/05 to | 31/12/06 |
| Shri U.S. Mishra, IPS (OR:68) | 30/10/04 to | 6/12/05 |

(c) Rule 16(1) and 16(1A) of the all India Service (Death-Cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958 provide for extension in service to the members of the All India Services.

(d) No requests have been received from the concerned officers for extension in service.

(e) The concerned officers have been given extension under Rule 16(1) and 16(1A) of the All India Service (Death-Cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958 in public interest.

Shortage of Doctors and Health Workers

3141.SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY :

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

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

(a) whether as per the estimates of the Planning Commission, there is a shortage of the doctors/health workers of the Indian Medicine System in the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total requirement and the availability of the doctors/health workers in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to meet the shortage of doctors and health workers in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) No such estimate has been made.

(c) and (d) There are no norms regarding the

requirement of doctors of Indian System of Medicine per thousand population. There are 7,24,823 registered AYUSH practitioners which works out to 6.5 Ayush doctors per 10,000 population. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement. States including Himachal Pradesh are supported under the National Rural Health Mission for contractual appointments of AYUSH doctors and para medics in accordance with their requirements reflected in the States specific Programme Implementation Plans.

Statement .

Statewise Number of Registered AYUSH Practioners as on 1.1.2006

| S. No. | States/UT's | Ayurveda | Unani | Siddha | Homeopathy | Naturopathy | Total |
|--------|-------------------|----------|-------|--------|------------|-------------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 15231 | 5022 | 0 | 9422 | 374 | 30049 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | | 0 | 74 | | 74 |
| 3. | Assam* | 250 | 0 | 0 | 624 | | 874 |
| 4. | Bihar | 131121* | 3772 | 0 | 27597* | | 162490 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 533 | 6 | 0 | 169 | | 708 |
| 6. | Delhi | 2264* | 1049* | 0 | 3026 | | 6339 |
| 7. | Goa | | | | | | |
| 8. | Gujarat | 20854 | 247 | 0 | 8065 | | 29166 |
| 9. | Haryana | 18366 | 1663* | 0 | 5531 | | 25560 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 7111* | 456* | 0 | 1111 | | 8678 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 1807 | 1869 | 0 | 0 | | 3676 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | | | | | | |
| 13. | Karnataka | 14828* | 938* | 2* | 8578 | 116* | 24462 |
| 14. | Kerala | 14945* | 63* | 1366* | 9091 | | 25465 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------|-----------------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-----|--------|
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 47602* | 609* | 0 | 9117 | 2 | 57330 |
| 16. | Maharashtra* | 52372 | 2884 | 0 | 38407 | | 93663 |
| 17. | Manipur | | | | | | |
| 18. | Meghalaya* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 230 | | 230 |
| 19. | Mizoram | | | | | | |
| 20. | Nagaland* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1997 | | 1997 |
| 21. | Orissa* | 4448 | 17 | 0 | 3106 | | 7571 |
| 22. | Punjab | 20379* | 5611* | 0 | 3742 | | 29732 |
| 23. | Rajasthan | 23861 | 1619 | 0 | 4627 | | 30107 |
| 24. | Sikkim | | | | | | |
| 25. | Tamil Nadu | 3542* | 980* | 16192* | 17055 | 49* | 37818 |
| 26. | Tripura | | | | | | |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 60585 | 14483 | 0 | 27569 | | 102637 |
| 28. | Uttaranchal | 368 | 8 | | | | 376 |
| 29. | West Bengal | 3167 | 4934* | 0 | 37423* | | 45524 |
| 30. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | | | | | | |
| 31. | Chandigarh* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 297 | | 297 |
| 32. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | | | | | | |
| 33. | Daman and Diu | | | | | | |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | | | | | | |
| 35. | Pondicherry | | | | | | |
| Total | | 443634 | 46230 | 17560 | 216858 | 541 | 724823 |

Figures are provisional.

* = Information has not been received for Current year, hence latest available information is repeated.

Source : State Governments

[English]

Coal Pilferage on Transit by Rail

3142. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
SHRI EMNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints of coal pilferage on transit by rail;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the percentage of pilferage annually;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any agreement where Indian Railway would be accountable for the losses during transportation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the measures taken by the Government to check coal pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Growth Rate in Agriculture

3143. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is planning to achieve four per cent growth in Agriculture Sector in the eleventh Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Approach Paper for the 11th Five-Year Plan has placed around 4.1% per annum growth in the Agriculture Sector during 11th Five-Year Plan. The 11th Plan strategy to raise agricultural output is based broadly on the following elements:-

- Doubling the rate of growth of irrigated area;
- Improving water management, rain water harvesting and watershed development;
- Reclaiming degraded land and focusing on soil quality;
- Bridging the knowledge gap through effective extension;
- Strengthening basic and strategic research in farm sector;
- Diversifying into high value outputs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs and spices, medicinal plants, bamboo, bio-diesel etc., but with adequate measures to ensure food security;
- Promoting animal husbandry and fishery;
- Providing easy access to credit at affordable rates;
- Improving the incentive structure and functioning of markets;
- Refocusing on land reforms issues.

Disease Among Children

3144. DR. P.P. KOYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the common diseases that are prevalent among

the children below the age of 5 years for the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the disease out of them which are covered under the National Immunisation Programme;

(c) whether any vaccine preventable diseases are reported from any part of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to prevent the diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The common diseases that are prevalent among children below the age of 5 years are: poliomyelitis, measles, diarrhea, acute respiratory infection, tuberculosis, whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus, sepsis and neo-natal causes. State-wise information on common diseases for 2004, 2005 and 2006 are given in the enclosed Statement I, II and III.

(b) The diseases which are covered under the National Immunization Programme are tuberculosis, pertusis, diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis and measles.

(c) and (d) Yes, cases of Japanese Encephalitis and Measles are reported from time to time. In order to

strengthen the Routine Immunisation, following initiatives have been taken:-

- Introduction of AD syringes for all immunization replacing the existing glass syringe and needles.
- Downsizing the BCG vial from 20 dose to 10 dose.
- Plans for alternate vaccine delivery from PHC to sub centre and outreach sessions.
- Outsourcing immunization activities in urban slums and under served areas.
- Strengthening supervision and monitoring.
- Mobility support to District Immunization officer for supporting supervision and monitoring.
- Review meeting at the State level with the districts on 6 monthly basis.
- Mobilization of children to immunization session sites by Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), Anganwadi workers (AWW), Women Self Help Groups etc.

Statement-I

Common diseases prevalent among children in the age group of 0-5 years during the year 2004

| Name of State | Diphtheria | Acute Poliomyelitis | ARI | Neonatal Tetanus | Measles | Whooping Cough | Pulmonary Tuberculosis |
|----------------|------------|------------------------|-----|---------------------|---------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 3428 | 1 | | 78 | 4315 | 9828 | 177768 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------------------|-----|----|---|-----|------|------|-------|
| Arunachal Pradesh | | | | | | | |
| Assam | 88 | | | 88 | 2084 | 9244 | 7984 |
| Bihar | | 39 | | | | | |
| Chhattisgarh | | | | | | | |
| Goa | | | | | | | 8984 |
| Gujarat | 103 | | | 32 | 580 | 685 | 21417 |
| Haryana | | 2 | | 16 | 96 | 18 | 27656 |
| Himachal Pradesh | | | | 2 | 1458 | | 9638 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | | | | | 3462 | 984 | 4608 |
| Jharkhand | | | | | | | |
| Karnataka | 98 | 1 | | 110 | 7845 | 3702 | 72303 |
| Kerala | 1 | | | | 3066 | 102 | 20832 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 187 | | | 466 | 1651 | 8807 | 26268 |
| Maharashtra | 120 | 3 | | 9 | 1933 | 91 | 69881 |
| Manipur | | | | 5 | 229 | 346 | 494 |
| Meghalaya | | | | 1 | 831 | 202 | 1589 |
| Mizoram | | | | 0 | 119 | 16 | 1122 |
| Nagaland | 39 | | | 72 | 1218 | 1410 | 194 |
| Orissa | | | | 19 | 626 | 1619 | 12721 |
| Punjab | | | | 26 | 222 | 15 | 20736 |
| Rajasthan | 436 | | | 87 | 1295 | 56 | 74207 |
| Sikkim | | | | 0 | 292 | 0 | 2044 |
| Tamil Nadu | 14 | 1 | | 1 | 663 | 76 | 62707 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----------------------------|------|----|---|----|-------|------|-------|
| Tripura | | | | 26 | 190 | 247 | 202 |
| Uttarakhand | 1516 | 1 | | 0 | 973 | 973 | 22312 |
| Uttar Pradesh | | 82 | | 13 | 35 | 175 | 3973 |
| West Bengal | 728 | 2 | | 72 | 15545 | 4427 | 76191 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | | | | 1 | 79 | 12 | 575 |
| Chandigarh | | | | 2 | 44 | 0 | 760 |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 3245 | | | 14 | 115 | 1 | 4700 |
| Daman and Diu | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1611 |
| Delhi | 126 | 2 | | 39 | 6416 | 69 | 31676 |
| Lakshadweep | | | | 0 | 0 | | 33 |
| Pondicherry | | | | 4 | 61 | | 25287 |

Source : Health Information of India, CBHI.

Statement-II

Common diseases prevalent among children in the age group of 0-5 years during the year 2005

| Name of State | Diphtheria | Acute Pollomyelitis | ARI | Neonatal Tetanus | Measles | Whooping Cough | Pulmonary Tuberculosis |
|-------------------|------------|------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 4305 | | 2866601 | 167 | 3162 | 11095 | 187925 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 1264 | | 40879 | | 642 | 666 | 981 |
| Assam | | | 7165 | | 10192 | 4718 | 20936 |
| Bihar | | 30 | | | | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------------------|-----|----|---------|-----|------|------|-------|
| Chhattisgarh | | | | | | | |
| Goa | | | 8322 | | | | 2359 |
| Gujarat | 78 | 1 | 845256 | 8 | 228 | 161 | 29831 |
| Haryana | 17 | 1 | 1214782 | 6 | 70 | 30 | 30469 |
| Himachal Pradesh | | | 1775918 | | 521 | | 9738 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | | | 346109 | | 3004 | 1322 | 4794 |
| Jharkhand | | 2 | 2537 | | 50 | 218 | 232 |
| Karnataka | 43 | | 2287440 | 86 | 2360 | 619 | 62908 |
| Kerala | 26 | | 8878176 | | 4065 | 212 | 18902 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 111 | | 742545 | 247 | 1198 | 8738 | 58237 |
| Maharashtra | 130 | | 526168 | 12 | 1761 | 84 | 67142 |
| Manipur | | | 14417 | 1 | 194 | 105 | 348 |
| Meghalaya | 1 | | 284430 | 3 | 1423 | 557 | 1719 |
| Mizoram | 6 | | 32739 | | 240 | 44 | 2566 |
| Nagaland | 229 | | 8644 | | 1241 | 4328 | 1216 |
| Orissa | 2 | | 654553 | 3 | 434 | 405 | 96669 |
| Punjab | 2 | 1 | 75785 | 17 | 89 | 4 | 27668 |
| Rajasthan | 358 | | 1274639 | 68 | 156 | 383 | 66872 |
| Sikkim | 0 | | 64669 | 1 | 210 | | 2053 |
| Tamil Nadu | 35 | | 411585 | 17 | 291 | 265 | 62794 |
| Tripura | 1 | | 211054 | 17 | 623 | 461 | 1014 |
| Uttarakhand | 215 | 1 | 75511 | 23 | 279 | 78 | 4471 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 4 | 29 | 539107 | 46 | 4095 | 7054 | 74697 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----------------------------|------|----|--------|-----|-------|------|-------|
| West Bengal | 545 | | 327233 | 145 | 14993 | 1881 | 53395 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | | | 48503 | 1 | 38 | 44 | 621 |
| Chandigarh | | | | | | | |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | | | 111875 | 2 | 11 | 3 | 4096 |
| Daman and Diu | | | | | | | 499 |
| Delhi | 47 | | 327962 | 65 | 781 | 480 | 27096 |
| Lakshadweep | 0 | | 31286 | | | | 150 |
| Pondicherry | 2830 | 20 | 91215 | | 103 | | 11765 |

Source : Health Information of India, CBHI.

Statement-III

*Common diseases prevalent among children in the age group of 0-5
Years during the year 2006*

| Name of State | Diphtheria | Acute Poliomyelitis | ARI | Neonatal Tetanus | Measles | Whooping Cough | Pulmonary Tuberculosis |
|-------------------|------------|------------------------|-----|---------------------|---------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1009 | | | 21 | 1902 | 4077 | 135856 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | | | | | | | |
| Assam | | 2 | | | | | |
| Bihar | | 61 | | | | | |
| Chhattisgarh | 78 | | | 2 | 206 | 417 | 5788 |
| Goa | | | | | | | |
| Gujarat | 204 | 4 | | 35 | 187 | 30 | 41730 |
| Haryana | 12 | 19 | | 25 | 322 | 78 | 23246 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|---|-----|-------|------|--------|
| Himachal Pradesh | | 1 | | 1 | 619 | | 12734 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 4 | | | | 2549 | 4074 | 2346 |
| Jharkhand | | 1 | | 42 | 903 | 803 | 15516 |
| Karnataka | | | | 3 | 2048 | 430 | 69296 |
| Kerala | 1 | | | | 3109 | 163 | 12736 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 24 | 3 | | 179 | 426 | | 18866 |
| Maharashtra | | 5 | | 2 | 627 | 26 | 11072 |
| Manipur | | | | | 201 | 122 | 331 |
| Meghalaya | | | | | 1095 | 17 | 1126 |
| Mizoram | 25 | | | | 180 | 13 | 858 |
| Nagaland | 74 | | | 20 | 589 | 1438 | 838 |
| Orissa | 0 | | | 2 | 221 | 324 | 9897 |
| Punjab | 2 | 8 | | 12 | 252 | 5 | 19325 |
| Rajasthan | 233 | 1 | | 22 | 919 | 541 | 64321 |
| Sikkim | | | | | 542 | | 2155 |
| Tamil Nadu | | | | | 274 | 10 | 28979 |
| Tripura | | | | 2 | 455 | 241 | 971 |
| Uttarakhand | | 13 | | 17 | 361 | 228 | 3522 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 125 | 546 | | 31 | | 3985 | 108005 |
| West Bengal | 260 | 1 | | 71 | 16839 | 2500 | 68804 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | | | | 9 | 20852 | 193 | 211 |
| Chandigarh | | 1 | | | | | |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | | | | | 18 | 5 | 1544 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---------------|----|---|---|----|-----|----|-------|
| Daman and Diu | | | | | | | 141 |
| Delhi | 48 | 7 | | 37 | 505 | 34 | 13544 |
| Lakshadweep | | | | | | | 39 |
| Pondicherry | 2 | | | | 269 | 1 | 6244 |

Source : Health Information of India, CBHI.

Compassionate Appointments

3145. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of application received by the Government from the families of the deceased employees for compassionate appointments in the ministry and its subordinate offices including central drug store office, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad;

(b) the action taken on each application; and

(c) the present status of each application as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) As per the information available with the Ministry, 113 applications were received from the families of deceased employees who were working in this Ministry and its subordinate offices, including 9 application from Government Medical Stores Depot, Hyderabad.

(b) and (c) As per the Government instructions, Compassionate Appointments can be made only against 5% of total vacancies arising in each office under the direct recruitment quota in each cadre falling under Group 'C' and 'D' categories. None of the above applicants could be given appointment under the Scheme for appointment on compassionate grounds owing to non-availability of vacancies for the purpose in the respective years in which

they were received and also in the subsequent two years, where-after such applications are not considered again and treated as finally closed.

Implementation of NRHM

3146. SHRI B. MAHTAB :

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

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

(a) whether some State Governments including Orissa has sought additional central assistance to implement National Rural Health Mission;

(b) if so, the amount of additional central assistance sought by each State; and

(c) the amount actually allocated to each State for the purpose in 2006-07 and proposed to be provided in 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Orissa has sought for additional central assistance of Rs. 1506 Lakhs under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) taken up under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) during the year 2006-07.

(c) The state-wise allocation under NRHM for the year 2006-07 is given in the enclosed statement. The tentative allocation for the year 2007-08 is yet to be finalized by the Ministry.

Statement

State-wise Allocation of Grants under NRIHM during 2006-07

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S. No. | Name of State/UT | Total Infra. Maint. | RCH Flexible Pool | Mission Flexible Pool | IEC | PPI Op. Cost | EC assisted SIP | Total- Other Schemes | Total FW Schemes (12+18+22) | Total- Disease Control Programs | Total- NRIHM |
|--------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 13641.44 | 12266.00 | 10290.00 | 100.00 | 1540.20 | 50.00 | 24246.20 | 37887.64 | 4118.34 | 42005.98 |
| 2. | Bihar | 13423.80 | 17432.00 | 14662.00 | 140.00 | 5195.10 | 3900.00 | 41329.10 | 54752.90 | 5168.54 | 59921.44 |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | 5675.88 | 4398.00 | 3674.00 | 200.00 | 356.28 | | 8628.28 | 14304.16 | 3153.82 | 17457.98 |
| 4. | Goa | 229.20 | 208.00 | 187.00 | 50.00 | 15.03 | | 460.03 | 689.23 | 259.88 | 949.11 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 9853.92 | 8203.00 | 6889.00 | 100.00 | 1381.14 | 2106.00 | 18679.14 | 28533.06 | 3314.83 | 31847.89 |
| 6. | Haryana | 3556.04 | 3399.00 | 2875.00 | 50.00 | 727.74 | 250.00 | 7301.74 | 10857.78 | 911.47 | 11769.25 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 2905.24 | 1010.00 | 833.00 | 75.00 | 150.47 | 350.00 | 2418.47 | 5323.71 | 612.22 | 5935.93 |
| 8. | Jammu and Kashmir | 2632.67 | 1631.00 | 1378.00 | 60.00 | 262.13 | | 3331.13 | 5963.81 | 618.86 | 6582.67 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 5644.92 | 5689.00 | 4763.00 | 170.00 | 906.07 | 1200.00 | 12728.07 | 18372.99 | 4547.48 | 22920.47 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 10875.76 | 8543.00 | 7178.00 | 150.00 | 777.98 | | 16648.98 | 27524.74 | 2304.29 | 29829.03 |
| 11. | Kerala | 6063.08 | 5156.00 | 4337.00 | 60.00 | 312.80 | 350.00 | 10215.60 | 16278.68 | 1442.40 | 17721.08 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|-----|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 11105.68 | 12688.00 | 10692.00 | 200.00 | 1921.15 | 306.00 | 25797.15 | 36902.83 | 4406.76 | 41309.59 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 15482.80 | 15654.00 | 13131.00 | 175.00 | 2310.85 | 200.00 | 31470.85 | 46953.65 | 4340.90 | 51294.55 |
| 14. | Orissa | 7413.36 | 7730.00 | 6497.00 | 150.00 | 475.20 | | 14852.20 | 22265.56 | 6202.10 | 28467.66 |
| 15. | Punjab | 3825.20 | 3932.00 | 3300.00 | 100.00 | 611.92 | | 7943.92 | 11769.12 | 1075.34 | 12844.46 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 13545.68 | 11870.00 | 9984.00 | 250.00 | 1984.94 | 200.00 | 24288.94 | 37834.62 | 2956.12 | 40790.74 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 11159.96 | 10031.00 | 8419.00 | 80.00 | 789.00 | | 19319.00 | 30478.96 | 3376.21 | 33855.17 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 25454.72 | 34928.00 | 29358.00 | 250.00 | 13111.14 | 42.00 | 81847.14 | 107301.86 | 6968.17 | 114270.03 |
| 19. | Uttaranchal | 1972.60 | 1768.00 | 1497.00 | 140.00 | 429.45 | 634.00 | 4468.45 | 6441.05 | 747.75 | 7188.80 |
| 20. | West Bengal | 12438.04 | 12957.00 | 10903.00 | 80.00 | 2038.98 | 450.00 | 26428.98 | 38867.02 | 4459.22 | 43326.24 |
| | Total-Other States | 176900.00 | 179493.00 | 150837.00 | 2580.00 | 35297.37 | 14196.00 | 382403.37 | 559303.37 | 60984.70 | 620288.07 |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 334.52 | 476.00 | 1154.00 | 69.00 | 71.16 | 25.00 | 1795.16 | 2129.68 | 1058.63 | 3188.31 |
| 2. | Assam | 4598.12 | 12008.00 | 28119.00 | 94.00 | 685.77 | 530.00 | 41436.77 | 46034.89 | 5287.47 | 51322.36 |
| 3. | Manipur | 806.16 | 1067.00 | 2515.00 | 69.00 | 94.57 | 25.00 | 3770.57 | 4576.73 | 798.73 | 5375.46 |
| 4. | Meghalaya | 590.60 | 1061.00 | 2433.00 | 69.00 | 113.32 | 25.00 | 3701.32 | 4291.92 | 995.18 | 5287.10 |
| 5. | Mizoram | 413.16 | 413.00 | 948.00 | 73.00 | 35.31 | 155.00 | 1624.31 | 2037.47 | 810.36 | 2847.83 |
| 6. | Nagaland | 444.32 | 890.00 | 2103.00 | 69.00 | 72.09 | 250.00 | 3384.09 | 3828.41 | 1085.61 | 4914.02 |
| 7. | Sikkim | 222.36 | 238.00 | 577.00 | 63.00 | 20.59 | 75.00 | 973.59 | 1195.95 | 254.94 | 1450.89 |
| 8. | Tripura | 575.76 | 1424.00 | 3381.00 | 74.00 | 110.51 | | 4989.51 | 5565.27 | 1069.41 | 6634.68 |

| | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Total - NE Region | | 7985.00 | 17577.00 | 41230.00 | 580.00 | 1203.32 | 1085.00 | 61675.32 | 69660.32 | 11360.33 | 81020.65 |
| Total - All States | | 184885.00 | 197070.00 | 192087.00 | 3160.00 | 36500.69 | 15281.00 | 444078.69 | 628963.69 | 72345.03 | 701308.72 |
| 1. Delhi | | 0.00 | 2234.00 | 1870.00 | 50.00 | 915.25 | | 5069.25 | 5069.25 | 655.48 | 5724.73 |
| 2. Pondicherry | | 0.00 | 142.00 | 136.00 | 20.00 | 21.54 | | 319.54 | 319.54 | 209.09 | 528.63 |
| Total-UTs with leg. | | 0.00 | 2376.00 | 2006.00 | 70.00 | 936.79 | 0.00 | 5388.79 | 5388.79 | 864.57 | 6253.36 |
| 1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands | | 392.25 | 66.00 | 51.00 | 15.00 | 23.14 | | 155.14 | 547.39 | 362.91 | 910.30 |
| 2. Chandigarh | | 170.00 | 137.00 | 119.00 | 15.00 | 14.25 | | 285.25 | 455.25 | 181.32 | 636.57 |
| 3. Dadra and Nagar Havelli | | 82.78 | 61.00 | 34.00 | 15.00 | 4.52 | | 114.52 | 197.30 | 148.90 | 346.20 |
| 4. Daman and Diu | | 111.00 | 58.00 | 27.00 | 15.00 | 16.37 | | 116.37 | 227.37 | 132.98 | 360.35 |
| 5. Lakshadweep | | 54.00 | 54.00 | 14.00 | 15.00 | 4.21 | | 87.21 | 141.21 | 105.99 | 247.20 |
| Total - UTs without leg. | | 810.03 | 376.00 | 245.00 | 75.00 | 62.49 | 0.00 | 758.49 | 1568.52 | 932.10 | 2500.62 |
| Total - UTs | | 810.03 | 2752.00 | 2251.00 | 145.00 | 999.28 | 0.00 | 6147.28 | 6957.31 | 1796.67 | 8753.98 |
| Grand Total | | 185695.03 | 199822.00 | 194318.00 | 3305.00 | 37499.97 | 15281.00 | 450225.97 | 635921.00 | 74141.70 | 710062.70 |

IDSP - Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme, IDD - Iodine Deficiency Disordr, NVBDCP - National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

Non-availability of Doctors at PHC

3147. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of complaints especially from the patients of Primary Health Centre at Campbell Bay in the Great Nicobar have been received in regard to non-availability of doctors and upgrading of the Primary Health Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A few complaints have been received from the public representatives about shortage of Doctors and up-gradation of Primary Health Centre (PHC) Campbell Bay.

(b) and (c) Post of Medical Officer, 1 post of Dental Surgeon and 1 post of Homeo Physician are sanctioned for PHC Campbell Bay to cater to the needs of the people.

Provision for up gradation of PHC Campbell Bay to Community Health Centre (CHC) was proposed in the Xth Five Year Plan, which could not materialize due to the Tsunami, which rocked the Islands on 26th Dec., 2004. However, civil work for the said up-gradation has already been completed. The same will be upgraded on creation of posts of Specialists during the XIth Five Year Plan.

Modernization of National Highways

3148. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highway Development

Project is a step forward towards modernisation of National Highways;

(b) if so, whether the project includes of National Highways with enhanced safety features;

(c) if so, the total kilometers of roads so far covered by the NHAI under this scheme;

(d) the number of proposals at present under different highways and total number of projects likely to be covered during the Tenth Plan period;

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to accelerate the pace of development of National Highways;

(f) whether the Government has chalked out any proposal for Eleventh Plan period for the development of National Highways; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Phase-wise status of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is enclosed as Statement-I.

(d) Phase-wise status of NHDP during Tenth Plan (2002-2007) is enclosed as Statement-II.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to accelerate the pace of development of National Highways is enclosed as Statement-III.

(f) and (g) Since, the 11th Plan is under the final stage of preparation, the details relating to the development of National Highways during the plan period is yet to be finalized. However, the amount of expenditure and the likely source of finance (as per the Financing Plan of NHDP as approved by Committee on Infrastructure) for development of National Highways during 11th Plan Period are enclosed as Statement-IV.

Statement-I**Status of National Highways Development Project**

| NHDP Phase | Stage of approval | Total length approved (km) | Actual Length (km) | Length Completed (km) | Length Implementation (km) | Total cost (Rs. in Crore) | Target date for completion |
|------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| NHDP-I | Already approved in December, 2000 | 6359 | 7498 | 6825 | 673 | 30,300 at 1999 price | November, 2008 (Substantial Completion) |
| NHDP-II | Already approved in December, 2003 | 6702 | 6736 | 227 | 5498 | 34,339 at 2002 price | December, 2008 (Substantial Completion) |
| NHDP-IIIA | Already approved in March, 2005 | 4035 | 4035 | 30 | 1404 | 22,207 at 2006 price | December, 2009 |
| NHDP-IIIB | Preparation of Detailed Project Report approved in March, 2005 and May, 2006. Implementation not yet approved | 7078 | 7078 | — | — | — | — |
| NHDP-IV | Not yet approved | 20000 | 20000 | — | — | — | — |
| NHDP-V | Already approved in in October, 2006 | 6500 | 6500 | — | 148 | 41,210 at 01.01.2006 price | December, 2012 |
| NHDP-VI | Already approved in in November, 2006 | 1000 | 1000 | — | — | 16,680 at 01.01.2006 price | December, 2015 |
| NHDP-VII | Not yet approved | Yet to be identified | Yet to be identified | — | — | — | — |

Statement-II**National Highways Development Project
Length Completed**

(Length in km.)

| Period | Phase-I | Phase-II | Phase-III | Total Length (km) |
|-----------|---------|----------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Upto 2000 | 959 | | | 959 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------|---------|---|---|------|
| 2000-2001 | 262 | | | 262 |
| 2001-2002 | 480 | | | 480 |
| 2002-2003 | 391 | | | 391 |
| 2003-2004 | 1317.79 | | | 1318 |
| 2004-2005 | 2351.5 | | | 2352 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------|--------|-----|----|------|
| 2005-2006 | 722.87 | | 30 | 753 |
| 2006-2007 | 341 | 227 | | 568 |
| Grand Total | 6825 | 227 | 30 | 7083 |

Statement-III

The following steps have been taken to ensure early completion of the project:-

(a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants/Project Directors, Senior Officers of National Highways Authority of India. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways and the Minister, Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

(b) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges etc.

(d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified.

(e) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s. IRCON International Limited for construction of some of the Road Over Bridges.

(f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future project unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

(g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum Interim Payment Certificate (IPC) amount.

Statement-IV

Estimated Expenditure and Sources of Funding for National Highways Works by NHAI during 11th Plan Period

(Rs. in crore)

| Year | Expenditure | | | | | Sources of Funding | | | | | |
|---------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| | BY NHAI | By Private Sector | Payment of annuities | Servicing and Repayment of Borrowings | Total | Cess | External Assistance (Grant and Loan) | Surplus of Toll Revenue | Share of Private Sector | Borrowings | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 2007-08 | 18426 | 12063 | 576 | 512 | 31577 | 6892 | 2236 | 1468 | 12063 | 8918 | 31577 |
| | (10815) | (6800) | (576) | (124) | (18315) | (6541.06) | (2236) | (NA) | (6800) | (2000) | (17577.06) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2008-09 | 17529 | 18625 | 576 | 1305 | 38034 | 7098 | 1894 | 953 | 18626 | 9463 | 38034 |
| 2009-10 | 15319 | 23431 | 576 | 2136 | 41462 | 7312 | 324 | 546 | 23432 | 9848 | 41462 |
| 2010-11 | 10060 | 20120 | 1948 | 2875 | 35003 | 7531 | | 26 | 20120 | 7326 | 35003 |
| 2011-12 | 8532 | 17816 | 2140 | 3460 | 31948 | 7757 | | 116 | 17816 | 6259 | 31948 |
| Total | 69866 | 92055 | 5816 | 10287 | 178024 | 36590 | 4454 | 3109 | 92057 | 41814 | 178024 |

- Note:—** (i) The figures in brackets relating to expenditure in 2007-08 are the modified estimated figures.
- (ii) The figures in brackets relating to sources of funding in 2007-08 is the BE approved figures for cess and external assistance. Besides, the approved IEBR is Rs. 2090 crore which includes Rs. 2000 crore against borrowings and Rs. 90 crore as negative grant in BOT projects which have not been shown in above statement.
- (iii) All the figures given in the above statement are as per the Financing Plan of NHDP approved by the Col.

Increase of Royalty on Coal

3149.SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI JUAL ORAM :

SHRI UDAY SINGH :

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :

SHRI B. MAHTAB :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the royalty rates on coal as reported in the *Times of India* dated 14.02.2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the formula applicable to determine the royalty rates on coal;

(c) the additional revenue likely to be fetched by the Coal producing States, State-wise;

(d) the impact of the increased royalty rates on other sectors like power, cement and steel prices etc.; and

(e) the time by which the revised royalty rates are likely to be applicable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (e) Ministry of Coal constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary (Coal) to examine the issue of revision of royalty rates on coal. The Committee ascertained the viewpoints of all stake holder including State Governments. After detailed deliberations with all stake holders the Committee submitted its report. The Report is under consideration of the Government and a decision will be taken shortly.

[Translation]

Co-operative Societies at Village Levels

3150. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA :
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute Cooperative Committees/Societies at village levels for allotment of small coal blocks;

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

(c) whether the Government also proposes to entrust these Committees/Societies to undertake mining works as well as sale of coal;

(d) the estimated quantity of coal being mined illegally in the country during the last two years and till date, year-wise;

(e) whether the Government has also identified coal depots which sell mined coal illegally to the villages;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(g) the manner in which proposed Committees/Societies are likely to check illegal mining of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (c) The coal companies viz. CCL, BCCL and ECL have recently been asked to prepare one model pilot project each for considering involvement of co-operatives in coal mining in small isolated patches or mines not being operated by them because of economic unviability.

(d) Illegal mining takes place both stealthily and clandestinely inside and outside leasehold areas of CIL subsidiaries and in some abandoned mines and scattered isolated patches. It is thus not possible to quantify the exact amount of coal which is extracted illegally during the last two years.

However, on the basis of raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with law and order authorities of the concerned State Government, subsidiary-wise quantify of coal seized from illegally worked out patches during the last two years is given below:-

| Company | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 (upto Dec'06 (Prov.) |
|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------------|
| ECL | 1331.97 | 2481.00 | 2539.00 |
| BCCL | 120.50 | 639.31 | 20.50 |
| CCL | 428.00 | 532.50 | 95.00 |
| WCL | 144.00 | 26.50 | 10.00 |
| SECL | 955.65 | 42.50 | 540.31 |
| NEC | 600.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total | 3580.12 | 3721.81 | 3204.81 |

(e) and (f) Law and Order being a State subject, State Governments have been requested from time to time to take effective measures against illegal mining and sale of illegally mined coal.

(g) Illegal mining takes place in old abandoned mines and isolated small patches. If these could be allotted for mining by local cooperatives societies, then to that extent illegal mining in them would be checked. This could also improve the socio-economic condition of people in the area by providing employment etc., thus obviating the need to resort to illegal mining.

[English]

**Ban of Private Practice by
Government Doctors**

3151. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to impose complete ban on private practice by Government doctors in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such doctors practicing in various States at present; and

(c) the details of the instructions issued by the Medical Council of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Public Health is a State List subject and therefore it is the responsibility of the respective State Governments to regulate the doctors working in the States. As regards the doctors belonging to the Central Health Service under this Ministry, there is a complete ban on private practice by these doctors. Hence the question of issue of any instructions by MCI in this regard does not arise.

New Telephone Connections

3152. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received for issue of new landline telephone connections by the MTNL/BSNL in the country specially in Gujarat as on date; and

(b) the income earned by the Telecom Department as on February 1, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The number of applications

received for issue of new landline telephone connections by MTNL/BSNL from 01.04.2006 to 31.01.2007 is 2,26,493 and 19,01,500 respectively. The details of applications received State-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

The number of applications received in Gujarat Telecom Circle during the corresponding period is 1,05,044.

(b) The income earned by the Telecom Department for the year 2006-07 (upto 31.01.2007) is Rs. 8,854.51 crores. Income earned by PSUs under the Department of Telecommunications for the year 2006-07 (upto 31.01.2007) is as follows:-

| | |
|------|--|
| BSNL | 31728.32 crores (provisional and unaudited). |
| MTNL | crores (provisional and unaudited). |
| ITI | 809.13 crores (provisional and unaudited). |
| TCIL | 285 crores (provisional and unaudited). |

Statement

Number of applications received for New Telephone connections during the current year upto 31.1.2007

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL):

| Sl. No. | Name of Circle | No. of applications received for New Telephone connections during the current year upto 31.1.2007 |
|---------|----------------|---|
| 1. | MTNL, Delhi | 97,367 |
| 2. | MTNL, Mumbai | 1,29,126 |
| | Total | 2,26,493 |

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

| S. No. | Name of Circle | No. of applications received for New Telephone connections during the current year up to 31.1.2007 |
|--------|----------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 3,19,606 |
| 2. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 281 |
| 3. | Assam | 68,521 |
| 4. | Bihar | 42,818 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 9,267 |
| 6. | Chennai Tel. | 78,235 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 1,05,044 |
| 8. | Haryana | 36,773 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 19,793 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 19,646 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 8,225 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 1,81,006 |
| 13. | Kerala | 1,68,959 |
| 14. | Kolkata Tel. | 93,828 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 83,552 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 2,09,032 |
| 17. | North East-I | 7,630 |
| 18. | North East-II | 11,186 |
| 19. | Orissa | 33,634 |
| 20. | Punjab | 81,839 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|----------------------|-----------|
| 21. | Rajasthan | 94,738 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 81,600 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 79,003 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 37,760 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 16,980 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 12,344 |
| Total | | 19,01,500 |

[Translation]

Model Dalit Village

3153.SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to formulate a scheme to convert the Dalit dominated villages into Model Dalit Villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has formulated any action plan of this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount allocated by the Union Government for this scheme; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be implemented by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme for accelerated development of Dalit villages with population of 50% and above is under preparation.

(b) to (f) The details have not yet been finalised.

[English]

**Vandalization of Indian Culture Centre
in New South Wales**

3154. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in Indian Cultural Centre in Woolgoolga township of New South Wales was vandalized recently and priceless items worth several thousands crores of rupees were destroyed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has taken up the matter with the Australian authorities for adequate compensation and for the protection of culture and the ethics of the Indian community settled there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes. According to information available with Government, the Rajmahal Indian Culture Centre, a private business entity, in the township of Woolgoolga in the New South Wales, Australia was vandalised on the afternoon of February 6, 2007. A number of artifacts were damaged or lost. However, their value and historical significance cannot be assessed on the basis of available information.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The owner of the Centre has not sought any assistance from Government and has informed that a case had been registered with the police authorities and his insurance company would cover the monetary loss.

Rise in Lymphoedema and Hydrocele Cases

3155. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of Lymphoedema (Elephantiasis) and Hydrocele are increasing in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases of Lymphoedema and Hydrocele and number of Hydrocele surgery conducted and reported during 2004 and 2005, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Government of India launched the campaign of Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (ELF) in 2004. Lymphatic filariasis is a chronic disease and has manifestations like lymphoedema (elephantiasis) and hydrocele. Govt. of India has started house to house survey for enlisting of cases of Lymphoedema and Hydrocele prior to Annual Mass Drug Administration with single dose of DEC (Diethylcarbamazine citrate) tablets since the year 2004 in order to provide them services for prevention of attacks of acute lymphangitis (high fever, swelling and pain in affected part of the body) and acute lymphadenitis (swelling of lymph glands, pain and fever) and surgical operation for hydrocele. The line listing of Lymphoedema and Hydrocele cases as reported from states during 2004 and updated during 2005 in the country and in state of Andhra Pradesh are given below:-

| | Lymphoedema | | Hydrocele | |
|----------------|-------------|--------|-----------|--------|
| | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Country | 361297 | 585318 | 226882 | 334764 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2250 | 43766 | 191 | 908 |

(c) The numbers of Lymphoedema cases detected during 2004 and updated in 2005 are 361297 and 585318

respectively. The number of Hydrocele cases detected during 2004 and updated in 2005 are 226882 and 334764 respectively. The hydrocele surgeries conducted are 2047 in 2004 and 11039 in 2005. The state-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Govt. of India has launched the Mass Drug Administration with Annual Single Dose of Diethylcarbamazine citrate (DEC) Tablets since year 2004 to interrupt transmission of Lymphatic Filariasis. This will check recurrence of such cases in future.

Statement

Line Listing Lymphoedema and Hydrocele cases and Hydrocele Operations during 2004 and 2005

| S. No. | Name of the State/UT | 2004 | | | 2005 | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | Lymphoedema cases | Hydrocele cases | Hydrocele Operations | Lymphoedema cases | Hydrocele cases | Hydrocele Operations |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2250 | 191 | | 43766 | 908 | 83 |
| 2. | Assam | 28 | 17 | | 341 | 144 | 0 |
| 3. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 76 | 49 | | 81 | 37 | |
| 4. | Bihar | 136216 | 119088 | | 196989 | 145211 | 1682 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 674 | 150 | 70 | 6532 | 2861 | 70 |
| 6. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 70 | 3 | | 78 | 30 | |
| 7. | Daman and Diu | 131 | 81 | 75 | 192 | 86 | 59 |
| 8. | Goa | 51 | 1 | | 212 | 1 | 0 |
| 9. | Gujarat | 895 | 204 | | 895 | 204 | |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 7128 | 2562 | | 43951 | 12639 | 0 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 7674 | 114 | 138 | 15306 | 2770 | 138 |
| 12. | Kerala | 8399 | 507 | | 10840 | 1232 | 2623 |
| 13. | Lakshadweep | 158 | 0 | | 172 | 21 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---|
| 14. Madhya Pradesh | 4855 | 3646 | 245 | 5929 | 4258 | 245 | |
| 15. Maharashtra | 35896 | 24421 | 1422 | 48177 | 37699 | 1965 | |
| 16. Orissa | 86247 | 31324 | 90 | 51840 | 32850 | 0 | |
| 17. Pondicherry | 1257 | 139 | 7 | 1296 | 117 | 0 | |
| 18. Tamil Nadu | 25864 | 8794 | | 25313 | 16181 | 0 | |
| 19. Uttar Pradesh | 1949 | 1173 | | 86465 | 41463 | 3975 | |
| 20. West Bengal | 41479 | 33418 | | 46943 | 36052 | 199 | |
| Total | 361297 | 226882 | 2047 | 585318 | 334764 | 11039 | |

[Translation]

Per Capita Income and National Income

3156 SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the status of the per capita income and the national income during the last three years;

(b) whether per capita income and the national income has increased in the country during the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) According to the Press Notes "Quick Estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation, 2005-06" and the "Advance Estimates of National Income, 2006-07" released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on 31st January, 2007 and 7th February, 2007 respectively, the estimates of per capita income and the national income during the last three years are as follows:-

| Year | National Income (NNP) and Per Capita Income at constant (199-00) prices | | National Income (NNP) and Per Capita Income at current prices | |
|---------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | National Income (Rs. crores) | Per Capita Income (Rs.) | National Income (Rs. crores) | Per Capita Income (Rs.) |
| 2004-05 | 21,03,350 | 19,297 | 25,01,067 | 22,946 |
| 2005-06 | 22,95,243 | 20,734 | 28,46,762 | 25,716 |
| 2006-07 | 25,15,372 | 22,379 | 32,67,371 | 29,069 |

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The per capita income in real terms (at 1999-2000) has increased from Rs. 20,734 in 2005-06 to Rs. 22,379 in 2006-07. The growth rate in per capita income is estimated at 7.9 per cent during 2006-07 as against the previous year's estimate of 7.4 per cent. The national income (NNP) at factor cost, at 1999-2000 prices, is likely to be Rs. 25,15,372 crore during 2006-07, as against the

previous year's Quick Estimate of Rs. 22,95,242 crore. In terms of growth rates, the national income is expected to rise by 9.6 per cent during 2006-07 in comparison to the growth rate of 9.1 per cent in 2005-06.

[English]

Shortages of Sports Coaches

3157.SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of coaches for various games/sports discipline in the country;

(b) if so, the steps the Union Government proposed to take to appoint expert coaches from abroad for the next Commonwealth Games 2010;

(c) the estimated cost of deploying coaches in various sports disciplines/activities; and

(d) the extent to which the number of foreign coaches in different sports disciplines/games is higher as compared to Indian coaches?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) The position of coaches in Sports Authority of India (SAI) is dynamic because the need for coaches depends upon the number of centres of SAI established under various schemes, the number of trainees in the SAI centres, which has grown significantly over the years, the diverse requirements of the National Sports Federations (NSFs) with reference to the coaching/training of national teams, etc. At present, there are 1382 regular coaches and 59 coaches have been employed on contract basis by SAI.

There has been a ban on direct recruitment since 1996, due to which vacancies have not been filled up on regular basis, and efforts have been made to engage

persons on contract in different functional areas, based on need. After the ban on direct recruitment, studies were also done by the Staff Inspection Unit to assess the requirements between 1998-2000. In terms of these studies, there are no significant vacancies in respect of coaches, but when analysed on the basis of discipline-wise requirements and availability, there are imbalances which, put together, reveal a situation of both excess and shortage.

(b) The Government already have a policy under which foreign coaches are employed as per the requirement projected by the concerned National Sports Federations and assessed by the Committee constituted for the selection of foreign coaches.

(c) Normally, foreign coaches are engaged on monthly salary ranging upto US\$ 4500 net per month, depending on their expertise in their respective field. In addition, facilities like furnished accommodation, to and fro International Air Passage cost from home country to India and back for coach, wife and one child, local/domestic travel, insurance etc. are provided as per the contract.

(d) At present, there is no sports discipline/game, wherein the number of foreign coaches is higher than the Indian coaches.

Allotment of Coal Blocks

3158.SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the companies which have been allotted coal blocks during the year 2006-07;

(b) the action taken against the companies which have not started production in spite of allotment of coal blocks;

(c) the companies which have already started production;

(d) whether these companies have been authorized to sell coal to other companies; and

(e) if so, the names of companies and the amount of coal that is being sold by the private coal producing companies every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) The names of the companies which have been allocated coal blocks from 01.04.2006 to till date are given below:—

| S.No. | Name of the Company |
|-------|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. | M/s. Essar Power Ltd. |
| 2. | Hindalco co. Industries |
| 3. | M/s. Rungta Mines Limited |
| 4. | M/s. Ocean Ispat Ltd. |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB) |
| 6. | M/s. Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited (CMDCL) |
| 7. | Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board |
| 8. | M/s. Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Limited |
| 9. | M/s. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation |
| 10. | M/s. Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation Limited |
| 11. | Haryana Power Generation Corp. Ltd. |
| 12. | M/s. Orissa Mining Corporation |
| 13. | M/s. Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corp. |
| 14. | M/s. Power Finance Corporation |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|--|
| 15. | M/s. Chaman Metaliks Ltd. |
| 16. | M/s. Bankura DRI Mining Manufacturers Co. Pvt. Ltd. |
| 17. | M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. |
| 18. | M/s. Bhatia International Ltd. |
| 19. | M/s. Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corp. Ltd. |
| 20. | M/s. Maharashtra State Mineral Corporation Limited |
| 21. | M/s. Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation Limited |
| 22. | Bihar Rajya Khanij Vikas Nigam |
| 23. | M/s. Madhya Pradesh State Mineral Corporation Limited |
| 24. | Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited |
| 25. | M/s. West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited |
| 26. | M/s. OCL India Ltd. |
| 27. | Jharkhand State Electricity Board |
| 28. | Government of NCT of Delhi |

(b) The block allocated to the following companies, which had not started production of coal, have been de-allocated by the Government:—

| Name of the company | Name of the coal blocks |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| (i) M/s. Kalinga Power Corporation Ltd. | Utkal-A |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|-------------------------|
| (ii) M/s. Talcher Mining Pvt. Ltd. | Utkal-BI |
| (iii) M/s. Loyd Metals and Engineers Ltd. | Takli-Jena-Belora North |
| (iv) M/s. Garuda Clays Ltd. | West of Umeria |
| (v) Shree Radhe Industries | Panchbahani |

(c) The name of the companies which have started production are given below:-

| S. No. | Name of the Company | Name of coal blocks | No. of coal blocks in production |
|--------|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | M/s. RPG Industries/ CESC Ltd. | Sharshatali | 1 |
| 2. | M/s. INDALCO | Talabira-I | 1 |
| 3. | M/s. West Bengal State Electricity Board M/s. West Bengal Power Dev. Corporation | Tara East Tara West | 2 |
| 4. | M/s. BLA Industries | Gotitoria (East) Gotitoria (West) | 2 |
| 5. | M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. | Gare Palma IV/1 | 1 |
| 6. | M/s. Monet Ispat Ltd. | Gare Palma IV/5 | 1 |
| 7. | M/s. Punjab State Electricity Board | Panchwara Central | 1 |
| 8. | M/s. Jayaswal Neeco Ltd. | Gare Palma IV/4 | 1 |
| 9. | M/s. Prakash Industries Ltd. | Chotia | 1 |

(d) and (e) Coal extracted from small isolated pockets allotted to private companies can be sold to local industrial units as per law. Also, in certain force majeure situation, coal from captive blocks can be sold to approved end users with the permission of Government.

[Translation]

Scholarship for Students of Indian Origin

3159. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has prepared a scheme of scholarship for the students of Indian origin; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the facilities proposed to be provided to them to study in the country?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) has implemented a Scheme, Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) from the academic year 2006-07. Under the Scheme, 100 admission-cum-scholarships are offered for technical and higher educational course. The scholarship amount will cover the tuition fees partially. The Scheme is being implemented through M/s. Educational Consultants India Limited (Ed. CIL), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. 23 development countries with large number of Indian diaspora were included in the Scheme. The eligibility criteria under the SPDC is on merit and as per scores in the entrance examination conducted by Ed. CIL in Indian Missions abroad. 69 Students have joined in various institutions in India during the academic year 2006-2007.

SPDC for the academic year 2007-2008 is being expanded to include 39 countries with Indian diaspora population of 20,000 and more. It is proposed to increase scholarship amount to cover the tuition fees to a substantial extent.

[English]

Starting of New Medical Colleges

3160.DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of MBBS seats in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications for starting new medical colleges pending with the Government, State-wise;

(c) the number of applications for increasing the number of seats of MBBS course pending with the Government, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed any application from the Government of Kerala to increase the number of seats for MBBS in Alappuzha Medical College; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) There are 29,872 MBBS seats available in the Medical Colleges in the country. The number of applications for starting new medical colleges and for increase in annual intake capacity of Medical colleges as per details in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) A proposal was received from Government of Kerala for increase of MBBS seats from 100 to 150 at T.D. Medical College, Alappuzha. Medical Council of India (MCI) conducted inspection of the college and did not recommend increase of seats for the academic year 2006-07. MCI has been requested to consider the proposal of the State Government for the next academic year i.e. 2007-08.

Statement

| S. No. | Name of the State | Number of Application | | Total number of MBBS seats |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | | For starting of new medical college | For increasing the number of seats of MBBS | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 10 | 1 | 4175 |
| 2. | Assam | 3 | | 391 |
| 3. | Bihar | 2 | 2 | 510 |
| 4. | Chandigarh | | | 50 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | | | 250 |
| 6. | Delhi | 3 | | 560 |
| 7. | Goa | | | 100 |
| 8. | Gujarat | | | 1755 |
| 9. | Haryana | | | 350 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | | | 115 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | | | 350 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | | 1 | 190 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 3 | 1 | 4455 |
| 14. | Kerala | 6 | 1 | 2050 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 1 | | 970 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------|----|----|-------|---|
| 16. Maharashtra | 2 | 2 | 4460 | |
| 17. Manipur | 1 | | 100 | |
| 18. Orissa | 2 | 2 | 464 | |
| 19. Pondicherry | 1 | 1 | 775 | |
| 20. Punjab | 1 | 2 | 670 | |
| 21. Rajasthan | | 1 | 850 | |
| 22. Sikkim | | | 100 | |
| 23. Tamil Nadu | 8 | 2 | 2865 | |
| 24. Tripura | | | 200 | |
| 25. Uttar Pradesh | 5 | | 1712 | |
| 26. Uttaranchal | 1 | | 300 | |
| 27. West Bengal | 1 | | 1105 | |
| Total | 50 | 16 | 29872 | |

**Revenue to Telephone and
Postal Department**

3161.SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whethe the BSNL and MTNL have made a tie-up with the Department of Posts to provide telephone services to customers in far-flung areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the revenue of both telephone and postal departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Sir, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 28th December, 2006 between Department of Pests (DoP) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for cooperative and collaborative working relationship between the two organizations in order to develop a special business relationship to fulfill each other's requirements across the country for synergy of operations.

(c) To boost the revenue, Government telecom operating companies viz. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and BSNL are constantly expanding and modernizing their network beside providing latest state of art services to their customers at competitive tariffs. DoP has introduced several premium products like speed post, e-post etc. and value additions like free pick up, door-to-door delivery and credit facility etc. for generating more revenue.

BPL Families in Assam

3162.DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) number of BPL families in the country and their percentage to the total population, State-wise;

(b) special benefits being extended to BPL families and envisaged for future implementation for their sustenance as well as upliftment;

(c) whether the Union Government is aware of the large scale discrepancies in preparing the list of BPL families in certain districts of Assam by exclusion of bona-fide families and by inclusion of families who do not qualify the criteria; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rectify the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) The

Ministry of Rural Development provided financial and technical assistance to the States and UTs to conduct the BPL Census in the beginning of a Five Year Plan to identify the BPL families in the rural areas who could be provided assistance under various programmes of the Ministry. For the 10th Five Year Plan, the guidelines were issued for conducting the BPL Census 2002, however, its results have been delayed because of the stay order passed by the Supreme Court on 5.5.2003 while hearing the Writ Petition No.196 of 2001 in the matter of PUCL V/s Union of India. The State-wise details of number of BPL families identified through BPL Census 1997 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The Government is implementing various schemes for Poverty Alleviation such as Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) to provide houses to BPL families, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) to provide subsidy to Below Poverty Line families for acquiring economic assets to set up self-employment, Total Sanitation Campaign to provide subsidy to the BPL families of the rural areas, Sampooran Grameen Rozgar Yojana and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, to provide employment, National Social Assistance Programme to provide financial assistance for old age pension and family benefit scheme. The PDS also provides subsidized foodgrains for identified BPL families, etc.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development has not received any information regarding the large scale discrepancies in preparing the list of BPL families in some Districts of Assam. However, the Ministry has already prescribed detailed guidelines to prepare the BPL list in an objective and transparent manner which includes approval of the BPL list by the Gram Sabha in an open meeting and introduction of two-stage appeal mechanism to redress the grievances of the people, if any. It has also been advised that the printed copies of the BPL list have to be kept at the Panchayat Headquarters and also to be displayed on the notice boards and website.

Statement

Results of the BPL Census-1997

| S. No. | State/UT | Total No. Rural Families | No. of BPL Rural Families | % of BPL Families |
|--------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 10484028 | 4184628 | 39.91 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 102852 | 80627 | 78.39 |
| 3. | Assam | 3607241 | 2164416 | 60.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | 18933813 | 9399281 | 49.64 |
| 5. | Goa | 135816 | 23101 | 17.01 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 5587768 | 1980879 | 35.45 |
| 7. | Haryana | 2074615 | 503019 | 24.25 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 1036996 | 286112 | 27.59 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 1047251 | 606545 | 57.92 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 6479832 | 2202756 | 33.99 |
| 11. | Kerala | 4714295 | 1723556 | 36.56 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 11851082 | 5111874 | 43.87 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 11010022 | 3860675 | 35.07 |
| 14. | Manipur | 365670 | 246980 | 67.54 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 282362 | 156646 | 55.48 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 110570 | 74154 | 67.07 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------------------------|------|-----------|----------|-------|
| 17. Nagaland | \$\$ | 146615 | 88541 | 60.39 |
| 18. Orissa | \$\$ | 6790202 | 4445736 | 65.47 |
| 19. Punjab | | 2330725 | 650209 | 27.9 |
| 20. Rajasthan | | 6768541 | 2097560 | 30.99 |
| 21. Sikkim | | NR | NR | NR |
| 22. Tamil Nadu | | 9388118 | 2737921 | 29.16 |
| 23. Tripura | | 595397 | 397798 | 66.81 |
| 24. Uttar Pradesh | | 20430204 | 7541494 | 36.91 |
| 25. West Bengal | | 11076686 | 4918296 | 44.40 |
| 26. Andaman and Nicobar Islands | | 30221 | 6421 | 21.25 |
| 27. Dadra and Nagar Haveli | | 26237 | 17231 | 65.67 |
| 28. Daman and Diu | | 10735 | 395 | 3.68 |
| 29. Lakshadweep | | 8625 | 885 | 10.26 |
| 30. Pondicherry | | 133555 | 63262 | 47.37 |
| Total | | 135360074 | 55570998 | 41.05 |

NR - Not Reported.

* - Provisional.

\$\$ - Rural Household.

The results of Uttar Pradesh includes the results of Uttaranchal.

The results of Bihar includes the results of Jharkhand.

The results of Madhya Pradesh includes the results of Chhattisgarh.

[Translation]

Non-Functioning of Mobile Tower

3163. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mobile towers installed in various parts of the country, particularly in rural areas of eastern Uttar Pradesh are not functioning as a result of which mobile phones are not working there;

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

(c) the steps being taken to make the mobile towers functions and to increase the frequency of network in rural areas of the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir. Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is working satisfactorily in the country including Uttar Pradesh (East) Telecom Circle Service Area and is, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

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

(c) Cellular Mobile network of BSNL is being continuously optimized for its performance and monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI. As on 28th February, 2007, around 27,261 number of Base Transceiver Station (BTS) Cellsites are working in the country out of which 2446 BTS Cellsites are working in Uttar Pradesh (East). Out of the said 27,261 BTS, 12,368 BTS Cellsites including 1158 Cellsites of UP (East) are working in rural areas. Presently, there is no constraints of spectrum (frequency) in the mobile operations of BSNL in rural areas of country including Uttar Pradesh (East) Licensed Service Area.

[English]

Monitoring Mechanism for Various Schemes

3164. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

(a) the mechanism of monitoring system for the schemes/projects proposed to be taken up in various societies of Manipur under the Backward Region Fund (BRF) alongwith allocation made therefor; and

(b) the time by which the schemes/projects are likely to be implemented/likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) Chandel, Churchandrapur and Tamenlong districts of Manipur are covered under the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme. Every one of the 250 districts covered under the Backward Regions Grand Fund (BRGF) Programme is entitled to receive a fixed minimum amount of Rs.10 crore per annum. 50% of the balance allocation under this programme is allocated on the basis of the share of the population and area of the district in the total population and area of all backward districts. In addition, the State is entitled to a capacity Building Fund of Rs. 3 crore calculated @ Rs.1 crore per district. Based on the above formula, the combined allocation of 3 Manipur districts including the capacity building fund is estimated to be approximately Rs.42 crore during the financial year 2007-08. The exact figures are being worked out. The guidelines provide for the State department concerned to ensure close monitoring of the implementation of the scheme. One or more independent organisations may also be identified for monitoring and implementation of the scheme. The planning and implementation of the programme is to be carried out by the village and district level bodies in accordance with the provisions in the guidelines. The process is yet to commence and no plans have been received in the Ministry.

Mission to Moon

3165. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :
DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA :
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's first mission to the moon, Chandrayana is progressing according to its schedule; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds provided therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Spacecraft structure assembly has been completed. The flight units of space systems and scientific instruments are in an advanced stage of realization. 18m antenna has already been installed for the Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN).

The Government has approved a budget of Rs.386.00 crores for this project.

Functions to Central Vigilance Commission

3166. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the main activities/functions of the Central Vigilance Commission;

(b) the details of the important cases being looked into by the CVC during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the important cases which have been resolved by the CVC during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :

(a) Central Vigilance Commission tender advice to the Government on Vigilance matter, exercises superintendence over the vigilance administration of the Central Government Departments, Corporations, established by or under any Central Act, Government Companies, Societies and Local Authorities owned and controlled by the Central Government. The Commission also enquires into or causes an inquiry into complaints received involving organizations and officers under its purview, and exercises superintendence over the Delhi Special Police Establishment (CBI) for offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The Commission also regularly reviews the progress of investigation conducted by the Delhi Special Police Establishment under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and reviews the progress of applications pending with the Competent Authority for sanction of prosecution under the PC Act, 1988. The Commission is the designated agency to receive complaints under the Public Interests Disclosure and Protection of Informer Resolution.

(b) The Commission attaches equal importance to all cases referred to it or that comes to its notice, in respect of misconducts/irregularities on the part of the public servants of the Central Government Organizations under its jurisdiction and advises appropriate action for departmental action against the officers concerned and for systemic improvement.

(c) The details of cases are given below:—

| Year | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Advised Major Penalty | 991 cases | 722 Officers | 691 Officers |
| Advised Miner Penalty | 481 cases | 340 Officers | 310 Officers |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Exoneration/other action recommended as a 2nd stage advice | 530 cases | 516 cases | — |
| Recommended Prosecution against | 312 Officers | 148 Officers | 282 Officers |

Profitable Mobile Phone Schemes of MTNL

3167. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether the MTNL and BSNL have launched any New Year (2007) bonanza of incentives to promote various schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated annual cost thereof;

(d) whether any other profitable mobile phone schemes are proposed by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

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

(f) the time by which the schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) The New Year (2007) bonanza of incentives to promote various schemes launched by MTNL and BSNL are given in the Annexure.

(c) Normally these schemes are launched for getting new customers and encouraging more calls. It is

expected that additional revenue generated will be more than offset the incentives given.

(d) to (f) MTNL is always revising the tariffs under various plans/schemes to meet the customer requirement, aspirations for all segments of society and to keep the services competitive. MTNL's Jeevan Saathi and One India Plan are already quite popular.

Statement

Schemes launched by MTNL as New Year (2007) bonanza

1. Delhi

- Monthly rental of One India Plan in Delhi was reduced from Rs. 299/- to Rs.180/- w.e.f. 01.11.2006.
- STD tariff of landline has been reduced from Rs. 2.40 per minute to 2.00 per minute w.e.f. 01.01.2007.
- Local call rate between landline to own mobile (Dolphin, Trump, WLL, Garuda) has been revised from Rs.1.20/- per minute to Rs.1.20/- 3 minute w.e.f. 01.01.2007.
- Relaunching of promotional plan 1+1 for basic service (Landline from 05.12.2006 for three months.
- Benefit in booking of MTNL landline extended for 90 days from 01.01.2007.

2. Mumbai

- Tariff from landline and WLL to MTNL own network has been made local with Rs. 1.20 per 180 seconds.
- Tariff from landline/WLL to MTNL Delhi landline/WLL has been reduced from Rs. 1.20 per 30 seconds to Rs. 1.20 per 180 seconds.

- STD tariff of landline/WLL has been reduced from Rs.2.40 per minute to Rs. 2.00 per minute.
- Only incoming plan for landline with Rs.150/- rent per month has been made regular.

Schemes launched by BSNL as New Year (2007) bonanza

Various field units of BSNL launched special packages for the New Year 2007 to attract customers. The salient aspects of the schemes are as follows:-

- Full talk time/extra talk time on some denominations.
- Extra validity period on select recharge coupons.
- Enhanced talk time for students.

[Translation]

Delay in Delivery of Post

3168.SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding delay in the delivery of post by postmen in various areas of the country;

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

(c) whether such complaints have been investigated;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. Complaints are received from time to time regarding delay in the delivery

of post (unregistered letters, registered letters, speed post, registered parcels and money orders) in the various areas of the country.

(b) The details of complaints regarding delay in the delivery of post, State-wise, are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. All the complains are investigated as per the well laid down procedure in the Department.

(d) The outcome of investigations established the reasons for delay in the delivery of post. These are generally attributed to the insufficient address or non-availability of address, besides negligence of delivery staff in some cases and failure of supervisors. 956 employees were found guilty during the last three years for delay in delivery of post.

(e) The Department takes immediate action on the complaints received for their redressal. Improvement of mail delivery is an ongoing exercise and the Department has taken various steps in that direction including installation of automatic mail processing centers in Mumbai and Chennai, computerization of mail operations, segmentation of mail into various channels for local, metro and international mail for quicker sorting and transmission, regular monitoring through test letters and trial cards, live mail surveys, surprise checks on delivery staff, rationalizing and re-structuring delivery work in new developing areas, etc. Responsibility is also fixed on the delivery staff found negligent in performing the duties. During the last three years, 887 officials were awarded punishment for all public complaints after due investigation.

Statement

Details of Complents Regarding "Delay in Delivery of Post"

| Sl. No. | Postal Circle | No. of complaints received about delay in delivery | | |
|---------|---------------|--|---------|---------|
| | | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Assam | 8918 | 12316 | 10673 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 36874 | 41371 | 40561 |
| 3. | Bihar | 8876 | 7804 | 9585 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 13181 | 13868 | 8920 |
| 5. | Delhi | 99999 | 124828 | 103895 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 41901 | 55928 | 60310 |
| 7. | Haryana | 10355 | 20159 | 20425 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 6349 | 8065 | 8109 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 4781 | 5269 | 3972 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 4452 | 7681 | 6581 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 53303 | 59851 | 64953 |
| 12. | Kerala | 25420 | 30180 | 25208 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 21278 | 30034 | 35120 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 83783 | 104728 | 121256 |
| 15. | North East | 8016 | 6566 | 6746 |
| 16. | Orissa | 9361 | 14068 | 11956 |
| 17. | Punjab | 28911 | 50754 | 47170 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 19506 | 24553 | 23351 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 64532 | 95312 | 109707 |
| 20. | Uttar Pradesh | 46883 | 55720 | 54043 |
| 21. | Uttarakhand | 12705 | 12600 | 11949 |
| 22. | West Bengal | 41572 | 45311 | 29750 |
| 23. | Army Postal Services | 4161 | 8231 | 10091 |
| Total | | 655117 | 835197 | 824330 |

[English]

New Satellites by ISRO

3169.SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the satellites launched on January 10, 2007 and the functions assigned to each of them;

(b) the details in respect of data/pictures transmitted by them so far; and

(c) the details of the field where the data are likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C7) launched on 10th January, 2007, carried 4 satellites viz., (i) CARTOSAT-2 for Cartography (ii) Space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE) to demonstrate our capability to recover an orbiting capsule safely back on earth and also for conducting long duration micro gravity experiments (iii) LAPAN-TUBSAT - a 55 Kg. Video surveillance Satellite belonging to Indonesia and (iv) Nano Satellite, PEHUNSAT-I of Argentina meant for carrying out amateur radio experiments.

(b) and (c) India's CARTOSAT-2, carrying a Panchromatic camera (PAN) with a resolution of better than 1m and a swath of 9.6 km. has given satisfactory images over India and other parts of the Globe. CARTOSAT-2 data will be useful for detailed large scale mapping applications and will be utilized for various urban and rural infrastructure development purposes as well as for Land Information System (LIS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) India's Space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-1), a 550 kg. capsule, demonstrated the technology for performing experiments in microgravity conditions and bringing them back. SRE-1 also provided valuable data during the re-entry and recovery operations.

LAPAN-TUBSAT of Indonesia is an Earth observation satellite and a technology demonstrator for experimental message store and forward system. PEHUENSAT-1 is an Argentinean nanosatellite for amateur radio experiment between colleges and universities of Argentina.

Schemes of Panchayati Raj

3170.SHRI MADHU GOUD YAKSHI : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the various programmes/schemes undertaken by the Ministry for under-privileged sections of the society;

(b) the benefits accrued to them as a result thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated and spend during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) to (c) All the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats, read with Article 243ZD of Part IXA, relating to District Planning Committees, are directed towards promoting participative development of the under privileged sections of society. Besides, the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) administered by Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been launched by the Prime Minister on 19th February 2007 at Barpeta in Assam. The programme covers 147 districts has been subsumed into this programme. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is also the nodal Ministry for monitoring the implementation of PESA. PESA is an enabling construed for the self governance of tribals in the states where the Vth Schedule operates. In addition, under the scheme of training and capacity building, elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions are trained which include SCs, STS women representatives details to outlays and capacities given under:—

| Year | Allocation | Expenditure (Rs. in crore) |
|---------|------------|-------------------------------|
| 2004-05 | 10 | 8.45 |
| 2005-06 | 19.40 | 19.30 |
| 2006-07 | 24.50 | 24.50 |

There is a provision for preparation of a separate sub-

plan showing scheme-wise allocation for Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Plan of each Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies under the BRGF Programme. It has been stipulated that schemes benefiting Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be allocated funds at least in proportion to the population of this community under the jurisdiction for which the plan has been prepared. Status of expenditure of funds under Rashtriya Sama Vikas Yojana (RSVY) and Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Backward Districts Initiative-Release of Funds to RSVY districts

As on 14.3.2007

(Rs. in Crore)

| Sl. No. | State/District | Total amount to be released | Amount released in 2003-04 | Amount released in 2004-05 | Amount released in 2005-06 | Amount released in 2006-07 | Total Amount released | Cumulative Expdr. reported by State Govts. | UCs received |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh (10) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Adilabad | 45.00 | 12.50 | 2.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 19.50 | 19.50 |
| | Chittoor | 45.00 | 5.00 | 2.50 | | 15.00 | 22.50 | 12.06 | 12.06 |
| | Karimnagar | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 21.11 | 21.11 |
| | Khammam | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | | 7.50 | 22.50 | 13.54 | 13.54 |
| | Mahboobnagar | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 7.62 | 7.62 |
| | Medak | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.37 | 12.37 |
| | Nalgonda | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 7.55 | 7.55 |
| | Nizamabad | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 16.93 | 14.58 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Vijainagaram | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 7.54 | 7.54 |
| | Warangal | 45.00 | 12.50 | 10.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 37.50 | 27.10 | 27.10 |
| | Total | 450.00 | 40.00 | 72.50 | 37.50 | 82.50 | 232.50 | 145.32 | 142.97 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | | | | | | | | |
| | Upper Subansiri | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 7.50 | 6.40 |
| 3. | Assam (5) | | | | | | | | |
| | Dheemaji | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 5.19 | 5.19 |
| | Karbi-Anglong | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 |
| | Kokrajhar | 45.00 | 5.00 | 7.50 | | 15.00 | 22.50 | 14.44 | 14.35 |
| | N.C. Hills | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 15.00 | 22.50 | 13.26 | 13.26 |
| | North Lakhimpur | 45.00 | 5.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.47 | 12.47 |
| | Total | 225.00 | 10.00 | 27.50 | 7.50 | 52.50 | 97.50 | 52.86 | 52.77 |
| 4. | Bihar (21) | | | | | | | | |
| | Araria | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.07 | |
| | Aurangabad | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 19.75 | |
| | Bhojpur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 19.68 | 13.17 |
| | Darbhanga | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 19.54 | 19.54 |
| | Gaya | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 21.01 | 21.01 |
| | Jamui | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 19.58 | 5.66 |
| | Jehanabad | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 12.02 | 6.29 |
| | Kaimur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 19.64 | |
| | Katihar | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 19.51 | 19.51 |
| | Lakhisarai | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 15.00 | 22.50 | 20.18 | 20.18 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-----------|-------------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Madhubani | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 20.71 | 14.80 |
| | Muzaffarpur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 20.25 | |
| | Nalanda | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 19.53 | |
| | Nawadah | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 21.36 | 19.49 |
| | Patna | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 15.00 | 30.00 | 21.57 | 21.57 |
| | Purnea | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 22.50 | 19.55 | 19.55 |
| | Rohtash | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 21.24 | 21.24 |
| | Samastipur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 19.57 | 19.57 |
| | Sheohar | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.14 | |
| | Supaul | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 19.76 | 19.76 |
| | Vaishali | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 19.56 | 19.5 |
| | Total | 945.00 | 0.00 | 157.50 | 135.00 | 232.50 | 525.00 | 398.22 | 260.89 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh (8) | | | | | | | | |
| | Bastar | 45.00 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 27.26 | 27.26 |
| | Bilaspur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 27.07 | 27.07 |
| | Dantewada | 45.00 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 30.37 | 30.37 |
| | Jasipur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 21.28 | 19.81 |
| | Kanker | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 22.50 | 45.00 | 35.62 | 35.62 |
| | Kawardha/Kabirdi | 45.00 | 5.00 | 2.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 19.69 | 19.69 |
| | Rajnandgaon | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | | 15.00 | 30.00 | 19.97 | 20.79 |
| | Sarguja | 45.00 | 40.00 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 27.41 | 27.41 |
| | Total | 360.00 | | 57.50 | 90.00 | 127.50 | 315.00 | 208.67 | 208.02 |
| 6. | Gujarat (3) | | | | | | | | |
| | Dahod | 45.00 | 5.00 | 2.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.06 | 12.06 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|------------|--------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Dangs | 45.00 | 12.50 | 10.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 37.50 | 27.87 | 23.06 |
| | Panchmahals | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 5.54 | 4.55 |
| | Total | 135.00 | 17.50 | 20.00 | 15.00 | 22.50 | 75.00 | 45.47 | 39.67 |
| 7. | Haryana (1) | | | | | | | | |
| | Sirsa | 45.00 | 0.00 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 22.50 | 45.00 | 34.53 | 28.38 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | | | | | | | | |
| | Chamba | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 28.38 | 28.38 |
| | Sirmaur | 45.00 | | 15.00 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 27.03 | 27.03 |
| | Total | 90.00 | 5.00 | 25.00 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 75.00 | 55.41 | 55.41 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | | | | | | | | |
| | Doda | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 20.03 | 20.03 |
| | Kupwara | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 13.69 | 13.69 |
| | Poonch | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.94 | 12.94 |
| | Total | 135.00 | 5.00 | 25.00 | 22.50 | 22.50 | 75.00 | 46.66 | 46.66 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | | | | | | | | |
| | Bokaro | 45.00 | 5.00 | 2.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 19.56 | 14.99 |
| | Chatra | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 27.82 | 27.82 |
| | Dhanbad | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 37.50 | 27.14 | 27.14 |
| | Garhwa | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 37.50 | 34.67 | 34.67 |
| | Giridih | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.15 | 12.15 |
| | Godda | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 20.09 | 20.09 |
| | Gumla | 45.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 45.00 | 34.79 | 34.79 |
| | Hazaribagh | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 37.50 | 27.17 | 27.17 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Koderma | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 19.51 | 19.51 |
| | Latehar | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 34.58 | 34.58 |
| | Lohardagga | 45.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 35.04 | 35.04 |
| | Palamu | 45.00 | 5.00 | 2.50 | 15.00 | 22.50 | 45.00 | 34.60 | 34.60 |
| | Ranchi | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 27.30 | 27.30 |
| | Saraikela | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 45.00 | 34.63 | 34.63 |
| | Simdega | 45.00 | 7.50 | 15.00 | | 22.50 | 45.00 | 34.85 | 34.85 |
| | West Singhbhum | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 30.00 | 37.50 | 27.22 | 27.22 |
| | Total | 720.00 | 37.50 | 120.00 | 142.50 | 307.50 | 607.50 | 451.12 | 446.55 |
| 11. Karnataka (4) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Bidar | 45.00 | 5.00 | 2.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 13.56 | 13.56 |
| | Chitradurg | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 13.78 | 13.66 |
| | Devengere | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 15.00 | 22.50 | 13.62 | 13.62 |
| | Gulbarga | 45.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | | 7.50 | 22.50 | 13.68 | 11.66 |
| | Total | 180.00 | 12.50 | 25.00 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 90.00 | 54.64 | 52.50 |
| 12. Kerala (2) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Pallakad | 45.00 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 45.00 | 36.51 | 36.00 |
| | Wayanad | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.59 | |
| | Total | 90.00 | 20.00 | 17.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 67.50 | 49.10 | 36.00 |
| 13. Madhya Pradesh (10) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Balaghat | 45.00 | | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 34.52 | 34.52 |
| | Barwani | 45.00 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 45.00 | 37.50 | 22.58 |
| | Dindori | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 22.50 | 45.00 | 28.97 | 28.97 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Khargone | 45.00 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 45.00 | 36.61 | 29.86 |
| | Mandla | 45.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 34.66 | 34.55 |
| | Satna | 45.00 | | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 34.27 | 29.11 |
| | Seoni | 45.00 | | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 34.53 | 34.53 |
| | Shahdol | 45.00 | | 22.50 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 45.00 | 37.45 | 27.27 |
| | Sidhi | 45.00 | | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 35.42 | 35.42 |
| | Umaria | 45.00 | | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 34.90 | 34.90 |
| | Total | 450.00 | 22.50 | 142.50 | 150.00 | 135.00 | 450.00 | 348.83 | 311.71 |
| 14. Maharashtra (9) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Ahmednagar | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.20 | 12.20 |
| | Bhandara | 45.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 20.07 | 18.54 |
| | Chandrapur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 13.62 | 13.62 |
| | Dhule | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 15.00 | 22.50 | 13.47 | 13.47 |
| | Gadchiroli | 45.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | | 15.00 | 30.00 | 20.64 | 20.64 |
| | Gondia | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 14.99 | 10.53 |
| | Hingoli | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 14.58 | 14.16 |
| | Nanded | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 21.91 | 21.91 |
| | Nandurbar | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 14.40 | 13.96 |
| | Total | 405.00 | 15.00 | 67.50 | 60.00 | 90.00 | 232.50 | 145.88 | 139.03 |
| 15. Manipur (1) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Tamenglong | 45.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 35.68 | 35.58 |
| 16. Meghalaya (1) | | | | | | | | | |
| | West Garo Hills | 45.00 | | 7.50 | | 15.00 | 22.50 | 15 | 15 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| 17. Mizoram (1) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Lawngtlai | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 20.70 | 20.70 |
| 18. Nagaland (1) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Mon | 45.00 | | 15.00 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 45.00 | 37.50 | 37.50 |
| 19. Orissa (5) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Gajpati | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 22.78 | 6.09 |
| | Ganjam | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 37.50 | 30.50 | 20.07 |
| | Keonjhar | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 15.04 | 9.50 |
| | Mayurbhanj | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 27.14 | 21.72 |
| | Sundargarh | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 20.34 | 13.38 |
| | Total | 225.00 | 10.00 | 42.50 | 45.00 | 45.00 | 142.50 | 115.80 | 70.76 |
| 20. Punjab (1) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Hoshiarpur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 16.31 | 14.21 |
| 21. Rajastha (3) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Banswara | 45.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | | 45.00 | 34.53 | 34.53 |
| | Dungarpur | 45.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | | 45.00 | 34.86 | 34.86 |
| | Jhalawar | 45.00 | 5.00 | 17.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 35.60 | 28.73 |
| | Total | 135.00 | 35.00 | 47.50 | 37.50 | 15.00 | 135.00 | 104.99 | 98.12 |
| 22. Sikkim (1) | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 37.50 | 32.69 | 25.88 |
| 23. Tamil Nadu (5) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Tiruvannamalai | 45.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | | 45.00 | 36.00 | 36.00 |
| | Dindigul | 45.00 | 5.00 | 17.50 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 45.00 | 35.27 | 35.27 |
| | Cuddalore | 45.00 | | 15.00 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 37.50 | 27.62 | 27.62 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Naggapattinam | 45.00 | | 15.00 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 37.50 | 27.07 | 27.07 |
| | Sivganga | 45.00 | | 15.00 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 37.50 | 27.71 | 27.71 |
| | Total | 225.00 | 20.00 | 77.50 | 75.00 | 30.00 | 202.50 | 153.67 | 153.67 |
| 24. Tripura (1) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Dhalia | 45.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 20.87 | 20.87 |
| 25. Uttarakhand (3) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Chamoli | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 12.21 | 12.21 |
| | Champawat | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| | Tehri Garhwal | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 19.53 | 19.53 |
| | Total | 135.00 | 0.00 | 22.50 | 22.50 | 37.50 | 82.50 | 43.74 | 43.74 |
| 26. Uttar Pradesh (21) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Azamgarh | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 14.06 | 14.06 |
| | Banda | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 19.60 | 19.60 |
| | Barabanki | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 19.50 | 18.00 |
| | Chandauli | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 37.50 | 34.51 | 34.51 |
| | Chitrakoot | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 20.02 | 20.02 |
| | Fatehpur | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 37.50 | 35.36 | 35.36 |
| | Gorakhpur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 19.53 | 19.53 |
| | Hamirpur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 37.50 | 26.26 | 26.26 |
| | Hardoi | 45.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 27.17 | 27.17 |
| | Jalaun | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 19.67 | 14.72 |
| | Jaunpur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 20.59 | 20.59 |
| | Kaushambi | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 27.06 | 27.06 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Kushinagar | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 11.69 | 11.69 |
| | Lalitpur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 20.26 | 13.70 |
| | Mahoba | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 37.50 | 27.00 | 27.00 |
| | Mirzapur | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 37.50 | 27.03 | 27.03 |
| | Pratapgarh | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 13.67 | 13.67 |
| | Raebareli | 45.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 45.00 | 34.61 | 34.61 |
| | Sitapur | 45.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 7.50 | 37.50 | 27.27 | 27.27 |
| | Sonbhadra | 45.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 45.00 | 34.80 | 34.80 |
| | Unnao | 45.00 | 7.50 | | 7.50 | 15.00 | 30.00 | 27.15 | 22.64 |
| | Total | 945.00 | 62.50 | 162.50 | 202.50 | 270.00 | 697.50 | 506.80 | 489.28 |
| 27. West Bengal (8) | | | | | | | | | |
| | 24. South Paragana | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.08 | 10.86 |
| | Bankura | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| | Birbhum | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 14.71 | 13.46 |
| | Jalpaiguri | 45.00 | 12.50 | 2.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 20.78 | 20.78 |
| | Midnapur West | 45.00 | 5.00 | 10.00 | | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.29 | 12.29 |
| | North Dinajpur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 13.45 | 13.45 |
| | Purulia | 45.00 | 12.50 | 2.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 30.00 | 20.26 | 20.26 |
| | South Dinajpur | 45.00 | | 7.50 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 22.50 | 12.32 | 12.32 |
| | Total | 360.00 | 35.00 | 55.00 | 45.00 | 60.00 | 195.00 | 120.89 | 118.42 |
| 28. NABARD | | 9.30 | | 1.08 | 3.24 | 3.30 | 7.62 | | |
| | | 6624.30 | 402.50 | 1241.08 | 1210.74 | 1758.30 | 4612.62 | 3268.85 | 2970.70 |

**Release of Capacity Building funds to States under
BRGF for 2006-07**

(Rs. in crore)

| S. No. | States | Districts | Total entitlement | Amount released |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Sikkim | 1 | 1 crore | 0.9492 |
| 2. | West Bengal | 11 | 11 crore | 10.5 |
| 3. | Andhra Pradesh | 13 | 13 crore | 13 |
| Total | | | | 24.4492 |

Spurious Medicines

3171. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :
CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN :

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

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has made an observation that one out of five medicines sold in India is fake;

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken to eradicate fake/spurious medicines by the Drugs Control Authority;

(c) whether certain organization have submitted information to his Ministry about the methodology adopted by the drug companies; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Drug Control Authority in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No Sir, the World Heal Organisation (WHO)

has not made any such observation. WHO has informed that some individuals in the media and other organizations use WHO references incorrectly irresponsibly.

(b) to (d) Recognizing the need for greater international cooperation in combating counterfeit medical products, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has initiated the process leading to the establishment of an organization called IMPACT (International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce) for combating the spread of counterfeits.

The establishment of the Taskforce (IMPACT) was proposed by WHO and endorsed by 160 participants at an international conference in Rome in February, 2006 representing 57 national drug regulatory authorities, 7 national organizations, 12 international associations of patients organizations, 12 international associations of patients, health professionals pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesalers. The Rome conference issued a set of principles and recommendations, enshrined in 'Declaration of Rome', calling for WHO to lead the establishment of IMPACT and set the conceptual framework of IMPACT and set the conceptual framework of IMPACT's work.

IMPACT is a voluntary grouping of Governments, organizations, institutions, agencies and association from developing and developed countries, aimed at sharing expertise, identifying problems, seeking solutions, coordinating activities and working towards the common goal of fighting counterfeit medical products. IMPACT aims at ensuring appropriate regional representation, including in particular from developing countries. The first General Meeting of IMPACT was held at Bonn, Germany, during 15th and 16th November, 2006.

Further, this Ministry has already initiated the process of amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, to provide for stricter penalties, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Mashelkar Committee, which was set up of comprehensive review of the regulatory system in the country including the extent of problem of spurious drugs and remedial measures to deal with this problem effectively. The major amendments proposed relate to

enhancement of penalties prescribed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, provision of special courts for drug related offences, compounding of offences, authorizing the police also to file prosecution for drug related offences and making all drug related offences cognizable and non-bailable. All this is expected to act as a strong deterrent for manufacturers of counterfeit drugs. Government of India has also launched a 5-year World Bank aided Capacity Building Project for Food Safety and Quality Control of Drugs with a total project cost of Rs. 354.25 crores. Extensive assistance is being provided to State Governments to augment their testing facility by way of equipments, manpower, training and civil works under the Project.

[Translation]

Adulteration in Food Items

3172.SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI :

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

(a) whether several adulterated and fake brands of food items are being sold in the country and are injurious to health;

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

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of the machinery put in place for the monitoring of the food items;

(d) if so, the outcome of the said review during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by the Government based on the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA

LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) The enforcement of the PFA Act 1954 and Rules 1955 is entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. The enforcement staff draw random samples of all food items from all levels viz Manufacturers/Wholesalers/Retailers and as per information provided by them, the percentage of adulterated/misbranded food articles sold in the markets during the years 2001 to 2004 is as under:—

| Year | | % of adulteration |
|------|---|-------------------|
| 2001 | — | 11.79 |
| 2002 | — | 11.71 |
| 2003 | — | 11.03 |
| 2004 | — | 9.39 |

The States/U.Ts. are advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil on the quality of food items sold in the markets and take penal action where the sample of food articles are not found conforming to the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed there under.

Central assistance in terms of civil works in laboratories, laboratory equipments and orientation training for the enforcement staff and Public analysts are being provided under the world Bank aided capacity Building Project for food safety and Quality Control of Drugs.

BSNL Mobile Service

3173.SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mobile service of BSNL has not been working properly in some States despite the fact that the BSNL has a wide network, while the private companies are expanding their network;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service being provided by BSNL is generally working satisfactorily. Most of the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) are met by BSNL. Only in a few parameters like "Traffic Channel (TCH) congestion" and "repair time to customers for assistance", it is not meeting the benchmark in a few circles.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Certain complaints have been received by the Government about poor signal, busy network, no network etc. Details are as under:-

| Sl. No. | Nature of grievance received in Public Grievance Cell, Department of Telecom (DoT) | Number of grievance received in PG Cell (DoT) |
|---------|--|---|
| 1. | No. Network Coverage | 03 |
| 2. | Poor Signal/Network Problem/ Network Busy | 20 |
| 3. | Improvements in Mobile Services | 02 |
| Total | | 25 |

(d) Cellular Mobile network of BSNL is being continuously optimized for its performance and monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by TRAI. Recently Government had got examined the problems of mobile service in Eastern zone through a Committee of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and BSNL officers.

[English]

Ayurvedic Patent Cell

3174.SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received a project proposal for providing Central aid for the formation of an Ayurvedic Patent Cell in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Government have received a project proposal from Government of Kerala for seeking financial assistance for Patent Cell for Ayurveda. The proposal has been examined in the Department of AYUSH. At present there is no scheme for providing central aid for the formation of an Ayurvedic Patent Cell in any State. The Central Government has created the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library to protect traditional medicinal knowledge from misappropriation.

Rural Community Phones

3175.DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) provided by the private teleco operators in the country as per the contractual obligation as on date, state-wise;

(b) the targets fixed by the Government for provision of RCPs vis-a-vis the achievement made there against by the private operators during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the defaulting telecom operators who have failed to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL) is the only private telecom operator providing Rural Community Phones (RCPs). The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with RIL in September, 2004 to provide 21,459 RCPs in identified villages with population of more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs). A statement indicating State-wise number of RCPs provided by the private telecom operators in the country is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) As per the roll-out condition, RIL had to provide 20% of the RCPs by September 2005, another 40% by December 2006 and remaining 40% by September 2007. The targets fixed by the Government for RCPs vis-a-vis the achievement made there against, by the operators during each of the last three years:-

| Year of Agreement | Target | Achievement |
|--------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| First Year of Agreement | 4,291 | 4820 |
| Second Year of Agreement | 8,584 | 9800 |
| Third Year of Agreement | 8,556 | 911 (upto 31.01.2007) |

The State-wise details of RCPs provided during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

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

Statement-I

State-wise Number of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) Provided by Private Telecom Operators in the Country

| Sl. No. | Service Areas | RCPs to be provided by M/s. RIL | RCPs provided by M/s. RIL as on 31.01.2007 |
|---------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1,865 | 1,159 |
| 2. | Bihar | 3,254 | 2,592 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 272 | 174 |
| 4. | Haryana | 626 | 573 |
| 5. | Karnataka | 669 | 486 |
| 6. | Maharashtra | 305 | 158 |
| 7. | Punjab | 225 | 124 |
| 8. | Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry | 1,769 | 1,172 |
| 9. | UP (East) | 4,721 | 4,693 |
| 10. | Uttaranchal | 3,183 | 1,701 |
| 11. | West Bengal | 4,542 | 2,699 |
| Total | | 21,431 | 15,531 |

Statement-II

State-wise details of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) provided during the last three years

| S. No. | Service Areas | RCPs provided during the 1st Year | RCPs provided during the 2nd Year | RCPs provided during the 3rd Year (from January 2007 onwards) | Total RCPs provided as on 31.01.2007 |
|--------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 704 | 172 | 283 | 1159 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|----------------------------|-------|-------|-----|--------|
| 2. | Bihar | 72 | 2,517 | 3 | 2,592 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 142 | 31 | 1 | 174 |
| 4. | Haryana | 292 | 279 | 2 | 573 |
| 5. | Karnataka | 66 | 346 | 74 | 486 |
| 6. | Maharashtra | 146 | -6 | 18 | 158 |
| 7. | Punjab | 94 | 27 | 3 | 124 |
| 8. | Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry | 506 | 663 | 3 | 1,172 |
| 9. | UP (East) | 1,070 | 3,572 | 51 | 4,693 |
| 10. | Uttaranchal | 1143 | 199 | 359 | 1,701 |
| 11. | West Bengal | 585 | 2,000 | 114 | 2,699 |
| Total | | 4,820 | 9,800 | 911 | 15,531 |

[Translation]

Pending CBI Cases

3176. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :

SHRI UDAY SINGH :

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of cases pending before the CBI are mounting day by day;

(b) if so, the number of pending cases with the CBI as on date;

(c) whether reasons for the huge pendency of cases with the CBI have been examined by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government towards clearance of such cases in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :

(a) No, Sir. The number of cases pending under investigation by CBI during the last five years is as follows:-

| Year | Number of cases |
|------|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| 2002 | 1478 |
| 2003 | 1435 |
| 2004 | 1354 |

| 1 | 2 |
|------|------|
| 2005 | 1402 |
| 2006 | 1417 |

(b) As on 31.12.2006, there were 1417 cases under investigation with the CBI.

(c) and (d) Investigation of cases by the CBI takes time because of the complicated nature of cases requiring scrutiny of voluminous documents and examination of large number of witnesses. The CBI endeavours to complete investigation in all cases at the earliest. There is a laid down system of holding monthly and quarterly review meetings where the cases under investigation are examined by the CBI with a view to finalise them early. Norms have also been laid down in the CBI (Crime) manual for finalization of investigation in various kind of case.

[English]

Illegal Telephone Exchanges

3177.SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some illegal telephone exchanges are operating in several parts of the country;

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

(c) whether some officials of VSNL and BSNL are reportedly involved in the running of such illegal telephone exchanges;

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken by the Government against the officials found responsible for it; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to unearth the functioning of such illegal telephone exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on Sourced information, Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Units of Department of Telecommunications, alongwith security agencies have curbed around 291 illegal Telephone Exchanges in the country as soon as they have been detected.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per available records, no VSNL officer involvement has been found till date. In case of BSNL, at two places, officers have been found to have involved in illegal exchange case. The details are given below:-

- (i) At Nagpur City: 5 Officers have been found and based on detention the officials have been suspended from service.
- (ii) At Cuttack: 5 Officials have been found to have involved in an illegal exchange set up for ISD call passing. They were punished by departmental proceedings. Out of these, three have appealed against the punishment and two have accepted the punishment.

(e) Preventive and Stringent action taken by Government:-

- All the High Tech Equipment used in the illegal setup is seized by the security agency and cases have been registered against the offenders. Further investigation in such cases is in progress.
- Surveillance has been increased to detect the frauds by inspecting bulk booking of telephones and monitoring the calls traffic.
- Department of Telecom has issued instructions/ Guidelines to all service providers for effective monitoring, detection and prevention of such illegal set up/frauds.

- Training and presentations are being given to the senior Telecom Officers for better awareness regarding effective detection and prevention of such illegal set ups.
- A close coordination between the service providers and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.
- The notional loss caused in such cases is also raised as penalty from the negligent service providers.
- 34 Vigilance and Telecom Monitoring Cell have been created by Department of Telecom (DoT) in all 24 Telecom Circles and 10 Metros in the country, for curbing such Illegal Telephone Exchanges.
- Toll free public number 1800-110-420 have been opened, so that general public can help the department, in detection of such cases. Advertisement given in leading news papers and SMS's are sent by mobile operators to their customers, for creating awareness among public.

Mining of Radio-Active Materials

3178.SHRI AMITAVA NANDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has received any report regarding incidence of environment contamination in the Eastern Region of the country, caused by the mining of radio-active materials;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Nuclear Plants in the country has suffered from incidents of serious nature causing radiation leaks and physical damages;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial and preventive action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 24th December 2006 leak developed in the pipeline carrying tailings to pond no. 3 at Uranium Corporation of India Ltd., (UCIL), Jaduguda, in East Singhbhum District, Jarkhand State. The leaked tailings did flow through the concrete channel to the nearby nallah. The flow through the pipe was stopped within a few hours on the same day and the pipeline was replaced. The inflow of the nallah was diverted by constructing a temporary bund in the upstream side. The downstream of the nallah beyond the point was also closed by an earthen bund. The nallah between the bunds was cleaned and the material was removed to the tailings pond. Then the nallah was flushed with fresh water and normal flow was restored. After rectification measures the quality of water in the nallah was monitored and it has been found safe. An enquiry was conducted by UCIL involving experts of health physics unit, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, and it was concluded that:-

- (1) due to leakage of pipeline, there was no appreciable radiological changes in the surrounding atmosphere; and
- (2) radiological and chemical impact remained confined within the temporary bunds on the nallah and the villagers were not affected.

The nallah water is not the source of consumption for local villagers as tap water has been provided by UCIL.

After cleaning the tailings slurry from the nallah, the normal environmental condition has been restored.

(c) No, Sir.

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

International Safety Standards in Nuclear Installations

3179. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the nuclear installations/complexes in the country are observing/implementing international safety standards with regard to maintenance of health records of the employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether transparency is maintained in the maintenance of health records of the employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nuclear installations/complexes in India maintained safety standards with regard to maintenance of health records of the occupational workers. The radiation dose records and health surveillance reports of the occupational workers are maintained. Pre-employment medical examination of occupational workers is also carried out and the records of such examination are also maintained.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The radiation dose records and health surveillance reports are accessible to the workers.

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

Setting up of Centres for Organ Transplantation

3180. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether the Government has proposed any changes in the curriculum and medical practice as reported in the Hindu dated January 29, 2007;

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

(c) whether the Government also proposed to set up four centres for organ transplant;

(d) if so, the names of the cities where these centres are likely to be set up; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to simplify and make organ donation procedure transparent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Medical Council of India (MCI) had made certain recommendations regarding amendment in Graduate Medical Regulation 1997 and Post Graduate Medical Education Regulation 2000. These have been returned to the MCI for re-examination.

(c) to (e) Health being State subject, it is for the State Government to provide health care services. However, AIIMS, New Delhi and PGI, Chandigarh are already carrying out organ transplantation. Efforts are on to initiate renal transplant facilities at the hospitals administered by the Central Government at Delhi i.e. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital. The Delhi High Court had constituted a Committee to review the Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994 and the rules framed thereunder. The Committee has made various recommendations for simplifying procedure and for promoting donation of human organs retrieval bank at four major cities have also been made to the Central Government. The Government has considered it necessary to go in for wider consultations with various stakeholders, including State Governments.

Financial Irregularities in AIIMS

3181. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

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

(a) whether there has been financial irregularities in AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any investigation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty in such irregularities in AIIMS; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (f). A complaint has been received through Joint Commissioner of Police, Crime, Delhi alleging inter-alia, that CN Centre of AIIMS was overcharging and not refunding excess money collected from patients. The matter was enquired into. The Institute Body, based on the report asked Director, AIIMS to furnish his response. Director, AIIMS has submitted his preliminary response before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the matter is sub-judice.

[Translation]

Mortality Rate

3182. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA :

SHRI B. MAHATAB :

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY :

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY :

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN :

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

(a) whether the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the country are much higher in comparison to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for high mortality rate during the last five years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the same and to ensure better healthcare to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) According to latest available information from Sample Registration System Bulletin 2006 the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for India is 58 per 1000 live births. Based on the official estimates of Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for India is 301 per 100,000 live births. A comparative statement each for showing Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate of India with other selected countries released by the State of World Population 2006 and by World Health Organization respectively are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively. Reasons of Infant Mortality are measles, diarrhea, sepsis and neonatal reasons; while the causes of Maternal Mortality are hemorrhage, sepsis, abortion, obstructed labor hypertensive disorders and others. The state-wise detail of infant mortality rate during the last five years is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(c) The Govt. of India with a view to increase access to quality health care including services to safe motherhood, has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) with special emphasis on improving the health status of rural population throughout the country. The Mission will operate over a period of seven years (2005-12). The Mission also aims at achieving effective integration of health concerns with determinants of health like sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water through decentralized plans.

The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, which focuses on reduction of Infant and maternal mortality rates, is being implemented as a component of the NRHM. The interventions for reducing child and infant mortality include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhea diseases and due to acute respiratory infections, eradication of polio, prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and essential newborn care. As part of the second phase

of RCH Programme, the Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illnesses is being implemented in the districts in a phased manner.

The interventions for improving maternal health are essential obstetric care, skilled attendance at delivery, promotion of institutional and safe delivery, emergency obstetric care, provision of referral services to pregnant women with complications of pregnancy and provision of assistance to Below Poverty Line families for institutional deliveries through the Janani Suraksha Yojana.

Statement-I

Infant Mortality Rate India and Other Selected Countries, 2006

| S. No. | Country | Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 Live Births) |
|--------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | China | 32 |
| 2. | Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 43 |
| 3. | Japan | 3 |
| 4. | Republic of Korea | 3 |
| 5. | Indonesia | 36 |
| 6. | Malaysia | 9 |
| 7. | Myanmar | 69 |
| 8. | Philippines | 25 |
| 9. | Singapore | 3 |
| 10. | Thailand | 18 |
| 11. | Vietnam | 27 |
| 12. | Afghanistan | 144 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--------------------------|------------------|
| 13. | Bangladesh | 52 |
| 14. | India | 62 |
| | | 58 (SRS 2005) |
| 15. | Iran | 29 |
| 16. | Nepal | 58 |
| 17. | Pakistan | 73 |
| 18. | Sri Lanka | 15 |
| 19. | Australia | 5 |
| 20. | United States of America | 7 |
| 21. | United Kingdom | 5 |
| 22. | More Developed Rgn. | 7 |
| 23. | Less Developed Rgn. | 59 |
| 24. | World | 54 |

Source : The State of World Population 2006 (UNFPA Publication)

Statement-II

Countries with Maternal Mortality Higher than India

(Estimates of Maternal Mortality developed by WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA and published by WHO in their publication

(*'Maternal Mortality - 2000'*)

| Sl. No. | Country | MMR |
|---------|-------------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Afghanistan | 1900 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--------------------------|------|
| 2. | Angola | 1700 |
| 3. | Bangladesh | 380 |
| 4. | Benin | 850 |
| 5. | Bhutan | 420 |
| 6. | Bolivia | 420 |
| 7. | Burkina Faso | 1000 |
| 8. | Burundi | 1000 |
| 9. | Cambodia | 450 |
| 10. | Cameroon | 730 |
| 11. | Central African Republic | 1100 |
| 12. | Chad | 1100 |
| 13. | Comoros | 480 |
| 14. | Congo | 510 |
| 15. | Congo Democratic Rep. | 990 |
| 16. | Cote d'Ivoire | 690 |
| 17. | Djibouti | 730 |
| 18. | Equatorial Guinea | 880 |
| 19. | Eritrea | 630 |
| 20. | Ethiopia | 850 |
| 21. | Gabon | 420 |
| 22. | Gambia | 540 |
| 23. | Ghana | 540 |
| 24. | Guinea | 740 |
| 25. | Guinea-Bissau | 1100 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|------------------------------|------|
| 26. | Haiti | 650 |
| 27. | Kenya | 1000 |
| 28. | Lao People's Democratic Rep. | 650 |
| 29. | Lesotho | 550 |
| 30. | Liberia | 760 |
| 31. | Madagascar | 550 |
| 32. | Malawi | 1800 |
| 33. | Mali | 1200 |
| 34. | Mauritania | 1000 |
| 35. | Mozambique | 1000 |
| 36. | Myanmar | 360 |
| 37. | Nepal | 740 |
| 38. | Niger | 1600 |
| 39. | Nigeria | 800 |
| 40. | Pakistan | 500 |
| 41. | Peru | 410 |
| 42. | Rwanda | 1400 |
| 43. | Senegal | 690 |
| 44. | Sierra Leone | 2000 |
| 45. | Somalia | 1100 |
| 46. | Sudan | 590 |
| 47. | Swaziland | 370 |
| 48. | Tanzania | 1500 |
| 49. | Timor-Leste | 660 |
| 50. | Togo | 570 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--------|-----|
| 51. | Uganda | 880 |
| 52. | Yemen | 570 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|----------|------|
| 53. | Zamia | 750 |
| 54. | Zimbabwe | 1100 |

Statement-III**Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)**

| Sl. No. | State | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|---------|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | All India | 66 | 63 | 60 | 58 | 58 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 66 | 62 | 59 | 59 | 57 |
| 2. | Assam | 74 | 70 | 67 | 66 | 68 |
| 3. | Bihar | 62 | 61 | 60 | 61 | 61 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 77 | 73 | 70 | 60 | 63 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 60 | 60 | 57 | 53 | 54 |
| 6. | Haryana | 66 | 62 | 59 | 61 | 60 |
| 7. | Jharkhand | 62 | 51 | 51 | 49 | 50 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 58 | 55 | 52 | 49 | 50 |
| 9. | Kerala | 11 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 86 | 85 | 82 | 79 | 76 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 45 | 45 | 42 | 36 | 36 |
| 12. | Orissa | 91 | 87 | 83 | 77 | 75 |
| 13. | Punjab | 52 | 51 | 49 | 45 | 44 |
| 14. | Rajasthan | 80 | 78 | 75 | 67 | 68 |
| 15. | Tamil Nadu | 49 | 44 | 43 | 41 | 37 |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | 83 | 80 | 76 | 72 | 73 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| 17. | West Bengal | 51 | 49 | 46 | 40 | 38 |
| 18. | Himachal Pradesh | 54 | 52 | 49 | 51 | 49 |
| 19. | Jammu and Kashmir | 48 | 45 | 44 | 49 | 50 |
| 20. | Arunachal Pradesh | 39 | 37 | 34 | 38 | 37 |
| 21. | Delhi | 29 | 30 | 28 | 32 | 35 |
| 22. | Goa | 19 | 17 | 16 | 17 | 16 |
| 23. | Manipur | 20 | 14 | 16 | 14 | 13 |
| 24. | Meghalaya | 56 | 61 | 57 | 54 | 49 |
| 25. | Mizoram | 19 | 14 | 16 | 19 | 20 |
| 26. | Nagaland | NA | NA | NA | 17 | 18 |
| 27. | Sikkim | 42 | 34 | 33 | 32 | 30 |
| 28. | Tripura | 39 | 34 | 32 | 32 | 31 |
| 29. | Uttaranchal | 48 | 41 | 41 | 42 | 42 |
| 30. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 18 | 15 | 18 | 19 | 27 |
| 31. | Chandigarh | 24 | 21 | 19 | 21 | 19 |
| 32. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 58 | 56 | 54 | 48 | 42 |
| 33. | Daman and Diu | 40 | 42 | 39 | 37 | 28 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 33 | 25 | 26 | 30 | 22 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 22 | 22 | 24 | 24 | 28 |

Voice SMS Facility by MTNL

3183.SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :

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

(a) whether the MTNL has any proposal to provide voice SMS facilities to its consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to come in force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) Sir, MTNL Delhi is already providing Voice Short Messaging Service (SMS) to cellular mobile customers. The service is IVRS based and has been launched on 18.12.2006. The applicable tariff is Rs. 2/- for composing and sending a voice SMS and no charges for retrieval of message by the recipient. In MTNL Delhi, trials are going on to launch voice SMS service by second vendor both for cellular mobile and PSTN customers.

In MTNL Mumbai, trials are also in progress to launch voice SMS service and it is likely to be launched in 1st Quarter of 2007-08.

[English]

Fire Incidents in Coal Mines

3184. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of fire have taken place in coal mines of Dhanbad, Jharia and Raniganj;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether fire in these coal mines has not been completely controlled so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken to control the fire in the coal mines;

(f) the extent to which the fire has been controlled till date as a result thereof;

(g) whether any committee was constituted by the Government regarding fire incidents in the said coal mines;

(h) if so, whether the said committee has given any suggestion in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Coal has the inherent property of spontaneous heating on exposure to oxygen present in air, which may sometimes result in outbreak of fire. The coal seams in Raniganj and Jharia Coalfields are particularly susceptible to spontaneous heating. Occurrences of spontaneous heating often taken place in the course of mining operations and are immediately dealt with. The first fire in Jharia coalfield was reported in 1916. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) Inherited 70 fires existing prior to nationalization.

(c) and (d) In Jharia Coalfield there are 77 fires spread over 41 coalfields in BCCL. 10 fires have been completely extinguished. 9 underground mine fires have been sealed off and 58 are under control but are to be dealt with as per the Master Plan of Jharia Coalfield. The fires in the underground coal mines in Raniganj Coalfield are under control.

(e) As per the updated Master Plan (2006) of Jharia Coalfield for dealing with fire and subsidence a total of 67 fires shall be dealt with under 45 Fire Projects in a span of 12 years at an estimated cost of Rs. 2152.51 crores.

(f) Ten fires have been extinguished completely. The total surface area affected by fire has been reduced to 8.90 sq.km. from 17.2 sq.km.

(g) to (i) The matter has been receiving attention for long and several committees have examined the matter. In Dec., 1996 the Government of India constituted a High Power Committee under Secretary (Coal) to review the problem of Fire and Subsidence in Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields and suggest mitigating measures. The Committee submitted its report alongwith its recommendations which are under implementation. Master Plan for dealing with Fire and Subsidence and rehabilitation of affected populace in Jharia Coalfield and Raniganj Coalfield has been updated for implementation in a period of ten years excluding two years of pre-implementation activities. The Master Plan is under process of approval by Government.

**Amendment in International Long
Distance Licence**

3185. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL :

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend all International Long Distance (ILD) licences for setting the stage for Cable Landing Stations (CLS) and interconnection related reforms;

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

(c) whether the operators have signed the amendments proposed by the Government;

(d) if so, the reaction of the operators in this regard; and

(e) the benefits that are likely to accrue to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Sir. In exercise of powers conferred on the licensor by Condition 12 of the terms and conditions of the ILD Licence, an amendment to ILD Licence has been made effective from 15.01.2007 regarding equal access to bottleneck facility at the Cable Landing Stations, including landing facilities for submarine cables. The details of amendment so issued is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The amendment so issued has been signed by all the operators without any reservation.

(e) The sharing of Cable Landing Station (CLS) will reduce the cost by effective and efficient utilization of resources and will introduce effective competitive in the market resulting into reduction to tariff and ultimate benefit to the consumers.

Statement

*Amendments Made in the Licence Agreement for International Long Distance
Services Effective from 15.1.2007*

| Clause No. | Existing clause | Amended clause |
|------------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2.2 (c) | Equal access to bottleneck facilities for international bandwidth owned by national and international band width providers shall be permitted for a period of five years from the date of issue of the guidelines for grant of licence for ILD service or three years from the date of issue, of first licence for ILD service, whichever is earlier, on the terms and conditions to be mutually agreed. | Equal access to bottleneck facilities at the Cable Landing Stations (CLS) including landing facilities for submarine cables for licensed operators on the basis of non discrimination shall be mandatory. The terms and conditions for such access provisions shall be published with prior approval of the TRAI, by the Licensee owning the cable landing station. The charges for such access provision shall be governed by the regulations/orders as may be made by the TRAI/DoT from time to time. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|--|--|
| 17.5 | The terms and conditions of interconnection including standard interfaces, points of interconnections and technical aspects will be such as mutually agreed between the service providers. | The terms and conditions of interconnection including standard interfaces, points of interconnection and technical aspects will be such as mutually agreed between the service providers within the framework of orders, directions or regulations as may be issued from time to time by TRAI, under TRAI Act 1997. |
| 17.10 | The network resources including the cost of upgrading/modifying interconnecting networks to meet the service requirements of the service will be provided by service provider seeking interconnection. However mutually negotiated sharing arrangements for cost of upgrading / modifying interconnecting networks between the service providers shall be permitted. | The network resources including the cost of upgrading/modifying interconnecting networks to meet the service requirements of the service will be provided by service provider seeking interconnection. However, mutually negotiated sharing arrangements for cost of upgrading/modifying interconnecting networks between the service providers shall be permitted keeping in view the orders, directions or regulations issued by TRAI/DoT from time to time. |

Funds for Supplementary Nutrition for Children

3186.SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds provided for "Supplementary Nutrition for Children" under the Tenth Five Year remain largely unutilised;

(b) if so, the extend of under-utilisation of funds by different State Governments and Union Territory Administrations; and

(c) the number of children benefited under the programme during the said Plan period, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), supplementary nutrition is provided to preschool children, pregnant and lactating women.

Supplementary nutrition under ICDS was, till 2004-05, the responsibility of the State Governments. Since many states were not providing funds adequately for supplementary nutrition, it was decided in 2005-06, to support the States upto 50% of the financial norms or 50% of expenditure incurred by them on supplementary nutrition, whichever is less.

In the year 2005-06, Rs. 97458.55 lakhs has been released from the Government of India to the States and the States have reported an expenditure of Rs. 214270.62

lakh including the State's share. Similarly, during the current financial year 2006-07 (till date), Rs.142684.25 lakh has been released from the Government of India to the States and the States have reported an expenditure of Rs. 156772.67 lakh including the State's share.

State-wise fund released by GOI and expenditure reported by States is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The number of children benefited under the ICDS programme during the X Plan is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Number of children (6 months - 6 year) benefited for Supplementary Nutrition under ICDS Scheme during X Plan (as on 30.9.2006)

| S. No. | State/UT | 2001-02 (as on 31.3.2002 i.e. at the end of IX Plan) | 2002-03 (as on 31.3.2003) | 2003-04 (as on 31.3.2004) | 2004-05 (as on 31.3.2005) | 2005-06 (as on 31.3.2006) | 2006-07 (as on 30.9.2006) |
|--------|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1560901 | 2196322 | 2536035 | 2423099 | 2484768 | 2460044 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 86605 | 63279 | 59049 | 63183 | 88494 | 88979 |
| 3. | Assam | 311773 | 734224 | 1235299 | 1103139 | 1260013 | 1260013 |
| 4. | Bihar | 248957 | 248957 | 1307231 | 2102148 | 4019281 | 4735887 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 966421 | 1144937 | 1398938 | 1416134 | 1480228 | 1259289 |
| 6. | Goa | 38121 | 40155 | 39986 | 39731 | 39571 | 38728 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 1334081 | 1387354 | 1560731 | 1643594 | 565728 | 1535456 |
| 8. | Haryana | 992443 | 984346 | 896907 | 933660 | 864988 | 1056807 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 279280 | 274905 | 309590 | 319945 | 349646 | 330927 |
| 10 | Jammu and Kashmir | 114861 | 216416 | 132206 | 182978 | 273790 | 273790 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 466316 | 151605 | 458954 | 425240 | 1423868 | 1562478 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 2476278 | 2560241 | 2587430 | 2511867 | 2440327 | 2600340 |
| 13. | Kerala | 776871 | 918780 | 939966 | 922125 | 902955 | 773364 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 2413796 | 2791814 | 2265041 | 2841159 | 2650862 | 3360000 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 3108052 | 3935658 | 4055941 | 3304434 | 4837317 | 5060500 |
| 16. | Manipur | 158916 | 158916 | 51538 | 0 | 178905 | 178905 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 144641 | 186171 | 183839 | 188194 | 191321 | 277787 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 81763 | 98807 | 106042 | 113925 | 114114 | 110444 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 228933 | 230579 | 229829 | 243630 | 263075 | 265120 |
| 20. | Orissa | 4459513 | 2049015 | 3689078 | 3685151 | 3717589 | 3662574 |
| 21. | Punjab | 497929 | 444313 | 421575 | 438318 | 552324 | 844803 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 1481708 | 2379278 | 2600195 | 2711322 | 2549408 | 2523155 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 33332 | 31513 | 34353 | 33058 | 30933 | 20850 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 1215642 | 1267784 | 1440075 | 1842967 | 1726249 | 1762751 |
| 25. | Tripura | 100055 | 119350 | 121707 | 148205 | 148205 | 197515 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 3794303 | 3829955 | 1951204 | 6117582 | 7766943 | 13771632 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 194396 | 83789 | 118122 | 372310 | 378258 | 255459 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 3402306 | 3149901 | 2893506 | 3696175 | 3880402 | 3582588 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 26391 | 26391 | 23734 | 21283 | 23378 | 23378 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 28306 | 30395 | 31095 | 31723 | 34563 | 33744 |
| 31. | Delhi | 416124 | 416124 | 418405 | 405647 | 387807 | 387733 |
| 32. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 10225 | 11221 | 11381 | 12520 | 11935 | 11935 |
| 33. | Daman and Diu | 5491 | 8502 | 6977 | 6977 | 7094 | 7094 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 3446 | 3877 | 3877 | 3877 | 4013 | 4013 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 36588 | 35681 | 31341 | 31764 | 29446 | 25230 |
| All India | | 31503764 | 32210555 | 34151177 | 40337104 | 46717707 | 54343310 |

Statement-II**Releases and Expenditure on Supplementary Nutrition 2005-06 and 2006-07**

(Rs. in Lakh)

| S. No. | State/UT | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | |
|--------|-------------------|----------|--|---------------------------|---|----------|
| | | Releases | Expenditure including State share reported by the States | Releases (As on 28.02.07) | Expenditure including State share reported by the States. | Upto |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh* | 4745.42 | 8846.15 | 9052.04 | 13906.36 | 31.12.06 |
| 2. | Bihar | 8260.92 | 18989.12 | 11828.92 | 15892.92 | 31.12.06 |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | 3133.33 | 7129.94 | 2953.64 | 3306.16 | 31.12.06 |
| 4. | Goa | 115.13 | 315.49 | 175.41 | 221.06 | 31.12.06 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 3339.82 | 8199.26 | 3946.29 | 5306.10 | 31.12.06 |
| 6. | Haryana | 1810.62 | 4046.03 | 2829.56 | 1781.44 | 30.9.06 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 660.00 | 1454.00 | 629.63 | 1356.04 | 30.9.06 |
| 8. | Jammu and Kashmir | 343.56 | 2190.07 | 563.09 | 22.12 | 30.9.06 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 761.49 | 12711.01 | 11154.47 | 15698.92 | 31.12.06 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 7379.97 | 12718.70 | 5707.61 | 10092.34 | 31.12.06 |
| 11. | Kerala | 1738.28 | 4703.44 | 3666.11 | 5313.79 | 31.12.06 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 5457.86 | 9457.82 | 5770.97 | 9003.95 | 31.12.06 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 9869.23 | 20676.99 | 8443.33 | 7974.06 | 30.9.06 |
| 14. | Orissa | 6697.98 | 7621.71 | 6646.40 | 3269.72 | 30.9.06 |
| 15. | Punjab | 1246.53 | 2435.80 | 3138.07 | 3514.52 | 31.12.06 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 5534.27 | 12332.06 | 6661.68 | 9745.90 | 31.12.06 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 3703.59 | 5778.00 | 3451.94 | 3704.00 | 31.12.06 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---------------------------------|---|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 18. Uttar Pradesh | | 18128.13 | 45916.19 | 39216.88 | 28069.51 | 30.9.06 |
| 19. Uttaranchal | | 705.72 | 1523.10 | 1347.89 | 1512.35 | 31.12.06 |
| 20. West Bengal | | 6348.24 | 11845.38 | 5916.07 | 8709.02 | 31.12.06 |
| | | 89977.09 | 198890.26 | 133100.00 | 148400.28 | |
| 21. Andaman and Nicobar Islands | | 80.39 | 401.39 | 93.67 | 342.48 | 31.12.06 |
| 22. Chandigarh | | 76.33 | 217.28 | 154.76 | 122.45 | 30.9.06 |
| 23. Dadra and Nagar Haveli | | 22.59 | 68.84 | 22.59 | 0.59 | 30.9.06 |
| 24. Daman and Diu | | 13.74 | 57.00 | 13.74 | | |
| 25. Lakshadweep | | 7.52 | 60.36 | 39.91 | 29.80 | 30.9.06 |
| | | 200.57 | 804.87 | 324.67 | 495.32 | |
| 26. Delhi | | 737.49 | 839.60 | 694.29 | 239.70 | 30.9.06 |
| 27. Pondicherry | | 85.72 | 334.60 | 55.03 | | |
| | | 823.21 | 1174.20 | 749.32 | 239.70 | |
| 28. Arunachal Pradesh** | | 113.41 | 113.41 | 379.84 | 1015.34 | 31.12.06 |
| 29. Assam | | 3066.67 | 5337.64 | 3711.54 | 832.97 | 30.9.06 |
| 30. Manipur | | 664.58 | 1329.16 | 914.32 | 1329.16 | 30.9.06 |
| 31. Meghalaya | | 687.17 | 2279.03 | 1023.42 | 1175.59 | 30.9.06 |
| 32. Mizoram | | 471.24 | 1006.00 | 488.97 | 868.08 | 30.9.06 |
| 33. Nagaland | | 929.07 | 2008.07 | 1188.71 | 1113.74 | 30.9.06 |
| 34. Sikkim | | 118.48 | 544.48 | 95.77 | 479.37 | 31.12.06 |
| 35. Tripura | | 407.06 | 783.50 | 707.69 | 823.12 | 31.12.06 |
| | | 6457.68 | 13401.29 | 8510.26 | 7637.37 | |
| Total | | 97458.55 | 214270.62 | 142684.25 | 156772.67 | |

* In addition to the expenditure reported, Andhra Pradesh has reported a committed liability of Rs. 2279.72 lakh for the year 2005-06 which was paid in 1st quarter of 2006-07 taken into account in 2006.07.

** In addition to the expenditure reported, Arunachal Pradesh has reported a committed liability of Rs.1032.59 Lakh in 2005-06.

National Venture Capital Fund

3187. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Venture Capital Fund to support small and medium enterprises in the I.T. segment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) While such an idea has been mooted, no decision has been taken in this regard.

Pending Dues from MTNL

3188. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Department of Telecom (DoT) has failed to collect licence fee and internet dues from Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

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

(c) the reasons for non-recovery of dues by DoT; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover pending dues from MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Essential Commodities Act

3189. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to keep coal out of the purview of the Essential Commodities Act;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any request to keep coal within the purview of the Act.

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

(e) the time by which the Government is likely to take a decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (e) Coal was earlier classified as an essential commodity in terms of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. With the enactment of the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2006, coal stands omitted from the list of essential commodities. The said Amendment Act came into force with effect from 12.02.2007. In order to regulate colliery operations, coal transportation etc., the Colliery Control Rules, 2004 have been framed under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and were notified in the Gazette of India on 25.08.2004.

Manpower Shortage in Telecom Circle

3190. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Circles in all the States are facing man power shortage; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Flow of Professionals Into Britain

3191. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has held any discussion with Great Britain on the issue of flow of professionals into Great Britain;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome therefrom;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) India and the UK have held discussions regarding the movement of Indian professionals to the UK. The Indian side has highlighted concerns regarding difficulties faced in obtaining relevant visas and work permits in the UK.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Shortage of Paramedicos

3192. DR. P.P. KOYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of Dental Surgeons and Ayurvedic Physicians under the Health Department of U.T. of Lakshadweep;

(b) whether these posts are sufficient;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to sanction more such posts for

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) A statement depicting sanctioned/ filled up and vacant posts under CHS is enclosed. The information in regard to General Duty Medical Officers is as under:—

| Sanctioned | Filled Up | Vacant |
|------------|-----------|--------|
| 22 | 17 | 05 |

Six candidates from CMSE, 2005 have been proposed for Lakshadweep. Out of 6, one has already. Two provisional offers have been issued pending character and antecedent verification. 3 offers will be issued on receipt of medical report.

Statement

| | Lakshadweep | | |
|---------------|-------------|---|----|
| | S | F | V |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Anaesthesia | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Bio-Chemistry | | | 0 |
| Chest and RD | | | 0 |
| Dermatology | | | 0 |
| Ent | | | 0 |
| For Med | | | 0 |
| Gynae | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Haematology | | | 0 |
| Medicine | 1 | 2 | -1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Microbiology | | | 0 |
| Nucl. Med. | | | 0 |
| Ophthal | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Ortho | | | 0 |
| Paed | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Pathology | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Pharmacology | | | 0 |
| PM and R | | | 0 |
| Psych | | | 0 |
| Radio-Diagnosis | | | 0 |
| Radio-Therapy | | | 0 |
| Surgery | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| TB | | | 0 |
| Super-Speciality | | | 0 |
| Cancer Surg. | | | 0 |
| Cardiology | | | 0 |
| Cardio-Thoracic | | | 0 |
| Endocrinology | | | 0 |
| Gastroenterology | | | 0 |
| Nephrology | | | 0 |
| Neurology | | | 0 |
| Neuro-Surgery | | | 0 |
| Paed. Surg. | | | 0 |
| Plastic Surg. | | | 0 |
| Urology | | | 0 |
| Total | 10 | 2 | 8 |

Thorium Detection from Sea Coast

3193. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Thorium has been found from the sea coast along Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated deposits and the value of the precious metal thereof; and

(d) the action plan drawn up by the Government for extracting the Metal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHIVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Beach sand mineral in the sea coast along Kerala and the other Coastal States contains mineral monazite which has thorium. The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of this Department has established resources of 10.21 million tonnes of monazite in the country which contains 0.918 million tonnes of thorium oxide from which about 8,07,713 tonnes of thorium metal can be obtained. Out of the 10.21 million tonnes of monazite established, 1.37 million tonnes of monazite is from Kerala.

(d) The Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL), a Public Sector Undertaking of this Department is operating a monazite processing plant at Udyogamandal, Kerala to process monazite and stockpile thorium concentrate for future use. IREL has also plans to set up such a plant at Orissa.

Implementation of MPLAD Scheme

3194. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received complaints from various corners including Members of Parliament for not following the guidelines by various State

Governments particularly Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh in respect of implementation of MPLAD Schemes;

(b) if-so, the details of the complaints received and remedial measures/fresh guidelines issued or proposed to be issued for proper utilization of the funds released in the MPLAD Scheme;

(c) whether Divisional Commissioners are also not holding meetings with MPs/Officers as stipulated in the guidelines; and

(d) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has received some complaints from various corners including Members of Parliament about not following the MPLADS Guidelines by some State Governments. The complaints generally relate to delay in sanction of works, delay in execution/ completion of works, misappropriation of MPLADS funds, violation of MPLADS Guidelines, irregularities in implementation of MPLAD Scheme. In all cases, the Ministry has called for reports from the State Governments and asked them to take appropriate action against concerned officials. To inculcate further financial discipline at the district level and for making the scheme more transparent, the Government has revised the Guidelines on MPLADS in November 2005.

(c) and (d) As per Para 6.3 of the Guidelines on MPLADS, a committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary/Development Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary is required to review MPLADS implementation progress with the District Authorities and MPs at least once a year. Till date, 12 State Governments have formed Monitoring Committees to review the implementation. The remaining States have been reminded to expedite formation of Monitoring Committees.

Immunization Programme

3195.SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

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

(a) the programmes and schemes being run by the Ministry which aim at increasing the proportion of fully immunized children aged between 12-23 months;

(b) the total amount of funds released by the Government under each of these schemes during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether according to findings of the National Family Health Survey-3 in the year 2005-06, the proportion of children in the age group of 12-23 months who were fully immunized was only 43.5% for the whole country;

(d) whether the immunization schemes are not functioning properly in the country;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Government is implementing the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) for providing protection to children against six vaccine preventable diseases namely Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, and measles.

The State-wise and year-wise break-up of funds released under this programme is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) No Sir, the Universal Immunization Programme is a core activity taken up under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) by all States and UTs. Therefore, the programme has received much attention.

(f) The following steps have been taken by the Government to strengthen the Immunization Programme in the country:—

- strengthening of supervision and monitoring by providing mobility support.
- vaccine delivery support from last storage point i.e. PHC to session-site.
- mobilization of children to immunization session site by ASHA/Link workers.
- to provide services in slums and under served areas where services are deficit by outsourcing immunization services.
- support for review meeting; computer assistance at state and district level.
- strengthening of cold chain facilities.

Statement

Funds released for Immunization Strengthening Programme

| Sl. No. | State | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 109000 | 0 | 652176 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 59000 | 69432 | 41491785 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2999500 | 53000 | 4026826 |
| 4. | Assam | 1712000 | 130685 | 60019847 |
| 5. | Bihar | 0 | 0 | 136455415 |
| 6. | Chhandigarh | 31300 | 86490 | 689400 |
| 7. | Chattisgarh | 20500 | 0 | 42351675 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 35100 | 89978 | 191125 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|-------------------|---------|--------|-----------|
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 59300 | 121184 | 206965 |
| 10. | Delhi | 0 | 44000 | 1865130 |
| 11. | Haryana | 1061700 | 974000 | 10829700 |
| 12. | Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 732194 | 20226727 |
| 13. | Goa | 20000 | 140000 | 690395 |
| 14. | Gujarat | 0 | 0 | 27263618 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 0 | 107060 | 11028736 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 0 | 0 | 100064800 |
| 17. | Kerala | 410500 | 528000 | 23439640 |
| 18. | Lakshadweep | 108600 | 114365 | 114357 |
| 19. | Madhya Pradesh | 173100 | 0 | 85649007 |
| 20. | Manipur | 370100 | 285000 | 5398000 |
| 21. | Meghalaya | 51700 | 20032 | 8503220 |
| 22. | Mizoram | 645800 | 671800 | 4795030 |
| 23. | Nagaland | 441800 | 567800 | 3627085 |
| 24. | Orissa | 1264800 | 100000 | 69738119 |
| 25. | Pondicherry | 132600 | 186645 | 809533 |
| 26. | Punjab | 1076000 | 0 | 15633150 |
| 27. | Rajasthan | 0 | 200000 | 114090661 |
| 28. | Sikkim | 71000 | 78950 | 1055025 |
| 29. | Tripura | 203000 | 179000 | 3615720 |
| 30. | Uttar Pradesh | 0 | 128000 | 298592906 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------------|----------|----------|------------|---|
| 31. Uttaranchal | 87733 | 420767 | 33983055 | |
| 32. West Bengal | 2036400 | 2819000 | 86080022 | |
| 33. Maharashtra | 55000 | 1747805 | 102845570 | |
| 34. Tamil Nadu | 3128000 | 3128000 | 59540000 | |
| 35. Karnataka | 3282500 | 3317000 | 79447192 | |
| Total | 16946033 | 17040189 | 1455011412 | |

Outsourcing of Visa Processing Service

3196.SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has outsourced visa processing services in its mission in US and various other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for selection of agencies for such services; and

(d) the manner in which the security related aspects will be dealt with in such missions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) The Government have not so far outsourced visa processing services in its Mission in the US. However, visa processing services have already been outsourced in the High Commission of India, Dhaka, at present. The State Bank of India has been entrusted with this job. Efforts are currently being made to outsource visa services in the US and other countries as early as possible.

(c) The selection of agencies for such services is proposed to be made through a competitive bidding process taking into account the experience and suitability of the service providers.

(d) The proposal for outsourcing of visa services envisages outsourcing of only non-sensitive aspects, such as collection and collation of visa applications. All security related aspects are to be handled by the Embassies/ Consulates.

Mega Shipyard Project at Kandla

3197.SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ABG Shipyard and Bharati Shipyard have expressed their interest in the proposed project of Kandla Port Trust to develop mega shipyard and ship repair facility on Build Operate Transfer (BOT) basis at Tuna in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) ABG Shipyard and Bharati Shipyard have expressed their interest for participating in the competitive bidding for the proposed project of 'Construction of Ship Repair and Building Yard' on Build Operate Transfer (BOT) basis at Tuna in Gujarat which is estimated to cost Rs.500 crores. Kandla Port Trust has issued tenders for engagement of an Advisory Services Agency for preparation of Request for Qualification, Request for Participation and Draft License Agreement for the said Project. Four major participants for the Advisory Services have been short-listed and they have been asked to submit their offers by 10th April, 2007.

Indo-US ICT Working Group

3198.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-US Information and Communication Technology Working Group met in December 2006 and failed to agree on the manner in which spectrum should be allocated in case of bandwidth;

(b) if so, whether the Group agreed to meet again in January 2007 in US;

(c) if so, the outcome of the meeting held in January 2007;

(d) whether any agreement has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. The meeting of Indo-US ICT Working Group was held on 13th December, 2006. prior to the Working Group Meeting, the meetings of three sub-groups namely Information Technology, Telecom and Media and broadcasting were held on 13th December, 2006. The issue of Spectrum to be allocated for band-width was discussed in Telecom Sub Group meeting. It was mentioned that the Government is making all efforts to make more spectrum available for the roll-out of mobile and broadband services in the country, and spectrum is being allocated as per well laid down transparent allotment policy.

(b) No meeting was held in January, 2007.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Anti Retroviral Treatment for AIDS Patients

3199.SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 90% of the AIDS patients in the country are being treated and being given Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) in the country by the doctors who have neither formal training nor expertise in HIV management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NACO has conducted any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the infrastructure in the Government

hospitals is not sufficient to meet the growing number of AIDS patients in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) There are an estimated 5.2 million Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) in the country. At any point of time, based on their immunity status (CD4 Count less than 200/cu mm), nearly 10% PLHAs require Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART).

Government of India took a policy decision in 2004 to introduce provision of ART to eligible HIV/AIDS patients. Till date 107 ART Centres have been set up in medical colleges and district hospitals where more than 60,000 patients are getting treatment free of cost. In all these centers, the medical and paramedical staff are trained in accordance with the National Treatment Protocols.

(e) and (f) Under Phase-III of NACP (2007-12), 250 ART centers are proposed to be established with a capacity to treat 3,40,000 adults and children with HIV/AIDS. ART centers in hospitals of PSUs, Corporate Sector and selected NGOs will also be supported where trained doctors will provide treatment as per Government Guidelines.

[Translation]

Distribution of free Medicines to Patients

3200.SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

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

(a) whether medicines are distributed in Government Hospitals free of cost;

(b) if so, the details of the medicines procured for this purpose during the last three years;

(c) whether such medicines are being sold in open market unauthorisedly;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such malpractice;

(e) the number of officials found committing such malpractice during the last three years; and

(f) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) In so far as three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, namely, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and its associated hospitals, are concerned, medicines according to formulary and available in stock are distributed free of cost to patients as per the existing policy. The statement of allocation for purchase of supply and materials (including medicines) during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (f) No such incidence has come to the notice of this Ministry.

*Expenditure Incurred on Material and Supplies
Including Medicines*

(Rupees in thousands)

| Name of the Hospital | 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Dr. R.M.L. Hospital | 90500 | 97500 | 119200 |
| Safdarjung Hospital | 168300 | 184290 | 195000 |
| LHMC and its associated hospital | 71590 | 71590 | 71590 |

[English]

Visit of Indian Prime Minister to Japan

3201.SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL :

SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has visited Japan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the agreements signed on the occasion;

(c) whether the Prime Minister invited the Japanese business leaders to invest in India;

(d) If so, the response of the businessmen thereto; and

(e) the benefits likely to be accrued to both countries as a result of these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister paid an official visit to Japan from 13-16 December 2006. The list of agreements is enclosed as statement.

(c) to (e) Yes. An "India-Japan Special Economic Partnership Initiative" (SEPI) was announced by the two Prime Ministers. This initiative will promote enhancement of investment from Japan to India and help develop India's infrastructure and manufacturing capacity, taking full advantage of the ample availability of skill and human resources and the public-private partnership policy initiative of the Government of India. A Business Leaders' Forum to develop a road-map for enhanced partnership and cooperation at the business level is also being established. The response from Japanese Business persons has been positive.

Statement

1. Memorandum of Cooperation between Japan Coast Guard and Indian Coast Guard.
2. Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation program between Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and the Japan Science and Technology Agency

3. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science and Technology between Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and RIKEN, Japan.
4. Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (CCR) and the Japan Foundation.
5. Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of Japan for Establishment of the "Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor".
6. Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan (METI) and Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the establishment of the Japan India Policy Dialogue (JIPD) at the Ministerial level.
7. Joint Statement on Promotion of India Japan Tourism Exchanges.
8. Joint Ministerial Statement on the launching of Joint Task Force to develop an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)/Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the Republic of India and Japan.
9. Cooperation Agreement between the Government of India and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).
10. Memorandum of Understanding on development of Indian Institute of Information for Design and Manufacturing with Japanese Assistance at Jabalpur.

New Draft for Women Marrying OIC

3202. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any consultations between the National Commission for Women and the Ministry of Women and Child Development have been held regarding protection of Indian girls married to NRIs;

(b) if so, the outcome of such consultations;

(c) whether the draft information booklet for guidance of women planning to get married to Overseas Indians has been revised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) held consultations with National Commission for Women (NCW) and the Ministry of Women and Child Development to discuss the problems relating to NRI marriages. It was decided to organize joint regional workshops in the States concerned to create awareness amongst the prospective brides and their parents. Consequently, MOIA in collaboration with NCW, organized two regional workshops, one in Chandigarh and the other in Thiruvananthapuram. In the regional workshops a number of recommendations have been made which will be considered for implementation by the Ministries concerned.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The revised guidance booklet on "Marriages to Overseas Indians" was released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, 2007 on 7th January, 2007.

The guidance booklet contains information in simple language about precautions which need to be taken before entering into marital alliance with NRIs, rights of NRI spouses and Indian women, provisions in the Indian legal system relating to marriage, divorce, maintenance, etc., and help lines which can be made use of in case of any problems. It also provides an insight into realistic expectations about life abroad.

CVC Deadlines for Delivery Services

3203. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has planned to make it mandatory for Public Service

Departments to stipulate a deadline for delivery of services.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action proposed to be taken against the defaulting officers who fail to adhere to the stipulated time schedules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) :

(a) to (c) The Central Vigilance Commission has issued guidelines to all Government Departments/Organizations/ Agencies for improving vigilance administration by leveraging technology. These guidelines, however, do not make it mandatory for public service departments to stipulate a deadline for delivery of services. The Commission's guidelines are aimed at ensuring that government organizations, which have interface with the general public provide complete information on their websites regarding the laws, rules and procedures governing the issue of licenses, permissions, clearances etc. The Commissions has further advised the Heads of Departments to adopt a proactive approach to ensure regular updating of the information on their websites.

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries

3204.SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU :

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY :

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of visits made by foreign dignitaries to India during the last three months, till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each one of them;

(c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of visits undertaken by the Prime Minister as well as External Affairs Minister during the above period;

(f) the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to further improve the relations with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (d) During the last three months till date, 13 Foreign Heads of State/Government, 2 Vice Presidents, 7 Deputy Prime Ministers, 19 Foreign Ministers and other dignitaries visited India. Details of issues discussed with them and bilateral agreements signed are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) and (f) During the same period, Prime Minister visited two countries viz. Japan and Philippines, and EAM visited ten countries viz. Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Iran, and Philippines. Details of discussions and outcome of these visits are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(g) The Government are engaged with these countries through high-level visits and other initiatives to further expand our relations with them.

Statement

African Union

1. Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the Commission of the Africa Union paid an official visit to India from December 19-21, 2006. During the visit, he called on the President and EAM. During his meeting with External Affairs Minister (EAM) and Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs (AS), Prof. Konare conveyed the

desire of the AU to expand Africa's relations with Indian and proposed an AU-Indian Summit. The need for a high level political dialogue with a Group of 12 African Heads of State/Government was discussed and to realize this objective, it was felt that a Working Group be set up to draw up an Agenda and ensure follow up action. EAM conveyed India's desire to cooperate further with the AU and assist it in realizing its vision of Africa unitedly building Africa. The two sides also discussed historical and cultural ties between Indian and Africa, the importance of democratic values, and implementation of the Pan Africa e-network.

Armenia

2. A Parliamentary delegation from Armenia, led by H.E. Mr. Tigran Torosyan, President of the Armenian National Assembly, visited India from December 13-17, 2006. The delegation held meetings with the Vice President, Speaker (Lok Sabha), EAM, Leader of the Opposition and Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs to discuss bilateral relations and parliamentary exchanges between the two countries.

Austria

3. Dr. Ursula Plassnik, Federal Minister for EU and International Affairs of Austria paid on official visit to India from March 15-18, 2007. During the visit, the Austrian Minister called on PM and met EAM, Ministers of Science and Technology and Social Justice and Empowerment. The two sides discussed bilateral relations, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

Belarus

4. The Minister of External Affairs of Belarus, Mr. Sergei Martynov visited India on February 22-23, 2007. He met EAM, Minister of Commerce

and Industry and MOS for External Affairs to discuss further strengthening of the India-Belarus relations and forthcoming visit of the President of Belarus to India.

Bhutan

5. The Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E. Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuck, and Foreign Minister of Bhutan visited India from January 28-February 1, 2007 to participate in the 'Conference on Peace, Non-Violence and Empowerment' (Satyagraha Conference) held in Delhi from January 29-30, 2007.
6. His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan, paid on official visit to India from February 7-12, 2007. Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and senior officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan accompanied His Majesty the King. During the visit, both sides exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues. The Government of India reaffirmed its full support to Bhutan during its period of transition to a democratic constitutional monarchy, including for the forthcoming elections. India reiterated its commitment to provide all possible assistance within its resources, to the Royal Government of Bhutan in its socio-economic development programme, including the on-going Ninth Five Year Plan and the forthcoming Tenth Five Year Plan. The updated India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty was signed on February 08, 2007 in New Delhi.

Botswana

7. The President of the Republic of Botswana, H.E. Mr. Festus G. Mogae, paid a State visit to India from December 7-13, 2006. The two countries discussed cooperation in health and education sectors, setting up of a science and technology institute in Botswana, mining including exploration for diamonds in Botswana, rural

development and international and regional issues. PM offered Botswana a line of credit of US\$20m and grant assistance of \$ 11m. Botswana President committed support to India on the India – SACU PTA, India – SADC Forum and Permanent Membership in the UN Security Council. The following Agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit:-

- (a) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement.
- (b) General Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation.
- (c) Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2007-2010.
- (d) Country Agreement with the Government of Botswana for Pan-African e-Network.

China

8. Mr. Li Zhaoxing, Foreign Minister of China visited India from February 11-14, 2007. The visit provided an opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the understandings reached during the visit of the Chinese President to India in November 2006. He also attended the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, China and Russia.

Egypt

9. The Egyptian Foreign Minister Mr. Aboul Gheit visited India from December 15-16, 2006 to co-Chair the 5th Session of India-Egypt Joint Commission meeting in New Delhi. He had detailed talks with EAM on various bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The 5th session of the India-Egypt Joint Commission, co-chaired by EAM and the Egyptian Foreign Minister, was held on December 16. The Joint Commission discussions focused on strengthening cooperation in economic, commercial, science and technology, agriculture, IT, and cultural

fields. Following Agreements/Documents were signed during the visit:-

- (a) the Partnership Agreement.
- (b) the Executive Programme of Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation for the years 2007-2009.
- (c) the Executive Programme of Science and Technological Cooperation for the years 2007-2009.
- (d) the Work Plan under the Agreement on Cooperation on Agriculture for the years 2007-2008.
- (e) Memorandum of Understanding Bilateral Air Services.

El Salvador

10. Mr. Francisco Lainez, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of El Salvador visited India from March 4-9, 2007. The two sides discussed bilateral issues and agreed to promote cooperation in a variety of areas and including multilateral fora.

European Union

11. Dr. (Ms) Benita Ferrero Waldner, EU Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy visited India from February 16-20, 2007. India-EU, regional and global issues were discussed.

Fiji

12. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Fiji paid an official visit to India from March 3-6, 2007. During the visit, he had meetings with EAM and Minister of Tourism and Culture. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and international issues of common interest.

Finland

13. H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen, President of Finland

visited Delhi from January 20-24, 2007 in connection with the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from January 22-24, 2007 organized by TERI. She was accompanied by Minister of Trade and Industry Mauri Pekkarinen and a business delegation. The Finnish President met with President, PM, and Chairperson, UPA. Bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed. This was a private visit.

France

14. Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy, Foreign Minister of France visited India from November 30-December 1, 2006. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.

Iceland

15. H.E. Dr. Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, President of Iceland, visited India from January 20-25, 2007 in connection with the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from January 22-24, 2007 organized by TERI. He had meetings with President, PM, Chairperson, UPA, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Murli Deora, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Panchayati Raj Shri Mani Shanker Iyer, and Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Praful Patel. Bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed. This was a private visit.

Indonesia

16. Mr. Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of Indonesia, visited India from January 28-31, 2007 for participation in the Satyagraha Conference. During his visit, the Indonesian Vice President called on the Prime Minister and Vice President. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Italy

17. H.E. Dr. Romano Prodi, Prime Minister of Italy,

accompanied by Minister for International Trade and European Affairs, Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for Family Policies visited India from February 10-15, 2007. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed. Following documents were signed during the visit:-

- (a) Memorandum of Understanding on setting up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism and Trans-National Crime.
- (b) Memorandum of Understanding on Renewable Energy Cooperation.
- (c) Cultural Exchange Programme 2007-09.

18. Mr. Francesco Rutelli, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Welfare and Cultural Activities visited India from January 27-31, 2007. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.

Jordan

19. H.M. King Abdullah-II Bin Al Hussein and H.M. Queen Rania Al-Abdullah accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Mohammed, Minister of Industry and Trade Salem Khazaale, Minister of Information and Communication Technology Bassem Roussan and other senior officials including a business delegation visited India from November 30-December 2, 2006. During the visit, the King held discussions with President and Prime Minister on the bilateral relations and the regional situation. Chairperson of UPA, and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha called on the King. Following Agreements/ Documents were signed:-

- (a) Cooperation in Agriculture.
- (b) Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection.
- (c) Cooperation in Tourism.
- (d) Cultural Exchange Programme.

20. As a result of bilateral talks, M/s. IFFCO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Ltd. (JPMC) on January 31, 2007 to set up a state of art phosphoric acid plant with a capacity of 1500MT P205 per day. IFFCO and its associates will hold 52% equity and JPMC and its associates will hold the remaining 48% in the joint venture.

Luxembourg

21. Mr. Jean Asselborn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration visited India from February 19-23, 2007. He called on Speaker, Lok Sabha and met EAM, National Security Adviser (NSA) and others. During his meeting with these dignitaries, bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed.

Malaysia

22. Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia visited India on February 15-16, 2007 in connection with the 4th India-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi on February 16, 2007. During the visit, the Malaysian Foreign called on PM and met EAM. Bilateral, Regional and international issues were discussed.

Maldives

23. H.E. Mr. Maumoon, Abdul Gayoom, President of Maldives, accompanied by his Foreign Minister, visited India from January 27-February 1, 2007 to lead the Maldivian delegation to participate in the Satyagraha Conference.
24. Dr. Ahmad Shaheed, Foreign Minister of Maldives visited India from March 15-18, 2007 at the invitation of the IDSA to deliver the Valedictory Address at the International Seminar on Economic Cooperation for the Security and Development in South Asia. During the visit, he paid a courtesy call on EAM.

Mauritius

25. H.E. Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister Mauritius, visited India from January 28-February 1, 2007 to attend the Satyagraha Conference held in New Delhi.
26. Mr. Madan Dulloo, Foreign Minister of Mauritius visited India to participate in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) celebrations held in New Delhi from January 7-9, 2007. He chaired the Africa Session at the PBD.

Myanmar

27. General Thura Shwe Mann, Chief of Joint Staff of the Union of Myanmar, visited India from December 4-9, 2006. He met with Air Chief Marshal S.P. Tyagi, Chief of Air Staff, Chief of Army Staff, Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and had an audience with the President. During these meetings, bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Norway

28. The Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr. Jonas Gahr Store paid an official visit to India from December 14-15, 2006 in connection with the Second Session of the Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between India and Norway. Apart from bilateral meeting with EAM, the visiting Foreign Minister also had meetings with Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Environment and Forests where bilateral relations including political and economic issues were discussed. During the JCM, the following were signed:-
- An Arrangement between the Government of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on Gainful Occupation for Family Members of a Diplomatic Mission or Consular Posts; and
 - Terms of Reference (TOR) for establishing the Indo-Norwegian Joint Working Group of Environment

Pakistan

29. The Pakistan Foreign Minister Mr. Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri visited India on February 20-22, 2007 to attend the 5th India-Pak Joint Commission meeting held on February 21. EAM and FM of Pakistan reviewed the progress of eight Technical Level Working Groups formed during the 4th Joint Commission meeting held in Islamabad in October 2005. Eight Working Groups cover areas such as environment, Science and Technology, Tourism, Agriculture, Health, IT and Communication, Education and Information. An agreement on "Reducing the Risk from Accidents relating to Nuclear Weapons" was signed between the two countries on February 21, 2007 in the presence of EAM and FM of Pakistan.

Portugal

30. H.E. Mr. Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of Portugal, accompanied by Minister of Culture, Minister for Economy and Innovation, MOS for Foreign Affairs, and MOS for Science and Technology and Higher Education visited India from January 11-17, 2007. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed. Following agreements/documents were signed during the visit:-

- (a) Extradition Treaty.
- (b) Cultural Exchange Programme 2007-09.
- (c) Education Exchange Programme 2007-09.

Russia

31. H.E. Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, paid an official visit to India from January 25-26, 2007 for the Annual Summit meeting. He was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations. He was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Mr.

Alexander Zhukov, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Mr. Sergie Ivanov and Foreign Minister Mr. Sergie Lavrov apart from other senior functionaries. During the visit, President Putin met the President, Prime Minister and Chairperson of the UPA. Both sides discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern. During the visit, following documents were signed between the two governments:-

- (a) Joint Statement on the outcome of the official visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India.
- (b) Programme of Cultural Exchanges for the years 2007-09.
- (c) Protocol on holding "Year of Russia in India" in the year 2008 and "Year of India in Russia" in the Year 2009.
- (d) Memorandum of Intent on development of cooperation in the construction of additional nuclear power plant units at the Kudankulam site as well as in the construction of Russian design nuclear power plants at new sites in the Republic of India.
- (e) Agreement on access of the Indian Party to navigation signals of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS for peaceful purposes.
- (f) Agreement on access of the Indian Party to a part of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS Radio Frequency Spectrum.
- (g) Agreement on cooperation in the joint satellite project 'YOUTHSAT'.
- (h) Protocol on exchange of information between the two customs on the

movement of goods and conveyances between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation.

- (i) A Joint Statement by President Putin and the Prime Minister on the peaceful uses of atomic energy was also issued.

32. The Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Alexander Zhukov visited India from December 7-10, 2006. He co-chaired the 12th Session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC) on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation on 8th December in Delhi. The two sides discussed ways of enhancing bilateral trade and investment, economic cooperation in areas such as energy, metallurgy, commercialization of new and innovative technologies and links between the financial sectors. A Protocol on the deliberations of the IRIGC was signed at the end of the meeting.
33. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Mr. Sergei Lavrov visited India on February 14, 2007 for the India-Russia-China Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting. The three countries discussed trilateral cooperation, current global situation and recent developments on regional and international issues of mutual concern. A Joint Communique was issued at the end of the meeting.
34. The Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister, Mr. Sergei Ivanov visited India from January 23-26, 2007. He co-chaired the Sixth Meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission for Military Technical Cooperation (IGC-MTC) and joined the delegation of President Putin to India. During the visit, agreements on the licensed production of RD-33 aero engines in India, Protocol of Intent on joint design, development and

production of multi-role transport aircraft, and Protocol on the Sixth Meeting of IGC-MTC were signed between the two sides.

Singapore

35. The Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, Prof. S. Jayakumar, visited India from January 6-8, 2007. He was the Chief Guest at the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2007 celebrations. During his stay, Prof. Jayakumar called on Prime Minister, EAM and Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.
36. Mr. George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore visited India from January 16-23, 2007. During the visit, he called on Prime Minister, EAM, Ministers of Human Resource Development, Finance, Commerce and Industry, and Petroleum and Natural Gas. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Slovenia

37. H.E. Mr. Janez Drnovsek, President of Slovenia, visited India in connection with the Satyagraha Conference held in New Delhi from January 29-30, 2007. He had meetings with PM, UPA Chairperson, and EAM, wherein he discussed matter of mutual interest

Sweden

38. The Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden Ms. Maud Olofsson, visited India in connection with the Satyagraha Conference held in New Delhi from January 29-30, 2007. She had meetings with Chairperson, UPA, EAM and Urban Development Minister. She also visited Chennai to receive the Swedish East India ship "Gothaborg" which embarked on two-year voyage repeating epic journeys first made over 250 years ago.

Sri Lanka

39. Sri Lankan Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Wickremanayake visited India on January 28-30, 2007. During the visit, he met PM and EAM. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mr. Rohitha Bogollagama visited India on January 30-31, 2007. During this visit, he called on PM and met EAM. During these meetings, bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Thailand

40. HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand visited India from March 5-9, 2007. During the New Delhi part of the visit on March 6, 2007, the Princess called on the Vice President and had a meeting with EAM. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Vietnam

41. Mr. Pham Gia Khiem, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam visited India from February 25 to March 1, 2007 in connection with the 13th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi on February 27, 2007. During the visit, he called on PM and met EAM. Bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed.

Statement-II*Visits of Prime Minister***Japan**

1. PM visited Japan from December 13-16, 2006 at the invitation of the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The two leaders decided to establish a Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan. Both sides agreed that cooperation in Science and Technology, including in frontier areas of research and

development, and the increase in cultural, academic and people-to-people exchanges constitutes an important element of the Strategic and Global Partnership between the two countries. They announced an "India-Japan Special Economic Partnership Initiative" (SEPI) which will promote enhancement of investment from Japan to India and help develop India's infrastructure and manufacturing capacity. They reaffirmed their determination to strengthen cooperation and coordination between India and Japan for comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including the expansion of the UN Security Council. They exchanged views on other global, regional and bilateral issues. The following agreements/documents were signed during the visit:-

- (a) Joint Statement: Towards India - Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.
- (b) Memorandum of Cooperation between Japan Coast Guard and Indian Coast Guard.
- (c) Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation Programme between Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and the Japan Science and Technology Agency.
- (d) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science and Technology between Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and RIKEN, Japan.
- (e) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Cultural for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Japan Foundation.
- (f) Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Ministry of

Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan for Establishment of the "Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor".

- (g) Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan and Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India for the establishment of the Japan-India Policy Dialogue at the Ministerial level.
- (h) Joint Statement on the promotion of India-Japan tourism exchanges.
- (i) Joint Ministerial Statement on the launching of a Joint Task Force (JTF) to develop an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)/ Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Japan.
- (j) Cooperation Agreement between the Government of India and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).
- (k) Memorandum of Understanding on the development of Indian Institute of Information Technology for Design and Manufacturing (IITDM) with Japanese assistance at Jabalpur.

Philippines

- 2. PM visited Cebu in the Philippines from January 13-15, 2007 to participate in the 5th ASEAN-India Summit and 2nd East Asia Summit (EAS). The deliberations focused on strengthening India's cooperation with the ASEAN countries. The 16-EAS leaders signed a Declaration on the East Asian Energy Security.

Visits of the External Affairs Minister

Afghanistan

- 3. External Affairs Minister visited Kabul on

January 23-24, 2007. He invited President Karzai to the 14th SAARC Summit to be held in New Delhi in April 2007. During the visit, EAM called on President Hamid Karzai, Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga Mohammad Yunus Qanooni, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Relations of the Wolesi Jirga Ustad Rasool Sayyaf and Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta. In the official talks with Dr. Spanta, the entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed. As part of India's long-term commitment to the stability, progress and peace in Afghanistan, India announced an additional pledge of US\$ 100 million. With this additional pledge, India's total assistance to Afghanistan's reconstruction has increased to US\$ 750 million. An MoU on Capacity Development of Afghanistan was signed with the UNDP and Afghan Government.

- 4. During the visit, EAM handed over the Polyclinic Block of Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH), built with India's assistance. Also, the road adjacent to the IGICH was named as "Indira Gandhi Road" with the unveiling of a plaque by EAM.

Bangladesh

- 5. EAM visited Bangladesh on February 19, 2007 and extended an invitation to Bangladesh to participate in the 14th SAARC Summit being held in New Delhi. During the visit, he had detailed discussions with President Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed, the Chief Advisor of Caretaker Government, Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, and Foreign Affairs Advisor Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury. The discussions centered on bilateral relations and the forthcoming SAARC Summit. Both sides agreed to take steps to place bilateral relations on an "irreversible higher trajectory".

Bhutan

- 6. EAM visited Bhutan from December 2-3, 2006

to invite His Majesty the King of Bhutan to the 14th SAARC Summit being held in New Delhi. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss the progress and further possibilities for strengthening of Indo-Bhutan relations. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen and widen relations in all spheres.

Iran

7. EAM visited Iran on February 6-7, 2007. discussions were held on bilateral and regional issues. EAM conveyed to the Iranian side that India greatly values its relations with Iran and views mutual cooperation as critical to the future security and prosperity of the region. It was emphasised that Iran was important for India's energy security and for transit to Afghanistan and Central Asia. The two sides discussed the supply of gas through the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project.
8. On the nuclear issue, EAM emphasized that the issue should be resolved peacefully through dialogue and negotiations. The two sides also discussed the situation in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine and other issues.

Maldives

9. EAM visited Maldives on January 10, 2007. During his visit, EAM called on President of Maldives and handed over to him an invitation letter, inviting him for the SAARC Summit to be hosted by India in New Delhi. EAM's meetings with the Maldivian dignitaries were utilized to review the state of bilateral relations and enhance economic and technical cooperation.

Myanmar

10. EAM paid an official visit to Myanmar from January 19-21, 2007. During his meeting with the Myanmar leadership, the full range of bilateral relations including development of the

India-Myanmar border region through various infrastructure projects, measures for enhancing bilateral trade, cultural and educational exchanges, and co-operation in the field of energy sector were discussed.

Nepal

11. EAM visited Kathmandu on December 17, 2006. He called on the Nepalese Prime Minister and handed over to him an invitation from PM to attend the 14th SAARC Summit being held in New Delhi. EAM also met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli.
12. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss the progress and possibilities in examining the close and multidimensional ties between India and Nepal. It was stressed that at this crucial time in Nepal's history, India remains steadfast, as ever, to extend all possible assistance to Nepal in accordance with the priorities and wishes of the Government and People of Nepal.

Pakistan

13. EAM visited Pakistan on January 13-14, 2007 to convey Prime Minister's invitation to Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to attend the 14th SAARC Summit being held in New Delhi. EAM called on the President, Prime Minister and met Foreign Minister of Pakistan.
14. EAM and FM of Pakistan agreed (i) to establish a committee on prisoners comprising retired judges of the superior judiciary to visit jails in the two countries and propose steps to ensure humane treatment and expedite release of prisoners who have completed their prison terms; (ii) to expedite the liberalization of the visa regime; (iii) on Siachen, it was decided that the officials will meet at an early date to address the issue; (iv) procedures will be worked out to

facilitate movement of diplomats to Noida and Gurgaon in India and Taxila and Hasan Abdal in Pakistan; (v) first meeting of the Joint Anti-Terrorism Mechanism will take place before the end of March 2007; (vi) the joint survey of Sir Creek will begin on 15th January 2007, officials concerned will be directed to expedite their work on Sir Creek; and (vii) the Fourth Round of Composite Dialogue would be held from March 13-14, 2007.

Philippines

15. EAM visited Cebu in Philippines on January 11-12, 2007 to participate in the India-ASEAN Ministerial meeting and the East Asia Meeting of Foreign Ministers. During his visit, the deliberations focused on strengthening India's Dialogue Partnership with the ASEAN and regional cooperation.

Sri Lanka

16. EAM visited Colombo on January 9-10, 2007 to extend the SAARC Summit invitation to the President of Sri Lanka. EAM called on President, Prime Minister and met Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka. The two sides discussed issues of mutual interest, including the peace process in Sri Lanka and bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, culture and people-to-people contacts.

Unhygienic Condition in Safdarjung Hospital

3205.SHRİ RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether hygienic condition at Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi is in a pitiable condition
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken to improve hygienic condition at Safdarjung Hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) The hygienic condition at Safdarjung Hospital is very satisfactory. The sanitation of the hospital is maintained by 346 safaikarmacharis, 165 workers of Sulabh International and 58 workers of M/s. BVG India Ltd. The sanitation of the hospital is supervised by Sanitary Inspectors and two sanitary Superintendents, one Chief Sanitary Superintendent, one Chief Medical Officer under the supervision of Additional Medical Superintendent. An Internal Sanitation Review Committee consisting of six senior officers is also monitoring the sanitation of the hospital. A Sanitation Monitoring Committee under the chairmanship of Additional Medical Superintendent periodically takes round of the hospital and takes action whenever required. To further augment the sanitation of the hospital, the mechanized housekeeping work of Burns Plastic and Maxillofacial Department and Casualty Ward A and B has been outsource to M/s. BVG India Ltd. w.e.f. 01.10.2006.

Regional Leprosy Training and Research Institute

3206.SHRİ BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether all the Regional Leprosy Training and Research Institutes in the country are fully functional;
- (b) if so, the details of works being undertaken by these institutes;
- (c) whether any financial assistance is being provided by the Government to these institutes;
- (d) if so, the total grants provided by the Government to these institutes during each of the last three years; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These three institutes are providing following services:—

- (i) Diagnostic and treatment services to leprosy patients referred from various health institutions.
- (ii) Quality care to the chronic ulcer and disabled patients with the help of minor and major reconstructive surgery.
- (iii) Research on various operational aspects of leprosy control.
- (iv) Regional Leprosy Training and Research Institute (RLTRI), Raipur is also working as Regional Office of Health and Family Welfare for supervision and monitoring of all National Health Programme for State of Chhattisgarh.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Total grants provided by Government to these institutes are shown in table below:—

(Rs. In lakhs)

| | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 (RE) |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
| RLTRI, Aska | 103.73 | 131.03 | 111.98 | 126.00 |
| RLTRI, Raipur | 125.66 | 140.89 | 151.00 | 190.00 |
| RLTRI, Gouripur | 126.75 | 110.94 | 136.00 | 156.00 |

- (e) The question does not arise.

Awareness of Eye Donation

3207.SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has launched an awareness campaign to promote eye donation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds likely to be allocated and spent on such awareness campaign, State-wise; and

(d) the extent to which success has been achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Creating awareness to promote eye donation is an on-going activity under National Programme for Control of Blindness. The major steps taken to promote ey donation in the country are as under:-

1. The National Fortnight on Eye Donation from 25th August to 8th September is organized every year to intensify educational motivational efforts all over the country.
2. Enhance mass awareness through messages on Television, Radio, Press and printed materials. Organize panel discussion with eminent experts on Doordarshan and AIR.
3. Flashing the message on eye donation through well known websites.
4. Orientation training of hospital staff on grief counseling for motivating relatives of terminally ill patients for eye donation.

(c) and (d) IEC is an approved component under National Programme for Control of Blindness. During the year 2006-07, a sum of Rs. 500.00 lakhs was allotted for IEC activities under Central level and Rs.161.40 lakh has been allotted to States/UTs for undertaking IEC activities including awareness about eye donation at State level. During the year 2006-07 about 27917 donated eyes have been collected.

Setting up of Aerospace Institute at Gujarat

3208.SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from State Government of Gujarat for setting up of New Aerospace Institute at Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHIVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mandatory Medical Examination Before Marriage

3209.SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the increasing number of AIDS patients in the country, the Government is contemplating to make any rules to make it mandatory pre-marriage medical check-up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has provided HIV testing facilities at village level PHCs and SPHs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) As per National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy, mandatory testing for HIV is not permitted. Testing is to be carried out on a voluntary basis with appropriate pretest and post test counseling. There is at present, no proposal for mandatory premarriage medical check-up.

(d) to (f) A total of 4027 integrated counseling and testing centres upto community health centre level have been established. The counseling and testing facilities are also being expanded in a phased manner upto 24 hour PHCs through integration with National Rural Health Mission by training existing laboratory technicians and nurses/para medical personnae for counseling.

[English]

Passports to Truck Operators

3210.SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal under consideration to issue passports to truck operators to operate across the borders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to establish a "Land Ports Authority of India" and to open more check posts for border trade;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these proposals are likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) and (b) A proposal has been received for issue of passports to truck drivers operating between India and Bangladesh for trade.

(c) to (e) The Government haven approved, 'in principle', setting up of a Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI). The Government have also approved setting up of 13 Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at India-Nepal, India-Pakistan, India-Bangladesh and India-Myanmar borders (details are given in the enclosed statement) for trade and other purposes. The four ICPs in Priority I are expected to established in 18-24 months and 9 ICPs Priority II thereafter with a timeframe of 3 years.

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

| S. No. | Location | State | Border | Estimated Cost (in Rs. crore) |
|------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Petrapole | West Bengal | India-Bangladesh | 87 |
| 2. | Moreh | Manipur | India-Myanmar | 70 |
| 3. | Raxaul | Bihar | India-Nepal | 100 |
| 4. | Wagah | Punjab | India-Pakistan | 85 |
| Total Priority-I | | | | 372 |

Priority-II

| S. No. | Location | State | Border | Estimated Cost (in Rs. crore) |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5. | Hill | West Bengal | India-Bangladesh | 78 |
| 6. | Chandrabangha | West Bengal | India-Bangladesh | 64 |
| 7. | Sutarkhandi | Assam | India-Bangladesh | 16 |
| 8. | Dawki | Meghalaya | India-Bangladesh | 50 |
| 9. | Akhaura | Tripura | India-Bangladesh | 60 |
| 10. | Kawarpuchiah | Mizoram | India-Bangladesh | 27 |
| 11. | Jogbani | Bihar | India-Nepal | 34 |
| 12. | Sunauli | Uttar Pradesh | India-Nepal | 34 |
| 13. | Rupaidiha/Nepalganj road | Uttar Pradesh | India-Nepal | 29 |
| Total Priority-II | | | | 392 |

[Translation]

Visit of Italian Prime Minister to India

3211.SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Italy visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes. The Prime Minister of Italy, Dr. Romano Prodi paid a state visit to India from February 10-15, 2007. Dr. Prodi was accompanied by three Ministers—Ms. Emma Bonino, Minister for International Trade and European Affairs, Mr. Antonio Di Pietro, Minister for Infrastructure and Ms. Rosy Bindi, Minister for Family Policies and a large business delegation.

The discussions held on the occasion covered a wide range of areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation including economic and commercial links (especially among Small and Medium Enterprises), cooperation in the fields of combating terrorism, energy security, space research, defence, design, food processing and cultural and educational exchanges.

The following agreements were signed during the visit:-

- (i) Cultural Exchange Programme 2007-09;
- (ii) MoU on Renewable Energy Cooperation; and
- (iii) MoU on setting up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

A Joint Statement was issued at the end of the visit (copy enclosed)

*Joint Statement on the Occasion of the Visit of the
President of the Council of Ministers of Italy,
Prof. Romano Prodi to India*

Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and
President of the Council of Ministers of Italy, Prof.

Romano Prodi, today affirmed their commitment to work towards the establishment of a strategic partnership based on the close understanding and excellent political dialogue between the two countries, and enhanced cooperation on economy and trade, defense, culture, science and technology, higher education and research, space and the environment.

Both sides agreed to hold regular meetings between the respective Prime Ministers, to take place alternately, in India and Italy. They stressed the importance of the ongoing annual consultations at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and regular consultations at the level of senior officials of the two Foreign Ministries.

Both sides emphasized the importance of increasing bilateral trade and investment flows in order to realize the significant potential that exists and reiterated their commitment to facilitate business exchanges so that bilateral trade could substantially increase in the next three years.

The economic events held in Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai during the visit have promoted interaction between businesses on both sides and opened up new opportunities for enhancing cooperation in the sectors of agri-business, textiles and clothing, leather, jewellery, woodwork and machine tools, automotive and auto-components, energy, fashion, design, cinema and infrastructure.

Both sides agreed on the need to enhance engagement between SMEs. Considering the success of the Italian industrial cluster model for growth of the manufacturing sector, they agreed facilitate exchange of experiences and training on the Italian model.

The two sides noted that there were complementarities between the two countries to further develop cooperation in the area of design. Italian strengths in design and technology could be combined with India's manufacturing competencies and human resource skills for mutual benefit. A centre of Excellence in design education will be set up jointly by India and Italy at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad (India).

Recognising the benefits of closer cooperation in fostering the protection and promotion of intellectual property rights, the two leaders agreed that both sides would work together to cooperate in the areas of capacity building activities, human resource development and public awareness programme.

The services sector has the potential of further contributing to the strengthening of economic relations. They noted with satisfaction the positive developments in this regard and the setting up of innovative financial instruments by the Italian banking sector to facilitate direct investments and joint ventures.

The leaders were presented with the recommendations of the first meeting of the Indo-Italian CEOs Forum held in New Delhi on 15th February 2007. Both sides expressed the hope that the work of this Forum would help increase bilateral trade and investment linkages.

The two sides welcomed the establishment of the Joint Working Group on Infrastructure and looked forward to active cooperation in this sector. They also decided to strengthen cooperation in the field of Information Technology.

Food processing is another area of ongoing bilateral cooperation. The two sides are exploring the possibility of working together to establish a Joint Food Testing Laboratory at Kolkata; set up an Indo-Italian Joint Foundation for Food Processing and developing an Agro Food Park.

The two parties noted with appreciation the positive results of the bilateral executive programme on scientific and technological cooperation and the high level of cooperation attained by Universities, research centers and public and private institutions of the two countries and agreed to enhance it further. They noted with satisfaction the ongoing Indo-Italian cooperation at the Synchrotron in Trieste and the relevant results of the joint ITPAR (India-Trento Programme for Advanced Research) Project in Microsystems, Material Science, Computer Science and Telecommunications.

They further agreed to continue to support the activities of the ICGB (International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology).

Italy is an important partner for India in space research. The two sides agreed further increase cooperation between ASI (Agenzia Spaziale Italiana) and the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) and welcomed the installation of the Thermo Vacuum Chamber at ISRO Satellite Centre in Bangalore and the forthcoming launch of the "Agile" Satellite by PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle).

They agreed that the defense sector presents opportunities for increased cooperation.

Cultural cooperation has always been at the forefront of relations between the two countries. The two sides welcomed the signing of the Cultural Exchange Programme for 2007-2009, and agreed to enhance cooperation and exchanges, inter alia, in music, contemporary art, design, restoration and the preservation of historical heritage and cinema. They further agreed to strengthen their cooperation against illegal trafficking of cultural assets and to encourage academic exchanges between universities.

The two sides underlined the importance of fostering an increase of tourism to both countries, facilitating contacts and increasing direct air links. The two leaders reiterated their commitment to work jointly in addressing global challenges and noted the scope for increased bilateral cooperation in the field of environment and the protection of natural resources. They welcomed the bilateral MoU for cooperation in new and renewable energy technologies.

Both sides reiterated their commitment to a rules-based multi-lateral trading system and noted the importance of a positive and balanced outcome of the Doha Round of negotiations consistent with the mandate.

Both Heads of Government reaffirmed the vital

importance of an effective multilateral system. They expressed their firm support for a reformed and more efficient United Nations and agreed to regular consultations on UN matters.

The two leaders re-affirmed their commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation objectives and supported renewed efforts of the international community to achieve them. Italy and India confirmed their willingness to work together in the relevant international fora to this end.

The two leaders stressed the importance of energy security. Italy recognized the rising demand for energy in India and the need for international cooperation in this domain. They agreed to continue to discuss the need to adopt forward-looking approaches to enhance international civil nuclear cooperation under appropriate IAEA safeguards with India.

They welcomed the establishment of a bilateral Joint Working Group on combating international terrorism and transnational crime. Italy and India will continue to cooperate on the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, work towards an expeditious adoption of a comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Both sides underlined the importance of cooperation on the United Nations activities for peace support and post conflict stabilization. In this context, they welcomed the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) at the UN and agreed to continue their cooperation in PBC's Organizational Committee of which both India and Italy are members.

Both sides welcomed the enhanced cooperation between India and Italy through the participation of Indian personnel in the training programmes of CoESPU (the Carabinieri-run Centre of Excellence for Stability Police Units) in Vicenza, Italy, which has been mutually beneficial.

The two leaders agreed to work together in further strengthening the bilateral relationship, also in the

context of the Strategic Partnership between India and the European Union. In this regard, they reaffirmed their strong commitment to the full implementation of the comprehensive and forward looking Joint Action Plan, aimed at creating further opportunities for closer political and economic cooperation. They looked forward to the early launch of negotiations for the broad based Inda-EU Trade and Investment Agreement.

The two leaders exchanged views on regional issues of mutual interest (including South Asia, Afghanistan, Iran, Middle East and Lebanon) and the forthcoming meeting of the G8 and partner countries.

Both sides expressed deep satisfaction with the outcome of the visit, which both sides agreed was successful and represented the beginning of a new phase in the growing partnership between India and Italy.

Invitations were extended to the Hon'ble President and Prime Minister of India to pay official visits to Italy. These were accepted with thanks. Dates will be settled through diplomatic channels.

New Delhi

15th February 2007

[English]

Streamlining of Grievance Redressal Mechanism

3212.SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to streamline the grievance redressal mechanism of various telecom firms in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the consumers from the arbitrary charges by the service provider telecom firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued instructions to Service Providers to have Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism at following levels:—

- (i) At 'Call Centre level'.
- (ii) Appellate Authority level within the organization of the Telecom service provider.

Apart from above there is a Public Grievance Cell (PG Cell) at Department of Telecommunications (DoT) Head Quarter where complaints can be booked if the subscribers are not satisfied with the response of the Service Providers.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation paper to all concerned on 3rd January, 2007 in respect of Grievance Redressal for bringing uniformity in handling of consumers grievances. The Consultation process has recently started and is at preliminary stage.

(c) TRAI has notified a Regulation on Code of Practice for Metering and Billing Accuracy, 2006 dated 21st March, 2006.

The Regulations provides for Audit of metering and billing systems (by respective Service Providers) annually through any one of the Auditors notified by TRAI. Copy of Audit Report is to be submitted to TRAI. The Service Providers have to submit the Action Taken Report to TRAI on inadequacies, if any, pointed out by Auditors.

CIC in North Eastern Region

3213.DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of basic services being utilized through Community Information Centres (CICs) in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) whether the Government is considering the permanent absorption of the services of Community Information Centres (CIC) operators to ensure sustained services for the benefit of the rural people;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these CICs could reach a stage of commercially viable self sustained units as per the original plan of the Ministry;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make them commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Community Information Centres (CICs) are providing basic services like Internet browsing, information dissemination, e-mail, training in computer basics, desk top publishing (DTP), and citizen-centric services to the local populace.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (g) Department of Information Technology (DIT) has implemented a scheme in February 2002 for setting up of Community Information Centres (CICs) in the North-East States using Information Technology to accelerate socio-economic development of the region under the economic package announced by the then Prime Minister. To make the CICs self-sustaining, several citizen-centric services have been implemented, training on computer basics including courses offered by DOEACC and IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) is conducted, and a bouquet of services is provided, CICs have served social cause of reaching the unreached by integrating this remote region with mainstream.

As per the approval of the Government and MoU

(Memorandum of Understanding) with State Governments, operational control, maintenance and management of CICs was to be handed over to State Governments after completion of five years of project. State Governments have shown inability to take over CICs on account of financial constraints, and lack of revenue generation on account of CICs mostly located in remote hilly areas where a population is sparse. Keeping this in view, DIT has approved a bridging scheme for implementation over a period of 2 years for managing and facilitating the merger of existing CICs into Common Services Centres (CSCs) being established in rural areas across the country through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) under the National e-Governance Plan.

[Translation]

Primary Health Facilities

3214. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
 SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
 SHRI GANESH SINGH :
 SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :
 SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :
 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
 SHRI RAKESH SINGH :
 SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :

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

(a) the number of villages where Primary Health Care facilities are not available even today and the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the number of Health Sub-Centres which are functioning without any building and other facilities, State-wise;

(c) the schemes under which assistance is being provided for setting up of Primary Health Centres and constructing buildings for them alongwith the details of the assistance provided for them during the last three years;

(d) whether medical facility is non-existent in tribal and backward areas due to lack of accommodation for para-medical staff;

(e) if so, whether cases of malnutrition and spreading up of epidemics are rampant in the said areas; and

(f) if so, the details of the assistance likely to be provided to the States for its prevention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) On the average, four villages are covered by a Sub-centre as per the population norms of 5000 for plain and 3000 for tribal/hilly/desert areas. There is a shortage of 20903 Sub-in the country as against the requirement of 158792 and availability of 144988 Sub-centres as per 2001 population in India as on March, 2006. State-wise number of Sub-centres is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) As against 144988 sub-centres functioning, information about availability of building position is available only in respect of 144171 sub-centres as on March, 2006. 69920 sub-centres are in Govt. Buildings, 57477 are in rented buildings and remaining 16774 are in rent free buildings. Considering 5414 buildings under construction, there is a requirement of 68848 more buildings (ignoring 11 surplus buildings being constructed). State-wise break up is given in the enclosed Statement-II. The number of Sub-centres without regular water and electric supply and without II weather motorable approach road is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(c) As against the Xth Plan target for setting up 1714 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 213 PHCs have been set up in the country. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the PHCs are being strengthened to provide 24x7 medical services facility. During 2006-07, all the PHCs in the country have been provided with an amount of Rs. 25,000/- per PHC as untied fund for meeting their local health needs and Rs. 50,000/- per PHC as Annual Maintenance Grant for improvement and

maintenance of physical infrastructure. The funds are provided for the construction of buildings of PHCs, as per the requirement of the States projected in their Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) under NRHM.

(d) The number of Sub-centres with residential quarters for ANMs and those with ANMs living in Sub-centre quarters as on March 2006 varies on a wide scale from State to State. State-wise Statement-IV is enclosed.

(e) and (f) Generally areas with poor health infrastructure are also the one poor health indicators. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been launched with a view to improve the public delivery system to enhance the health status of people living in rural areas. NRHM also envisages convergence of health programmes with programmes for improving nutrition, sanitation, drinking water etc. A total sum of Rs. 6047.39 crore have been allotted to the States for undertaking various activities under NRHM.

Statement-I

**Shortfall in Health Infrastructure as Per 2001
Population in India (As on March, 2006)**

| S. No. | State/UT | Sub Centres | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------|-------|------|
| | | R | P | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 11699 | 12522 | * |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 254 | 379 | * |
| 3. | Assam | 5063 | 5109 | * |
| 4. | Bihar | 14959 | 8858 | 6101 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 4164 | 4692 | * |
| 6. | Goa | 135 | 172 | * |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|--------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| 7. | Gujarat | 7263 | 7274 | * |
| 8. | Haryana | 3005 | 2433 | 572 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 1128 | 2069 | * |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 1666 | 1888 | * |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 5057 | 3958 | 1099 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 7369 | 8143 | * |
| 13. | Kerala | 4761 | 5094 | * |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 10402 | 8874 | 1528 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 12153 | 10453 | 1700 |
| 16. | Manipur | 412 | 420 | * |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 597 | 401 | 196 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 146 | 366 | * |
| 19. | Nagaland | 535 | 397 | 138 |
| 20. | Orissa | 7283 | 5927 | 1356 |
| 21. | Punjab | 3219 | 2858 | 361 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 9554 | 10512 | * |
| 23. | Sikkim | 109 | 147 | * |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 7057 | 8683 | * |
| 25. | Tripura | 659 | 539 | 120 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 1294 | 1631 | * |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 26344 | 20521 | 5823 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 12101 | 10356 | 1745 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 51 | 108 | * |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----------------------------|---|-----|----|-----|
| 30. Chandigarh | | 18 | 13 | 5 |
| 31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli | | 50 | 38 | 12 |
| 32. Daman and Diu | | 21 | 21 | 0 |
| 33. Delhi | | 188 | 41 | 147 |
| 34. Lakshadweep | | 11 | 14 | * |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------------|---|--------|--------|-------|
| 35. Pondicherry | | 65 | 77 | * |
| Total | | 158792 | 144988 | 20903 |

Notes : The requirement is calculated on the basis of final total and tribal population of Census, 2001 in rural areas using the prescribed norms. All India shortfall is derived by adding state-wise figures of shortfall ignoring the existing surplus in some of the states.

R : Required; P: In Position; S; Shortfall; * : Surplus

Statement-II

Building Position for Sub Centres (As on March, 2006)

| S. No. | State/UT | Total Number of Sub Centres functioning | Number of Sub Centres for which information on buildings position is available | Sub Centres functioning in | | | Buildings Under Construction | Buildings required ¹ to be constructed |
|--------|-------------------|---|--|----------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| | | | | Govt. Buildings | Rented Buildings | Rent Free Panchayat/ Vol. Society Buildings | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 12522 | 12522 | 4221 | 8301 | 0 | 0 | 8301 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 379 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 3. | Assam | 5109 | 5109 | 2637 | 2472 | 0 | 0 | 2472 |
| 4. | Bihar | 8858 | 8858 | 2483 | 4690 | 1685 | 73 | 6302 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 4692 | 4692 | 1458 | 0 | 3234 | 219 | 3015 |
| 6. | Goa | 172 | 172 | 40 | 132 | 0 | 0 | 132 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 7274 | 7274 | 5820 | 0 | 1454 | 264 | 1190 |
| 8. | Haryana | 2433 | 2433 | 1499 | 0 | 934 | 6 | 928 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 2069 | 2069 | 1262 | 14 | 793 | 72 | 735 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|------|-------|
| 10 | Jammu and Kashmir | 1888 | 1888 | 654 | 1234 | 0 | 13 | 1221 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 3958 | 3958 | 1736 | 1948 | 274 | 0 | 2222 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 8143 | 8143 | 4460 | 2893 | 790 | 0 | 3683 |
| 13. | Kerala | 5094 | 5094 | 2986 | 1098 | 1010 | 19 | 2089 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 8874 | 8874 | 3996 | 4878 | 0 | 489 | 4389 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 10453 | 10453 | 6964 | 750 | 2739 | 741 | 2748 |
| 16. | Manipur | 420 | 420 | 230 | 168 | 22 | 15 | 175 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 401 | 401 | 391 | 10 | 0 | 21 | * |
| 18. | Mizoram | 366 | 366 | 366 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 397 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 20. | Orissa | 5927 | 5927 | 2542 | 3385 | 0 | 242 | 3143 |
| 21. | Punjab | 2858 | 2858 | 1443 | 0 | 1415 | 0 | 1415 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 10512 | 10512 | 8235 | 0 | 2277 | 340 | 1937 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 147 | 147 | 112 | 29 | 6 | 9 | 26 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 8683 | 8683 | 6510 | 2113 | 60 | 0 | 2173 |
| 25. | Tripura | 539 | 539 | 278 | 202 | 59 | 7 | 254 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 1631 | 1631 | 562 | 1062 | 7 | 188 | 881 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 20521 | 20521 | 6581 | 13940 | 0 | 1693 | 12247 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 10356 | 10356 | 2236 | 8120 | 0 | 1000 | 7120 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 108 | 108 | 108 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 13 | 13 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 31. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 38 | 38 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|----|
| 32. Daman and Diu | 21 | 21 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 33. Delhi | 41 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| 34. Lakshadweep | 14 | 14 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 35. Pondicherry | 77 | 77 | 36 | 31 | 10 | 3 | 38 | |
| Total | 144988 | 144171 | 69920 | 57477 | 16774 | 5414 | 68848 | |

Notes:

NA : Not Available.

¹ Required Number = Total functioning - (Government Buildings + Under construction) (ignoring excess).

* States having construction in excess of the number required to be constructed.

Statement-III***Facilities Available at Sub Centres (Contd.) (As on March, 2006)***

| State/UT | Number of Existing Sub Centres | Number of Sub Centres | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|---|-------|
| | | Without Regular Water Supply | | Without Electric Supply | | Without All-Weather Motorable Approach Road | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | |
| Bihar | 8858 | 2597 | (29%) | NA | NA | 3295 | (37%) |
| Chhattisgarh | 4692 | 2429 | (52%) | 2429 | (52%) | 912 | (19%) |
| Goa | 172 | 8 | (5%) | 0 | (0%) | 0 | (0%) |
| Gujarat | 7274 | 0 | (0%) | 0 | (0%) | 0 | (0%) |
| Haryana | 2433 | 1001 | (41%) | 760 | (31%) | 195 | (8%) |
| Kerala | 5094 | 896 | (18%) | 423 | (8%) | 351 | (7%) |
| Maharashtra | 10453 | 2464 | (24%) | 1002 | (10%) | 932 | (9%) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|--------|-------------------------|
| Manipur | 420 | NA | NA | 210 (50%) NA NA |
| Meghalaya | 401 | 75 | (19%) | 73 (18%) NA NA |
| Mizoram | 366 | 366 | (100%) | NA NA 256 (70%) |
| Orissa | 5927 | 2542 | (43%) | 1600 (27%) NA NA |
| Punjab | 2858 | 389 | (14%) | 409 (14%) 74 (3%) |
| Sikkim | 147 | 0 | (0%) | 0 (0%) 37 (25%) |
| Tamil Nadu | 8683 | 0 | (0%) | 0 (0%) 0 (0%) |
| Tripura | 539 | 380 | (71%) | 350 (65%) 79 (15%) |
| Uttaranchal | 1631 | 963 | (59%) | 987 (61%) 301 (18%) |
| Uttar Pradesh | 20521 | 12083 | (59%) | 15332 (75%) 11572 (56%) |
| West Bengal | 10356 | 9550 | (92%) | 3890 (38%) 928 (9%) |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 108 | 0 | (0%) | 3 (3%) 10 (9%) |
| Chandigarh | 13 | 0 | (0%) | 0 (0%) 0 (0%) |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 38 | 12 | (32%) | 0 (0%) 2 (5%) |
| Daman and Diu | 21 | 0 | (0%) | 0 (0%) 0 (0%) |
| Delhi | 41 | 0 | (0%) | 0 (0%) 0 (0%) |
| Lakshadweep | 14 | 0 | (0%) | 0 (0%) 0 (0%) |
| Pondicherry | 77 | 0 | (0%) | 0 (0%) 0 (0%) |

Notes:

Source of data is Quarterly Progress Reports on Rural Health Services received in Infrastructure Division from States/UTs.

Information is not available from the remaining States/UTs.

Figures in brackets give the corresponding percentages.

Statement-IV*Facilities Available at Sub Centres (As on March, 2006)*

| State/UT | Number of Existing Sub Centres | Number of Sub Centres with ANM Quarter | | Number of Sub Centres with ANM living in Sub Centrer Quarter | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--|--------|--|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 12522 | 2600 | 21%) | NA | NA |
| Bihar | 8858 | 6375 | (72%) | 623 | (10%) |
| Chhattisgarh | 4692 | 2360 | (50%) | 912 | (39%) |
| Goa | 172 | 40 | (23%) | 8 | (20%) |
| Gujarat | 7274 | 5554 | (76%) | 5554 | (100%) |
| Haryana | 2433 | 1499 | (62%) | 1499 | (100%) |
| Karnataka | 8143 | 4493 | (55%) | 4493 | (100%) |
| Kerala | 5094 | 2529 | (50%) | 1659 | (66%) |
| Madhya Pradesh | 8874 | 3996 | (45%) | NA | NA |
| Maharashtra | 10453 | 6883 | (66%) | 6174 | (90%) |
| Manipur | 420 | 230 | (55%) | 0 | (0%) |
| Meghalaya | 401 | 401 | (100%) | 171 | (43%) |
| Mizoram | 366 | 366 | (100%) | 361 | (99%) |
| Orissa | 5927 | 2542 | (43%) | 2542 | (100%) |
| Punjab | 2858 | 1194 | (42%) | 685 | (57%) |
| Rajasthan | 10512 | 8235 | (78%) | 685 | (8%) |
| Sikkim | 147 | 112 | (76%) | 112 | (100%) |
| Tamil Nadu | 8683 | 6510 | (75%) | NA | NA |
| Tripura | 539 | 0 | (0%) | 0 | (0%) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|------------|
| Uttaranchal | 1631 | 562 (34%) | NA NA |
| Uttar Pradesh | 20521 | 6494 (32%) | 5183 (80%) |
| West Bengal | 10356 | 2100 (20%) | NA NA |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 108 | 108 (100%) | 108 (100%) |
| Chandigarh | 13 | 2 (15%) | 0 (0%) |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 38 | 38 (100%) | 21 (55%) |
| Daman and Diu | 21 | 1 (5%) | 2 (200%) |
| Lakshadweep | 14 | 9 (64%) | 0 (0%) |
| Pondicherry | 77 | 48 (62%) | 37 (77%) |

Notes:

Source of data is Quarterly Progress Reports on Rural Health Services received in Infrastructure Division from States/UTs.

Information is not available from the remaining States/UTs.

Figures in brackets give the corresponding percentages.

[English]

Collection of Toll Tax

3215. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the National Highways on which toll tax is being collected;
- (b) the year till which the toll tax is proposed to be collected;
- (c) the details of the toll tax collected during the last three years, National Highway-wise; and
- (d) the rationale on which the toll tax and the total amount to be collected has been arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) The details of the National Highways alongwith the users' fee (toll tax) collected during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement. This amount of users' fee does not include the users' fee charged for projects on the National Highways implemented through Public Private Partnership (PPP). The users' fee is collected in perpetuity.

(d) The levy of users' fee is regulated in accordance with the provisions of (i) The National Highways (Fees for the use of National Highway Section and Permanent Bridge-Public Funded Projects) Rules, 1997. (ii). The National Highways (Collection of Fees by any person for the use of section of National Highways Permanent Bridge/

Temporary Bridge on National Highways) Rules, 1997 and (iii) The National Highways (Rate of fee) Rules, 1997 as amended from time to time.

Statement

National Highway-wise Details of Toll Tax Collected during the Last Three Years

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

| Sl. No. | National Highways No. | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | 1 | 8958 | 9727 | 10358 |
| 2. | 2 | 6224 | 844 | 8618 |
| 3. | 3 | 1111 | 1434 | 1265 |
| 4. | 4 | — | 155 | 3393 |
| 5. | 5 | 99 | 6231 | 13684 |
| 6. | 6 | 449 | 456 | 734 |
| 7. | 7 | 129 | 96 | 2370 |
| 8. | 8 | 15863 | 20779 | 29763 |
| 9. | 8A | 478 | 462 | — |
| 10. | 8B | 89 | 105 | 117 |
| 11. | 9 | 43 | 717 | 720 |
| 12. | 10 | 3 | — | — |
| 13. | 11 | 153 | 133 | 78 |
| 14. | 11A | — | — | 33 |
| 15. | 12 | 464 | 619 | 420 |
| 16. | 13 | — | — | 98 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| 17. | 14 | 671 | 860 | — |
| 18. | 16 | 147 | 147 | — |
| 19. | 17 | 427 | 493 | 415 |
| 20. | 19 | 601 | 799 | 544 |
| 21. | 21 | 72 | 175 | 177 |
| 22. | 23 | 11 | 16 | 21 |
| 23. | 24 | 1377 | 128 | 1659 |
| 24. | 27 | 36 | 148 | 778 |
| 25. | 28 | — | — | 77 |
| 26. | 29 | 78 | 75 | 108 |
| 27. | 31 | 389 | 346 | 321 |
| 28. | 37A | 79 | 59 | 67 |
| 29. | 39 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 30. | 42 | 33 | 36 | 38 |
| 31. | 43 | 34 | 61 | 52 |
| 32. | 45 | 491 | 622 | 2593 |
| 33. | 47 | 209 | 156 | 269 |
| 34. | 48 | 168 | 155 | 220 |
| 35. | 49 | 29 | 10 | 37 |
| 36. | 56 | 91 | 89 | 98 |
| 37. | 57 | 55 | 35 | 25 |
| 38. | 58 | 79 | 105 | — |
| 39. | 63 | 71 | 58 | 105 |
| 40. | 72 | — | — | 104 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|-----|----|-----|------|
| 41. | 73 | 75 | 69 | 156 |
| 42. | 74 | 70 | — | 48 |
| 43. | 75 | — | — | 31 |
| 44. | 76 | 21 | 21 | 785 |
| 45. | 79 | — | 687 | 5663 |
| 46. | 82 | 40 | — | — |
| 47. | 92 | 2 | — | — |
| 48. | 93 | 41 | 38 | — |
| 49. | 94 | — | — | 0.13 |
| 50. | 96 | 35 | — | 181 |
| 51. | 97 | — | — | 8 |
| 52. | 107 | 21 | — | — |
| 53. | 108 | 2 | — | — |

Sports Academy

3216. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has proposed to open a Sports Academy for training young sports-persons in the country;

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

(c) the amount earmarked for the development of sports-related activities?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India introduced a Scheme of State Sports Academy for implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. The scheme envisaged the setting up of a Sports Academy in every State as a joint venture of the Central and State Governments and a Corporate sponsor, with the cost being shared in the ratio of 25:24:51 respectively. The main objective of the Scheme is to select talented sportspersons in the age group of 10-13 years and groom them to achieve excellence at the National and International levels. However, no Academy has been set up so far because of no viable proposals under this Scheme have been received from any State.

(c) An amount of Rs. 4.00 crores was earmarked for the Scheme during the year 2006-07 (BE).

[Translation]

Transportation Problem on NHs

3217. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

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

(a) whether transportation on National Highways is being adversely affected due to settlement of densely populated hamlets, encroachment and increasing commercial constructions along the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the said problem; and

(d) the success achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) There have been instances of the encroachments, increasingly commercial activities and densely populated areas alongwith the National

Highways which affect the transportation. To remove such bottlenecks, the government is constructing bypasses and re-aligning National Highways to avoid the densely populated areas. Provisions of service roads in the congested areas are made to segregate local traffic while four-laning of two lane highways. Further, the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 has been enforced since January 2005 to control encroachments, traffic, construction activities and access on the right of way of National Highways.

(d) The engineering measures like construction of bye-passes, realignment and service roads have helped in tackling the problem to a great extent. The problem of encroachments, commercial activities on National Highway are socio-legal problem and it is too early to review the effect of enforcement of the above mentioned Act.

Grants for Health Development Projects

3218. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the States where health development projects financed by the World Health Organisation and launched in 1996 has been discontinued as on date;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the achievements of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Sir, The World Health Organization (WHO) has not been directly financing any State health development project.

[English]

Fake Medicines

3219. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been reports of fake medicines from India being seized in Europe;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to curb the problem of fake medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Ministry has not received any report in this regard.

(c) The Govt. has taken following steps to check the menace of fake / spurious drugs in the country:-

- i. This Ministry has initiated the process of amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, to provide for stricter penalties, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Mashelkar Committee, which was set up for a comprehensive review of the regulatory system in the country including the extent of problem of spurious drugs and to suggest remedial measures to deal with this problem effectively. The major amendments proposed relate to enhancement of penalties prescribed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, provision of special courts of drug related offences, compounding of offences, authorizing the police also to file prosecution for drug related offences and making all drug related offences cognizable and non-bail able. All this is expected to act as a strong deterrent for manufacturers of counterfeit drugs.
- ii. A proposal for setting up of Central Drug Authority for uniform implementation of the Drugs Cosmetics Act in the country, has already been approved by the Cabinet.
- iii. Government of India has also launched a 5 year World Bank aided Capacity Building Project for Food Safety and Quality Control

Drugs with a total project cost of Rs. 354.25 crores. Extensive assistance is being provided to State Governments to augment their drug testing facility by way of equipments, manpower, training and civil works under the Project.

Effect of Coal Mines on Human Health

3220.VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coal mines have become a great health hazard;

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

(c) if so, the results thereof and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No, Sir. However, mining activities generate dust polluting environment in and around coalfields areas which sometimes affect human health also.

(b) Periodic medical examination of all workers in the coal mines is done at least once in every five years as per the Mines Act in subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL). The fifth round of such medical examination for each employee will be completed in 2007.

(c) 1081 cases of coal workers pneumoconiosis have been detected till date in CIL out of more than 6 lakh workers examined over a period of 22 years.

(d) The following steps are taken by subsidiaries of Coal India Limited in this regard:-

(i) Various dust suppression methods have been employed to reduce the exposure of workers to coal dust which include: (a) commissioning of mobile and static water sprinklers in haul roads, dust emission location such as Feeder Breakers

etc., (b) black topping of coal transportation roads, covering of trucks with tarpaulin carrying coal outside the mine premises, (c) large scale plantation along avenues, haul roads, land and OB dumps, (d) installation of Dust Extractors in drills, Dust Cyclones in the crusher house of Coal Handling Plants/washeries and (e) enclosing belt conveyors.

(ii) Medical surveillance of all the workers is done through periodical medical examination for early detection of occupational diseases so that immediate remedial measures are taken to arrest the progress of the diseases and compensation paid as per Workmen Compensation Act.

Funds to Maharashtra under CRF

3221.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds sanctioned, released by the Union Government to Maharashtra for the development of National Highways/Express Highways/State Highways and to connect the villages with the National Highways during the last three years and the current year, till date:

(b) the funds utilised and the extent to which progress has been achieved in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government has received utilisation certificates for the funds utilised from Maharashtra within the specified time limit;

(d) the criteria/norms fixed for annual grants from the Central Road Fund (CRF) to the States; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to ensure the proper utilisation of funds by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI

K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The details of funds sanctioned and released by Union Government to Maharashtra and utilized by Government of Maharashtra for development of National Highways and State Roads

including State Highways under Central Road Fund (CRF), Economic Importance (EI) and Inter State Connectivity (SC) schemes during the last three years till date are given in Table.

(Rs. in crore)

| Year | National Highways | | State Roads including State Highways | | | |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|
| | | | Central Road Fund | | Inter State Connectivities and Economic Importance | |
| | Allocation | Expenditure* | Allocation | Expenditure* | Allocation | Expenditure* |
| 2006-07* | 105.00 | 73.50 | 156.61 | 107.28 | 5.57 | 9.59 |
| 2005-06 | 112.00 | 112.00 | 158.71 | 131.05 | 2.01 | 2.01 |
| 2004-05 | 70.00 | 65.35 | 91.60 | 93.37 | — | — |
| 2003-04 | 120.00 | 120.00 | 98.87 | 129.58 | — | — |

* Expenditure upto February, 2007.

(c) Ministry has been receiving month-wise utilization certificates for the funds utilized from the Government of Maharashtra.

(d) The annual grants from Central Road Fund to the States are allocated on the basis of 60% weightage for petrol and diesel consumption and 40% weightage to the geographical area of the State

(e) In order to ensure proper utilization of funds by the State Government, regular monitoring and quarterly review of works is undertaken.

Landslides in Raniganj Coal Belt

3222. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether landslides have taken place in the Raniganj coal belt recently endangering the lives of local people as well as damaging rail track and nearby National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry into the incident;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon;

(e) whether incidents of illegal mining are rampant in the area;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the measures taken by the Government to check the illegal mining in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) On 16.01.07 at about 3.30 AM, there was a subsidence in and around by-pass of National Highway 2 near Ghagarbur temple about 400 meters west side in the road from Asansol diversion point.

(c) and (d) From the study of the abandoned mine plan it revealed that the subsidence might have occurred due to old working of Kusadanga seam of erstwhile North Muslia Coal Company which was closed around 1940. It has been decided by the National Highway Authority to divert the National Highway-2 towards the north side of the existing Highway where no coal mining had been done. Instructions have been issued to Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries to share the information regarding location of such old workings upon which roads and National Highways have been built with the concerned State and Central authorities for appropriate action.

(e) to (g) Illegal mining takes place both stealthily and clandestinely, inside and outside leasehold areas of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and in some abandoned mines and scattered patches, which are not possible to develop scientifically and economically in organised manner.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Coal has been constituted to look into the issues related to illegal mining of coal. The Committee has held two meetings so far with the representatives of Govt. of Jharkhand, Govt. of West Bengal, Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries.

In addition, the following steps are taken by coal companies to prevent illegal mining:-

- (i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.
- (ii) Concrete walls have been created on the mouth of abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- (iii) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites alongwith displaying of signboards mentioning Dangerous and Prohibited Place*.
- (iv) Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop zones which are not required to be mined.

- (v) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and information district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
- (vi) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.
- (vii) Training of existing security personnel, referresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security setup.
- (viii) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.

Opening up of New Medical Colleges

3223. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a discrimination in granting permission for opening up of new medical colleges across country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is a demand for rectification of the unequal distribution of medical colleges and adhere to the recommendation of the Mudaliar Committee in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Permission to establish a medical college and admit students is granted to applicant organizations who fulfill the MCI norms by the Central Government as per the provisions contained in the Establishment of Medical College Regulations, 1999 of Medical Council of India.

(c) and (d) The Mudaliar Committee report of 1961 states regarding setting up of 90 to 100 medical colleges

in the country for the population of that period. However, presently there are 262 medical colleges (both Government and Private) located in different parts of the country. It is for the concerned State Government to propose to set up new medical colleges.

Assessment of Second-Line Treatment

3224. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made by NACO about number of people who have been put on a higher level of drugs i.e. second line of treatment of HIV/AIDS in the country;

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

(c) whether NACO is providing ART to patients who are on a first line of treatment;

(d) if so, whether new and improved drugs are not available in the Government hospitals and the patients have to buy on their own;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government may provide these drugs in NACO's III Phase; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) There are an estimated 5.2 million Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) in the country. At any point of time, based on their immunity status (CD4 Count less than 200/cu mm), nearly 10% PLHAs require Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART).

Government of India took a policy decision in 2004 to introduce provision of ART to eligible HIV/AIDS patients. Till date 107 ART Centres have been set up in medical colleges and district hospitals where more than 60,000 patients are getting treatment free of cost. Despite high

level of drug adherence, it is estimated that 2-3% of the patients could develop resistance requiring improved drugs. Such second line drugs are ten times more expensive than first line drugs.

(f) and (g) Currently, the national treatment protocols do not provide for second line drugs. Under NACP-III, it is proposed to provide access to treatment to 3,40,000 adults and children.

Nepali Occupation of Indian Land

3225. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nepali citizens are in forcible occupation of 205 acres of land along the 'No Man's Land' near Kishanganj district in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the land under the illegal occupation of Nepali citizens is being used for farming purposes;

(d) if so, whether the Government of India has taken up the matter with the Government of Nepal to resolve the dispute; and

(e) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The India-Nepal boundary alignment in the district of Kishanganj is already identified by both the Governments and pillars have been jointly demarcated/constructed. Most of the boundary in this sector is riverine. The boundary had been identified on the basis of the fixed boundary principle in which the old river course, as depicted on the basis of maps jointly agreed by the two sides, was accepted as the boundary between India and Nepal. However, there has been change in the course of the river over the years resulting in some land being occupied by citizens of one country now belonging to the other, and vice versa, resulting in adverse possessions. There has been an attempt by a few Nepalese farmers to occupy and cultivate the fertile land

between pillar no.(s) 106-109 two years ago i.e. in March 2005 on the Indo-Nepal Border in Kishanganj district, which was aborted. Necessary orders have been issued to maintain the status quo.

(d) and (e) Such incidents have been taken up expeditiously with the Government of Nepal. These matters have been addressed by joint inspections, and repair and replacement of border pillars by the concerned authorities of both governments.

Growth in Clinical Research

3226.SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the there has been a remarkable growth in clinical research in the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any shortage of trained professionals to boost clinical research in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the clinical research requirements in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) There has been a remarkable growth in clinical research in India in the last two years as India is recognized as center for clinical research by the developed countries due to its strategic advantage of trained manpower, well equipped hospitals, patient population and matured and growing pharmaceutical industry.

(c) This Ministry does not have specific information with respect to number of trained manpower required for clinical research activities in the country. Some figures indicating a requirement of 10,000-12,000 trained manpower are quoted by experts in their various presentations at seminars and workshops. The figures are

also quoted by some of the institutions that are undertaking training programmes for clinical research.

(d) Does not arise.

Indo-US Nuke Deal

3227.SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has not presented a "non-paper" on its draft of the 123 agreement to the United States on nuclear deal as reported in the *Times of India* dated February 17, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and its adverse impact on the nuclear deal and the diplomatic image of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes. India has not presented a "non-paper" on its draft of the 123 agreement to the United States as reported in the *Times of India* dated February 17, 2007.

(b) and (c) India and US are engaged in discussion and negotiation to conclude the bilateral cooperation agreement, which is referred to as the "123 Agreement" and which is a pre-requisite for nuclear cooperation and trade with the United States. As part of the negotiation process, India has forwarded a draft text of the 123 Agreement to the US side in February 2007.

Promotion for Shooting

3228.SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether shooters from India have excelled in shooting Championship held in various Asian countries;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the facilities provided by the Government to promote shooting in the country;
- (d) the target fixed for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games 2010; and
- (e) the steps taken to provide foreign Coaches for the above sport?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Indian shooters have given an excellent performance at all the major international Championships including Asian Championships.

(b) In the major championships held in Asian Countries in the year 2006, Indian shooters have won medals as under:-

1. 15th Asian Games – Doha–December, 2006–14 Medals (3 Gold, 5 Silver, 6 Bronze)
2. 10th South Asian Games – Colombo – August, 2006–35 Medals (19 Gold, 11 Silver, 5 Bronze)
3. ISSF World Cup Guangzhou (China), March–April, 2006–(1 Gold)
4. Asian Clay Shooting Championship, Singapore, Sep. 2006 – 6 Medals (4 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze).

(c) Government have recognized the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) as the National Sports Federation to promote the discipline of Shooting. The Federation is being assisted for organizing national and international events in India, participation in international tournaments abroad, procurement of equipment, training of national teams/shooters under Indian/Foreign coaches etc. The Sports Authority of India, provides facilities to conduct the national coaching camps for Indian shooters under foreign and renowned Indian coaches along with

state-of-the-art equipment, including preferred brand ammunition, sports kits, nutritious diet, food supplements, scientific support etc., In addition, Government is also providing financial assistance to sportspersons, including shooters, for undergoing training at reputed international sports institutes and training centres/training under world/renowned coaches within the country/abroad under the Schemes relating to Talent Search and Training and the National Sports Development Fund.

(d) Indian shooters won 27 medals in the 2006 Commonwealth Games and efforts are being made to better the performance further.

(e) At present 2 foreign coaches are engaged with the National Rifle Association of India on a long term basis. In addition, shooters are sent abroad for training under Foreign Coaches under the Schemes of Talent Search and Training and the National Sports Development Fund. During the last three years i.e. 2004-05 to 2006-07, 14 shooters have been provided Central assistance amounting to Rs. 64,15,907/- under the Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training and 21 shooters have been provided Central assistance of Rs. 2,06,59,064/- under the Scheme of the National Sports Development Fund for training under foreign coaches.

Amendment of Indian Postal Act

3229. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to amend the Indian Postal Act;

(b) if so, whether the proposed draft bill has been circulated to get suggestions from the public;

(c) if so, the main changes proposed to be made in the Postal Act Amendment Bill; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The draft of the proposal to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 was placed in the public domain "http:// www.indiapost.gov.in" from 18.04.2006 to 10.05.2006 for calling for the views of all concerned.

(c) and (d) The views received in response to placing the Bill in the public domain are being processed and analyzed and no final decision has yet been taken in the matter.

Medical Store in Safdarjung Hospital

3230.SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no medical store in the Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make available a medical shop in the hospital premises;

(d) whether the doctors of the hospital ask the attendants of the patients to bring medicine, injections etc. from the market;

(e) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (f) A medical store is functioning in Safdarjung Hospital and the patients are provided available medicines and disposables free of cost as per prescribed formulary;

Terrestrial Observation System

3231.SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the manner in which the Terrestrial Observation and Prediction System (TOPS) works for predicting the weather conditions accurately;

(b) the cost benefit ratio of TOPS;

(c) the manner in which TOPS help Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether AP Remote Sensing application Centre has sought or approached National Remote Sensing Agency for any assistance in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The Terrestrial Observation and Prediction System (TOPS) is a global programme to utilize terrestrial and atmospheric data and weather models to predict weather events. Accurate prediction of severe weather events can help in disaster management and save lives and property. Quantitative cost benefit analysis has not been made.

(c) The Andhra Pradesh Secretariat Disaster Management System (APSDMS) is participating in the TOPS programme. The data from the ground stations such as automated rain gauges, weather stations and tide gauges set up under the World Bank aided project is being utilized to monitor severe weather events affecting the state of Andhra Pradesh. The project is currently being carried out in a research mode. Once made operational, the TOPS can help in effective disaster management in the State for managing drought, cyclone etc.

(d) and (e) AP Remote Sensing Applications Centre has not approached National Remote Sensing Agency for any assistance in this regard.

Development of New Waterways

3232.SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is encouraging inland

waterways which are cost effective as well as environment-friendly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal by the Government to start or develop new waterways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The Government is trying to make the existing three National Waterways fully functional by way of appropriate investment. Two Bills to declare (i) Kakinada-Pondicherry stretch of canals, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry stretch of River Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayawada stretch of River Krishna in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry, and (ii) East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani river and Delta of Mahanadi river in the State of Orissa and West Bengal as National Waterways have already been introduced in the Parliament and stand referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture. Proposal to declare Laxhipur-Bhanga stretch of river Barak as a National Waterway is also under consideration. After the declaration of these Waterways as National Waterways, necessary infrastructure will be created by Inland Waterways Authority of India.

All India Panchayat Parishad

3233. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

(a) whether 16th Convention of the All India Panchayat Parishad was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held in the convention and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Prime Minister called for effective implementation of the Panchayat's Extension to the Scheduled Areas (PESA);

(d) if so, whether the Union Government is

contemplating to amend the Panchayati Raj Act keeping in view the changed economic and social scenario;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Convention of elected representatives of Panchayati Raj was held on 21 and 22 November, 2006 at Balwant Rai Mehta Panchayat Bhavan, New Delhi. The convention was inaugurated by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Union Minister of Rural Development and many Central Ministers and State Ministers participated in the Conference and discuss the issues relating to the implementation of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992. About 2000 elected representatives from 22 States participated in the Convention.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) the following nine States have Fifth Schedule Areas: (i) Andhra Pradesh (ii) Chhattisgarh (iii) Gujarat (iv) Himachal Pradesh (v) Jharkhand (vi) Madhya Pradesh (vii) Maharashtra (viii) Orissa and (ix) Rajasthan.

While all States have enacted the requisite compliance legislation by amending their respective Panchayati Raj Acts, certain gaps continue to exist. Further, most States are also yet to amend the subject laws, like those relating to money lending, forest, excise etc. Consequently, compliance remains incomplete perfunctory and formal in virtually all states. Vital issues like ownership of minor forest produce, planning and management of minor water bodies, prevention of alienation of tribal lands etc., which have been duly recognized in PESA as the traditional rights of tribal living in the Scheduled Areas have still not received the warranted attention and the necessary correctives remain unapplied. There are also issues relating to powers statutorily devolved upon the Gram

Sabha and the Panchayats, not being matched by concomitant transfer of funds and functionaries resulting in the non-exercise of such powers. A communication has been issued on 26.10.2005 to the Chief Secretaries of the nine States concerned to get PESA laws implemented with a view to making the implementation real and not formal (which unfortunately is the case with regard to several provisions) and also to bring the subject laws in line with PESA provisions. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is continuously pursuing these issues with State Governments.

Allocations of Funds for SCs/STs

3234. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU :

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recently issued directions to all Central Ministries and State Government to allocate funds for SCs and STs as per their population as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 24, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Governments thereto;

(c) whether the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Plan has noted that several Central Ministries/Departments have not earmarked adequate funds for SCs and STs as per their share in population;

(d) if so, the details of such Ministries/Departments;

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

(f) the amount likely to be earmarked for the welfare of SCs and STs for the year 2007-08; and

(g) the various welfare schemes proposed to be taken up alongwith the nodal agencies for monitoring the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

it is a fact that Planning Commission has issued guidelines to all the concerned Central Ministries/Departments on 13.12.2006 and State Governments/UT Administrations on 31.10.2005 to allocate funds for SCs and STs towards Scheduled Castes Sub-plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-plan (TSP) as per their population percentage in the Centre and in the States/UTs respectively.

(b) The guidelines inter-alia stipulate that: (i) Earmarking of funds under SCSP/TSP from the State/UT; Central Ministry/Department out of total Plan outlay at least in the proportion of SC and ST population of the State/UT, country respectively for the welfare development of SCs and STs and (ii) Placing the funds earmarked for SCSP/TSP under separate budget head/sub-head for implementing SCSP and TSP so as to make it non-divertible. Most of the States/UTs have adhered to the guidelines for formulation, implementation and monitoring of SCSP and TSP while allocating funds under SCSP and TSP as per the percentage of SC and ST population in the States/UTs. 14 States/UTs have not earmarked funds under SCSP and TSP as per the SC and ST population in the State/UT for Annual Plan 2006-07.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan has revealed that many of the Ministries and Departments have not earmarked adequate funds for SCs/STs as per their share in population.

(d) Only 14 Central Ministries/Departments have earmarked funds under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and 25 Central Ministries towards the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP).

(e) As a corrective measure, revised guidelines have been issued by the Planning Commission on 13th December 2006 to the Central Ministries and Departments for formulation, implementation and monitoring SCSP and TSP.

(f) The earmarked allocation for the States/UTs, Central Ministries/Departments for the welfare of SCs and STs for Annual Plan 2007-08 is under finalisation.

(g) The guidelines and additional guidelines issued by the Planning Commission to States/UTs and Central Ministries for formulation, implementation and monitoring of SCSP and TSP have suggested schemes for welfare and development of SCs and STs under various sectors to be taken up on priority basis. As per the guidelines it is also mandatory to constitute a Monitoring Committee at the State, District and Block Level for SCSP and TSP.

Nuke Issue between India and Japan

3235. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the reaction of Japan to Indo-US Nuclear agreement;

(b) whether the Government of Japan has urged the Government of India to provide the details of Indo-US nuclear agreement;

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

(d) whether Japan has agreed to supply India nuclear power equipment and technology to India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) During Prime Minister's visit to Tokyo in December 2006, India and Japan agreed that international civil nuclear energy should be enhanced through constructive approaches under appropriate IAEA safeguards. The two sides discussed the international civil nuclear cooperation framework with respect to India during the visit of a senior official delegation in January 2007. These discussions will continue.

(d) and (e) We have not approached Japan seeking the supply of nuclear power equipment and technology.

Upgradation of National Highways in Bihar

3236. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the upgradation work of National Highways in Bihar to four lanes/two lanes particularly in Betiah and nearby Parliamentary constituencies has started;

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

(c) the total amount likely to be incurred on the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) Four laning of National Highways in Bihar has been taken up on NH-2 as part of Golden Quadrilateral and NH-28, NH-57 and NH-31 as part of East-West Corridor under NHDP Phase-I and II with the estimated cost of Rs. 2249.80 crore and Rs. 3768.28 crore respectively. Golden Quadrilateral is targeted for completion in 2007 and East-West Corridor by November, 2008.

Two laning work in 98 km. on various sections of National Highways in Bihar with sanctioned cost of Rs. 78.08 crore is under progress. These works are targeted to be completed by 2008.

Work on National Highways are not sanctioned Parliamentary Constituency-wise. Betiah is located on NH-28B. State Government from its own funds has tendered work on NH-28-B from km. 1 to km. 30 and km.31 to km. 64 for Rs.11.60 crore.

Demand and Supply of Computer Hardware

3237. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the computer hardware is sufficient to meet the demand in the country;
- (b) if not, the gap between the demand and supply; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) The production of computer hardware is not sufficient to meet the demand in the country.

(b) As per data provided by the Manufacturers Association of Information Technology (MAIT), the consumption of Desktop computers in 2005-06 was 4.6 million units. This is expected to cross 5.5 million units in 2006-07. About 85% of the consumption of Desktop computers is produced indigenously, while the rest is imported. In case of Notebook computers, the consumption is expected to touch 1 million units in 2006-07 and almost 95% of this would be imported.

(c) Steps taken by the Government for promotion of computer hardware manufacturing in the country are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government for promotion of Computer Hardware Manufacturing in the Country

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the Hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.
2. National Common Minimum Programme

(NCMP) of the Government emphasises on energizing and sustaining the growth of manufacturing industry including IT Hardware.

3. Peak rate of customs duty has been reduced to 10%. Customs duty on ITA-1 items (217 items) has been abolished from 1.3.2005. All goods required in the manufacture of ITA-1 items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition. Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components or optical fibres / cables is 0%. Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is 0%.
4. Excise duty on computers is 12%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives/DVD Writers, Flash Memory and Combo-Drives have been exempted from excise duty.
5. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.
6. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items and notified zero duty telecom/ electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP)/Export Oriented Unit (EQU) units are counted for the purpose of fulfillment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).
7. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes. Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated

as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.

8. Second hand capital goods are freely importable.
9. EOU/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2009-10, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
10. Weighted deduction of 150% of expenditure incurred on in house R and D in case of a company engaged in the business of electronic equipment, computers and telecommunication equipment is available under clause (1) of sub-section (2AB) of Section 35 of the Income Tax Act.

Complaint against Supply of Coal

3238. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received specific complaint about supply of more coal than existing capacity of washery to M/s. Aryan Coal Beneficiation Limited Dipika (ACBL) by South Eastern Coal Limited;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Some

complaints have been received regarding supply of more coal than existing capacity of washery to M/s. Aryan Coal Beneficiation Pvt. Ltd., Dipika by South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL). During 2005-06, 8.91 Million tonnes of raw coal was supplied by South-Eastern Coalfield Ltd. (SECL) to M/s. Aryan Coal Beneficiation Ltd., who has been designated as agent by the respective linked consumers of SECL. As per rules, raw coal was supplied by SECL to the above mentioned agent only after receipt of due payment from consumer. The Standing Linkage Committee (Short Term) for Power and Cement makes quarterly allocation of raw coal to the linked consumers, keeping in view the inputs provided by the coal companies, Railways and Nodal Ministries. The quarterly allocation relating to SECL indicates only raw coal to be supplied by the Coal company to the consumers and their modes of transportation based on request of the consumers.

(c) and (d) A committee was constituted by Coal India Ltd. to assess the capacity (Mty) of Dipika washery of M/s. Aryan Coal Beneficiation Ltd. taking into consideration (i) the system capacity in terms of throughput per hour (ii) permissible hours of operation per year (iii) matching infrastructure as available at present for transportation of raw coal, washed coal and reject. The Committee has since submitted an interim report and based on the recommendations of the report of the Committee, action is being taken. The said Committee has reported that M/s. Aryan Coal Beneficiation has the capacity to wash 9 million tonnes of raw coal.

Capitation Fee in Dental Colleges

3239. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dental Council of India proposes to instruct all the Dental Colleges to stop charging capitation fee from students from the ensuing academic session;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the menace of capitation fee in Dental Colleges is eliminated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 14.8.2003 in the case of Islamic Academy of Education Vs. State of Karnataka and Others and Judgement dated 12.8.2005 in the case of P.A. Inamdar and Ors. Vs. State of Maharashtra and Ors. had with a view to check capitation fee and profiteering in institutions, had given directions to the State Governments to constitute Fee Structuring Committees as per the scheme evolved by the Hon'ble Court. The fees so fixed by such Committees are to be charged from the students by the colleges for the period as may be fixed by the Committees from time to time.

Indo-Maldives Agreement

3240. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any bilateral agreement between India and Maldives to increase co-operation in the fields of drug trafficking, security, disaster management etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Appointment of Direct Selling Agents by BSNL

3241. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has decided to appoint Direct Selling Agents in order to provide better services to consumers through retail outlets;

(b) if so, whether applications have been invited for appointing agents; and

(c) if so, the terms and conditions laid down therefor and facilities likely to be provided to agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The terms and conditions for Direct Selling Agent (DSA) have been laid down in the Sales and Distribution policy of BSNL. Salient aspects of the terms and conditions are as follows:-

- (i) Heads of Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) shall be the appointing authority for DSAs.
- (ii) Minimum Qualification for Direct Selling Agents is 10th standard.
- (iii) Period of appointment is two years.
- (iv) DSA is to cater to door-to-door marketing of BSNL landline and mobile services.
- (v) Retired BSNL employees/spouses are eligible to work as Direct Selling Agents.
- (vi) There is no limit on the number of DSAs to be appoint in this category.
- (vii) DSAs are eligible for commission as laid down in the Sales and Distribution Policy.

Medical Facility to Senior Citizens

3242 SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated a scheme to set up a separate medical wing for the elderly people in the Government hospital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of elderly persons benefited by the said medical wing in Delhi during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no scheme to set up a separate medical wing for the elderly people, however, exclusive O.P.Ds. for Geriatric patients have started functioning in Safdarjung Hospital, LHMC and Associated Hospitals and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi by utilizing existing infrastructure. Apart from it there is separate queue for Senior citizens on all counters including Reception, Cash Counter, Clinical Investigation Counter and Pharmacy.

Crime in Government Hospitals

3243. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

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

(a) the number of crimes reportedly committed in Government hospitals during each of the last three years;

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

(c) the extent of success achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The details of the crimes reported in the Central Government Hospitals are as under:-

| Hospital | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---------------|------|------|------|
| S.J. Hospital | 05 | 01 | 01 |

(b) and (c) The security arrangements have been strengthened by redeployment of existing security personnel. As such the rate of crime in the hospitals has been reported to be reduced.

[English]

Development of Indian Ports

3244. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India lags far behind in the development of ports and in providing them with basic facilities of international standard as compared to that of China and East Asia;

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

(c) whether the waiting period of ships is twice as compared to that of the said countries; and

(d) if so, the details of the efforts made by the Government for the development of Indian ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) It is the Government's endeavour to continuously improve the facilities available in the Indian ports, keeping in view the need to improve their efficiency, productivity, quality of service and their competitiveness. The Department of Shipping has formulated the National Maritime Development Programme in December, 2005 under which a total of 387 projects pertaining to Major Ports, Shipping and Inland Water Transport Sectors, involving an estimated investment of Rs.1,00,339 crores have been identified to be taken up for implementation, over a defined period. Out of this, a total of 276 projects involving estimated investment of Rs. 55,804 crores pertain to the Major Ports. The projects in the Major Ports, to be taken up for implementation over a period upto 2011-12, cover the entire range of activities including construction/reconstruction

tion of berths, deepening of channels, upgradation/modernization of cargo handling equipment, improvement in rail and road connectivity and other associated activities. While the objective is to upgrade the facilities and services to levels which are globally comparable, in the absence of any authoritative and/or universally accepted system of benchmarking, it may not be appropriate to draw definitive conclusions about the level of development and the operational standards in Indian ports vis-à-vis ports outside India.

Caste Panchayats in Rural Areas

3245. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

- (a) whether many caste Panchayats are functioning the rural areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some members of elected Panchayats are also active in these caste Panchayats;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) to (e) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj does not recognize any Panchayat which is not based on Part IX of the Constitution of India. It is for State Governments to deal with the menace of caste panchayats in their respective jurisdiction.

Restriction on Internet Service Providers

3246. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

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

(a) whether Internet service providers provide connectivity to non-registered call centres and BPO centres as reported in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated March 4, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the Government has recently put some restrictions on the internet service providers without any prior notice;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of call centres/BPO centres affected by such restrictions and the number of persons who became unemployed as a result thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the interest of such employees in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) to (c) It has been reported that illegal gray market operations have been operating in garb of call centres / OSPs. Such gray market operators obtained telecom resources from authorized telecom service providers including Internet Service Providers (ISPs). In order to curb such gray market operations, Government issued directions to ISPs to provide internet connectivity only to registered call centres/OSP for their operations.

(d) The directions given to ISPs are meant only for unauthorised call centres/BOP centres and the details regarding number of such centers and their employees are not compiled in the Department.

(e) It is the endeavour of the Government to provide registration to call centres as and when they apply.

[Translation]

Research and Development Work on Yoga

3247. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the schemes promoting research and developmental works in Yoga in the country;

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

(c) whether the Non-Governmental Organisations are getting grant from the Government for this purpose;

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

(e) whether some NGOs are found misusing the fund; and

(f) if so, the action taken against such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes. The Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi reviews its grants-in-aid projects every year by conducting Work Review Meetings wherein the Grants recipients are required to come and present reports regarding the work done and funds utilized. Apart from above these institutions are inspected annually by team of experts deputed by the Council to ensure that the grants-in-aid given is utilized for the purpose for which it is given and the work done is satisfactory. The last annual Work Review Meeting was held from 20th to 22nd September, 2006. The list of schemes reviewed, State-wise and Scheme-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes. The list of the Non-Governmental Organizations getting grant from the Council, state-wise, are enclosed as Statement-II.

(e) No such report has been received as reported by the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy.

(f) It is the responsibility of the Council to effectively monitor the utilization of the grants and take action if any instance of misutilization comes to their notice.

Statement-I

*Annual Work Review Meeting held on 20.9.2006
State-wise list of Research Projects by CCRYN*

| S.No. | Name of the Institute |
|------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. | Dr. Vinod Kochupittai Instt. Rotary Cancer Hospital, AIIMS, New Delhi |
| 2. | Dr. K.K. Deepak, Department of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi |
| 3. | Dr. (Mrs.) Krishna Dalal, Department of Biophysics, AIIMS, New Delhi |
| 4. | Dr. Smita N. Deshpande Department of Psychiatry, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, New Delhi |
| 5. | Dr. Ratna Sharma Department of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi |
| Karnataka | |
| 6. | Dr. T.N. Sathyaprabha Deptt. of Neurophysiology, NIMHANS, Bangalore |
| 7. | Dr. H.R. Nagendra Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samstha, No. 19, Eknath Bhavan, Gavipuram Circle, KG Nagar, Bangalore |
| 8. | Dr. Bindu Kutty, Department of Neuro-Physiology, NIMHANS, Bangalore |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|---|
| | Kerala |
| 9. | Dr. Jayaraj K. Head of Holistic Medicine and Stress Research Unit, Deptt. of Medicine, Govt. Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala |
| | Pondicherry |
| 10. | Dr. Gitanjali, Deptt. of Pharmacology, JIPMER, Pondicherry |
| | Tamil Nadu |
| 11. | Dr. N. Chandrashekharan, Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram, No. 16, Fourth Cross Street, Ramakrishna Nagar, Chennai |
| | Uttar Pradesh |
| 12. | Dr. Ravinder Porwal, Shri Nath Naturopathy and Yoga Centre, Bhagwat Das Ghat Road, Kanpur |
| | West Bengal |
| 13. | Dr. Debasis Bakshi, Indian Research Institute for Integrated Medicine (IRIIM), IRIIM Bhawan, Mourigram, Station Para, P.O. Unsani, Distt. Howrah-711 302, West Bengal |

*List of Treatment-cum-Propagation-Centres
Reviewed on 21.9.2006*

S.No. Name and Address of the Institutes

1 2

ANDHRA PRADESH

1. Managing Trustee,

| 1 | 2 |
|----|---|
| | Institute of Nature Cure, Plot No. 307 Road No. 10C MLA and MPs Colony Gayatri hills Jubilee Hills Hyderabad-500033 (A.P.) Ph. 040-23552402, 23546468 |
| 2. | Dr. K. Satyanarayana, Secretary, A.P. Yogadhyana Parishad Nature Cure Hospital, Dharamkaran Road, Begumpet, Amerpet, Hyderabad-500016 (A.P.) Ph. (91-040) 23731786 |
| 3. | Dr. Kiran Khend, Chief Medical Officer, Swami Vivekananda Holistic Health Care and Research Centre, "Taranath Ashram", Mantralayam Road Station, Tungabhadra-518397 (A.P.) Ph. (08512) 259845/6 |
| | ASSAM |
| 4. | Dr. Raj Kumar Singh, Secretary, Guwahati Centre for Naturopathy and Yoga Ajanta Path, Bye-Lane, No. 3 H. No. 17 Survey Beltolia, Guwahati-28 (Assam) |
| 5. | Dr. Bolin Hazarika, General Secretary, North Eastern Nature Cure and Yoga Centre, Hengrabari, Forest Gate Namghar Path, Guwahati-781036 (Assam) Ph. (0361) 2267945, 5543725, 55434717 |
| | CHHATTISGARH |
| 6. | The Secretary, Shri Labdhi-Vikram-Raj-Aarogyadham Sansthan, Paras Nagar, Post Officer-Nagpura Dist.-Durg 491001. (Chhattisgarh) Ph. 0788-2411101, 2411633 |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|--|
| | GUJARAT |
| 7. | Dr. B. Venkateswar Rao Chief Medical Officer, Vithalbai Ambalal Munshi Nature Cure Centre, P.O. Box. No. : 16 Lambhvel-Bakrol Road, Vallabhvidyanagar Dist.: Anand - 388120 (Gujarat) |
| | HARYANA |
| 8. | Dr. Manav M. Chief Medical Officer, Haryana Prakaritik Chikitsalya, Meham Road Bhiwani-127021 (Haryana) Ph. 01664-242660 |
| | JAMMU AND KASHMIR |
| 9. | Dr. Tashi Stobgais, Mahabodhi Karuan Charitable Hospital, P.O. Box. No. 22, Devachan, Leh Ladakh-194101 J and K (India) Ph. 91-1982-44025/44155 |
| | KARNATAKA |
| 10. | General Secretary, Basava Institute of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, 18½ K.M. Bangalore-Mysore Road, Basavashram, Near Kengeri, Bangalore-560060 Ph. 080-22265505, 22259400 |
| 11. | The Secretary, Sri Shakthi Association, Guttur Colony Harihar-577601 Dist. Davanagere (Karnataka) Ph. 91-8192-240003, 240004 |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|---|
| 12. | Dr. Jitesh P. Secretary, Nisarga Trust (R) Sirsi Nature Cure, Yoga, Acupuncture and Physiotherapy Hospital, Nadig Galli, Sirsi-281401 (N.K.) Ph. 08384-2426578 |
| 13. | The Chairman Prakruthi Arogya Dhama, Sri Atmalingeswara Kshetra, Hanumanthanagara, Maddur Taluk, Dist. Mandya - 571422 (Karnataka) Ph. 08232-245595, 235006, 245596 |
| 14. | Dr. Rama Murthy, Shri J.G. Co-operative Hospital Co-operative Hospi- tal Society's Smt. Parvati Basavaraj Booplapur Naturopathy and Yoga Centre, Ghataprabha-591321 Tq: Gokak Dist.: Belgaum, (Karnataka) Ph. 08322-286987, 286933 |
| 15. | Dr. Satish M. Hombali, The Rural Medical Service Society, K.H. Patil Institute of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, Post Hulkoti-581205 Dist. Gadag (Karnataka) |
| | KERALA |
| 16. | Dr. K.R. Jaya Kumar, Chief Medical Officer, (NC) Govt. Nature Cure Hospital, Verkala, Thiruvananthapuram-695141 (Kerala) |
| | MAHARASHTRA |
| 17. | Dr. R.V. Nisal, Programme Director, Nisargopchar Gramsudhar Trust, Nisargoopchar Ashram Uruli Kanchan, Dist-Pune 412202 (Maharashtra) Ph. 020-26926298, 26926230 |

- | 1 | 2 |
|----------------|---|
| 18. | Dr. Uday Chotai Director, Just for Health Holistic Health and Nature Cure Awareness Centre, Kapol Sanatorium, Plot No. 9/10, L.M.D.V.R.T. Mody and Putlibai Trust, Amervadi, Behind Hotel Dream Land Mumbai, Pune Road, Lonavala-410401 (Maharashtra) Ph. 02114-275745, 274945 |
| 19. | Dr. Jitender Arya, Doctor Incharge, Institute for Nature Cure and Yogic Sciences, Pune-Nasik Road, Bhojpur-Bosari, Pune 411039 (Maharashtra) Ph. 020-27122770, 27127033 |
| 20. | Shri S.J. Sarode, President, Sharda Mahila Vikas Bahuddeshiya Sanstha, Chankya, Appt. Opp. M.J. College, Jalgaon-425002, (Maharashtra) Ph. 0257-3091435, 2217503 |
| 21. | Dr. Shashi Patil, Shivambu Yoga and Naturopathy Hospital, 13, Sane Guruji Vashinaka Road, Kolhapur-416012, (Maharashtra) Ph. 0231-2321565, 2321766 |
| MANIPUR | |
| 22. | Shri Radha Mohan Das, Secretary, Iskcon Nature Cure Hospital and Yogic Ashram, Langol Foothill, Lamphelpat, Imphal-795004 (Manipur) Ph. 0385-2414032 |

- | 1 | 2 |
|-----------------------|--|
| 23. | Dr. Ksh. Kala Singh, Nature Cure and Yoga Research Hospital, Manipur Prakritik Chikitsa Samiti, Kongpal Porompat Kshetri Leikai, Imphal East Dist. (Manipur) Ph. 0385-2230392 |
| 24. | Dr. K. Basanta Singh, Secretary, Nature Cure and Yoga Hospital, Kangba Kshetri Leikai-795001, Manipur, Mob. 09436039525, Ph. 0385-2443436 |
| MADHYA PRADESH | |
| 25. | Dr. A.K. Vishwa Karma, Maihar Cement Seva Trust Yoga and Naturopathy Centre, P.O. Sarlanagar - 485772 Dist. Satna (MP) Ph. 07674-277350 |
| 26. | Shri Kailash Gupta, Trustee, Jai Narayan Arogya Dham, 54, Narmada Road, Jabalpur-482001, MP. |
| TAMIL NADU | |
| 27. | Dr. Asana Andiappan, Asana Andiappan College of Yoga and Research Centre, No. 16-21st, Main Road, Anna Nagar, West Chennai-600040 (Tamil Nadu) Ph. 044-26183709 |
| UTTAR PRADESH | |
| 28. | Dr. Prachi Dixit, President, G.P. Dixit Yoga and Naturopathy Hospital, 4/153, Near Murti Manohar Mandir, Baluganj, Agra (UP) Ph. 2365452, 2262428, 2363346 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|

WEST BENGAL

29. The Secretary,
Nature Cure and Yoga Research Institute,
Konchoki, D.H. Road, P.O.-Bishnupur,
Dist. 24 Parganas (S) – 743053 (West Bengal)
Ph. 2453-3880/3881

List of Grantee Institution for the year 2005-06

(A) Patient Care Centre (10 Bedded)

| S.No. | Name of the Institution |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 |

ANDHRA PRADESH

- Red Cross Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy, Hyderabad
- Mother India Social Service Organization, Vetapalem
- Shri Laxmi Narashimha Swami Nature Cure Hospital, Nalgonda
- Pathanjali Yoga Research and Training College, Nature Cure Hospital, Warangal
- Vegiraju Krishnam Raju Prakruthi Ashram, Bhimavaram, Godawari Distt.

HARYANA

- Laxmi Yoga Prakirtik Chikitsa Kendra, Rohtak

KARNATAKA

- Nisarga Chikitsa Saniti, Bengeri, Hubli

KERALA

- Mahatma Nature Cure Centre, Kannur

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|

MAHARASHTRA

- Health-Naturally R and D Institute, Mumbai

MANIPUR

- Public Yoga and Nature Cure Home, Kakching, Manipur
- Lisham Jaubshing Memorial Nature Cure Hospital, Imphal East, Manipur
- The Thamchet Memorial Nature Cure and Yoga Hospital, Imphal East, Manipur
- Manipur Nature Cure Hospital and Academy of Nature Cure and Yoga Trust, Thoubal District

RAJASTHAN

- Swasthya Sadhana Kendra, Jodhpur

TAMIL NADU

- Universal Good Life Ashram, Tirunelveli
- Dhyan Research Institute, Chennai

UTTARANCHAL

- Vaidic Ashram Gurukul Mahavidyalaya Kanvashram, Kotdwar.

(B) Patient Care Centre (5 Bedded)

| S.No. | Name of the Institution |
|-------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 |

HARYANA

- Maharshi Dayanad Prakritik Chikitsalaya and Yoga Prashikshan Kendra, Kaithal

| 1 | 2 |
|-----------------------|--|
| MADHYA PRADESH | |
| 2. | Patanjal Yogvart Parisar, Vidisha |
| MANIPUR | |
| 3. | Health Development Organisation, Ningthou Liekai Kakching, Manipur |
| ORISSA | |
| 4. | Sarasvati, Yoga – Naturopathy Hospital and Research Institute, Bhadrak |
| TRIPURA | |
| 5. | Dhanajyoti Yoga and Natural Therapy Society, South Tripura |
| 6. | Om Adesh Sreemat Puskar Nathjee Yogashram, North Tripura |
| UTTAR PRADESH | |
| 7. | Panch Tatwa Sevashram Yoga and Nature Cure Centre, Etah |
| WEST BENGAL | |
| 8. | Sri Aurobindo Ansuilan Society, Birbhum |

State-wise List of on Going Research Projects at NGOS

| S.No. | Name of the Institute |
|------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 |
| Karnataka | |
| 1. | ALN Rao Ayurvedic Medical College, Koppa, Karnataka |
| 2. | Vivekananda Yoga Rsearch Foundation, Gavipuram Circle, KG Nagar, Bangalore |

| 1 | 2 |
|----------------------|--|
| Rajasthan | |
| 3. | Bhagwan Mahaveer Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur |
| Tamil Nadu | |
| 4. | Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram, Fourth Cross Street, Ramakrishna Nagar, Chennai |
| Uttar Pradesh | |
| 5. | Shri Nath Naturopathy and Yoga Centre, Bhagwatdas Ghat Road, Kanpur |
| West Bengal | |
| 6. | Indian Research Institute for Medicine (IRIIM), Howrah |

Statement-II

List of NGOs Getting Grants-In-Aid for Treatment-Cum-Propogation-Centres from CCRYN

| S.No. | Name and Address of the Institute |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 |
| Andhra Pradesh | |
| 1. | Managing Trustee, Institute of Nature Cure, Plot No. 307 Road No. 10C MLA and MPs Colony Gayatri hills Jubilee Hills Hyderabad-500033 (A.P.) Ph. 040-23552402, 23546468 |
| 2. | Dr. Kiran Khend, Chief Medical Officer, Swami Vivekananda Holistic Health Care and Research Centre, "Taranath Ashram", Mantralayam Road Station, Tungabhadra-518397 (A.P.) Ph. (08512) 259845/6 |

| 1 | 2 |
|----|---|
| | Assam |
| 3. | Dr. Raj Kumar Singh, Secretary, Guwahati Centre for Naturopathy and Yoga Ajanta Path, Bye-Lane, No-3 H.No.17 survey Beltolla, Guwahati-28 (Assam) |
| 4. | Dr. Bolin Hazarika, General Secretary, North Eastern Nature Cure and Yoga Centre, Hengrabari, Forest Gate Namghar Path, Guwahati-781036 (Assam) Ph. (0361) 2267945, 5543725, 55434717 |
| | Chandigarh |
| 5. | The Secretary, Shri Labdhi-Vikram-Raj-Aarogyadham Sansthan, Paras Nagar, Post Office-Nagpura Dist-Durg 491001. (Chhattisgarh) Ph. 0788-2411101, 2411633 |
| | Gujarat |
| 6. | Dr. B. Venkateswar Rao Chief Medical Officer, Vitthalbhai Ambalal Munshi Nature Cure Centre, P.O. Box. No. 16 Lambhvel-Bakrol Road, Vallabhvidyanagar, Dist: Anand-388120 (Gujarat) |
| | Haryana |
| 7. | Dr. Manav M. Chief Medical Officer, Haryana Prakaritik Chikitsalya, Meham Road Bhiwani-127021 (Haryana) Ph. 01664-242660 |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|---|
| | Jammu and Kashmir |
| 8. | Dr. Tashi Stobgais, Mahabodhi Karuna Charitable Hospital. P.O. Box. No. 22, Devachan, Leh Ladakh- 194101 J and K (India) Ph. 91-1982-44025/44155 |
| | Karnataka |
| 9. | General Secretary, Basava Institute of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, 18½ K.M. Bangalore-Mysore Road, Basavashram, Near Kengeri, Bangalore-560060 Ph. 080-22265505, 22259400 |
| 10. | The Secretary, Sri Shakthi Association, Guttur Colony Harihar-577601 Dist. Davanagere (Karnataka) Ph. 91-8192-240003, 240004 |
| 11. | Dr. Jitesh P. Secretary, Nisarga Trust (R) Sirsi Nature Cure, Yoga, Acupuncture and Physiotherapy Hospital, Nadig Galli, Sirsi-281401 (N.K.) Ph. 08384-2426578 |
| 12. | The Chairman Prakruthi Arogya Dhama, Sri Atmalingeshwara Kshetra, Hanumanthanagara, Maddur Taluk, Dist. Mandya-571422 (Karnataka) Ph. 08232-245595, 235006, 245596 |
| 13. | Dr. Rama Murthy, Shri J.G. Co-operative Hospital Society's Smt. Parvati Basavaraj Booplapur Naturopathy and Yoga Centre, Ghataprabha-591321 Tq: Gokak Dist: Belgaum, (Karnataka) Ph: 08322-286987, 286933 |

| 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
|-----|---|-----|--|
| 14. | <p>Dr. Satish. M. Hombali The Rural Medical Service Society, K.H. Patil Institute of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences, Post Hulkoti-581205 Dist. Gadag (Karnataka)</p> <p>Maharashtra</p> | 19. | <p>Dr. Shashi Patil, Shivambu Yoga and Naturopathy Hospital, 13, Sane Guruji Vashinaka Road, Kaothapur-416012, (Maharashtra) Ph. 0231-2321565, 2321766</p> <p>Manipur</p> |
| 15. | <p>Dr. R.V. Nisal, Programme Director, Nisargopchar Gramsudhar Trust, Nisargopchar Ashram Uruli Kanchan, Dist-Pune 412202 (Maharashtra) Ph. 020-26926298, 26926230</p> | 20. | <p>Shri Radha Mahon Das, Secretary, Iskcon Nature Cure Hospital and Yogic Ashram, Langol Foothill,, Lampheipat, Imphal-795004 (Manipur) Ph. 0385-2414032</p> |
| 16. | <p>Dr. Uday Chotai, Director, Just for Health Holistic Health and Nature Cure Awareness Centre, Kapol Sanatorium, Plot No. 9/10, L.M.D.V.R.T. Mody and Puntibai Trust, Amervadi, Behind Hotel Dream Land Mumbai, Pune Road Lonavala-410401 (Maharashtra) Ph. 02114-275745, 274945</p> | 21. | <p>Dr. Ksh. Kala Singh, Nature Cure and Yoga Research Hospital, Manipur Prakirtik Chikitsa Samiti, Kongpal Porompal Kshetri Leikai, Imphal East Dist. (Manipur) Ph. 0385-2230392</p> |
| 17. | <p>Dr. Jitender Arya, Doctor Incharge, Institute for Nature Cure and Yogic Sciences, Pune-Nasik Road, Bhojapur-Bosari, Pune 411039 (Maharashtra) Ph. 020-27122770, 27127033</p> | 22. | <p>Dr. K. Basanta Singh, Secretary, Nature Cure and Yoga Hospital, Kangba Kshetri Leikai-795001, Manipur, Mob. 09436039525, Ph. 0385-2443436</p> <p>Madhya Pradesh</p> |
| 18. | <p>Shri S.J. Sarode, President, Sharda Mahila Vikas Bahuddeshiya Sanstha, Chankya, Appt. Opp. M.J. College, Jalgaon-425002, (Maharashtra) Ph. 0257-3091435, 2217503</p> | 23. | <p>Dr. A.K. Vishwa Karma, Malhar Cement Seva Trust Yoga and Naturopathy Centre, P.O. Sarlanagar-485772 Dist. Satna (MP) Ph. 07674-277350</p> |
| | | 24. | <p>Shri Kailash Gupta, Trustee, Jai Narayan Arogya Dham, 54, Narmada Road, Jabalpur-482001, MP.</p> |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|--|
| | Tamil Nadu |
| 25. | Dr. Asana Andiappan, Asana Andiappan College of Yoga and Research Centre, No. 16-21st, Main Road, Anna Nagar, West Chennai-600040 (Tamil Nadu) Ph. 044-26183709 |
| | Uttar Pradesh |
| 26. | Dr. Prachi Dixit, President, G.P. Dixit Yoga and Naturopathy Hospital, 4/153, Near Murl Manohar Mandir, Baluganj, Agra (UP) Ph. 2365452, 2262428, 2363346 |
| | West Bengal |
| 27. | The Secretary, Nature Cure and Yoga Research Institute, Konchoki, D.H. Road, P.O.-Bishnupur, Dist. 24 Parganas (S) – 743053 (West Bengal) Ph. 2453-3880/3881 |
| | Proposal passed in 18th SFC (New Proposals) |
| | Andhra Pradesh |
| 28. | Shri Vinay. R. Sabbo, Managing Trustee, Kasturba Nature Cure & Yoga Institute, S.V.P.N.P.A., Shivarampally, Hyderabad-500052 |
| 29. | The Chairman, The Guntur Mahatma Gandhi Prakruthi Yoga Arogya Sevashram, D.No. 11-1-11/7, Gorabtila (PO), Guntur (D.T.) (A.P.) |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|--|
| 30. | The Trustee, Shanti Nature Crue Hospital, 16-2-742/F/4, Andhra Bank Colony, Dilsukhanagar, Hyderabad-36, (AP) |
| 31. | Dr. Sistla Lakshminarayana, Managing Trustee, Nature Cure Hospital, 15-15-43/A, Beach Road, Budhavarapu Gardens, Maharanipeta (P.O.), Visakhapatnam-530002 (AP) |
| 32. | Dr. T. Amarender Rao, Medical Officer, Nature Cure Health Centre, Laxminagar, Peddapally Road, Bommakal, Karimnagar-505002 (AP) |
| | Bihar |
| 33. | Parakritik Arogyashram, Prakritik Nikunj, Rajgir, Nalanda-803116, Bihar |
| | Himachal Pradesh |
| 34. | The Chief Executive Officer, "Kayakalpa"Himalayan Research Institute for Yoga and Naturopathy, Holta Palampur, Dist. Kangra (HP) Pin-176062 |
| | Kerala |
| 35. | Dr. Philip Neri, Bethany Nature Cure and Yoga Centre, Nalanchira, Trivandrum-695015, Kerala |
| | Rajasthan |
| 36. | Dr. Akhya Vohra, Director, Navneet Chikitsa Anusandhan Trust, Navneet Prakritik Yog Chikitsa Dham, Bassi-303302, Jaipur (Raj.) |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|--|
| | Uttanchal |
| 37. | Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sharma, Chief Medical Officer, Parmarth Nature Cure and Yoga Centre, Parmarth Niketan, Swargashram, Rishikesh-249304 |
| | Andhra Pradesh |
| 38. | Dr. N. Dinesh Raj, Red Cross Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy, L.V. Prasad Marg, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500033 (AP) |
| 39. | Dr. V.L. Kamala Devi, Vegiraju Krishnam Raju Prakruthi Ashram, Door No. 9-3-3, Vidya Bhavan's Public School Road, 19th Ward, Bhimavaram, West Godawari Dist Pin-534201 (AP) |
| 40. | Dr. Vimala Reddy, Sri Laxmi Narasimha Swami Nature Cure Hospital, H.No. 6-2-208/1 Post and Mandal Bibinagar, Dist. Nalgonda, Pin-508126 (AP) |
| | Kerala |
| 41. | Dr. S.K. Madhavan, President and Chief Physician, Mahatma Nature Cure Centre, Court Road, Post office Talipaamba, Kannur, Kerala |
| | Manipur |
| 42. | Dr. M. Akendrani Devi, Secretary, Public Yoga and Nature Cure Home, Kakching Chimnang Leikai, Kakching, Manipur |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|---|
| 43. | Dr. N. Sarojini Devi, Manipur Nature Cure and Yoga Hospital, Ngaikhong Khullen, Bishnupur District, Manipur |
| 44. | Dr. L. Ibotomba Singh, The Thanchet Memorial Nature Cure and Yoga Hospital, Kongbas Ksehtri Keikai, Imphal East, Manipur |
| 45. | Swami Vedanand Saraswati Patanjali Yogvari Parisar, Maharishi Patanjali Path, Sanchi-Bhopal Road, Vidisha, M.P. |

List of grantee Institutions (10 Bed Scheme)

| S.No. | Name of the Institution |
|-------|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| | Andhra Pradesh |
| 1. | Dr. Ch. Sudarshan, Pathanjali Yoga Research and Training College Nature Cure Hospital, H.No. 2-5-876, Ubeddar, Opp. Post Office, Hanamkonda, Distt. Warangal, Andhra Pradesh |
| | Haryana |
| 2. | Secretary, Laxmi Yoga Prakritik Chikitsa Kender, 30/347, Dev Colony, Rohtak, Haryana |

| 1 | 2 | 8. |
|----|---|--|
| | Karnataka | |
| 3. | Sri V.B. Mahishi Secretary, Nisarga Chikitsa Samiti, Bengeri, Hubli-580023 Karnataka Ph. 0836-288244 | 9. |
| | Manipur | 10. |
| 4. | Dr. L. Herachandra Singh President Lasham Jaubshing Memorial Nature Cure Hospital, Wangkhei Thambalkhong Lisham Leirak, Imphal East-795001, Manipur, Ph. 0385-2445530 | 11. |
| | Rajasthan | 12. |
| 5. | Shri S.B. Maheshwari, Coordinator, Swasthya Sadhana Kendra, Kamala Nehru Nagar, Lal Pulia, Cghoupsani Road, Jodhpur-342009 Rajasthan, Ph. 0291-2750474 | 13. |
| | Tamilnadu | |
| 6. | Dr. R. Nalvazhvu Universal Good Life Ashram, Post Office Sivasailam, | 14. Dr. Rajesh Padekal, Pranava Yoga and Naturopathy Centre, Near Mahakali Temple, Ujjodi, Pumpwell, Mangalore-575002, Karnataka |
| | Manipur | |
| 7. | | 15. Dr. A. Ibotombi Singh, Secretary, Nature Cure and Yoga Health Centre, Wangoo Ahallup, PO Moirang, Bishnupur Dist. Manipur-795133 |

| 1 | 2 |
|-----|---|
| | Maharashtra |
| 16. | The Secretary, S.P. Sanstha's Department of Naturopathy and Yoga Sangammer College, Sangammer at Post-Sangammer, Ph. Sangammer Pin-422605 Dist. Abednagar (M.S.) |
| 17. | Dr. Lokesh Gabhane, Director, Nisargopchar and Yoga Kendra, C/o Mahure Niwas, Near Samarth High School Ground, Samarth Nagar, P.O. = Tah. Lakhani, Distt. Bhandara-441904 (M.S.) |
| | Uttar Pradesh |
| 18. | Shri A.M. Moitra, Director Cum Secretary, Balhakam Satisavitri Naturopathy Hospital and Research Centre, Village-Amiya, Post-Dandapur, Rewa Road, Allahabad (U.P.) |
| | West Bengal |
| 19. | Shri Subrata Mukherjee, Director, Shivananda Math and Yogashram Sangha, Shivananda Yogic Hospital, No. 3 Waterpump House, Nazarganj, Jugjatala, P.O. and Dist. Paschim Midnapore (W.B.) |
| 20. | The Secretary, Greenwoods Centre for Healthcare and Rehabilitation. Behind Nature Cure Hospital, Pradhan Nagar, Siliguri, Darjeeling, Pin-734403 |

List of Grantee Institutions (5 Bed Scheme)

| S.No. | Name of the Institution |
|-------|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| | Haryana |
| 1. | Dr. Hari Ram President, Maharshi Dayanand Prakritik Chikitsalaya and Yoga Prashikshan Kendra, Ambala Road, Kaithal, Haryana, Ph. 01746-222785, 9416654132 |
| | Manipur |
| 2. | Dr. M. Lokendrajit Singh, Health Development Organization, IMRH and Manipur Nature Cure and Yoga College Kakching, Khullen, Ningthou Liekai Kakching, Manipur-795103 |
| | Orissa |
| 3. | Dr. Sedananda Dikshita Chairman Sarasvati, Yoga-Naturopathy Hospital and Research Institute, Sarasvati Vihara, Randia, Bhadrak, Pin-756113 Orissa, Ph. 067784-261690 |
| | Tripura |
| 4. | Dr. Tanmayanand Brahmachari President Dhanajyoti Yoga and Natural Therapy Society, Vill, Rajarbag Bus Stand, P.O. Radhakishorpur, Udaipur, South Tripura |

| 1 | 2 |
|----|---|
| 5. | <p>Dr. Nripendra Debnath, Om Adesh Sreemat Pushkar Nathjee Yogashram, Yoga Training College and Hospital Kumarghat, P.O. Patiabari, Dist. North-Tripura- 799120 Ph. 03821-223949</p> <p>Uttar Pradesh</p> |
| 6. | <p>Dr. (Mrs.) Mithilesh Sharma, Secretary, Panch Tatwa Sevashram Yoga and Nature Cure Centre, Manav Samaj Kalyan Samiti, 149, B-1, Shanti Nagar, Etah-207001 (Uttar Pradesh) Ph. 05742-233227</p> <p>West Bengal</p> |
| 7. | <p>Prof. Pankaj Ghosh, President, Sri Aurobindo Anusilan Society, Seharapara, P.O. Suri, Dist. Birbhum-731101, (West Bengal) Ph. 03462-255613, 255105</p> |

[English]

**Additional Inter-Connection Charges
on e-Seva**

3248. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has raised a demand for payment of additional inter-connection charges in addition to lease line cost on e-Seva, which is a public utility service of the Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for waiving interconnectivity charges for e-governance applications for e-Seva and other Government projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has raised bills to tune of Rs. 13 crores for Inter-connectivity charges for e-Seva Network.

(b) BSNL has raised the bills since e-Seva is not a pure Government project but based on Public Private Partnership (PP) model. Therefore, inter-connection charges between networks of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Private Sector corporate cannot be waived off.

(c) to (e) A communication has been received by the Government from Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh requesting for waiver of interconnectivity charges for e-Governance applications in general and for e-Seva project in particular. The request has been examined by the Government and the same could not be agreed to.

Expansion of Capacity of Telephone Exchange

3249. SHRI M. APPADURAI :

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

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

(a) whether the existing capacity of telephone exchange in Thirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu has been expanded during 2006-07;

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

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. Existing capacity of telephone exchanges in Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu Circle has been expanded by 1808 lines during 2006-07 (upto 28.2.2007).

(b) The exchange-wise details are as under:-

| S. No. | Name of Exchange | Type of Exchange | Expanded Capacity |
|--------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Melaseval | C-DOT RSU | 128 |
| 2. | Cheranmahadevi | C-DOT RSU | 128 |
| 3. | Valliyur | C-DOT MBM | 128 |
| 4. | Ulagankulam | ANRAX | 184 |
| 5. | Veeravanallur | C-DOT RSU | 128 |
| 6. | Palayankottai | OCB Main | 1000 |
| 7. | Venkatesapuram | ANRAX | 40 |
| 8. | Uthumalai | C-DOT RSU | 72 |
| Total | | | 1808 |

(c) The total expenditure incurred for the expansion of above exchange in Tirunelveli district during 2006-2007 (upto 28.2.2007) is Rs. 37,49,440 (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs forty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Only).

National Maternity Benefit Scheme

3250.SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN :
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY :
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

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

(a) whether financial assistance is provided under the National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) at the rate of Rs. 500 a birth to women who are 19 years or above;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite allocating the funds to the States, lakhs of poor women in the rural areas have been denied the benefit;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether a large sum is lying unspent with the States under this scheme;

(f) if so, whether there is no proper monitoring of the utilization of funds under this scheme;

(g) whether keeping in view the tardy implementation of the scheme, the Supreme Court has pulled up the Center as well as the States in this regard; and

(h) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government in consultation with the States for proper implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) has ended in March, 2005. Instead, a new scheme called Janai Suraksha Yojana (JSY) has been introduced since April, 2005. Under the National Maternity Benefit Scheme, financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 500/- per pregnancy for the first two live births used to be provided to women belonging to below poverty line (BPL) households and who had attained 19 years of age or above.

(c) to (f) Due to poor implementation of the scheme by the States/Union Territories (UT), many States could not utilise the allocated fund. As a result, utilisation certificate amounting to Rs. 53.00 crores are pending from States/UTs. The matter is being vigorously followed up to obtain utilisation certificates. As the core responsibility of

implementation of National Maternity Benefit Scheme was with the States/UTs, they were advised to closely monitor the implementation. States were advised to nominate State and District level Nodal Officers for this purpose.

(g) The Hon'ble Supreme Court while hearing the writ petition (Civil) regarding PUCL Versus Union of India and other, expressed concern over the low utilisation of funds by the State under NMBS.

(h) Due to low utilisation of fund and also due to the fact, the scheme was not addressing the maternal health issues, holistically the scheme has been modified and a new scheme namely Janani Suraksha Yojana has been introduced for promoting safe motherhood. It has the objective of reducing maternal and neo-natal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among the poor pregnant women. Since, the introduction of Janani Suraksha Yojana, majority of the States have been reporting higher expenditure. Against approximately 5.7 lakhs beneficiaries reported in financial year 2005-06, around 21 lakh pregnant women have benefited from this scheme till December, 2006 in the current financial year.

Setting up of Common Forum for Port Sector

3251.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has suggested for setting up of a common forum or council to resolve the contentious issues of regulatory framework and tariff in the port sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed forum/council will have any representation from the Government investors and the stakeholders in the sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) The Department of Shipping interacts regularly with representatives of the Government agencies concerned and other stakeholders in the Port Sector. It also plans to hold regular meetings with the stakeholders especially with a view to exploring ways and means for resolving issues arising out of the regulatory regime. The objective of the regular interactions is to get feedback from all stakeholders concerned and initiate appropriate corrective measures through policy interventions.

Rail Over Bridges in Bihar

3252.SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has to construct eleven Rail Over Bridges (ROB) under National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) in Bihar on National Highways Nos. 4, 11A, 16, 54A, 33, 34, 32, 175, 47, 10A and 47;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether construction of these ROB's has started;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take against the erring officials of NHAI for not completing these ROB's as per programme;

(e) whether NHAI is required to sign MoUs with the State Government of Bihar regarding construction of nine ROB's at NH Nos. 31, 30, 67A, 47/48, 48A, 59, 53, 69, and 102;

(f) if so, the time by which these MoUs will signed and ROB's are constructed as per programme; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI

K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) The National Highways Nos. 4, 11A, 16, 54A, 33, 34, 32, 175, 47, 10A and 47 do not fall in the State of Bihar.

(e) to (g) No MOU is required to be signed by NHAI with Bihar Government for ROB's on National Highways mandated to NHAI.

Implementation of IMNCI Scheme

3253. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether the Government has implemented Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) in some selected districts across the country;

(b) if so, the major highlights of the scheme;

(c) the names of the States where this scheme is being implemented at present;

(d) whether there is any proposal to implement this scheme throughout the country; and

(e) if so, the time by when this scheme is likely to be implemented in all districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has initiated implementation of Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) in some selected districts across the country. This Scheme provides a holistic management of the commonest cause of neonatal, infant and under five child deaths – infections in the first month of life (Neonates), pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, malaria and fever. There is also an important component of promotion of breastfeeding, complementary feeding from six months of age onwards and sustenance of good nutrition. It has three components viz. improving

skills of health workers, strengthening health systems and community participation. It involves training of about 4000 personnel per district and thus each district would take at least two years to be covered under IMNCI.

The states where this Scheme is being implemented are Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Pondicherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme which is being implemented under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), this scheme is to be implemented throughout the country in a phased manner. As per the RCH implementation plan, at least 125 districts of the country would implement the IMNCI by 2010.

[Translation]

NHDP Projects in Bihar

3254. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA :

SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR :

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

(a) the details of the National Highways alongwith their length constructed/being constructed in Bihar under various Projects of NHAI;

(b) the estimated cost and the expenditure incurred by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under its Phase-I, Phase-II and Phase-III in Bihar during the last three years and the current year till date;

(c) the present status of the construction of each of the National Highways; and

(d) the funds allocated for NH-28-B Chhapawa-Betiah-Uttar Pradesh border during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) Four-laning of NHs in Bihar has been taken up under National Highways Development Project (NHDP)-Phase I and II is as under:-

| NHDP Phase | National Highways (NH) No. | Length in km. |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Golden Quadrilateral | 2 | 206 |
| East-West Corridor | 28, 57, 31 | 513 |

The estimated cost for NHDP Phase-I, II and IIIA in Bihar is Rs. 2249.8 crore, Rs. 3768.28 crore and Rs. 615 crore respectively. The expenditure incurred on these projects during last three years till February, 2007 is Rs. 1216.50 crore. 94.5% length of National Highways on Golden Quadrilateral in Bihar has been completed but in East-West Corridor work has been taken up only recently. 98 km. length for Rs. 78.08 crore has been sanctioned on various NHs in Bihar for 2-laning works. Government of Bihar from its own funds has tendered work on NH-28-B from km. 1 to km. 30 and km. 31 to km. 64 for Rs. 11.60 crore.

[English]

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

3255.SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a steady increase in the sexually transmitted diseases in the North-Eastern States, especially Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to educate the people to check the spread of these killer diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) As per reports received from State AIDS Control Societies of the North Eastern States, the

number of reported STI cases for last three years, including Sikkim is given below. The number of cases reported from Sikkim is 110 in year 2004, 22 in year 2005 and 56 in year 2006.

| Year | No. of reported STI cases from NE States |
|------|---|
| 2004 | 24717 |
| 2005 | 32306 |
| 2006 | 26972 |

(c) National AIDS Control Programme provides financial support to STI clinics for procurement of drugs and training of personnel. Awareness programmes on prevention of STI are carried out by using various mass-media channels and interpersonal communication with emphasis on safe sex including condom.

Migrant in Search of Jobs

3256.SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increasing number of women migrating in search of jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the nature of the jobs in which migrants are engaged;

(d) whether the International Labour Organization (ILO) has conducted any study in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Indian software engineers and designers moving to the U.S. are a part of the brain drain from country to their origin;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the number of the Indian scientists and the engineers and the Ph.D graduates in the U.S.?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (e) As per the Report-VI, 2004 of the International Labour Organisation, the number of women emigrating for employment remains around 50% of such emigrants. The nature of jobs in which they are engaged mainly pertain to housemaids, garment workers, nurses, doctors and entertainers etc.

(f) to (h) As per information available most of the PIOs/NRIs are engaged in the high-end professions as income of the Indian American Median Family is over US \$ 61000 against the National Median Income of US \$ 42000. With total population of Indian Americans being 2.3 million, nearly 61% of Indian Americans over the age of 25 years hold a bachelor degree or higher qualification. As per the estimates of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) and other organisations of Indian professionals, there are over 40000 Indian doctors and over 5 lakh technical experts of Indian origin working in USA. About 4.6% of the Indian Americans are Ph.D. holders.

Exploration of Coal by Power Companies in Orissa

3257.SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL) has permitted some power companies from Maharashtra and Gujarat to explore Coal in Orissa;

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

(c) the details of power companies which are exploring coal in the State; and

(d) if details of terms and conditions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (d) The Machhaketta and Mahanadi coal block in Talcher coalfield of Orissa have been jointly allocated to two power

companies of Maharashtra and Gujarat i.e. Maharashtra State Power Generation Corporation Ltd. (MSPGCL) and Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd. (GSECL) for captive mining through Govt. dispensation route. These two companies have formed a Joint Venture Company Viz. Mahaguj Colliery Limited having its Head Quarters at Prakashgad. Mumbai. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDI) is conducting detailed exploration in these blocks under the scheme of Detailed Drilling in Non-CIL Blocks.

Harbour Project Work at Colachel

3258.SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has started taking initiative to invite bidders to taken up the contract of the proposed harbour project work at Colachel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tender would be invited internationally or indigenously; and

(d) whether the port will be on the basis of B.O.T. or solely by the Budgetary Provision of the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, the Central Govt. is responsible for the development of Major Ports. The respective State Governments have overall jurisdiction on Non Major ports and are responsible for their development. At present Colachel is a Non-Major port in Tamil Nadu and is hence under the jurisdiction of State Government of Tamil Nadu. However, a request has been received from Government of Tamil Nadu for development of Colachel Port as a Major Port. Steps for preparation of a Techno-Economic Feasibility and Detailed Project Report as well as Environmental Impact Assessment Studies for the project have been undertaken.

[Translation]

**Shortage of Officers for Indian
Flag Vessels**

3259.SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a shortage of officers to man the Indian Flag Vessels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, port-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the shortage of officers;
- (d) the time by which the shortage would be filled up;
- (e) whether Jawahar Lal Port Trust has sought any permission from the Government to stop the loading and unloading work for a certain time period due to the shortage of captains;
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (g) whether the captains of public sector ports are joining the private sector ports;
- (h) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (i) the steps taken by the Government to check this trend and to improve the skill of Indian Crew?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) In view of the acute shortage of Indian officers, the Government is considering a proposal to allow foreign officers to work on Indian ships subject to certain conditions in consultation with the shipping industry. Ships are owned by Indian Shipping Companies and not ports. Therefore, it will not be possible to work out the port-wise shortage of officers.

(e) and (f) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has not sought any permission from the Government to stop loading and unloading work for a certain period of time as no such stoppage has been envisaged.

(g) to (i) The emoluments and working conditions for the Pilots in Private Sector Ports are reported to be more attractive and hence, there is a trend for the pilots to leave the port service. The Major Ports therefore, manage their work by engaging pilots on contractual basis. Pay scales of officers of the Major Ports including pilots are revised periodically. The next pay revision is due with effect from 01.01.2007. There is no separate proposal with the Government to revise the pay scale of these pilots.

Extradition Treaties with Countries

3260.SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the countries with which India has already signed extradition treaty alongwith the years in which these treaties were signed;
- (b) the salient features of such treaties;
- (c) whether India proposes to enter with some more countries including Portugal and Argentina;
- (d) if so, the time by which these treaties are likely to be signed with Portugal and Argentina;
- (e) the names of the countries which have declined to sign the treaty and the reasons therefor;
- (f) the difficulties encountered/being encountered in signing these treaties; and
- (g) the extent to which these treaties are helpful to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Extradition Treaties are in force with: Belgium (1958), Nepal (1963), Canada (1987), Netherlands (1989), U.K. (1993), Switzerland (1996), Bhutan, Hong Kong (1997), USA (1999), Russia, UAE (2000), Uzbekistan (2002), Spain, Turkey (2003), Mongolia, Germany, Tunisia, Republic of Korea (2004), Bahrain, South Africa, Oman, France, Poland (2005), Bulgaria and Ukraine (2006). Treaties with Mauritius, Tajikistan (2003), Kuwait, Philippines (2004) and

Portugal (2007) have been signed but are yet to be ratified. India has Extradition arrangements with Sweden (1963), Tanzania (1966), Australia (1971), Singapore (1972), Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea (1978), Fiji (1979), Thailand (1982), Portugal (2002) and Italy (2003).

(b) These treaties provide a legal framework for extradition of fugitive offenders and specify circumstances and conditions governing the process of extradition between Contracting States.

(c) and (d) India has signed an extradition treaty with Portugal in January 2007 which is yet to be ratified. However, India has Extradition arrangements with Portugal. India proposes to enter into Extradition treaties with more countries subject to mutual agreement.

(e) No country has declined.

(f) Bilateral negotiations between two countries to conclude such treaties are time consuming, particularly in view of the need to accommodate the viewpoints of the negotiating parties.

(g) Extradition treaties provide India a legal framework to extradite from the concerned countries, fugitive criminals for trial in respect of extraditable offences committed by them so as to ensure that persons accused of such offences do not escape justice.

[English]

Setting of Deep Sea Ports

3261. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up deep-sea-ports on the coastal line of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including locations identified for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government has made any survey to set up such projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the estimated cost of such projects including the resources to fund the cost;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (g) A proposal has been received from the State Government of West Bengal for setting up of a new deep-sea port on the coastline of West Bengal. The Government has short-listed Consultants for development of the project including identification of suitable location for the proposed port. The proposal is at a preliminary stage. It is not possible to indicate the estimated cost of the project.

Status of NH in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

3262. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of construction/upgradation of the National Highways from Mehboob Nagar to Boodagumpa (Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka) and Bidar to Srirangapattanam (Karnataka);

(b) the amount allocated for this work; and

(c) the time schedule by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) This Ministry is primarily concerned with the construction/upgradation of National Highways. As regards the road from Mehboob Nagar to

Boodagumpa (Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka) and Bidar to Srirangapattanam (Karnataka), these roads are State roads. As such, the responsibility of construction/upgradation of these roads lies with the respective State Governments.

[Translation]

Amenities to the Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions

3263. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide pay, allowances and other facilities to the members of Panchayati Raj Institutions at par with members of Parliament and members of Legislative Assemblies to make these institutions more effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Panchayati Raj System has not been functioning properly in the absence of any economic assistance to the elected members of Panchayati Raj Institutions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Remuneration/honorarium/allowances to elected members of Panchayati Raj Institutions falls within the purview of State Governments and, as such, varies from State to State.

[English]

Transmission of Imported Coal

3264. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the imported coal transmission through rail is dogged by inadequate supply of rail wagons and rakes as reported in the Times of India dated December 25, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the imported coal also requires specialised handling infrastructure at ports;

(d) if so, whether such facilities are not available at the ports;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to supply adequate number of rail wagons and rakes and also to provide requisite infrastructure at ports for import of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fee Hike for Higher Education

3265. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recommended any hike in fee for higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of likely impact of fee hike on the education and the students as well;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether in the light of the recommendations of the Commission, the Government proposes to evolve any scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether certain educational and social organisations have raised objections against some of the recommendations of the Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A copy of the relevant paragraph is enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) No Sir, as no decision has been taken on the proposal.

(e) and (f) The recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission have been sent to the concerned Ministries and Departments for examination.

(g) and (h) The Planning Commission is not aware of any objection.

Statement

Extracts from the report of the National Knowledge Commission on Higher Education pertaining to rationalisation of fees

On an average, fees constitute less than 10 per cent of total expenditure in our universities. And, in most universities, fees have remained unchanged for decades. In theory, universities have the freedom to decide on fees. In practice, however, universities have not exercised this freedom in part because of some genuine concerns about access but in larger part because of the rhetoric and populism in the political process. The problem has been compounded by the UGC method of providing grants-in-aid to bridge the difference between income and expenditure. Consequently, there is no incentive for universities or colleges to raise income through higher fees as that some would be deducted from their UGC (or State Governments) grants. The low fees in public universities, without any means tests have meant unquantifiable benefits for unintended beneficiaries. But private players and foreign institutions have not been restrained in

charging fees that the market can bear. The time has come to rethink, as we have no choice but to rationalize fees. It is for universities to decide the level of fees but, as a norm, fees should meet at least 20 per cent of the total expenditure in universities. In addition, fees need to be adjusted every two years through price indexation. Such small, continuous adjustments would be absorbed and accepted far more easily than large, discrete changes after a period of time. This rationalization of fees should be subject to two conditions : first, needy students should be provided with a fee waiver plus scholarship to meet their costs; second, universities should not be penalized by the UGC for the resources raised from higher fees through matching deductions from their grants-in-aid.

Bridge at Chowkighat

3266.SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2952 dated December 13, 2006 and state :

(a) whether the feasibility and model parameters for the projected bridge at Chowkighat have been prepared;

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

(c) the expenditure incurred in the study, examination, preparation of the model of the bridge and allied matters;

(d) the estimated expenditure for construction of the bridge; and

(e) the time by which the construction work on the bridge is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Feasibility has not been prepared. However, parameters for the Model Study have since been approved by the Central Water and Power Research Station (CW and PRS), Pune and laying and setting of the model at North Eastern Hydraulic and

Allied Research Institute (NEHARI) has been completed, as reported by Border Roads Organisation.

(c) An amount of Rs. 63.86 lakh has been deposited with the Chief Engineer Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati by the Border Roads Organisation towards the cost of the model studies for the bridge as 'Deposit Work'.

(d) The estimated cost of the bridge can be worked out only after the alignment, 'Final Bridge Scheme/General Arrangement Drawings' and other related matters in respect of the Chowkighat Bridge have been finalised.

(e) It is too early to indicate the time of commencement for the construction of Chowkighat Bridge.

Prediction Regarding GDP

3267. SHRI CHANDRA BUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the estimates of national income for 2006-07 by the Central Statistical Organisation, 9.2 per cent growth in the Gross Domestic Product has been predicted during 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some sectors have done very well in terms of growth during the year 2006-07;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the farm sector dipped yet again by 2.7 per cent during the current fiscal year;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Press Note on the "Advance

Estimates of National Income, 2006-07" released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on 7th February, 2007, the growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost at constant (1999-2000) prices is estimated at 9.2% during 2006-07.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The growth in GDP at constant (1999-2000) prices during 2006-07 is high in manufacturing (11.3%), electricity, gas and water supply (7.7%), construction (9.4%), trade, hotels, transport and communication (13.0%), financing, insurance, real estate and business services (11.1%), and community, social and personal services (7.8%).

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The deficient rainfall in the monsoon in 2006 has led to poor agriculture growth.

(g) Some of the major steps initiated by the Central Government to enhance agricultural production are given below:

(i) Implementation of Integrated Cereal Development Programme (ICDP) in Rice, Wheat and other Cereal-based cropping system areas; Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based cropping system and Special Jute Development Programme.

(ii) Launching of Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) for raising the yield potential of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize.

(iii) Announcement of Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) well before the commencement of sowing season to enable farmers to decide on the choice of crops to be grown by them.

(iv) Agricultural diversification through horticulture and floriculture.

(v) Development/strengthening of modern

agricultural markets through creation of space for attracting investment from private and cooperative sectors for the development of direct marketing and contract farming.

- (vi) Reorientation of banks towards extending credit, especially production credit, to rural and farmer households at concessional rate of interest.
- (vii) Revitalization of Agricultural research to ensure full exploitation of scientific advances for improving productivity according to agro-climatic conditions.
- (viii) Revitalization of Agricultural extension system through Krishi Vikas Kendras in each district and making extension system more farmer friendly by way of autonomous institutional arrangements for technological dissemination through 'Agricultural Technology Management Agency' (ATMA) at district level.
- (ix) Setting up of National Rainfed Area Authority has been approved to deal with the problems faced by rainfed areas.

Rural Area Assistance Fund

3268. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to set up a rural area assistance fund for providing employment assistance to backward districts in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the employment opportunities likely to be generated as a result thereof; and
- (d) the other benefits likely to be accrued to the backward districts?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) to (d) A Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) which covers 250 districts has been launched by the Prime Minister on 19th February, 2007 at Barpeta in Assam. This will contribute to accelerating rural development and rural employment, as well as narrowing the gap between backward and more advanced areas of the country. The programme consists of two funding windows namely, (a) a capability Building Fund of Rs. 250 crore per annum and (b) a substantially untied developmental grant of Rs. 3500 crore for 2006-07.

Every district is to receive a fixed minimum amount of Rs. 10 crore per annum under the programme. 50% of the balance allocation under this programme is allocated on the basis of the share of the population and area of the district in the total population and area of all backward districts. The development fund under the programme can be used for filling the critical gaps in development which remain despite other major interventions. Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies may use these funds for any purpose within the items that are devolved to them as listed in the Eleventh and Twelfth schedule of the Constitution respectively.

The employment opportunity and other benefits accruing to backward districts would flow from the individual plans prepared by each district. However, each district is expected to undertake a diagnostic study of its backwardness and prepared a well conceived participative district development plan in accordance with its requirements.

[Translation]

Sir Creek Dispute

3269. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
 SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :
 SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :
 SHRI RASHEED MASOOD :
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
 SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any joint survey to solve the Sir Creek dispute with Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details of the disputed area and the modalities worked out therefor;
- (c) the outcome of the joint survey; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) A joint survey of the pillars in the horizontal segment of the boundary in the Sir Creek area was carried out in January 2005. The survey computed the position of 38 existing pillars out of the total 67 pillars erected in 1925. On 15 January 2007, the two sides started a joint survey of the creek and adjoining areas. The joint survey is currently underway.

Implementation of Javed Chaudhary Report

3270.SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Javed Chaudhary Committee set up to recommend ways and means to bring improvement in efficiency of the doctors and to check brain drain has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the main points of the said report;
- (c) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the said Committee; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The main recommendations of the Committee inter alia include (i) Removal of stagnation at Senior

Administrative Grade (SAG) and Higher Administrative Grad (HAG) level; (ii) enhancement of retirement age to 62 years; (iii) Terminal benefits of additional 5 years of service over and above 5 years already admissible under Pension Rules; (iv) Enhancement of NPA to 30%; and (v) Enhancement of Book/Research/Academic Allowance.

The age of retirement of Specialist doctors has already been enhanced to 62 years. While the action towards implementation of other recommendations was in progress, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance have in the meantime issued instructions vide O.M. No.5/16/2006-E.III. A dated 21.12.2006 that all cases involving upgradation of pay-scales, grant of fresh non-functional scales, new allowances, enhancement of existing allowances are to be brought before the 6th Central Pay Commission.

[English]

Awarding of Research Contracts

3271.DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the research contracts on various fields are awarded to Consultants, NGOs, Academic and Research Organisations;
- (b) if so, the criteria adopted for awarding the contracts;
- (c) the list of the research contracts with the name of the organizations awarded during the last three years and its progress;
- (d) whether research contracts are available on the website of the Ministry; and
- (e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) and (b) The Studies of Demographic and socio-economic profile of users and of demand for various of telecom services were awarded by

the Department of Telecommunications in the reputed academic and research organizations in respect of some States. The proposals were processed on the basis of the performance in their presentations made by various institutes before the Telecom Commission, their past experience, methodology and costs.

The Department of Information Technology promotes Research and Development by providing grants-in-aid support to academic and research institutions for undertaking R and D in identified thrust areas. Detailed guidelines are available on the Department of Information Technology website (www.mit.gov.in). While giving the R and D grant the Department seeks advisory support from Expert Groups whose members are drawn from academic and research institutions, industry and user organizations.

(c) and (d) The list of Studies awarded and completed by Department of Telecommunications during the last three years with names of organisations is given in the enclosed statement. A Directory of Extramural R and D projects is published annually by the Ministry of Science and Technology. The publication also includes the projects funded by the Department of Information Technology. The directory is available on their website (www.nstmis-dst.org). Information on selected R and D by Department of Information Technology projects is available on the website of the Department (www.mit.gov.in).

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

| Sl. No. | Name of the Organisation | States/area covered |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| During 2002-03 | | |
| 1. | National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi | Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 2. | National Productivity Council (NPC), New Delhi | Lucknow, Patna, Coimbatore, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Jamshedpur, Rajkot and Pune. |
| 3. | Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore | Karnataka and Goa (Urban and Rural areas). |
| 4. | Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati University, Ajmer Rajasthan | Rajasthan (Rural and Urban areas). |
| During 2004-05 | | |
| 1. | M/s. Santek Consultants, New Delhi | Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir |
| 2. | M/s. ORG Centre for Social Research, New Delhi | Punjab (except Ludhiana), Haryana and Chandigarh. |
| 3. | M/s. Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati University, Ajmer Rajasthan | Gujarat. |
| 4. | M/s. Omeo Kumar Das Institute, Guwahati | 7 North Eastern states and Assam. |
| 5. | M/s. Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad | UP (East and West) and Uttaranchal |
| 6. | Indian Institute of Mangement, Kozhikode, Kerala | Tamil Nadu and Kerala. |
| 7. | National Productivity Council, New Delhi | Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. |

Road Link to Tibet by China

3272. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether China is considering a proposal to link Xigaze with Lhasa by rail link by 2010; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposed link would pose a security risk to India; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Government have seen reports in Chinese official media on the proposed construction of a 254-km. extension line of the Qinghai-Tibet railway from Lhasa to Xigaze. Government keep a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and take all necessary measures to safeguard it.

**Shortage of Para Medical Staff in
Rural Areas**

3273. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has issued any orders to all the medical colleges in the country to adopt some villages around it to provide primary healthcare;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the response received from those medical colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. No such order has been issued by the Government of India.

[Translation]

**Foreign Companies in Road
Construction**

3274. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has planned to engage foreign companies in road construction projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the companies, country-wise;
- (c) the details of the projects undertaken or likely to be undertaken by the companies, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Malaysian Government has also offered to invest in construction of Expressways in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the stretches identified for the projects;
- (f) the estimated cost of each of these projects; and
- (g) the time by which these projects are likely to be taken for construction and get completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]**Ayurveda Units**

3275. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

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

(a) whether the Government helps the Ayurveda units to propagate and treat domestic and foreign patients; and

(b) if so, the details of the units which are being helped, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Department of AYUSH provides financial assistance to the State Governments for opening up of AYUSH healthcare facilities like AYUSH Wing, Specialized Therapy Centres and Speciality Clinics of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy systems of medicines in District allopathic hospitals, Community Health Centres and Primary Health

Centres of the State Governments. Grants-in-aids are also being given to the State Governments for procurement and supply of essential drugs to the identified AYUSH dispensaries of the State Governments situated in their remote and backward areas. Financial assistance is also being provided for mainstreaming of AYUSH health care facilities under National Rural Health Mission. Central Government is not providing any separate assistance for treatment of foreign patient.

(b) Statement showing details of financial assistance given to the various State Governments for setting up of AYUSH healthcare facilities and for providing essential drugs to AYUSH dispensaries in the current year is enclosed.

Statement

Details of Grants-in-aid released to AYUSH Dispensaries under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Essential AYUSH medicines during 2006-07

| S. No. | Name of the State | No. of Dispensaries covered | | | | Total No. of Disp. covered | Amount released in (Rs. in lakhs) |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | Ay. | Siddha | Unani | Homoe | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 564 | | 201 | 292 | 1057 | 264.25 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 9 | | | 42 | | 12.75 |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | 633 | — | 6 | 52 | 691 | 172.75 |
| 4. | Delhi | 21 | | 9 | | 30 | 7.50 |
| 5. | Meghalaya | | | | | | |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 1090 | | | 3 | 1093 | 273.25 |
| 7. | Kerala | 855 | 9 | 1 | | 865 | 216.25 |
| 8. | Uttaranchal | 479 | — | 03 | 88 | 570 | 136.94 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 490 | | 25 | | 515 | 128.75 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 972 | — | — | — | 972 | 243.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----------------------|---|-------|------------------------------------|-----|-------------------|-------|---------|
| 11. Meghalaya | | | | | | | |
| 12. Gujarat | | 90 | | | | 90 | 16.94 |
| 13. Haryana | | | 2nd instalment of Home Remedy kits | | | | 5.57 |
| 14. Jammu and Kashmir | | 265 | — | 235 | 209* Ayush | 709 | 177.25 |
| 15. Jharkhand | | 110 | | 18 | 42 | 170 | 42.50 |
| 16. Karnataka | | 540 | | 49 | 43 | 632 | 158.00 |
| 17. Nagaland | | | | | | | |
| 18. Orissa | | | | | | | |
| 19. Punjab | | 447 | — | — | 107 | 554 | 138.50 |
| 20. Rajasthan | | 3349 | | 46 | 63 Y and N-1 | 3459 | 864.75 |
| 21. Sikkim | | | | | | | |
| 22. Tamil Nadu | | | | | | | |
| 23. Tripura | | | | | 59 (Recurring) | 59 | 14.69 |
| 24. Uttar Pradesh | | 1838 | — | 214 | — | 2052 | 513.00 |
| 25. West Bengal | | 280 | | 3 | 480 | 763 | 190.75 |
| Total | | 12032 | 9 | 810 | 1481 | 14332 | 3577.39 |

Details of specialist Wings/clinics/Centers for which grants-in-aid released under the scheme for AYUSH Hospitals during 2006-07

| S. No. | Name of the State/U.T.s | Details of specialist Wings/clinics/Centres for which grant-in-aid released | | | | | | Total amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs) |
|--------|-------------------------|---|--------|---|--------|---|--------|--|
| | | ISM and H Wings in district Hospitals @ Rs. 35.00 lakhs | | Sp. Therapy Centre with indoor facility @ Rs. 22.00 lakhs | | Sp. Clinic of ISM and H Specific out door treatment @ Rs. 10.00 lakhs | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | No. | Amount | No. | Amount | No. | Amount | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | For Mainstreaming of AYUSH under NRHM | | | | | | 635.49 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| 2. Assam | | | | | | Ay.-50 Homeo | 1247.25 | 1247.25 |
| 3. Chhattisgarh | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Jammu and Kashmir | Ay or Unani-14 | 490.00 | Ay-4 Unani-4 | 176.0 | | | | 666.00 |
| 5. Karnataka | 8-Ay | 248.85 | 5-Ay 1-Unani 1-Y and N | 154 | | Hom-1 Ay-48 PHC-5 | 540.00 | 942.85 |
| 6. Kerala | | | | | | | | |
| 7. Maharashtra | ISM wing-1 | 35.00 | Ay-1 | 22.00 | | Ay-1 | 10.00 | 67.00 |
| 8. Madhya Pradesh | Ay-17 | 589.89 | Unani-1 | 22.00 | | Homeo-2 Ay-25 Unani-4 Hom-1 | 300.00 | 911.89 |
| 9. Meghalaya | | | | | | | | |
| 10. Manipur | | | | | | | | |
| 11. Nagaland | | | | | | Ay-15 | 150.00 | 150.00 |
| 12. Orissa | | | Ay-1 | 22.00 | | | | 22.00 |
| 13. Punjab | Ay-7 Hom-2 | 315.00 | Hom-1 | 22.00 | | Ay-12 Hom-1 | 130.00 | 467.00 |
| 14. Rajasthan | | For Mainstreaming of AYUSH under NRHM | | | | | | 635.49 |
| 15. Sikkim | | | | | | | | |
| 16. Tamil Nadu | | | | | | | | |
| 17. Uttar Pradesh | | | | | | Ay-1 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| 18. West Bengal | ISM and H-4 | 140 | | | | Hom-10 | 100.00 3.00-Rec Exp. | 243.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-----------------------|---|----------|---------|-------|--------|--------------|---------|---------|
| 19. Uttaranchal | | Ay-3 | 55.00 | | | | | 55.00 |
| 20. Arunachal Pradesh | | Ay-8 | 280.00 | | | Hom-32 | 320 | 606 |
| | | | | | | Rec Exp. | 6.00 | |
| 21. Tripura | | | | | | ISM and H-29 | 290.00 | 290 |
| 22. Jharkhand | | AYUSH-12 | 420.00 | Ay-12 | 264.00 | | | 684.00 |
| Total | | | 2573.74 | | 682 | | 3106.25 | 7632.97 |

**World Bank Assistance for
Health Projects**

3276. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has upheld approximately 1 billion \$ funding for health projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has written to all State Governments and Central Departments to ensure complete transparency and integrity in awarding contracts for health projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Three Credit Agreements in the Health Sector were signed on 16.10.2006, with the World Bank for :-

(i) The Reproductive and Child Health Project Phase-II (US dollars 360 million)

(ii) National Tuberculosis Control Project Phase-II (US dollars 170 million) and

(iii) Karnataka Health System Development and Reform Project (US dollars 141.83 million).

(c) and (d) All State Governments/Government of UTs have been asked to maintain appropriate financial management system and to ensure that procurements of goods and services will be made in accordance with the guidelines on the subject.

[Translation]

Supply of Poor Quality of Coal

3277. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints against Coal India Ltd. (CIL) for supplying poor quality of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any responsibility in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

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

(f) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Occasionally complaints are received mainly from power houses against the poor quality of coal supplied by subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL).

(c) to (f) CIL has been advised from time to time to take remedial actions in respect of specific complaints. CIL has also taken following initiatives to improve the quality of coal:-

- (i) Selective mining of bands of greater than 1 meter thickness.
- (ii) Appropriate positioning of OB and coal benches to avoid contamination.
- (iii) Scrapping/cleaning of coal benches before blasting.
- (iv) Installation of metal detectors/magnetic separators over running conveyors before coal loading.
- (v) All the major projects having high capacity coal handling plants to despatch sized and uniform quality of coal to suit the requirement of the consumers.
- (vi) Establishment of well equipped laboratories at all the projects for regular quality assessment.
- (vii) Arrangement for joint sampling and 3rd party sampling with consumers, based on which consumers are compensated.
- (viii) Shale picking, if any, at mine face, stocks sidings and from the wagons.

The above measures taken by CIL have resulted in improvement in respect of quality of coal supplied.

[English]

Recruiting Foreign Sea Farers

3278. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has taken any decision to allow Indian-flag vessels to recruit foreign sea farers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the trade unions have objected to the decision of the Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) In view of the acute shortage of Indian officers, the Government is considering a proposal to allow foreign officers to work on Indian ships subject to certain conditions in consultation with the shipping industry.

Panchayat Yuva Shakti Khel Abhiyan

3279. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

- (a) the aims and objectives of the Panchayati Yuva Shakti Abhiyaan (PYSA);
- (b) whether a campaign under the PYSA has started only in Punjab, Haryana and Manipur;
- (c) if so, the reasons for not starting this in other States particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) The time by which PYSA is likely to be started in other States?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF

YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) The aim and objectives of the Panchayati Yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PYSA) is to empower the youth in Youth Clubs and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to mobilize local communities and improve local conditions by assessment, awareness, action and advocacy for effective Panchayati Raj system. The focus is to develop inter-linkages between youth groups and Panchayati Raj Institutions for empowering youth for decision making.

(b) and (c) Besides Punjab, Haryana and Manipur, the PYSA has also been launched in Tamil Nadu. Core Committee meetings have been organized in Goa and Sikkim as well to facilitate launching the PYSA.

(d) The results of the Abhiyan are encouraging and PYSA will be launched in a phased manner in other States including Andhra Pradesh in the near future.

Additional Fund for Leprosy Patients

3280. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Governments having large number of leprosy patients have sought additional funds from the Union Government; and

(b) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Under National Leprosy Eradication Programme, the States are requested to submit annual action plan proposals for carrying out NLEP activities. These proposals are examined by Central Leprosy Division and sufficient funds are provided to the States to carry out action plan activities as per Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) norms.

(b) None of the State Governments have sought additional funds from the Union Government.

New Research on AIDS

3281. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI RAKESH SINGH :

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

(a) the details of the research being conducted for elimination of AIDS virus in the world and India's contribution in the research;

(b) whether any progress has been achieved to weaken this virus by which it is likely to be eliminated;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a new blood test for detection of drug resistant virus in AIDS has been developed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) AIDS virus cannot be eliminated. However, research is being carried out in several countries, including India, to develop a safe and effective vaccine so that vaccinated individuals become less susceptible to the virus. Two phase-I human vaccine trials are underway at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune; and Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai.

(d) and (e) A laboratory test which can detect low levels of drug resistant HIV in a patient's blood has been developed in the United States. The test could assist in deciding best treatment options and predicting treatment outcomes. However, it is unlikely the new test will be widely available soon.

[Translation]

Gender Ambiguity

3282. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether one of the Indian Medal Winner in the Asian Games in Doha was disqualified for gender ambiguity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rationale of the medical test on the athletes undertaken before the Doha Games by the International Olympic Association;

(d) whether there was any mistake on the part of the officials of International Olympic Association (IOA) in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the erring officials of the IOA; and

(g) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for verifying gender ambiguity?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ms. Shanthi Soundarajan had won the silver medal in 800 Metre (Women) event in the Asian Games in Doha. On suspicion of ambiguous genitalia during the dope test at at Doha, a detailed medical checkup was conducted by a team of specialists and she was disqualified on the basis of gender ambiguity.

(c) No gender test was conducted before Doha Asian Games on the athletes.

(d) to (f) It would not appear so. However, the matter is being examined in the light of reports received from various sources.

(g) There is no uniformity in the guidelines relating to gender verification at the international level. In view of this, and in the light of the case referred to in the question, this issue is being further examined.

Transfer of Research and Bio-material

3283. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the matters relating to transfer of Research and Bio-material in the field of medicine have been resolved; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and F.W. Govt. of India (vide O.M. No.19015/53/1997-IH (Pt.) dated 19th November, 1997) regulates the transfer of human biological material for research/ diagnostic purposes. In so far as this Ministry is concerned there has been no issue/controversy relating to the transfer of human biological material for biomedical research purposes.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Comparative Technique for Exploration of Coal

3284. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the technique and strategy adopted by India for exploration of coal differs from that of the major coal producing countries in the world;

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

(c) the steps have taken by the Government to adopt the latest technology in the field of exploration of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The techniques and strategies adopted in India for coal

exploration compare favourably with international practices and suits the geological nature of Indian coalfields.

(c) There is a need for upgrading the equipments from time to time depending upon the need and the efficacy, which is being addressed regularly. Recently two high tech Geophysical Instruments for Borehole Logging have been imported and three other logging instruments are under process of introduction. Apart from it, one high-tech Exploration Seismograph for non-invasive deep-seated coal exploration and better softwares/equipments for geological modeling, web enabling and Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas-in-place assessment in coal are under process of procurement.

To modernize the drilling equipments of Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL), two deep capacity drills have been inducted for taking up exploration of deep-seated coal seams whereas replacement of other existing drills with deep capacity modern drills and high-tech drills is under process.

[Translation]

Conversion of Deoridam Harpalpur Road to NH

3285. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government has received any proposals for converting the road between Deoridam in Uttar Pradesh and Harpalpur in Madhya Pradesh into a National Highway, and for widening the road between Deori bandh and Mataund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to accord its approval for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Conversion of National Highways No. 77 and 104 Into Four Lane

3286. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3216 dated 23.08.2006 regarding National Highways in Bihar and State :

(a) whether the construction work of four-laning on NH-77 and 104 has commenced;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Patna-Muzaffarpur stretch of NH-19 and NH-77 has been identified for 4-laning under NHDP-Phase IIIA for implementation and Muzaffarpur-Sonbarsa stretch under NHDP-Phase IIIB for only preparation of Detailed Project Report. The bid document for Patna-Muzaffarpur stretch is under finalisation. NH-104 is not covered under any project of 4-laning.

Study relating to Herbs

3287. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study and made any efforts to discover the herbs found in the forests of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the private and the public sector units established for utilizing the same in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Botanical Survey of India, Western Circle, Pune has undertaken floristic survey of the State and published the State Flora of Maharashtra in three volumes. According to the survey report, there were about 4000 species of flowering and about 450 species of medicinally important plants in Maharashtra.

Surveys have also been conducted by Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) and Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), autonomous organisations working under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in and around forest areas of Maharashtra covering places viz. Wardha, Bhandara, Kondhali, Gondia, Allapali, W. Melghat, Yavatmal, Amaravati, Pusad, Akola, Akot, Buldhana, E. Melghat, Chandrapur, Tadola, Brahampur, Wadsa, Gadchiroli, Satara, Aurangabad, Nasik, Pune, Mahabaleshwar, Malegaon, Tarapur and Sholapur. Various species of medicinal herbs have also been identified and collected from the areas explored.

(c) There are 715 pharmacies in Maharashtra consisting of 660 of Ayurveda, 6 of Unani and 39 Homoeopathy units, as on 1.4.2006.

Registration of Health Care Practitioners/ Institutions

3288.SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

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

(a) whether there is no uniform system for registering either practitioners or institutions providing healthcare services in private/voluntary sectors in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up a Standing Technical Advisory Committee for monitoring on healthcare infrastructure;

(c) if so, the progress made as on date in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to complete the task on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (d) Registration of practitioners of modern system of medicine who are Indian Nationals is done under the IMC Act of 1956.

For registration of institutions providing healthcare services, some States have enacted legislation for the same.

Enactment of a legislation for registration and regulation of clinical establishments is a priority area of the government.

Ban On Compassionate Employment

3289.SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BSNL has now proposed to impose a ban on giving compassionate employment;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the number of posts in Group 'D' and T.O.A. have been abolished due to restructuring of BSNL;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the posts abolished after October 2000, till date;

(e) whether there will be an impact of this abolition on giving compassionate appointment at the entry level of Group 'D' and clerk; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply at (c) above.

Shortage of Space Scientists

3290.SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL :

SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of space scientists in the country;

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

(c) the status of scientists and engineers available and required by Indian Space Research Organisation; and

(d) the action plan of the Government to meet the shortage of scientists and engineers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian Space Research Organisation requires high quality Scientists/Engineers for its pursuit of excellence in Space Science, Technology and Applications with periodic induction of highly talented young students to take up the challenges of high technical research and development. With increasing opportunities for more lucrative jobs, the participation of bright young minds from premier academic institutions in the Indian space programme has declined. In spite of continued improvements in recruitment and outreach efforts, the turnout is below the requirements.

(d) The Government proposes to establish the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology near

Thiruvananthapuram. The Institute will offer Undergraduate, Post graduate and post doctoral programmes in Space Science and Space Technology. The institute is primarily meant to meet the requirement of highly skilled manpower for our Space Programme.

[Translation]

Scheme for Infrastructure Development

3291.SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some States have formulated a comprehensive scheme for infrastructure development, especially in the backward and rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the projects on which works have to be started and the amount likely to be spent on each of the project; and

(c) the financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government for execution of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) Rural and backward area development are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and they have their own schemes for development of these areas. The Union Government supplements the State Governments efforts and for improving the rural infrastructure, the Union Government has launched Bharat Nirman programme in 2005-06 as a four-year plan to supplement States efforts with identified physical targets for completion by 2009. Also for development of backward areas, the Union Government has approved Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) during 2006-07 replacing the Rastriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY).

(b) and (c) Bharat Nirman has six components, namely irrigation, roads, water supply, housing, rural electrification and rural telecom connectivity. In each of these areas targets to be achieved by 2009 are as below:-

- (i) To bring additional one crore hectares under assured irrigation.
- (ii) To connect all villages that have a population of 1000 (or 500 in hilly/tribal areas) with road.
- (iii) To construct 60 lakhs additional house for the poor.
- (iv) To provide drinking water to the remaining 74000 habitations that are uncovered.
- (v) To reach electricity to the remaining 1,25,000 villages and offer electricity connection to 2.3 crore households.
- (vi) To give telephone connectivity to the remaining 66,822 villages.

The details of names of schemes under which the respective Ministries assist the states are as below. The schemes are formulated and got implemented through the states by the respective Ministries.

| Rural Infrastructure area | Name of scheme under which states are assisted and Ministry concerned |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. Irrigation | Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme-Ministry of Water Resources |
| 2. Roads | Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-Ministry of Rural Development |
| 3. Housing | Indira Aawas Yojana - Ministry of Rural Development |
| 4. Drinking Water including water quality | Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development |

| 1 | 2 |
|---------------------------|--|
| 5. Electrification | Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana - Ministry of Power |
| 6. Telephone connectivity | Universal Service Obligation fund - Ministry of Tele-communication |

The Backward Region Grant Fund consists of two components namely District Component covering 250 districts and Special plans for Bihar and KBK districts of Orissa as detailed below.

District Components

The Districts Component of the BRGF covers 250 districts including all the 147 on-going RSVY districts. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, which is the implementing Ministry for the BRGF districts, has laid down the guidelines for implementation of the BRGF. As per the decision taken, the districts where RSVY is continuing will receive funds as per RSVY norms till the entire amount of Rs. 45 crore (plus the existing monitoring fee) is released to each district after which these districts will shift to the BRGF mode of funding as per which a fixed amount of Rs. 10 crore per district per year will be allocated and the remaining amount will be provided on the basis of share of the population and the area of the district in the total population and area of all the backward districts. In addition, an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore per district per annum will be released for capability building.

Assistance to the on-going RSVY districts is presently being released as per RSVY norms. Assistance to the districts which have completed the RSVY programme and have shifted to the BRGF and also to the new districts covered by the BRGF will be released as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Special Plan for Bihar

The Special for Bihar aims to give a major fillip to infrastructure development in the State particularly strengthening the power sub-transmission systems and the roads sector. An allocation of Rs.1000 crore per annum is being made during the Tenth Plan. The same allocation i.e. Rs.1000 crore per annum will continue to be made during the Eleventh Plan.

100% grant basis. An allocation of Rs. 250 crore per annum is being made during the Tenth Plan. The allocation for the KBK districts would be protected at the current level during the Eleventh Plan. All the eight KBK districts, covered in the list of 250 BRGF districts, will be funded as per BRGF district norms and the balance will be provided under the KBK Special Plan.

Funds for Bharat Nirman and BRGF**Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa**

This is continuing programme and aims to accelerate the development of the KBK region and is being funded through Special Central Assistance on

Both Bharat Nirman and Backward Region Grant Fund (or RSVY) programmes are ongoing since 2005-06 and 2003-04 respectively and the details of fund releases are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**(I) Bharat Nirmal Programme**

(Rs. in Crore)

| S. No. | Component | Estimated cost | Releases 2005-06 | BE 2006-07 | Releases reported till Jan./Feb. 2007 | BE 2007-08 |
|--------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. | Irrigation | 68500 | 1900.314 | 2350.000 | 1160.597 | 3580.000 |
| 2. | Roads | 47554 | 4185.600 | 5225.620 | 5376.300 | 6500.000 |
| 3. | Housing | 11100 | 2738.210 | 2950.000 | 2218.610 | 4040.000 |
| 4. | Drinking Water | 25300 | 4098.000 | 5200.00 | 3483.710 | 6500.000 |
| 5. | Rural electrification | 23300 | 1616.240 | 3000.00 | 1753.330 | 3983.000 |
| 6. | Telephony | 451 | 34.204 | 114.710 | 35.236 | * |
| Total | | 176205 | 14572.568 | 18840.330 | 14027.783 | 24603.000 |

*From Universal Service Obligation Fund and outside budget.

(II) Backward region Grant Fund/Rastriya Sam Vikas Yojana

(Rs. in Crore)

| S. No. | Year | District Component | Special Plan for Bihar | Special Plan for KBK | Total |
|--------|---------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | 2002-03 | 0.00 | 0.37 | 200.00 | 200.37 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---------|--------------------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| 2. | 2003-04 | 402.50 | 445.75 | 225.00 | 1073.25 |
| 3. | 2004-05 | 1241.08 | 248.01 | 275.00 | 1764.09 |
| 4. | 2005-06 | 1210.74 | 536.03 | 250.00 | 1996.77 |
| 5. | BE 2006-07 | 3750.00 | 1000.00 | 250.00 | 5000.00 |
| 5. | 2006-07 (upto Feb. 2007) | 1591.65 | 930.32 | 250.00 | 2771.97 |
| 6. | BE 2007-08 | 4670.00 | 1000.00 | 130.00 | 5800.00 |
| , Total | | 12865.97 | 4160.48 | 1580.00 | 18606.46 |

[English]

Extradition Treaty between India and Portugal

3292. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI MILIND DEORA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Portugal has signed extradition treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the countries with which India has signed extradition treaty; and

(d) if so, the details of the bilateral agreements signed for cooperation with Portugal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has signed Extradition Treaty with Portugal in January 2007, which is yet to be ratified. There also exists an Extradition arrangement with Portugal since 2002.

(c) Extradition Treaties are in force with: Belgium (1958) Nepal (1963), Canada (1987), Netherlands (1988), UK (1993), Switzerland (1996), Bhutan, Hong King (1997), USA (1999), Russia, UAE (2000), Uzbekistan (2002), Spain, Turkey (2003), Mongolia, Germany, Tunisia, Republic of Korea (2004), Bahrain, South Africa, Oman,

France, Poland (2005), Bulgaria and Ukraine (2006). Treaties with Mauritius, Tajikistan (2003), Kuwait, Philippines (2004) and Portugal (2007) have been signed but are yet to be ratified. India has Extradition arrangements with Sweden (1963), Tanzania (1966), Australia (1971), Singapore (1972), Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea (1978), Fiji (1979), Thailand (1982), Portugal (2002) and Italy (2003).

(d) During the recent visit of President of Portugal to India, the following agreements have been signed:-

- (i) Cultural Exchange Programme (2007-2010);
- (ii) Exchange Programme in the fields of Education, Language, Science, Technology and Higher Education (2007-2010); and
- (iii) Extradition Treaty with Portugal.

Promotion of Sports in Rural Areas

3293. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM :

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no national infrastructure to promote rural sports in the country as a result of which the players in the rural areas do not get opportunities to enhance their sports talent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by the Government to promote rural sports during the last three years alongwith the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a serious shortage of sports infrastructure at the grassroots level, thus depriving vast sections of the youth, particularly in the rural areas of access to organized games and sports facilities and activities.

(b) Sports is a State subject and the primary responsibility for creating sports infrastructure at the grass-roots levels vests in respective State Governments. The Government of India had been supplementing the efforts of the State Government through its schemes of "Creation of Sport Infrastructure", "Grants to Rural Schools for Purchase of Sports Equipments and Development of Playground", "Rural Sports Programme" and "Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools". However, these schemes have been transferred to the State Sector with effect from 04.04.2005. But as for the decision of the Planning Commission, funds are being provided for sanctioned proposals till the end of the Xth Plan.

In recognition of this situation, and the globally accepted role of sports and games in the healthy development of youth, and in pursuance of the basic policy objective of broad-basing sports and developing a sports culture in the country, the Ministry is considering the launch of a Scheme titled "Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan" (PKYA). The objective of the Scheme is to provide capital and recurring grants for the development/improvement of basic infrastructure at the village and block levels, provision of support for sports equipments and organization of competitive and non-competitive sports events and activities at the grass-roots level. The Scheme is proposed to be implemented by bringing in synergy and convergence, between, and using the resources of various schemes of the Central Government and State Governments, as also of the Panchayat Raj Institutions, and integrating the sports activities under the Scheme with the higher level competition structure, talent spotting and professional training for identified talent sportspersons. In the process, it is proposed that the number of talented sportspersons under training would significantly increase from the present level of around 13,000 to 50,000 by the end of the XI Plan.

(c) A list indicating the details of financial assistance released to States/UTs under the schemes i.e. Creation of Sports Infrastructure, Grants to Rural Schools for purchase of Sports Equipment and Development of Playground and Rural Sports Programme during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(A) State-wise details of Central Assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure from 2003-2004 to 2005-2006

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S. No. | State/UT | 2003-2004 | | 2004-2005 | | 2005-2006 | |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | Amount released | No. of projects | Amount released | No. of projects | Amount released | No. of projects |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 484.52 | 14 | 123.75 | 7 | 45.00 | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|-------------------|--------|----|--------|----|-------|---|
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 191.00 | 5 | 27.00 | 1 | 71.00 | 1 |
| 3. | Assam | 17 | 2 | 188.09 | 8 | 7.00 | 1 |
| 4. | Bihar | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 5. | Delhi | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 6. | Goa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 0 | 0 | 65.00 | 2 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 8. | Haryana | 40.17 | 2 | 118.13 | 16 | 32.80 | 4 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 100.21 | 8 | 118.63 | 10 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 26.82 | 18 | 22.50 | 1 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 58.7 | 8 | 101.3 | 9 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 12. | Kerala | 13.01 | 4 | 1.50 | 1 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 152.27 | 13 | 115.40 | 6 | 18.00 | 1 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 238.43 | 13 | 169.04 | 9 | 45.08 | 2 |
| 15. | Manipur | 0 | 0 | 22.50 | 3 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 100.11 | 5 | 234.55 | 5 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 136.32 | 21 | 30.00 | 1 | 59.59 | 1 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 962.46 | 21 | 115.98 | 12 | 45.00 | 1 |
| 19. | Orissa | 0.05 | 1 | 0.75 | 1 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 20. | Punjab | 45.00 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 25.00 | 2 | 8.72 | 1 | 23.00 | 1 |
| 22. | Sikkim | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | 170.36 | 22 | 81.154 | 13 | 50.52 | 2 |
| 24. | Tripura | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------|-----------------------------|---------|-----|---------|-----|--------|----|
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh | 46.94 | 3 | 69.23 | 6 | 83.00 | 4 |
| 26. | West Bengal | 20.07 | 15 | 49.70 | 4 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 27. | Chhattisgarh | 78.50 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 28. | Jharkhand | 0 | 0 | 30.00 | 1 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 29. | Uttaranchal | 0 | 0 | 94.80 | 5 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 30. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 31. | Chandigarh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 32. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 33. | Daman and Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 34. | Pondicherry | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 35. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Total | | 2906.98 | 182 | 1787.99 | 122 | 480.00 | 19 |

(B) State-wise details of Central Assistance released under the Scheme of Grants to Rural Schools for purchase of sports equipment and development of playground from 2003-2004 to 2005-2006

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S. No. | State/UT | 2003-2004 | | 2004-2005 | | 2005-2006 | |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | | Amount released | No. of Schools | Amount released | No. of Schools | Amount released | No. of Schools |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 0.37 | 1 | 2.76 | 3 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 4.35 | 4 | 7.74 | 7 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 3. | Assam | 30.88 | 41 | 22.18 | 38 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 4. | Bihar | 3.29 | 3 | 7.53 | 8 | 0.00 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|-------------------|-------|----|-------|----|------|----|
| 5. | Chattisgarh | 1.13 | 2 | 3.32 | 4 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 6. | Delhi | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 7. | Goa | 0.00 | 0 | 1.08 | 1 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 2.98 | 4 | 1.42 | 2 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 9. | Haryana | 43.36 | 59 | 24.17 | 41 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 5.72 | 15 | 10.21 | 14 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 3.17 | 3 | 9.64 | 14 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 16.75 | 26 | 12.10 | 18 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 14. | Kerala | 0.00 | 0 | 15.48 | 17 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 22.95 | 29 | 13.67 | 20 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 51.63 | 58 | 54.19 | 71 | 8.63 | 27 |
| 17. | Manipur | 3.26 | 5 | 1.48 | 2 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 18. | Meghalaya | 1.08 | 1 | 9.37 | 10 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 19. | Mizoram | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 20. | Nagaland | 0.00 | 0 | 3.80 | 5 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 21. | Orissa | 44.21 | 55 | 61.99 | 80 | 8.60 | 28 |
| 22. | Punjab | 2.56 | 3 | 0.63 | 2 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 23. | Rajasthan | 25.19 | 29 | 18.76 | 30 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 24. | Sikkim | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 25. | Tamil Nadu | 7.65 | 21 | 3.70 | 6 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 26. | Tripura | 0.37 | 1 | 0.40 | 1 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 39.60 | 47 | 51.11 | 75 | 0.00 | 3 |
| 28. | Uttaranchal | 11.04 | 12 | 18.44 | 26 | 1.87 | 8 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------|-----------------------------|--------|-----|--------|-----|-------|----|
| 29. | West Bengal | 77.98 | 106 | 127.15 | 167 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 30. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 31. | Chandigarh | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 32. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 33. | Lakshadweep | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 34. | Daman and Diu | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| Total | | 399.63 | 525 | 482.45 | 662 | 19.99 | 64 |

(C) State wise details of Financial Assistance released under the Scheme of Rural Sports Programme to the States/UTs for the lower level competitions during the last three years (2003-04 to 2005-06).

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S. No. | State/UT | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|--------|-------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Assam | 300000/- (2001-02) 300000/- (2003-04) | 800000/- | 800000/- |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | Proposal not received |
| 3. | Bihar | 240000/- | 640000/- | Proposal not received |
| 4. | Haryana | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | Proposal not received |
| 5. | Jammu and Kashmir | 300000/- | 800000/- | 800000/- |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | Proposal not received | 320000/- | Proposal not received |
| 7. | Punjab | 300000/- | 800000/- | 800000/- |
| 8. | Kerala | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | Proposal not received |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 9. Rajasthan | 300000/- | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | |
| 10. Nagaland | 150000/- | 800000/- | 400000/- | |
| 11. Goa | 210000/- | 300000/- | Proposal not received | |
| 12. Madhya Pradesh | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | |
| 13. Orissa | 300000/- | 800000/- | 800000/- | |
| 14. Karnataka | 300000/- | 800000/- | Proposal not received | |
| 15. Tripura | 300000/- | 800000/- | 800000/- | |
| 16. Tamil Nadu | 210000/- | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | |
| 17. Uttar Pradesh | 300000/- | 800000/- | Proposal not received | |
| 18. Maharashtra | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | 800000/- | |
| 19. Mizoram | Proposal not received | 200000/- | 800000/- | |
| 20. Uttaranchal | 270000/- | 720000/- | 720000/- | |
| 21. Lakshadweep | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | |
| 22. Chandigarh | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | 95750/- | |
| 23. Chhattisgarh | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | 800000/- | |
| 24. Sikkim | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | 400000/- | |
| 25. Arunachal Pradesh | Proposal not received | Proposal not received | 800000/- | |

[Translation]

Amount Spent on Employees by OMCs

3294. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Indian Oil have spent a large amount on their employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the targets fixed by these companies for the opening of new petrol pumps and gas agencies during the year 2007-2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat

Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have reported that the salary and wages are paid to employees as per salary revision/Long Terms Settlement (LTS) other benefits and incentive based on the laid down schemes. The total expenditure made by OMCs on their employees on account of their salary, contribution to Provident Fund, Voluntary Retirement compensation and other staff welfare expenses for the year 2005-06 are as under:—

| Name of Company | Amount spent by OMCs (Rs. in Crore) |
|-----------------|--|
| IOC | 1862.05 |
| HPCL | 691.00 |
| BPCL | 881.6 |
| Total | 3434.65 |

(c) The number of retail outlets/LPG distributorship proposed to be opened by the public sector OMCs during the year 2007-08 are as under:—

| Name of Company | Number of retail outlets proposed to be opened during 2007-08 | Number of LPG distributorship proposed to be opened during 2007-08 |
|-----------------|---|--|
| IOC | 1600 | 63 |
| HPCL | 800 | 100 |
| BPCL | 815 | 25 |
| Total | 3215 | 188 |

Oil Depots

3295. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of oil depots of various oil companies in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the storage capacity of these depots and the time since when they have been established;

(c) the position of storage and filling in Bhirouni/Bhitoni oil depot of Jabalpur district;

(d) the quality of oil in Kiloliters being filled in various tankers during working hours from the aforesaid depot and the time taken for the said task;

(e) whether vehicles have to wait for long for filling;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) if not, the factual position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Total number of depots of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in the State of Madhya Pradesh is 19 and their total storage capacity is 4,81,368 KL.

(c) to (g) IOC has reported that their Bhitoni depot is having product coverage of above 30 days. The regular replacement of stocks is from Koyali refinery. Bhitoni depot has presently got facility to load approx. 1440 KLs product per day (120 Tank Trucks (TTs) against the present requirement of 900-1000 KLs per day (120 Tank Trucks (TTs) against the present requirement of 900-1000 KLs per day (75 TTs). The loading facility at IOC's Bhitoni depot is under expansion which will be completed within 5 months and thereafter, Bhitoni depot will have enhanced loading capacity of approx 1900 KLs per day (158 TTs). The time taken for filling one TT of capacity of 12 KL is around 25-30 minutes, which is normal time taken for loading a 12 KL capacity TTs at any location. Presently, only 65% loading capacity of Bhitoni Depot is utilized ever after handing of additional volume of Satna fed area attached to Bhitoni Depot.

BPC has reported that their Bhitoni depot has sales coverage of 15 days approx. Product at Bhitoni is normally sourced ex-BPC Manglia. There is a 6 bay tanker filling gantry and the vehicles do not have to wait for long for

filling. Aprox 700 KL product is filled in various tankers during working hours from Bhitoni depot and each tanker takes 40 minutes (approx).

It has been reported by HPC that the depot located at Bhitoni is filling on an average 32 TTs approx (400 KLs) on daily basis. Depot is meeting full requirement of the market by executing all the indents within working hours. The depot has 4 bay TT filling gantry, where 4 TTs are filled at a time. The total filling time for the 4 TTs is approximately 30 minutes.

Oil marketing Companies have reported that TTs do not have to wait for long for filling.

[English]

Price of Domestic Natural Gas

3296. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the important recommendations made by Expert Committee on Integrated Energy Policy;

(b) the manner in which the Ministry is planning to independently regulate the price of domestic natural gas through cost-plus-basis; and

(c) the rationale of fixing price of natural gas through net-back-basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) The Planning Commission had constituted an Expert Committee to formulate an Integrated Energy Policy, which submitted its report in August 2006. The key recommendations of the Committee relate to the following aspects of Energy:—

- (i) Ensuring adequate supply of Coal with consistent quality;
- (ii) Addressing concern of states rich in coal and hydro resource;

(iii) Ensuring availability of gas for power generations;

(iv) Power sector reforms;

(v) Reduction in cost of power;

(vi) Rationalisation of fuel prices;

(vii) Energy efficiency and demand side management;

(viii) Augmenting of resources for increased energy security;

(ix) Using natural gas abroad to set up captive fertilizer plants, gas liquefaction facilities, etc.;

(x) Role of Nuclear and Hydro power;

(xi) Role of renewables;

(xii) Ensuring energy security;

(xiii) Boosting energy related R and D;

(xiv) Household energy security — electricity and clean fuels for all;

(xv) An enabling environment for competitive efficiency; and

(xvi) Climate change concerns.

(b) The Government has decided that future production of gas from NELP fields, as also additional gas to be developed in future, by ONGC and OIL, as well as Joint Venture/Private Companies, would be sold at market related prices. NELP provisions do not envisage regulating the price of domestic natural gas through cost plus basis.

(c) The concept of fixing of price of natural gas through 'net-back basis' would imply that the price of natural gas is derived from a given or assumed benchmark after deducting all relevant costs, etc.

[Translation]

Manuscript of 'Sarvamool Granth'

3297. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the researchers of the Rochester Institute of Technology have protected the rare manuscripts of "Sarvamool Granth" written in Sanskrit in the 12th century on palm leaves by the philosopher, Madhavacharya;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also protected such other rare Sanskrit manuscripts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The researchers of Rochester Institute of Technology have digitally restored the text of Sarvamool Granth, a 700 year old sacred text. The text of Sarvamool Granth is attributed to the philosopher-saint Madhavacharya.

(c) and (d) The National Mission for Manuscripts, under the Ministry of Culture, has initiated a project on digitization under which 4500 manuscripts (approximately 7 lakh pages), including rare Sanskrit manuscripts, have been digitized. These are:-

- (1) Vaishnava manuscripts of Majuli Islands (1500 manuscripts)
- (2) Sanskrit manuscripts of Iqbal Library (1000 manuscripts)
- (3) Manuscripts from Orissa State Museum (1200 manuscripts)
- (4) Kutiyattam manuscripts of Kerala (200 manuscripts)
- (5) Manuscripts on Siddha of Madras University (600 manuscripts)

Recognition of Theatre

3298. SHRI JAI PRAKASH [MOHANLAL GANJ] : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating on any proposal to grant the linguistic theatre the status of theatre on the lines of the Hindi theatre,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the Government is likely to announce its decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) No special status has been granted to Hindi theatre, therefore, there is no question of granting the linguistic theatre the status of theatre on the lines of Hindi theatre. The workshops organised by the National School of Drama in various parts of the country are in different languages to address the needs of linguistic theatre. In the 9th National annual theatre festival 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav' organised from 8th to 20th January 2007, 12 regional plays from different languages were performed. On the basis of the recommendations of the Broad Based Committee, opening of 5 full fledged regional schools of Drama at Bangalore, Goa/Maharashtra, Kolkata, North East and Jammu and Kashmir has been proposed during XIth Plan for promotion of theatre in Regional languages. The Sangeet Natak Akademi also covers the entire gamut of theatre in different languages.

Allotment of Land by AAI from M.P.

3299. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) have sought 5.87 acres of land from the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh

has allotted land to Airports Authority of India for the development of airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) have not sought 5.87 acres of land from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. In fact, AAI have provided 5.87 acres of land at Bhopal airport to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh on lease basis.

(c) and (d) Madhya Pradesh Government has acquired and transferred land to AAI on free of cost basis at Jabalpur (30 acres) and Khajuraho (355.66 acres). At Bhopal airport, Madhya Pradesh Government has acquired 330 acres which is yet to be handed over to AAI.

[English]

Unreliability of Russian Weapon Systems

3300. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia still remains the largest defence supplier to India;

(b) if so, whether there is unreliability of some of Russian weapon systems as well as tardy product support in execution of several projects;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to sort out the issues with Russian firms?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Defence acquisitions, including product support therefor, are made from various indigenous and foreign sources including Russia in accordance with the well laid down defence procurement procedure. These acquisitions are made with a view to modernizing the Armed Forces to keep them in a state of readiness to face any threat

to national security. Defence Procurement Procedure 2006 has provisions for safeguards against supply of inferior quality products from all sources including those from Russia.

(d) The issues relating to product support are pursued with the Russian firms as well as the Russian Government on a continuous basis and the same are resolved through mutual discussions and diplomatic channels through forums like Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation and working groups.

Army Officers killed in Fire

3301. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Army Officers were killed in a fire that destroyed a forward post at Siala in the Saltora Ridge-Siachen Glacier region in the second half of December, 2006 as reported in "The Times of India" dated December 25, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) apart from loss of the officers how much loss Army unit has suffered on account of fire and the follow-up action taken thereon?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major Sudhir Chikara and Captain Arun Shankar Regimental Medical Officer died in the fire accident on 23rd December 2006.

(c) Yes Sir, a Court of Inquiry (Col) has been ordered.

(d) Based on the findings of Court of Inquiry, it has

been inferred that the cause of the fire was accidental and no one is to be blamed for the same.

(e) The Court of Inquiry has assessed the loss to be approximately Rs. 16.00 lakh (Rupees Sixteen Lakh only). For avoiding recurrence of such accidents, a detailed compendium to include aspects on prevention of outbreak of fire has been compiled and disseminated to lower formations for strict compliance.

Setting up of District Army Welfare Boards

3302. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up District Army Welfare Boards in the country, particularly in West Bengal and North-Eastern States in the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) to (c) There are no boards known as District Army Welfare Boards. However, for welfare of ex-servicemen and their families and also families of serving/deceased service personnel, 352 Zila Sainik Boards already exist in various parts of the country including West Bengal and North Eastern States. These Boards, are set up in consultation with Kendriya Sainik Board by the respective state Governments/Union Territory Administrations and function under their administrative control. Proposals for setting up of nine new Zila Sainik Boards have been received by the Kendriya Sainik Board from the states of Karnataka, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and West Bengal.

Development of Surat-Hazira Railway Line

3303. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to develop Surat-Hazira railway line;

(b) if so, the status of financial contribution among different stakeholders/companies for this project;

(c) whether the Railways contemplate to allocate more funds to RVNL;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is technically feasible to integrate this section as a part of dedicated freight corridor between Mumbai-Delhi as planned by the Ministry of Railways; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The following equity participation is proposed in this project and has been confirmed by the respective stakeholders:—

| | Rs. in Crore |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| (i) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited | 25 |
| (ii) Gujarat Maritime Board | 7 |
| (iii) Hazira Port Private Limited | 25 |
| (iv) Essar Steel Limited | 25 |

The basic objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was to enable formation of a project specific Special Purpose Vehicle for implementation of the railway line project from Surat to Hazira Port.

(c) and (d) The necessary funds would be provided once the project is sanctioned.

(e) and (f) Surat-Hazira line can integrate with Dedicated Freight Corridor on Western Route at any of the nearest Junction points. Rail Indian Technical and

Economic Services Limited (RITES) Preliminary-cum-Traffic Survey Report has identified Kosad/Gothangam as the possible Junction point to serve Hazira Complex.

**Construction of Boarder Roads in
North-Eastern States**

3304. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated during 2006-2007 for construction of border roads in the North-Eastern States; and

(b) the length of roads (in kms.) constructed in North Eastern States particularly in Assam in the said financial year?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) :
(a) During the year 2006-2007, a sum of Rs. 614.31 Crs. was allocated for construction of roads of operational/strategic importance by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Out of which a sum of Rs. 205.59 Crs. was allocated and spent for construction of roads in North Eastern States. In addition, expenditure of Rs. 70 Cr. has also been incurred by BRO on construction of roads included under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme – North East (SARDEP-NE).

(b) 233.17 km. of roads were constructed by the Boarder Roads Organization in North Eastern States during 2006-2007. No road of operational/strategic importance has been constructed in Assam by BRO during this year. BRO has undertaken works on 113 km. of roads in NE region under the SARDEP-NE. Out of this 56 km. of roads falls in the state of Assam.

**Setting up of Railway Station at Parvathipuram
in Kanyakumari**

3305. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are considering to

conduct preliminary feasible survey for the Railway Station at Parvathipuram; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) The proposal for opening of a train halt at Parvathipuram has been examined and is not considered justified both from operational and financial point of view.

[Translation]

**Promotion of Food Processing
Industries in M.P.**

3306. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some proposals have been received by the Union Government from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for promoting Food Processing Industries in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the project which have been approved; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir, The Government have received 169 proposals from Madhya Pradesh for setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing units and other food processing activities during the period 2002-03 to 2006-07. Of these, 63 proposals have been approved for financial assistance, 49 cases have been closed/rejected and remaining cases are at various stages of processing. Sector-wise details of proposals approved during the period are as follows:-

| Sector | Flour/Rice Pulse Milling | Fruit and Vegetable | Consumer industries | HRD/R and D and study | Bakery Milk | Total |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------|
| No. of proposals approved | 10 | 20 | 4 | 26 | 3 | 63 |

Clearance of proposals depends on the applicants fulfilling the required criteria and furnishing of relevant documents. Hence, it is not possible to indicate any specific time for clearance of the remaining proposals.

Rural Tourism in Jharkhand

3307. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has explored the possibilities of rural tourism in Jharkhand;

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

(c) the amount disbursed for these works during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) The creation of infrastructure in rural areas having potential for tourism is being supported by Ministry of Tourism under the existing scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development of Destination and Circuit, while community participation and capacity building including skill upgradation are being supported in such rural areas through Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme of the Ministry. The funds are sanctioned and released based on the proposals received from the State/UT Governments. The proposals received from the State Government of Jharkhand during the current financial year 2007-08 are as follows:-

1. Village Amadubi, Distt. Singbhum - Rs. 70.00 lakh

2. Village Deuridih, Distt. Kharsanwan - Rs. 70.00 lakh

(c) Nil.

[English]

Multipurpose Cultural Complexes

3308. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering for setting up of multi-purpose cultural complex in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the multi-purpose cultural complexes sanctioned so far in the country; and

(d) the details of the multi-purpose cultural complexes proposed by Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Government of India has already released grant for setting up of multipurpose cultural Complexes in Bellary and Hassan in the Karnataka State during the years 1995-98.

(c) 49 MPCCs have been sanctioned in the Country as per list enclosed as statement.

(d) Planning Commission have informed the Ministry of Culture about the discontinuation of the Scheme. They are being requested to allow its continuation during the XI Five Year Plan.

Statement**Multipurpose Cultural Complexes in States**

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | Completed MPCCs | On going projects | Total |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | — | 5 | 5 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | — | 4 | 4 |
| 3. | Assam | — | 3 | 3 |
| 4. | Bihar | — | 1 | 1 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | — | 1 | 1 |
| 6. | Gujarat | — | 1 | 1 |
| 7. | Haryana | — | 1 | 1 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | — | 1 | 1 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | — | 1 | 1 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 2 | — | 2 |
| 12. | Kerala | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | — | 1 | 1 |
| 15. | Manipur | — | 1 | 1 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | — | 1 | 1 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 1 | 3 | 4 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|---------------|----|----|----|
| 19. | Orissa | — | 1 | 1 |
| 20. | Pondicherry | 1 | — | 1 |
| 21. | Punjab | 1 | — | 1 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 1 | — | 1 |
| 23. | Sikkim | — | 1 | 1 |
| 24. | Tripura | — | 1 | 1 |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 26. | West Bengal | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Total | | 12 | 37 | 49 |

[Translation]

**Superfast Goods Train from Nasik to
Azadpur Mandi, Delhi**

3309. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce a super fast goods train from Nasik to Azadpur Mandi, Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the proposed train is likely to help contain the sky rocketing prices of vegetables in Delhi as well as provide some relief to the farmers; and

(c) if so, the time by which this goods train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Railways run goods train as per demand and no demand is pending at present in Nasik area.

[English]

Welfare of Disabled Persons

3310. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of new voluntary organisations engaged in welfare of disabled persons from West Bengal which have been accorded sanction of grants during each of the last three years alongwith the amount of grant given to them; and

(b) the reasons for non-inclusion of welfare organisations from North Bengal district which are engaged in welfare of mentally challenged and speech impaired persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) The requisite information is given below:-

| S. No. | Name of the Organisation | Amount (Rs. in Lakhs) |
|--------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. | Karimapur Social Welfare Society | 1.23 |
| 2. | Haldane Society for Eco-Research and Enterprise Development (HSEED) | 0.89 |
| 3. | Moyona Ramakrishnayan Association | 1.85 |
| 4. | Ramakrishnan Vivekanand Mission | 0.27 |
| 5. | Dum Dum Deep Deaf and Dump School and Creche | 0.89 |
| 6. | Siniary Scheduled Caste Welfare | 0.45 |
| 7. | Aid for the Integration and Rehabilitation Society | 1.59 |

(b) Projects are approved on merits of each case.

Stoppage of Ranchi Rajdhani Express at Jalda Railway Station

3311. SHRI NARHARI MAHATO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware that there is no stoppage of any Rajdhani Express at Jalda railway station the District of Purulia, West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the Railway are considering to give stoppage of Ranchi Rajdhani Express at Jalda railway station;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Rajdhani Express trains are high speed long distance trains primarily meant to serve the passengers of end to end stations and major stations. Stoppage of Rajdhani Express train is provided after taking into account the need for preserving the distinctive and exclusive character of Rajdhani Express trains, the quantum as well as the pattern of traffic obtaining at the station, availability of suitable alternative services catering to the traffic demand of the station and other operational and commercial consideration. Jalda station, having very low traffic figures towards Delhi, does not qualify the above parameters for stoppage of Rajdhani train, at present.

[Translation]

Connection of Fatehabad District with Railway Network

3312. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have made any efforts to connect the district Fatehabad in Haryana with the railway network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to introduce a train from Hissar to Fatehabad via Agroha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Surveys have been completed for new line from Hissar to Sirsa via Agroha and Fatehabad and Jakhal to Fatehabad via Bhuna and Ratia. The Jakhal-Fatehabad new line proposal has not been considered feasible for being taken up due to unremunerative nature, heavy throw forward and constraint of resources. The proposal of Hissar-Sirsa new line was processed for 'in principle' approval of Planning Commission but the same has not been accorded.

[English]

Coordinated Patrolling of Palk Straits

3313.SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP :
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY :
SHRI MILIND DEORA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka met the Defence Minister and reiterated Colombo's desire for coordinate patrolling of the Palk Straits by the Navies of India and Sri Lanka, during his visit to India as reported in the 'Asian Age' dated March 21, 2007;

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

(c) the details of other issues discussed and decisions arrived?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) :
(a) to (c) In the meeting of Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka and Raksha Mantri on 20.3.2007 at New Delhi various issues including patrolling in the Palk Straits along International Maritime Boundary Line were discussed. Decisions of various issues in dealing with a foreign country are taken by the Government within the framework of Indian foreign policy.

VRS/VSS Optees in PSUs

3314.SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of number of VRS/VSS optees in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) during the last five years;

(b) whether due to reduction in employees force, the presently existing employees are facing with increase workload; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) The details of number of VRS/VSS optees during the last 5 years is given below:—

| Year | No. of employees VRS/VSS optees |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 2001-02 | 54,371 |
| 2002-03 | 63,741 |
| 2003-04 | 45,125 |
| 2004-05 | 19,895 |
| 2005-06 | 13,661 |

(b) and (c) Excess manpower is one of the main reasons of low profitability/losses/sickness in CPSEs. VRS/ VSS in CPSEs has been introduced to shed excess manpower so as to improve operational efficiency and profitability.

VI-FI Connectivity for Laptop Users at Stations

3315.SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to provide Wi-Fi connectivity for laptop users at all major railway stations in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) RailTel, a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways, has set up Cyber Cafes at 17 selected Railway Stations so far under franchise model or revenue sharing arrangement. Wi-Fi connectivity for laptop users has also been provided in and around such cyber cafes at five stations namely Bangalore, Hyderabad, Howrah, Jaipur and Sealdah so far.

New Projects Across the Country

3316.SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new projects sanctioned across the country particularly for Tamil Nadu during the year;

(b) the estimated cost of each of the projects and the time by which the projects would be taken up and the expected time of completion;

(c) whether any survey has been taken up for doubling of rail lines for southern railway;

(d) if so, the details and its present status thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Details of new projects sanctioned on the Railways is given in the Budget Documents 2007-08. These new projects include gauge conversion of Mayiladuturai-Tiruvarur-Karaikudi and Tiruturai-Pundi-Agastiyampalli (224 kms.) in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs. 404 crore. The work would be taken up once budget is passed by Parliament. The project may taken about 4-5 years in completion subject to availability of resources.

(c) to (e) On Southern Railway, surveys for Jolarpettai-Katpadi-Arkkonam (145 kms.) 3rd line and doubling of Trivandrum-Kanniyakumari (82 kms.) have been taken up.

Facilities in Garib Rath Trains

3317.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to provide additional facilities in the Garib Rath trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) To provide better/ comfortable passenger amenities in passenger coaches is a continuous process in Indian Railways. At present on-board Services viz. Catering and bed roll are provided to the passengers of Garib Rath trains by the Railways/Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation on demand on payment of prescribed charges. Other facilities will be provided as and when required.

Wardha-Nanded Railway Line

3318.SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have included Wardha-Nanded via Yavatmal-Pusad new line project in 2007-2008 Plan on (50:50) cost sharing basis;

(b) whether the Railways have taken up the matter with the Maharashtra Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present status of the project?

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

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Railway had requested State Government of Maharashtra for cost participation to the

extent of at least 50% in construction in this line. State Government has offered to share upto 35% to 45% of the cost by way of earthwork, ballast etc. under National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and State Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS). State Government have been requested to share at least 40% of the cost as a special case in view of difficult conditions amongst farming community in Vidharbha region, without linking it with NREP and state EGS.

[Translation]

Meeting of Defence Undertakings

3319.DR. RAJESH MISHRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the various issues discussed in the recent meeting of defence undertakings held in New Delhi;

(b) whether the deliberations also touched upon the need to carry out reforms in order to improve efficiency, accountability and transparency in these defence undertakings; and

(c) if so, the guidelines laid down for taking remedial steps in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJEET SINGH) : (a) and (b) Recently, in January and February, 2007, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri reviewed the performance of the Defence Public Sector Undertakings for the financial year 2006-2007. The review covered production performance, achievement in terms of turnover, export, focus on R and D, value added per employee and future plans of the Defence Undertakings.

(c) No general guidelines were issued in this regard.

[English]

Performance Review of NGOs

3320.SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of on-going and new Central schemes in operation for providing financial aid to NGOs and State Governments, scheme-wise;

(b) the details of their eligibility conditions;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of these schemes recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof and changes proposed for better implementation of these schemes;

(e) whether a large chunk of financial aid eaten out by fake NGOs;

(f) if so, the facts thereof; and

(g) the steps proposed to prevent the fake NGOs to get financial aid by submitting forged documents and papers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) The details of on-going and new central schemes being implemented by the Ministry are available in its Annual Report. Financial assistance is provided to the Non Governmental Organisations subject to fulfillment of the following criteria:-

(i) Non profit making society registered under an appropriate Act with an appropriate administrative structure and a duly constituted managing/executive committee.

(ii) Registration for a minimum period of two years at the time of applying for grant in aid.

(c) and (d) New procedure for streamlining the processing of sanction of grant in aid to the Non Governmental Organisations has been introduced recently. The new procedure will entitle the State Governments to recommend both ongoing and new cases within the notional allocation communicated to them for supporting the voluntary effort in service deficient areas.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The guidelines and procedures for sanction of grant in aid to the NGOs have adequate safety measures.

Museums and Monuments in Tamil Nadu

3321. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of museums/monuments conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India in Tamil Nadu, location-wise;

(b) the amount spent and released on maintenance of each of the monument/museum during each of the last three years and proposed for the year 2006-07; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government not protect the museums/monuments in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) The Archaeological Survey of India has only one site museum

at Chennai. There are 413 ancient monuments and sites maintained and conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India in Tamil Nadu. Their location-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The amount allotted and spent for conservation and maintenance of the museum/protected monuments during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Conservation and maintenance of the protected monuments is a continuous process. Archaeological Survey of India undertakes conservation, preservation and maintenance of the protected monuments subject to the availability of budgetary provision. Structural repairs and special repairs are carried out on need basis. In addition, the Archaeological Survey of India develops the environs and provides tourist facilities like toilet, drinking water, signages, tourist literature, etc.

The Archaeological Survey of India has taken up a phased programme for the upgradation of its museum at Fort St. George.

Statement-I

List of Centrally Protected Monuments under the Jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India in Tamil Nadu

(Chennai Circle)

| Sl. No. | Name of Monument/Site | Locality | District |
|---------|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| 1. | Arsenal | Chennai | Chennai |
| 2. | Big Warehouse | Chennai | Chennai |
| 3. | Chaplan's House | Chennai | Chennai |
| 4. | Clive's House | Chennai | Chennai |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
|-----|---|----------------------|-------------|
| 5. | Garrison Engineer's Depot | Chennai | Chennai |
| 6. | Guard Room | Chennai | Chennai |
| 7. | King's Barrack | Chennai | Chennai |
| 8. | Last House On The Left of 'Snob's Alley' | Chennai | Chennai |
| 9. | Nursing Sister's House | Chennai | Chennai |
| 10. | Old British Infantry Officer's Mess | Chennai | Chennai |
| 11. | Rampart, Gates, Bastion, Ravilions With Vaulted Chambers and Water Cisterns Underneath: Moat And Defence Walls All Round with Glacis to the Extent Of the Existing Barbed Wire Fence. | Chennai | Chennai |
| 12. | St. Mary's Church | Chennai | Chennai |
| 13. | Wellesley's House | Chennai | Chennai |
| 14. | David Yale And Joseph Hynmer's Tomb | Chennai | Chennai |
| 15. | Old Town Wall | Tondiarpet | Chennai |
| 16. | Muruganathasvami Temple | Tirumuruganpoondi | Coimbatore |
| 17. | Nithisvarasvami Temple | Srimushnam | Cuddalore |
| 18. | Chennaraya Perumal Temple Together With Adjacent Lands | Adiyamankottai | Dharmapuri |
| 19. | Hill Fort | Krishnagiri | Dharmapuri |
| 20. | Hill Fort | Rayakkottai | Dharmapuri |
| 21. | Fort On Rock | Dindigal | Dindigal |
| 22. | Jain Temple | Mettupudur | Erode |
| 23. | Sugrisvara Temple and Tank | Sircar Periyapalayam | Erode |
| 24. | Iravatanesvara Temple | Big Kanchipuram | Kanchipuram |
| 25. | Jvaraharesvara Temple | Big Kanchipuram | Kanchipuram |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
|-----|---|---------------|-------------|
| 26. | Matangesvara Temple | Kanchipuram | Kanchipuram |
| 27. | Mukatesvara Temple | Kanchipuram | Kanchipuram |
| 28. | Privatanesvara Temple | Kanchipuram | Kanchipuram |
| 29. | Munkudmisvara Temple | P.V. Kalathur | Kanchipuram |
| 30. | Dhenupurisvara Temple | Madambakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 31. | Large Siva Temple (Apathsahaesvara Temple) | Tenneri | Kanchipuram |
| 32. | Arjuna's Penance | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 33. | Arjuna's Ratha | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 34. | Bhima's Ratha | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 35. | Dharmaraja 'S Ratha | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 36. | Dharmaraja Rock Cut Throne | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 37. | Dolostva Mandapa | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 38. | Draupadi's Bath | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 39. | Draupathi's Ratha | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 40. | Eight Stone Images On A Masonary Platform Known As The Seven Pidaris | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 41. | Huge Stone Figures of The Lion Elephant, and A Bull | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 42. | Olakkanesvara Temple | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 43. | Kotikal Mandapa | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 44. | Krishna's Butter Ball | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 45. | Krishna Mandapam | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 46. | Large Unfinished Rock Sculpture Similar to Arjuna's Penance | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 47. | Mahishamardini Rock Cut Mandapa | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
|-----|---|--------------|-------------|
| 48. | Mahishasura Rock Standing In The Sea to The North Of Shore Temple | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 49. | Mukundanayanar Temple | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 50. | Rock Cut Ganesha Temple | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 51. | Rock Cut Varaha Temple Containing Varaha And Vamana Incarnation Of Vishnu | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 52. | Rock Cut Sculpture, Representing the Group of Elephants, Monkey and Peacock | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 53. | Rayagopuram (Unfinished) | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 54. | Sahadeva's Ratha | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 55. | Shore Temple | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 56. | Small Monolithic Temple Known As Valayankuttai Ratha | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 57. | Stone Sculpture Representing The Group Of Elephants, Monkeys | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 58. | Triple Celled Rock-Cut Shrine With Gopi's Churn Infront Of it | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 59. | Two Rock Cut Temples At North East Corner Of The Koneri Pallam Tank | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 60. | Two Small-Carved Rocks To The South of The Shore Temple | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 61. | Two Small Monolithic Temples Known As Pidari Araman Ratha | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 62. | Unfinished Ratha And Stone Couch | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 63. | Unfinished Rock Cut Cave Temple North Of Krishna Mandapa | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 64. | Dharmesvara Temple | Manimagalam | Kanchipuram |
| 65. | Vaikunta Perumal Temple | Kanchipuram | Kanchipuram |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
|-----|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| 66. | Ruined Dutch Fort and Cemetery | Sadras | Kanchipuram |
| 67. | Kailasanatha Temple | Salabogam | Kanchipuram |
| 68. | Tiger-Headed Rock Cut Temple | Salvankuppam | Kanchipuram |
| 69. | Two Inscribed Rocks | Salvankuppam | Kanchipuram |
| 70. | Rock Cut Shiva Temple with Three Lingas | Salvankuppam | Kanchipuram |
| 71. | Lesser Siva Temple (Kanthalingesvasatemple) | Tenneri (Madavillaam) | Kanchipuram |
| 72. | Nityakalayanasmami Temple | Tiruvidanthai | Kanchipuram |
| 73. | Orukkal Mandapam | Tirukallikunram | Kanchipuram |
| 74. | Venkatesaperumal Temple | Tirumukkudal | Kanchipuram |
| 75. | Vaikuntaperumal Temple | Uttiramerur | Kanchipuram |
| 76. | Tirupulisvara Temple | Vayalur | Kanchipuram |
| 77. | Head Sluice Periaivoikal Nattuvoikal | Musiri | Karur |
| 78. | Korangunatha Temple | Srinivasanallur | Karur |
| 79. | Rock (Kulithalai) | Vaigainallur | Karur |
| 80. | Alagarmalai Cavern With Panchapandava Beds Midway Between Alagarmalai And Kidampatti | Melur | Madurai |
| 81. | Jain Statues Rock Inscription And Panchapandava Beds On The Hill | Kalluthu | Madurai |
| 82. | Rock Cut Bas Relief And Beds And A Mutilated Jain Stone Image | Karadipatti | Madurai |
| 83. | Rock - Cut Bas Relief Of Jain Images With Inscription In Samanar Malai | Keelakuilkudy | Madurai |
| 84. | Panchapandava Bed, Jain Statues, And Brahmi And Vatteluttu (Malai Inscription On The Panchapandar) | Kilayur Kilavalavu | Madurai |
| 85. | Rock Cut Beds Under Natural Rock Shelter In Amanarmalai Or Samanar Malai | Melakuikudy | Madurai |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
|------|--|---------------------------|--------------|
| 86. | Cave In Sitharmalai | Mettupatti | Dindigul |
| 87. | Cavern With Panchapandava Beds On The Wester Slope Of The Hills And Similar Beds | Tiruparankunram | Madurai |
| 88. | Rock-Cut Cave And Inscription | Tiruparankunram | Madurai |
| 89. | Ramapada Mandapam | Kodiakkadu | Nagapattinam |
| 90. | Inscribed Stone | Kodiyakarai | Nagapattinam |
| 91. | Town Gateway | Tranquebar (Tarangambadi) | Nagapattinam |
| 92. | Hill Fort | Namakkal | Namakkal |
| 93. | Sri Ranganatha Swamy And Sri Narasimha Swamy Temple | Namakkal | Namakkal |
| 94. | Brihadesvara Temple | Gangaikonda cholapuram | Perumbalur |
| 95. | Jain Statue Built Of Granite | Jayankonda cholapuram | Perumbalur |
| 96. | Jain Statue Called Pakuppar | Jayankonda cholapuram | Perumbalur |
| 97. | Fort | Ranjankudi | Perumbalur |
| 98. | Shamekhani's Mosque | Vallapuram | Perumbalur |
| 99. | Siva Temple | Valikantapuram | Perambalur |
| 100. | Jain Tirthankara Image | Alangudipatti | Pudukkottai |
| 101. | Jaina Image | Alathur | Pudukkottai |
| 102. | Whole Cave With Two Jain Figures Carved On The Rock Over It And Damaged Inscription | Ammachetram | Pudukkottai |
| 103. | Whole Of Minakshi Sundaresvara Temple And The Inscribed Stone In The Front Mandapam | Ammankurichi | Pudukkottai |
| 104. | Two Jain Tirthankara Images In A Coconut Plantation | Annavasal | Pudukkottai |
| 105. | Siva Temple | Ariyur | Pudukkottai |
| 106. | Jain Tirthankara Image and Inscribed Stone | Chettipatty | Pudukkottai |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
|------|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| 107. | Ruined Jaina Temple | Chettipatty | Pudukkottai |
| 108. | Sarangadesvara (Also Known As Tiruvagnisvara) Temple | Chittur | Pudukkottai |
| 109. | Rock-Cut Siva Shrine | Devarmalai | Pudukkottai |
| 110. | Kalabhamudaiyar Temple | Irumbanadu | Pudukkottai |
| 111. | Siva Temple And Lion Pillar | Irumbanadu | Pudukkottai |
| 112. | Soundararaja Perumal Temple | Irumbanadu | Pudukkottai |
| 113. | Stone Idols Of Ganesa And Anjaneya | Irumbanadu | Pudukkottai |
| 114. | Jain Tirthangara idol | Kannangarakudi | Pudukkottai |
| 115. | Jain Image, Stone Lion And Foundations Of A Jain Temple | Kannangudi | Pudukkottai |
| 116. | Balasubrahmanya Temple | Kannanur | Pudukkottai |
| 117. | Siva Temple | Kilayur (Kaliyapatti) | Pudukkottai |
| 118. | Uttamadanisvara Temple | Kilattaniyam | Pudukkottai |
| 119. | Uttamanathaswamy Temple | Kiranur | Pudukkottai |
| 120. | Muchukundesvara Temple And The Tank In Front Of It | Kodumbalur | Pudukkottai |
| 121. | Muvar Koil With Surrounding Sub-Shrines Stone Enclosures Etc. | Kodumbalur | Pudukkottai |
| 122. | Remains Of Aivar Koil | Kodumbalur | Pudukkottai |
| 123. | Remains Of Structural Temples And Antiquities | Kodumbalur | Pudukkottai |
| 124. | Amman Shrine | Kudumiyamalai | Pudukkottai |
| 125. | Natural Cavern With Drip Line On the Western Side Of The Kudumiyamalai | Kudumiyamalai | Pudukkottai |
| 126. | Musical Inscription | Kudumiyamalai | Pudukkottai |
| 127. | Rock-Cut Shrine Called Melakkoil With Mandapa In Front | Kudumiyamalai | Pudukkottai |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
|------|--|---------------------------|-------------|
| 128. | Sikkanathaswamy Temple | Kudumiyamalai | Pudukkottai |
| 129. | Eight Natural Cavems, Jain Idols And Inscriptions In Kudagumalai, Aladiperumal Paraika | Kulathur | Pudukkottai |
| 130. | Ruined Siva Temple | Kulathur | Pudukkottai |
| 131. | Rock-Cut Siva Cave-Temple, Hall Of Hundred Pillared Mandapam Or Car Mandapam With Wheels In Front Part Of The Plinth | Kunnandarkoil | Pudukkottai |
| 132. | Jain Idols And Remains Of The Jain Temple | Letchumanpatti | Pudukkottai |
| 133. | Idols In The Southern Bund Of Teppakulam Or Urani | Madarapatti | Pudukkottai |
| 134. | Rock-Cut Siva Temple | Malayadipatti | Pudukkottai |
| 135. | Rock-Cut Vishnu Temple | Malayadipatti | Pudukkottai |
| 136. | Two Rock-Cut Siva Shrines On The Eastern And Southern Slopes Of The Hill | Malakkoil | Pudukkottai |
| 137. | Jain Temple Site | Mangathevanpatti | Pudukkottai |
| 138. | Jain Temple | Mangathevanpatti | Pudukkottai |
| 139. | Siva And Pillayar Temple | Mangudi | Pudukkottai |
| 140. | Jain Tirthankara Ayyanar And Devi Idols | Marudur | Pudukkottai |
| 141. | Menandar Pillayar Temple | Melanilaivayal | Pudukkottai |
| 142. | Jain Tirthankara Idol And Relics Of Old Jain Temple | Melur | Pudukkottai |
| 143. | Vishnu Idol | Melur | Pudukkottai |
| 144. | (I) Jain Tirthankara Image (II) Remains Of The Temple (III) Ganesa Image (IV) Nandi With Inscription | Mailapatti | Pudukkottai |
| 145. | Tiruperumanadar Temple | Nangupatti (Madattukkoil) | Pudukkottai |
| 146. | Jain Idol, Two Durga Idol, One Vishnu Idol And Inscribed Stone Slab | Nanjur | Pudukkottai |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
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| 147. | Amman Koil (Melaikadambar Koil And The Siva Temple To Its West) | Narthamalai | Pudukkottai |
| 148. | Rock-Cut Siva Temple | Narthamalai | Pudukkottai |
| 149. | Vijayalayacholisvaram And The Group Of Sub Shrines Around It | Narttamalai | Pudukkottai |
| 150. | Rock-Cut Vishnu Shrine | Narttamalai | Pudukkottai |
| 151. | Jain Image And The Inscription To The South Of It On The Summit Of The Sadayaparai | Nathampennai | Pudukkottai |
| 152. | Siva (Valamadisvara) Temple | Nirpalani | Pudukkottai |
| 153. | Siva Temple | Panangudi | Pudukkottai |
| 154. | Vishnu Temple | Panangudi | Pudukkottai |
| 155. | Rajendracholisvara Temple | Ponamaravati | Pudukkottai |
| 156. | Jaina Thirthankara Image | Puliyur | Pudukkottai |
| 157. | Jain Image And The Surrounding Temple Site Locally Called Mottai Pillayar Koil | Puttambur | Pudukkottai |
| 158. | Rock-Cut Shrine Of Pushpavanesvara | Puvalakkudi | Pudukkottai |
| 159. | Stone Sluice With Nandipottan's Inscription | Rajalipatti | Pudukkottai |
| 160. | Stone Idols Of Vishnu And Devi And Siva Temple | Rasipuram | Pudukkottai |
| 161. | Jain Mound, Jain Images, Other Idols And Lion Pillars | Sembattur | Pudukkottai |
| 162. | Natural Cavern Called Andamatam | Sembuthi | Pudukkottai |
| 163. | Vishnu And Sridevi Idols | Sengirai | Pudukkottai |
| 164. | Bhumisvara Temple | Sevalur | Pudukkottai |
| 165. | Natural Cavern With Stone Beds And Brahmi And Old Tamil Inscriptions Called Eladipattam | Sittannavasal | Pudukkottai |
| 166. | Rock-Cut Jain Temple | Sittannavasal | Pudukkottai |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
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| 167. | Tiruvillangudy Siva Temple | Surtyur | Pudukkottai |
| 168. | Siva Temple | Tennangudi | Pudukkottai |
| 169. | Jain Tirthankara Image Seated On Apedestal To The East Of The Bund | Tekkatur | Pudukkottai |
| 170. | Sanctum Of Siva Temple | Tirukalambur | Pudukkottai |
| 171. | Sundaresvara Temple With Sub-Shrines | Tirukkattalai | Pudukkottai |
| 172. | Rock-Cut Siva Temple (Satyagirisvara Temple) | Tirumayam | Pudukkottai |
| 173. | Rock-Cut Vishnu Temple (Satyagirisvara Temple) | Tirumayam | Pudukkottai |
| 174. | Stone And Brick Fort | Tirumayam | Pudukkottai |
| 175. | Cholisvaramudaiyar Temple | Tiruppur | Pudukkottai |
| 176. | Jain Image In Waterspreadj Of Pudukulam | Tiruppur | Pudukkottai |
| 177. | Siva Temple | Thodaiyur | Pudukkottai |
| 178. | Jain Tirthankara Image And Inscribed Stone | Valavambatti (valavanapatti) | Pudukkottai |
| 179. | Siva Temple (Agastisvara Temple) | Varappur | Pudukkottai |
| 180. | Siva Temple On The Western Bund Of Enadikulam | Varpet | Pudukkottai |
| 181. | Jain Tirthankara Image | Veerakkudy | Pudukkottai |
| 182. | Agastisvara Temple | Vellanur | Pudukkottai |
| 183. | Kailasanatha Temple | Vellanur | Pudukkottai |
| 184. | Two Lion Pillars In The Vahana Mandapam Of The Subrahmanya Temple | Viralimalai | Pudukkottai |
| 185. | Siva Temple | Visalur | Pudukkottai |
| 186. | Remains Of Fort With Building Thereon | Attur | Salem |
| 187. | Fort And Temple On the Hill | Chinna Kavandanur | Salem |
| 188. | Boulder Stone Bed And Brahmi Inscriptions On The Hill And Rock-Cut Temple With Inscription At The Foot Of The Hill | Kunnakudi | Sivaganga |

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| 189. | Airavatesvara Temple | Chatram Darasuram | Thanjavur |
| 190. | Big Cannon (Rajagopaul Cannon) In The First Rampart And The Bastions In Ts No. 608 Of Ward Iii | Thanjavur | Thanjavur |
| 191. | Schwartz (Christ) Church | Thanjavur | Thanjavur |
| 192. | Sivaganga Little Fort Enclosing The Big Temple | Thanjavur | Thanjavur |
| 193. | Karuppanasvami Tock And Jain Sculpture | Uttampalayam | Teni |
| 194. | Fort Gateway | Tiruchchirappali | Tiruchchirappalli |
| 195. | Rock Fort, (1) Lower Cave; (2) Path Leading To The Site In Front Of The Lower Cave; (3) Path Leading To The Upper Cave; (4) Site In Front Of The Lower Cave; (5) Upper Cave. | Rock Fort, Tirchy | Tiruchchirappalli |
| 196. | Siva Temple (Erumbisvara Temple) | Tiruverumbur | Tiruchchirappalli |
| 197. | Fort And Cemetery | Pulicat | Thiruvallur |
| 198. | Svayambunathar Temple | Kilputhur | Thiruvannamalai |
| 199. | Rock-Cut Shrine | Kuranganilmuttam | Thiruvannamalai |
| 200. | Rock Cut Caves, Sculptures And Inscriptions | Mamandur | Thiruvannamalai |
| 201. | Rock Cut Caves | Narasamangalam | Thiruvannamalai |
| 202. | Chandramouliswara Temple | Nattery | Thiruvannamalai |
| 203. | Rock Cut Temple And Sculptures | Siyamangalam | Thiruvannamalai |
| 204. | Jain Temple | Tirumalai | Tiruvannamalai |
| 205. | Natural Cavern Known As Virupakshi Cuha and Skandashram And Path Leading From Ramnasharam. | Tiruvannamali | Tiruvannamalai |
| 206. | Adjoining Building To The Masjid And Two Ponds | Arcot | Vellore |
| 207. | The Cannon | Arcot | Vellore |
| 208. | Delhi Gate | Arcot | Vellore |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
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| 209. | Mashid And Two Ponds in The West Of the Citadel | Arcot | Vellore |
| 210. | Ranganatha Temple | Erukampattu | Vellore |
| 211. | Monolithic Rock Cut Temple | Mahendravadi | Vellore |
| 212. | Choleswara Temple | Melpadi | Vellore |
| 213. | Somanatha Temple | Melpadi | Vellore |
| 214. | North Eastern Corner Of The Outer Ramapart Of The Old Fort At Arcot | Muppaduvetti | Vellore |
| 215. | Rock Inscription On The Right Flank Of The Sholinghur Tank | Sholinghur | Vellore |
| 216. | Konar Temple | Tirumalpur | Vellore |
| 217. | Subramanya Temple | Vallimalai | Vellore |
| 218. | Jain Sculpture And Inscription | Vallimalai | Vellore |
| 219. | Fort | Vellore | Vellore |
| 220. | Old Mosque In The Fort | Vellore | Vellore |
| 221. | Jalkanteswara Temple | Vellore | Vellore |
| 222. | Rock, Sculptures and Caves | Vilapakkam | Vellore |
| 223. | Brahmapurisvara Temple | Brahmadesam | Villupuram |
| 224. | Patalisvara Temple | Brahmadesam | Villupuram |
| 225. | Rock Cut Pallava Temple | Dalavanur | Villupuram |
| 226. | Alagiya Narasimha Perumal Temple | Ennayiram | Villupuram |
| 227. | Fortress Comprising Of Hill Fort On The Rajagiri, The Inner And Lower Fort And Lines Of The Fortification Connecting Rajagiri, Krishnagiri And Chakkilidrug (Or) St. George's Mountain Hills | Gingee | Villupuram |
| 228. | Minor And Lower Forts With Structures Like Inner Fort, Venugopala Temple. A Granary, A Gymnasium, Kalyanamahal, Stables, Barracks, Idols Of Kamalakanni Amman And Hanuman Etc. | Gingee | Villupuram |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
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| 229. | Old Jail Near The Pondy Gate And Two Persian Inscriptions On The Outer Face Of The Two Last Bastions | Gingee | Villupuram |
| 230. | Saad-At-Ullah Khan Mosque With Persian Inscriptions, Inscription In Persian In Pond Gate | Gingee | Villupuram |
| 231. | Two Granaries, A Magazine, A Flag Staff; Temples Of Ranganatha And Kamalakkani Amman, A Big Cannon, A Sacrificial Slab, The Audience Hall On the Rajagri And The Treasury | Gingee | Villupuram |
| 232. | Two Granaries, Well For Storing Of Ghee, Well For Storing Oil, Two Temples And An Audience Hall On The Krishnagiri. | Gingee | Villupuram |
| 233. | Venkararamana Temple With Inscription In Tamil, Prisoners Well (Ab) | Gingee | Villupuram |
| 234. | Pallava Rock-Cut Shrine | Kilmavilangai | Villupuram |
| 235. | Rock Cut Shrine | Mandagapattu | Villupuram |
| 236. | Outside The Fort-Pattabhirama Temple And 12 Pillared Mandapa | Narasingarayanan pettai | Villupuram |
| 237. | Talagiriswara Temple And A Cave Containing An Image Of Durga And Pallavam Inscription | Panamalai | Villupuram |
| 238. | Apatsaheyeswara Temple | Sendamangalam | Virudhunagar |
| 239. | 24 Jain Figure In Two Rows, A Standing Nude Figure, Two Fragments Of A Sitting Figure And Two Inscriptions On Tirunathankunru | Sirukadambur | Villupuram |
| 240. | Vinnamparai Rock Containing Pallava Inscriptions | Thondur | Villupuram |
| 241. | Tirumalai Nayaka Palace | Srivilliputtur | Virudhunagar |
| 242. | Megalithic cists and caims (survey no. 222) | Agaram | Kanchipuram |
| 243. | Megalithic cists and caims (survey nos. 111 and 116) | Agaram | Kanchipuram |
| 244. | Urn burials | Alattur | Kanchipuram |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
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| 245. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Amur | Kanchipuram |
| 246. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Anur | Kanchipuram |
| 247. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Araiypakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 248. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Atcharavakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 249. | Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles | Ayyanjeri | Kanchipuram |
| 250. | Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles | Echchur | Kanchipuram |
| 251. | Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles | Edakunram | Kanchipuram |
| 252. | Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles | Eluchur | Kanchipuram |
| 253. | Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles | Erumaiyur | Kanchipuram |
| 254. | Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles | Gudalur | Kanchipuram |
| 255. | Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles | Guduvancheri (Vallamjeri) | Kanchipuram |
| 256. | Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles | Guduperum Bedu | Kanchipuram |
| 257. | Cairns at The Foot Of Perambair Hills | Kadmalaiputhur | Kanchipuram |
| 258. | Chromlechs | Kadmalaiputhur | Kanchipuram |
| 259. | Group of cairns | Kadapperi | Kanchipuram |
| 260. | Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles | Kalanipakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 261. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Kalathur | Kanchipuram |
| 262. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Kalvay | Kanchipuram |
| 263. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Kanakapattu | Kanchipuram |
| 264. | Excavated remains and buddhist vihara and temple pallananesvaram | Melaiyur | Nagapattinam |
| 265. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Kandalur | Kanchipuram |
| 266. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Karanaihangal Porinjam Bakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 267. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Kattamputtur | Kanchipuram |

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| 268. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Kilampakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 269. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Kottamedu | Kanchipuram |
| 270. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Kumili | Kanchipuram |
| 271. | Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles on the hill | Kunnattur | Kanchipuram |
| 272. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Kunnavakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 273. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Kuravanmedu | Kanchipuram |
| 274. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Madayathur | Kanchipuram |
| 275. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Maganiyam | Kanchipuram |
| 276. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Mailai | Kanchipuram |
| 277. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Malaipattu | Kanchipuram |
| 278. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Malaivaiyavur | Kanchipuram |
| 279. | Two Unfinished Excavations Near The Light House | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 280. | Unfinished Excavations Near Triple Celled Rock Cut Shrine | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 281. | Unfinished Excavations South Of Draupadi Rath | Mamallapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 282. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Mampattu | Kanchipuram |
| 283. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Manamai | Kanchipuram |
| 284. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Melkottaiyur | Kanchipuram |
| 285. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Moosaivakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 286. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Naduvakkarai | Kanchipuram |
| 287. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Nandambakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 288. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Nandivaram | Kanchipuram |
| 289. | Group of cairns | Nanmangalam | Kanchipuram |

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| 290. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Nattam | Kanchipuram |
| 291. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Nedungunram | Kanchipuram |
| 292. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Nallikuppam | Kanchipuram |
| 293. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Olalur | Kanchipuram |
| 294. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Ottivakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 295. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Ottiyambakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 296. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Padur | Kanchipuram |
| 297. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Palayasivaram | Kanchipuram |
| 298. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Pallavaram | Kanchipuram |
| 299. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Palliyagaram | Kanchipuram |
| 300. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Paranur | Kanchipuram |
| 301. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Perumbakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 302. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Perunagar | Kanchipuram |
| 303. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Perunagalathur | Kanchipuram |
| 304. | Megalithic cists and cairns with stone cricles | Ponmar | Kanchipuram |
| 305. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Perundavakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 306. | Megalithic cists and cairns | Pudupakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 307. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns Bounded With Stone Circles | Pulippakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 308. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Pundi | Kanchipuram |
| 309. | Megalithic Cists and Circumscribed by Stone Cricles | Rajakulipettai | Kanchipuram |
| 310. | Megalithic Cista and Cairns with Stone Circles | Rayalpattu | Kanchipuram |
| 311. | Megalithic Cists, and Cairns | Sanur | Kanchipuram |
| 312. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns in Virgin State. | Sastirampakkam | Kanchipuram |

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| 313. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Sembakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 314. | Group of Cairns and Cists | Sembakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 315. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Sengunram | Kanchipuram |
| 316. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns intact with Stone Circles | Settipuniyam | Kanchipuram |
| 317. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Settupattu | Kanchipuram |
| 318. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns With Stone Circles and Sarvophagi | Sikkarayapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 319. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Sirudavur | Kanchipuram |
| 320. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Sirukunram | Kanchipuram |
| 321. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Sittalapakkam | Kanchipuram |
| 322. | Um Burail and Megalithic Site | St. Thomas Mount | Kanchipuram |
| 323. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Tandalam | Kanchipuram |
| 324. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Tattanur | Kanchipuram |
| 325. | Groups of Cairns | Tiruneermalai | Kanchipuram |
| 326. | Megalithic Cists | Tiruneermalai | Kanchipuram |
| 327. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Tirupporur | Kanchipuram |
| 328. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Tirusulam | Kanchipuram |
| 329. | Megalithic Grave Yard | Tiruvadisulam | Kanchipuram |
| 330. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Unamanjeri | Kanchipuram |
| 331. | Domen Intact | Uttiramerur | Kanchipuram |
| 332. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Vadakkuppattu | Kanchipuram |
| 333. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Vadamangalam | Kanchipuram |
| 334. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Vaiyavur | Kanchipuram |
| 335. | Megalithic Cists | Vandalur | Kanchipuram |

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| 336. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns With Stone Circles | Vedanarayana Puram | Kanchipuram |
| 337. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Vembedu | Kanchipuram |
| 338. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Vengur | Kanchipuram |
| 339. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns With Stone Circles | Venkitapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 340. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Venpakkam Village No. 69 | Kanchipuram |
| 341. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Venpakkam Village No. 273 | Kanchipuram |
| 342. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Venpakkam Village No. 186 | Kanchipuram |
| 343. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Virapuram | Kanchipuram |
| 344. | Kambarmedu | Melaiyur | Nagapattinam |
| 345. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Karai | Perambalur |
| 346. | Dolmens and Cairns | Amburappati | Pudukkottai |
| 347. | Prehistoric Burial Site (Known as Kurangapattarai) | Ammachatram | Pudukkottai |
| 348. | Prehistoric Burial Site, Stone Circle, and Menhirs | Annavasai | Pudukkottai |
| 349. | Dolmens | Chokkanatha Patti | Pudukkottai |
| 350. | Dolmens | Kilaiyur | Pudukkottai |
| 351. | Prehistoric Burial Site | Melur | Pudukkottai |
| 352. | Dolmens | Muttampatti | Pudukkottai |
| 353. | Prehistoric Burial Site | Narangiyar Pettai | Pudukkottai |
| 354. | Prehistoric Dolmens | Perungulur | Pudukkottai |
| 355. | Prehistoric Dolmens | Peyal | Pudukkottai |
| 356. | Dolmens and Ayyanar Images | Poyyamanai And Virudupatti | Pudukkottai |
| 357. | Prehistoric Burial Site | Puttambur | Pudukkottai |
| 358. | Prehistoric Burial Site | Satyamangalam | Pudukkottai |
| 359. | Cairns and Urns | Sendakudy | Pudukkottai |

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| 360. | Dolmens and Urns | Sengalur | Pudukkottai |
| 361. | Dolmens in Annavasal Vattam | Sittannavasal | Pudukkottai |
| 362. | Dolmens (Known As Kurangupattarai) | Tayinipatti | Pudukkottai |
| 363. | Prehistoric Burial Site | Thekkattur | Pudukkottai |
| 364. | Kalasakkadu Burial Site | Tirukkattalai | Pudukkottai |
| 365. | Group of Dolmens | Tiruppur | Pudukkottai |
| 366. | Prehistoric Burial Site | Vadugappati | Pudukkottai |
| 367. | Prehistoric Burial Site | Vathanna Kurchi | Pudukkottai |
| 368. | Prehistoric Burial Site | Vilapatti | Pudukkottai |
| 369. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Amirtha Mangalam | Tiruvallur |
| 370. | Virgin Group Containing many Burrows | Attanthangal | Tiruvallur |
| 371. | Megalithic Cists | Chedalpakkam | Tiruvallur |
| 372. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Neyveli | Tiruvallur |
| 373. | Urn Burials | Palavakkam | Tiruvallur |
| 374. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Pammadukulam | Tiruvallur |
| 375. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Panchali | Tiruvallur |
| 376. | Megalithic Cairns with bounding Stone Circles | Pandur | Tiruvallur |
| 377. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Pondavakkam | Tiruvallur |
| 378. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Pottur | Tiruvallur |
| 379. | Prehistoric Settlement Site (Megalithic Period) | Putal | Tiruvallur |
| 380. | Caim Site | Sengarai | Tiruvallur |
| 381. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Sirukalattur | Kanchipuram |
| 382. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Siruvadu | Tiruvallur |
| 383. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Tadipadi | Tiruvallur |

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| 384. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns With Bounding Stone Circles | Vanmalli | Tiruvallur |
| 385. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Virakuppam | Tiruvallur |
| 386. | Prehistoric Site | Mottur | Tiruvannamalai |
| 387. | Megalithic Cists and Cairns | Nedungal | Tiruvannamalai |
| 388. | Megalithic Cists | Tellur | Tiruvannamalai |
| 389. | Megalithic Cists | Tetturai | Tiruvannamalai |
| 390. | Megalithic Cists | Venkunnam | Tiruvannamalai |
| 391. | Prehistoric Site | Adichanallur | Turicorin |
| 392. | Prehistoric Site | Kalvoi | Turicorin |
| 393. | Prehistoric Site | Karungulam | Turicorin |
| 394. | Urn Burial Site | Kadagambattu | Villupuram |
| 395. | Megalithic Cairns and Stone Circles | Sengamedu | Villupuram |
| 396. | Megalithic Stone Circles | Tiruvakkarai | Villupuram |
| 397. | Dolmens Near Palamalai | Adukkam | Dindigul |
| 398. | Mandapakkadu (Structure With Mound) | Chettipalayam | Coimbatore |
| 399. | Prehistoric Site (Known as Pandava Graves) | Kanyampundi | Coimbatore |
| 400. | Dolmens Near Machur Reserved Forest | Panaikkadu | Dindigul |
| 401. | Dolmens Near Machur | Panaikkadu | Dindigul |
| 402. | Dolmens Near Talayar River On Top Of The Hill | Panaikkadu | Dindigul |
| 403. | Dolmens | Panaikkadu | Dindigul |
| | Thrissur Circle | | |
| 404. | Vivekanand Rock Memorial | Kanya Kumari Beach | Kanyakumari |
| 405. | Rock-cut cave temple | Tirunandikara | Kanyakumari |
| 406. | Bhagvathi Temple | Chitral | Kanyakumari |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
|------|---|-----------------|-------------|
| 407. | Fort | Vattakottai | Kanyakumari |
| 408. | Parthasarathy and Krishna temple | Parthivapuram | Kanyakumari |
| 409. | Bhaktavatasala temple | Cheranmahadevi | Kanyakumari |
| 410. | Two rock cut temples with inscriptions in Varanchimalai | Tirumalapuram | Kanyakumari |
| 411. | Valliswara temple | Tiruvalliswaram | Kanyakumari |
| 412. | Ancient Site | Kunnattur | Kanyakumari |
| 413. | Group of sculpted dolmens | Banagudi Sholai | Kanyakumari |

Statement-II

Details of the Amount Released and Spent on Maintenance/Upgradation of the Museum and Protected Monuments/Sites in Tamil Nadu

A. Fort St. George Museum, Chennai

(Rupees in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Year | Allotment | Expenditure |
|---------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. | 2003-04 | 12.75 | 12.75 |
| 2. | 2004-05 | 18.00 | 18.00 |
| 3. | 2005-06 | 23.50 | 23.50 |
| 4. | 2006-07 | 30.00 | 29.38 |

B. Monument and Sites

(Rupees in lakhs)

| S.No. | Year | Allotment | Expenditure |
|-------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | 2003-04 | 479.00 | 478.67 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----|---------|--------|--------|
| 2. | 2004-05 | 592.00 | 592.13 |
| 3. | 2005-06 | 635.50 | 635.30 |
| 4. | 2006-07 | 468.00 | 467.59 |

[Translation]

Evacuation of Retiring Room

3322.CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1483 dated March 08, 2007 regarding possession of Retiring Room by GRP and state:

(a) the details of the measures taken to evacuate the waiting room at Jaunpur City Railway Station from the possession of Government Railway Police in the interest of the public; and

(b) the time by which the waiting room is likely to be made available for public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Railway Authorities have requested the Government Railway Police officials to get the waiting room evacuated and issue has also been discussed during coordination meetings.

(b) Efforts are being made to make the waiting room available for public after being vacated by Government Railway Police at the earliest possible as Government Railway Police need alternative accommodation.

[English]

Phasing out/upgradation of Sea Harriers Aircraft

3323.DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to phase out or upgrade the existing Sea Harriers Aircraft of the Indian Navy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Navy has procured Mig-29K from Russia;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the facilities at Naval Aircraft Yard at Kochi which is now utilized for the OMR of Sea King and Sea Harriers Aircraft and utilize it for overhaul maintenance and repair of Mig-29K series; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) An upgrade programme of the Sea Harriers, likely to be in service till 2015, is in progress. Contract for limited avionics upgrade of 14 Sea Harriers was concluded with M/s. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in March 2005. The upgrade is expected to be completed by 2008.

(c) and (d) Contract for procurement of 16 Mig-29K aircraft was concluded with M/s. RAC MIG, Russia in January 2004.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Encroachment Upon the Land of Satyagraha Ashram

3324.SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gandhiji had set up Satyagraha Ashram in Mitharwa Village in Bihar during the Champaran Satyagraha;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for the development of the first Satyagraha Ashram on the occasion of first Centenary year of the Satyagraha;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is aware that certain mafia elements have encroached upon the land of the said ashram;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the protection of the said property;

(f) whether the Government proposes to declare it a place of national heritage to bring it on the tourism map of India; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (g) There is an Ashram at Bhtiharwa in West Champaran, Bihar, which is managed and run by the Government of Bihar. As such it does not fall under the administrative purview of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. However, the Central Government sanctioned a grant of Rs.10 lakhs on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi for development of the Ashram. Champaran is also proposed to be developed as one of the Gandhi Heritage Sites. A Sub-Group under the Chairmanship of Shri Gopalkrishnan Gandhi, Governor of West Bengal has been constituted to make detailed recommendations in this regard.

Fire in Cars

3325.SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cars that went in flames during the last one year and the number of them which were driven on petrol, diesel, CNG and LPG giving separate figures;

(b) the reasons for cars going in flames driven by petrol;

(c) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken to check such fires; and

(d) the extent to which the service centres are responsible for these fires and the action proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :
(a) to (d) Relevant information is being collected from all concerned and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Upgradation of Kabir Sadhna Sthal

3326.SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal was forwarded to the Union Government by Varanasi Development Authority in the year 2002 with regard to development and upgradation of Kabir Sadhna Sthal, Kabirchaura and his birth place in Varanasi;

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

(c) the number of proposals received so far by the Government for development of these historic and cultural places during the last three years alongwith the decisions taken in this regard; and

(d) the basis on which the aforesaid decisions were taken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) No proposal from the Varanasi Development Authority was received in the Ministry of Culture.

(c) and (d) A proposal submitted by Satguru Kabir Smarak Sansthan, Distt. Sant Kabir Nagar was received by the Ministry of Culture in February, 2004 involving a cost of Rs. 10 crores. The proposal was placed before the Expert Committee of the Ministry of Culture relating to the Scheme "Assistance to Voluntary Organizations/Societies for Development and Maintenance of National Memorials" in its meeting held on 27.10.2004 but the same was not agreed to since the relevant Scheme provides assistance for maintenance of existing memorials upto a maximum limit of Rs. 5 lakhs only.

Absorption of AAI Employees

3327.SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ :
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the modernisation of Delhi, Chennai and other airports in the country have been entrusted to private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the employees of Airports Authority of India (AAI) have been absorbed by the new company

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the fate of the rest of the employees who have not been absorbed; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) The restructuring and modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports have been entrusted to Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) and Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Limited (MIAL), respectively. DIAL and MIAL are private companies incorporated under Companies Act. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is holding 26% stake in them. In DIAL the remaining 74% stake is held by a consortium led by GMR Infrastructure Limited. Likewise in MIAL the remaining 74% stake is held by a consortium led by GVK Industries Limited. No decision of this nature has been taken in respect of Chennai and other AAI airports in the country.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However DIAL had given offers of permanent absorption to all the general employees (Dy. General Manager and below) out of whom just about 8% have opted for permanent absorption in DIAL.

(e) and (f) At the end of Operation Support Period of 3 years, the general employees opting to continue employment with AAI or those not receiving offers JVCs shall continue their employment with AAI and would be redeployed at other units of AAI. It has been agreed by DIAL and MIAL that they shall make offers of appointment to general employees, the terms of which shall not be inferior in terms of salary, position etc. than the current employment terms.

Profit Sharing Ratio

3328. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended 50:50 ratio for profit petroleum share;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of petroleum Mining States which have raised the issue of sharing profit petroleum respective

of the fact that blocks have been allotted through Joint Venture New Exploration Licensing Policy and action thereon;

(d) the time by which the commercial production of oil and natural gas from Barmer-Sanchar will be started;

(e) the detailed estimated 'Profit Petroleum' from these fields and share of Rajasthan;

(f) whether these sharing will be irrespective of fact that block have been allotted through J.V. or NELP; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has accepted the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission to share Profit Petroleum (PP) and Production Level Payment (PLP) arising out of contracts under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy with the concerned States in the ratio of 50:50 subject to the condition that this should be within the overall ceiling of transfers recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission (38% of gross revenue). However, this profit sharing will not be applicable for pre-NELP and Joint Venture blocks.

(c) After the acceptance of the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission by the Central Government, the State Government of Rajasthan had represented to extend sharing of profit petroleum of 50:50 with respect to pre-NELP/Joint Venture blocks.

(d) The commercial production of oil and gas from Barmer-Sanchar basin is likely to start in 2008-09.

(e) to (g) 'Profit Petroleum' depends on the development costs and value of the production which will accrue from these fields. There will be no sharing of Profit Petroleum with the State Government concerned from pre-NELP/J.V. blocks.

Taj Mahal in 7 Wonders

3329. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Taj Mahal was voted first amongst the 7 wonders of the world;

(b) if so, the number of votes polled in favour of Taj Mahal against other contenders; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to launch a campaign to increase the popularity of Taj Mahal through the print and electronic media?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) A private charitable foundation in Switzerland, "The New 7 Wonders of the World", launched a global campaign to choose the most significant seven man made monuments. They have selected a list of 21 finalists, which includes the Taj Mahal.

(b) The voting process is not complete and, therefore, the number of votes in favour of the Taj Mahal and other contenders are not available.

(c) The 'Incredible India' print and electronic media campaign of the Ministry of Tourism both within the country and abroad regularly publishes/telecasts several creatives/TV spots on the Taj and other landmarks.

[Translation]

Imminent Danger in Coastal Areas

3330. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is apprehension of imminent danger in coastal areas in the country as reported in *Jansatta* dated February 19, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to monitor the said areas?

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

(a) and (b) There are reports about terrorists of various tanzems being imparted training and likelihood of their infiltration through sea routes. However, no specific information about any imminent danger has been received.

(c) India's coastal waters are guarded by the Indian Coast Guard in coordination with the State Police and the Navy. The measures that have been taken and planned to enhance the coastal security include regular aerial surveillance and maritime patrolling along the coast, establishment of coastal police stations in the littoral States as part of Coastal Security Scheme, monitoring system, etc.

[English]

Gauge Conversion of Bhiladi-Samdari Railway Line

3331. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any project has been sanctioned by the Railways for gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdari Railway line;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Gujarat has given its concurrence for financial contribution;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by when the work on this project is likely to be started?

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

(b) and (c) Gujarat Government had agreed to participate in the project. However, the project has been decided to be funded from Railways own resources.

(d) The work on the project has already started.

**Setting up of Defence Manufacturing
base by US**

3332. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from United States for setting up a defence manufacturing base in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(a) No, Sir. However, there is a Defence Procurement and Production Group co-chaired by Director General (Acquisition) in the Ministry of Defence from Indian side and his counterpart from United States side which discusses issues of joint/Co-production and development as also licensed production of defence related items in India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import of SKO

3333. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the import policy of SKO;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the needy bulk consumers/customers cannot get free sale white SKO easily from the open market;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to arrange separate marketing channel of parallel marketers in the States for making availability of adequate quantity of white SKO;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (d) to (f) This Ministry had introduced Parallel Marketing System (PMS) for kerosene vide Notification dated 2.9.1993 allowing the private agencies to import and market kerosene at market price in the country. Subsequently, on the recommendation of this Ministry, Deptt. of Commerce in November, 2003 canalized the import of kerosene through State Trading Enterprises namely Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and IBP Company Limited (IBP) for all purposes and also through the State Trading Corporation by Advance License Holders. SKO Control Order, 1993 has been amended in July 2006 to enable parallel marketers of SKO to source their requirements from domestic producers of SKO in addition to imports. Parallel marketers are free to sell the kerosene at market determined price.

(b) and (c) At present, the availability of Kerosene is sufficient to meet the domestic requirement. To ensure adequate availability of kerosene all over the country, the OMCs are also allowed to market indigenously produced surplus kerosene over and above the PDS requirement directly to the genuine customers. In terms of the modalities framed by PSU OMCs, the demand of free trade kerosene of industrial customers requiring one tank lorry or more is being met by the companies directly from their supply locations. The requirement of small consumers requiring less than full tank lorry load would be met through existing SKO/LDO dealer network of the oil companies as per the laid down procedure. The SKO/LDO dealers would ensure that the supplies are made to the genuine customers for legitimate use.

[Translation]

Programmes of Shaheed Bhagat Singh

3334. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to celebrate the birth centenary of "Shaheed Bhagat Singh" this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the complete details of the programmes proposed to be organised in the said centenary function; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent on this centenary function?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A National Committee under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister of India has been constituted for Commemoration of 150th Anniversary of First War of Independence and other related events including Birth Centenary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh. A National Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister for Human Resource Development has also been constituted for implementing the programmes and activities.

It has been decided to organize a befitting function to Commemorate the Birth Centenary of Shaheed Bhagat Singh. Details of the function are being worked out.

Effect of Fog on Rail Services

3335. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether rail services have been badly affected this year also due to fog inspite of assurance given by the Railways that these services would not get affected in future;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor inspite of effective measures adopted by the Railways in this regard;

(c) whether the Railways propose to take more effective steps in this regard so that rail services are not affected due to fog; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Fog has been severe this year also and rail services were affected. 742 trains lost there punctuality.

(b) The speed of trains is lowered during foggy weather keeping in view the safety of running trains. At present, there is no technique ensuring normal visibility during foggy weather. However, a dependable on board train protection system can effectively improve running in foggy weather.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Train protection and warning system, which is a proven system, is being installed on two pilot sections for preventing signal passing at danger. "Fog vision instrumentation" project is being developed under the "Technology mission on Railway Safety" programme jointly by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Research Design and Standard Organization. The aim of these projects is to help Driver to run trains at normal speed in foggy weather. Fog vision Instrumentation trials using "Thermal Imager" Technique have not succeeded so far. Based on success of these projects further works will be considered.

[English]

Issue of Shares/Bonds for RVNL

3336. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to raise funds through public share issues and bonds for Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above issues and bonds are proposed to be floated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) There is no such plan for the present.

Infiltration of Terrorists

3337. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has specified the points on Line of Control (LoC) where from the militants are entering into the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has stepped up surveillance to control inflows;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has proposed to set up Rapid Intelligence Force for the transit points; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government to check infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) :
(a) to (e) Infiltration attempts across the Line of Control continue and are not restricted to specific points. In Jammu and Kashmir, the overall counter infiltration strategy of the Army envisages a multi-tiered arrangement, including a forward tier of troop deployment, use of state of art surveillance devices, the Line of Control (LoC) fence and a second tier deployment in conjunction with the fence. There exists a close coordination of the Security Forces, with the State Government and local Police and a high degree of synergy has been achieved through cooperation of all agencies, both for operational and intelligence functions. The efficacy of this strategy has been well established in curbing the infiltration levels of terrorists over the years. A high level of vigil is being maintained and infiltration attempts are being regularly thwarted.

SC Majority Villages

3338. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes majority villages across the country at present, State/UT-wise;

(b) the total funds invested in these villages by the Government during the last three years;

(c) the number of Scheduled Caste population benefited through this investment; and

(d) the outcome of this investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) A statement is annexed.

(b) Planning Commission does not allocate funds village-wise;

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Statement

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/UT | No. of villages having 50% and above SC population as per 2001 Census |
|---------|----------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 908 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 3 |
| 3. | Assam | 883 |
| 4. | Bihar | 2476 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 987 |
| 6. | Delhi | 1 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 50 |
| 8. | Haryana | 391 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 2594 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 495 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 1891 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------------|---|-------|
| 12. Karnataka | | 2147 |
| 13. Kerala | | 1 |
| 14. Madhya Pradesh | | 2078 |
| 15. Maharashtra | | 575 |
| 16. Manipur | | 24 |
| 17. Meghalaya | | 7 |
| 18. Orissa | | 2512 |
| 19. Pondicherry | | 9 |
| 20. Punjab | | 2069 |
| 21. Rajasthan | | 2463 |
| 22. Sikkim | | 1 |
| 23. Tamil Nadu | | 2158 |
| 24. Tripura | | 30 |
| 25. Uttar Pradesh | | 10261 |
| 26. Uttaranchal | | 1442 |
| 27. West Bengal | | 7546 |
| Total | | 44002 |

Award for Traditional and Folk Theatre

3339. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intends to set up an award to promote traditional and folk theatre in the country to revive age old art;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) The Sangeet Natak Akademi confers Akademi awards annually in the field of Drama, Music and Theatre in which traditional/folk theatre is represented every year. One award has also been given in field of traditional/folk theatre under Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar Scheme instituted in 2006.

[Translation]

Reimbursement of Expenditure of GRP

3340. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received any request from the Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding reimbursement amount of Rs. 18.75 crore on the expenditure of GRP; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

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

(b) The pending claims of Government Railway Police will be cleared on receipt of necessary certificates from Accountant General which is still awaited by the Western Railway, Mumbai, West Central Railway, Jabalpur, South East Central Railway, Bilaspur and Central Railway, Mumbai.

[English]

Drug Addicts and De-addiction Centres

3341. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of drug addicts identified during the last three years and their age group, State/UT-wise;

(b) the number out of them have been de-addicted during the said period alongwith expenditure incurred for their de-addiction;

(c) the list of recognized/approved centres for de-addiction and the aid/grants they have received during the last three years, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the funds spent for various awareness and de-addiction programmes on alcohol, tobacco and narcotic drugs during the last three years, State-UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBRITA LAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) The number of drug addicts registered for treatment in the treatment and rehabilitation centres financed by the Ministry during 2003-04 and 2004-05 is 1,94,787 and 1,72,320 respectively. The State/UT-wise figures are given in the enclosed Statement-I. The figures for the subsequent years are not available.

(c) and (d) The State/UT-wise list is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise number of cases of Drug Abuse Admitted for De-addiction during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 under the Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse

| S. No. | Name of the State/UT | 2003-04 | 2004-05* |
|--------|----------------------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 4143 | 9441 |
| 2. | Assam | 1862 | 1864 |
| 3. | Bihar | 7836 | 10781 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-------------------|-------|-------|
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 338 | 263 |
| 5. | Goa | 187 | 557 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 17525 | 11379 |
| 7. | Haryana | 24279 | 7128 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 1054 | 647 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 57 | 339 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 106 | 388 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 4516 | 5485 |
| 12. | Kerala | 12097 | 14036 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 10905 | 2819 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 13868 | 25898 |
| 15. | Manipur | 3807 | 4956 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 37 | 893 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 1554 | 2072 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 1441 | 2301 |
| 19. | Orissa | 9550 | 9490 |
| 20. | Punjab | 11519 | 8732 |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 3040 | 4705 |
| 22. | Sikkim | 233 | 263 |
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | 9089 | 6306 |
| 24. | Tripura | 1925 | 672 |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh | 28775 | 26947 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 452 | 1283 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------|---|------|------|
| 27. West Bengal | | 8545 | 5473 |
| 28. Chandigarh | | 3705 | 468 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------|---|--------|--------|
| 29. Delhi | | 12342 | 6734 |
| 30. Pondicherry | | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 194787 | 172320 |

Statement-II

State/UT-wise details of NGOs running centres for De-addiction and the grants released to them during the period from 2004-05 to 2006-07

| S. No. | Name of the State/UT | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
|--------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | No. of NGOs funded | Amount released in lakh | No. of NGOs funded | Amount released in lakh | No. of NGOs funded | Amount released in lakh |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 11 | 67.60 | 11 | 63.98 | 8 | 56.40 |
| | Arunachal Pradesh | — | — | — | — | 1 | 4.56 |
| 2. | Assam | 7 | 74.14 | 6 | 43.02 | 5 | 21.95 |
| 3. | Bihar | 13 | 123.74 | 11 | 72.89 | 8 | 52.70 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 2 | 18.38 | 2 | 16.10 | 2 | 6.80 |
| 5. | Goa | 1 | 4.99 | 2 | 8.46 | 1 | 2.92 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 6 | 69.04 | 3 | 27.24 | 4 | 35.17 |
| 7. | Haryana | 13 | 88.19 | 11 | 99.43 | 8 | 57.11 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 2 | 8.09 | 3 | 15.18 | 2 | 9.24 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 2 | 14.14 | 2 | 10.43 | 1 | 7.16 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 2 | 4.40 | 1 | 6.80 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 23 | 146.74 | 21 | 174.98 | 16 | 151.82 |
| 12. | Kerala | 21 | 162.12 | 19 | 126.40 | 19 | 123.20 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|---|
| 13. Madhya Pradesh | 9 | 57.92 | 9 | 49.17 | 15 | 72.13 | |
| 14. Maharashtra | 40 | 349.88 | 40 | 333.53 | 38 | 292.74 | |
| 15. Manipur | 20 | 160.17 | 19 | 156.82 | 18 | 151.54 | |
| 16. Meghalaya | 2 | 10.41 | 2 | 15.23 | 1 | 5.17 | |
| 17. Mizoram | 9 | 64.86 | 6 | 47.77 | 9 | 87.52 | |
| 18. Nagaland | 5 | 42.44 | 5 | 40.64 | 4 | 30.84 | |
| 19. Orissa | 18 | 142.02 | 14 | 133.04 | 18 | 139.65 | |
| 20. Punjab | 13 | 92.48 | 11 | 99.29 | 9 | 65.46 | |
| 21. Rajasthan | 8 | 75.16 | 9 | 82.71 | 5 | 49.87 | |
| 22. Sikkim | 1 | 4.79 | 1 | 2.39 | 1 | 2.88 | |
| 23. Tamil Nadu | 21 | 131.42 | 21 | 133.34 | 20 | 111.01 | |
| 24. Tripura | 3 | 23.14 | 2 | 6.67 | 2 | 6.84 | |
| 25. Uttar Pradesh | 44 | 386.92 | 40 | 233.06 | 40 | 342.32 | |
| 26. Uttaranchal | 3 | 26.14 | 3 | 25.09 | 4 | 25.98 | |
| 27. West Bengal | 12 | 92.04 | 12 | 109.01 | 11 | 84.18 | |
| 28. Chandigarh | 2 | 5.61 | 1 | 2.09 | 1 | 2.09 | |
| 29. Delhi | 8 | 103.03 | 8 | 100.30 | 6 | 41.39 | |
| Total | 321 | 2550.00 | 295 | 2235.06 | 277 | 2040.66 | |

**Manufacturing of Jet Passenger
Aircraft by ADA**

3342.SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the
Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Aeronautical Development Agency

(ADA) has undertaken to manufacture 70 to 100 seater Jet
Passenger aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the place where the project is planned to be
located?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Airport at Jodhpur

3343.SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct a civil airport at Jodhpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be constructed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At Jodhpur Defence Airfield, Airports Authority of India (AAI) already maintains a Civil Enclave.

Psychiatric Test of Defence Personnel

3344.SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :

SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE :

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has conducted any psychiatric test of personnel of Defence Forces in order to find ways to relieve them of mental stress;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the personnel on whom such test was conducted were found mentally fit;

(d) if not, the number of personnel declared mentally unfit; and

(e) the number of personnel who have been discharged from the Defence Forces?

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

(a) No specific psychiatric test of personnel of Defence Forces has been carried out. However, health status of the troops is monitored by regular and periodic medical examinations. Anybody who is found to exhibit features of psychiatric ailments or stress disorders is referred for psychiatric evaluation and followed up.

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

(e) The number of personnel who have been discharged from service during 2004, 2005 and 2006 on account of mental disorders including cases of Psychosis, neurosis, personality disorders, adjustment disorders, alcohol dependence syndrome, depression etc. is as follows:—

| Year | Army | Navy | Air Force |
|------|------|------|-----------|
| 2004 | 350 | 7 | 49 |
| 2005 | 405 | 7 | 39 |
| 2006 | 508 | 15 | 35 |

Utilisation of Gas

3345.DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether utilization of gas as fuel in the country is far less in comparison to average global use of gas as fuel;

(b) if so, the the average utilization of gas as fuel in India and the world; and

(c) the target fixed to increase average utilization of gas as fuel in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) According to the Report of the Working Group on Petroleum and Natural Gas for the XI Plan the utilization of gas as fuel in India accounts for around 9% of the primary needs in comparison to that of 24% of total global primary energy supply.

(c) The estimated total demand of natural gas in the country is around 179.17 MMSCMD during 2007-08. The demand is projected to increase to 279.43 MMSCMD by 2011-12, according to the Report of the Working Group on Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Development of Pandharpur

3346. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned any project for integrated development of Pandharpur, Dehu and Alandi circuit;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the cost involved therein;

(c) the progress of works done so far on the said project; and

(d) the time by which the works on the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a project for integrated development of Pandharpur, Dehu and Alandi circuit for a total amount of Rs. 684.73 lakh on 14.8.2003 to be executed through CPWD. The components of the circuit includes the following:-

- (i) Development of Lord Vitthal temple at Pandharpur with the provision of construction of Darshan Mandap, toilets and other civic amenities.
- (ii) Development of Sant Tukaram temple at Delhi.
- (iii) Development of works at Alandi with the provision of Development of Bhagirathi Nala,

construction of toilet facilities at pilgrims, provision of drinking water facilities.

(iv) Construction of covered shelter for Palakhi with other civic amenities at Varkharies.

(v) Construction of covered shelter at Gyaneshwar Maharaj and other basic amenities to Vakharies for Palakhi of Sant at Palakhi Sethai Sethal and around Sopan Kala Samadhi at Saswad.

Except for the component at (i) all other components of the circuit have been completed.

[English]

Assessment of Job in Aviation Industry

3347. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has assessed the job potential in aviation industry in the next decade; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Diversion/Extension of Rail Routes in Chhattisgarh

3348. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to divert/extend the routes of some trains running via Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of trains whose routes have been diversion/extended in Chhattisgarh during the last three years; and

(d) the number of trains in regard to which proposal have been received for diversion of their routes alongwith reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to divert 6511/6512 Bilaspur-Yeshwantpur Express via Sitafalmandi, Malkajgiri, Maula ali instead of Secunderabad and 8237/8238 Bilaspur-Amritsar Chhattisgarh Express via Nizamuddin, Ghaziabad avoiding New Delhi.

(c) The routes of 18 trains have been extended and no trains have been diverted in Chhattisgarh in last three years.

(d) Diversion of the trains as mentioned in (a) above have been proposed due to operational difficulties in Secunderabad and New Delhi area.

Upgradation of Mail/Express Trains to Superfast Category

3349.SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the points taken into consideration to upgrade express and mail trains into superfast category alongwith their average speed;

(b) the details of the mail/express trains upgraded into superfast category during the last three years and proposed to be upgraded during 2007-08 and the number of stoppages decreased in each case;

(c) the various norms fixed for the superfast trains;

(d) the total number of superfast passenger trains out of the above mentioned trains which are running as per the norms of superfast trains;

(e) the number of coaches decreased/increased in each of the new superfast train; and

(f) the details of percentage increase in fare per kilometre on upgrading mail/express trains into superfast trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Trains, whose average speed on the entire run in both Up and Dn directions is minimum 55 kmph on Broad Gauge and 45 kmph on Metre Gauge, are designated as superfast trains.

(b) Speeding of trains and converting to them into superfast category is an ongoing process over Indian Railways. Details of trains upgraded as superfast by speeding up during last three years and number of stoppages decreased are given in the enclosed statement;

(c) Average speed in both up and down direction is the only norm fixed for declaring the trains as superfast trains.

(d) All of the upgraded superfast trains are running as per norms.

(e) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(f) The percentage increase in fare per kilometre on average lead is between 0.01% to 0.03% for different classes.

Statement

Upgradation of Mail/Express Trains into Superfast Category

| Sl. No. | Train No. | Train name with originating/ destination stations | New No. | Coaches increased | Coaches decreased | Stoppage withdrawn |
|---------|-----------|---|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | 6045/6046 | Chennai Central-Ahmedabad Navjeevan Express | 2655/2656 | 4 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|-----------|---|-----------|---|---|---|
| 2. | 8113/8114 | Howrah-Tata Steel Express | 2813/2814 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | 8603/8604 | Hatia-Delhi Swarnjayanti Express | 2817/2818 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | 1401/1402 | Mumbai (CSTM)-Mannad Panchvati Express | 2109/2110 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | 1045/1046 | Lokmanya Tilak (Termunus)-Bhubaneswar Express | 2145/2146 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6. | 1063/1064 | Dadar-Chennai Express | 2163/2164 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | 1439/1440 | Dadar-Nagpur Sewagram Express | 2139/2140 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. | 4659/4660 | New Delhi-Amritsar Intercity Express | 2459/2460 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. | 1051/1052 | Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Howrah Samarsata Express | 2151/2152 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| 10. | 3013/3014 | Howrah-Dehradun Upasana Express | 2327/2328 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11. | 9973/9974 | Indore-Jaipur Express | 2973/2974 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. | 4229/4230 | Lucknow-New Delhi Mail | 2229/2230 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13. | 5621/5622 | Guwahati-New Delhi North East Express | 2505/2606 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 14. | 5265/5266 | Darbhanga-New Delhi Sampark Kranti Express | 2565/2566 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 15. | 5087/5088 | Jammu Tawi-Gorakhpur Anantnath Express | 2587/2588 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 16. | 6803/6804 | Howra-Tiruchirappalli Express | 2663/2664 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 17. | 9149/9150 | Ahmedabad-Dhanbad Parasnath Express | 2941/2942 | 4 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|-----------|---|-----------|---|---|---|
| 18. | 6005/6006 | Bhubaneswar-Chennai Express | 2829/2830 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 19. | 1423/1424 | Mumbai-Solapur Siddheshwar Express | 2115/2116 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. | 6121/6122 | Chennai Egmore-Kanniyakumari Express | 2633/2634 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| 21. | 1403/1404 | Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Manmad Express | 2117/2118 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22. | 1025/1026 | Mumbai-Pune Pragati Express | 2125/2126 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 23. | 1033/1034 | Pune-Darbhanga Express | 2133/2134 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24. | 1451/1452 | Nagpur-Gaya Dikshabhumi Express | 2143/2144 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25. | 1053/1054 | Shri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj (T)-Nizamuddin Express | 2147/2148 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. | 1159/1160 | Howrah-Gwalior Chambal Express | 2175/2176 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27. | 1181/1182 | Howrah-Agra Chambal Express | 2177/2178 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28. | 1469/1470 | Jabalpur-Jaipur Dayodaya Express | 2181/2182 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29. | 1273/1274 | Bhopal-Lucknow Express | 2183/2184 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 30. | 1267/1268 | Bhopal-Rewa Express | 2187/2188 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31. | 1449/1450 | Jabalpur-H. Nizamuddin Mahakoshal Express | 2189/2190 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32. | 4025/4026 | Azamgarh-Delhi Kaifiat Express | 2225/2226 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 33. | 4231/4232 | Lucknow-Chandigarh Express | 2231/2232 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 34. | 3073/3074 | Howrah-Jammu Tawi Himgiri Express | 2331/2332 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35. | 3027/3028 | Howrah-Varanasi Vibhuti Express | 2333/2334 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|-----------|---|-----------|---|---|---|
| 36. | 3447/3448 | Bhagalpur-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express | 2335/2336 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 37. | 3015/3016 | Howrah-Bolpur Shantiniketan Express | 2337/2338 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 38. | 3029/3030 | Howrah-Dhanbad Coalfield Express | 2339/2340 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 39. | 3035/3036 | Howrah-Asansol Agniaveena Express | 2341/2342 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 40. | 3231/3232 | Howrah-Danapur Express | 2351/2352 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 41. | 4847/4848 | Jodhpur-Bandra Suryanagari Express | 2479/2480 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 42. | 4221/4722 | New Delhi-Sriganganagar Intercity Express | 2481/2482 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 43. | 5623/5624 | Ernakulam-Guwahati Express | 2507/2508 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 44. | 5625/5626 | Bangalore-Guwahati Express | 2509/2510 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 45. | 5012/5011 | Gorakhpur-Trivandrum Raptisagar Express | 2511/2512 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 46. | 5637/5638 | Secunderabad-Guwahati Express | 2513/2514 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 47. | 5221/5222 | Ernakulam-Barauni Raptisagar Express | 2521/2522 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 48. | 5090/5089 | Gorakhpur-Secunderabad Express | 2589/2590 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 49. | 5092/5091 | Gorakhpur-Bangalore Express | 2591/2592 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 50. | 6601/6602 | Chennai-Mangalore Express | 2601/2602 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 51. | 6523/6524 | Chennai-Bangalore Express | 2609/2610 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 52. | 6205/6206 | Mysore-Bangalore Tippu Express | 2613/2614 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|-----------|--|-----------|---|---|---|
| 53. | 6039/6040 | Chennai-Chhaptra Ganga Kaveri Express | 2669/2670 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 54. | 6033/6034 | Chennai-Dehradun Express | 2687/2688 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 55. | 6079/6080 | Chennai Egmore-Nagercoil Express | 2689/2690 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 56. | 6703/6704 | Chennai-Tuticorin Pearl City Express | 2693/2694 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 57. | 7001/7002 | Mumbai-Hyderabad Hussain Sagar Express | 2701/2702 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 58. | 7005/7006 | Tenali-Secunderabad Nagarjuna Express | 2719/2720 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 59. | 7021/7022 | Hyderabad-H. Nizamuddin Dakshin Express | 2721/2722 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 60. | 7007/7008 | Visakhapatnam-Hyderabad Godavari Express | 2727/2728 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 61. | 7601/7602 | Pune-Nanded Express | 2729/2730 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 62. | 7423/7424 | Tirupati-Secunderabad Narayanadri Express | 2733/2734 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 63. | 7047/7048 | Kakinada-Secunderabad Gautami Express | 2737/2738 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 64. | 7053/7054 | Chennai Central-Hyderabad Express | 2753/2754 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 65. | 7685/7686 | Kacheguda-Bangalore Express | 2785/2786 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 66. | 7697/7698 | Kacheguda-Chittoor Venkatadri Express | 2797/2798 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 67. | 8017/8018 | Howrah-Purulia Express | 2827/2828 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 68. | 8033/8034 | Ahmedabad-Howrah Express | 2833/2834 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 69. | 8613/8614 | Hatia-Yesvantpur Express | 2835/2836 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----|-----------|--|-----------|---|---|---|
| 70. | 8007/8008 | Howrah-Puri Express | 2837/2838 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 71. | 8253/8254 | Durg-Bhopal Amarkantak Express | 2853/2854 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 72. | 8561/8562 | Vishakhapatnam-Nizamuddin Link Express | 2861/2862 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 73. | 8003/8004 | Howrah-Yesvantpur Express | 2863/2864 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 74. | 8311/8312 | Howrah-Sambalpur Ispat Express | 2871/2872 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 75. | 8603/8604 | Hatia-Delhi Jharkhand Swarna Jayanti Express | 2873/2874 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 76. | 8475/8476 | Puri-New Delhi Neelanchal Express | 2875/2876 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 77. | 8023/8024 | Howrah-Purulia Rupasi Bangla Express | 2883/2884 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 78. | 8025/8026 | Shalimar-Adra Aranyak Express | 2885/2886 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 79. | 8413/8414 | Bhubaneswar-Sambalpur Express | 2893/2894 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 80. | 9315/9316 | Indore-Nagpur Trishatabdi Express | 2913/2914 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 81. | 9367/9368 | Indore-Jammu Tawi Malwa Express | 2919/2920 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 82. | 9021/9022 | Mumbai Central-Surat Flying Rani Express | 2921/2922 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 83. | 9317/9318 | Indore-Nagpur Express | 2923/2924 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 84. | 9057/9058 | Valsad-Vadodara Express | 2929/2930 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 85. | 9035/9036 | Bandra-Surat Express | 2935/2936 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 86. | 9045/9046 | Surat-Varanasi Tapti Ganga Express | 2945/2946 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 87. | 9271/9272 | Bandra-Bhavnagar Express | 2971/2972 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 88. | 9777/9778 | Jaipur-Gwalior Express | 2987/2988 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|------|-----------|--|-------------|---|---|---|
| 89. | 9679/9680 | Mumbai Central-Ajmer Express | 2989/2990 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 90. | 6217/6218 | Mysore-H. Nizamuddin Express | 2781/2782 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 91. | 5627/5628 | Guwahati-Trivandrum Express | 2515/2516 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 92. | 9775/9776 | Mysore-Jaipur-Express | 2975/2976 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 93. | 8403/8404 | Puri-Ahmedabad Express | 2843/2844 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 94. | 3289/3290 | Rajendranagar-Jammu Tawi Express | 2355/2356 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 95. | 3143/3144 | Sealdah-New Jalpaiguri Darjeeling Mail | 2343/2344 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| 96. | 1037/1038 | Pune-Patna Express | 2149/2150 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 97. | 6003/6004 | Howrah-Chennai Express | 2603/2604 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 98. | 6021/6022 | Chennai-Bangalore Express | 2691/2692 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 99. | 6357/6358 | Nagarcoil-Howrah Express | 2659/2660 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 100. | 6355/6356 | Howrah-Kanyakumari Express | 2665/2666 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 101. | 1265/1266 | Bhopal-Rewa Express | 2185/2186 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 102. | 8415/8416 | Puri-Howrah Express | 2815/2816 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 103. | 827/828 | Digha-Howrah Express | 2867A/2868A | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 104. | 8027/8028 | Shalimar-Digah Express | 2867/2868 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 105. | 8415/8416 | Bhubaneswar-Yesvantpur Express | 2845/2846 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 106. | 5015/5016 | Gorakhpur-Lucknow Express | 2531/2532 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

[English]

Production of ATF by ONGC

3350.SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC proposes to start producing Aviation Turbine Fuel from gas condensate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the existing capacity of Hazira Plant for production of ATF and the extent to which supply will be scaled up thereafter; and

(d) the amount of saving ONGC will get per annum from production of ATF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ONGC has already commenced production of Aviation Turbine Fuel from Gas Condensate at its Hazira Plant from March, 2007.

(c) Production is currently about 600 KL/Month. As of now, there is no firm plan to supply ATF beyond the current levels.

(d) Quantification of savings is not possible, as the supplies for internal consumption have commenced very recently.

Construction of Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan at Ahmedabad

3351.DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal for construction of Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan at Ahmedabad at a cost of Rs. 10 crore to the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

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

(b) The State Government was informed that it was not within the financial capacity of the Foundation to provide for the requested funds.

Profit Margin of Refineries

3352.SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVII : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the decrease in the prices of crude oil in the international market, the profit margin of oil refineries in the country has been increasing during the past few months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last one year, refinery-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The gross refining margins of refineries reflect the spread between crude and product prices. The refinery-wise Gross-Refining Margins during the last four quarters, i.e. from January-March, 2006 to October-December, 2006 are furnished in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Gross Refinery Margins, quarter-wise for the Calendar year 2006

(Rs./MT)

| Date | HPC Mumbai | HPC Visakh | CPCL | BPC Mumbai | BPC Kochi | NRL- Numali- | IOC- Guwahati | IOC Berauni | IOC Gujarat | IOC Haldia | IOC Mathura | IOC Panipat | IOC Digboi |
|------------|---------------|---------------|------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Jan-Mar'06 | 1588 | 748 | NA | NA | NA | 1798 | 2222 | 209 | 1020 | 639 | 1570 | 701 | 5060 |
| Apr-Jun'06 | 2554 | 2518 | 2255 | 1789 | 2019 | 1075 | -855 | 1716 | 1802 | 2006 | 3041 | 3097 | -292 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
|------------|------|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Jul-Sep'06 | 719 | 691 | 1408 | 488 | -76 | 937 | 5599 | -1274 | 1546 | 1196 | -96 | -2666 | -292 |
| Oct-Dec'06 | 1571 | 226 | 898 | 886 | -300 | 1828 | 7970 | 153 | 2126 | 1236 | 1920 | 280 | 12752 |

Indigenous Production of Mines

3353.DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country has attained the capacity for the indigenous production of mines used by the Indian Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether KELTRON Countours in Karakulam, Kerala has submitted any proposal for indigenous production of mines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJEET SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Various types of mines are being indigenously manufactured for Indian Army by the Ordnance Factories as per details given below:—

(i) Anti Personnel Mines (NM M-14, M-16 and Directional Mines).

(ii) Anti Tank Mines (ND Mk 1 and Bar Mines).

(c) and (d) There is no proposal in hand at present. M/s. Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd., KELTRON Equipment Complex, Karakulam, Kerala had earlier executed one order for one type of mine i.e. Processor Based Ground Mines in bare form (without explosive filling).

Retail Outlets of IOC

3354.SHRI B. MAHTAB :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

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

(a) the number of retail outlets opened by Indian Oil Corporation in different States;

(b) whether IOC has a proposal to set up more such retail outlets and also to modernize these outlets;

(c) if so, the number of retail outlets proposed to be set up by IOC in 2007-08, State-wise;

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the steps taken to modernize those outlets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) During the last three years, i.e., 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, a total number of 3,855 retail outlet dealerships were opened by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) in different States of the country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. IOC has planned to set up 1600 new retail outlets through out the country during 2007-08.

(d) The expenditure of about Rs. 160 crores is likely to be incurred by IOC on setting up of the above new retail outlets.

(e) The steps for modernization of retail outlets by IOC include providing a latest forecourt facility like Electronic Pre-set Pump/Multi Product Dispensers (MPDs), tanks of adequate capacity, driveway (concrete or paver

blocks), canopy, lighting and modern signage at the existing retail outlets.

Modernization of retail outlets is an ongoing activity based on the requirements of the customers, sales potential of the locations, availability of adequate space and subject to receipt of all statutory approvals.

Purchase of Bio-diesel by OMCs

3355. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH :

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

(a) the reasons for not supplying bio-diesel to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies by the identified purchase centres at the declared price of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies;

(b) whether bio-diesel produced by these identified units are purchased by the Private Sector Oil Marketing Companies on higher rates than offered by Public Sector Marketing Oil Companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the rates at which the identified purchase Centres are ready to supply bio-diesel to PSUs; and

(d) the criteria fixed by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies for registering units as bio-diesel purchase centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) Bio-diesel manufacturers have indicated that the cost of the raw material for the production of bio-diesel is very high due to the prevailing tax structure as a result of which they are not in a position to supply the product at the declared price as per Bio-diesel Purchase Policy announced by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(b) and (c) The price indicated by various manufacturers for supply of bio-diesel to the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) ranges between Rs. 35 to Rs. 52 per litre at various locations.

(d) As per the Bio-diesel purchase policy the manufacturers of Bio-diesel interested in supplying Bio-diesel to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies should approach the State Level Co-ordinators (SLCs) pertaining to the State and after assessment of production capacity and credibility of the prospective supplier by joint evaluation/certification by the industry team, samples are tested and if these meet the prescribed BIS Specifications the supplies is registered as an authorized supplies of Bio-diesel by OMCs.

Diversion of Non-Commercial Flights

3356. SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU :
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Chairman of the Delhi International Airport Limited that the traffic has shot beyond his expectation and they proposed to the Government to divert the non-commercial flights to the Hindon air-base or Safdarjung Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the final decision taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL) had made a request to this Ministry for shifting of general aviation to Safdarjung Airport and defence aircraft operations to Hindon base. The matter was examined in

this Ministry and it has been decided not to pursue the same for the present inter-alia due to security considerations.

Fixation of Air Tariff

3357.SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of methodology being adopted by the Indian Airlines and Air India for fixing the air tariff;

(b) whether revision of ticket price is under consideration of the Government for the passengers who are travelling between middle-east destinations and Indian destinations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) The fare structure applicable to international travel is of two types:-

(i) International Air Transport Association (IATA) fares – Resolutions are adopted for fare increases, rules governing fares are amended etc. through annual IATA Tariff coordination Conferences held separately for each area. These resolutions are then filed by the national carriers with their respective Governments for approval prior to implementation of the Resolution.

(ii) Airline specific fares – Airline specific fares are fixed by the airline depending on seasonality, competitors fares, market demand, convenience of schedules, nature of product (direct/indirect flights), etc. These fares are filed with all GDSs (Global Distribution System) and are available to all travel agents.

(b) and (c) Airline operators are free to amend their fares keeping in view the factors mentioned at a (ii) above.

Passenger Amenities

3358.SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway propose to provide separate toilets for women and handicapped, western style toilets, bathroom facilities, drinking water facilities preferably through automatic vending machine;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated and spent by South Central Railway on amenities during the last three years under each category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Separate toilets for ladies and disabled friendly toilets are provided at A1, A and B category stations. Waiting rooms with bathing facilities are taken up for ladies at all A1 and A category stations over South Central Railway and 26 stations have already been provided with this facility on this Railway Drinking water facility is available at all stations. Drinking water facility through Automatic Vending Machines is not an essential passenger amenity.

(c) Funds are allotted for provision of facilities to Railway passengers under various schemes/drives under Plan Head – "Passenger Amenities". Under this Plan Head, works are taken up apart from other items. Details of allotment and expenditure of funds under Plan Head – "Passenger Amenities" on South Central Railway during the last three years are as under:-

(Figures in lakhs of Rupees)

| Year | Allotment | Expenditure |
|---------|-----------|----------------|
| 2004-05 | 1366 | 4132 |
| 2005-06 | 1332 | 3412 |
| 2006-07 | 2009 | 3400 (Approx). |

MMTS in Hyderabad and Secunderabad

3359.SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have accorded sanction for the implementation of the second phase of Multi-Modal Transport System (MMTS) for the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in according sanction to the said project?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Religious Sites

3360. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government look after the maintenance work of religious sites;

(b) whether Archaeological Department bears all the expenses incurred on the head maintenance of religious sites;

(c) the amount spent on religious sites during the last three years and the amount allocated for the year 2007-08 in the current budget, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Archaeological Survey of India under the Department of Culture, maintains only those historical places of worship which are notified as monuments of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(b) All expenses in connection with the conservation

and maintenance of such protected sites are borne by the ASI.

(c) and (d) The expenditure incurred during the last three years on the Centrally Protected and Monuments including religious sites are as under:—

| Year | Expenditure |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 2004-05 | 92.88 Crores |
| 2005-06 | 101.54 Crores |
| 2006-07 | 108.17 Crores |
| 2007-08 (Allocation) | 115.32 Crores |

[English]

Railway Tracks Converted under the Uni-Gauge Project

3361. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the section-wise length of railway tracks converted under Uni-Gauge project so far in each Railway Zone and how much still remains to be converted; and

(b) the expenditure so far incurred thereon, and the cost over run incurred so far, due to delay in implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) The Section-wise and Zone-wise details of gauge conversion done in the various years is given in Year Book. Since 1992, 13289 kms. have been converted into broad gauge upto 31.3.2007. An expenditure of about Rs. 15400 crore has been incurred under the Plan Head Gauge Conversion. Zone-wise details of kms. completed is given in the enclosed statement. As on 01.04.2007, about 13500 route kms. of MG/NG lines exists on the Railway system.

Statement

Details of Gauge conversion completed Zone-wise since 1992 is as under

| S. No. | Railways | KMs |
|--------|--------------------|-------|
| 1. | Central | 266 |
| 2. | Eastern | — |
| 3. | East Central | 157 |
| 4. | East Coast | — |
| 5. | Northern | 1607 |
| 6. | North Central | — |
| 7. | North Western | 737 |
| 8. | North Eastern | 1342 |
| 9. | Northeast Frontier | 1164 |
| 10. | Southern | 2578 |
| 11. | South Central | 2472 |
| 12. | South Eastern | 442 |
| 13. | Southeast Central | 48 |
| 14. | South Western | 223 |
| 15. | West Central | — |
| 16. | Western | 2253 |
| Total | | 13289 |

Note : The gauge conversion done prior to bifurcation of zones have been shown against old zones.

[Translation]

**Modern Facilities for Khijidiya Amreli
Veraval Railway Section**

3362. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Khijidiya Amreli Veraval Railway section of the Western Railway has not been provided with the modern rail service facilities so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Railways to convert the rail line of this section into broad gauge line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) In terms of classification of stations based on earnings, most of the stations on Khijidiya-Amreli-Veraval section fall in "E" category due to low level of earnings. The minimum essential amenities prescribed as per category of the station have been provided at all stations.

(c) There is no proposal to convert Khijidiya-Amreli-Veraval metre gauge line.

[English]

Slow Progress in Social Sector

3363. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that despite sustained focus on improving quality of life of the poor, India's progress in moving upon Social Sector indices has been very slow;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the Social Sector indices raise its guarantee on development through public representative institutions?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The XIth Five Year Plan envisages equitable socio-economic development in the fields of education, health, infrastructure, etc.

[Translation]

**Protest by Employees of AAI to
Work in JV Companies**

3364. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID :
DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has asked all its employees barring the air traffic control employees to tender their resignation and to work in the joint venture companies;

(b) if so, whether the employees are not satisfied with this and are contemplating to go on a strike;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the issue amicably?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Supply of Petroleum Products to Nepal

3365. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to cut the petroleum product supplies to Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the loss suffered by Indian Oil Corporation due to political turmoil in Nepal; and

(d) the steps the Government is taking to recover the losses and to continue goodwill ties with Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA
PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) IOC has reported that it has not suffered any loss on account of political turmoil in Nepal.

[Translation]

Bio-diesel

3366. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH :

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

(a) the names of schemes being implemented in the country for making bio-diesel from Ratanjot alongwith the names of the States where these Schemes are being implemented;

(b) the details of policies under which the process of bio-diesel making is being operationalized;

(c) the States where land has been allotted to farmers for cultivation of Ratanjot alongwith the area of land allotted to them; and

(d) the names of companies which have shown interest in production of bio-diesel, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA
PATEL) : (a) As per the Bio-diesel Purchase Policy announced by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in October, 2005, 20 Purchase Centres have been identified which are located in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, and U.P. to cater to the respective States as well as the neighbouring States viz Orissa, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand.

(b) As per the Bio-diesel purchase policy the manufacturers of Bio-diesel interested in supplying bio-diesel to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies should approach the State Level Co-ordinators (SLCs) pertaining to the State and after assessment of production capacity and credibility of the prospective supplier by joint evaluation/certification by the industry team, samples are tested and if these meet the prescribed BIS Specifications, the supplier is registered as an authorized suppliers of bio-diesel by OMCs.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) which is the Nodal Ministry for launching the demonstration phase of the National Mission on bio-diesel, has proposed to taken up 5 lakh hectares of public wastelands for plantation of Jatropha/Pongamia over the period of 5 years.

(d) The names of companies which have shown interest in production of bio-diesel, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of Companies which have given Expression of Interest

Andhra Pradesh

1. Viswaharitha Agro Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.
2. Multi Three Victory Projects Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.
3. Sunglow Bio-Tech (India) Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.
4. Farm Wealth Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.
5. SBE Buotanicals Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.
6. Maruthi Bio Diesel Product, Andhra Pradesh.
7. Laxmi Narayana Bio Diesel Industry, Andhra Pradesh.
8. Chemical Bio Tech Ltd., Vijayawada.
9. Mekina Agro Products Ltd., Hyderabad.

10. A. Saitsh @ Hari Naik, Andhra Pradesh.
11. P. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, Andhra Pradesh.
12. Natural Bio-Energy Ltd., Hyderabad.
13. Sai Enviro Engineers Pvt. Ltd., Visakhapatnam.
14. S.J.S. solar and Bio Energy Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.
15. Bio-Vision Organisation, Secunderabad.
16. Exim Corporation, Secunderabad.
17. Vishal Oil Industries, Hyderabad.
18. Sanjevani Herbal Corporation, Hyderabad.
19. Southern Online Bio Technologies Ltd., Hyderabad.
20. Nalia Nirmaia, Andhra Pradesh.
21. Chaparala Projects Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore.

Chhattisgarh

1. M/s. Chhattisgarh Bio-Fuel Development Authority, Raipur.
2. M/s. Techno Bio-Tech, Raipur.
3. M/s. Shankar Herbal, Mahasamund Dist.
4. M/s. Mars Adhesive and Organo Metallic Pvt. Ltd., Bilaspur Dist.
5. M/s. Gaurishankar Aggarwal, Korba Dist.

Delhi

1. M/s. Garware Chemicals Ltd., Aurangabad.

Gujarat

1. M/s. Aatmya Bio Fuels Pvt. Ltd., Vadodara.
2. M/s. Feezol Industries, Bhavnagar.

Haryana

1. M/s. Garware Chemical Industries, Aurangabad.

Karnataka

1. M/s. Kotwal Agrotech Industries, Gulbarga.
2. M/s. Supertech Industrialist, Bangalore.
3. M/s. Green Earth Renewable Energy (P) Ltd., Bangalore.
4. M/s. Flora Consultancy Services, Bangalore.
5. M/s. Veeyes Industries, Mysore.
6. M/s. Seeri Bio Fuels, Jewargi.

Maharashtra

1. M/s. Tirupati Industries (India) Ltd., Talaja.
2. M/s. Silva Liacal Chemicals Ltd., Mahad.
3. M/s. Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd., Jalgaon.
4. M/s. Puri Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Nagpur.
5. M/s. Garware Chemicals Ltd. Aurangabad.
6. M/s. Indo Bio Energy Industries, Nagpur.
7. M/s. Dilip Mahajan, Jalgaon.
8. M/s. Natur Balance Sansthan and CP and CONS. Exim Ltd. Co. Jalgaon.
9. M/s. Seema Herbals, Nagpur.
10. M/s. Amravati Bio Diesel, Amravati.

Tamil Nadu

1. Adinath's Bio-Diesel, Chengalpattu
2. Nuvei Renewables, Madurai
3. Sri Bhuvaneswari Oil Mills, Gudiyatham

4. MM Biodiesel, Chennai
5. Renukalakshmi Agro Industries, Ganapathy, Coimbatore
6. Kanmani Garden Nursery, Ganapathy, Coimbatore
7. Southern Pura Biofuels, Madurai
8. Voora Agro India Pvt. Ltd., Chennai
9. Balakrishnan V. Naidu and Sons, Combatore
10. P. Murugan Chettiar, Annur
11. M. Gopalakrishnan, Kumbakonam
12. Green Diamond Fuel Pvt. Ltd. Madurai
13. NCE Agencies, Salem
14. Nilgiri Fertilizers, Coimbatore
15. Hicard, Karur
16. Karthik Krishnan P. Vellore
17. D1 Mohan Biooils Ltd., Chennai
18. Sri Ranga Farms, Chennai
19. Saravana Bio Ventures, Rajapalayam
20. Sri Maheswari Bio-Tech Pvt. Ltd. Rajapalayam
21. Aban Loyd Chiles Offshore Ltd. Chennai
22. Tamil Nadu Agro Energy Developers, Chennai
23. Tamil Nadu Agro Bio-Tech Pvt. Ltd., Chennai
24. Shiva Distilleries Ltd. Combatore
25. Century Agrotech Ltd., Chennai
26. Trichy Bio Fuel (I) Pvt. Ltd. Chennai
27. Sri Alagar Industries, Sivakasi

28. Royal Jatropa Biodiesel Plant, Namakkal
29. Sabari Biotech, Chennai
30. Ancient Herbs, Didigul
31. Jatvill Agri Services, Chennai
32. Biofuel Panpacific (Pvt) Ltd., Chennai.

Uttar Pradesh

1. M/s. Garware Chemicals Ltd., Aurangabad.

[English]

Saraswati Plan

3367.SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government had set up a panel to review Saraswati plan;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the panel;
- (c) whether ASI has since started exploration from the identified sites of establish the existence of Harappan civilization;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) by when the panel will submit its report to the Government?

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

- (b) to (e) Question does not arise.

Setting up of Airport at Kokrajhar

3368.SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISW-MUTHIARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the site for construction of a civil airport in Kokrajhar area in Assam has been identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work in this regard is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Secretary, Bodaland Territorial Council has been requested to provide information on suitable sites duly identified and depicted on topographical map of Survey of India.

[Translation]

Proposal for Third Railway Line

3369.SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Railways have received any proposal from Madhya Pradesh for laying a third line between Jhansi-Bhopal, Bhopal-Itarsi and Barkheda-Budhani;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Demands have been received for laying third line between Bina-Itarsi on Jhansi-Bhopal-Itarsi sections. Surveys for 3rd line between Jhansi-Bina (151 km.) and Bhopal-Itarsi (92 km.) have been taken up. Bina-Bhopal 3rd line survey has been completed and proposal is under process of approval.

Vacant Posts of Members of National Commission for Backward Classes

3370.SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Backward Classes is consist of only four members out of which two posts are lying vacant for the last several months;

(b) if so, whether the functioning of the Commission is being affected due to these vacant posts; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government for filling up of these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) consists of five Members including Chairperson and Member-Secretary. Presently, four Members are in position.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Railway Projects in Assam

3371. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of railway projects in Assam during the last three years; and

(b) the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Azara-Bymiha new Line (30 kms.) has been included in budget, 2006-07 at a cost of Rs. 200 crore. Plans and estimates are being prepared for taking up the work.

Profit of ITDC Hotels

3372. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names and number of ITDC hotels in different cities and the profit earning of each during the last three years;

(b) the performance of ITDC hotels in competition with private sector hotels;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make fresh investments on restoration and renovation of ITDC hotels to enable them to improve their occupancy level and make profits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) The locations of ITDC owned hotels in different cities and their profits earning during the last three years are as follows:—

(Rs. in Crore)

| S.No. | Name of the Hotel | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 (Prov.) |
|-------|------------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Ashok Hotel, New Delhi | 14.92 | 30.45 | 45.50 |
| 2. | Janpath Hotel, New Delhi | 2.46 | 3.08 | 4.41 |
| 3. | Samrat Hotel, New Delhi | 1.02 | 2.21 | 3.73 |
| 4. | Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore | 1.67 | 1.72 | 2.11 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 5. | Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur | (-) 1.53 | (-) 1.54 | (-) 1.20 |
| 6. | Hotel Jammu Ashok, Jammu | (-) 0.71 | (-) 0.17 | (-) 0.42 |
| 7. | Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneshwar | (-) 1.43 | (-) 1.23 | (-) 1.20 |
| 8. | Hotel Patliputra Ashok, Patna | (-) 0.41 | (-) 0.47 | 0.23 |
| Total | | 15.99 | 34.05 | 53.16 |

(b) AS ITDC hotels were earlier under the disinvestment process, no major renovation work could be carried out in the last several years and therefore the private hotels certainly have an edge over ITDC hotels in offering modern facilities in respective categories and therefore, their financial performance is also better than ITDC hotels. However, the endeavour of the Corporation has been to maintain the minimum desired standards by carrying out repairs, maintenance and minor renovation works of an essential nature. Efforts are also being made to provide new services/facilities in the hotels to make them more competitive.

(c) and (d) A renovation plan for ITDC hotels to be undertaken during 2007-08 and 2008-09 has been drawn up with a total outlay of Rs. 184.15 crore.

Recruitment of Physically Handicapped Persons in CPSEs

3373. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether directions for filling up of 3 per cent vacancies reserved for physically handicapped persons are being implemented in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

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

(a) to (c) As per Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 all the administrative Ministries/ Departments have been advised to reserve 3% of vacancies for physically handicapped persons in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in all Groups of employment for making direct recruitment against identified posts. Of the 3%, 1% each shall be reserved for person suffering from:-

- (i) blindness or low vision
- (ii) hearing impairment
- (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy

in the identified costs for each disability. Implementation of these guidelines is vested with the respective Board of Directors of CPSEs and administrative Ministries/ Departments concerned.

Over-Utilisation of Ahmedabad-Mumbai Railway Line

3374. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the existing capacity of Ahmedabad-Mumbai railway line has been over utilized;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal with the Railways for augmentation of the capacity of this line by providing an additional track; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Augmentation of the capacity of double line territories is done through Signalling solutions like provision of Automatic Signalling, splitting of block sections through provision of Intermediate block signals (IBS), etc. and also by providing additional line.

The Ahmedabad-Mumbai route has been identified for Automatic Signalling out of which works have been commissioned on the entire route except for Dahanu Road-Udhna and Surat-Vadodara where works are in progress. Moreover the Western Corridor of the Dedicated Freight Corridor which is a sanctioned work will cater to freight traffic of this line also thereby generating sufficient capacity on the existing route.

Doubling of Railway Line from Trivandrum to Mangalore

3375.SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of work on the doubling of railway line from Trivandrum to Mangalore under Trivandrum and Palakkad Divisions under Southern Railway through Kottayam and Alappuzha;

(b) the length remains yet to be taken up for doubling with names of patches to be completed;

(c) the expected date of completion of doubling of this railway line which is the life line of Kerala; and

(d) the amount required for the completion of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Double broad gauge line has already been provided on Netravati-Shoranur-Ernakulam and Kayankulam-Trivandrum sections of Mangalore-Trivandrum rail line. On the balance portion, work on doubling of Netravati-Kankanadi (Mangalore), Ernakulam-Kottayam-Kayankulam and Kayankulam-Ambalapuzha sections are in various stages of progress.

(b) Doubling of Ambalapuzha-Alleppey-Ernakulam (69.16 kms.) of Emakulam-Alleppey-Kayankulam route is not sanctioned.

(c) These sanctioned works are likely to be completed in phases in next 2-3 years.

(d) An outlay of Rs. 508.6 crore is required beyond 01.04.2007 for completion of the balance portion of the sanctioned projects. Further, Rs. 128 crore has been provided for these sanctioned projects during 2007-08.

[Translation]

Assistance to Minority Community for Self Employment

3376.SHRI KAILASH BAITHA : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provides direct assistance to unemployed youths of minority community for their self employment

(b) if so, the procedure thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided/to be provided to the unemployed youths of minority community alongwith number of beneficiaries during each of the last three years and current year States/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) National Minority Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) provides financial assistance on concessional terms of minorities in the target group for pursuing self-employment.

(b) NMDFC provides term loans as well as micro credit through State Channeling Agencies (SCAs). Besides, NMDFC also provides micro credit to self-help groups (SHGs) through non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

(c) Details of State-wise and year-wise funds

disbursed and beneficiaries covered under these schemes during the last three years, are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively. For 2007-08, the target of disbursement is Rs. 120.60 crores covering 45,700 beneficiaries.

Statement-I

National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation

Disbursements under Term Loan Scheme

| S. No. | State | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
|--------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | | Amt. (Rs. in lacs) | Beneficiaries (No.) | Amt. (Rs. in lacs) | Beneficiaries (No.) | Amt. (Rs. in lacs) | Beneficiaries (No.) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 800 | 7148 | 800 | 6628 | 700 | 4224 |
| 2. | Assam | 0 | 0 | 300 | 570 | 50 | 100 |
| 3. | Bihar | 800 | 2447 | 0 | 0 | 300 | 600 |
| 4. | Chandigarh | 6 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 50 | 235 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 137 |
| 6. | Delhi | 100 | 243 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 100 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 270 | 675 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 150 | 136 | 150 | 144 | 115 | 127 |
| 9. | Haryana | 275 | 522 | 350 | 700 | 415 | 960 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 341 | 735 | 300 | 565 | 370 | 740 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 100 | 196 | 100 | 163 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. | Kerala | 2080 | 4100 | 1700 | 3195 | 3105 | 5469 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 1138 | 2293 | 550 | 1147 | | |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 1000 | 1776 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 150 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|--------------------|---|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|
| 15. Manipur | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16. Madhya Pradesh | | 175 | 589 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17. Mizoram | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200 | 400 |
| 18. Nagaland | | 400 | 666 | 800 | 946 | 350 | 434 |
| 19. Orissa | | 53 | 117 | 100 | 248 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. Pondicherry | | 10 | 25 | 5 | 13 | 10 | 25 |
| 21. Punjab | | 350 | 706 | 500 | 963 | 525 | 1050 |
| 22. Rajasthan | | 150 | 299 | 100 | 196 | 150 | 300 |
| 23. Tamil Nadu | | 250 | 493 | 200 | 248 | 280 | 343 |
| 24. Tripura | | 50 | 87 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 41 |
| 25. Uttar Pradesh | | 1944 | 6127 | 1100 | 1935 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. Uttaranchal | | 0 | 0 | 300 | 400 | 265 | 292 |
| 27. West Bengal | | 2750 | 6402 | 2450 | 5339 | 2650 | 6230 |
| Total | | 13072 | 35552 | 9810 | 23408 | 9958 | 22301 |

Statement-II**National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation****Micro Financing Scheme****Statement of Micro Credit Disbursed**

| Sl. No. | State | 2004-05 | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | | Amt. (Rs. in lacs) | Beneficiaries (No.) | Amt. (Rs. in lacs) | Beneficiaries (No.) | Amt. (Rs. in lacs) | Beneficiaries (No.) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 127.66 | 2824 | 54 | 820 | 56.7 | 893 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-------|-------------------|--------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 2.25 | 42 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Assam | 33.75 | 780 | 9.5 | 150 | 50 | 2080 |
| 4. | Bihar | 11.25 | 125 | 0.5 | 250 | 4.5 | 100 |
| 6 | Delhi | 0 | 0 | 10.8 | 72 | 4.5 | 25 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 250 |
| 7. | Haryana | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. | Jammu and Kashmir | 25 | 250 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 0 | 0 | 9 | 200 | 6.75 | 126 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 105.04 | 1023 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11. | Kerala | 100 | 1000 | 300 | 3000 | 170 | 3200 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 60 | 700 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 24.75 | 258 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14. | Manipur | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15. | Nagaland | 29.5 | 340 | 50 | 220 | 150 | 702 |
| 16. | Orissa | 45.67 | 547 | 14.62 | 253 | 4.5 | 140 |
| 17. | Rajasthan | 30.5 | 400 | 4.5 | 50 | 4.72 | 35 |
| 18. | Tamil Nadu | 74.95 | 829 | 455.25 | 4530 | 672.45 | 14239 |
| 19. | Tripura | 0 | 0 | 5 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. | Uttar Pradesh | 39.23 | 631 | 17.76 | 221 | 0 | 0 |
| 21. | Uttaranchal | 4.5 | 20 | 9 | 70 | 0 | 0 |
| 22. | West Bengal | 116.87 | 1307 | 59.8 | 965 | 168 | 3692 |
| Total | | 828.67 | 11034 | 1001.98 | 10893 | 1317.12 | 25482 |

[English]

**Passenger Amenities at Tirupati
Railway Station**

3377.SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh Government for providing passenger amenities at the Tirupati Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railway thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) No such proposal seems to have been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government. However, various passenger amenity works viz. improvement to platform surface, construction of retiring rooms, extension of foot over bridge, provision of washable apron, waiting hall, face lifting of station building, improvement to existing concourse and its extension at Tirupati station are in progress. In addition, various new works have been sanctioned viz. raising of existing platform to high level construction of fencing wall, improvement to water supply arrangement, provision of platform shelter, replacement of existing sheet of shelter with new Galvalume sheet, provision of seating arrangement, construction of 'Pay and Use' toilet, reflective signage boards, umbrella type shelter at widened platform and in front of new booking office, dadoing of station building and improvement to Passenger Reservation System.

Mini Dal Mills

3378.SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provides subsidy for setting up of mini dal mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed in this regard;

(c) the details of the subsidy provided during 2006-07 to various mills, State-wise; and

(d) the number of such mills set up in various States under the said subsidy scheme during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) As per Plan Schemes, implementing agencies desirous of setting up mini pulse processing units are eligible to get assistance upto 50% of the total cost of the equipments (for setting up mini pulse processing unit) subject to a maximum of Rs. 35,000/- per unit. The assistance is routed through CFTRI, who would help in identifying the eligible beneficiaries.

(c) and (d) No grant was released during 2006-07 in the absence of suitable proposals.

**Railway Level Crossing in Coastal
Andhra Pradesh**

3379.SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware that due to absence of proper railway level crossings in coastal Andhra Pradesh, accidents are occurring frequently;

(b) if so, the details of accidents occurred at these places during the last one year alongwith loss of lives therein;

(c) whether railway crossing at VT Agraaram, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh has become most vulnerable for crossing and causing deaths; and

(d) if so, the steps the Railway would like to take to provide proper railway level crossing at the above place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Accident cases occurring in coastal Andhra Pradesh line cannot be attributed only to absence or availability of level crossing in the Section.

(c) and (d) No level crossing exists at V.T. Agraaram in Palasa - Vizianagaram Section. However, there is an unauthorized location at km. 820/11-13 at V.T. Agraaram from where residents are unauthorisedly crossing the railway track despite availability of manned level crossing at a distance of about 900 meter on one side and a road over bridge at a distance of 1.6 km.

Proliferation of level crossing in close proximity is a potential safety hazard for both the railways and the road users and more so, to the road users. Therefore, keeping in view the availability of one manned level crossing and a road over bridge in close proximity which the residents of the area may use to cross the railway track, there is no proposal to provide any level crossing in V.T. Agraaram.

Funds for Railway Projects

3380. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated and spent for various railway projects in Himachal Pradesh during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken to expedite the completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Year-wise expenditure incurred on railway projects falling fully/partly in the State of Himachal Pradesh is as under:—

| During the year | Expenditure incurred (Rs. in Crore) |
|-----------------|--|
| 2006-07 | 226.66 |
| 2005-06 | 108.38 |
| 2004-05 | 66.89 |

(b) For expediting completion of new line and gauge conversion projects taken up on socio-economic considerations, Hon'ble Minister of Railways has requested all Chief Ministers to share 50% or more cost of ongoing/new projects of new line and gauge conversion.

[Translation]

Losses to Oil Companies

3381. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU :

SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN :

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :

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

(a) whether due to recent increase in international prices of crude oil the Oil Marketing Companies are suffering a loss of 30 to 35 paise per litre on the sale of petrol and diesel as reported in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated February 13, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the losses suffered by oil marketing companies on the sale of diesel and petrol during the last two years as on date;

(d) whether the Government proposes to reduce the excise duty on crude oil;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the losses born by the Government due to subsidy given to Oil Marketing Companies on petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) The desired increase in retail selling prices at Delhi is Rs. 5.17 per litre for petrol and Rs. 4.67 per litre for diesel based on refinery transfer price applicable for the second fortnight of April 2007.

(c) The details of the gross under-recoveries suffered by PSU oil marketing companies (OMCs) on the sale of diesel and petrol during the last two years are as follows:-

| | (Rs./Crore) | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Under-Recovery* | 2005-06 (Provisional) | 2006-07 (Estimated) |
| Petrol | 2723 | 1996 |
| Diesel | 12647 | 18732 |
| Total | 15370 | 20728 |

*Gross under-recoveries without considering refinery discount, oil bonds and upstream assistance.

(d) and (e) There is no excise duty on crude oil. At present, Cess is levied on crude oil and there is no proposal to reduce it.

(f) The Government provides subsidy from fiscal budget on domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene. The year-wise fiscal subsidy for the last three years is given as under:-

| Year | Rs./Crore |
|---------|-----------|
| 2003-04 | 6292.44 |
| 2004-05 | 2930.31 |
| 2005-06 | 2661.99 |

The Government has also issued oil bonds amounting to Rs. 11500 crore during 2005-06 and Rs. 24121 crore during 2006-07 to PSU OMCs towards under-recoveries suffered by them on the sale of sensitive petroleum products.

[English]

Review on Slot Time Management

3382.SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Airlines lose crores on fuel burned by aircraft while hovering over Indra Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to review the "slot time management" to see how peak hours congestion can be eased;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to introduce budget airlines during the non-peak hours; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Some Airlines do not maintain details related to delays due to 'landing restrictions' or late clearance for take off which lead to additional fuel burn. It is, therefore, difficult to workout loss on fuel cost due to the traffic congestion.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government have after careful examination decided that Summer Schedule 2007 should be finalised keeping in view approved Winter Schedule 2006 on one hand and the runway capacities of the airports available on the other hand. The summer Schedule 2007 has been finalized accordingly.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Fighter Planes Accidents

3383.SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India has one of the highest peace-time crash rates of fighter planes in the world;

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

(c) the steps being taken in this direction?

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

(a) and (b) The crash rate of fighter planes has shown a substantive decline in last couple of years. A comparison of crash rate with other countries may not give a correct picture as different air forces in the world would use different kind of aircraft and fly in different environment.

(c) A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Defence Forces to enhance the upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufactures (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Agreement between IA and Foreign Firms

3384. SHRI UDAY SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines (IA) is considering tech-savvy in an effort to take on the growing competition from private sector rivals in the domestic skies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether IA has also entered any agreement with foreign firms for upgrading its ticket booking and transaction services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps proposed to be initiated to compete with the private sector airlines?

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

Sir. Indian Airlines has taken various technology based initiatives like Dial-a-Package, Dial-a-Ticket, IA Flyways, Bid and Fly, Website and On-line Booking, Net-ticket, Booking through IDBI Bank ATM, Booking through Reliance India Mobile (RIM) Phones, I-Check-in and E-Ticketing etc. to take on the growing competition from private sector rivals in the domestic skies.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has entered into an Implementation Services Agreement with M/s. Amadeus Global Travel Distribution S.A., a Spanish Corporation, to provide E-Ticket Transaction Services.

(e) Indian Airlines has taken various marketing and sales efforts to improve its passenger load factor. These include upgrade of aircraft equipment/increase in frequency on various routes, special promotional fares and schemes for various target segments, dynamic inventory management, expansion of distribution network, increased access to inventory, upgrade of inflight product to include inflight entertainment on the new fleet, and initiatives in inflight services etc.

Settlement of Cases of Persons with Disabilities

3385. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :
SHRI NARHARI MAHATO :

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

(a) whether the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has sent some cases pertaining to the disabled persons to the State Governments of West Bengal and Delhi during January, 2003 to December, 2006 to provide them right to equality after making settlement in these cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the cases out of the above which have been finally settled, State-wise; and

(d) the reasons for non-settlement of the rest of the cases and the officers responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has forwarded 19 cases to Government of West Bengal and 95 cases to Government of Delhi during the period January 2003 to December 2006.

(c) and (d) 13 cases each have been settled by both the State Governments. It is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to settle the remaining cases at the earliest.

[Translation]

Shimla Airport

3386.DR. COL. (RETD) DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the plan to develop Jubarhatti Airport at Shimla in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for which no expansion and upgradation work has been undertaken at the airport during the last 15 years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to develop the airport alongwith the funds allocated/proposed to be allocated for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Developmental works to the possible extent are being carried out at Jubarhatti airport in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh which includes, enhancement of space by carrying out modifications in the existing Terminal Building and Construction of a new Fire Station of category IV and Emergency Medical Centre etc.

(b) and (c) Various development works have been carried out at Shimla airport since 1989-90 like construction of terminal building, construction of drain and plantation work, construction of substation building, extension of runway, resurfacing of runway, provision of operational

area fencing, modification of terminal building and toilet renovation and provision of retro reflective boards and signages at a cost of Rs. 529.17 lacs.

For the year 2007-08, Rs. 112 lacs has been earmarked for construction of new Fire Station with Emergency Medical Centre, erosion control measures and construction of drain and drainage for apron and taxiway.

[English]

Gauge Conversion Work between Rewari-Phulera

3387.PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conversion of the only remaining Metre Gauge (MG) line between Rewari and Delhi into Broad Gauge (BG) line has disconnected Degana, Bikaner, Sardarshahr, Sikar and Ringas from Delhi by Single train journey on MG sections;

(b) if so, whether the said MG sections will be converted into BG sections on priority basis;

(c) whether the gauge conversion work between Rewari and Phulera is in progress; and

(d) If not, justification of depriving large number of traveling people of the facility of traveling by a single train to Delhi enjoyed by them for several decades?

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

(b) The Gauge conversion of Rewari-Sadulpur is in progress and conversion of Sadulpur-Bikaner and Ratangarh-Degana has been included in the Budget 2007-08. The section would be converted into broad gauge in the coming years depending upon availability of resources.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Losses of IA

3388.SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of profit/loss of Indian Airlines during the last three years till date;
- (b) whether the Indian Airlines (IA) is continuously running into losses;
- (c) if so, the reasons for losses; and
- (d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken to make up the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) As per the audited accounts, Indian Airlines has earned net profit of Rs. 44.17 crores in 2003-04, Rs. 65.61 crores in 2004-05 and Rs. 49.50 crores in 2005-06. The figures for the financial year 2006-07 have not yet been audited.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Train Accidents Due to Security Lapse

3389.SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether shortage of security staff is the reason for lapses in security checks as has been reported in 'Dainik Jagaran' dated February 24, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (c) the details of the train accidents occurred in the country due to the security lapses during the last three years and current year;
- (d) whether any concrete steps has been taken in the wake of recent bomb blast in the 'Samjhauta Express'

including to set up reservation/booking centres alongwith the other facilities for the passengers coming from Pakistan; 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) No, Sir. No such train accident has occurred due to security lapses during the last three years and in the current year.

(d) and (e) The following preventive measures are being taken in the wake of recent bomb blast in the Samjhauta Express:—

- The rake of the above train is being checked before drawing the same to the platforms and escorted from yards to the platforms.
- Only Sleeper Class Reserved coaches which are connected by vestibules are now being provided.
- Only those Passengers are permitted to travel who have a valid Passport, Visa and Railway ticket for Pakistan only.
- Passengers are allowed to carry two pieces of luggage weighing maximum 35 kgs. with them. Extra luggage, if any, is being booked in the luggage van after security check.
- 02 Railway Protection Force escorting staff per coach are being provided.
- Frisking of all passengers and manual checking of their luggage has been introduced.
- Sniffer dogs are being deployed for checking of empty rakes of the above trains at platforms from where the trains start.
- Installation of Close Circuit Televisions.

- Provision of modern security gadgets like Hand Held Metal Detectors, Door Frame Metal Detectors etc. to strengthen access control at entry/exit points.
- Stickets are being pasted on the luggage of the passengers mentioning coach and berth numbers, after the security check.

As regards setting up of reservation/booking centers, a Computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) has been commissioned at Attari Railway station. Reservation in 4000/4002 Link Express is being done through PRS from Allahabad, Kanpur, Aligarh, Lucknow, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Delhi and Amritsar.

[English]

Introduction of Express Train between Puri and Titilagarh in Orissa

3390. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railways have a proposal to introduce an express train between Puri and Titilagarh via Sambalpur in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken in this regard?

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

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Adventure Tourism

3391. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has been laying greater emphasis on promotion of adventure tourism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

- (c) the financial assistance provided by the Government for promotion of adventure tourism during the last three years and proposed to be provided during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) Ministry of Tourism has taken the following steps to promote adventure tourism:—

- (i) Ministry of Tourism issued guidelines laying down basic minimum standards for adventure tourism related activities, in order to ensure safety of participants/tourists in such activities as well as minimum acceptable standards in terms of equipment and human resources. These guidelines cover land, air and water based activities which includes mountaineering, trekking, hand gliding, paragliding, bungee jumping and rafting.
- (ii) Brochures, CDs, other publicity material have been produced by the Ministry and widely circulated in target markets.
- (iii) Adventure Tourism has been specifically promoted at various international platforms such as World Travel Mart, London, ITB Berlin etc.
- (iv) Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to the State/UT Governments for the development of adventure tourism on the basis of proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and inter-se priorities.
- (c) Based on proposal received from State/UT Governments in last three years the details of Central Financial Assistance extended for promotion of Adventure Tourism are given in the enclosed statement. No project for adventure tourism has been received in the current financial year. -

Statement*State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during last three years*

| S. No. | State/UT | Name of the Project | Year of Sanction | Amount Sanctioned |
|--------|-------------------|--|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Delhi | Organising IAAF World Half Marathon Championship on 3rd October 2004 at New Delhi | 2004-05 | 25.00 |
| 2. | Haryana | Financial Assistance to Haryana Govt. for Gondwana Land Expedition | 2005-06 | 5.00 |
| 3. | Himachal Pradesh | Organising Paragliding Pre-World Cup from 6-9th November 2004 at Bir Biling in Kangra Valley | 2004-05 | 15.00 |
| | | Construction of trekking huts, public convenience, wayside amenities and trekking routes on Mandi-Bilaspur Circuit | 2005-06 | 50.00 |
| | | Celebration of Paragliding Pre-World Cup, 2005 at Birbiling in Kangra Valley from 16.10.2005 to 19.10.2005 | 2005-06 | 15.00 |
| | | Celebration of Great Himalayan Marathon held at Shimla on 25.9.2005 | 2005-06 | 5.00 |
| | | Mountain Biking Event-MTB Himachal 2006 | 2006-07 | 10.00 |
| | | Great Himalayan Marathon in September, 2006 at Shimla | 2006-07 | 10.00 |
| 4. | Jammu and Kashmir | Ambassador Golf Tournament | 2004-05 | 10.80 |
| | | Remodeling of Golf Course at Pahalgam | 2005-06 | 432.00 |
| | | Upgradation of Golf Course at Gulmarg | 2005-06 | 235.00 |
| | | Development of Kongdoor as International Ski Destination | 2005-06 | 435.00 |
| | | Himalayan Motor Rally from Leh to Srinagar | 2005-06 | 15.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|----------------|---|---------|--------|
| | | Infrastructure Development of adventure sports at Sonamarg | 2006-07 | 190.91 |
| | | Infrastructure development of Botapathri area, Gulmarg as camping site | 2006-07 | 202.61 |
| 5. | Karnataka | Development of Chickmagalore Wilderness | 2004-05 | 202.48 |
| | | Setting up of Nagarhole trekking Camp in Coorg | 2004-05 | 95.30 |
| 6. | Kerala | Development of Eco-tourism circuit on Neyyar-Panmudi-Thenmala-Konni-Gavi-Thekkady-Munnar-Chinnar-Parambikulam-Neikliampathy-Neyyer Wildlife Sanctuary | 2006-07 | 581.78 |
| | | Development of Ranipuram as an Eco-tourism as tourist destination | 2006-07 | 357.01 |
| 7. | Madhya Pradesh | Celebration of YAI National Sailing Championship at Upper Lake Bhopal | 2005-06 | 15.00 |
| | | Destination development of Panna – Sabaleshah Trekking Camp Jhinna, Infrastructure for Platform lift and boating facilities, Dharamsagar Lake, Panna lake, Pondov Falls, Facelifting of Baldu Temple, Rafting in River Ken, Panna Tiger Reserve entrance, water sports at Bhariapur | 2006-07 | 421.36 |
| | | Rural tourism project at Pranpur, Distt. Ashoknagar | 2003-04 | 48.00 |
| | | Rural Tourism project at Orchha, Distt. Tikamgarh | 2005-06 | 50.00 |
| 8. | Orissa | Development of Gopalpur-on-Sea | 2005-06 | 447.22 |
| | | Development of Chilka Lake, Distt. Puri | 2005-06 | 389.05 |
| 9. | Punjab | Celebration of Rural sports Mela at Kila Raipur in February, 2006 by Punjab Govt. | 2005-06 | 5.00 |
| | | Celebration of Rural Sports Mela at Kila Raipur in February 2007 by Punjab Govt. | 2006-07 | 5.00 |
| 10. | Uttaranchal | Development of Dayara Bugyal Circuit | 2004-05 | 536.36 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---------|----------------|
| | | Development of Pithoragarh-Munsiyari-Berinag in Kumaon | 2004-05 | 418.60 |
| | | Development of Hemkund Sahib-Ghangaria-Valley of Flower Circuit in District Chamoli | 2005-06 | 653.54 |
| | | Purchase of winter sports equipments for development of winter tourism in Uttaranchal | 2005-06 | 134.41 |
| | | Total | | 6051.43 |

Separate Committee for Non-Muslim Minorities

3392.SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up a separate Committee like the Sanchar Committee to assess the socio economic status of non-muslim minorities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b) A National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities was set up by Government in October, 2004.

Apart from examining other issues, the Commission has been entrusted the task of submitting a report on the status of minority communities, other than the Muslim community.

Satyagraha Centenary Year

3393.SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special programmes are proposed to be taken up in connection with the Satyagraha Centenary year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Committee has been set up or likely to be set upto highlight the Gandhian concept of Satyagraha; and

(d) if so, its composition?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Department of Posts, Government of India, has proposed to release a special commemorative postage stamp. Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture has also organized various programmes in connection with the Satyagraha Centenary. Some of these programmes are:—

- (i) Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi entitled Satyagraha : an Eternal Journey;
 - (ii) Launching of Vande Mataram Rolling Trophy;
 - (iii) Organizing Satyagraha Peace Run;
 - (iv) Installation of World Peace Gong in the premises of GSDS; and
 - (v) Launching of children's social conclave.
- (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Facilities to Jawans

3394. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone facilities are available to the jawans of the armed forces at the places of postings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to provide the telephone facilities to them?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present, 1882 telephones including civil telephones have been provided for welfare of Jawans in all Commands of Army. These include 313 INMARSAT terminals and 405 Village Public Telephones. Telephone facilities are available in Naval Units and arrangements have been made to provide STD booths within the Naval Establishments. This facility is also available on almost all ships for emergent requirements of needy personnel. Likewise telephone facilities are available in all the Air Force Stations and Units for the benefit of Air Force Personnel.

[English]

Setting up a Referral Hospital at Nagercoil

3395. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are considering to set up a Referral Hospital at Nagercoil as a welfare measure for staff employed in the Kanyakumari Region of Southern Railway;

(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) There is one health unit functioning at Nagercoil manned by one railway doctor, one Pharmacist and one Dresser. The daily Out Patient Department attendance is approximately 50 cases per day on an average. There is a full fledged Divisional Hospital at Thiruvananthapuram located at a distance of mere 75 Kms. from Nagercoil which is easily accessible by train.

In addition, there is also one well equipped Medical College Hospital at Nagercoil to meet any emergencies and is located just at a distance of 4 Kms. from the Health Unit/Nagercoil.

[Translation]

New Guidelines for Private Sector Aviation Companies

3396. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has issued new guidelines regarding the aviation requirement for the private sector aviation companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the companies operating in this sector following the said new guidelines;

(d) the details of such companies that are awaiting the Government's approval to enter into this sector; and

(e) the time by which the approval is likely to be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) The

Government has decided to revise the minimum equity requirements for issue of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for scheduled air transport services.

(b) For airlines operating aircraft with take off mass exceeding 40,000 Kgs., the equity requirement has been raised to Rs. 50 crores from Rs. 30 crores for five aircrafts. For each addition of upto five aircraft, additional equity investment of Rs. 20 crores be required.

For airlines operating aircraft with take off mass exceeding 40,000 Kgs., the equity requirement has been raised to Rs. 20 crores from Rs. 10 crores for five aircrafts. For each addition of upto five aircraft, additional equity investment of Rs. 10 crores be required.

There would be no further requirement of enhancement of equity if the paid up equity/reserves of Rs. 100 crores is available with the airlines.

(c) The Civil Aviation Requirements under Aircraft Rules are being notified to implement the decision.

(d) There are fourteen applications pending for grant of initial NOC viz. M/s. Mukti Airways Pvt. Ltd. M/s. Air Dravida, M/s. King Airways, M/s. Air One Feeder Airline Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Premier Airways Ltd., M/s. Aryan Cargo Express Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Star Aviation, M/s. Magic Airlines Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Avicore Cargo, M/s. Trans India, M/s. Jagson Airlines, M/s. ZAV Airways, M/s. MDLR Airlines, M/s. Mega Airways Ltd.

(e) The cases are under consideration for assessing their financial capacity and soundness of their business plans.

Prices of Food Items in Trains and Stations

3397.SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has increased the prices of the food and snacks item being sold at stations and in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for imposing additional burden on the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) The tariff of catering services in Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains have not been revised since 1999. The tariff of standard meals, breakfast, tea/coffee sold in other Mail/Express trains and static catering units, was last revised in 2003. Service tax payable to the General Exchequer, has been levied on the catering charges of Rajdhani/Shatabdi and other Mail/Express trains in 2006. Tariff of a-la-carte food items sold in trains and at major stations, is decided by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Rates of these have been marginally rationalized by IRCTC in July 2006.

Discovery of Oil in Chandrapur, Maharashtra

3398.SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether oil reserve has been found in Brahmpuri at Chandrapur district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted factual study in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Elections of Cantonment Boards

3399.SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cantonments where elections of Cantonment Boards have taken place as per provisions of amended Cantonments Act, 2006 in the country;

(b) the reasons for delay in holding the elections in the remaining Cantonment Boards; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the constitution of elected Cantonment Boards in all the Cantonments as early as possible?

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

(a) 'Nil'.

(b) and (c) For holding elections to the Cantonment Boards in accordance with the provisions of Cantonments Act, 2006, draft Cantonment Electoral Rules, 2007 have been published inviting objections or suggestions from all persons likely to be affected. The legal and statutory process has to be completed before elections are held.

Rural Tourism in Chhattisgarh

3400. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the Government of Chhattisgarh to encourage rural tourism are lying pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism has been working towards development and promotion of identified rural sites having potential for tourism. The following projects for rural tourism infrastructure development and capacity building have been sanctioned based on the proposals received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh during 10th Plan Period.

Infrastructure Development

1. Rs. 50 lakh for Village Chitrakote, Distt. Bastar in 2003-04

2. Rs. 50 lakh for Village Chitrakote, Distt. Bastar in 2003-04

3. Rs. 50 lakh for Village Champaran, Nagamar in 2003-04

4. Rs. 48 lakh for Village Nagamar, Distt. Bastar in 2003-04

5. Rs. 50 lakh for Village Kondageon, Distt. Bastar in 2005-06

6. Rs. 50 lakh for Village Mana-Tuta, Distt. Raipur in 2003-04

7. Rs. 48.75 lakh for Village Chilpi, Distt. Kabirdham in 2006-07

Capacity Building

1. Rs. 20 lakh for Village Chitrakote, Distt. Bastar in 2004-05

2. Rs. 20 lakh for Village Nagamar, Distt. Bastar in 2004-05

3. Rs. 20 lakh for Village Mana-Tuta, Distt. Raipur in 2006-07

4. Rs. 20 lakh for Village Chilpi, Distt. Kabirdham in 2006-07

No project for rural tourism has been received in the current financial year.

[English]

Additional Gas to Karnataka

3401. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has found significant gas reserves in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested for supply of additional gas to its State;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Chief Minister of Karnataka has requested for allocation of gas from KG Basin for the 1400 MW Combined Cycle Plant at Bidadi.

(e) Government does not make any allocation of gas to specific sectors.

Agreement with ASEAN Countries

3402.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has not agreed for an Open Sky Policy with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) at present but could become a reality only by 2012;

(b) if so, whether the Open Sky Policy refers to a policy wherein any number of flights can be operated to any number of destinations in a country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government feels that the issue of fifth freedom rights wherein in carrier from India can fly from the country to any foreign destination via an ASEAN country has to be discussed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other main reasons put forward by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (e) As announced by the Prime Minister in the recently concluded 5th ASEAN-India summit in Cebu on 14th January, 2007,

the Government is willing to engage the ASEAN authorities in a discussion on Open Sky Policy. However no specific proposal on the contours of such a policy has so far been exchanged between the ASEAN authorities and India.

Utilisation of Funds for PWD

3403.SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has recently convened a meeting with State Commissions for Persons with Disabilities;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and decision arrived therein;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to ensure effective utilization of funds allocated in the disability sector and better coordination with the State Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Sixth National Meeting of State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities to review the implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 was held on 2nd and 3rd February 2007 in New Delhi. The meeting inter-alia discussed the issues such as utilization of funds, mechanism to review the status of implementation of the PWD Act, 1995, awareness among the people with disabilities, streamlining and simplification of the procedures for getting the disability certificate, more effective functioning of the Office of CCD etc. The detailed recommendations made during the meeting are available at the website www.ccd disabilities.nic.in of the Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

**Bilateral Cultural Agreement
between Italy and India**

3404. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourists from Italy visited India during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has sought any assistance from Italy for preservation and conservation of all important monuments in the country; and

(c) if so, the details therefor and the bilateral cultural agreement made in this regard between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) The number of tourists from Italy during the years 2003-2005 is as under:-

| S.No. | Year | No. of Tourists |
|-------|------|-----------------|
| 1. | 2003 | 46,908 |
| 2. | 2004 | 65,561 |
| 3. | 2005 | 67,642 |

(b) and (c) Under a Cultural Exchange Programme signed on 25.3.2003 and a Memorandum of Understanding signed on 31st January, 2005 between India and Italy, an expert working group has been formulated for studies on the condition of paintings at Ajanta. The programme envisages research and study, cooperation in documentation and formulation of conservation programme.

The Italian experts have carried out photo documentation, laser scanning and condition assessment of the mural paintings in Cave 17 of Ajanta. Besides, as a part of the above collaborative programme, a conservation – restoration training course on historical, archaeological, ceramic and glass objects was conducted by the central Institute for Restoration, Rome (Italy) at the National Museum in Delhi from 12th to 28th February, 2007.

Introduction of Inter-City Express

3405. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have a proposal to introduce an inter-city Express between Koraput and Rourkela via Rayagada in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Interim Report of National
Commission for DNTs**

3406. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Technical Advisory Group of National Commission for Denotified Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) has submitted any interim report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details and recommendations thereof alongwith follow up action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) if not, the time by which the Commission is likely to submit such report;

(d) whether the Commission is delaying to submit any interim report; and

(e) if so, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) to (c) The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has submitted its report to the National Commission for Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) as per its Terms of

Reference. The NCDNT is required to submit its report to the Government by 5.02.2008.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Reconstitution of Board of Directors

3407.SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has issued any new guidelines regarding the composition of Board of Directors of public sector enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many of PSUs have not reconstituted the Board of Directors;

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

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Government issued the guidelines regarding composition of Board of Directors in 1992. The Administrative Ministries/Departments are expected to appoint requisite number of Functional, Government and non-official Directors on the Board of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) under their administrative control in terms of above-mentioned guidelines.

The Government furthermore issued guidelines in August 2005 indicating the time frame for filling up Board level posts in CPSEs to ensure that the recommendations of Public Enterprises Selection Board be made at least 6 months in advance of the date of occurrence of vacancy and the same are sent to the concerned Ministry/ Department well in time for completing other formalities.

The Administrative Ministries/Departments have been

further advised in December 2005 to submit the proposals for selection of non-official Directors for Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs at least six months in advance of the date on which such positions fall vacant.

Railway Link with Burma

3408.SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board contemplate to accelerate the completion of a railway link with Burma and work towards establishing a north-south corridor to Russia via Iran;

(b) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on these projects;

(c) the present status of these projects;

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(e) the benefits likely to be accrued on completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (e) Ministry of External Affairs had through RITES carried out a feasibility study for India-Myanmar rail link. The Report is currently under bilateral consultation. The likely expenditure as per the study on construction of new rail link between Jiribam-Moreh in India and Tamu-Kalay-Segy in Myanmar is estimated to cost Rs. 4280 Crore. The link will provide substantial benefit to bilateral trade between India and Myanmar. No specific timeframe has been set for these projects.

North-South Transport Corridor promotes transport cooperation between the Member States. The Corridor would connect Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to Russia via Iran and the Caspian Sea. The Corridor pertaining to India is purely a Shipping route from the West Coast of India to Iran. The Corridor provides opportunities to enhance trade between India and Iran.

Financial Autonomy to PSUs

3409. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant financial autonomy to the profit-making public sector undertakings by allowing them to invest in joint ventures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) The Government has already given greater financial autonomy to the Boards of Navratna and Miniratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) for making investments in joint ventures/subsidiaries within prescribed limits as per orders issued in this regard dated 5.8.2005.

The Navratna CPSEs have been empowered to make equity investment for establishing joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India or abroad subject to the ceiling of 15% of the net worth of the CPSE in one project limited to Rs. 1000 crore. The overall ceiling on such investment in all projects put together shall be 30% of the net worth of the CPSE.

The Miniratna Category I CPSEs have been empowered to make equity investment for establishing joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India subject to the ceiling of 15% of the net worth of the CPSE in one project limited to Rs. 500 crore. The overall ceiling on such investment in all projects put together shall be 30% of the net worth of the CPSE.

The Miniratna Category II CPSEs have been empowered to make equity investment for establishing joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India subject to the ceiling of 15% of the net worth of the CPSE in one project limited to Rs. 250 crore. The overall ceiling on such investment in all projects put together shall be 30% of the net worth of the CPSE.

[Translation]

Rail Route between Delhi and Hanoi (Vietnam)

3410. DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the feasibility study for Delhi-Hanoi rail link has been made;

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

(c) whether any agreement has also been signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Ministry of External Affairs had through RITES carried out a feasibility study for India-Myanmar rail link as a first step for Delhi-Hanoi rail link. The likely expenditure on construction of new rail link between Jiribam-Moreh in India and Tamu-Kalay-Segyi in Myanmar is estimated to cost Rs. 4280 Crore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Oil Reserves Found in KG Basin

3411. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some public/private oil companies have found huge oil reserves in the Godavari Basin in Andhra Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has entered into any contractual agreement with the Public/Private oil exploring companies to the effect that they would take care of the needs of the local area first before taking out to other parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to make arrangements to fulfil the local needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a consortium of M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and M/s. Niko Resources Limited (Niko) has discovered oil in the NELP-I block KG-DWN-98/3 in Krishna Godavari Basin. In this Block, 140 million barrels of oil have been estimated.

(c) to (e) In terms of the provisions of the Production Sharing Contract, the Contractor has the freedom to sell oil and gas anywhere in India and are subject to the laws of India.

[Translation]

Merger of IDA into Basic Pay

3412.CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to merge the 50% DA and IDA of Central Government Employees and the employees of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) into their basic pay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details of the PSUs which are already making payments to their employees as per the said formula alongwith the undertaking which are not following the same; and

(d) the time by which all the remaining PSUs are likely to make payment to their employees as per the said formula of merging the 50% IDA into their basic pay?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (d) 50% of Dearness Allowance has been merged with basic pay for the employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) following Central Dearness Allowance (CDA) pattern of pay scales. This benefit has been allowed to employees of those CPSEs which are not loss making and are in a position to absorb the additional expenditure on account of merger of DA with basic pay from their own resources without any budgetary support from the Government and also to employees in the CDA pattern pay scales in Food Corporation of India. No decision has been taken for merger of 50% DA for employees of CPSEs following Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) pattern of pay scales. The Pay Revision Committee has been constituted on 30.11.2006 for making its recommendations on the salary and other associated aspects for the executives of Central Public Sector Enterprises.

[English]

Mehrauli Archaeological Park

3413.SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of historical monuments in the Mehrauli Archaeological park in Delhi;

(b) the number of protected monuments among them;

(c) whether this park is open on all sides leading to security problem to tourists and also to monuments;

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

(e) the action to be taken to protect all the monuments in the park?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) There are 70 monuments in the Mehrauli Archaeological Park. Of this, 7 are protected as monuments of national importance by the Archeological Survey of India.

(c) and (d) The Mehrauli Archaeological Park is under the Delhi Development Authority. The Park is only partially protected by fencing/boundary wall. It is learnt that a Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Mehrauli Archaeological Park has been prepared and this has been approved by the Lt. Governor, Delhi.

(e) There is no proposal at present to protect other monuments of the Mehrauli Archaeological Park by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Strengthening of Keltron

3414. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought the assistance of the Union Government to strengthen KELTRON, as undertaking of the Government of Kerala producing electronics and information technology products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJEET SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala had made a request in April 2003 to the Ministry of Defence to take over KELTRON.

(c) A Task force was set up to identify the areas for long term arrangement between DPSEs/OFB and KELTEC/KELTRON which submitted the report in October 2003. It has been decided that Public Sector Undertakings under Ministry of Defence and the Ordnance Factories would consider placing orders on KELTRON within the existing framework of Government guidelines and purchase policies.

[Translation]

Adulteration in Petrol and Diesel

3415. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that consumers are suffering losses and not getting proper quantity of petrol and diesel due to adulteration;

(b) if so, whether the Oil Marketing Companies have fixed any responsibilities to its officers for not performing their duties properly to check and control the menace of adulteration in petrol and diesel; -

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon during each of the last three years, company-wise; and

(d) the measures taken by the OMCs to strengthen their machinery to check the adulteration in petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) 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/diesel.

(b) The Oil Companies consider it as their duty and responsibility to ensure dispensation of correct quality and quantity of petroleum products sold through their retail outlet network. Officials of the Oil Companies found erring in their duties are liable for appropriate disciplinary action as per conduct rules.

(c) During the last three years, there has been no case where the Oil Companies had to take action against any of its officers for not performing their duties in checking/controlling the menace of adulteration.

(d) Action is taken by OMCs against guilty petrol pump dealers based on the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Dealership Agreement. The action taken includes termination of dealerships, imposition of fines, suspension of supplies, warning, etc.

To check adulteration in auto fuels and diversion of PDS Kerosene, Government has asked Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps to contain the menace of adulteration:—

- (i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have requested the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take steps to control adulteration.
- (ii) 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 cases of adulteration being established.
- (iii) Government has taken the initiatives to expedite the installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) to monitor the movement of tank trucks.
- (iv) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en-route adulteration by transporters.
- (v) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.
- (vi) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

In order to check adulteration the Government has recently taken a number of new initiatives which are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of New Initiatives Taken to Check Adulteration of Petrol/Diesel and Streamlining PDS Kerosene Distribution

Checking adulteration is a continuous process and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been reviewing steps taken to curb adulteration from time to time. In the process, several technological and institutional measures have been taken to contain adulteration. The recent steps taken by the Ministry are summarized below:-

1. **Automation of Retail Outlets:** In order to monitor the activities at retail outlets by adopting the latest technological improvements, automation of retail outlets is being implemented. MOP and NG has directed the oil marketing companies to complete automation of retail outlets selling more than 200 KL per month.
2. **Third Party Certification of Retail Outlets:** OMCs have been directed to complete third party certification of all the retail outlets selling more than 100 KL per month.
3. **Monitoring of movement of Tank Trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS):** In order to prevent adulteration during transportation, OMCs have been directed to install GPS for complete monitoring of the movement of all the company owned/dealer owned/contractor owned tank trucks.
4. **Marker System in Kerosene:** To check adulteration in auto fuels, Government has asked public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps, including introduction of marker in adulterants. OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the new system, Marker is being put in kerosene in all depots. This system heralds the introduction of world class technology

to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. With the markers's presence, adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected. MS/HSD Control Order, 2005, SKO Control Order, 1993 and MDG 2005 have been amended for making provision regarding introduction of marker system in Kerosene to check adulteration. A Committee has been set up in the Ministry to monitor the progress of the marker system. Oil Marketing Companies in the Private sector have also been simultaneously asked to introduce marker in Kerosene as is being done by Public Sector OMCs.

5. **Revising the Marketing Discipline Guidelines:** The Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) under which the oil marketing companies take penal actions against the erring dealers have been revised during August 2005 making the penal actions more stringent. As per MDG, 2005, a dealership would be terminated in the first instance of adulteration itself.
6. **Jan Kerosene Pariyojna:** To streamline the PDS Kerosene distribution system and contain diversion of kerosene for adulteration and other unauthorized usages, Jan Kerosene (Pariyojna (JKP) had been launched initially for a period of 6 months on a pilot basis in 414 blocks with effect from 2.10.2005. The Pilot scheme has been further extended upto 30.6.2007.
7. **Smart Card Scheme:** With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry has proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart

Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementation of the Pilot.

[English]

Problem Faced by Theatre Artists

3416. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the problems faced by the Theatre Artists in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to uplift the conditions of the performing artists; and
- (c) the steps are being taken to promote the theatre particularly the traditional and folk theatre?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) A Scheme for financial Assistance to professional groups and individuals for specified performing art projects is in operation in which production grant upto a maximum of Rs. 1.00 lakh is provided for approved projects and programmes in performing arts. Salary grant assistance to performing art groups to help them to establish themselves in their fields is also being provided. Under the Scheme of Award of Scholarship to young artists a scholarship of Rs. 2000/- per month is given for a period of two years. Senior and Junior fellowships are given in the field of Performing, Literary and Plastic Arts at the rate of Rs. 12,000/- and 6,000/- per month respectively for a period of two years. The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (C.C.R.T.) operates a Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme for children between the age group of 10 to 14 years at the rate of Rs. 600/- per month. The scheme for promotion and dissemination of tribal Folk Art and Culture also provides financial assistance to performing artists.

(c) Steps taken are:-

1. National School of Drama is providing training in the field of theatre since 1959.
2. Sangeet Natak Akademi under its Scheme of Financial Assistance to Cultural Institutions is supporting theatre Institutions of the Country.
3. National and Regional theatre Festivals are organised all over the country.
4. State and Zonal level workshops are organised each year to provide assistance to young theatre Artists.
5. Interaction programmes with theatre artists are organised from time to time.
6. 'Rang Pratibha', a State-wise theatre festival of young theatre directors is organised in various States.
7. Sangeet Natak Akademi has organised festival of traditional theatre in India in all North Eastern States and in Mumbai.
8. Two special festivals of folk and traditional theatre of Jammu and Kashmir have also been held recently.
9. In the Akademi Awards given annually by Sangeet Natak Akademi at least one Award is given each year to folk/traditional theatre.
10. One award has been given in the field of folk/ traditional theatre under Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar scheme instituted by Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2006.
11. Sangeet Natak Akademi presents the works of established theatre Directors in its festivals under the Rang Sangam Scheme.
12. The Sangeet Natak Akademi has undertaken a

survey of folk theatre forms of the country to preserve the folk and traditional theatre.

13. The National School of Drama has a scheme for "Promotion of Folk and Tribal Arts Theatre". Various folk and tribal theatre groups are invited to participate every year in National Theatre Festival (Bharat Rang Mahotsav) and Bal Sangam.
14. The Zonal Cultural Centres operate a "Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme" for promotion of traditional and folk theatre.

Gauge Conversion of Bharuch-Dahej Railway Line

3417. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware that a MoU has been reached between some agencies and ONGC for gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of such agencies with their equity contribution for the project;

(c) whether any other public sector undertaking is also willing to invest in the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed among Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), Gujarat Maritime Board and Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC). Subsequently, a Shareholders Agreement was signed among the following shareholders for equity participation:-

| | Equity (Rs. in crore) |
|---|-----------------------|
| (i) RVNL | 25 |
| (ii) Gujarat Maritime Board | 10 |
| (iii) Dahej Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Ltd. | 10 |
| (iv) Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Company Ltd. | 10 |
| (v) Adani Petronet (Dahej) Port Pvt. Ltd. | 10 |

(e) The Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will take up implementation of this project. The process of award of contract will start after signing of the Concession Agreement. A time frame can be fixed only after signing of Concession Agreement.

[Translation]

Wastage of Fuel Due to Traffic Jam

3418. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the period for which there was traffic jam in the landing and take-off at the Delhi Airport during the last six months;

(b) whether additional fuel gets wasted due to delay in landing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Air traffic congestion is generally felt during the peak hours between 0700-1200 hours and 1600 - 2100 hours.

(b) Some Airlines do not maintain details related to delays due to "landing restrictions" or late clearance for take off which lead to additional fuel burn. It is, therefore, difficult to workout loss on fuel cost due to the traffic congestion.

(c) Corrective steps taken in this regard include simultaneous use of both runways during the peak hours period, improved Air Traffic Control (ATC) procedures, restriction on general aviation aircraft movement, commissioning of rapid exit taxiways and parallel taxiways etc.

[English]

Foreign Business of ONGC

3419. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) proposes to increase their foreign business in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the targets fixed for various products by ONGC for the current financial year; and

(d) the steps taken by ONGC to achieve the objective during 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is engaged in overseas exploration and production of oil and gas to supplement the reserves of the parent company, ONGC.

To secure more equity oil, OVL is pursuing acquisition of E and P assets in identified countries viz. Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Libya, Russia, Venezuela, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Latin American countries and some African countries.

(c) ONGC's MoU targets for production of various products for the year 2007-08 are as under:-

| Product | MoU targets |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| Crude oil production | 29.04 MMT |

| 1 | 2 |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Natural gas production | 25,050 MMSCM |
| Value added products | 3.245 MMT |

MMT : million metric tonne

MMSCM : million metric standard cubic metre

OVL has a production target of 6.34 MMT of oil and 1.65 BCM of gas for the year 2007-08.

(d) ONGC is implementing various schemes/projects and is taking various initiatives for augmentation of production in the offshore and onshore areas of the country which includes Improves Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes, Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes, Development projects, Development of Marginal Fields and initiatives to acquire state of the art technology for enhancing oil and gas production.

[Translation]

Guidelines for Opening of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps

3420. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

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

(a) whether the Government has framed guidelines for opening LPG agencies and petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the salient features of these guidelines;

(c) whether there has been violation of the guidelines relating to reservations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and 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) to (d) Subsequent to the dismantling of the

Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 1.4.2002, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been given freedom to choose location and select Retail Outlet (RO) dealers/LPG distributors as per their commercial considerations.

OMCs conduct feasibility surveys to assess the potential/commercial viability of locations before setting up any LPG distributorships and RO dealerships, and if found viable, further necessary action including issue of advertisement, holding of interviews of eligible candidates, etc. are taken. As per the extant guidelines, the percentage of reservation to different categories of persons are as follows:-

| | |
|--|------|
| Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) | -25% |
| Defence Category (DC) | -8% |
| Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP) | -8% |
| Physically Handicapped Persons (PH) | -5% |
| Freedom Fighters (FF) | -2% |
| Outstanding Sports Persons (OSP) | -2% |
| | 50% |

OMCs have not reported any violation of guidelines relating to reservations provided for in the selection of RO dealers/LPG distributors.

[English]

Marriage Tourism

3421. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to promote marriage tourism;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any survey has been undertaken to gauge the tourist flow on this account;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the estimated flow of foreign exchange as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (e) The Ministry of Tourism, through the Indiatourism offices overseas, undertakes a series of promotional activities in tourist generating markets for showcasing and projecting the country's tourist attractions including niche and new segments/products such as rural tourism, medical tourism, cruise tourism, golf tourism, as well as marriage tourism and honeymoon tourism.

There is, however, no projection / estimate as to the number of tourists who would come for marriage tourism or the foreign exchange earnings that would be generated out of the same.

[Translation]

Godhra Train Incident

3422. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the special investigation team of Gujarat Police has completed their enquiry into the Godhra train incident which took place five years back;
- (b) if so, the facts found by the team and the details of persons found guilty in the matter;
- (c) whether the team has totally rejected the report of the Justice U.C. Banerjee Committee constituted by Railways to enquire into the said matter; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railway thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In Godhra Train incident, 02 cases vide Crime No. Godhra/GRPS/09/02 U/S 143, 147, 148, 149, 337, 338, 302 and 307 IPC and 141, 150, 152 of the Railways Act dated 27.02.2002 and Godhra GRPS/Crime No. 10/02 U/S 307, 147, 148, 149, 436, 153(A), 120B IPC and 141, 150, 153 of the Railways Act with 327 Damage of Public Property Act dated 27.2.2002 were registered. Out of these 02 cases, the investigation of Crime No. 10/02 has been completed and charge sheet has been submitted against 11 accused persons. The case is pending trial in the Court of learned 3rd Additional Session Judge, Godhra. The next date of hearing in this case is 21.5.2007.

The investigation of Crime No. 08/02 is still pending. Out of about 131 suspected accused, 114 have been arrested and rest are still to be arrested. In this case, State Government of Gujarat has invoked the provisions of Prevention of Terrorist Act, 2002 (POTA). After investigation in CR 10/02, all the accused persons have been found prima facie guilty; as such charge sheet has been submitted.

(c) and (d) A High Level Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) U.C. Banerjee to ascertain the cause of fire, events/developments leading to the incident of fire in 9166 Up Sabarmati Express at Godhra on 27.2.2002 vide Ministry of Railway Notification dated 4.9.2004. This Committee was given the status of a Commission vide Ministry of Railways' Notification dated 2.12.2005. The Committee submitted its interim report on 7.1.2005 followed by final report to the Ministry of Railways on 3.3.2006.

Hon'ble Gujarat High Court on the petition of Neelkanth Tulsidas Bhatia had directed the Railway Administration and others vide their interim order dated 7.3.2006 not to give any further publicity to the report and not to implement and/or not to take any further action on the basis of the Report submitted by the

High Level Committee. It was further directed that the said report shall not be further acted upon and relied upon in any manner whatsoever by anybody. The Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat, Ahmedabad further vide its order dated 13.10.2006 have declared the constitution of High Level Committee as bad in law and have quashed and set aside its appointment. The order has further directed that the report given by the Committee is not to be laid before the Parliament. The interim relief to that effect already given by the Court vide order dated 7.3.2006 which was confirmed by the Division Bench of the Court was made absolute. A Review Petition (LPA) has been filed against these orders before Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad and the matter is sub-judice.

[English]

Development of Small Airports in West Bengal

3423. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI NARHARI MAHATO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to develop small airports in various district headquarters of West Bengal to increase air connectivity with State capital through small aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) The following development works at airstrips/airports in West Bengal have been taken up by Airports Authority of India (AAI):-

- (i) Development works for operationalisation of Cooch Behar airport in a phased manner with strengthening and expansion of runway and

apron for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft. The Terminal Building has also been renovated. There are also plans for construction of a New Terminal Building, Fire Station and ATC Tower cum Technical Block.

- (ii) There is a proposal for development of Malda airport for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft for which a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding transfer of land at this airport by the State Government of West Bengal to AAI free of cost on ownership basis has been sent to the State Government.

In addition to the above, on a proposal from the State Government of West Bengal for development of 8 abandoned airstrips/airfields in various districts of West Bengal requiring major expenditure and infrastructural development, AAI will consider the desired development works subject to firm commitment and demand from some airline operators for operating scheduled services from these airports, availability of required land and sharing of the development cost of these Defence/State Government/Private airstrips.

Revival Plan for BHPV

3424. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Limited (BHPV) has been referred to the Board for reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the latest status in respect of its revival plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for financial restructuring and strengthening of BHPV was initially submitted to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises

(BRPSE) on 21.10.2005. Meanwhile, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Engineers India Limited (EIL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) evinced interest in BHPV and sought permission from the Government for conducting due diligence study of the company which were granted. Subsequently, the BRPSE in its meeting held on 26.05.2006, advised this Ministry to submit a revised proposal after examining the due diligence study of report on BHPV. After considering the due diligence study report on BHPV, Ministry of Petroleum had informed that EIL and HPCL need no longer be considered for acquiring any interest in BHPV. However, BHEL which has also conducted due diligence study for BHPV has evinced interest in BHPV subject to waiver of Government of India loan and interest, waiver of principal and interest by financial institutions/banks, funding of liabilities not provided for the transfer of existing land in possession of BHPV free of cost with waiver of stamp duty and registration charges etc. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed for granting certain reliefs and concessions for revival of BHPV. Agreement has also been reached with the Consortium of Bankers for One Time Settlement (OTS) of their dues. Once the issues of, inter-alia, payment of outstanding bank loans and settlement of other liabilities are decided, the revival proposal will be placed before the BRPSE for their recommendations. Based on the recommendations of BRPSE, the matter will be placed before the Competent Authority for a decision.

**Areas in Railways Identified for
Development**

3425. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain thrust areas in the Railways were identified for development during the 10th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress achieved so far during the 10th Five Year Plan;

(d) the growth rate of Railways during the 10th Five Year Plan period; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Railways to achieve the desired target growth rate during the 11th Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The areas identified include (i) Growth in freight and passenger traffic (ii) Capacity Augmentation (iii) Technology upgradation and modernisation (iv) Rationalization of rail tariff and (v) Participative Project Funding.

(c) and (d) During the 10th Plan period, the Railways have surpassed its targets for freight and passenger traffic and achieved annual growth rate of over 8% in freight and 4.5% in passenger traffic. As regards capacity expansion, over 900 kms. of new lines, 4400 kms. of gauge conversion, 1300 kms. of doubling have been completed during the same period. Further, nearly 1800 kms. of railway electrification and 24,000 kms. of track renewals have also been done. Railways have also surpassed the targets of diesel and electric loco production and of production of passenger coaches.

(e) The steps proposed to be taken by the Railways during the 11th Five Year Plan include:—

- (i) Building network capacity for handling traffic growth, including Dedicated Freight Corridors.
- (ii) Enhancing Capacity for production of rolling stock.
- (iii) Upgradation of tracks for heavy axle load movement.
- (iv) Modernisation of freight and passenger terminals.
- (v) Technology upgradation
- (vi) Reduction in unit cost of operations
- (vii) Increase in market share in freight traffic.

Wastage of Farm Products

3426. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
 SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
 SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that Global Consultant Dun and Pradstreet last year estimated that India wastes roughly 13 billion dollars worth of farms products including dairy items only because of inadequate processing and cold storage facilities as has been reported in 'The Times of India' dated February 27, 2007;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken to overcome the problem;

(d) whether his Ministry has also joined with the Ministry of Commerce for opening doors to foreign direct investment in agri-business with a view to pushing food retailing and promoting mega food parks on the lines of software technology parks in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and its impact on domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (c) According to the report of M/s. Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs. 58,000 crores occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, provisions in Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities, etc. The loss due to wastages could be reduced by a developed food processing industry, strengthening of the post-harvest infrastructure and filling the gaps in the supply chain.

A Vision 2015 on Food Processing Industries has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, which envisages, inter-alia, cluster based and demand driven farming, achieving integration of Food Processing infrastructure from farm to market, promoting a dynamic Food Processing Industry which could result in trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. Under the Vision 2015, the thrust areas identified for strategic intervention are establishing Mega Food Parks, Modernization of abattoirs, Cold-chain/value addition and preservation infrastructure, capacity building by setting up of National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), enacting Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, upgrading safety and quality of street food and establishment/upgradation of Quality Control Laboratories. Government has identified strategies alongwith a detailed action plan in this regard to realize the Vision 2015. An estimated investment of Rs. 100,000 crores is required to achieve the Vision 2015.

Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for the establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support of R and D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of Food Processing Industries. The Government has taken several steps like taxation reduction, waiver/reduction of excise duty, reduction of custom duty on specific food items with a view to encourage the growth of Food Processing Industries.

(d) and (e) The FDI Inflow in Food Processing Sector during last 3 years viz. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is Rs. 511 crores, Rs. 174 crores and Rs. 183 crores respectively.

The Ministry has proposed a new scheme of Megal Food Parks in the country which is envisaged to be a well defined agriculture/horticultural processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure

and well established supply chain. The proposed scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimize wastages and improve farmer's income. 100% FDI is already permissible in Food Processing Sector through automatic route except in food retailing, Plantation and Alcoholic beverages. The scheme is under consideration/consultation for inclusion in the XI Five Year Plan. It is tentatively envisages to support 30 Mega Food Parks, spread across the country at locations to be determined through feasibility studies, during the XI Plan period on approval of the scheme.

[Translation]

Doubling of Railway Line from Surat to Bhusawal

3427. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether work of doubling of railway line between Surat and Bhusawal has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) On this alignment, double broad gauge line already exists between Surat-Udhna and Jalgaon-Bhusawal sections. A survey for doubling of Udhana-Jalgaon section has been completed. Further decision would be taken once the results of the survey are finalised.

Revival of Kurdwadi Railway Factory

3428. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from the Central Railway for revival of Kurdwadi railway factory in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. No proposal has been received from the Central Railway in respect of Kurdwadi workshop in Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Strike by Federation of All India Petroleum Traders

3429. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : :

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

(a) whether Federation of All India Petroleum Traders have threatened to go an indefinite strike from April 28, 2007 if their five point charter of demands is not considered;

(b) if so, the details of the demands of the Federation;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to settle the issue and avoid the strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the demands of the Federation are given below:—

- (i) The dealers' margin must be fixed at 5% of invoice value.
- (ii) The MDG 2005 should be revised to incorporate the outcome of the discussions already held.
- (iii) Pending submission of the report of the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, no action should be taken against the dealers for negative stocks losses beyond the current permissible limits.
- (iv) The Industry is directed to provide the marker testing equipment to the dealers, in line with the decision conveyed to the dealers when the marker system was introduced.
- (v) Appoint an appellate authority where the dealers may make an appeal against the high handedness of the officers of oil companies.

(c) and (d) The demands of the Federation are under consideration of the Committee of Directors (Marketing) of PSU Oil Marketing Companies.

Security at Railways Stations

3430. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether many railway stations are unsafe in the country especially in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details of the railway stations where security system are proposed to be upgraded;
- (c) the other steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide adequate security at the railway stations; and
- (d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. However, some of the stations are highly sensitive and vulnerable from security point of view including Delhi Main, New Delhi, and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Stations in Delhi.

(b) 185 Railways Stations including 17 metro stations over Indian Railways have been identified as vulnerable and where security system are proposed to be upgraded.

(c) The following steps are being taken to provide adequate security at all the important railway stations:-

1. Modern security gadgets like-Close Circuit Televisions and Cameras, Deep Search Metal Detectors, Scanner Machines, etc. are being installed.
2. Sniffer Dogs are being/have been deployed for checking of Coaches, Parcels, Baggage, station area and searching of any explosive.
3. Announcements over Public Address system as well as by Mega phones by Railway Protection Force is being done round the clock to alert the public in coaches.
4. Use of Hand Held Metal Detectors and Door Frame Metal Detectors to conduct anti-sabotage checks in trains and at stations.
5. Access control has been introduced in coordination with Government Railway Police.
6. Presence of Railway Protection Force/ Government Railway Police staff at sensitive stations have been augmented.
7. Communication system of Railway Protection Force has been improved by providing Mobile phones, walkie-talkies, Very High Frequency sets etc.
8. Bullet Proof Jackets/Helmets are being provided to Railway Protection Force for safeguard.

(d) Rupees 121,63,11,640/- to be spent on vetted and sanctioned proposals during 2007-08.

[Translation]

**Special Component Plan and
Tribal Area Sub-Plan**

3431. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has taken/is likely to take any steps for preparation of proper action plan by the Central Ministries and State Governments on Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Area Sub-Plan (TAS) and for ensuring allocation of funds in proportion to percentage of population preventing diversion of funds and ensuring utilization of the amounts only as per requirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has issued guidelines and additional guidelines for formulation, implementation and monitoring of Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) (Which was earlier Known as Special Component Plan) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP to the State/UT Governments on 31.10.2005 and Central Ministries/Departments on 13.12.2006. The Salient features of these guidelines are:-

- (i) Earmarking of funds under SCSP/TSP at least in proportionate to SC/ST population.
- (ii) SCSP and TSP funds should be non divertible.
- (iii) Constitution of a dedicated nodal unit in Central Ministries/Departments and Nodal Department in States/UTs for formulation and implementation of SCSP/TSP.
- (iv) Placing the funds earmarked for SCSP/TSP under separated budget head/sub head.

(c) Does not arise.

**Construction of Hostels for Backward
Classes in M.P.**

3432. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Madhya Pradesh for the construction of hostel buildings for the students of backward classes in Reva, Sagar, Muraina and Ujjain under Kendra Parivartit Yojana; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have sanctioned Rs. 165.00 lakhs in 2005-06 and Rs. 45.00 lakhs in 2006-07 under the Scheme of Hostels for OBCs to the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh for construction of hostels at Reva, Sagar, Morena and Ujjain.

[English]

**Setting up of Defence Base in
Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

3433. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set Defence base in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

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

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in setting up of such base; and

(d) the time by which the said base is likely to start its operation?

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

(a) Government has already set up Headquarter Andaman and Nicobar Command at Andaman and Nicobar Islands in October 2001 consisting of Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Conservation of Ruins at Dealghata
in Purulia**

3434. SHRI NARHARI MAHATO : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Archaeology Survey of India has submitted any proposals for conservation and development of the famous archaeological ruins at 'Dealghata' in Purulia District, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) No, Sir. The Archaeological ruins at 'Dealghata' in Purulia District, West Bengal are not Centrally Protected.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Rajkot Airport

3435. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) sent a proposal to the Railway Authorities for acquisition of land for extension and upgradation of Rajkot Airport;

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

(c) the time likely to be taken by AAI to upgrade

and extend the Rajkot Airport after acquisition of land from Railways?

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

(b) Railways Authorities were requested to handover land admeasuring 14.7 hectares on lease for extension of runway to Airports Authority of India (AAI). Railway Authorities did not agree to it. However, the matter is being pursued with the Ministry of Railways.

(c) Upgradation works can be taken up only after the required land is obtained from Railway and after diversion of Rajkot-Jamnagar Highway by the State Government of Gujarat. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate any specific time line at this stage.

Forest and Wild Life Tourism

3436. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote forest and wild life tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the the number of proposals received by the Union Government from various State Governments for promotion of forest and wild life tourism during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken thereon and the funds allocated during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) The development and promotion of forest and wild life tourism in the country is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. The Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State/UT Governments for implementation the tourism projects, including forest and wild life tourism prioritized in consultation with them. The details of financial assistance extended to the State Governments/UTs during the last 3 years for forest and wildlife tourism are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement**State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during Last Three Years**

(Rs. in lakh)

| S. No. | State/UT | Name of the Project | Year of Sanction | Amount Sanctioned |
|--------|-------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | Eco Tourist Huts at Changlong | 2004-05 | 83.29 |
| | | Circuit Development of Dibrugarh-Pasi Ghat-Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary | 2005-06 | 299.00 |
| 2. | Assam | Development of Kaziranga national Park | 2005-06 | 44.95 |
| 3. | Jharkhand | Construction of Betla Jungle huts as a part of integrated development of Tourist Circuit Ranchi-Netrahat-Betla-Ranchi Circuit | 2005-06 | 115.08 |
| 4. | Karnataka | Destination Development of Bandipur | 2004-05 | 195.70 |
| | | Development of amenities at Dubare Elephant Camp | 2004-05 | 113.00 |
| 5. | Orissa | Development of Simlipal in Mayaurbhanj Distt. As Tourist Destination | 2006-07 | 297.12 |
| | | Integrated Development of Koraput Circuit-Koraput-Deomali-Jeypore-Upper Kolab-Gupteshwar | 2006-07 | 692.00 |
| | | Development of Satkosia as a Tourist Destination | 2006-07 | 424.50 |
| | | Development of Eco-Tourism at Bhitarkanika | 2006-07 | 383.22 |
| 6. | Tamil Nadu | Development of Eco-tourism at Point Calimer Wild Life Sanctuary, Muthupet | 2004-05 | 368.00 |
| 7. | Uttar Pradesh | Infrastructure and Destination in Dudhwa National Park in District Kheri under Dudhwa-Katernia Ghat Tourist Circuit | 2005-06 | 312.60 |
| | | Development of Mirzapur-Chunar-Robertsganj under Vindhya Tourist Circuit | 2005-06 | 800.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|-------------|---|---------|---------|
| | | Development of Katarniaghat wildlife sanctuary in Behraich District under Dudhwa-Katarniaghat Tourist Circuit | 2005-06 | 105.00 |
| 8. | West Bengal | Setting up of a Night Safari Park at Jorepokhari in Darjeeling | 2006-07 | 15.00 |
| | | Development of Eastern Dooars Circuit (Jaladapara WLS-Rajabhatkhawa-Jayanti-Buxaduar-Hotipoda) | 2006-07 | 683.58 |
| Total | | | | 4932.04 |

CNG Filling Stations

3437. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has identified twelve cities and directed the Government to supply CNG in these cities to reduce pollution;

(b) if so, the cities which have been identified by the Supreme Court;

(c) whether Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has also identified some areas apart from the above twelve cities, for supplying CNG;

(d) if so, the details of cities that have been identified by GAIL in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the extent to which the Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines help in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has

identified 17 cities for development of city gas projects, based on the pollution level. Out of these, city gas projects have been implemented in Delhi and Mumbai. In two more cities – Jharia and Jodhpur – pollution is not because of vehicular pollution. Therefore, the remaining 13 cities, as given below, have been taken for development of city gas distribution based on the pollution level.

1. Agra
2. Lucknow
3. Kanpur
4. Varanasi
5. Pune
6. Faridabad
7. Patna
8. Ahmedabad
9. Sholapur
10. Hyderabad
11. Bangalore

12. Kolkata
13. Chennai

(c) and (d) GAIL has identified the following cities in vicinity of existing pipeline infrastructure/proposed upcoming pipelines as business fit case, including in the State of Andhra Pradesh, are as under:-

- (1) Allahabad
- (2) Bareilly
- (3) Jhansi
- (4) Mathura
- (5) NOIDA
- (6) Navi Mumbai
- (7) Gwalior
- (8) Indore
- (9) Ujjain
- (10) Rajamundry
- (11) Vijayawada
- (12) Rajkot
- (13) Surendranagar
- (14) Kota
- (15) Vadodara

(e) Government of India has enacted the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City Natural Gas Distribution Network' to provide a legal framework for development of infrastructure and for attracting investment in the sector. Development of city gas project depends on availability of gas, infrastructure and commercial viability.

[Translation]

**Modern Technology for Oil
and Gas Exploration**

3438. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

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

(a) whether oil and natural gas is not being explored by making use of modern and upgraded technology;

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

(c) the names of technologies used in the exploration of oil and natural gas during the last two years;

(d) the benefits accrued from these technologies;

(e) whether the oil public sector undertakings have entered into trade agreement with foreign companies to import of State of Art technology for exploration and production of oil and gas.

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

(g) the criteria fixed for distribution of profits under the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Private and multinational companies including National Oil Companies (NOCs) are using latest state-of-the-art technology for exploration and production (E and P) of oil and gas. Use of these technologies has resulted in some big discoveries in recent years.

(c) Exploration of oil and natural gas is being carried out in India with modern technology such as 3D/3C seismic survey, Q marine survey, multilateral Horizontal well, intelligent well completion, high technology drilling etc.

(d) These technologies benefits in term of better

reservoir modeling, better performance in drilling operation and increased production from horizontal and multilateral wells, reduction in the cost of exploration.

(e) to (g) Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have not entered into trade agreement with foreign companies for state-of-the-art technologies. However, the technologies identified are being inducted through work association/contractual services or through outright purchase, a latest high-end technology products in E and P business belong to a very specialized domain and are mostly proprietary items of various service providers.

[English]

Incredible India Campaign

3439. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI MILIND DEORA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Incredible India' campaign has been launched for the promotion of tourism in the country;

(b) the total amount incurred for this campaign during the financial year 2006-07; and

(c) the achievement made therefrom during each of the last three years including current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 121 crore had been incurred in 2006-07 in regard to Incredible India Campaigns both in the domestic and overseas markets.

(c) There has been a remarkable growth in recent years in regard to domestic tourist visits, foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings through tourism to the country. As per the figures available, there has been an overall increase of 26.35% in domestic tourist visits between 2003 (309038335) and 2005 (390466880). The foreign tourist arrivals have increased by about 65% from a level of 2.38 million in 2002 to 3.92 million in 2005, while

foreign exchange earnings have grown up by about 96% during the same period. In the year 2006, the foreign tourist arrivals have increased to 4.43 million registering an increase of 14.2% compared to the previous year.

The Incredible India campaigns have won worldwide acclaim.

Promotion of Tourism in Tribal Areas of North Eastern States and Sikkim

3440. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the plans of the Union Government for promoting tourism in the country especially in the 11th plan;

(b) the amount provided to the each State Government for the purpose during the last three years;

(c) the amount out of the said amount provided for promoting tourism in tribal areas and North-Eastern States including Sikkim; and

(d) the names of tribal areas of West Bengal and North-East States and the amount provided for development of tourism in such areas during above period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) To promote tourism in the country, Ministry of Tourism has adopted a strategy to position tourism as a major engine of economic growth and as a national priority through creation of world class tourist infrastructure. In addition, the Ministry has drawn up and adopted a focused marketing and promotional plan and also plans for quality human resource development for hospitality sector.

(b) to (d) The amounts sanctioned and released to State Governments/Union Territories for the purpose during the last three years including for promoting tourism in tribal areas of North-Eastern States and West Bengal are given in the enclosed statement. During the last three

years Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 326.92 crore and released Rs. 257.39 crore to the North-Eastern States including Sikkim for promoting tourism in these areas

including tribal areas. Ministry of Tourism has also sanctioned Rs. 44.81 crore and released Rs. 34.01 crore for promoting tourism in West Bengal including tribal areas.

Statement

State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the Last Three Years of Tenth Five Year Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

| S. No. | State/UT | 2004-05 | | | 2005-06 | | | 2006-07 | | |
|--------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | | No. of Projects Sancd. | Amount Sancd. | Amount Released | No. of Projects Sancd. | Amount Sancd. | Amount Released | No. of Projects Sancd. | Amount Sancd. | Amount Released |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 16 | 2827.19 | 2240.68 | 7 | 2615.82 | 1700.00 | 3 | 1540.56 | 1195.44 |
| 2. | Assam | 8 | 986.03 | 766.22 | 10 | 2140.00 | 1698.45 | 9 | 2453.39 | 1813.21 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 9 | 1325.50 | 927.96 | 10 | 2240.16 | 1655.21 | 12 | 1887.80 | 1497.24 |
| 4. | Bihar | 7 | 1901.43 | 1527.71 | 3 | 1212.23 | 722.49 | 2 | 1937.29 | 974.59 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 6 | 1117.94 | 897.93 | 7 | 1775.59 | 1436.54 | 16 | 3540.17 | 2491.12 |
| 6. | Goa | 3 | 110.00 | 38.00 | 1 | 10.00 | 8.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 2 | 138.93 | 111.14 | 5 | 2011.58 | 1169.04 | 7 | 443.65 | 359.51 |
| 8. | Haryana | 6 | 693.55 | 513.64 | 7 | 639.71 | 515.77 | 5 | 1836.16 | 902.39 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 12 | 2680.00 | 2161.00 | 6 | 1645.00 | 921.00 | 8 | 1871.00 | 1226.13 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 5 | 819.25 | 699.04 | 22 | 6656.01 | 5320.31 | 29 | 5233.82 | 3392.90 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 2 | 945.91 | 756.72 | 5 | 1227.27 | 697.76 | 3 | 956.35 | 769.99 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 12 | 2461.76 | 1937.37 | 8 | 1706.52 | 1001.21 | 4 | 1323.89 | 1081.81 |
| 13. | Kerala | 10 | 2283.63 | 1820.33 | 13 | 4858.88 | 3889.90 | 18 | 4474.02 | 3441.61 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 11 | 1595.19 | 942.21 | 12 | 3047.39 | 2419.54 | 10 | 3668.47 | 2797.75 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 15. Maharashtra | | 10 | 1620.62 | 925.30 | 9 | 2075.04 | 1662.99 | 13 | 2839.05 | 2271.98 |
| 16. Manipur | | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2 | 49.80 | 39.84 | 9 | 939.35 | 647.48 |
| 17. Meghalaya | | 2 | 963.30 | 807.91 | 1 | 5.00 | 4.00 | 9 | 1435.29 | 1147.93 |
| 18. Mizoram | | 6 | 1086.35 | 382.38 | 10 | 2273.41 | 1687.29 | 9 | 2613.38 | 2040.80 |
| 19. Nagaland | | 7 | 2250.69 | 1413.40 | 9 | 2528.97 | 1873.17 | 8 | 2340.32 | 1862.51 |
| 20. Orissa | | 8 | 1320.74 | 1059.38 | 10 | 2309.61 | 1586.44 | 13 | 2826.84 | 1974.66 |
| 21. Punjab | | 7 | 724.68 | 581.47 | 5 | 1437.67 | 1150.13 | 13 | 3223.37 | 1968.68 |
| 22. Rajasthan | | 13 | 2516.61 | 1375.07 | 7 | 2591.87 | 2086.40 | 8 | 953.84 | 763.06 |
| 23. Sikkim | | 8 | 660.81 | 531.33 | 14 | 2844.56 | 2213.74 | 13 | 2609.42 | 1647.77 |
| 24. Tamil Nadu | | 7 | 1308.92 | 705.83 | 19 | 4264.62 | 3007.68 | 11 | 1866.41 | 1496.87 |
| 25. Tripura | | 1 | 20.00 | 16.00 | 3 | 716.26 | 569.43 | 4 | 291.27 | 96.01 |
| 26. Uttaranchal | | 7 | 2199.98 | 1750.73 | 13 | 2738.00 | 2193.18 | 16 | 1907.50 | 1434.34 |
| 27. Uttar Pradesh | | 9 | 1044.93 | 831.19 | 18 | 3905.23 | 3126.03 | 7 | 3329.06 | 2663.24 |
| 28. West Bengal | | 10 | 513.04 | 407.43 | 5 | 989.35 | 792.48 | 10 | 2978.32 | 2195.35 |
| 29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands | | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1 | 6.25 | 5.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 30. Chandigarh | | 3 | 467.00 | 373.60 | 1 | 13.70 | 13.70 | 2 | 15.00 | 14.00 |
| 31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli | | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2 | 29.79 | 25.92 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 32. Delhi | | 8 | 628.85 | 511.00 | 2 | 20.00 | 17.00 | 5 | 2400.09 | 1209.54 |
| 33. Daman and Diu | | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4 | 262.28 | 208.61 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 34. Lakshadweep | | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7.00 | 5.60 |
| 35. Pondicherry | | 2 | 451.00 | 360.00 | 2 | 469.39 | 375.51 | 1 | 500.00 | 400.00 |
| Total | | 217 | 37663.83 | 27371.97 | 253 | 61316.96 | 45793.76 | 278 | 64242.08 | 45783.51 |

Note:— This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Projects, Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) Projects, IT, Event, Fair and Festivals Projects.

Doubling and Electrification of Rail Lines

3441. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether work on doubling and electrification of Guntur to Tenali and Nallapadu to Pagadipalli has not yet been started;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) A survey for doubling of Nallapadu-Pagidipalli-Bibinagar line was completed in 1998-99. As per the survey, the cost of doubling of this 243 Kms long line was assessed at Rs. 340.37 crore with a rate of return of 0.973%. In view of non-remunerative nature of the project, heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it was not found feasible to consider the proposal.

Electrification of various sections of Indian Railways are taken up after appraisal of the financial and operational viability of the section under consideration and also duly considering the priority of the section in terms of traffic handled.

At present, the section between Nallapadu-Pagidipalli has not been considered for electrification for reasons stated above.

Doubling/Electrification of Guntur-Tenali section is also presently not under consideration.

Vegetarian Zone in Flights

3442. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has emphasized to have a separate vegetarian zone on the lines of No-Smoking Zone in the flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation in this regard; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The representation was considered and it was not found feasible to demarcate vegetarian and non-vegetarian zones.

[Translation]

Separate Cadre for DGH

3443. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL : SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3418 on August 24, 2006 regarding 'Separate Cadre for Director General of Hydrocarbons' and state :

(a) whether the Government has taken decision to create a separate cadre for the Director General of Hydrocarbons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (d) No decision has been taken to create a separate cadre for the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons.

[English]

**Incident of Chopper Crash in
Himachal Pradesh**

3444. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the probe into a recent chopper crash in Himachal Pradesh has revealed a shocking lapse as reported in the 'Times of India' on March 31, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the pilots are compelled to fly seven to eight hours a day without lunch or bathroom break;

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Director-General of Civil Aviation for safety to helicopter operators; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against these operators who ignore the instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No helicopter accident has been reported recently in Himachal Pradesh. However one accident involving a foreign registered helicopter was reported in Gund Valley near Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir) on 16.03.2007. There were no fatal injuries to any one on board.

(b) and (c) For the flight duty time of helicopter pilots, Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) Section 7, Series J, Part II dated 14.02.2000 exists according to which pilots can fly 7 hours in a day with duty time period of 10 hours. In the said car no condition restricting lunch or bathroom break exists.

(d) No such violation has been reported to DGCA. Suitable action against operators defying safety instructions is taken if any such lapses are pointed out in the investigation reports.

**National Commission for Scheduled Castes'
Report on Dalit Atrocities**

3445. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the

Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes has submitted any report on the atrocities committed against dalits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the Report?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Promotion of Tourism

3446. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's share in international tourism is only half per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Yes, Sir. India's share in global tourist arrivals during the year 2006 was 0.53%

(b) The main reasons for less number of tourists visiting India are lack of adequate tourism infrastructure such as shortage of hotel accommodation and high hotel tariffs, deficiencies in infrastructure such as airports, roads,

railways, etc., multiplicity and high level of taxation, restricted land use policies for hotel projects, lack of easy facility of entry of international tourists to India, shortage of air seat capacity, high air fares, etc.

(c) The steps being taken by the Government to boost the share of India in global tourism include:—

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

[English]

Scheme for Conservation of Historical Monuments

3447. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for documentation, conservation and protection of national monuments which are not protected by Archaeological Survey of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Government has set up a National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities for documentation of built heritage antiquities. The Mission also envisages conservation of selected unprotected monuments.

(b) The scope of the National Mission includes:—

1. Preparation of a National Register of Built Heritage, Sites and Antiquities.
2. Setting up State Level data bases on built heritage, sites and antiquarian wealth.
3. Promotion of awareness programme on heritage conservation.
4. Training and upgradation of skills of State Archaeology Departments, NGO's and Museum staff, and
5. Conservation of selected unprotected monuments.

Coach Maintenance Workshop at Nemom

3448. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have drawn up a

proposal to establish a Coach maintenance workshop at Nemom in the available land there; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the project?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Incorrect Feeding of Distances in Fare Systems

3449. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have suffered a financial loss due to incorrect feeding of distances in the fare systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total loss suffered during each of the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways against the responsible authorities in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rationalization of Taxes

3450. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has withdrawn expenditure tax on hotels;

(b) if so, whether the Government requested the States to rationalize taxes on hotels levied by States;

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

(d) the extent to which tourism both foreign and

domestic has been increased in the country after the withdrawal of such taxes in various States?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter regarding rationalization of taxes by the State Governments/Union Territories on hotels and other tourism industry was discussed in the State Tourism Ministers Conference held on 4th and 5th March, 2005 in New Delhi. It was recognized that Tourism is a major driver of economic growth and employment generator. It was therefore passed in the Resolution that the States would work towards rationality and uniformity of taxes so as to make their destinations competitive. It was agreed that this would lead to increase in tourist arrivals and generate higher revenues. The States were requested to explore the possibility of drawing up a model uniform taxation regime in each zone. No concrete response has been received from the State Governments.

(d) There has been a growth of 13.0% in foreign and 18.9% in domestic tourists in 2006 as compared to 2005.

[Translation]

Ethanol Blended Petrol

3451. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH :

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

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision in September, 2006 to sell petrol mixed with 5% ethanol in the whole country barring certain states;

(b) if so, the details of the states where this mixed petrol is being sold alongwith the details of the oil companies selling it;

(c) the average monthly consumption of ethanol mixed petrol, State-wise;

(d) whether some problem are being faced in selling ethanol blended petrol; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/ being take to resolve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ethanol blended petrol supplies have commenced in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Uttaranchal, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra (partially) and Andhra Pradesh (partially) by the public sector Oil Marketing Companies viz. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. Due to shortage of spirit, the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has been kept in abeyance in Tamil Nadu. In Bihar and Jharkhand the tenders have been finalised for supply of ethanol for the period upto March, 2007. However, due to shortage of ethanol, State Government of Bihar has imposed embargo on ethanol supply to Oil Marketing Companies and hence EBP programme could not be implemented in the States.

(c) Average monthly consumption of petrol/ethanol blended petrol in the notified States/United territories is given in the statement attached.

(d) and (e) The EBO programme could not be implemented in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa due to levy of high taxes/duties by the State Governments. The state Government of West Bengal and Kerala are yet to notify the applicable taxes/levies on ethanol meant for doping with petrol.

The matter has been taken up with the concerned State Governments to co-operate in the implementation of EBP programme by reducing the duties etc. on ethanol meant for doping with petrol.

Statement

| S. No. | State | Average monthly consumption of petrol/ethanol-blended petrol in MTs |
|-----------------------|------------------|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 17055 |
| 2. | Bihar | 3863 |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | 3524 |
| 4. | Delhi | 21502 |
| 5. | Goa | 1132 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 18850 |
| 7. | Haryana | 11708 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 2591 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 4387 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 18554 |
| 11. | Kerala | 13760 |
| 12. | Maharashtra | 27382 |
| 13. | Madhya pradesh | 11022 |
| 14. | Orissa | 5317 |
| 15. | Punjab | 13099 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 11174 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 23668 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 23886 |
| 19. | Uttaranchal | 3085 |
| 20. | West Bengal | 6954 |
| Total qty. for States | | 242513 |

| S. No. | Union Territories | Average monthly consumption of petrol/ethanol-blended petrol in MTs |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Chandigarh | 1743 |
| 2. | Daman and Diu | 356 |
| 3. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 315 |
| 4. | Pondicherry | 1902 |
| Total for Union Territories | | 4316 |

[English]

Manufacturing of Indigenous Scorpene Submarines

3452. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the manufacturing of indigenous scorpene submarines has inordinarily been delayed;

(b) if so, whether even steel cutting for the scorpene project is not taking place;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the infrastructure at Mazgaon Docks Limited has been upgraded;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJEET SINGH) : (a) to (f) The manufacturing of indigenous Scorpene submarines has not been delayed. The production commenced for the first submarine of the Scorpene Project with the first cutting of steel on 14th December, 2006 as scheduled. The infrastructure at Mazagon Dock Limited has been

upgraded in many areas and additional facilities are being procured in a phased manner as required.

Regional Airline Market of Pawan Hans

3453. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pawan Hans proposes to enter the regional airline market;

(b) if so, the details of the fleet proposed to the made available for the purposes;

(c) the destinations proposed to be covered; and

(d) the proposed capacity of aircraft to be introduced?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Terrorism in Indian Ocean Region

3454. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR :

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Navy Chief Admiral has stated that the Indian Ocean region had become the de facto home of global terrorism;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken at a multi-lateral level for tackling this problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY) : (a) to (c) During a seminar on "Freedom of the Seas", the Chief of the Naval Staff had expressed his concern over acts of piracy and terrorism affecting the maritime

environment in the Indian Ocean. The Indian Navy frequently conducts 'Presence and Surveillance' missions. Aircraft surveillance sorties and ship patrols are carried out at frequent intervals by Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard in close coordination with each other. Cooperation and constructive engagement with India's maritime neighbours is also maintained to curb terrorism across the ocean.

Re-Classification of Dalit Muslims

3455. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL :

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal before the government to reclassify Dalit Muslims and bring them under the fold of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether M.A.A. Fatmi Committee has made any recommendation to this effect;

(d) if so, the details of recommendations made by Fatmi Committee; and

(e) the manner in which the Government is planning to accommodate Dalit Muslims under SCs category?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a), (b) and (e) One of the terms of reference of the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) relates to the issues raised in Writ Petition 180/04 and 94/05 filed in the Supreme Court and in certain High Courts relating to para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the modalities of inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion of Indore-Khandwa Railway Line

3456. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to convert Indore-Khandwa railway line via. Pithampur into broad gauge is pending;

(b) whether this line is likely to be connected with Indore-Dewas-Ujjain broad gauge line, which is likely to boost tourism apart from facilitating transportation of goods;

(c) whether it is proposed to use the same technology for the Ghats falling between Indore-Khandwa broad gauge rail line as was used in Jammu and Kashmir and Konkan railway; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Updating survey for gauge conversion of Ratlam-Indore-Khandwa-Akola including Fatehabad Chandravatiganj-Ujjain branch line has been taken up. This project is not yet sanctioned.

(b) Once gauge conversion of Indore-Akola is done, broad gauge connection would be available with Dewas-Ujjain.

(c) and (d) This will be decided once the work is taken up.

[English]

Incentives to Corporate Sector

3457. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has evolved any scheme to offer to set of incentives to corporate sectors to promote "affirmative action" in private sector jobs;

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

(c) the details of big industrial and business houses come forward to adopt "affirmative action" to secure due representation of the reserved categories in the matter of appointments and job opportunities?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In May 2005, 21 captains of industry had issued a statement welcoming the move of the Government to have a dialogue with the industry on affirmative action. They had committed to expand their activities for disadvantaged persons with regard to scholarships, company-run private schools, partnership with government schools, vocational training in-house as well as in partnership with ITIs, venter development programmes etc. The signatories are: Ms. Anu Aga-Chairman of Thermax Group of Companies; Mr. Rahul Bajaj-Bajaj Group of Companies; Mr. Kumara Mangalam Birla-Chairman, Aditya Birla Group; Mr. Tarun Das-Ex Chairman, CII; Mr. Naushad Forbes-Director, Forbes Marshall India; Mr. A.S. Ganguly-Former Chairmn of Hindustan Lever and Member of Investment Commission; Mr. Jamshyd N. Godrej-MD, Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited; Mr. F.T. Khorakiwala-CEO of SWITZ Group of Companies; Mr. H.F. Khorakiwala-CMD, Wockhardt Limited; Mr. Suresh Krishna-Chairman-TVS Group; Mr. Keshub Mahendra-CMD, Mahindra and Mahindra; Dr. A.C. Muthiah-Chairman, First Leasing Company of India Limited; Mr. Sunil Kant Munjal-Ex Chairman, CII; Mr. B. Muthuraman-MD, Tata Steel; Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy-Infosys; Mr. Deepak Parekh-Head of HDFC Bank; Mr. Azim Premji-CEO, Wipro; Mr. S. Ramadorai-CEO, Tata Consultancy Services; Mr. Gurpreet Singh-MD, Continental Devices; Mr. R.N. Tata-Chairman, Tata Sons Limited; and Mr. Gautam Thapar-Chairman, Crompton Greaves Limited.

Countalam Falls

3458. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether several lakh of tourists visit Countalam falls in Tenkasi (Tamil Nadu);

(b) if so, number of domestic/foreign tourists who have visited Countalam during each of the last three years; and

(c) the financial assistance provided/proposed to be provided to Government of Tamil Nadu to popularise Countalam?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of domestic and foreign tourist visits to Countalam Falls during 2004, 2005 and 2006 are as under:—

| Year | Tourist Visits | |
|------|----------------|---------|
| | Domestic | Foreign |
| 2004 | 475400 | 2480 |
| 2005 | 531247 | 2746 |
| 2006 | 639683 | 3145 |

(c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Circuits/Destinations and Assistance to Large revenue generating Projects.

Projects proposals for prioritized circuits/destinations, that are complete in all respect, are examined as per guidelines and approved on the basis of inter-se priority

and funds released subject to availability under respective head. So far, no financial assistance has been given to Government of Tamil Nadu to popularize Countallam.

Pilgrimage Tourism

3459. DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide Grant-in-Aid to States to encourage pilgrimage tourism in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of such grants provided during the last three years; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories for the projects for development of destinations and circuits including pilgrim places prioritized in consultation with them.

(b) The details of the Central Financial Assistance provided to the State Governments/Union Territories during the last three years for development of pilgrim places in the country are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise Details of Projects Sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism During the Last Three Years of the 10th Five Year Plan for Development of Pilgrimage Places

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| S. No. | State/UT | Year | Project | Amount | Amount |
|--------|-------------------|---------|---|--------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2004-05 | Integrated development of tourism circuit Hyderabad-Nalgonda-Khammam | 797.47 | 637.98 |
| | | 2004-05 | Development of Puttaparthi, Ananthpur District as a Rural Tourism Destination | 49.50 | 49.50 |
| | | 2004-05 | Development of Bhadarchalam as tourist destination, Khammam | 434.50 | 434.50 |
| | | 2004-05 | Integrated Development of Kurnool Tourism Circuit | 800.00 | 640.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2006-07 | Construction of tourist complex at Parshuram Kund | 462.68 | 370.15 |
| 3. | Assam | 2006-07 | Development of Kamakhya and Satellite Pilgrimage township of Hajo | 436.54 | 218.27 |
| 4. | Bihar | 2004-05 | Construction of Tourist Complex at Vishnu Ghar at Gaya | 271.06 | 216.84 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|-------------------|---------|---|---------|--------|
| | | 2004-05 | Construction of Tourist Complex at Maner Sharif, Patna | 500.00 | 400.00 |
| | | 2005-06 | Development of Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda | 768.12 | 614.50 |
| | | 2005-06 | Integrated Development of Kanwaria Route Circuit from Sultanganj to Deoghar | 443.12 | 354.49 |
| | | 2006-07 | Development of tourist circuit Bodhgaya-Rajgir-Nalanda (Mega Project) | 1922.42 | 961.21 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 2006-07 | Development of Chitrakote | 278.45 | 222.76 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 2004-05 | Renovation and Development of vicinity of Sun Temple at Modhera | 118.93 | 95.14 |
| | | 2006-07 | Integrated development of tourist circuit on Junagadh-Veraval-Porbandar-Dwarka | 329.83 | 263.86 |
| 7. | Haryana | 2006-07 | Integrated Development of Panipat-Kurkushetra-Pinjore Circuit as Mega Project | 1630.03 | 735.49 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 2006-07 | Integrated Development of Pilgrim Circuit | 780.00 | 349.33 |
| 9. | Jammu and Karhmir | 2005-06 | Establishment of temporary camps/other facilities at Shri Amamathji | 700.00 | 560.00 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 2004-05 | Development of Tirthankar-Bodhisatwa circuit | 494.57 | 393.33 |
| | | 2005-06 | Development of Deoghar | 417.57 | 334.05 |
| 11. | Kerala | 2005-06 | Integrated Development of pilgrimage tourist circuit | 704.45 | 563.56 |
| | | 2005-06 | Destination development of Thekkinkadu Maidan, Thrissur | 489.00 | 391.20 |
| | | 2005-06 | Destination development of Elephant park at Punnathur Kotta, Guruvayur, District Thrissur | 349.50 | 279.60 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--------------------|---------|---|--------|--------|---|
| 12. Madhya Pradesh | 2004-05 | Development of Omkareshwar | 327.79 | 262.23 | |
| | 2004-05 | Development of Simhastha at Ujjain | 110.66 | 110.66 | |
| | 2004-05 | Development of Maheswar | 136.00 | 108.80 | |
| | 2004-05 | Destination Development of Amarkantaka | 489.60 | 391.68 | |
| | 2006-07 | Development of Maihar | 296.79 | 237.40 | |
| | 2006-07 | Development of Narmada Parikorama circuit (Part-II) | 774.99 | 620.00 | |
| | 2006-07 | Development of Narmada Parikrama circuit (Part-I) | 665.00 | 532.00 | |
| 13. Orissa | 2004-05 | Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi | 740.67 | 592.52 | |
| | 2004-05 | Development of Peace park and Amphitheatre at Dhauli | 488.51 | 384.91 | |
| | 2005-06 | Development of Sakshi Gopal in Puri | 460.96 | 368.76 | |
| | 2005-06 | Integrated Development of Bhubneshwar-Dhauli-Puri-Konark Tourist Circuit | 720.09 | 576.07 | |
| 14. Punjab | 2005-06 | Integrated Development of Amritsar | 482.00 | 386.24 | |
| | 2006-07 | Integrated Development of Pilgrim circuit | 800.00 | 640.00 | |
| 15. Rajasthan | 2005-06 | Development of Braj Bhoomi religious tourism circuit | 477.07 | 381.65 | |
| | 2005-06 | Integrated Development of Pushkar | 434.04 | 347.23 | |
| | 2005-06 | Integrated Development of Mewar-Vagad Circuit comprising of places Udaipur-Rajsamand Chittoregarh-Banswara-Doongerpur Districts | 580.00 | 464.00 | |
| 16. Sikkim | 2004-05 | Development of Buddhist Circuit at Tashigding, in West Sikkim | 181.00 | 144.80 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----------------|---|---------|---|--------|--------|
| | | 2006-07 | Integrated Development of Pilgrimage Tourism and other infrastructure at Siang in East Sikkim | 375.55 | 300.40 |
| 17. Tamil Nadu | | 2005-06 | National Pilgrim Festival at Rameswaram | 5.00 | 4.50 |
| | | 2005-06 | Development of Adi Sankara tourist circuit | 443.00 | 354.40 |
| | | 2005-06 | Integrated Development of Arupadai Veedugal tourist circuit | 798.97 | 639.17 |
| | | 2005-06 | Destination development of Tiruvanamalai | 459.45 | 367.56 |
| | | 2005-06 | Chozhanattu Thirupathigal tourist circuit | 500.00 | 400.00 |
| | | 2005-06 | Development of Rural tourism at Thiruppudaimaurthur, Distt. Tirunelveli | 49.55 | 39.64 |
| | | 2005-06 | Jain Theertha kshetras circuit | 192.00 | 48.00 |
| | | 2006-07 | Celebration of National Pilgrim Festival-2007 | 5.00 | 4.00 |
| | | 2006-07 | Development of Madurai | 487.03 | 382.42 |
| | | 2006-07 | Development of Chennai-Kancheepuram-Thirukazhukundram-Mamallapuram tourist circuit | 452.78 | 362.22 |
| 18. Tripura | | 2006-07 | Development of Chaturdesh Devetabari | 274.00 | 82.20 |
| 19. Uttaranchal | | 2004-05 | Integrated Development of Badrinath Dham | 702.09 | 561.67 |
| | | 2005-06 | Integrated Development of Hemkund Sahbi | 653.54 | 522.83 |
| | | 2005-06 | Development of Kedarnath | 453.13 | 362.50 |
| | | 2005-06 | Development of Gangotri | 481.42 | 385.13 |
| | | 2006-07 | Development of Yamunotri Dham | 448.99 | 359.19 |
| | | 2006-07 | Integrated Development of Binsar-Bajjnath-Bageshwar | 728.54 | 582.83 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------------------|---|---------|---|--------|--------|
| | | 2006-07 | Development of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Route and improving Camping sites and facilities | 371.15 | 200.32 |
| 20. Uttar Pradesh | | 2004-05 | Renovation of Radha kund and Shyma Kund in Mathura | 145.35 | 116.28 |
| | | 2004-05 | Development of Ma Shakumbhari Devi Temple, Baba Haridas Mandir, and Qutab Alam Dargah at Gangoh in Saharanpur | 49.28 | 40.00 |
| | | 2004-05 | Extension and Development of Assi Ghat at Varanasi | 464.78 | 362.00 |
| | | 2004-05 | Renovation and Beautification of Kusum Sarovar at Govardhan, Mathura | 100.77 | 80.66 |
| | | 2005-06 | Beautification of Kalivahan Temple at Etawah | 46.90 | 37.52 |
| | | 2005-06 | Development of Ghuisaranath Dham, Pratapgarh | 258.09 | 206.47 |
| | | 2005-06 | Development of Garhmukteshwar-Brij Ghat | 256.80 | 205.44 |
| | | 2005-06 | Renovation and Beautification of Chhatris of Goverdhan in Mathura | 58.60 | 46.88 |
| | | 2006-07 | Development of Brij Chaurasi Kos Parikrama Tourist circuit | 441.53 | 353.22 |
| | | 2006-07 | Revitalization of Varanasi as a special tourist destination | 786.00 | 628.80 |
| | | 2006-07 | Integrated Development of Mahabharat Tourist circuit | 445.63 | 356.50 |
| | | 2006-07 | Development of various places at Aligarh District | 497.04 | 397.63 |
| 21. West Bengal | | 2005-06 | Kalighat Re-Development project | 500.00 | 400.00 |

Training to Graduates

3460. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO :
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India (AI) proposes to train science graduates abroad for pilots?

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

(c) the name of the country in which the proposed training would be given;

(d) the expenditure involved in giving training abroad;

(e) whether there is any stipulation that trained graduates will serve AI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Considering the expansion plans of Air India and Air India Express, it is estimated that Air India requires a strength of about 1500 pilots by the time all the aircraft are inducted into the fleet. Air India has proposed to take Science/ Engineering graduates as cadet pilots. Under this scheme, Science and Engineering graduates who have passed in first class will be recruited as cadet pilots after they successfully go through the written test/Interview/ psychometric/Pilot Aptitude test/Class-I medical.

(c) The process of selection of Training Institute is in progress.

(d) The cadet pilot will have to arrange their own finance/avail study loan for their flying training. The cost of obtaining a Commercial Pilot Licence would be approximately Rs. 20 Lacs.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. These candidates will be required to sign a contract to serve the company for a minimum period of 7 years.

[Translation]

Business to Indian Oil Companies

3461. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

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

(a) whether Indian Oil Companies are in great demand in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the number of countries with which agreements have been signed for setting up oil refineries;

(c) whether any foreign investments have been/are being made with the help of the Indian Oil Companies in the country; and

(d) if so, the number and total value of deals finalized by the Public Sector Oil Companies during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Government of Edo State, Nigeria signed a memorandum of understanding on 10.9.2004 for setting up a grass-root oil refinery in Edo state. IOCL has also executed a memorandum of understanding with Calik Enerji, Turkey for setting up a 15 MMTPA grass-root refinery at Ceyhan, Turkey in November, 2005.

(c) and (d) During the current year, IOCL, HPCL, GAIL and GSPC are participating in two domestic upstream projects under NELP-VI round with Petrogas of Oman as the operator with 20% participating interest being held by each of them.

[English]

Revival of HCL and BPCL

3462. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL) and Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd. (BPCL) have turned sick and referred to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for their revival;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the sickness of the respective PSUs; and

(d) the current status of their revival proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :

(a) Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL) is sick and is under reference to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). A proposal for its revival is under consideration of Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE).

Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited (BPCL) was sick and was referred to BRPSE in 2005. The Government, on the basis of the recommendation of BRPSE, sanctioned the revival plan. BPCL was discharged from the purview of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act by BIFR on 06.02.2007 and is now no longer a sick company.

(b) to (d) The proposal for future of HCL was submitted to BRPSE on 07.11.2005, which came up for consideration on 11.09.2006. BRPSE recommended that a further holistic study of HCL, unit wise and company as a whole, should be commissioned through IIT, Kharagpur. IIT, Kharagpur has been entrusted the study on 17th January 2007 accordingly with the request to submit its report within four months. Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL) became sick, inter-alia, because there was sharp drop in demand for

its main product i.e. Poly Insulated Jelly Filled (PIJF) Cables due to technological changes. Also the cost of production of one unit of PIJF Cables by HCL is presently more than the price offered by BSNL/MTNL, the main customer of the product.

Petroleum Institute in Assam

3463. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil India Ltd. had conducted a meeting with the representatives of All Assam Students Union (AASU) in the last part of 2006.

(b) if so, the purpose of the meeting alongwith outcome thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a Petroleum Institute in Assam by Oil India Limited in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS. (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The issues related to Assam Gas Cracker Project and Seismic Survey of Brahmaputra river bed were discussed in this meeting.

(c) and (d) There is no firm proposal to set up a Petroleum Institute in Assam.

[Translation]

Benefits of Reservation to Creamy Layer of Backward Classes

3464. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted any Commission to widen the scope of creamy layer for giving the benefit of reservation to backward classes in each State of the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has been recommended in Narendra Commission Report recently that the annual income limit of creamy layer may be increased from Rs. 1.5 lacs to Rs. 3 lacs in each State of the country especially in Kerala;

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

(e) the total number of creamy layer and beneficiaries of backward classes in each State of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) to (d) No such Commission has been constituted by the Central Government and as such the question of taking action on its recommendations does not arise.

(e) There is no separate enumeration for OBCs including creamy layer in the Census.

[English]

SCs/STs/OBCs and Physically Handicapped Employed by Corporates

3465. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study is being carried out to ascertain the number of SCs/STs/OBCs and physically handicapped employed by the Corporates within these companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for provision of jobs to the physically handicapped persons in the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) No study is being carried out by the Government to ascertain the number of SCs/STs/OBCs and physically handicapped employed by the Corporates.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the budget 2007-08, the Finance Minister has announced incentives to the employers for providing employment for the physically challenged persons in the Organized sector.

Catering Services in Railways

3466. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of surprise checks and inspection made by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Zonal Railway to check catering service in Railways during last one year alongwith the route-wise and train-wise details thereof; and

(b) the findings of such inspections and surprise check alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Management of catering services provided in trains of Indian Railways have been transferred to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Inspections and regular checks are conducted by 100 quality inspectors of IRCTC and railway officials at stations and on trains to monitor the quality of catering services. Route-wise and train-wise data are not maintained. As per records, 13871 inspections have been conducted by IRCTC, in the last 8 months. Zone-wise breakup of IRCTC is as under:-

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| South Zone | 1711 |
| North Zone | 5723 |
| West Zone | 1580 |
| East Zone | 1543 |
| South Central Zone | 3314 |

(b) Stringent corrective action such as fine, warning, counseling etc. against licensee operated catering units have been taken. During the above period four major contracts have been terminated and in 825 cases fines have been imposed.

Revival of Hindustan Salts Limited

3467. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Ministry of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to revive the Hindustan Salts Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :

(a) A revival plan for Hindustan Salts Limited (HSL) has already been sanctioned in the year 2005-06.

(b) The revival plan involved fresh cash infusion of Rs. 4.28 crore as equity and waiver of Government loan and interest amounting to Rs. 69.02 crore.

(c) As per the revival plan projections the company is to make profits from the third year of revival.

[Translation]

Construction of Platform in Tapari Junction, Saharanpur

3468. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received complaints of irregularities in the construction of platform and other works at Tapari Junction in Saharanpur district.

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

(c) the funds allocated for the said work and the amount spent so far?

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

(b) The matter was examined and the work was found satisfactory.

(c) Rs. 40 lacs were allocated for the work and the entire expenditure has been incurred in raising/extension of platform and improvement in circulating area.

Contracts of Reserved Category at Stations

3469. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether contracts of small units functioning at A, B, C, railway stations have been transferred to the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on the basis of Catering Policy 2005;

(b) if so, whether all the contracts of reserved category have been sent back from IRCTC to Delhi Division; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Management of all catering units including small and reserved category units at 'A', 'B' and 'C' category stations have been transferred to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Awarding of contract for reserve category units at these stations are continued to be done by Divisional Railway Managers.

Multi-Purpose Shipboard Missile System

3470. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any American arms manufacturing company has offered to provide world's most advanced and multi-purpose Shipboard Missile System to India;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of the Government thereto?

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

(a) and (b) An American company made a presentation to the Indian Navy in November 2006.

This presentation was made in respect of three shipboard missile systems.

- (c) No response has been given in this regard.

[English]

Installation of Refinery/Bottling Plants

3471. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether demand of a particular area and its distance from oil fields/gas blocks is kept in view while sanctioning a refinery or bottling plant;

(b) if not, the criteria for installing a refinery/bottling plant in a State;

(c) whether there is any proposal to install another oil refinery in Haryana; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) The refinery sector was delicensed in June, 1998. Since then a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by private or public sector enterprises depending on the promoters' assessment of its viability. It is not the Central Government but public or private sector enterprises who consider proposals for setting up refineries. The cost benefit analysis, selection of location etc. for setting up new refineries are done by the concerned company keeping in view various factors such as availability of crude oil, domestic demand, export potential of petroleum products and other commercial considerations.

For setting up a bottling plant various factors like proximity to bulk LPG source, local demand, commercial considerations etc. are kept in view by the company. Before according project approval, the investing companies to undertake all relevant studies including preparation of detailed project reports.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to install a new refinery in Haryana. However, the existing Panipat Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited has been recently expanded from 6 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) to 12 MMTPA in 2006 and is being further expanded to 15 MMTPA.

[Translation]

Profit Margin of Coco Pumps

3472. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sale of petrol at the pumps owned by the public sector companies is on constant decline;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any remedial action has been taken by the Government after taking cognizance of the decline of sale at the public sector owned petrol pumps; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (d) Public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and IBP Company Limited (IBP) have reported that all the retail outlets (ROs) have been set up by them after they have been found to be commercially viable, based on feasibility study on parameters like potential of the location and economic viability, etc. The financial performance of the ROs owned and operated by OMCs have been satisfactory and is commensurate with the prevailing marketing conditions,

which is, however, being affected to some extent due to expansion of RO network subsequent to the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM). OMCs are making efforts to improve the performance of low selling ROs. Introduction of non-fuel initiative in ROs having potential for the same is one such measure.

Proposal for Artificial Limbs

3473. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some proposals submitted by the Government of Chhattisgarh for artificial limbs are lying pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared and funds to be released?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Survey of Manuscripts

3474. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey and public awareness programme of the manuscripts is being run under the joint auspices of the Union Government and State Govt. of Rajasthan Archives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose of the above mentioned programme;

(d) whether the special amount has been sanctioned for the same;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the collected manuscripts would be published; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A National Survey of Manuscripts in the State of Rajasthan, alongwith a series of public awareness programmes, is being undertaken under joint auspices of National Manuscripts Mission under Ministry of Culture and Rajasthan State Archives. This survey which is being conducted in each of 32 districts of the State, aims at locating the manuscript collections in the State, both in institutional and private holdings. The Director, Rajasthan State Archives, is the State coordinator in respect of the Survey of manuscripts in the State of Rajasthan.

(d) and (e) An allocation of Rs. 30.13 lakh has been made for the survey of manuscripts in Rajasthan out of which, Rs. 15.07 lakh has been released.

(f) and (g) Manuscripts are not being collected under the National Survey. The survey aims at locating the manuscript repositories in the State and documenting and cataloguing them. At present, there is no proposal to publish the manuscripts located in the Survey.

[English]

Natural Gas Distribution Network in Karnataka

3475. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka gave in principle approval for a Rs. 12,000 crore Natural Gas Distribution project by Reliance Industries venture in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas which are likely to be covered under the natural gas distribution network; and

(d) the time by which the work on the said project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Government of Karnataka has

accorded no Objection Certificate to Reliance Industries Limited for laying City and Local Natural Gas Distribution network in various cities, a list of which is enclosed as statement.

(d) Reliance Industries Limited is reported to have undertaken to commence supply of gas within 3 years of issuance of authorization in these cities in a phased manner.

Statement

List of Cities/Towns/Industrial areas identified for Gas Distribution Projects in Karnataka

| District | City/Town | District | City/Town |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Bagalkot | Bagalkot | Chikamangalur | Chikamangalur |
| | Mudhol | Chitradurga | Chitradurga |
| Bangalore | Bangalore | | Adyar |
| | Bommanahalli | Dakshina | Mangalore |
| | Byatarayanapura | Kannada | Puttur |
| | Dasarahalli | Davanagere | Davanagere |
| | Yelahanka | | Harihar |
| | Kengeri-Kumbalgodu | Dharwad | Hubli-Dharwad |
| | Rajaraheshringar | Gadag | Gadag-Betigeri |
| | Bomasandra-Jigani | Gulbarga | Gulbarga |
| | Athibele | | Wadi |
| | Somanahalli | Hassan | Hassan |
| | Harohalli | Haveri | Ranebennur |
| | Krishnarajapura | | Kolar |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Bangalore Rural | Channapatna | Kolar | Kolar Gold Field |
| | Devanhalli | Koppal | Gangavathi |
| | Dob Ballapur | Mandya | Belagola |
| | Mahadevapura | | Mandya |
| | Ramanagram | Mysore | Hunsur |
| | Bidadi | | Hootgoli |
| | Neelamangala-Dobaspet | | Mysore |
| | Hoskote | | Nanjangud |
| Belgaum | Belgaum | Raichur | Hatti |
| | Ramdurg | | |
| | Sankeshwar | | |
| Bellary | | Shimoga | Shimoga |
| | | | Bhadravathy |
| | Hospet | Tumkur | Tumkur |
| Bidar | Bidar | Udipi | Udipi |
| | Basavkalyan | | Bhatkal |
| | Kolhar | Uttar kannada | Dandeli |
| Chamrajanagar | Kollegal | | Karwar |

Child Care Rooms at Airports

3476. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by the travelling mothers who are accompanying with babies due to inadequate facilities in various domestic and international airports;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to provide child friendly/childcare rooms in the major airports in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Adequate

facilities are available for travelling mothers accompanied with babies at various domestic and international airports.

Childcare rooms have been provided at Kolkata, Chennai, Trivandrum, Bangalore, Calicut, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Udaipur, Lucknow, Combatore, Jammu, Bhubneshwar, Vizag, Mangalore, Agartala, Bagdogra, Imphal, Delhi and Mumbai airports.

(b) and (c) The terminal buildings are being upgraded and modified at all major airports to provide child friendly/ Childcare rooms. This provision is being made in all the new terminal buildings being constructed.

(d) Does not arise.

ONGC's Exploration Activities

3477. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of offshore and onshore areas where ONGC is undertaking their exploration activities in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total quantum of crude oil and natural gas produced by ONGC from those areas during the last three years; and

(c) the target set by ONGC for crude oil and natural gas production during 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) As on 1.04.2007, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is undertaking exploration activities in various onshore and offshore parts of the country, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Production of crude oil and natural gas by ONGC during the last three years, is as under:-

| Year | Oil (MMT) | Gas (MMSCM) |
|---------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2004-05 | 26.484 | 22.970 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|----------|--------|--------|
| 2005-06 | 24.404 | 22,574 |
| 2006-07* | 26.049 | 22,442 |

*Provisional figures.

(c) Target set by ONGC for crude oil and natural gas production during 2007-08 is given below:

| Year | Oil (MMT) | Gas (MMSCM) |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| 2007-08 (BE) | 27.160 | 22,097 |

Statement

| S. No. | State | Total exploration acreages (No. of blocks) | Area (Sq. Km.) |
|--------|-------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Onshore

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|----|--------|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 3 | 10,286 |
| 2. | Assam | 12 | 7,919 |
| 3. | Bihar | 1 | 2,537 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 53 | 8,420 |
| 5. | Himachal Pradesh | 2 | 4,362 |
| 6. | Madhya Pradesh | 2 | 6,665 |
| 7. | Meghalaya | 2 | 935 |
| 8. | Mizoram | 1 | 4,005 |
| 9. | Nagaland | 5 | 3,295 |
| 10. | Rajasthan | 4 | 12,039 |
| 11. | Tamil Nadu | 9 | 5,187 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------|---|-----|--------|
| 12. Tripura | | 4 | 6,688 |
| 13. Uttar Pradesh | | 2 | 26,729 |
| 14. West Bengal | | 1 | 611 |
| Total Onshore | | 101 | 99,678 |

Offshore

| | | |
|------------------------|----|---------|
| 1. East Coast Offshore | 39 | 263,604 |
| 2. West Coast Offshore | 30 | 237,388 |
| Total Onshore | | 69 |
| Grand Total | | 170 |
| | | 600,650 |

Besides this, ONGC is also carrying out exploration for Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in nine blocks; five in the state of Jharkhand and one each in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal. Out of these, one block in Maharashtra has been relinquished on 12.04.2007.

[Translation]

Anomalies in Service Conditions

3478. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is anomaly in the terms and conditions related to female members in comparison to male members of the crew in the aeroplanes of Air India;

(b) if so, whether there is also difference in the terms of retirement age limit and medical examination;

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

(d) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken to check gender discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Earlier, on-board job functions for male and female cabin crew were pre-defined in the terms and conditions of employment. However, the recruitment of cabin crew from 1994 batch onwards was done on identical terms and the functions of male and female cabin crew were made totally interchangeable. Air India has also brought parity in female and male crew by entrusting the responsibility of cabin-in-charge functions to the senior most male or female crew.

(b) to (d) At present, the retirement age of both male and female cabin crew is 58 years. Presently, the female cabin crew have to undergo medical check-up after 35 years. The policy of medical examination is under review for all the cabin crew.

[English]

Gas Supply from Myanmar

3479. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian delegation was told by the Myanmar Government in the first half of March, 2007 that Myanmar wanted to sell the gas to China instead of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the Government is satisfied with the reasons given by the Myanmar Government;

(c) whether the refusal by the Myanmar Government will have any adverse effect on the energy security of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (d) In a meeting at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 16th March 2007, Myanmar Government informed the stakeholders of its A1 and A3 blocks (including GAIL and OVL) that they are considering export of gas discovered in these blocks to China through an on-land pipeline. For the proposed export of gas to China, approximately 1000 KMs long on-land pipeline is proposed to be laid through Myanmar by a Chinese company. The proposed pipeline would be passing through various parts of Myanmar such as major city Mandalay and other areas like Pyi and Upper Myanmar. Myanmar Government expects to use this pipeline for domestic supply of natural gas to important en-route cities. GAIL is pursuing with Myanmar Government for acceptance of GAIL's bid for purchase of pipeline gas from these blocks at Myanmar – India Border as it is economically more attractive as compared to the expected Chinese offer.

As per the report of the Working Group on Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector for the XI Plan, for the year 2011-12, the demand of natural gas has been projected as 279.43 MMSCMD whereas, the total availability under optimistic scenario has been projected as 285.42 MMSCMD. Availability of gas through Transnational Gas Pipelines, including Myanmar-India gas pipeline, has not been taken into account in arriving at the above figures.

Culture of Banjaras

3480. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the culture of Banjaras, Ghumanta Bimukta Jaties in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the culture of Banjaras is getting extinct

and they remained most backward community in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to constitute a Committee to survey the States and the lifestyle of Banjaras and preserve the culture, language, handicrafts of this ancient community; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Anthropological Survey of India under its monumental research project People of India not only prepares a comprehensive list of the existing communities in India, but also studied the Human surface of India. There are 4635 communities in India which includes the Banjara community.

(c) to (e) The Ministry is already taking various steps to preserve the ethnic culture of Banjaras through the Anthropological Survey of India and the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya.

The Anthropological Survey of India have published the report on different communities including various scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and nomadic communities from different parts of the country with special reference to their lifestyle, culture, language and handicrafts including that of the Banjaras. The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya has already carried out field work and developed a very important collection of the material culture and handicrafts of the Banjara style.

The zonal Anthropological Museum in collaboration with the Shilpgram at udaipur, Rajasthan has established one of the best museums having rich collection of the artificats on the different communities of Rajasthan including the Banjaras.

The I.G.R.M.S. has organized a number of presentations

pertaining to crafts of Banjara people. The museum would further expand its activities based on the culture of this community in future years.

Occupancy Rate of National and Private Air Carriers

3481. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the occupancy rate of national air carriers is lower than that of the private airlines;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) how private airlines are able to provide discounted rates of fares lower than that provided by the national carriers; and
- (d) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the occupancy rate of national air carriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Air India's seat factor was 71% in 2006-07. Indian Airlines domestic seat factor in March, 2007 was 71.8% which compared favourably to other private domestic airlines.

(c) Airfares are not regulated by the Government. Domestic airlines are free to charge airfares based on their business and pricing models.

(d) Indian Airlines has taken various marketing and sales efforts to improve its carriage and thus its passenger load factor. These include upgrade of aircraft equipment/ increase in frequency on various routes, special promotional fares and schemes for various segments, dynamic inventory management, expansion of Indian Airlines's distribution network, increased access to IA inventory, upgrade of inflight product of include inflight entertainment on the new fleet, and initiatives in inflight service etc.

Air India has also taken steps like ordering 68 Boeing Aircraft, refurbishment of existing fleet, installing of flat beds in first class and slumberettes in executive class, leasing

of 20 aircraft to augment fleet strength, launching of low cost carrier, Air India Express, improvement of schedules, introduction of non-stop flight to London, Birmingham, Toronto etc., introduction of facilities like kerbside checking, lounge and special handling facilities, advance check-in, city check-in, option of e-ticketing on selected routes, special student fares, special fares for seamen traffic etc. Air India also offers facilities like Maharaja Club, Leading Edge Club, Frequent Flier Programme etc. to retain loyalty and lock in frequent travellers. Government has also taken a decision to merge Air India and Indian Airlines to optimise networks, expand geographic coverage and to increase economies of scale in utilization of fleet, ground facilities etc.

[Translation]

Disappearance of Rare Idols/Artifacts

3482. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether several rare idols and other artifacts of archaeological importance have disappeared from national museums and other places;
- (b) if so, the details of the cases reported during the last three years;
- (c) the number of idols/artifacts recovered out of these reported disappeared;
- (d) the reasons for non-recovery of the remaining idols/artifacts; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken to provide adequate security at these places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Details of cases of theft of idols and other artefacts during last three years reported to the Ministry of Culture are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Out of 38 idols/artefacts under Archaeological Survey of India, 6 have been recovered and out of 18 idols stolen from Patna Museum, Bihar, 17 idols have been recovered.

(d) The cases have been handed over to the

investigating agencies, including CBI and the State Police.

(e) Security arrangements of Museums under the administrative control of Govt. of India are being constantly upgraded and strengthened.

Statement

Details of theft cases of artificats reported to the Ministry of Culture during the last three years are as follows

| S. No. | Site of Theft | State | Description of the objects | Date of theft | Action taken | Status of the case |
|--|--|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| I. Monuments/Sites under the Archaeological Survey of India | | | | | | |
| 1. | Charkhamba Temple premises at ruined Krishna Vilas | Rajasthan | 2 Sculptures | 21.04.2004 | F.I.R. lodged | |
| 2. | Bumzuva Cave, Anantnag Distt. | Jammu and Kashmir | Shiv Linga of stone | 23/24.05.2004 | F.I.R. lodged | Recoverd |
| 3. | Sun Temple Modhera, Distt. Mehsana | Gujarat | 2 Fragment Sculptures | 04.08.2004 | F.I.R. lodged | |
| 4. | Alathur, Taluk Kuliathur, Distt. Pudukkottai | Tamil Nadu | Jaina Image | 06.08.2004 | F.I.R. lodged | Recoverd |
| 5. | Linji Fort, Distt. Balaghat | Madhya Pradesh | 2 Sculptures | 21.08.2004 | F.I.R. lodged | Culprit caught |
| 6. | Ruins of buried Jaina Temple, Denavulapadu Village | Andhra Pradesh | Bust of Jaina Tirthankara | 8/9.09.2004 | F.I.R. lodged | |
| 7. | Ancient site Nagar, Distt. Tonk | Rajasthan | 7 Sculpture | 12.01.2005 | F.I.R. lodged | |
| 8. | Centrally Protected Site, Sirpur, Mahasamund | Chhattisgarh | Stone Image Hariti | 23-24.6.2005 | F.I.R. lodged | Recoverd |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--|--|----------------|---|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 9. | Sculpture shed, Karitalai, Kanti | Madhya Pradesh | 9 Sandstone sculpture | 17.08.2005 | F.I.R. lodged | |
| 10. | Laxman Temple, Sirpur, Mahasamund | Chhattisgarh | Stone image of Ananta Shesh | 13-14.10.2005 | F.I.R. lodged | Recovered |
| 11. | Temple premises of the chandpur Fort, Chamoli | Uttaranchal | 1 Carved wooden head of Kali | 18/19.04.2006 | F.I.R. lodged | |
| 12. | Archaeological Museum, Kalibagan, Hanumangarh | Rajasthan | Wheel and cart frame | 21.01.2006 | F.I.R. lodged | |
| 13. | Cave temple at Patal Bhubneswar Tehsil, Berinag Distt. Pithoragarh | Uttaranchal | Small size stone image of Ganesha (under worship) | 2/3.04.06 | F.I.R. lodged | |
| 14. | Shiv Kodandarama Swamy Temple, Vomtimitta Distt. Kadapa | Andhra Pradesh | Theft to central bud portion of the inverted lotus carved on the Kalyanamand apa ceiling | 06.10.2006 | F.I.R. lodged | |
| 15. | Protected Monument Tapsinath Bilhari Distt., Katni | Madhya Pradesh | (i) Buddha sitting in bhumisparsh mudra (ii) Buddha sculpture sitting in dhyanmudra on a lotus (iii) Female deity Tara in sitting position | 20-21.01.2007 | F.I.R. lodged | Recovered |
| 16. | Dudhai Monument Distt. Lalitpur | Madhya Pradesh | Stone sculpture of a male figure (Varah) | 05.02.2007 | F.I.R. lodged | |
| ii. Indian Museum, Kolkata – an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture | | | | | | |
| 17. | Indian Museum, Kolkata | West Bengal | A Stone Head of Lord Buddha | 29.12.2004 | Case handed over to the CBI | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

III. Museums under the State Government

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------------|------------|---|--|
| 18. Patna Museum | Bihar | 18 Bronze Idols | 27.09.2006 | FIR lodged and the case handed over to the CBI | So far 17 Idols have been recovered |
|------------------|-------|-----------------|------------|---|--|

[English]

Construction of International Airport at Navi Mumbai

3483. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposal for construction of an International Airport at Navi Mumbai with public-private participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cost involved therein;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted the techno-economic feasibility study report to the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Government of Maharashtra has also resolved all the queries raised by the Airports Authority of India in the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) to (e) City and Industrial Development Corporation

of Maharashtra Limited (CIDCO) had got conducted a Techno-Economic Feasibility Study in year 2001 for a new Greenfield airport at Navi Mumbai. Airports Authority of India (AAI) had felt the need for conducting detailed simulation study to ensure conflict free operation at both the airports, i.e., the one existing at Mumbai and the one proposed at Navi Mumbai. The simulation study has since been conducted which reveals that with appropriate procedures in place, simultaneous operations of both airports are feasible. Thereafter, Government of Maharashtra submitted a detailed proposal for the construction of the greenfield airport at Navi Mumbai. The cost of the project is about Rs. 9970 crores. It will utilize 1140 hectares of land and will be implemented in four phases.

(f) The proposal is presently under consideration for 'in-principle' approval.

Stall Holders

3484. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways had earlier declared that the small stall holders belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories would not be taken under the purview of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) regarding the licensing policy;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that these stall holders are now being brought under IRCTC without changing the policy; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) There is no such policy of retaining catering units of reserved categories with railways. All catering units on Indian Railways are to be transferred to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) in phase. Presently all categories of catering units at D, F, and F category stations are allotted and managed by the railways. Reserved unit at A, B, and C category stations are to be allotted by the Divisional Railway Managers and handed over to IRCTC for management. All unreserved units at A, B, and C category stations are now allotted and managed by IRCTC.

CNG Network in Andhra Pradesh

3485. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has drawn up a plan for laying a gas pipeline network from KG basin to Hyderabad and other important cities in the State of Andhra Pradesh for supply of compressed Natural Gas (CNG);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (c) Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited (RGTEL) has been authorized to lay Kakinada-Hyderabad-Uran-Ahmedabad gas pipeline, which would supply gas from offshore fields of KG Basin to Hyderabad, as also other cities of Andhra Pradesh. Expressions of Interest (EoI) for taking capacity in the gas pipeline have been invited for Kakinada-Hyderabad-Bhopal pipeline to be laid by Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL). Authorization letter has been issued to RGTEL for laying of Vijayawada-Nellore-Chennai natural gas pipeline.

GAIL (India) Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited have incorporated a Joint Venture

company, namely, M/s. Bhagyanagar Gas Limited for implementation of City Gas Projects in Andhra Pradesh. The setting up of CNG network in Hyderabad would depend upon the techno-economic feasibility and tying-up of gas supply for the project.

X-ray Machine for Screening Passengers at IGI Airport

3486. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a "Bare-all" X-ray Machine for screening passengers has been brought and dumped at the IGI Airport, New Delhi as reported in 'Hindustan Times' on February 16, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it has been decided not to use the said X-ray Machine; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) A body scanning security system had been imported by a Delhi based firm from USA and provided to Delhi International Airport (Pvt.) Ltd. (DIAL). No formal request for any evaluation was received from DIAL, who have reported that the equipment is not functional and the supplier has been asked to remove the same from the Airport.

Unit Run Canteens

3487. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN :

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA :

SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unit-run canteens of the Defence Departments in the country;

(b) the number of employees working in these unit-run canteens;

(c) whether the Jodhpur Central Administrative Tribunal had declared the Defence Canteen employees as Central Government staff long back in 1994 and the Supreme Court also had declared them as Central Government staff *vide* its judgement in the Civil Appeal No. 1039-40 of 1999; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the reasons for delay in implementing the judgement?

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

(a) There are at present 3692 unit-run canteens functioning in different formations/units of the three services and other organizations.

(b) As per reports received from the services there are about 2300 employees working in these unit-run canteens (URC).

(c) and (d) In the case filed by Mohd. Aslam and others, CAT, Jodhpur ordered for treating civilian workers of URCs as government employees. In the appeal filed by Government against the CAT order, the Supreme Court held in 2001 that such workers could be treated as government employees which, however, ipso facto would not entitle them to get all service benefits as is available to the regular government servant or even their counterparts serving in CSD canteens and separate rules could be framed regulating their terms and conditions of service. Separate terms and conditions were prescribed for employees of Unit Run Canteens. In another subsequent case SLP (Civil) No. 8586 of 2003 filed by Shri R.R. Pillai, the Supreme Court decided to reconsider the decision taken in the case of Union of India Vs Mohd. Aslam. The matter is at present sub-judice.

Modernization and Infrastructure Development Projects

3488. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways need Rs. 60,000 crore to complete its various proposed modernization and

infrastructure development projects to achieve the targeted growth of 9%;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have taken initiatives to generate/mobilize the required funds to achieve the growth target;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Railways to generate/mobilize the required funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) The Railway Modernization Plan had envisaged an investment of around Rs. 24,000 crores for various works. It is also to be mentioned that modernization of Railways is a continuous process and funds are being made available in the Annual Plan as per requirement subject to overall availability of resources. For infrastructure development projects like New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling, Railway Electrification and Metropolitan Transport Projects, a total of 296 projects are in progress, which will require an investment of over Rs. 61,000 crores.

(c) to (e) Railways Plan Outlay is funded from three sources viz., Budgetary Support from General Exchequer, Internal Resources generated by the Railways and Market Borrowing. With improved performance due to enhancement in throughput capacity and rationalisation of operating expenditure, Railways have improved internal generation and would target investible surplus of around Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 16,000 cr. per annum during the XI Five Year Plan period. Besides this, funds would also be raised through Market Borrowing and through Public Private Partnership (PPP) models. However, to complete the various infrastructural projects, substantial amount of Budgetary Support during the XI Plan would be essential.

Implementation of Sachar Committee Report

3489. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN :

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry has opposed the move to get Dalit Muslims categorized as most backward castes as suggested by the Sachar Committee;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement the Sachar Committee Report; and

(d) if so, the strategy chalked out by the Government to implement Sachar Committee report for the upliftment of minorities and reservation to most backward class of Muslims in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (d) The recommendations of the Sachar Committee are under consideration of government.

[Translation]

Violence against Dalit Women

3490. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a panel of the United Nations, in March 2007, has expressed its deep concern over increasing incidents of violence committed against the dalit women, their sexual exploitation and trafficking and forcefully pushing them into prostitution;

(b) if so, whether the Racial Discrimination Prevention Committee, in its Geneva meeting ended in March, 2007 has asked the Union Government to set up special courts and task force to deal with such problems and initiate disciplinary and criminal proceedings against the police and other officers responsible for not protecting such people and also to impart training to the police officers, employees, judges and lawyers about the provisions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to prevent the persecution of the dalits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) After considering India's periodic report in February 2007, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had inter alia urged the Government of India for providing members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes protection against acts of discrimination and violence; training for police and judicial officers concerned on the application of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989; disciplinary action against law enforcement officers failing in their duties; providing affected members access to effective remedies, protecting them from retaliation and for making provision for compensation and rehabilitation.

(c) and (d) For ensuring early prosecution of cases under the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, 137 exclusive Special Courts have already been set up in different States and Courts of Sessions have been notified as Special Courts.

Suitable advisories are issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Besides, assistance is provided for awareness generation, strengthening the administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, etc.

[English]

Production of LPG by RIL

3491. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the

Reliance Industries Ltd. has decided to cut LPG production from 2.6 million to 1.6 million tonne per annum at its Jamnagar refinery from April 1, 2008;

- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) its likely impact on the supply of LPG in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken to meet the shortage of LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has informed that their existing refinery at Jamnagar has now become EOU and there is a plan to reduce LPG production to around 1.6 MMTPA from the mid-2008.

(c) The reduction in LPG production at Jamnagar refinery would result in increase in imports of LPG during 2009-10 as compared to the projected import during 2008-09.

(d) The deficit between demand and indigenous production of LPG is met through regular imports being done by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). Further, with the delicensing of the refinery sector since June 1998, capacity addition is being planned in the country both by the Public and private sector companies by the end of XIth Plan to meet the demand for petroleum products including LPG.

Agreements by ONGC with Foreign Countries

3492. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) proposes to sign agreements with Eni to stake in Congo oil block and in return give the Italian firm 30-35 per cent stake in the Mahanadi Basin block;

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

(c) whether ONGC has entered into agreements with any other foreign firms for exploration work during the last few years; and

(d) If so, the benefits accrued to ONGC from such agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Eni have agreed for swap of Participating Interests (PI) in Exploration Blocks MN-DWN-2002/1 in India and MTPN in Congo. Farm-out/Farm-in-agreements for Blocks MN-DWN-2002/1 and MTPN Congo have been signed by ONGC and ENI on 14th February, 2007. Through these agreements, ONGC has agreed to assign 20% PI in Block MN-DWN-2002/1 to Eni India and Eni has agreed to assign 20% PI in Block MTPN in Congo to ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL). The proposed assignments are subject to approval of the Govt. of India and the Govt. of Congo for the respective blocks.

(c) Yes, Sir. ONGC alongwith foreign companies has entered into Production Sharing Contract under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) with Government of India to jointly explore Indian sedimentary basins for production of oil and gas during the last few years.

(d) The benefits expected out of these agreements are sharing of risk of exploration, induction of suitable cost effective technology, knowledge, acquisition, technology assimilation and technology transfer in the deep water and frontier areas. In some of the blocks such partners are expected to bring their knowledge of the area as they have been operating successfully in similar geological domains across international boundaries. Foreign partners would bring in new concepts and ideas in the blocks in known and producing areas, where ONGC is operating.

[Translation]

**Railway Line from Mahoba to Khajuraho
and Lalitpur to Satna**

3493. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for completion of railway line from Mahoba to Khajuraho and Lalitpur to Satna have been received from the Madhya Pradesh Government;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Railways thereon; and

(c) the time by which the said lines are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh has requested for allotment of adequate funds for Lalitpur-Satna, Rewa-Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho railway line during 2007-08 and completion of Mahoba-Khajuraho during the year 2007.

(b) and (c) An outlay of Rs. 50 cr. has been provided for this project during 2007-08 and Mahoba-Khajuraho is targeted for completion during the year. No target has been fixed for Lalitpur-Satna section of this railway line.

[English]

**Fleet Replacement and Expansion
Programme**

3494. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines have started their fleet replacement and expansion programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the airbus replaced/leased out so far and those proposed to be replaced and leased out under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Both the airlines are in the process of inducting new aircraft in their fleet. Air India has signed a purchase agreement with M/s. Boeing for the purchase of 68 aircraft comprising 8X B777-200LR, 15X B777-300ER and 27X B787-8 for Air India and 18X B737-800W for Air India Charters Limited (a subsidiary of Air India). The deliveries of 50 Aircraft to Air India Limited are scheduled between June, 2007 and October, 2011 and for 18 aircraft by Air India Charters Limited between December, 2006 and October, 2009 Air India Charters Limited has already taken the delivery of six B737-800W aircraft. It is proposed to phase out the old A310 and B747-300 aircraft in Air India's fleet and also return all the leased aircraft over a period of time.

Indian Airlines Limited (IAL) has signed an agreement with M/s. Airbus Industries and CFM International for procurement of 43 Airbus aircraft, comprising 19 A-319, 4 A-320 and 20 A 321. The delivery period of these aircraft is scheduled between October, 2006 to March, 2010. Indian Airlines has already taken delivery of one A319 aircraft. The above fleet expansion programme also envisages the phase out of 3 A300 and 11 B737-200 aircraft (operated by Alliance Air Services Ltd.) from passenger operations, on induction of new aircraft.

In order to cater for route expansion and pending induction of new aircraft, Air India and its subsidiary have inducted 22 A310, 7 B747-400, 4 B777-200, 7 B737-800, 2 B767-300ER, 1 B757-200ER and 1 A310-300 aircraft on lease. Out of these 5 A310-300 aircraft and 4 B747-400 aircraft were returned to their lessors after completion of lease period. Two more leased A310-300 are undergoing re-delivery checks and will be returned to lessors shortly.

Indian Airlines and its subsidiary have inducted in its fleet 25 A320, 5 A319, 2 A330-200 and 4 ATRs on lease.

**Construction/Doubling/Upgradation of
Railway Lines**

3495. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals for construction of new railway lines, doubling, upgradation etc. forwarded by the Government of Orissa during 2006-07 and 2007-08 so far;

(b) the present status of each of such proposals; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared/approved by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) No such record of each and every request received is maintained. However, during the recent years the State Government of Orissa has requested from time to time for sanctioning of certain projects, details of which alongwith the present status thereof are given below:-

| S.No. | Name of proposal | Present Status |
|-------|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Doubling and Electrification of Daitari-Banspani line. | Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has been advised to conduct the Final Location Survey (FLS) for doubling of the entire Banspani-Daitari-Tomka-Jakhapura line and has also been entrusted with the electrification work of this line. |
| 2. | Doubling and Electrification of Haridaspur-Paradeep line. | As per the traffic study carried out by RVNL, there is no immediate need of doubling of Haridaspur-Paradeep new line. The work of electrification of this line has been entrusted to RVNL. |
| 3. | Doubling and Electrification of Angul-Sukinda line. | The cost of electrification has been assessed as Rs. 65 crore. RVNL has been asked to go ahead with the formation of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for materialization of this new line project. The need of doubling will be considered only after commissioning of the single line. |
| 4. | Doubling and Electrification of Talcher-Sambalpur-Jharsuguda line. | A survey for doubling of Talcher-Sambalpur line has been included in the Budget 2007-08. |
| 5. | Extension of Naupada-Gunupur line upto Theruvalli. | As per the bankability study conducted by RVNL for extension of Naupada-Gunupur line upto Theruvalli, the proposed extension has not been found bankable. |
| 6. | Construction of Talcher-Gopalpur new line. | Survey completed. The proposal could not be considered feasible due to lack of traffic justification and acute constraint of resources. |
| 7. | Construction of Berhampur-Phulbani new line | -do- |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|---|--|
| 8. | Construction of Jaypore-Malkangiri new line. | Survey completed. Further decision would be taken once the survey report is finalized. |
| 9. | Construction of Bargarh-Nawapara (via Padampur) new line. | -do- |
| 10. | Construction of Puri-Konark new line. | -do- |
| 11. | Construction of Gorumahisani-Buramara new line. | Survey completed for construction of new lines from Bangriposi to Gorumahisani and from Buramara to Chakulia. Further decision would be taken once the survey reports are finalized. |
| 12. | Construction of Jaleswar-Digha new line. | Survey has been taken up. |
| 13. | Construction of Badampahar-Keonjhar new line. | -do- |
| 14. | Construction of Gopalpur-Rayagada new line. | -do- |
| 15. | Construction of Sambalpur-Berhampur (via Birmaharajpur) new line. | No survey has been sanctioned. |
| 16. | Construction of Bolangir-Nawapara new line. | -do- |
| 17. | Construction of Banapani-Bimlagarh new line. | -do- |
| 18. | Construction of Jaipur Keonjhar Road-Jaipur new line. | -do- |

Promotion of Tourism in West Bengal

3496. SHRI NARHARI MAHATO :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals submitted by the Government of West Bengal for Central financial assistance for development of tourist infrastructure in the State during the current financial year;

(b) the estimated cost of each project submitted by the State Government;

(c) the financial assistance sanctioned or proposed to be sanctioned for implementing those projects; and

(d) the number of tourists, both Indian and foreigner, visited the State during the last three years including current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) No proposals have been received from the Government of West Bengal during the current financial year. However, project proposals received from the State Governments/UTs that are complete in all respect are examined as per

guidelines and approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.

A total amount of Rs. 2978.32 lakh for the projects related to tourism promotion has been sanctioned for West Bengal in the year 2006-07.

A list of projects sanctioned to the State of West Bengal during the last three years is enclosed as statement.

(d) Following are the Tourist Arrival Figures for West Bengal for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006:-

| Arrival Figures | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Domestic Tourist | 12380389 | 13566911 | 15808371 |
| Foreign Tourist | 775694 | 895639 | 998029 |

Statement

Projects sanctioned to the State of West Bengal during the years 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl. No. | Name of Project | Amount Sanctioned |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |

2004-05

| | | |
|----|---|--------|
| 1. | Development of Rangbhang as a Tourist Spot (near Mirik) | 171.54 |
| 2. | Extension and beautification of Rohini Lake at Rohini Tourist Complex, Kurseong | 218.50 |
| 3. | Development of Village Sonada, Darjeeling Distt. | 50.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|---|--------|
| 4. | GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Mukutmanipur in Birbhum District | 20.00 |
| 5. | GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Ballabhpur in Birbhum District | 20.00 |
| Total | | 513.04 |

2005-06

| | | |
|----|---|--------|
| 1. | Redevelopment/Restoration of Kalighat Temple Complex at Kolkata | 500.00 |
| 2. | Development of Tourism at Cooch-Bihar City, Distt. Cooch Bihar | 475.00 |
| 3. | Celebration of West Bengal Tourist Festival in Feb. 2006 | 4.35 |
| 4. | Celebration of 18th Vishnupur Mela 2005 | 5.00 |
| 5. | Celebration of Mahotsav-2005 at Kolkata | 5.00 |

| | |
|-------|--------|
| Total | 989.35 |
|-------|--------|

2006-07

| | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 1. | Integrated Development of Tea Tourism Circuit in North Bengal | 715.85 |
| 2. | Setting up of a Night Safari Park at Jorepokhari in Darjeeling-preparation of feasibility report | 15.00 |
| 3. | Development of Kalimpong | 498.38 |
| 4. | Development of Rural Tourism at Village Mukutmanipur, District Bankura | 50.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------|---|----------------|
| 5. | Integrated Development of Beach Tourism Circuit (Dighe-Shankarpur-Chandpur-Mandarbari-Dadan-Patrabar-Purushottam) | 598.02 |
| 6. | Development of Eastern Doors Circuit (Jaladapara WLS-Rajabhatkhawa-Jayanti-Buxaduar) | 683.58 |
| 7. | Development of Rural Tourism at Village Antpur, District Hooghly | 50.00 |
| 8. | 19th Vishnupur Mela, 2006 | 5.00 |
| 9. | Sharadotsav (Mahotsav), 2006 | 7.00 |
| 10. | Creation/Setting up of tourism infrastructural facilities at Goke | 355.49 |
| Total | | 2978.32 |

Inclusion of Stretches of Railway Route from South Eastern/Central Railway

3497. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Orissa Government has expressed its concern to include certain stretches of railway route from South Eastern Railway and South-Central Railway for smooth movement of rail traffic in the region:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

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

(b) Representations have been received from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Orissa State and various other Very Important Persons (VIPs) of the areas to include certain stretches of Railway Route from South Eastern

Railway and South East Central Railway (and not from South Central Railway) in East Coast Railway for better coordination.

(c) The jurisdiction of a Zone / Division is decided keeping in view the operational / administrative needs without any regional considerations. The proposal when examined in the light of the above criteria has not been found feasible because of various operational constraints.

LNG Demand

3498. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the liquefied natural gas requirement of the country;

(b) the estimated LNG requirement for the country by 2015;

(c) whether Petronet of India has signed a US\$ 12.5 billion with Australia to import 2.5 million tonnes p.a. of LNG;

(d) the period of supply of above LNG from Australia; and

(e) the price at which the above LNG is going to be imported from Australia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) One of the sources of natural gas is Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which is imported in liquid form and then regasified before use. The demand for Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) is not assessed separately. It depends on the total demand for natural gas in the country. The Working Group on Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector for the XI Plan has projected the demand of natural gas for 2007-08 at 179.17 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD), whereas the domestic production is projected at 80.54 MMSCMD. The deficit could be made up by import of LNG. The installed

capacity of LNG terminals in the country is 7.5 MMTPA, which can supply about 27 MMSCMD of natural gas. The Working Group on Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector for the XI Plan has projected demand and supply of natural gas during 2011-12 at 279.43 MMSCMD and 285.42 MMSCMD, respectively. The Working Group has not estimated the demand for natural gas for the year 2015-16 as the Indian gas market is in a stage of transition.

(c) No, Sir. However, Petronet LNG Limited is in advanced stage of discussion for tie up of 2.5 MMTPA of LNG from Gorgon project in Australia.

(d) The supply of LNG will be for 25 years.

(e) The price of LNG has not been finalized at the present stage of discussions.

[Translation]

**Withdrawal of Assistance for Setting up
Food Processing Industries**

3499. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the assistance which was being provided for setting up of food processing industries has been withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of the schemes for setting up of food processing industries in the operation at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment of Food Processing Industries which was being implemented during 10th Plan has been continued

during the 11th Plan period. During the 10th Plan, financial assistance was extended for Technology Upgradation/ Modernization/Establishment of food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid to all implementing agencies @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. During 10th Plan, the applicant units engaged in setting up, technology upgradation, modernization of Food Processing Industries were required to submit the proposal to the Ministry through the State Nodal Agencies which are State Government departments / corporations. In the 11th Plan, in order to provide a thrust and wider coverage of its benefits to the food processing industries in the country and for speedy disposal of the applications, it has been decided to decentralize the implementation of the scheme through banks / financial institutions. Besides, there are other schemes for infrastructure development, upgradation of quality of street food, etc. which will also facilitate setting up of food processing industries.

[English]

Violation of Safety Norms

3500. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a private airline tried to adjust six adults by asking parents to carry children on their laps as reported in 'The Times of India' on March 9, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the authorities against the private airlines who violated the basic air safety norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) M/s. Air Deccan operated flights No. DN-727 Patna-Delhi with 188 passengers which was 8 more than the capacity of the A320 aircrafts.

(c) Explanation of the operator on the matter has been asked for. Further action will be contemplated on the basis of the report.

Introduction of Circular Train in Guntur

3501. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce a Circular Train in Guntur which has been pending for the last 10 years;

(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) Not feasible.

[Translation]

Import of Processed Food

3502. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether import of processed foods has an adverse impact on India's food processing industries;

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

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

(d) the success achieved by the Government so far as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT

SAHAY) : (a) and (b) No specific instance of adverse effect on indigenous food processing industries due to import of processed food items has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Government has taken steps so that indigenous food processing industry is not adversely affected by import of processed such as tax benefits: both direct and indirect, excise exemptions and easy FDI in this sector. The Indian Food Processing Industry is well protected by import duty of around 30% to 35% on most of the processed foods. The Government has taken every step with due caution to protect the interest of the farmers, processors as well as consumers.

[English]

Production of Bio-diesel by OMCs

3503. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector oil companies are entering in the production of bio-diesel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the production is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited do not have any plans to enter in the production of Bio-diesel. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has signed MoU with G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar for the cultivation of Jatropha and installation of bio-diesel production unit and to take up R and D on tissue culture for development of elite Jatropha and its propagation.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, is also exploring possibilities to sign MoU/agreement with various

Govt. and non-Govt. agencies for the large scale of *Jatropha* cultivation and bio-diesel production.

IOC Refinery Plan in Algeria

3504. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has abandoned its plan to invest in a 15 million tonnes Greenfield refinery in Algeria; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has submitted its "Expression of Interest" (Eoi) on 17th March, 2005 for allocation of equity oil / gas from SONATRACH, the National Oil Company of Algeria, against its investment in the refinery. IOC did not receive any positive response from SONATRACH in this regard. Therefore, IOC decided not to submit the bid.

Punitive Charges for Weight Beyond Permissible Carrying Capacity

3505. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per Railway Board orders, Zonal Railways are to recover punitive charges for the weight of the difference beyond permissible carrying capacity for the entire distance from the originating station to the destination station irrespective of the point of detection of over-loading;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether audit scrutiny of records of some stations has revealed that Railway Board orders were not carried out causing financial loss to the Railways to the extent of crores of rupees; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken against the delinquent railway officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. But in situation, where aggregated payload in rake does not exceed the combined permissible carrying capacity of the rake, the punitive charge is levied on the entire weight in excess of permissible carrying capacity and loading tolerance. Also, no punitive charges are levied if the customer carries out load adjustment at the originating station itself in case of detection of overloading at originating station.

(c) Audit has raised punitive charges due to wrong interpretation of punitive charges rules in one zonal railway. However, there is no financial loss to the Railways as short collection on this account has been levied.

(d) Does not arise.

Promotion of Tourism in Eastern Part and Jammu and Kashmir

3506. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the places of tourist attractions in eastern part of the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of domestic/foreign tourists visited to such places during 2005-06 and 2006-07 so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to announce any package for development of tourism in eastern part on the line of one announced for Jammu and Kashmir;

(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) India provides a wide range of tourist attractions for the foreign and

domestic tourists spread all over the country including eastern part due to rich heritage, culture, wild life, flora and fauna, coastline and new emerging products.

(b) The State-wise domestic and foreign tourist visits compiled so far for the year 2005 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Tourism is providing earmarked Central Financial Assistance to the North Eastern States including Sikkim of at least 10% of the total Plan Outlay as per guidelines.

Statement

State-wise Domestic and Foreign Tourists visits during the year 2005

| Sl. No. | State/UT | 2005 | |
|---------|-------------------|----------|---------|
| | | Domestic | Foreign |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 93529554 | 560024 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 3005 | 289 |
| 3. | Assam | 2467652 | 10782 |
| 4. | Bihar | 8687220 | 63321 |
| 5. | Goa | 1965343 | 336803 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 8076902 | 47107 |
| 7. | Haryana | 5913394 | 59353 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 6936840 | 207790 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 7239481 | 44345 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 30470316 | 545225 |
| 11. | Kerala | 5946423 | 346499 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 7090952 | 160832 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 13. | Maharashtra | 14276097 | 1448656 |
| 14. | Manipur | 94299 | 316 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 375901 | 5099 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 44715 | 273 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 17470 | 883 |
| 18. | Orissa | 4632976 | 33310 |
| 19. | Punjab | 431036 | 4353 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 18787298 | 1131164 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 251744 | 16523 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 43213128 | 1179316 |
| 23. | Tripura | 216330 | 2677 |
| 24. | Uttaranchal | 14215570 | 75995 |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh | 95440947 | 1174597 |
| 26. | Chhattisgarh | 324495 | 912 |
| 27. | Jharkhand | 2042723 | 6035 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 13566911 | 895639 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 30225 | 2147 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 614176 | 23284 |
| 31. | Daman and Diu | 394914 | 6164 |
| 32. | Delhi | 2061782 | 1511893 |
| 33. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 526142 | 1226 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 6908 | 941 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 574011 | 36009 |
| Total | | 390466880 | 9939782 |

[Translation]

Production of LPG

3507. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether consumers are not utilising additional production of LPG in the country for the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the additional quantity produced;

(c) the reasons for not utilising this additional production of LPG; and

(d) the average annual quantity of LPG being produced in the public and private sector alongwith the present arrangement to sell it to consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present, indigenous production of LPG is inadequate to meet domestic requirement. Regular imports are made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to meet the deficit between demand and indigenous production of LPG.

(d) The average annual quantity of LPG produced during the year 2006-07 by the OMCs and private oil companies is as under:-

(Figures in TMT)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| OMCs | 5750 |
| Private oil companies | 2659 |
| Total | 8409 |

The LPG production from all indigenous sources is

uplifted by OMCs and sold to the markets through LPG distributors appointed by the OMCs. As on 1.1.2007, there were 9344 LPG distributors in the country.

[English]

Historical Monuments in Agra

3508. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are monuments other than Taj Mahal in Agra, rich in historical importance but not getting tourist attraction;

(b) if so, the names of such monuments;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal for development of these monuments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which other monuments are likely to be giving historical importance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) There are several historic monuments in Agra apart from the Taj Mahal which attract large number of tourists. This includes Agra Fort, Sikandra, Itimad-ud-Daula, Ram Bagh, Mehtab Bagh, Mariam's Tomb.

(c) and (d) The conservation, preservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments is a continuous process. Special repairs and structural repairs are taken up as and when necessary. Apart from the above, Archaeological Survey of India takes up programmes for development of the environs and provision of various facilities for the tourists.

(e) All important monuments in Agra District have been centrally protected. As of now, there are 41 monuments of national importance protected by the Archaeological Survey of India in the District of Agra.

Offset Agreements with Foreign Companies

3509. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has signed offset agreements with foreign companies under the new defence procurement policy;
- (b) if so, the details of the agreements;
- (c) the names of the companies whom with the said agreements have been signed; and
- (d) the benefits likely to be gained as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJEET SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise

Security System at Stations

3510. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether as per the US-based Rand Corporation Report India faced the highest number of attacks on its rail network from terrorists and anti-social elements; and
- (b) if so, the manner in which the Railways are planning to upgrade and modernize the security at railway stations and on its rail network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) As per intelligence inputs, Indian Railways is a soft target for terrorists in India and a few cases of attack from terrorists and anti social elements on rail network have been reported over Indian Railways.

(b) 185 Railway Stations including 17 metro stations over Indian Railway have been identified as sensitive where security systems are proposed to be

upgraded. The following steps are being taken to provide adequate security at all the important railway stations:-

1. Modern security gadgets like—Close Circuit Televisions and Cameras, Deep Search Metal Detectors, Scanner Machines, etc. are being installed.
2. Sniffer Dogs are being/have been deployed for checking of Coaches, Parcels, Baggage, station area and searching of explosives.
3. Round the clock announcements over Public Address system as well as by Mega phones by Railway Protection Force to alert the public in coaches.
4. Use of Door Frame Metal Detectors at every entry point.
5. Use of Hand Held Metal Detectors to check the passenger's belongings in trains and at stations.
6. Dragon search lights are being used for escorting of Mail/Express trains and track patrolling.
7. Adequate officers/staff have been deployed regularly to ensure the safety and security of the Passengers.
8. Continuous extensive drives are being made by the officers/staff in the Railway stations to avoid untoward incidents.
9. Access control has been introduced in coordination with Government Railway Police.
10. Presence of Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police staff at stations has been augmented.
11. Specialized training is imparted to Railway Protection Force officers / Staff to fight against any adverse situation like terrorist attack etc.

12. Communication system of Railway Protection Force has been improved by providing Mobile phones, walkie-talkies, Very High Frequency sets etc.

[Translation]

Rail Facilities at Pithampur

3511. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no rail facility at Pithampur of Dhar district near Indore which has been declared as special economic zone; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to extend their network upto Pithampur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Construction of Dahod-Indore new line has been decided to be taken up which will provide the rail link to Pathampur industrial area.

[English]

Implementation of Atrocities Act

3512. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

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

(a) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes in its first consultation held in the Capital, New Delhi, on February 6, 2007, observed that according to the National Crime Records Bureau, every 20 minutes a dalit faces atrocities in India, ranging from untouchability to criminal offences like murder and rape, and other offences like burning of houses and grab are on the rise;

(b) if so, the details of decisions arrived at in the meeting; and

(c) if so, the steps taken and being taken by the Government to ensure that provisions of PCR Act, 1955 and SCs/STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, are enforced effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) In the first national conference on Atrocities on Scheduled Castes on 6-7 February 2007, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes has inter alia recommended that all crimes against Scheduled Castes whether under IPC or Special acts should be classified and reported under crime against SC; there is need for one designated agency to collect, compile, authenticate and supply data to all users; all committees and institutional infrastructure mandated under POA Act and Rules should be put in place by all State Governments in a period of two months; Uniform formats/ procedure to be evolved for reporting and classification of crime by the Ministry of Home Affairs immediately; Collation and computerization of all data from the Police Station upwards be made online and all computerization projects should incorporate this in project design ab initio.

(c) For ensuring early prosecution of cases under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, 137 exclusive Special Courts have already been set up in different States and Courts of Sessions have been notified as Special Courts.

Suitable advisories are issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Besides, assistance is provided for awareness generation, strengthening the administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, etc.

Manufacturing of Brahmos Cruise Missile

3513. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to manufacture Brahmos Cruise Missile for the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which it is likely to be inducted in the Indian Air Force?

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

(a) to (c) The development of Air Force version of BrahMos cruise missile is in progress. Indian Air Force has proposed to install BrahMos missile in SU-30MKI. However, BrahMos missile is already being produced in India for Indian Navy and Army. Induction process for both the Services is in progress after their acceptance.

(d) BrahMos cruise missile is likely to be inducted in Indian Air Force in 2009 once the flight evaluation is completed.

Buddhist Circuits in India

3514. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the study conducted by FICCI-ICRA stating that tourist arrivals to Buddhist circuits in India can be boosted by 400 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to exploit this potential?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) FICCI has commissioned a study on "Positioning India as a Hub for Buddhist Tourism" and its report was released on 25th January, 2007. According to this report, three distinct circuits of Buddhist tourism in India can be identified and promoted, which can aim to attract 0.25% (from the current level of 0.06%) of the world's Buddhist population by 2012, which is equivalent to about one million tourists, and this is a rise of 400% from the

current annual base of about 200,000. The report also states that this would require marketing efforts, better connectivity as well as improvement of on-ground conditions in terms of better infrastructure and creation of other enabling issues like security, visa, permit conditions, etc.

(c) Infrastructure upgradation of Buddhist circuits has been taken in a big way through identification of 22 important Buddhist sites throughout the country. Government of India has sanctioned 14 projects amounting to Rs. 57.22 crore for development of tourism infrastructure in 12 sites across different states. The infrastructure development has also been taken up through Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for Ajanta-Ellora amounting to Rs. 299 crore. Government has also entered into an agreement for undertaking infrastructure development at Buddhist sites of Samath, Kushinagar, Kapilvastu, Shravasti and Sankisa in Uttar Pradesh with JBIC for a loan assistance of Rs. 395.63 crore for total project of Rs. 680 crore.

A major campaign titled "Come to India-Walk with the Buddha" was launched in the South East Asian market and in Domestic market for promotion of Buddhist circuit. In addition, Buddhism has also been identified for tourism development in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka through a common promotional campaign.

The Ministry of Tourism has requested Ministries of Civil Aviation, Railways and Road Transport and Highways to take steps for improving connectivity to important tourist destinations in the country, including the Buddhist sites. The issues related to visa-on-arrival, electronic visa, advanced passenger system and permits have been taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[Translation]

Deployment of Inspectors to Check Pantry Services in Railways

3515. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation have recently deployed more than 100 Inspectors equipped with secret camera keeping in view of increasing complaints of pantry car staff;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other measures taken to redress the complaints in regard to catering arrangements in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has deployed 100 quality Inspectors to monitor quality of catering services. Digital cameras have been provided to the quality inspectors by IRCTC to take photographs of existing conditions of pantry cars to compare the same at the time of subsequent inspection. No hidden cameras are being used.

(c) Complaint redressal machinery has been set up for quick disposal of complaints. The control offices are central to this machinery where process for handling of complaints is initiated and thereafter monitored. Computerized complaint redressal system has also been implemented and complaints are also received at feedback@irctc.com.

[English]

Incentives for Promotion of PSE

3516. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote joint ventures, mergers and take-overs by the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs)

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

(c) the incentives proposed by the Government for such proposals; and

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

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

(a) to (d) The Government has already given greater financial autonomy to the Boards of Navratna and Miniratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) for making investments in joint ventures/subsidiaries within prescribed limits as per orders issued in this regard dated 5.8.2005. The Navratna CPSEs have been empowered to make equity investment for establishing financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India or abroad subject to the ceiling of 15% of the net worth of the CPSE in one project limited to Rs. 1000 crore. The overall ceiling on such investment in all projects put together shall be 30% of the net worth of the CPSE. The Miniratna Category I CPSEs have been empowered to make equity investment for establishing financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India subject to the ceiling of 15% of the net worth of the CPSE in one project limited to Rs. 500 crore. The overall ceiling on such investment in all projects put together shall be 30% of the net worth of the CPSE. The Miniratna Category II CPSEs have been empowered to make equity investment for establishing financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India subject to the ceiling of 15% of the net worth of the CPSE in one project limited to Rs. 250 crore. The overall ceiling on such investment in all projects put together shall be 30% of the net worth of the CPSE.

The Boards of Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs have also been delegated powers for mergers and acquisitions, subject to the conditions that (i) it should be as per the growth plan and in the core area of functioning of the PSE, (ii) conditions/limits would be as in the case of establishing joint ventures/subsidiaries, and (iii) the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) would be kept informed in case of investments abroad.

[Translation]

Illegal Container Trade

3517. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been phenomenal increase in the cases of the illegal container trade all over the country;

(b) if so, the remedial measures being taken to check it;

(c) whether illegal containers have been seized in Gujarat and Mumbai recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :
(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Ticket Reservation Charges

3518. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had issued orders/circulars/office memorandum during the last two years to revise/increase the ticket reservation charges which were not mentioned in the Railway Budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railway have received any complaints/representations from any individual, organisations or from any public representative against such orders/move;

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

(e) whether the Railways have any proposal to augment the income for the current financial year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) In order to recover the additional expenditure involved in maintenance and continuous upgradation of a networked system, the Reservation Fee for tickets booked for journeys originating from other than the ticket booking station has been increased from 1.4.2006. The increase is (i) Rs. 10/- in second and sleeper class and Rs. 15/- in other classes of Passenger, Mail and Express trains, (ii) Rs. 20/- in all classes of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains and (iii) Rs. 15/- in Second class and Rs. 20/- in AC Chair Car of Jan Shatabdi Express trains.

(c) and (d) Representations against this increase have been received from some individuals, MPs, organisations, etc. which have been suitably replied.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Setting up of Plant by BHEL

3519. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BHEL has taken steps to set up nuclear power plant in collaboration with MNC and PSU;

(b) if so, the details and amount of investment involved in these joint ventures; and

(c) the response of MNC and PSU to the proposal of BHEL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF

HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :

(a) BHEL is a equipment supplier company and does not set up power plants including nuclear power plant.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Railway Projects Lying Pending

3520. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railway Projects yet to be taken up for which foundation stones were laid by the former Prime Ministers/Railway Ministers;

(b) the reasons for laying the foundation stones particularly when these projects were not to be taken up for implementation/construction;

(c) whether some of these projects are likely to be taken up in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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.

[Translation]

Unused Railway Land

3521. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE :

DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the area of railway land lying unused and that given to other departments and also to the State Governments for use, zone-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal for making use of such land for the railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the unutilised land is proposed to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) The details of vacant Railway land and under commercial licensing including given to other departments and State Government, zone-wise is as under:-

| Railway | Vacant land (in hectare) | Land under commercial licensing including given to the other department and State Governments (in hectare) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Central | 2478 | 72 |
| East Coast | 1355 | 130 |
| East Central | 5773 | 76 |
| Eastern | 1547 | 152 |
| North Central | 738 | 8 |
| North Eastern | 5923 | 43 |
| Northeast Frontier | 2435 | 1107 |
| Northern | 2919 | 231 |
| North Western | 964 | 36 |
| South Central | 4248 | 88 |
| Southeast Central | 3391 | 143 |
| South Eastern | 84 | 414 |
| Southern | 2297 | 305 |
| South Western | 2871 | 52 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------|-------|------|
| West Central | 488 | 113 |
| Western | 7383 | 246 |
| Total | 44894 | 3216 |

(b) to (d) Till such time, the land is required by Railways for its own operational use, the same is put to various short term uses like commercial licensing, plantation, Grow More Food Scheme, etc. in addition, where potential exists, it is proposed to undertake commercial development of land through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA).

[English]

**Development of Socio-Economic
Conditions of People**

3522. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGUR
BWISWMUTHIARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has adopted
any concrete policy strategies and action plan to develop

socio-economic conditions of the people living in the most backward and neglected Indo-Bhutan Border areas with special mention to the Bodoland Territory in Assam by doing various development activities through Army Personnel;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes and projects extended during the last three years in this regard and the amount earmarked for those projects and schemes during the said period; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) Indo-Bhutan border is managed by Shasatra Seema Bal; a force under the Ministry of Home Affairs. There is no specific scheme for development in the Indo-Bhutan border areas, especially the Bodoland territory, by the Army. However, Army executes civic action projects under Operation Sadbhavana in militancy affected and border areas in North East with the aim to 'win hearts and minds' of the people. In Bodoland territory, these projects include projects in Kokrajhar, Udalgiri, Baska and Chiranguri districts of Assam. The details of the projects executed and funds allocated in these districts during last three years are as follows:-

| Financial Year | Name of the Project | Amount ear-marked (Rs. in lakhs) |
|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2004-2005 | (a) Assistance to School | Rs. 13.00 |
| | (b) Infrastructure Development including Community Services | |
| | (c) Health Care | |
| 2005-2006 | (a) Infrastructure Development including Community Services | Rs. 27.25 |
| | (b) Health Care | |
| | (c) Development of Sports | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----------|---|-----------|
| | (d) National Integration Tour | |
| 2006-2007 | (a) Infrastructure Development including Community Services | Rs. 72.20 |
| | (b) Health Care | |
| | (c) Development of Sports | |
| | (d) National Integration Tour | |
| | (e) Assistance to School | |
| | (f) Water Supply Schemes | |
| | (g) IT Training to Youths. | |

Revival of NPPC

3523. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has accorded approval for revival of Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Limited (NPPC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds released by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the other incentives accorded/proposed to be accorded by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In its meeting held on 23.11.2006, the Competent Authority has accorded approval to the following proposals for revival of Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company Limited (NPPC):-

(i) Cash infusion of Rs. 552.44 crore through (i) Government Equity of Rs. 261.26 crore out of which Rs. 10 crore will be contributed by HPC; (ii) Term Loan of Rs. 252.99 crore to be availed from Commercial Banks/Financial Institutions by NPPC with Government of India guarantee; and (iii) 5% Non-cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of Rs. 38.19 crore.

(ii) Reduction of existing paid-up capital from Rs. 120.20 crore to Rs. 12.02 crore by way of reduction of the face value of the existing equity share from Rs. 1,000/- per share to Rs. 100/- per share and setting off the capital reduction fund of Rs. 108.18 crore against the Profit and Loss (P & L) Debit i.e. against a part of the accumulated losses of Rs. 249.83 crore.

(iii) Write-off of the existing loan of Rs. 29.87 crore as present in the Loan fund and interest of Rs. 52.62 crore accrued on the above loan.

(iv) Write-off of dues payable by NPPC to Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPC) amounting to Rs. 44.49 crore against HPC's loan and interest dues to Government of India.

Based on the above, the Operating Agency has submitted the Techno-Economic Report on revival of NPPC for approval in Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(c) The question of release of funds by Government depends on decision of BIFR on revival of NPPC.

(d) Apart from reliefs and concessions mentioned in part (b) above, NPPC will be eligible for concessions and incentives like tax exemption, interest subsidy etc. under new North East Industrial Policy (NEIP) 2007 announced by the Government on 1.4.2007.

MR. SPEAKER : I adjourn the House to meet again at 12 noon.

11.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the clock.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I will try to accommodate everyday. Please allow the House to function. If the House does not function, your matter does not come up. I have been trying to request everybody to cooperate. This is the greatest institution to which we have the honour to belong. Therefore, an impression should not go outside that we are not serious and that this Parliament has become non-functional. Therefore, I will try my best with your cooperation. I have been seeking the cooperation of all sides to allow the House to function. We shall try to allow every issue to be raised.

Today, the Question Hour could not be held. The hon.

Ministers. I am sure, are very happy that they do not have to answer any question!

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Of course, some are unhappy. But you try to impress upon your colleagues to allow the Question Hour.

Already, the notice for suspension of Question Hour has succeeded. You have never allowed the Speaker to take any decision.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will try to accommodate every Party as much as possible.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, it has been the case of Government-sponsored bandh!...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jharkhand) : Sir, in case you disallow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you time to speak after the Papers are Laid...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you time to speak.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : He is taking something else. He is helping you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much. I badly need that.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Kamal Nath, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A Copy of the Foreign Trade Policy (Updated as on 19th April, 2007) (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6204/07]

- (2) A Copy of the Handbook of Procedures Vol. I (Updated as on 19th April, 2007) (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6205/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Praful Patel, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6206/07]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : Sir, on behalf of Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Hindi and English versions) — Union Government (Commercial)—(No. 10 of 2007) — (Telecommunications Sector) — Performance Audit, for the year ended March, 2006, under Article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6207/07]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A Copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6208/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6209/07]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6210/07]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Instrumentation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6211/07]

- (4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Napa Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6212/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6213/07]

12.04 hrs.

BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : I beg to lay on the Table the National Institutes of Technology Bill, 2007, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 21st March 2007.

12.04% hrs.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Sixth Report

[English]

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN (Vandavasi) : I beg to present a copy of the Sixth Report (Hindi and English Versions) of Railway Convention Committee on 'Rate of Dividend for 2007-08 and other ancillary matters.'

12.04% hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Fifteenth and Sixteenth Reports

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Sir, on behalf of Dr. Col. Retd. Dhani Ram Shandil, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs:-

- (1) 15th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) 16th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2007-2008.

12.04% hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

(i) Twentieth Report

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : I beg to lay a copy of the Twentieth Report* (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour on the Demands for Grants for the year 2007-2008 of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The House was not in session on 20th April.

* The 20th Report was presented to the Hon'ble Speaker on 20 April 2007 under Direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and the Speaker was pleased to order the printing, publication and circulation of the Report under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

(II) Twenty-first Report

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Twenty First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour on the Demands for Grants for the year 2007-2008 of the Ministry of Textiles.

12.05 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS**

Thirteenth and Fourteenth Reports

[English]

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2006-2007):—

- (1) Thirteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas'; and
- (2) Fourteenth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas'.

12.06 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Twenty-Seventh Report

[English]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat) : Sir, I

beg to present a copy of the Twentieth Seventh Report* (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways on "Demands for Grants-2007-2008 of the Ministry of Railways".

12.07 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND
FERTILIZERS**

Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports

[English]

SHRI NARSINGHRAO H. SURYAWANSHI (Bidar) : Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers:—

- (1) Sixteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals); and
- (2) Seventeenth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).

12.07½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

One Hundred Twenty-sixth Report

[English]

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore) : Sir, I beg

* The 27th Report was presented to the Hon'ble Speaker on 25th April, 2007 under Direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and the Speaker was pleased to order the printing, publication and circulation of the Report under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

[Prof. K.M. Kader Mohideen]

to lay on the Table a copy of the One Hundred Twenty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

12.08 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

One Hundred Seventeenth to One Hundred Seventy Sixth Reports

[English]

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur) : Sir, I beg to lay a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests:—

- (1) 170th Report on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Department of Science and Technology;
- (2) 171st Report on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research;;
- (3) 172st Report on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Department of Biotechnology;
- (4) 173rd Report on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences;
- (5) 174th Report on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of Environment and Forests;
- (6) 175th Report on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Department of Space; and
- (7) 176th Report on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) of the Department of Atomic Energy.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am sure all hon. Members will join me in expressing our happiness that our Leader of the House has recovered from the serious accident that he met. We wish him good health.

Hon. Members, now I come to important matters after the Question Hour. Some sections of the House wanted to raise some important matters. But as I have been saying, please allow me to give opportunity to all of you as much as possible. I appreciate the sentiment that you have given notice for suspension of Question Hour because of the importance of the matter. I will try to accommodate as many hon. Members as possible.

12.09 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

(I) RE: Reservation for OBCs in higher educational institutions

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in continuation of the fervent appeal made by our leader Dr. Kalsaignar M. Karunanidhi, in his letter dated 23rd April, 2007, and 02.04.2007 to the hon. Prime Minister, Madam Sonia Gandhiji and the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development Thiru Arjun Singhji, I would like to express our deep concern about the doubtful and non-implementation of the long felt need of 27 per cent reservation to the OBCs in higher education and that too after due process of legislation made by this august House unanimously.

As stated by my leader Dr. Kalsaignar M. Karunanidhi in his letter dated 02.04.2007 to the Prime Minister, Madam Sonia Gandhiji and Minister of Human Resource Development, the Central Government can proceed with the Notification of the various Castes which constitute the Backward Classes under Section 2 (g) of the Act based on the list of castes notified in pursuance of the Mandal

Commission Report and the List notified by the respective State Governments as agreed by the Supreme Court in its order dated 29.03.2007.

In these circumstances, I demand that the Government should pursue the issue putting forth all its efforts to convince the judiciary so as to have an appropriate verdict on this long pending aspirations of people of OBCs in the country and to implement the 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in the Government institutions of higher education from this academic year itself without fail.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Speaker, Sir It is a very serious issue. It seems the approach of the treasury benches is casual as they are taking it lightly. We do not want to go too much into the legal aspect. It is with regard to the reservation to the OBC students in higher education. If these students are not provided reservation during the current year it will be unfortunate. We want the Government to take it seriously so as to avoid any dispute. We should work unitedly in this direction so that the people do not feel that we are divided. The whole House is unanimous on this issue, but unfortunately we could not put forth our point before the hon. Court in a cogent way. We want it to be expeditiously and let it not be politicized. It seems efforts are being made to take political mileage out of it instead of implementing it seriously. My submission is that the Government should make its intention clear about it and let not the future of the children get spoilt.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue slated for debate is quite a serious one. Since a two Judge Bench has stayed implementation of 27 per cent reservation for OBC are apprehension has pervaded the minds of crores of OBCs. He is aware that OBCs did not enjoy 27 per cent reservation in jobs. It is an opportunity. When the decision came up in 1992, it was said that why OBCs should be provided 27 per cent reservation in service? Make them capable. Give them reservation in education. When 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in admission etc. in educational institutions has been provided, it has been stalled. Will a decision pronounced by a 9 Judge Bench be reversed by a 2 Judge Bench?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, you have made your point. Please do not go into the details of the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am speaking quite categorically and continuously. Has a new precedent been set? Can a two Judge Bench reverse the judgment delivered by a 9 Judge Bench?
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not go into that. You have expressed your concern.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not go into it. The matter is before the court. You have said enough. You have expressed your concern.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very serious situations has been created in the country. The Government are taking initiative at the request of the hon. Members. I would like to know about the rights of the Executive, the Judiciary and the Legislature....
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us wait. You have already expressed your concern.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : What is objectionable in it, when it has been passed by the House. Today the issue is that the domain of Parliament has been challenged....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I request you not to make any reflection on the court. I will not allow that. Please do not record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : It is not a decision under constitutional provisions. Will you not allow to speak on the matter concerning India's constitution?

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to speak on constitutional matters but not about the judiciary.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The jurisdiction of Executive, Legislature and Judiciary has been enshrined in the constitution of India. Will an apex institution interfere in the functioning of another one...(Interruptions)
It is to be decided today...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Don't record it.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You have spoken.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I won't speak till you allow me...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have asked you to speak that is why you have spoken. [English] Don't make any mention about the court's jurisdiction here. I will not allow that.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : What objection-

*Not recorded.

able I have spoken? I have not said anything objectionable. My submission is that how 27 per cent reservation for the OBCs can be ensured?

Sir, the current academic session has been interrupted even after legislation has been passed by the House and existence of provisions in this regard in Article 15(4) and 15(5) of the constitution. This Bill has been unanimously passed by the House. The House was not divided on this issue. The Union Government should remove the hurdles on its implementation. I am making a request to you as well because you are holding the top chair of this democratic institution.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nice to hear that.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Sir, it should be ensured that jurisdictions are underlined in constitution. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That we can discuss later.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : All should remain within the limits of their jurisdiction, according to that.....*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It will not be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record. I have called Shri Ganesan.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV :*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing more, please.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV :*

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV :*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Yadav, I would not have allowed this matter to be raised as it is pending in the court, but because of the sentiments all across the House. I have allowed it. But you are misusing the opportunity I have given to you. Please do not refer to the judiciary.

(Interruptions)

SHRI L. GANESAN (Tiruchirappalli) : Sir, yesterday also I had raised it in the All-Party Meeting. This is a very serious matter which we have taken into account ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Sir, I am speaking the truth, truth is not to digest difficult ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can discuss it in a proper manner.

SHRI L. GANESAN : Sir, since the Parliament has passed an Act unanimously, therefore, not only that the Supreme Court might have given any decision, but we should have to take into account the Parliament within its sphere. Parliament is the most powerful body and it has passed an Act to this effect. ...*(Not recorded)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow that. Please do not misuse it. You must also respect the judiciary, as I believe that we are entitled to respect, they are also entitled to respect.

*Not recorded.

SHRI L. GANESAN : Sir, my submission is that as soon as the stay was granted, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has convened an all Party meeting there and passed a resolution to the effect that it should be reconsidered. Not only that, a *bandh* was observed there but it was also a total success.

The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written letters to the concerned people requesting them that it should be reconsidered and somehow or the other it should be passed. Once again, he has appealed to the Government of Tamil Nadu and also to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and others to convene a Joint Session of the Parliament so that it should be discussed and it should be passed once again.

MR. SPEAKER : Md. Salim. Please, just refer the matter and do not refer to the courts.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East) : Sir, this is a very serious matter and as far as stay order given by the judiciary is concerned, I am not going into that, but the issue of admission in IIMs and IITs has been raised at the time of the beginning of the academic session, and it has created a dilemma. In such circumstances the Government should represent its point on the basis of the legislation passed in this House and conflicting interests should not be promoted. On the name of reservation an effort has been made to incite conflict between one class of the country with another class. As we are unanimous on this issue in the House, similar situation should be created in the whole society. Due to the stay in admissions at this juncture, many students of the general category and already reserved categories are facing a lot of problems. An academic year should not be lost due to this because source of employment is linked with it. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to take immediate decision in this regard and improve the situation.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Thank you. This issue is supplementary to the 27 per cent

[Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav]

reservation provided in jobs. If the children of the backward classes are not able to get education, then how will they be able to get the benefit of 27% reservation provided for them in jobs. Therefore, the basic issue is that they should be educated and should be made eligible for jobs. Therefore, the House had unanimously made amendment in the constitution in this regard. [English] The unanimous will of the House is the will of the people. [Translation] It should be understood. I do not want to say anything negative. [English] Sometimes a very peculiar situation arises before the country as well as the Parliament when the judgement of a larger Bench is overruled.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not go into it. I know you have rightly expressed your concern.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You may please sit down.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV : Full discussion on this topic should be held, our party has given notice in this regard. Therefore, it is necessary to hold discussion on this topic, since, we do not have to take the name of the judiciary, we will not be able to express anything.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have expressed your concern.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV : Through you, I would like to tell the House that the Government should strongly advocate this case in the Supreme Court, so that the future of lakhs of students could be saved which has been put at stake.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Just express your concern on this issue. Let us not decide here about the court.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur) : I would not go into the details. I would like to only state that it was the unanimous decision of this House that the OBC students should be provided 27 per cent reservation in institutions of higher learning. By doing so, we are only enabling those students to have a brighter future in their lives. Now that has been thwarted by the decision of the Court. So, I would like that this matter should be thoroughly discussed by this House at the earliest and I hope you may take necessary steps.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, now thousands of students are going with uncertainty. This House gave full support, unanimous support and full mandate to the Government in favour of this Constitutional amendment. We are quite hopeful that from this academic year, OBC students will get admission in AIIMS and other institutions of higher education. I had an opportunity to go through the written argument of the Government. I should say, through you, to the entire House that it was placed in so poor light in some of the arguments. Even we are not convinced how the Government with such full support is not placing the points seriously before the court which may convince the court. I would request the Government to again go through the written argument and place it properly – the entire House desires it; the country desires it – before the court; they should get permission from the court so that OBC students may be permitted to get admission from this academic year.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hope for the best. Now the matter will be heard on 8th. I am sure, the sentiments expressed will be duly noted.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to join my colleagues with respect to the sentiments they have expressed regarding the 27 per cent reservation to students belonging to backward classes.

Whatever has been said in this House is actually a reflection of the public opinion. We all know and we must appreciate the fact that public opinion is the lifeblood of

democracy. As has been mentioned by my colleagues earlier, this was a decision taken by the Government after a complete consensus was reached with the support from Members from all sides of this House. Today our main concern is that those students who will be beneficiaries of this particular enactment should not be sufferers as far as this academic year is concerned. While in deference to your wishes I shall not express anything that has happened in the Court because we have always held courts in a high esteem; I also wish that the Government should resolve this and also ensure that such conflicts do not take place in future.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU : Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be brief.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU : Sir, as my learned colleagues have expressed the concern, the UPA under the leadership of Madam Sonia Gandhi and also all the leaders of this House unanimously supported this issue. We passed this Bill and it became a law. When it became a law, we thought that the entire OBC will get their due share in their journey of education. Sir, without education no society can develop, and particularly the weaker sections. The weaker sections of this country wanted education.

Sir, you have told us not to say anything about the Court. Today, the issue has come. I am not repeating anything. Sir, under your leadership, the Parliament passed this Bill and the whole country applauded it. Even then, we are not able to get....* It means that we are in a precarious condition.

MR. SPEAKER : You can say, the law is not being enforced. Please strike out that word.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU : The point now is whether Parliament is supreme or not. This issue has arisen today.

Sir, in your wisdom, you have already called an All-

*Not recorded.

Party Meeting and all the Parties are supporting this issue. When all the Parties and the entire 100 crore people of the country are with you and with the Government, today's happenings are not good for the country. We need the law of the country to be protected. First of all, the supremacy of Parliament is to be protected. The entire people are representing the whole country. This is a very serious issue. We want OBCs to get the due share and the majority community should get their due share...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Well, I believe, a view has been fully expressed...

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU : Sir, we are with you. We want this issue to be sorted out without any loss of time.

MR. SPEAKER : This is the agony of the Speaker. He cannot say one word. I have now to take permission from all of you to say one word!

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU : No, Sir. We are with you. We want you support and see that this issue is sorted out.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I am saying. I was going to support you. The will of the House was expressed in the unanimous passing of this Bill.

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU : Not only that, the will of the House should be supreme and it should sustain also.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after sixty years of our Independence, we have 27 per cent reservation to the OBCs in the higher educational institutions in the country. This Bill was passed in both the Houses of Parliament after arriving at a consensus. At this stage, the Government of India should intervene, argue properly on 8th May in the Supreme Court and see that the reservation is implemented from this academic year. If there is any obstacle, a Joint Session of both the Houses should be convened and also if there is any need we have to amend the Constitution. At any cost we have to provide reservation for OBCs in the educational institutions from this academic year.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangpur) : Mr. Speaker, I have got a little different opinion in this regard and I would like to talk about two points. First point is that a bench of 9 judges of the court has said that the creamy layer should not be included in it. Second point is that certain per cent reservation should also be provided for the economically weaker sections, who come under the BPL. I would like to ask why the Parliament and the Government are making it a prestige issue? Why the benefit of reservation be not given to the economically weaker sections? I understand that discussion on this matter should be held and we should reconsider this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The law has been very clear.

Now, Shri E. Ponnuswamy.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram) : Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I do not want to repeat anything which has already been spoken by my esteemed colleagues. Our Party's stand is that the law passed unanimously by both the Houses of Parliament should be immediately implemented from this academic year. So, I would request the Government to do the needful to emphatically impress upon the Judiciary, to convince them to just implement the Act immediately.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, on behalf of the Kerala Congress Party, I would also strongly urge that the will of the people, which is supreme should be emphasized again in the Parliament, if necessary. But I would submit that though the judicial scrutiny may be possible and it is coming on the way, I do not comment on them.

But I would submit that whatever has to be done even to take it again from whatever interpretation which has

come, has to be done by this Parliament, and the Government has to take it up with all seriousness. The Government has got full support in this matter.

12.31 hrs.

(II) RE : Reported anti-national statements made during a political rally held in Srinagar, Jammu Kashmir on 22nd April, 2007

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very serious incident took place three-four days ago. A rally was held in Srinagar and a big public meeting was held after Ali Shah Ghilani arrived there...(Interruptions). It is being said that he did not obtain permission and as such the meeting was illegal and despite that not even a single police personnel was present over there. The flags of Pakistan and Lashker-e-Toiba were hoisted over there, it was openly said during the speeches that Kashmir was not a part of India and it was clearly said that the Army should not remain deployed over there. So much inciting speeches were given over there and I am surprised that still no action has been taken against Ghilani. Lashker-e-Toiba people went over there wearing masks, but no action was taken against them. They chanted slogans of 'Pakistan Zindabad' despite that no case was registered against them, nobody took action against them. Is this, India or Pakistan? Whether the Government will be an onlooker to the chanting of Pro-Pakistani slogans? This is not an ordinary issue. [English] The Government has to respond to it. [Translation] We should be informed as to what action the Government are taking. Whether troops are being continuously withdrawn on the name of demilitarization because of the pressure exerted by them. Why Ghilani is being treated softly while Hindus are being continuously massacred in Rajouri, Poonch and Doda and the Government is being an onlooker of all these incidents. We want the

Government to divulge its policy in this regard? The hon'ble Prime Minister should take the country in confidence in regard to the dialogue being held with Pakistan. Ghilani said the decision taken by India and Pakistan in the month of September will not be acceptable to him. What decision is going to be taken? Whether we are bartering with Kashmir? Whether Kashmir is being sold?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Malhotra, you have made you point.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Pradhan Mantri must take the country into confidence. Yesterday, he had made a statement...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Prabhunath Singh.

SHRI ANANT KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, we want a reply from them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I earnestly appeal to you...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : That is not fair. You have been given an opportunity but this is unfair. Let Prabhunathji speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Malhotra, you have already made you point. You have made you demand. You have asked for a statement from the Government; let us see.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : The hon. Member, Malhotraji has raised a very sensitive issue. There is nothing unusual about Geelani today. Even

in the past he has made statements against India and in favour of Pakistan. When the rally was taken out, what was the Government of Kashmir doing? It is also being stated that there were freewheeling masked terrorists in the rally who were raising anti- India and pro Pakistan slogans. Besides, they spat as much fire against India as they could. Statements are issued by Pakistan every now and then that the impasse over Indo-Pak border dispute is likely to be resolved soon. What formula has been adopted to settle the border dispute?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the other hand, please see what has been the stand of the Government of Kashmir? It was such a major incident that terrorists raised anti-India slogans and the State Government kept quiet. What is the reason behind it? Even the Central Government did not react. The Central Government did not issue any positive statement and even now it is keeping mum. It has been reported that ten people have been booked. I would like to know under which section have they been booked. The Government should have apprised the House about the facts in this regard. After this incident there have been apprehensions in the country about the role of the Government that it is deliberately providing protection to the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. That the Government of Kashmir is sponsoring all the terrorist attacks in the country by providing asylum to terrorists. There is an element of doubt regarding all these issues. We want the Government's response over these issues and the hon. Prime Minister should himself give a reply in the House. We request you to direct the Government to respond on this issue in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that the Geelani incident is dangerously outrageous for the country. It is absolutely dangerously outrageous because on the soil of India there has been an incident which deeply hurts the national

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

feelings and which deeply seeks to hurt the integrity and sovereignty of the country. While saying so, I must very frankly admit that the issue must not be enlarged.

While condemning the incident, I welcome the process of normalization of relationship between India and Pakistan. I welcome the move that the Government of India is taking to settle the dispute between two important neighbours in South Asia, and I believe that the Government will continue to do so despite the provocation that is being given by the extremists in India as well as in Pakistan.

The peoples of India and Pakistan want peace and friendly relations. But there are extremist elements both in Pakistan and India, who would like to tarnish, jeopardize and undermine the process of liberalization....(Interruptions) They undermine the process of friendliness. Whenever I look at the Government, the word 'liberalization' comes in my mind. That is most unfortunate.

MR. SPEAKER : Let there be some liberal attitude towards the Chair!

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I appreciate the liberalized attitude of the Speaker!

At the end, I say that the Government must make a statement in the House and try to clarify the situation that is sought to be created by some parties to blow up the issue and turn it into an issue of dispute for them.

MR. SPEAKER : If any other hon. Member wishes to associate can send their names.

Now, Shri Sandeep Dikshit.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Sir, I associate with this but the Government should respond to this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, you associate with this. Your name should be recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Without my permission, you cannot speak. Without my permission, do not record anybody's speech.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The young Member wants to raise a very important issue. Give him an opportunity.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All that is overnow, I gave you an opportunities to speak.

[English]

Nothing more will be recorded on this issue.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have made you point. You have made your demand. How can you demand immediate response? Immediate response is not possible. No, I cannot lay down precedent. I will appeal to you, please sit down. If the Government does not respond, it is entirely for them. No, I cannot compel them.

Now, Shri Sandeep Dikshit is raising a very important issue.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing. I gave you an opportunity to speak, I allowed your leader, I gave you all an opportunity to speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Not one word should be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Malhotraji, Prabhunath Singhji, Gurudas Dasguptaji, all have spoken.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You just tell me if you want the House to run or not. Please tell me.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, we need your cooperation...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Malhotra Sahab, I gave you ample opportunity. Prabhunath Singhji, I gave you also an opportunity to express your views.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, it is a very serious issue...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever you wanted to raise, I have given full opportunity. Now you insist that immediately the Government should respond. That is not possible. It is entirely for the Government.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : How will the speak now?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to say something? Very well. It is entirely for the Government. No Chair can force it.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Sir, the hon. Members have drawn the attention of the Government. It is not a practice that instantly we respond to it. I have noted their suggestions. At the appropriate time the Government will make the statement. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, it is an important matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Leader of the House has committed that he will come to the House and make a statement. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All right. It's over now.

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, they cannot force at what point of time, on which date the Government will make a statement. I will make the statement. That much I can say. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Are you taking any action or not? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, it is a serious matter. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, this is not a debate. They wanted a statement. I have assured the House I will make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER : I think that is enough.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : This is the pusitlanimous approach of the Government which is encouraging terrorism...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only the statement of Shri Sandeep Dikshit will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

12.41

(Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Some Other Hon'ble Members then left the House)

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi) : Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very important issue. A young Member is raising it. I request the House to give attention to him.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important matter. About 20 days ago the Inter-Government Panel on Climate Change of United Nations brought out its report on climate change. Global warming and climate change are something that we have been talking of for almost 10 to 15 years. For the first time, an authentic report has come that has internationally accepted that global warming has now become a part, a reality. In the last 30-40 years the average temperatures across the world have risen by 0.75 degrees Celsius and we are estimating that in the next 10 to 15 years they will go up even further. I am really unfortunate that the Opposition is not here. It is an issue of concern for each one of us.

The report authentically claims that in the next 15 to 20 years – it is not a distant future – the glaciers across the world, specially in the Himalayan region from where some of our most sacred rivers flow, including the Ganges, the Yamuna and the Brahmaputra, are going to recede to an extent that the Ganges and the Yamuna may die as rivers by the year 2030. This is a reality. This is no longer in the realm of fantasy. This is a change.

*Not recorded.

It is also being considered that tropical countries like ours, poor countries and third-world countries are going to suffer maximum. There is going to be massive crop damage. There is going to be massive damage to drinking water. Most of our areas will turn into desert.

My request to the Central Government, through you, is to take action in this. I know international steps are required. But nationally the Government should take all Parties into consensus in this.

[Translation]

Sir, what if this world shall experience a sort of holocaust after twenty years and the way transition is taking place ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I hope some notice will come so that I allow a discussion. I thank you for raising it.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : Sir, I would request you that some discussion also may be allowed and I urge the Government to take steps on it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhusudan Mistry to speak now. Do not refer to any State issue.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Seabarkantha) : Sir, it is not a State issue. It is, in fact, about a fake encounter on the minorities committed by the State [Translation] Mr. Speaker Sir, in Ahmedabad...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That portion need not go on record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Sir, I am only drawing the attention of the House.

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed you. I am requesting you not stray beyond the issue.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : A man was killed in broad day light. His wife is missing till date. The worst part is that his family had to move the Supreme Court when they were not given justice. An inquiry was conducted in the case on the directions of the Supreme Court and in the inquiry report it was stated that [English] in fact, the State has to protect property and lives of its own citizens, [Translation] Instead the State used its establishment for. He was killed in broad daylight and as a cover up it was mentioned that he had links with Lashkar-e-Taiba. I am quoting it.

[English]

"The inquiry undertaken on the orders of the Supreme Court concludes that the collusion is by far the most serious aspect of entire sordid episode. This makes an example of the involvement of the State Government in a major crime."

Sir, the State Government itself....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into it. You have raised your point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : In fact, the State Government is supposed to protect the lives and property. There are three IPS officers – two from Gujarat and one from Rajasthan – who have been arrested. We demand a statement from the Home Minister and that this inquiry should be given to the CBI. Otherwise, ...*(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, I will not allow this. do not refer to that. You have referred to this.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : It is a very serious matter. ...*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record anything.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY :* I demand a statement from the Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : ...*

MR. SPEAKER : Not one word, nothing is being recorded. Why are you shouting?

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you think, Shri Krishnadas, that you are serving the cause.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Malhotra, I have not allowed, I am not allowing it to be recorded.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very important and prominent issue relating to Andhra Pradesh. I am requesting all the Members to kindly co-operate. ...*(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will adjourn the House.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am requesting through you all the hon. Members that I have to raise a matter of urgent public importance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 2 p.m.

12.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour this morning. Hon. Speaker called my name at the last moment during 'Zero Hour' but the House adjourned suddenly. I will just take two minutes to mention this important issue. I will not take more time than that.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can speak in the evening.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, I humbly submit this to you. The decision is yours. We are hard pressed for time and we have to discuss the Demands for Grants. Demands have been a demand of the House. Hon. Speaker exhaustively gave opportunity to the Members. I

cannot blame anybody. With full respect to Shri Yerrannaaidu, he knows the tradition, I do not know how we could carry on with the business of the day if we start raising 'Zero Hour' issues even in the business hour. Demands for Grants (Railways) have to be passed without a debate. That has been agreed to. Then we have Demands for Grants of Ministry of Labour. There are a lot of Members to speak on that. How do we manage the business of the House?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : This is an alarming issue in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : On this issue, Maharashtra Members also will get up. I do not know how to manage the business of the House.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : This is an alarming issue in Andhra Pradesh. There is tension in the State. Just an hour before, we met the Prime Minister also.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You raise it tomorrow in 'Zero Hour'. I will plead for you with the Speaker.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Okay.

14.06 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House and they will form part of the proceedings.

(I) Need to set up a Central University on Information Technology in Tamil Nadu

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani) : Sir, at present there are 18 Central Universities functioning throughout the country. All the Universities are located in Northern

*Treated as laid on the Table.

India except one in Puducherry. There are five universities in the North East, four in New Delhi, four in Uttar Pradesh, two in Andhra Pradesh and one each in West Bengal and Maharashtra.

For the past sixty years no central university is constituted on any field of education in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. The youths from south are unable to get admission in anyone of the Central Universities due to language problem and so many reasons. Large number of youths who are working in the field of Information Technology sector throughout the world are from Tamil Nadu only. However, there is not much scope for the students in the Tamil Nadu State to pursue their higher education in Central Universities and they are facing lot of difficulties.

Hence, there is an urgent need for setting up of a Central University on Information Technology in Southern India particularly in Tamil Nadu. I shall, therefore, urge upon the Government to take necessary action for establishing a Central University on Information Technology in Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

(ii) Need to monitor the functioning of Public Distribution System in Bihar

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar) : The high prices of essential food items like pulses, gram, rice, sugar, mustard oil and turmeric are a matter of serious concern. Even After a fall in the prices of chana and moong dal they are still high while that of masoor, arhar and rajma dal, rice, dhanian, jeera and 'golki' have risen. Also, availability of Kerosene oil at fair price is a problem. There is widespread feeling that all this is because of hoarding followed by sale in the black market and the inefficient functioning of the Public Distribution System. There is also the perception that the Central Government is not doing enough to compel the state governments to ensure proper functioning of their retail outlets.

The centre should evolve a system to monitor the working of the Public Distribution System in the states-

particularly in Bihar. The concerned Ministry should organize meetings in the state capitals with the State Government officials dealing with the system and, to make a meaningful assessment, should tally the quantum of essential commodities and food items supplied to each district and actually sold in them. This will show if allegations of hoarding are correct or the supply of these items has been inadequate. Corrective action, as the case may be, should then be taken and stringent legal action against hoarders, if any must follow. This alone will set matters right.

Also, 'kharif' sowing will begin by next June. Adequate timely and availability of genuine fertilizers-DAP, to begin with, and then Urea must be ensured.

(iii) Need to take steps for cleaning Anna Sagar Lake in Ajmer and Pushkar Sarovar in Pushkar, Rajasthan

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, the renowned historical city of Ajmer and the world famous pilgrim center of Pushkar are the two very important cities from religious, cultural, tourist, archeological points of view. Foreign and domestic tourists coming to Rajasthan make it a point to visit these places. Unfortunately, the waters of the historical lake of Ajmer along the banks of which Shahjehan got a parapet (Baradari) constructed and the holy 'Pushkar Sarovar' in whose waters lakhs of people take a dip to wash away their sins have become extremely polluted and germ infested. There is no inflow of fresh water due to shortage of rains and the fresh rain water cannot be collected owing to blockade in the inlets. Consequently, owing to excessive silting and in the absence of efforts of desilting the Pushkar Sarovar the water is no longer fit for bathing which causes great inconvenience to the pilgrims.

Therefore, the Environment and Forest Department and the Department of Tourism and Culture are requested to take immediate steps to clean both the Anna Sagar Lake

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

in Ajmer and the holy Pushkar Sarovar and desilt the bottom of the lake and make arrangements to provide fresh and safe water in the lakes by getting the water inlets cleaned.

(iv) Need for gauge conversion of existing narrow gauge railway line on Seoni-Chhindwara Section in Madhya Pradesh

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni) : Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Central Government towards my parliamentary constituency, Seoni in Madhya Pradesh. There is 57 K.M. long narrow gauge Railway Line between Seoni and Chhindwara. This is tribal dominated area. Narrow gauge line causes lots of difficulties in transportation and as a result of it, no industry could be set up in this area and development has not taken place. Consequently the district of Seoni has been lagging behind all other districts as far as development is concerned. This has led to increase in unemployment. People of this area have been demanding conversion of this narrow gauge between Seoni and Chhindwara into broadgauge for the last many years. I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister of Railways to kindly issue orders to convert this narrow gauge railway line into broadgauge keeping in view the current condition of this backward and tribal area of the state.

(v) Need to check the infiltration of Maoists from Nepal to Uttarakhand

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards Uttarakhand. Most of the areas of Uttarakhand are hilly which abounds in forests. There are reports that Maoists are infiltration into Uttarakhand from Nepal and setting up their hideouts in its forests. The Maoists coming from Nepal can easily infiltrate into Uttarakhand. Once they hide themselves into jungles, it would be easy for them to carry out their activities and then it would not be easy to nab them.

I would request the Central Government to check out a strategy in collaboration with the State Government to check the infiltration of Maoists so that they can be prevented from carrying out their activities in other States particularly in Uttarakhand.

(vi) Need to withdraw sex education from the syllabus of CBSE for Primary Classes

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir) : Sir, Ministry of Human Resource Development has included Sex education in the curriculum of the C.B.S.E. from the primary classes itself and its material has been prepared by the UNICEF. The material which I have seen is obscene. This material is not going to solve any purpose of providing better education to children rather it will drive them towards sexual promiscuity in the society. The immature children will not be able to pay attention to their studies and they will be inclined towards sexual curiosity. It is required to be considered seriously the appropriate age and manner in which sex education is to be imparted. A considered policy is required to be formulated on such sensitive issues in consultation with teachers, guardians, sociologists, psychiatrists and psychologists while formulating such policy. The Environment and Culture of every country should be taken into account. If such things are not taken into account in a country like India, we will have to face new problems instead of solving the existing ones.

I, therefore, request the Government to immediately withdraw this material and initiate a national debate on when and how sex education is to be imparted so that a well considered opinion can be evolved with the active participation of various sections of society so as to build national character.

(vii) Need to review the policy of setting up of Special Economic Zones in the country

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandarpur) : Sir, in view of the opposition by the farmers in certain States of the country following the approval accorded by Union Government to the policy set up Special Economic Zone

in the country is required to be reconsidered. Assuming the S.E.Z. Criterion of the development, Cultivable land is being acquired by the Government in the country. At present, land of farmers is being acquired in the country under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. Such an outdated act does not provide adequate prices to the farmers for their land and they are also not rehabilitated properly. Farmers engaged in agricultural activities are being forced to live in jhuggis and do work like labourers after their displacement. Agriculture and agriculturists should be our priority but condition of farmers in the country is deteriorating. Considering the opposition being registered across the country against S.E.Z. as its indication, it is required to be revised and the priorities of the country should be changed. I should be formulated to make it farmer and agriculture based. Through you, I would like to request the Government to revisit the policy of Special Economic Zones.

**(viii) Need to establish a modern Dry port
at Dhubri, Assam**

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri) : It is a matter of concern that for the benefit of our country's trade and industries the Government has yet to exploit river Brahmaputra and establish a modern port at Dhubri. During the British rule, a port was established in 1883 on the Brahmaputra at strategically located Dhubri. Railways were also extended up to Dhubri as an important business centre of North East India and it contributed to the development of large area like North Bengal, Sikkim and Bhutan. Later air transport system was also introduced in the area as a result of intensive commercial activity and economic development. The economy of North Bengal was immensely benefited by the infrastructure facilities available at Dhubri. But this water transport system was closed due to acrimonious relationship between India and Pakistan and as a result the activities of Dhubri port were halted and with this economic and commercial activities were also adversely affected. It had a far-reaching effect on the economy of Assam and North Bengal. The

recession ultimately made the Railways defunct and Air Transport system was stopped. Although after much dilly dallying the Government sent a high-power team for investigation and on the spot assessment. It is learnt that the team has submitted a favourable report.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to make an announcement to the effect that a port with all modern facilities will be established at Dhubri for which the construction work of the port terminus will have to be completed within two years.

**(ix) Need to extend the National Rural Employment
Guarantee Scheme to North Tripura District,
Tripura**

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura-West) : Tripura is one of the most remotely located States in the country with 66% of the population living below the poverty line. Under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), out of the total 330 districts covered, 3 (three) districts in Tripura have been covered so far but the North Tripura district which has a significant BPL and Tribal population is yet to be covered. The rural population of the North Tripura district is more than 5 (five) lakh and do not have any secured means of livelihood. Because of geographical isolation most of the economic and industrial activities in the remote NE states are uncompetitive and the vulnerable population in these states has to depend on the schemes such as REGA for their livelihood. I would, therefore, urge Government of India to immediately extend NREGA to North Tripura district so as to provide the much needed safety for the poor and vulnerable population living in this remote district of the remotest state of the Country.

**(x) Need to run Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti
Express daily and provide adequate number of
bogies for Bundelkhand region**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.) : Sir, the Railways have started neglecting Bundelkhand, the most backward region in Uttar Pradesh. It is a matter of

[Shri Rajnarayan Budholia]

great concern. I have been demanding in the House for the last three consecutive years to run Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express daily but no positive steps have been taken so far in this regard. Even efforts are being made to curtail the number of bogies in the Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express. On 22.4.2007 the train arrived at platform No. 7 at 9.20 p.m. About 4 bogies of the train were reduced. A lot of inconvenience was caused to the passengers by the Railway administration. There was a great resentment among passengers. The passengers had reserved tickets but there were no bogies for them.

The hon'ble Minister of Railways is, therefore, requested through the House to run the Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express daily with immediate effect and provide adequate number of neat and clean bogies.

(ix) Need to take steps to increase the production of edible oil in the country

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Sir, at present the common man is facing lots hardships on account of non-availability of the commodities of daily use in the country. Wheat, Rice, Pulses, edible oil are such commodities which are daily used by a common man. The Govt. does talk of the shortage of Wheat, Rice, Pulses, Sugar etc. but edible oil has also joined the category of these commodities. Over the past years, production of pulses has been continuously decreasing in the country. To meet the requirement of edible oil, dependency on import is continuously rising. Whereas the requirement of edible oils in the country was met by way of 3 per cent import during 1990, presently this import is 40 per cent. As compared to other countries of the world, the rate of production of pulses in the country is just 50 per cent. The National Oilseeds Crusher. Association has recently issued a white paper where-in it is mentioned that now it would be difficult to meet the edible oil requirement of the country through imports in futures. Soyabean oil in America, Rapeseed Oil in other European countries, Palmoil

in Malaysia and Indonesia are being used as Bio-fuel. Hence, the availability of edible oil in the international market would be nil. On the other hand, according to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the production of pulses could be increased to 30 per cent by changing the technology. The rate of production could be raised above the rate of world production by using advanced types of seeds. Edible oil is not only an essential commodity of daily use rather it is providing employment also to lacs of people in the country. It also provides employment to those who are unskilled, illiterate and live in villages.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Govt. to take effective steps immediately in this regard and thus provide relief to commonman.

(xii) Need to make crop insurance compulsory for farmers in the country

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the 59th report of the National Agricultural Sample Survey, only 4 percent of farmers have got themselves covered under crop insurance and 59 percent of farmers are not even aware of it. Nearly 18 percent of farmers are aware of Bio-food. Besides, nearly 29 percent of farmers are aware of the Minimum Support Price and only 8 percent of them have heard about the World Trade Organisation. 75 percent population of the country live in villages. So, the Govt. should make the farmers aware in this regard. Crop insurance assumes vital importance in agriculture sector. It is very common in our country that crops get destroyed due to floods and droughts. So, I request the Govt. to make crop insurance compulsory for farmers and to make the villages instead of division a unit under crop insurance so that the losses suffered by the farmers could be realistically assessed and they be given compensation, therefor in a right manner.

Lastly, I request the Govt. to waive off the outstanding loans of the nationalised, commercial, co-operative and regional rural banks towards the families of the deceased farmers in the districts wherein a number of farmers have committed suicide due to heavy indebtedness.

**(xiii) Need to ensure adequate supply of LPG
for domestic use in Tamil Nadu**

(English)

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (Coimbatore) : The supply of LPG cylinders to Tamil Nadu for domestic purpose is too short to meet the actual sanctioned connections. The supply from the Centre to the state is also disproportionate to the actual number of enrolled consumers. As a result the agents at respective levels are unable to provide the LPG cylinders in time to the consumers. The inordinate delay very often creates utter unrest. People at this express their discontentment through agitations and protests. It is also apprehended that pilferage of the domestic supply for commercial purpose is going on unabated.

The Ministry of Petroleum Natural Gas should be advised to ensure adequate supply of LPG cylinders to Tamil Nadu immediately, which needs to be proportionate to the enrolled consumers. Steps to mitigate the sufferings of the households, women in particular, should also be initiated without any loss of time. Further loopholes, if any, causing illegal usage for commercial purposes should be plugged to protect the interests of the consumers.

**(xiv) Need to set up a LPG bottling plant at
Mashrakh, District Saran, Bihar**

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Sir, the Mashrakh divisional Headquarters under Saran district of Bihar State is centrally located in Saran, Sivan, Gopalganj and Muzaffarpur districts from where the distance of all districts Headquarters is nearly 40 to 50 Km. Consequently, commercial activities since the British rule have been continuously flourishing. Mushrak is connected with Saran, Sivan and Gopalganj districts by roads and railways. Divisional Headquarters, Thana, Hospital, Power House, Telecom Centre, Doordarshan Kendra, College, Central School etc. all facilities are available there in Mashrakh. Mashrakh is also a sub-divisional Headquarters proposed by the Govt. Thousands of railway employees

as well as retired railway employees live in Mashrakh and nearby areas. The proposed sub-divisional Headquarters Mashrakh of the Saran district is a thickly populated area where a lot of commercial activities are taking place.

If a bottling plant is opened in Mashrakh, then LPG distributors and Customers would be highly benefited. Earlier, an initiative to open a bottling plant in the Saran district was taken by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. For this purpose, a survey has also been conducted by the HPCL. But, the construction work of the plant is yet to be started. For this all sorts of facilities are available in Mashrakh.

I demand the Government to soon open a bottling plant in Mashrakh of the Saran district of Bihar.

**(xv) Need to conduct census of Buddhist
population in the country**

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Sir, the Central Govt. has given instruction to separately count the Buddhist population during census, but these instructions have not been carried out. It's requested from the Union Govt. to take effective steps for showing separately the Buddhist population in the census.

Our country has been named 'Bharat'. But still our country is known and called as 'Hindustan' which is not fair. Proper steps should be taken regarding naming and calling the country as 'Bharat'.

14.07 hrs.

***DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(RAILWAYS),
2007-08**

(English)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for the year 2007-2008.

*Moved with the Recommendation of the President.

Hon. Members, as you are aware, the House had already discussed the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for the year 2007-2008 at length. It has therefore, been decided that the Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 2007-2008 may be considered and voted by the House without discussion to facilitate threadbare discussion of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. As sufficient time for moving Cut Motions to the Demands for Grants (Railways) is not available, I treat all the Cut Motions, which have been circulated, as moved.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar) :

I beg to move :

That the Demand under the Head Railway Board (Pages 01.01.1-01.02.1) be reduced Re.1

Failure of the Government to strengthen the Headquarters of the East-Coast Zone Railway, Bhubaneswar. (1)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Failure of the Government to sanction sufficient grant to Khurda-Bolangir Railway Project. (20)

Failure of the Government to construct overbridge on the Bhubaneswar railway station. (21)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RE.100.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA-WEST) :

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to make Tripura a part of the Trans Asian Railway line by linking the railway network in

Bangladesh with the Indian Railways at Agartala (2)

Need to mobilise track materials like rails, fittings etc. in sufficient quantity on the Kumarghat-Agartala sector. (3)

Need to introduce a new fast passenger train between Manu and Lumding. (4)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RE.100.

Need to extend railway line from Agartala to Sabroom. (22)

Need to provide rail link between Sabroom and Chittagong in order to provide access to sea port for the North Eastern Region. (23)

Need to provide rail link between Agartala and Akhaura in Bangladesh. (24)

Need to expedite completion of railway line between Manu and Agartala. (25)

Need to expedite construction of tunnels on Kumarghat-Agartala railway line. (26)

Need for early completion of gauge conversion of Lumding-Badarpur railway line. (27)

Need to take up gauge conversion of Badarpur-Kumarghat railway line. (28)

Need to provide good quality rakes and wagons for Lumding-Kumarghat rail sector. (29)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) :

Need to start a super-fast express train from Puri to Allahabad. (5)

Need to increase the frequency of Rajdhani Express from Bhubaneswar. (6)

Need to improve the condition of railway track between Cuttack and Khurda Road railway station.

(7)

Need to run a train-bus from Cuttack to Puri (8)

Need to provide stoppage of Express trains at Naraj-Marhapur Railway Station. (9)

Need to upgrade Cuttack railway station to international standard. (10)

Need to start a super fast train from Paradeep to Mumbai. (11)

Need to increase reservation quota of Cuttack in Cuttack Howrah-Yeshwantpur Express. (12)

Need to start a Rajdhani Express train from Bhubaneswar to Delhi via Sambalpur. (13)

Need to run an express train from Cuttack to Sambalpur in the evening. (14)

Need to run an express train from Cuttack to Howrah in the evening. (15)

Need to modernise Bhubneswar station to international standard. (16)

Need to modernise Puri Station to international standards. (17)

Need to terminate Konark Express at Cuttack. (18)

Need to develop Barang Station as satellite linked model railway station. (19)

Need to construct over-bridge near Raj-Athagarh in East-Coast Railway Zone. (20)

Need to lay track between Bhadrak and Dhamra. (21)

Need to lay new lines between Talcher and Gopalpur via Narsingpur-Khandapada. (22)

14.07 hrs.

[Translation]

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01-1-01-02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100

SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH (Showapur) : Need to reconstitute the Railway Board to improve its functioning. (33)

Need to allocate sufficient funds for the development of railways in the state of Maharashtra. (34)

Need to reduce non-plan expenditure in the Ministry of Railways. (35)

Need to make proper safety arrangement at the railway crossings in various railway zones of Maharashtra. (36)

Need to make proper arrangement for management of heavy rail traffic in various sections falling within various railway zones of Maharashtra. (37)

Need to make proper arrangements for the maintenance of all the railway stations of Maharashtra. (38)

Need to issue concessional monthly tickets to the persons living below poverty line. (39)

Need to develop all the railway stations located at the district headquarters of Maharashtra into model stations. (40)

Need to lease out railway land to the poor people of the country. (41)

Need to run EMU trains on time under various railway zones of Maharashtra state. (42)

Need to solve the problem of water logging at the railway stations in the state of Maharashtra. (43)

Need to further reduce passenger fares and freight charge of essential commodities. (44)

[Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh]

Need to protect passenger coach wagon manufacturing units of the country from incurring losses by avoiding import of passenger coaches and wagons. (45)

Need to provide more passenger coaches and engines to various railway zones in the State of Maharashtra for the smooth running of trains. (46)

Need to take steps to provide power supply at the railway stations to decongest rail traffic under the various railway zones in the state of Maharashtra. (47)

Need to provide parking facilities to persons visiting railway stations under various railway zones in the state of Maharashtra. (48)

Need to eliminate delay in providing full rake loading facilities at the railway stations under various railway zones in the state of Maharashtra. (49)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to make proper arrangement for computerised reservation at various railway stations in the state of Maharashtra. (50)

Need to provide better passenger amenities at all railway stations in the state of Maharashtra. (51)

Need to doubling the railway line on all the major railway sections in the state of Maharashtra. (52)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1–01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide facility for reservation through credit cards at important Railway Stations in Maharashtra. (53)

Need to provide more coaches in EMU train running between various stations in Maharashtra. (54)

Need to set up a new Railway Zone in Maharashtra. (56)

Need to set up a Railway Capital Fund to change old railway lines, bridges and signal systems. (57)

Need to expedite the allotment of funds to check delay in execution of Railway Projects. (58)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD STAFF WELFARE AND AMENITIES (PAGES 11.01.1–11.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to set up a well-equipped Railway Hospital at Solapur having facilities for kidney transplant, heart operation and cancer treatment. (59)

Need to allot land for the construction of school building for the children of railway employees. (60)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1–16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide public address system at all the Railway Stations in Maharashtra. (61)

Need to provide banking facilities at important Railway Stations in Maharashtra. (62)

Need to provide adequate number of wagons commensurate with the demand for transportation of foodgrains in Maharashtra. (63)

Need to construct pilgrim rest houses at station located at important pilgrim destinations in Maharashtra.(64)

Need to construct separate retiring rooms for the passengers and the tourists at important Railway Stations of Maharashtra. (65)

Need to streamline the functioning of PCOs located

at various platforms under various Railway Zones in the State of Maharashtra. (66)

Need to properly maintain computers and depute an additional enquiry clerk at important Railway Stations of Maharashtra. (67)

Need to sanction adequate funds for the proposals received from the State Government for laying new railway lines in the State of Maharashtra. (68)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide emergency medical facilities to the passengers at the railway stations under various railway zones in Maharashtra. (69)

(DISAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE (GENERAL) PAGES 01.02.1-02.02.1) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to complete long pending survey of new railway lines in Maharashtra. (70)

(DISAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT WAY AND WORKS (PAGES 04.01.1-04.03.1) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to undertake repair and maintenance work at the Railway stations falling under Solapur Parliamentary Constituency. (71)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT WAY AND WORKS (PAGES 04.01.1-04.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to improve sanitation at all the railway stations in Solapur Constituency. (72)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF MOTIVE POWER (PAGES 05.01.1-05.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS.100.

Need to set up a workshop for the maintenance of railway engines in Maharashtra. (73)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF CARRIAGES AND WAGONS (PAGES 06.01.1-06.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to set up workshop for the repair of wagons in Solapur Parliamentary Constituency: (74)

(DISAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD STAFF WELFARE AND AMENITIES (PAGES 11.01.1-11.03.1) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to repair and maintain railway colonies under various railway divisions in Maharashtra. (75)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD STAFF WELFARE AND AMENITIES (PAGES 11.01.1-11.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide accommodation to the employees at the railway stations of their posting under various railway zones in Maharashtra. (76)

Need to extend medical facilities to the employees and officers of Railway working at the stations under various railway zones in Maharashtra. (77)

Need to encourage the outstanding sports person serving the Railways to improve the declining standard of Indian sports. (78)

Need to set up a 50 bed railway hospital at Solapur for the welfare of railway employees. (79)

Need to provide proper accommodation to the railway employees especially the gangmen. (80)

{Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh}

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS WORKING EXPENSES (PAGES 12.01.1-12.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to check the irregularities in catering services at the railway stations under various railway zones in Maharashtra. (81)

Need to deploy more Railway Protection Force personnel for the proper safety of railway assets. (82)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS WORKING EXPENSES (PAGES 13.01.1-13.02.3) BE REDUCED BY RS.100.

Need to redress the grievances of railway pensioners. (83)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100

Need to provide sheds at all railway stations under Solapur Parliamentary Constituency. (84)

Need to expand second class waiting rooms at all railway stations under various railway divisions of Maharashtra. (85)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to repair approach roads of the stations under the various railway zones in the state of Maharashtra without delay. (86)

Need to run more passenger trains under various railway zones in the state of Maharashtra. (87)

Need to open adequate railway booking centres in the sub-urban areas adjoining cities. (88)

Need to construct metallic roads under railway bridges. (89)

Need to undertake manning of all the unmanned railway crossings in Maharashtra. (90)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE (GENERAL) (PAGES 02.01.1-.02.02.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to conduct a comprehensive survey to examine the feasibility of laying new railway lines in Maharashtra. (91)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF CARRIAGES AND WAGONS (PAGES 01.01.1-06.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to retain wagon repair factory set up at Kurdawadi in Solapur Parliamentary Constituency in Maharashtra. (92)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD STAFF WELFARE AND AMENITIES (PAGES 11.01.1-11.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide proper educational facilities to the children of railway employees in Maharashtra. (93)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide covered parking and other facilities at the railway stations located at district headquarters of Maharashtra. (94)

Need to renovate and upgrade the buildings of the railway stations located at district headquarters of Maharashtra. (95)

Need to construct upper class and second class waiting rooms as per demand at the railway stations in Maharashtra. (96)

Need to undertake doubling and electrification of new lines in Maharashtra. (97)

Need to extend the sheds on the railway platforms at the railway stations under various railway zones in Maharashtra (98)

Need to computerize reservation, signal and fare systems at all the major railway stations in Maharashtra. (99)

Need to expedite the laying of new railway lines in Maharashtra. (100)

Need to allocate more funds for providing better passenger amenities at all the railway stations falling under the Parliamentary Constituency of Solapur. (101)

Need to convert all the narrow gauge lines to broad gauge lines. (102)

Need to provide adequate drinking water, canteen and sanitation facilities at all the railway stations in Maharashtra. (103)

Need to modernize Solapur railway station. (104)

Need to improve catering and bedding facilities in trains. (105)

Need to open computerized railway reservation centres at the district headquarters under various railway zones in Maharashtra. (106)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to issue railway passes to Government employees who have received President's medal. (107)

Need to increase reservation quota in trains originating from Solapur. (108)

Need to construct more platforms at Solapur railway station. (109)

Need to fill up in a time-bound manner Group 'C' and 'D' vacant posts in Railways. (110)

Need to introduce a new super fast train between Solapur and Delhi on priority basis. (111)

Need to modernize the plants and equipments and railway stations in all the railway divisions of Maharashtra. (112)

Need to increase the number of seats in all classes of super fast trains stopping at Kopergaon and Manmad for the pilgrims visiting Sai Baba temple at Shirdi. (113)

Need to provide stoppage to all the express trains at Kopergaon station for the pilgrims visiting Shirdi. (114)

Need to provide the status of model railway station to the Kopergaon railway station. (115)

Need to run a special daily express train with AC coaches between Delhi and Kopergaon for pilgrims visiting Shirdi. (116)

Need to introduce special package tour services by the Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation for different places of pilgrimage particularly for the world famous Sai Baba Shirdi Dham. (117)

Need to appoint gangmen proportionate with the length of railway line in different zones, particularly Solapur division of the Railway. (118)

Need to deploy railway guards at unmanned railway crossings, particularly during nights, in the country. (119)

Need for simultaneous introduction of Solapur-Pune-Solapur intercity train. (120)

Need to run an express train between Solapur and Nagpur via Hyderabad immediately. (121)

[Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh]

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 02.01.1-02.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to allocate more funds for ongoing survey of various railway lines in the State of Maharashtra.

(122)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (PAGES 07.01.1-07.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to establish railway spare parts manufacturing unit in Solapur.

(123)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS WORKING EXPENSES (PAGES 12.01.1-12.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide proper security and communication facilities to the gangman, performing their duty during night in rural areas.

(124)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to ensure cleanliness of trains and better facilities to passengers.

(125)

Need to expedite construction of flyover at Jeur Railway Station under Solapur railway division.

(126)

Need to construct a flyover near home signal towards Pune side of Solapur station.

(127)

Need to expedite the doubling of railway line from Bhigwan to Solapur under the Solapur division.

(128)

Need to expedite the electrification of railway track between Solapur and Pune.

(129)

Need to set up a railway coach factory in Solapur.

(130)

(DISSAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-1.02.1) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to formulate and implement any concrete plan to connect all the tourist places of Maharashtra State with railway network.

(131)

Failure to formulate a policy for utilising the land lying vacant on both sides of railway track.

(132)

Failure to connect world famous Sai Baba Shirdi Dham to Delhi through railway network.

(133)

Failure to reduce freight charges on salt and other essential commodities.

(134)

Failure to introduce a train similar to 'Palace on Wheel' in Maharashtra State.

(135)

Failure to reduce the monthly-pass ticket fare.

(136)

Failure to change the old passenger coaches.

(137)

Failure to check excessive delay of trains.

(138)

Failure to ensure security to railway passengers.

(139)

Failure to check train accidents.

(140)

Failure to provide sufficient number of trains in Maharashtra State.

(141)

Failure to prescribe affordable fare for the common man.

(142)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS.100.

Need to provide stoppage of express trains at all major stations of Maharashtra.

(143)

Need to start a new super-fast train from Solapur to Delhi. (144)

Need to streamline public address system at all railway stations in Maharashtra. (145)

(DISAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD STAFF WELFARE AND AMENITIES (PAGES 11.01.1-11.03.1) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to provide adequate overtime allowance to the railway employees. (146)

(DISAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.16-04.02.3) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to complete the renewal of railway tracks across the country. (147)

Failure to provide adequate facilities to the passengers. (148)

Failure to construct railway over-bridges and under-bridges in time in Maharashtra. (149)

Failure to complete laying of new railway lines in Maharashtra. (150)

Failure to complete redoubling of railway lines in Maharashtra in a time-bound manner. (157)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.16-04.02.3) BE REDUCED BY RE. 100.

Need to undertake electrification of important railway sections in Maharashtra. (152)

Need to construct an over-bridges at a heavy traffic railway crossings in Maharashtra. (153)

Need to provide water-coolers at all the railway stations in Maharashtra. (154)

Need to provide adequate seating facilities for the passengers at all the railway stations in Maharashtra. (155)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to reduce the freight for carriage of coal. (156)

Need to further reduce the freight for carriage of salt. (157)

Need to further reduce second class passenger fares. (158)

Need to achieve the target fixed for the procurement of wagons during the current financial year by railways. (159)

Need to discourage extravagance in the Ministry of Railways. (160)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to check rampant corruption in railways. (183)

Need to fill up all the vacancies in railways through Railway Recruitment Board on Priority basis. (184)

Need to use gainfully the vacant land of railways. (185)

Need to achieve operational targets fixed by various zonal railways during the current financial year. (186)

Need to check pilferage of railway property. (187)

Need to fill up the vacant posts of SCs/STs and OBCs in Railway. (188)

[Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh]

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF CARRIAGES AND WAGONS (PAGES 06.01.1-06.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to modernize railway workshops in the country. (212)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD OPERATING EXPENSES-TRAFFIC (PAGES 09.01.1-03.09.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to strengthen the security arrangements to check thefts in trains. (213)

Need to ensure early transit of perishable items like fruits and vegetables at cheaper rates. (214)

Need to check increasing rail accidents in the country. (215)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS WORKING EXPENSES (PAGES 12.01.1-12.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to ensure adequate security for passengers in trains. (217)

Need to improve the catering services in railways. (218)

Need to allot canteens and bookstalls on priority basis to the educated unemployed youth belonging to poor families at all stations in the country. (219)

Need to issue licenses to the railway hawkers across the country. (220)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to consider commercial aspects while proposing laying of new railway lines. (221)

Need for procurement of more electric engines by the railways. (222)

Need to depute doctors in the long distance express and mail trains. (223)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to renovate and modernise the rail factory at Kurduwadi under Solapur district of Maharashtra. (425)

[English]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao) :

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to introduce more super fast trains in Uttar Pradesh. (161)

Need to reduce third AC passenger fares. (162)

Need to provide more coaches as per the demand in EMU trains operative in Uttar Pradesh. (163)

Need to set up a new Railway Zone in the State of Uttar Pradesh. (164)

Need to ensure proper functioning of computers and to depute adequate number of enquiry clerks at important railway stations in Uttar Pradesh. (165)

Need to complete pending rail projects in the State of Uttar Pradesh in a time-bound manner. (166)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT WAY AND WORKS (PAGES 04.01.1-04.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to expand existing second class waiting halls at railway stations under Lucknow division. (167)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD STAFF WELFARE AND AMENITIES (PAGES 11.01.1-11.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to allot land for construction of school building for the children of railway employees in the State of Uttar Pradesh. (168)

Need to open a well equipped railway hospital at Lucknow having facilities for kidney transplantation, heart surgery, special investigations and treatment of cancer. (169)

Need to provide accommodation to the employees of various railway zones of Uttar Pradesh near the railway stations of their posting. (170)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to undertake electrification of important railway stations in Uttar Pradesh. (171)

Need to construct overbridges on heavy traffic railway crossings in Uttar Pradesh. (172)

Need to provide water coolers at all the stations in Uttar Pradesh. (173)

Need to provide adequate sitting arrangements at all railway stations in Uttar Pradesh. (174)

Need to improve Public Address System at important railway stations in Uttar Pradesh especially under Unnao Parliamentary Constituency. (175)

Need to provide ATM facility at important railway stations in Uttar Pradesh. (176)

Need to provide banking facilities at important railway stations in Uttar Pradesh. (177)

Need to provide adequate wagons to meet the demand of transportation of foodgrains in Uttar Pradesh. (178)

Need to construct Rail Yatri Niwas at all such railway stations in Uttar Pradesh as have places of important pilgrimage. (179)

Need to construct more rest houses for passengers and tourists at all the important railway stations of Uttar Pradesh. (180)

Need to ensure smooth functioning of PCOs installed at platforms in Uttar Pradesh. (181)

Need to accord sanctions to all the railway projects proposed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for laying of new rail lines. (182)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to issue monthly concessional tickets to the persons living below poverty line. (189)

Need to develop railway stations located at the District Headquarters of Uttar Pradesh particularly Unnao railway station as Model Railway Stations. (190)

Need to run EMU trains on time under various Railway Zones of Uttar Pradesh. (191)

Need to demolish the unauthorized construction on railway land at rest camp colony near Charbagh, Luknow railway station. (192)

Need to construct more numbers of upper class and second class waiting rooms at all railway stations in Uttar Pradesh. (193)

(DISAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE (GENERAL) (PAGES 02.01.1-02.02.1) BE REDUCED TO RE

[Shri Brajesh Pathak]

Failure to complete the survey work of the proposed new rail lines in the State of Uttar Pradesh. (194)

Failure to conduct a survey of the backward areas of the State of Uttar Pradesh to lay new rail lines. (195)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT WAY AND WORKS (PAGES 04.01.1-1.04.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide adequate potable water at railway stations. (196)

Need to improve sanitation arrangements at all the railway stations. (197)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF CARRIAGES AND WAGONS (PAGES 06.01.1-06.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to set up a workshop at Unnao for repairing of wagons. (198)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD STAFF WELFARE AND AMENITIES (PAGES 11.01.1-11.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to improve educational facilities for the children of staff of various railway zones of Uttar Pradesh. (199)

Need to provide more incentives to the outstanding sports persons working in railways. (200)

Need to set up a 100 bed railway hospital at Unnao for the welfare of railway employees. (201)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS WORKING EXPENSES (PAGES 12.01.1-12.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to take effective steps to ensure the safety of passengers in trains. (202)

Need to check the irregularities in catering services at railway stations of various railway zones in Uttar Pradesh. (203)

Need to employ more personnel in railway security forces for the proper safety of railway assets. (204)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD PROVIDENT FUND, PENSION AND OTHER RETIREMENT BENEFITS (PAGES 13.01.1-13.02.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to redress the grievances of railway pensioners in a time-bound manner. (205)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide adequate emergency medical facilities to the passengers at all railway stations of various railway zones of Uttar Pradesh. (206)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT WAY AND WORKS (PAGES 04.01.1-04.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to renovate the buildings of railways stations in Uttar Pradesh. (207)

Need to provide refreshment centres and maintain cleanliness at all the railway stations of Uttar Pradesh. (208)

Need to modernize Unnao railway station. (209)

Need to make arrangements for proper maintenance of all the Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh. (210)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF CARRIAGES AND

WAGONS (PAGES 06.01.1-06.03.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to renovate the buildings of railways stations in Uttar Pradesh. (207)

Need to provide refreshment centres and maintain cleanliness at all the railway stations of Uttar Pradesh. (208)

Need to modernize Unnao railway stations. (209)

Need to make arrangements for proper maintenance of all the Railway Stations in Uttar Pradesh. (210)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF CARRIAGES AND WAGONS (PAGES 06.01.1-06.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to set up a workshop at Unnao for maintenance of rail engines. (211)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD OPERATING EXPENSES-TRAFFIC (PAGES 09.01.1-09.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to make proper arrangements for regulating heavy rail traffic at certain sections falling under various Railways Zones in Uttar Pradesh. (216)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide sufficient covered parking and other facilities for the benefit of passengers at all the railway stations in Uttar Pradesh. (224)

Need to man all the unmanned railway level crossings in Uttar Pradesh. (225)

Need to speed up the work of laying of new railway lines in Uttar Pradesh. (226)

Need to provide computerized reservation facility at all the railway stations under Lucknow division. (227)

Need to replace old sleeper coaches with new ones in Lucknow mail running between Lucknow and New Delhi. (228)

Need to improve passenger amenities at all railway stations in Uttar Pradesh. (229)

Need to convert all narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines in Uttar Pradesh. (230)

Need to improve catering and bedding facilities in trains. (231)

(DISAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE (GENERAL) (PAGES 02.01.1-02.02.1) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to conduct a survey for laying of new railway lines in the Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh. (237)

Failure to procure spares, etc. directly from manufacturers by the railways. (238)

(DISAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD GENERAL SUPERINTENDENCE AND SERVICES ON RAILWAYS (PAGES 03.01.1-03.03.1) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity in the railway yards. (239)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT WAY AND WORKS (PAGES 04.01.1-04.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to repair the dilapidated railway track leading to Unnao Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh. (240)

[Shri Brajesh Pathak]

Need to change old tracks in all the zones of Uttar Pradesh. (241)

Need to increase the height of railway station platforms in Uttar Pradesh to prevent water logging in monsoon season. (242)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to undertake gauge conversion in all the zones of Uttar Pradesh. (247)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to introduce new trains for Unnao in Uttar Pradesh. (248)

Need to further reduce the passenger fares in all the classes. (249)

Need to introduce Garib Rath trains from Unnao Railway Station of Uttar Pradesh. (250)

Need to connect all the airports with railways. (251)

Need to provide same facilities at railway stations as provided at the airports. (252)

Need to provide catering facilities at reasonable rates at all the railway stations in the country. (253)

Need to early introduction of new trains for Uttar Pradesh announced in Railway Budget 2006-2007. (254)

Need to introduce Garib Rath trains on more routes in Uttar Pradesh. (255)

Need to make improvement in catering services provided in all the trains passing through Uttar Pradesh. (256)

Need to increase the number of reservation centres and also the number of seats in trains in proportion to the increase in the number of passengers on different routes. (257)

Need to introduce sale of rail tickets from Post Offices. (258)

Need to introduce the sale of rail tickets from Petrol Pumps and Banks in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh. (259)

Need to increase the capacity of all the coaches from 72 to 84 in sleeper class. (260)

Need to increase the number of seats in AC-III coaches from 64 to 81 in trains. (261)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT WAY AND WORKS (PAGES 04.01.1-04.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need for repair and maintenance of approach roads to all the railways stations specially those falling in Unnao Parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh. (262)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD STAFF WELFARE AND AMENITIES (PAGES 11.01.1-11.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide residential accommodation to all the employees near railway station of their posting in Uttar Pradesh (263)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to speed up the manufacture of passenger coaches and wagons. (264)

Need to procure sufficient number of electric engines. (265)

Need to ensure adequate supply of electricity for smooth running of trains to prevent halting of railway traffic in various railway zones in Uttar Pradesh due to failure of electricity. (266)

Need to speedy construction of damaged roads below the railway bridges. (267)

Need to increase the height of platform Nos. 4 and 5 at Unnao railway station to appropriate level. (268)

Need to lengthen platform Nos. 2 and 3 of Unnao railway station to accommodate large trains and also to increase the length of the sheds accordingly. (269)

Need to make arrangements for draining of water from platform at Unnao railway station. (270)

Need to computerise all the railway stations of the country for strengthening the security and safety of railways. (271)

Need to convert more narrow gauge rail lines of Uttar Pradesh into broad gauge. (272)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to ensure cleanliness at all railway stations in Uttar Pradesh (273)

Need to replace old bogies and engines in various railway zones for smooth running of trains in the country. (274)

Need to provide goods loading facilities at all the railway stations of various railway zones in Uttar Pradesh. (275)

Need to run Rajdhani train to Lucknow from Delhi. (276)

Need to run more Shatabdi trains in Uttar Pradesh. (277)

Need to provide stoppage to all the train passing through Unnao at Unnao railway station. (278)

Need to restore the status of Ganj Muradabad railway station. (279)

Need to restart functioning of Gaurihalt situated between Mailwaganj-Muradabad stations in Kanpur-Balamau divisions. (280)

Need to provide a halt at Hafizabad, a prominent commercial center, under the Kanpur-Balamau division. (281)

Need to upgrade Unnao railway station to 'A Class'. (282)

Need to provide stoppage to all express trains passing through Uttar Pradesh at all the railway stations of district headquarters, especially at Unnao railway station, in Uttar Pradesh. (283)

Need to provide stoppage to Gomti Express at Unnao railway station in Uttar Pradesh. (284)

Need to provide stoppage to Sampurna Kranti Express at Unnao railway station in Uttar Pradesh. (285)

Need to provide stoppage to Vaishali Express at Unnao railway station in Uttar Pradesh. (286)

Need to provide stoppage to Marudhar Express at Unnao railway station in Uttar Pradesh. (287)

Need to provide stoppage to Lucknow-Bhopal Express at Unnao railway station in Uttar Pradesh. (288)

Need to provide stoppage to Chennai Express at Unnao railway station in Uttar Pradesh. (289)

Need to keep open the Sahani-Dewara crossing, between Kinara and Magarwara stations on the Kanpur-Lucknow route round the clock keeping in view the heavy road traffic. (290)

[Shri Brajesh Pathak]

Need to keep open the railway crossing kept closed below the overbridge near the Unnao railway station round the clock, on the Lucknow-Kanpur route, in view of the heavy road traffic. (291)

Need to provide stoppage to Rajdhani Express and Poorva Express at Mirzapur railway station. (292)

Need to start a shuttle train between Raebareilly-Lalganj via Dalmau. (293)

Need to restore the status of the Achalgarh railway station. (294)

Need to add more second class coaches in Lucknow Mail between New Delhi and Lucknow. (295)

Need to provide two AC-III Tier, one AC-II Tier and two AC-I Tier coaches in Lucknow Mail running between New Delhi and Lucknow. (296)

Need to start a new Super fast train between Delhi and Lucknow. (297)

(DISAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD STAFF WELFARE AND AMENITIES (PAGES 11.01.1-11.03.1) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to pay adequate overtime allowance to the railway staff. (298)

(DISAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to complete track renewals in a time bound manner all over the country. (299)

Failure to construct rail overbridges and underbridges in a time bound manner in Uttar Pradesh. (300)

Failure to undertake doubling of all railway lines in a time bound manner in Uttar Pradesh. (301)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to open computerized reservations Centres at all the railway stations in Uttar Pradesh. (302)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHAN SINGH (Damoh) : Need to provide stoppage of Madhya Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express at Patharia railway station. (303)

Need to provide stoppage of Chhattisgarh Sampark Kranti Express at Damoh and Sagar railway stations. (304)

Need to provide ATM facility at Damoh railway station. (305)

Need to run Jabalpur-Jammu Tawi Express four days a week and extend it upto Udhampur. (306)

Need to attach a first class AC full rake in 2412, 2411 Gondwana Express. (307)

Need to double the existing reservation quota for Damoh railway station. (308)

Need to extend the route of Damoh-Bina passenger train upto Bhopal. (309)

Need to extend Rivanchal and other over-night trains terminating at Bhopal upto Indore. (310)

Need to run Shipra Express train daily. (311)

Need to run Rajkot Express three days a week. (312)

Need to provide stoppage to Vindhyachal Express at Ghatara and Sagoni railway stations. (313)

Need to run Bilaspur Rajdhani Express upto Raipur via Sagar, Damoh, Katni providing stoppage at Anuppur and Bilaspur. (314)

Need to rename the Bilaspur Rajdhani Express as Raipur Rajdhani Express. (315)

Need to immediately undertake the survey work of Lalitpur-Singrauli railway line via Ajaygarh or to re-route it via Gangau Sanctuary. (316)

Need to extend the Damoh railway goods platform from half rake point to full rake point to provide full rail wagon loading and unloading. (317)

Need to run Amarkantak Express via Damoh-Sagar-Bina three days a week. (318)

Need to extend Bhopal-Bilaspur Express upto Durg. (319)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to allocate sufficient funds for completion of Lalitpur-Singrauli railway line project in a time-bound manners. (320)

Need to allocate adequate funds for laying of new line on the Jabalpur-Damoh-Panna section. (321)

Need to provide cent-per-cent funding by the Union Government for Damoh-Kundalpur rail line project. (322)

Need to start construction work at Damoh model railway station. (323)

Need to construct a VIP waiting room at Damoh station. (324)

Need to construct a foot overbridge towards Patharia road at Patharia Gate overbridge in Damoh. (325)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.01) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir) :

Need to run Chhattisgarh Express train from Korba station. (232)

Need to run Cochin Express from Korba station. (233)

Need to provide stoppage of Azad Hind Express at Champa station. (234)

Need to provide stoppage of long-distance trains at Sakti, Champa and Akaltara stations. (235)

Need to provide stoppage of Azad Hind Express at Tilda station of Raipur. (236)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to construct railway over-bridge at Kokhsa railway crossing in Janjgir-Champa district of Chhattisgarh. (243)

Need to construct pit line in Korba district. (244)

Need to set up a railway reservation office at Saragaon station in Janjgir-Champa district. (245)

Need to construct railway over-bridge at Bhabhekdan railway crossing in Bilaspur district. (246)

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni) :

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide stoppage of 8233 Narmada Express train at Bhitoni Railway Station. (326)

[Shrimati Neeta Pateriya]

Need to run 1474 Jabalpur-Bhopal Express train daily via Itarsi and to extend it up to Indore. (327)

Need to run DMU train from Narsinghpur to Katni. (328)

Need to run Mahakaushal Express from Narsinghpur to Delhi. (329)

Need to run direct train from Jabalpur to Mumbai via Pune. (330)

Need to attach a Chair Car coach next to general compartment in each train for the conform of short distance passengers. (331)

Need to maintain quality of sheets, pillows and blankets provided to the passengers. (332)

Need to provide fresh bed sheets, pillows and blanket in the train No. 2411-2412. (333)

Need to bring about a change in the reservation upgrading system. (334)

Need to run 2188 Rewanchal Express daily via Bina. (335)

Need to open chemists shops at all important railway stations in the country. (336)

Need to provide ladies' Cabin consisting of 6 berths in every coach to ensure safety and security of women. (337)

Need to install mobile charging switches in each compartment. (338)

Need to provide TV or music facilities in every Shatabdi and Janshatabdi Express train. (339)

Need to run Raipur-Delhi Rajdhani Express via Katni-Bina. (340)

Need to provide stoppage of Sampark Kranti Express at every junction falling en-route. (341)

Need to write the name of all the stations in three languages i.e. Hindi, English and the regional language. (342)

Need to further reduce the fare of Bhopal-Bina-Itarsi Express. (343)

Need to run 2411/2412 Gondwana Express from Jabalpur with first class AC coach. (344)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—
ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND RE-
PLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE
REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to undertake electrification from Itarsi to Katni. (345)

Need to ensure proper lighting at all the stations in Madhya Pradesh. (346)

Need to provide sheds for passengers at all the small stations in Madhya Pradesh. (347)

Need to release funds for immediate conversion of Chhindwara-Siwani-Nainpur narrow gauge into broad gauge. (348)

Need to allocate more funds to expedite Jabalpur-Gondia broad gauge conversion work. (349)

Need to undertake conversion of Gotegaon to Ramtek via Siwani railway line to broad gauge. (350)

Need to lay new railway line from Jabalpur to Lalitpur via Katangi and Damoh. (351)

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA (Bagaha) :

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY
BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE RE-
DUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to run a train daily from Muzaffarpur to Gorakhpur via Narkatiganj-Varanasi for the benefit of pilgrims, patients and students. (352)

Need to provide a washing pit at Narkatiaganj Junction. (353)

Need to run Intercity Express between Bagaha and Patna. (354)

Need to run Saptkaranti Express train on time in the Samastipur Railway Division. (355)

Need to add an additional bogie each in the AC I, Sleeper Class and two bogies to general class in Saptkranti Express (2557-2558). (356)

Need to run train Nos. 5215 and 5216 as express train between Narkatiaganj and Muzaffarpur or to charge passenger train fare from the passengers instead of express train fare. (357)

Need to add a Sleeper Class bogie in 523 Down train running between Gorakhpur and Muzaffarpur. (358)

Need to set up Purushottam Nagar halt between Sikta and Marjdawa stations. (359)

Need to provide halt at Mahayogin between Gaunaha and Bhikhnathori stations. (360)

Need to provide halt at Madanpur between Bagaha and Valmikinagar Road stations. (361)

Need to run Awadh-Bandra express as a daily train. (362)

Need to speed up the beautification work of all the stations between Bagaha and Betiah. (363)

Need to allot railway land around railway stations on lease to small vendors, *tongawallas*, rickshaw pullers and auto rickshaw drivers. (364)

Need to permanently rehabilitate the thousands of landless families inhabiting railway land in Kailashnagar and Bagaha in the State of Bihar. (365)

Need to provide good quality food to passengers in Saptkranti Express. (366)

Need to attach a pantry car with long distance trains like Satyagraha and Bapudham Express. (367)

Need to repair the damaged bridge at Narkatiaganj Junction immediately. (368)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE (GENERAL) (PAGES 02.01.1-02.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to conduct a survey for laying a new rail line upto Bagaha via Bhikhnathori to Gaunaha, Belsandi, Bakhari, Done, Semra Hamatand, Valmikinagar. (369)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS-ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to construct a cold storage on the vacant land of railways near Bagaha, Harinagar and Narkatiaganj stations. (370)

Need to construct a retiring room as well as a canteen at Bagaha station. (371)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) :

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BNE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to make the Railway Board more efficient. (372)

Need to take steps for preventing increasing number of incidents of trains accidents. (373)

Need to increase the amount of *ex-gratia* payments to the victims of train accidents. (374)

Need to modernize and bring Indian Railways at par with that of the developed countries and also to make it more profitable. (375)

[Prof. Rana Singh Rawat]

Need to make adequate arrangements for cleanliness at railway stations and in trains. (376)

Need to ensure punctuality of and safety and security in running trains. (377)

Need to increase the number of general coaches in the long distance express trains in view of overcrowding. (378)

Need to enhance safety of railway assets and to beef up inspection procedure by making it more strong, compatible and accountable. (379)

Need to identify all railway bridges over 100 years old and to replace them with new bridges. (380)

Need to maintain the importance of 'Railway City' Ajmer. (381)

Need to declare the divisional Railway Office, Ajmer as a heritage building. (382)

Need for all around development of Railway Loco and Carriage Sports Ground located in Ajmer. (383)

Need to lift the ban on fresh recruitment in Railways and to give employment to the heirs of the deceased railway employees on compassionate grounds. (384)

Need to remove encroachment from railway land and to use it for commercial purposes and also to plant jatropha and other trees along the rail tracks. (385)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE (GENERAL) (PAGES 02.01.1-02.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to start the survey of the Ajmer-Nasirabad-Deoli-Bundi-Kota rail line. (386)

Need to conduct the survey to lay Kamlighat-Bhim-Jassalchera-Janga-Vyavar rail line. (387)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD OPERATING EXPENSES-TRAFFIC (PAGES 09.01.1-09.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to install anti-collision devices in trains to make travelling safer. (388)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to construct the already sanctioned railway over-bridge at Kishanganh-Pupanganh road. (389)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to run Jaipur-Amritsar train upto Ajmer. (390)

Need to extend Jaipur-Agra Fort-Gwalior Intercity upto Ajmer. (391)

Need to start a new train between Agra and Ahmedabad via Bandikui-Jaipur-Ajmer-Manwar Junction. (392)

Need to connect Ajmer with Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Tirupati, Puri, Guwahati and Lucknow by direct trains. (393)

Need to arrange for stoppage of Ashram Express at Beawar railway station. (394)

Need to run a new express train between Delhi and Ahmedabad via Ajmer-Jaipur. (395)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF MOTIVE POWER (PAGES 05.01.1-05.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to modernise and increase the repair and maintenance work of Diesel Engines in Loco Works at Ajmer. (396)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF CARRIAGES AND WAGONS (PAGES 06.01.1-06.03.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to repair passenger and goods coaches at the Loco Works factory at Ajmer. (397)

Need to undertake more work relating to coach manufacturing, painting, repair and maintenance at the Loco Works, Ajmer. (398)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide computerised reservation facility at Nasirabad and Vijayanagar railway stations under Ajmer division (399)

Need to expand and make the Ajmer railway station a model railway station. (400)

Need to provide public address system at Kishangarh railway station under Jaipur division and to make computerised reservation system more effective and comprehensive. (401)

Need to expand Beawar and Kishangarh railway stations. (402)

Need to construct a big Yatri Niwas at Ajmer railway station. (403)

Need to provide all basic amenities at the Ajmer railway station. (404)

Need to construct Ajmer-Pushkar rail line (broad gauge) within the prescribed time limit and also to connect it to the Merta Road. (405)

Need to convert Ajmer-Bhilwara-Chittaurgarh metre gauge line into broad gauge line and to start train services on the same. (406)

Need to double the Ajmer-Phulera broad gauge line. (407)

Need to convert the Phulera-Ringas-Rikri metre gauge line into broad gauge line. (408)

Need to expedite the doubling and electrification of Delhi-Ahmedabad via Jaipur-Ajmer broad gauge line. (409)

Need to convert the Marwar Jn. Mavli Jn. via Kamlighat Dvgarh-Kankroli meter gauge line into broad gauge line. (410)

Need to convert the Udaipur-Himmatnagar-Ahmedabad metre gauge line into broad gauge line. (411)

[English]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur) :

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to link Hoshiarpur with Phagwara. (412)

Need to start a weekly train from Hoshiarpur to Haridwar. (413)

Need to start a train from Hoshiarpur to New Delhi. (414)

Need to extend the train running between Jajjon Doaba to Jalandhar upto Amritsar. (415)

Need to extend DMU train running between Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar to Amritsar. (416)

Need to run the train running between Nangal to New Delhi via Chandigarh. (417)

Need to attach an additional coach with the train running between Jajjon to Jalandhar and to extend it to New Delhi. (418)

Need to provide stoppage to Swaraj Express at Dasuya. (419)

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

Need to upgrade the Hoshiarpur railway station.
(420)

Need to construct the approach roads to Hoshiarpur railway station.
(421)

Need to attach one more coach of executive class with Shatabdi Express running between New Delhi and Amritsar.
(422)

Need to refund the ticket amount through cheque to the ticket holder.
(423)

Need to provide facility of toilet in DMU train running between Nangal and Chandigarh.
(424)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—
ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND RE-
PLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE
REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to establish a railway coach factory in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab.
(427)

Need to start work on Amritsar-Anandpur Sahib rail track.
(428)

[Translation]

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur) :

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—
ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND RE-
PLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE
REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to lay a new broad gauge line on Ajmer-Pushkar-Merta railway route.
(426)

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) :

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY
BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE RE-
DUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to provide financial assistance to the State Governments facing financial crunch for implementation of railway projects.
(429)

Failure to increase the number of passenger trains in view of heavy rush in the existing passenger trains.
(430)

Failure to increase the speed of long distance trains.
(431)

Failure to introduce transportation of parcels/goods in DMU trains.
(432)

Failure to effect qualitative improvement in certain trains despite upgrading them as superfast trains.
(433)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD RAILWAY
BOARD (PAGES 01.01.1-01.02.1) BE RE-
DUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to introduce train service between Gadchandur and Ghugus.
(434)

Need to provide free rail travel facility to the OBC candidates for attending examination/interviews conducted by Railway Recruitment Board.
(435)

Need to reduce the rates of railway passes for students and employees.
(436)

(DISSAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLA-
NEOUS EXPENDITURE (GENERAL) (PAGES
02.01.1-02.02.1) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to conduct a survey to examine the feasibility of laying sufficient number of new rail lines for the structural development of railways in the country.
(437)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLA-
NEOUS EXPENDITURE (GENERAL) (PAGES
02.01.1-02.02.1) BE REDUCED BY RE. 100.

Need to conduct a survey to examine the feasibility of laying a new railway line between Surajgarh-Aflapalli-Balharshah.
(438)

(DISSAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MISCELLANEOUS WORKING EXPENSES (PAGES 12.01.1-12.03.1) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to take suitable steps for improving the railway catering services. (439)

Failure to check the incidents of robbing of passengers on running trains by intoxicating them. (440)

Failure to check the increasing incidents of bomb explosions in trains due to lack of security. (441)

Failure to privatize railway catering and other services. (442)

Failure to roll back five times increase in detention charges levied by the railway on the pilgrims. (443)

(DISSAPPROVAL OF POLICY)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED TO RE. 1.

Failure to lay new railway lines in tribal and remote areas of the country. (444)

Failure to undertake in a timebound manner the conversion of narrow gauge lines into broad gauge in the country. (445)

Failure to provide concession to the patients suffering from Sickle Cell disease. (446)

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD ASSETS—ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT (PAGES 16.01.1-16.04.3) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to lay a third railway line between Nagpur-Balharshah. (447)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall now put all the cut motions which have been treated as moved together to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-2008 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2008, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

Lok Sabha*Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2007-08 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha*

| No. of Demand | Name of Demand | Amount of Demand to Grants on Account voted by the House on 9.3.2007 (Rs.) | Amount of Demand for Grants submitted to the Vote of the House (Rs.) |
|---------------|----------------|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Railway Board | 15,90,73,000 | 79,53,67,000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2. | Miscellaneous Expenditure (General) | 65,12,77,000 | 325,63,83,000 |
| 3. | General Superintendence and Services on Railways | 417,01,41,000 | 2085,07,07,000 |
| 4. | Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works | 749,03,02,000 | 3745,15,09,000 |
| 5. | Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power | 402,47,45,000 | 2012,37,22,000 |
| 6. | Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons | 817,37,38,000 | 4086,86,88,000 |
| 7. | Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment | 419,45,18,000 | 2097,25,89,000 |
| 8. | Operating Expenses – Rolling Stock and Equipment | 579,86,93,000 | 2899,34,64,000 |
| 9. | Operating Expenses – Traffic | 1958,17,81,000 | 5004,02,19,000 |
| 10. | Operating Expenses – Fuel | 2048,20,23,000 | 10241,01,14,000 |
| 11. | Staff Welfare and Amenities | 321,66,32,000 | 1606,31,62,000 |
| 12. | Miscellaneous Working Expenses | 335,23,36,000 | 1676,16,82,000 |
| 13. | Provident Fund, Pension and Other Retirement Benefits | 1371,44,43,000 | 6857,22,17,000 |
| 14. | Appropriation to Funds | 4272,98,74,000 | 21364,93,72,000 |
| 15. | Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation | 4,28,12,000 | 4568,25,66,000 |
| 16. | Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement Revenue | 10,00,00,000 | 50,00,00,000 |
| | Other Expenditure | | |
| | Capital | 4520,28,13,000 | 22601,40,64,000 |
| | Railway Funds | 3581,89,17,000 | 14555,45,83,000 |
| | Railway Safety Fund | 175,10,33,000 | 875,51,67,000 |
| | Special Railway Safety Fund | 321,75,00,000 | 1606,75,00,000 |
| Total | | 22387,26,51,000 | 108342,30,97,000 |

The Motion was adopted.

14.10 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 2 BILL*, 2007

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up Item No. 22.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I propose that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the consolidated fund of India for the services of the financial year 2007-2008 for the purpose of Railways.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2007-2008 for the purpose of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I introduce** the Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the House will take the Motion for consideration of the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I propose that:

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

**Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 26.4.07.

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the consolidated fund of India for the services of the financial year 2007-2008 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2007-2008 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Scheduled was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be Passed."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The Motion was adopted.

14.13 hrs.

***DEMANDS FOR GRANTS – (GENERAL),
2007-08**

Ministry of Labour and Employment

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand No. 59 relating to the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Hon. Members present in the house whose cut motions to the Demand for Grant have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Only those cut motions will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table immediately.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2008, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the Second column thereof against Demand No. 59 relating to the Ministry of Labour and Employment."

Lok Sabha

*Demands for Grants – for 2007-08 in respect of Ministry of Labour and Employment
submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha*

| No. and Name of Demand | Amount of Demands to Grants on Account voted by the House on March 16, 2007 | | Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the Vote of House | |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------|--|----------------|
| | Revenue Rs. | Capital Rs. | Revenue Rs. | Capital Rs. |
| 1 | 2 | | 3 | |
| 59. Ministry of Labour and Employment | 314,96,00,000 | 1,16,00,000 | 1575,32,00,000 | 5,81,00,000 |

Ministry of Labour and Employment

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy-

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to express my views with reference to the demands of the Ministry of Labour. I regret to state that there is not desired improvement in the situation of labour class and their condition has even worsened since this Government came to power.

Sir, the hon. Minister of Labour does not seem to be present here. I would like to ask you whether the Minister of Labour is present in the House?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that hon'ble Minister of Labour is present in the House. Please continue.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Since the UPA Government came to power or in other words since the time of liberalization, Government does not seem to be sincerely concerned about the condition of labours and as a result the condition of agricultural labourers, construction labourers, workers working in sick units or in multinational companies worsens day by day. Since this insensitive Government came to power, it liberalized the policies for multinational companies and as a result of that condition of workers working in medium industries, small scale industries and petty industries got even worsened because the policy of promoting multinational companies and the policy of promoting SEZ has signalled a death knell for these workers and due attention is not being paid to them. All the petty industries, medium industries, small scale industries and cottage industries of the country are gradually closing down. As a result the workers working in those medium factories or small scale industries are becoming victims of retrenchment and are facing unemployment and starvation. I would like to know from the Government as to what measures have been taken by the Ministry of labour for improvement in the conditions of workers as per the promise made in International Labour Conference and in the manifesto of the Government before taking oath, and to which extent it has been complied with? There is a wide gap between the word and deed of the Government. The Government had said that they will soon bring a Bill for the welfare of crores of unorganized farm labourers to provide social security and security at work place to them and to safe-guard their interest during non cultivation season but the same has not been enacted yet. As a result, lakhs ad crores of labourers working in agriculture sector are facing great difficulties and are being exploited. Attention has not been paid towards timely

payment to them despite getting the work done; to provide healthy environment and proper arrangements for the education of their children. I would like to know from the Government through the chair, as to what action has been taken by the Government for the unorganized workers?

Thirdly, it has been stated that we will try to check child labour and efforts are being made to check child labour but what is the outcome thereof? Even today children are working in hotels, shops, carpet manufacturing factories and other similar industries. Condition of such workers, particularly child labours, is very pitiable who are working in firecracker factories, matchstick factories and other hazardous factories where inflammable and toxic substances are used. No steps have been taken by the Government for their welfare. Similarly, they claim that they have completely banned 'Bonded Labour' but it is seen that the condition of workers working in Brick kilns and private mines is pitiable. Even today, bonded labourers are facing hardships.

There is no discernible improvement in the condition of child labourers and bonded labourers. The Government has opened ESI Hospitals for the welfare of labourers. You must be aware of the hazardous conditions in which beedi workers, men, women and children are working? I think that desired efforts have not been made by the Government for the welfare of beedi workers. Same old scheme have been in vogue. We have seen their residential and working places. Neither they have been provided with hospital cards nor they are getting medicines and there are no safety measure taken for them. Many people have become millionaires after setting up such beedi industry. They exploit workers. Beedi workers are not paid their dues. I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through the chair, towards beedi workers.

Sir, the condition of the ESI hospitals is miserable. State of the art medical equipment required for the treatment of labourers is not available in these hospitals. ESI hospitals are in dilapidated condition, their X-Ray machines are not working and heart patients are referred

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

to other hospitals. There is shortage of doctors and nurses in ESI hospitals. Apart from this even medicines are not available in these hospitals. I would like to know from the Government as to what steps are being taken to improve the condition of ESI hospitals established for the welfare of workers?

Sir, I am surprised to note that meetings are being held to determine the interest rate of the Provident Fund of employees, whether it should be 8% or 9% or 12% but it is unfortunate that the people belonging to CPI, CPM and other left parties who are supporting the Government pretend to talk tall about workers and shed crocodiles tears. I would like to urge the left parties that the Government is not in a position to take decision regarding Provident Fund. Meetings are held frequently and it is said that these things were discussed but they have not yet decided the interest to be given on Provident Fund whether it should be 8%, 9% or 9*%. I would like the Government to clear its position in this regard. Several laws have been enacted for the workers who are working in factories but when accidentally they lose their limbs or they succumbed to their injuries, their family members do not get compensation. They have not been provided due protection, compensation, security, gratuity, pension and GPF despite the fact that laws have been enacted for them. You will be surprised to know that their billions of rupees are lying with the Government. Their Provident Fund money and other deposits which they have earned through out their life are lying with the Government and the Government is not utilising this money instead contemplating to invest the same in some different work whereas the whole amount should be utilized for the welfare of the workers.

With the advent of the big multinational companies in our country, employing contract labourer has come into vogue. The condition of such contract labourers is very miserable. In such contracts the company owners allot the work to the contractors. The contractors pocket all the benefits alongwith the commissions and the labourers

working under the contractor are deprived of all the benefits and other facilities meant for them and do not even get wages in lieu of their work for the whole month. Now-a-days the condition of contract labourers is really very pitiable and no attention is being paid to them by the Government.

We see here in the national capital, Delhi that lakhs of masons and labourers from Rajasthan are engaged in the construction work of big buildings. The labourers from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh or other states are also engaged in the work of construction of buildings. Those who are engaged in constructing high rise buildings are living in slum areas having no water, no light and no healthy atmosphere for them. They are compelled to live in dirty surroundings. When the building construction law was discussed it was said that they would be protected under the law. But the labourers are getting no benefits of it and they are compelled to lead a miserable life in slums. Lots of people from my constituency visit me and say that so much amount is outstanding against so and so contractor who is denying to pay them their dues. When I tell the contractors on phone to clear the dues of the labourers they say that they have cleared off all their dues. No dues are outstanding against them, you can see the diary. They have no register of regular payment. There should be an on the spot visit to see as to what extent the law is being implemented, whether a healthy atmosphere is available to them or not, whether the law for the welfare of the labourers is being implemented or not? Even the women labourers are exploited at their work place. The Government had said that women workers would not work with men at night but even on today there are so many factories, industries or institutions where women are compelled to work at night. No attention is given to the matters regarding the extent of leave and relief to be granted to the women like maternity leave, family planning leave or leave during any other trouble. The Government has given the slogan "Congress Kaa haath, Gareebon ke Saath" (Congress is always with the poor) - but now much the Congress or this Government is with the poor, it becomes clear after seeing the condition of the labourers of our country. Even

after so many years of our independence there is a slogan being raised in India – 'Roti, Kapda aur Makan, Mang raha hai Hindustan' (There is a dearth of food clothing and shelter in India) – but the farmers of this country are compelled to commit suicide. On the other hand, the condition of labourers is very miserable. Most of the country's public sector undertakings in which crores of rupees were invested and which were considered to be the temples of India assuming that they will be helpful in nation building are sick today. As a result of this retrenchment of labourers is taking place in them. Rules and regulation with regard to imparting skill training to the labourers, the quantum and hours of rendering work, extent of facilities like canteen, welfare, education to their children, compensation in case of accidents are not being followed to the desired extent. Labourers are being compelled to take voluntary retirement from factories like HMT. Gradually, it is on the verge of closing. I would like to cite an example of my Ajmer Parliamentary Constituency to the Government. The NTC Mills are there. Earlier thousands of workers were working in these mills, but now the number of mill owners, General Managers or other officials taking fat salaries has increased while the number of labourers has decreased. As a result of this, these mills were stated to be running in losses. They do not provide jobs, do not supply goods and have old machines which are unable to give production. Under these circumstances you cannot expect them but to run in losses. The net result is that the labourers have to bear the brunt.

Edward Mill and Krishna Mill of Byawar have already been closed down. Edward and Mahalaxmi collaborated to set up a mill. The hon'ble Minister of Textiles is perhaps not present here. I am talking about the labourers. That mill is also on the verge of closure. There is a cotton mill in the constituency of Shrimati Kiran Maheswarji at Udaipur. The Condition of Vijay Cotton mills is more or less the same. My parliamentary constituency Vijay Nagar has also a textiles mill. That too, is facing the same condition. Today in Ahmedabad, which was called Manchester of India, and in Mumbai, which was called Lancashire almost all the big textiles industries have been

locked. Mill owners are earning thousands of crores of rupees by selling the lands of these mills, but there is no information about the interests of the labourers working in those mills as well as bonus or other benefits due to them at the time of their retrenchment.

Now-a-days the Government are allowing the setting up of big malls to please the capitalists. Earlier I did not understand what the mall is because the meaning of mall in Hindi is something different...(Interruptions) Mall is a building where the retail outlets are set up and allowed to branded foreigner traders...(Interruptions) Hon'ble Rathwa Ji is laughing at me. He should understand my feelings. This Government is promoting the marketing for Reliance...(Interruptions) Reliance and other foreign multinational companies are making entry into the retail business. Lakhs of people are engaged in the retail business. In this way their livelihood will be snatched away and they will be rendered jobless. Big companies will launch their products with fanfare and they will have all the packaged goods. What will be the future of India if the goods are available in packaged form – we can simply imagine this thing.

Sir, the Government have no control over these multinational companies at all. Now SEZs, there are 23 special economic zones under which there is no electricity charges, no law, no sale and so on because the Government have no control over them. They do not follow any labour law. They have been given all the liberty to loot the citizens under the SEZ. Though the farmers are getting compensation for their land but the condition of labourers working in industries is extremely miserable. A poet writes as:-

"Shwanon ko milata doodh, Bhukhe balak akulate hein,
Maan ki chhati se chipak, sisak-sisak kar rah jate hain."

i.e. the dogs of the rich get milk, but the children of the labourers are rolling about crying for food. They adhering to the breast of their mothers are sobbing bitterly—who will listen to them?

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Sir, the Government have framed one more policy for the trade unions. There is a law enacted for them. Now, it is difficult to find out which one amongst the many trade unions like INTUC, HMS, BMS, CITU or UTUC is the bigger organisation. They have said that discussions are going on for a long time but no decision has been taken in this regard so far. Every other labour organisation claims that it is the biggest one in the country. The Government are still in no position to take a decision in this regard. They are also not in a position to recognize them. Earlier in the factories each labour organisation had their own distinct flag. They were claiming that this flag belonged to this organisation and that one belonged to that organisation. Now it is being said that they will recognize only one trade union. In this regard, the Government should have a clear cut policy.

I would like to tell the Government, through you, that the labourers should get rid of exploitation. Labourers become the victims of unemployment and retrenchment. This should be avoided. All the laws which are enacted for the welfare of the labourers should be implemented strictly. The statistics for the welfare of labourers are quite alluring like welfare centres, training camps, childcare centres and the training centre of their progress, but, in fact the ground realities portray a totally contrary picture. I would, therefore, like to tell the Government that differences between precept and practice should be avoided and something must be done for the betterment of the labourers. Through You, I would like to demand that there should be improvement in the lot of labourers who are increasing our production and fulfilling the needs of the country by working hard day and night in the factories or big industries.

All the measures may be taken for their welfare. Child labour should be banned and the laws regarding welfare of the organized labour may be framed. Apart from this attention must be paid towards agriculture labours.

You have provided me an opportunity to speak. I am

very grateful to you and with these words I conclude. This discussion started all of a sudden. We were assuming that first you will discuss the demands on Grant for railways and only thereafter you will take demands for grants of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. But suddenly you have allowed a discussion on it for that. I am very grateful to you.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur) : Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir today the demands for grants of the Ministry of Labour and Employment are being discussed in the House. You know that it's the labour class who is responsible for production in every sphere. It is the labourer who has made all the things from pin to aeroplane. But when we see their condition we cut a sorry figure. There are two categories of labour organized labour and unorganized labour. There is no system for unorganized labour. He has no guarantee for earning his bread everyday. His future is quite uncertain. I would like to state that there is a dire need to pay attention towards unorganized labour. Contractors bring labourers with them from Bihar and our area to various parts of the country. If his condition worsens there or he dies in an accident, his family members do not get a single penny in compensation. We face many such cases in our constituency. If he gets sick, or has any disease like TB or Jaundice, he does not get any medical allowance or facility. Diseases come to poors only. When dengue struck most of the poor people were affected as they reside in slum areas and dirty places where there is no proper arrangement for toilets. They do not have water neither potable nor for cleaning and bathing purposes. There is no proper arrangement for them. I would request hon'ble Minister to visit a labour colony. The people should acknowledge that an hon'ble minister visited their colony and if he stays there for an hour he will confront stinking smell and feel how much polluted these areas are. Hon'ble Minister is a hard worker and sincere person. I would request him to get his photo published in newspaper while staying in a labour colony.

I would like to quote an example of my State in respect

of the condition of labours. We have a social forestry department in our State. We appointed some people on daily wages but they consider themselves as salaried employees. People think that such a person is in service and he even get marriage on this basis and educated people also start working as labourers. It is not in case of department of social forestry only but in other departments as well. When their contract is over it is informed to them to go back to their home and we inform them that we had deployed them as labourer and the job is over now. There are many such people who had worked for 32 months in such manner but did not get any salary. They got salary of 2 months that too only Rs. 500/- PM. If you go to Doda, you will see thousands of such labours. If you see the condition of people who are called VDC members, saving the country and some of them getting Rs. 460 others are getting Rs. 1500 and a few are getting Rs. 2100 as their remuneration. I would like to state that are man who is on the one hand fighting against militancy for the country on the other hand he is starving and struggling for bread. Can they provide education to their children? A child who has worked in VDS after getting education or joined as SPO how can his children get education? They even don't have proper shelter to live in. They are spending life in hutments. The amount of Rs. Twenty thousand paid to some people under IAY is not sufficient. I would like to state that they have no shelter, no bread and their mothers are ailing and most of such people are suffering with various diseases themselves. All of us know about such cases. Many cases come before me wherein they claim that the only bread earner of the family has lost his life and as a result their school going children stop their education in midway. In this way their chapter gets closed. We also discuss about them and think that our duty is over. I will speak and you many listen but nothing would be done for the poor. I have seen myself the pathetic condition of the labourers of our country.

I would like to quote an example. Many a people of our country as well as foreigners come to visit Vaishno Devi temple in our State. You may see there Paalklifters, Pithu and labourers having horses wearing red garments.

If you see seriously now much they are getting as salary than only you can understand what is the reality. Tender is invited for the salary of labours. Recently four powerful people have captured the tenders with the connivance of officers. If a visitor approaches a prepaid booth and asks for Pithu. Palki or horse he is asked to deposit money there and only thereafter labourer is provided to him so that the labourer may not get direct payment. The labourers carrying Pithu, Palki etc. get a sum of Rs. 120 only as labour and they deduct 12% tax thereon. I think Hindustan is the only country where tax is being charged on labour. If the minister has the will power why does not he provide tax rebate to these 14,000 labours. We had listened about Income tax, Service tax, Property tax and surcharge but it is the first time when I am witnessing labour tax being paid by the palki, pithu labourers in Jammu and Kashmir. I had raised my voice against it but no action has been taken as everyone hears but nobody takes action. There is a committee for labour tender, which is strong committee as there is a hold of rich and influential people in it.

When a labour goes to the pre-paid counter for money a time he is told that money has been exhausted whereas the passengers deposit the full amount there. In reality they run their account from that money. If any labour forcefully demands the money, he is asked to give Rs. 20 and he is forced to do that to get back his hard earned money. It is also seen that when a labour goes there to demand his wages, they are beaten by them including the police. It seems the whole procedure is corrupt. I challenge you to get it enquired to know the truth. I myself stayed there for ten days and raised my voice against it but to in vain as despite being an M.P. my i.e. Chaudhary Lal Singh, M.P. voice remained unheard and I was merely a spectator.

We talk about secularism in the country. When the pilgrims come to visit the shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi, they take the help of Palanquin, horses and Pitthus. 70 percent of the labour there taking the pilgrims on Pitthu, horses and Palanquins are Muslims and remaining 30 percent belong to other religions. When they carry the pilgrim on

[Chaudhary Lal Singh]

their shoulder, they chant the name of Allah in the beginning and after reaching to the hilltop they say 'Jai Mata Di'. You won't see this anywhere. After reaching the hilltop, they also massage their feet even themselves being tired as they have taken them there. It is very saddening when they have to give labour tax. Nobody think about it. If anybody has got let him get the tax abolished so that the labourers could get relief. I think we cannot do this. We are left only with our sayings. Our Government is there both in State and in Centre, but I am perturbed to say that attention is not being paid towards this problem. I am not saying this due to political reasons but on human ground as we cannot do the things that we want to and we feel sorry for that.

I want to say one more thing. Many of the Members among us get to the majority mark by talking about the struggle of labour and others who don't do the same remain in minority and do politics on the basis of casteism.

I want to say that we should at least think about the people in our capacity of MP who look to us. We should at least maintain the dignity of this House to which the names of Bhagat Singh Chandra Shekhar Azad, Rajguru, Sukhdev, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru are associated with who sacrificed themselves for this House. Once when there was major inflation, Sh. Nehru blamed the big corporate names and businessmen for increasing inflation and asked them to control it and they, in turn, obliged by helping to rein in the prices, what is the situation today? I want to say that today the labour is not getting his due and is facing the problems.

Written on the wrapper of the packet of Beedi was these lines that smoking beedi would cause death but even before it will happen the beedi maker and his family will die. It is fine that Beedi making should be closed but have you ever thought about the beedi workers? I would like to ask if any person could not get the work for a few days what would be the condition of his family like? Labour

is involved in our development but what about his development. Children of the labourers are not allowed to go to school. I would like to ask whether food costing 65 paise is enough to satiate the hunger. This all is a mere formality. Parents send their hungry children to school just for the food of 65 paise. The hungry child look towards his food for the whole day. The child in India get food as a beggar in his own country. What I want to say is that these people are not getting the assistance extended to them. The middlemen takes away their share before it could reach them. The food not even fit to be consumed by animals is sent for the consumption by human beings. I would like to you to have a look at the ration provided to BPL people under Antyodaya Yojana. There are pests in it and it is stinking. It is said that protein and calories are being supplied to the labourer. The labourers are suffering from diseases. If the labourer are weak how can a country be strong? The country having a weak work-force will be weak itself, so it is our duty to make them strong. Rich people are not happy even to pay the daily wage to labourer. If the labour sits to have rest in between the work for some time, everybody starts to scold him. They abuse him. Several people call him names and insult him. There are laws for labour, there are labour unions for them but there is no end to their sufferings. I would like to say if the Government have made laws for them then get it implemented. If they can't do this then let them live their own life. If the concerned minister does not take care of his ministry, he himself is responsible for its condition. If the Minister is like Oscar Fernandes, why won't the labour force be strong. If the labour force is not strong, Oscar Fernandes can't be the same. Therefore, I would like to say that the interests of the labour be taken care of.

In case of the medical facility, I would say the same thing that nothing is being done there also. I suggest that the labour should get the minimum wage prescribed for them. I would like to say that there is no system of daily wages. Everybody pays to the labour as per their convenience. One can not buy anything from Rs. 50 to 100 now a days. Their children wear worn out clothes. I went to a house in my constituency. A woman was sitting there

and was shivering. It was cold and roof was no thatched properly. There were no wall in the house either. When I went inside there was nothing, not even a trunk. I found her without any possessions. MLA can provide money in Jammu and Kashmir but an MP cannot as the money goes individually. Why cannot an MP provide money to a person not having a house and is in worst of conditions? You were then in committee on MPLADS. At that time I was MLA. I went there and gave her a cheque of Rs. 20,000 to the women. I am happy that she was able to construct a house. One of her child was hiding behind. When I asked about here fourth child, she told me that he is somewhere near. The child was of 12 years and was in the forest as he was not wearing any clothes. He was shy as he was nude. I feel sorry for the fact that we are their representatives and if my children are in good condition and those poor children remain nude and without having any school and medical facility. Many a time I find myself in a state of dilemma. On the other hand there are many* who adopt these wrong ways and bring bad name to this institution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Unparliamentary words would not go on record.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : I would like to say that you should take this seriously. It is a very strong institution. I know better about the significance of this institution and that is why I am saying this and I have the right to speak. Through you, I would like to say that whenever one runs a department, he should run it properly. Even I had also run a Ministry. When I was Minister of Health and Medical Education, at that time I ensured easy availability of medicines to people and today when I left the charge, people still miss me. I feel that the hon'ble Minister is only used to writing letters containing phrase like 'you will appreciate'. Will you appreciate that? All the Ministers seem to take the help of same phrase. They use this phrase and say that your work will not be done as there is no law to back it. Secondly they should write I will see

*Not recorded.

to it. I want to speak about it. I have got a bag full of letters in which these kinds of phrases like appreciate, I will see to it have been used in abundance but without any result. They boast of being a part of the Government but what is the use of it. Government is meant for the people and if any Government does not work then there is no use of that Government irrespective of the fact that it is my Government. Government is that which deliver justice to people. Therefore, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that if he does not solve the issue of Vaishno Devi then we will stage 'Dharna' against him also.

[English]

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir in the 14th Lok Sabha this is our first opportunity to discuss on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, since installation of the UPA Government, the hon. Minister who had been entrusted with the Department of Labour, I am sorry to state that he could not do proper justice to the Department. Labour appears to have been a neglected subject.

Sir I am happy to learn that Shri Oscar Fernandes, while assuming the Office of the Labour Minister, is sincerely trying to improve the performance of his Department and we assure him all our support so far as the interests of the labour is concerned. I hope tomorrow when the All India Labour Conference is going to be held, many issue will be discussed there and our hon. Minister of Labour and Employment will take the lead to show the country that the UPA Government is really sincere to the cause of the working class of the country.

Sir, the UPA Government in its National Common Minimum Programme had assured the country that it would render fair deal to the workers and it would enact a law containing social security of the unorganized workers.

It has also assured that it would protect the democratic trade union rights of the workers; this Government would

[Shri Santasri Chatterjee]

also see that the public sector is protected, the payment of Minimum Wages Act and also the other laws are properly implemented. About the Payment of Bonus Act, whose amendment is overdue, many a time, we have raised the issue in the House. The Government says that all these issues would be taken up. But, I am sorry to say, the UPA Government though it has committed to the nation that it would give a fair deal to the workers, is not taking the matter with all the seriousness it deserves.

Sir, they know very well that the Left Parties are supporting this Government on the basis of the Common Minimum Programme which they accepted and which they are committed to implement. But so far as labour issue is concerned, this is absent. Nowadays, the apologists of the capitalist system are trying to propound a theory that trade union is not necessary; in the era of globalization, liberalization and privatization, trade union movement is not necessary; only production and productivity without any organized trade union movement is necessary. Those who belong to the trade union, those who are committed to the cause of the workers, cannot accept this theory. That is why, in India, the working-class, divided among themselves into different trade unions, are trying to unite themselves to further their cause, to fight for their legitimate demands. To achieve this, on the 14th December of last year, there was an All-India strike which gave a warning to the Government saying: "Do not follow the path of the NDA Government. You follow the path of the people and implement the policies which you have declared before the nation."

So far as the unorganized sector is concerned, it is a matter of great regret that three years have passed after this Government came into being. On the completion the two-year period, this Government distributed a report to the people. You assured many a time – the issue was taken up by all sections of the House – about the social security measures which the Government is contemplating.

The National Sample Survey Organisation, in its

Report 1999-2000, says that out of the total workforce of 39.7 crore persons employed in both the organized and the unorganised sectors, 36.9 crore are in the unorganized sector. The plight of the unorganized sector needs no further narration. You know about the condition in which they work. There is no security and there is nothing. The Government has assured and re-assured that it would be doing something for the unorganized sector.

Today, the Report of the Standing Committee on Labour has been placed on the Table of the House, I quote from the Report. It says:

"The Committee, therefore, recommend that urgent steps should be taken by the Government to bring in a comprehensive legislation for the unorganized workers without any loss of time."

I repeat that time has lapsed. Now, the Government is to seriously consider that it would fulfil the demands it has made before the country. I hope our hon. Labour Minister will very positively reply to the point whether in this Session the Government would bring in the legislation or what it wants to do. We want to be assured today in the reply.

Secondly, on a scrutiny of the Demands, it reveals that the total outlay of Rs. 1897.27 crore (for Plan Rs. 325.48 crore and for Non-Plan, Rs. 1579.79 crore) for the year 2007-08 shows an overall increase of Rs. 199.69 crore over the Budget Estimate of the previous year.

15.00 hrs.

However, a glance of the schemewise financial outlays shows that the percentage of expenditure incurred over real expenditure on the execution of some of the important schemes during 2006-07 is far less than what is stipulated under the Plan items namely holding of Lok Adalats, rehabilitation of bonded labour, skill development through PPP, information technology etc. It is also seen that monitoring and coordination of the Ministry with other implementing agencies are not very effective. So, I hope the Government will take necessary steps in this regard so that the budgetary provisions are properly utilized and all the programmes are implemented effectively.

15.01 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

Thirdly, as far as Employees Provident Fund is concerned, it is a pity that till date the Government could not take a decision on the interest rate to be paid. I am in the Standing Committee on Labour for the last three years. In all our Reports we have recommended that at least 9.5 per cent interest should be paid to the Employees Provident Fund. Provident Fund is a very basic thing. It is a social security arrangement for the workers who are covered under the scheme. Out of 30 crore workers in the country, just 10.74 per cent of them are covered under this scheme. There is no proper implementing agency, there is no proper scrutiny and there is no proper monitoring. A large number of workers are still excluded from the purview of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme. Moreover, this social welfare schemes needs to be thoroughly discussed with the central trade unions. The interest rate of at least 9.5 per cent should be maintained. The demand of the trade unions is that 12.5 per cent interest should be paid to Employees Provident Fund, but atleast 9.5 per cent interest should be paid. The decision on this is yet to be taken. There is harassment of workers in PF offices. The workers of closed industries who take loan out of their provident fund savings are harassed like anything. Many complaints have been pouring on this crore. So, this has to be taken care of.

Then, ESI is another social welfare scheme for workers. There is dual administration in this. Medical benefit is regulated by the State Governments and all other benefits are given by the Government of India. There is no funding from the Government of India. It is the hard earned money of the workers. It is seen that many of the employers do not deposit either the PF contribution or the ESI contribution. The workers are harassed like anything. Many hospitals do not function properly. Funding is not the main problem. The problem is lack of monitoring and lack of political will to see that these social welfare measures are properly implemented.

Madam, I do not want to add further. I feel the time

has come to seriously consider whether we will allow the employers to blatantly violate the laws of the land, be it in the public sector or the private sector. For the last few years, what is the experience? The agreements concluded, either tripartite or bipartite, are not honoured by the employers. In our State, 2.5 lakh jute workers had to go on strike for 52 days. What was the reason? It was because the employers refused to pay them their variable Dearness Allowance as per the tripartite agreement. The matter has been raised here also. Our State Government sincerely intervened and forced the recalcitrant employers to adhere to the principles of the agreement. These are to be discussed.

Madam, there are so many Acts, like Minimum Wages Act, Factories Act, Industrial Disputes Act, Safety and Security Act and so on and so forth. But if we analyse, if we discuss in details, and if we go through the Acts and Rules, many amendments have to be made depending on the changing situation of the country, depending on the globalised situation of the country.

I would appeal to the hon. Labour Minister, though I have no opportunity to meet him personally as yet, to seriously consider this. What would he do if the management blatantly violates the law of the land, blatantly violates the minimum basic amenities to be provided to the workers? The trade union rights of the workers are trampled under their feet. Should we allow these employers to exploit the workers or should the Government stand by the side of the workers?

We, the Left Parties, who are supporting the UPA Government, remind them that we are supporting this Government not for any special love for them, but for the love of the country and for upholding the cause of the toiling masses of the country. So, they have to judge themselves, they have to analyse themselves, their performances and then come to a decision.

With these words, I thank you, Madam.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Madam Chairman, Today we are having a discussion on demands for grants of the Ministry of Labour and employment. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue. Many things are said with regard to the labourers that the Government are worried and are always vigilant. Atrocities are being committed on labourers. They have been exploited; their health is not good; their children do not go to school and the Government says that it would take care of them. You might remember that all these issues were included in the Common Minimum Programme at the time of constitution of the UPA Government. Earlier also many laws were enacted for the welfare and protection of labourers but there is a need to see as to how many of them are actually implemented.

Today, there is a steady increase in the number of labourers in the country. Some people say that their population is 30 crore and some say that it is 37 crore. However it is the hon'ble Minister who can say as to what has been mentioned in their survey report. It is essential to take care of the condition of these people. It is also necessary to see if their children are getting education, how many labourers are sick and whether they are being properly treated or not. It would like to know as to what measures are being taken to help those unorganized labourers working in small factories, under private contractors, who are incapacitated due to loss of limb and even die in accidents in factories? What are the arrangements for providing livelihood to the dependents of those labourers? It is very easy to make announcements and enact a law. However, I feel that unless and until the laws relating to the labourers are implemented strictly, their welfare cannot be ensured.

The agriculture labourers get jobs for only 2-3 months and rest of the year they sit idle. Despite enactment of Minimum Wages Act, there is no provision to ensure the wages of labourer in different areas. Labourers are subjected to injustice in every region. I would like to remind

the hon'ble Minister that recently a big congregation of unorganized labourers was held in which he was also present. While addressing that congregation, he had said that we are going to enact law very soon for the welfare of unorganized labourers. Till today, I don't know whether any action has been taken to enact that law. Since the Session is on, I want that at least in this session a law should be enacted for the unorganized labourers and it should not be made so complicated that it becomes impracticable to implement it and they may remain an exploited lot.

Madam, what is the plight of unorganized labourers today? Many labourers come to Delhi from Bihar in search of employment. They are employed by construction companies and they perform hard laborious jobs like construction of houses, roads etc. They are made to work for three months and given only one month's wages and if at all any labour insists for further payment, he is got arrested by levelling false charges. The question is who will take care of them? It is the responsibility of the Ministry to protect our labourers. There is a need to enact law for this also. I request the hon'ble Minister to enact law and introduce it in the House so as to ensure welfare of the labourers. The Government have to conduct a survey on child labourers also to ascertain their number and age. Similarly Government have to conduct survey on bonded labourers also. With regard to bonded labour, it is said that it has already been abolished since long. Recently several instances have come to light wherein some youth who came to Punjab from Bihar, were detained. They were neither allowed to write letter to their parents nor allowed to take up any other job. They are forced to work in fields. Such atrocities and exploitation is being committed against them. Hon'ble Minister should take all these things seriously.

The Government have allocated inadequate funds in Demands for Grants and it talks about welfare of poor people and Insurance Scheme for labourers. In view of the very large number of labourers, I simply wonder as to how many of them are covered under insurance. We talk a lot about their social security, but the fact is that this is not available to them. We should also consider the inequality

of wages between men and women. Earlier the number of women was less among the labourers but gradually their number is also increasing. They are subjected to all kinds of atrocities. It is often heard that laws will be strictly implemented but the same does not happen.

Through you, I request the Government to bring forth a legislation for the protection and welfare of these labourers particularly of these unorganized labourers in view of all the above mentioned facts. With these words, I support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Madam Chairman, we are discussing the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Labour and Employment. We know the workers' contribution in our freedom struggle. It is because of their active participation we got our Independence. The organized and unorganized workforce fought against the British rule and they were also capable to get many legislations in favour of their welfare.

After the Independence, the Government of India and the State Governments are also looking after the welfare of the labourers. After the liberalization era, that is, after 1990, the working conditions of the labourers both in the organized and in the unorganized sectors are very much precarious.

According to one study, employment in organized manufacturing sector has grown at only 4.3 per cent between 1990 and 2004, whereas 13 per cent of the workforce, about 1.3 million employees have lost their jobs during this period. This is the impact of the liberalization era.

UPA Government have also committed to so many things about the welfare. In the Common Minimum Programme of this Government, many things about the welfare of the labourers mostly in the organized and unorganized sectors have been assured but nothing has been done so far. This commitment in favour of these labourers is going on but nothing has been done so far.

The main responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Employment is to protect and safeguard the interests of the workers in general and those who constitute the poor, deprived and disadvantaged section of the society in particular, with regard to creating a healthy work environment.

But we know what is happening in this country. We are aware as to what happened in a multi-national company in Haryana. This House has got the liberty to discuss that issue. This is the condition of the workers in the organized sector. But, their number is very much less so far as the total workforce of the country is concerned.

Regulation of employment, payment of minimum wages based on the conclusion of the 15th Indian Labour Conference and supplemented by the judgment of the Supreme Court of India in the Raptakos Brett case, commitment to a policy on social security as the right of every Indian, provision of appropriate social security measures and more the steps that will enable them to live in dignity as social useful members of our society are the need of the hour.

A comprehensive legislation was demanded by this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Madam, it is a matter of regret that not a single Member from BJP is present while such a serious matter is being discussed...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : All will come, you be bothered about yourself only.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : A comprehensive legislation for the agricultural workers has been under active consideration of the Government since 1975. For 32 years, a comprehensive legislation for the unorganized workers is under the active consideration of the Government but nothing has been done so far. Nothing has been done to ensure the welfare of the workers in the unorganized sector which includes weavers, handloom

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workers, fishermen and women, toddy tappers, leather workers, plantation labourers, beedi workers, construction workers, and forest workers including *tendu* leaf pluckers.

We have also committed for the welfare of the unorganized labourers working in the agricultural field. But, we know what their position is.

Madam, so many things had been said by the UPA Government regarding making this legislation for welfare of the workers working in the agriculture sector, etc. But nothing has been done so far. The UPA Government has been in power since last three years now. They had made certain commitments in their National Common Minimum Programme, but nothing has been done so far by them.

So, I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister as to how he is going ahead with regard to the Comprehensive Bill in regard to workers working in the unorganized sector and when this Bill would come to the House for approval.

We have come across so many things about the difficulties being faced by these workers working in both the organized and unorganized sector. Now, the Special Economic Zone Act has been put in place. But the general impression, which has been going on in the whole of the country is that no labour laws would apply to the industries covered or coming under the Special Economic Zone. Although the Ministry has clarified that the laws of the land will also be applicable to the industries coming under the Special Economic Zone (SEZ), but the impression is going on that the labour laws would not apply to the SEZ. So, the State Governments should be given the instructions from the Centre that laws of the land should be applicable in regard to SEZ also. The SEZ is not on a foreign land, that the labour laws of this country would not be applicable to it. Therefore, the Government should clarify position in this regard.

Madam, Chairperson, regarding formation of the trade unions, which is their legitimate right, the workers have got

themselves registered under the Indian Trade Union Laws Act, which they have achieved during the British Raj, but astonishingly, even this is not being carried out under the SEZ. There is no scope for registration of Union being carried out under the SEZ. To go in for registration of the trade unions is the democratic right of the workers, which should not be taken away by anyone. Whatever be the industry, the workers should be allowed to register their unions. Once again, I would request that the Union Government to send strict instructions to all the State Governments that the workers should not be denied to register their unions.

Madam, it is also a fact that the Ministry of Labour and Employment has not conducted any specific survey ensuring observance of the Labour Laws. From many quarters, the news is coming that the Labour Laws are being observed by the owners of the industries and even by some of the State-run and Centre-run public sector corporations and undertakings. I am just citing one example as to how these public sector undertakings are also not following the Labour Laws. About 2000 corporate entities including the IOC and the ONGC have defaulted in making payments to the Employees' Provident Funds amounting to Rs. 1,698.9 crore as on November, 2004. We know the financial condition of the IOC. But they have also defaulted for the payment of Employees' Provident Funds in depositing the money in the Employees' Provident Funds Accounts! So, this is how some of the Government of India public sector undertakings are defaulting in obliging the provisions of the Labour Laws.

Madam, there is an alarming news about the Government's intention to go ahead with a proposal for reforms of about 150 odd Labour Laws. What is the perception of the Government, we do not know. What is the decision of the Government? We would like to know as to whether they are going in for just these amendments or they would make certain comprehensive laws. What is the real position in this regard?

But in general, it is the demand of the management. Due to the pressure of the management, the Government

is going ahead with this type of legislation. But we are entitled to know the latest position. So, there is a perception in the Government circle that this restrictive labour laws are not helpful for better market situation and it is not helping the growth of the employment. But after liberalization we have taken the statistics that is no actually harassing or it is coming in the way of creating jobs. Rather those employers, those who are violating the laws, those who are not giving minimum wages, those who have engaged workers in a contract manner, in a casual manner – although the work is of perennial nature and they are entitled to have permanent jobs—they are engaging them as casual labourers and contract labourers to avoid these labour laws. So, the Government should come forward for their rescue. These industries are blatantly violating the labour laws because after 1990s, mostly after 2004, after the UPA Government has come to power in 2004, this impression has gone in the entire country that the Government is not serious to abide with these labour laws, any they are going ahead with reform in the labour laws. Madam, 150 odd labour laws are going to be reviewed to make them into one law to facilitate the new era of the new economic policy, the liberalization era, to help the industries. So, this impression is creating problem.

Even the Labour Secretariat, the Labour Ministry and the Labour Inspectors are not doing their jobs to protect labour laws, although there is objection about these Labour Inspectors who are creating problem. Now, the Corporate *Raj* is going on in the country. The corporate houses are managing the Government. They are managing the laws. They are managing everything and they are not in a position to abide with any of the labours laws. This Corporate *Raj* is creating problem in implementing the real provision of labour laws; and the labourers, in general, are in a very bad position. They are facing a lot of harassment. They are not getting proper justice from the Labour Ministry, Labour Commission or whatever office that is there. They should have looked at the interests of the labourers and the welfare interests of the workers also.

Madam, it is also a fact that both the Government and the private organizations in the country are flouting the

provisions of the Industrial Dispute Act and the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act etc. in awarding perennial nature of work to contractors. That is why, the number of contract labour is increasing in all the establishments. Now, after the 1990s, after 2004, the number of contract labour is increasing. Before 1990s, the situation was reverse. Now, the situation has changed. After the 1990s, workers who are ever engaged in the industries, both in the organized and unorganized sectors, their numbers are increasing in figures and list of contract labour. In the organized sector, the number of contract labour is increasing. That is why, the Labour Ministry has completely failed to safeguard the welfare of the workers of the organized and unorganized sectors.

So far as employment is concerned, that is also another responsibility of this Ministry. We know in the Employment Exchanges, the number is increasing day by day. Educated youths are waiting for jobs. They are not getting jobs. So, that is the problem now. So, what is the perception of the Government to give more jobs, to create more jobs, to give employment to educated people? The Government should come forward with its own statement about the real position in this country and how the educated people will get employment.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Madam, you will be astonished to know about the IT sector where there are no labour laws. There are also violation of labour laws in other sectors. Although the service sector is contributing maximum employment, that is also giving better revenue to the Government. But violation of labour laws is increasing in the service sector. We are happy about the enlargement of Service Sector, but it is not reflecting in a proper way to safeguard the interests of the workers. Therefore, there should be proper labour laws for the service sector, which is increasing nowadays, and the Government should also ensure that they are controlled by the labour laws.

The workers in the IT sector are also suffering like

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anything. 'Hire and fire' seems to be the slogan of the day. For this sector, it is, now the practice to hire somebody, use them and then throw them out of jobs. In the IT sector and even in the field of electronic media including television we find that lady workers are engaged, but they are thrown out of their jobs in a day without notice. Their job depends on the mercy of the employer, and there is no job security in the IT sector, electronic media including television, etc. Therefore, the Government should come forward to help these educated boys and girls as they are in very much in difficulty because of the unemployment situation. They are getting some jobs, but their jobs should be made no place to go as they will be used and thrown out of jobs. What will be their future? The Government should consider all these things.

The welfare measures for the uneducated boys and girls in the unorganized sector have also to be taken into account. A very sincere Minister is now here, and I hope that he will look after all these things. He should also take into account all these difficulties being faced by workers and employees in the organized sector, Government sector, and unorganized sector.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Madam, I am a happy man today because labour is being discussed in the House. I cannot speak of the history of Indian Parliament, but after many years labour is being discussed as the first item on ministerial grants. This makes me happy, but what makes me unhappy is this. Please look at the attendance in the House; look at the number of Ministers present in the House; and look at the way in which the issue is being discussed.

I am not speaking of the media because that is not a part of my job, and currently not part of my concern. I must be frank with the Government, which we support even today that this Government is looked upon as an anti-workers' Government. The general perception is that this is an anti-workers' Government; this is a pro-corporate

Government; this is a Government for liberalization of labour laws; and this is a Government, which is not serious about the enforcement of labour laws of the country. This is the general perception.

The Labour Ministry was absent ever since the UPA came into power as there was no minister at all for it or there was some Minister nominally, but factually and actually there was no Labour Minister. But thanks to the Government, this vacancy has been filled up. I welcome my friend Shri Oscar Fernandes to this serious task, which he has taken upon himself. Let me say that let us see how the Minister performs.

I must begin by saying that the process of economic reforms has dangerously hurt the interest of the working masses who are 477 million in the country, that is, 47 crore. I am choosing my words carefully, and it is not heroics. Further, the theory that is being propounded – which is most dangerous whether the Congress Party will agree to accept this or not – is that if you have to develop, then the working masses must be squeezed; the trade union movement must be marginalized; the labour laws must be liberalized; and rigidities must go, so that hire and fire can take place and you can give freedom to the investors – whether domestic or foreign – to throw away any people they like.

This is being done in the name of attracting capital, foreign and domestic.

Madam, Chairman, the concept of collective bargaining is being dismantled. Mr. Minister, Oscarji, this is a complaint for a person who has been in the trade union movement for long. For the first time I am saying that collective bargaining is being dismantled. Will you kindly ask your officers to let you know how many tripartite bodies are there under the Labour Ministry, how many meetings of those tripartite bodies have taken place and how many of them did not meet for years? Will you kindly find it out? You are a busy man going for Manipur elections, I know. You are in the good books of the Madam, I know. Despite that, you have to perform. In order to perform, please know the Ministry very well.

Unilateralism is being enforced. What is the role of the Government? Madam, we have a unique coinage – facilitator. Government is the facilitator of economic growth. Since it is the facilitator of economic growth, its eyes are blind to facts. In order to open the door for foreign capital, eyes are closed. This is the economic background of your Ministry. Madam, it is being understood deliberately – I do not say by the Ministry of Labour but the Ministry of Finance – that the trade union movement is a road block and all the labour laws are obstacles. Since joblessness is on the rise, unemployment is on the rise, jobs have to be created – however distressing a job may be, however low paid the job may be, however overburdened the job may be, however little the wage may be, however unstable the working conditions may be.

Madam, what is the situation? Hon. Labour Minister must be confronted with facts. The economic figures are like this. Production has increased in the country. Productivity has increased in the country. Output per unit has increased in the country. Untaxed dividend has increased in the country. You understand untaxed dividends. You never touch the dividend. Mr. Chidambaram had no political will to touch the dividend because he is friendly to investors, I do not say he is friendly to the corporates. Therefore, dividend is untaxed. There has been growth of not only millionaires but billionaires in the country. Growth of millionaires in India is 14 per cent whereas in the world it is seven per cent. ...*(Interruptions)* It is good? For whom? Maybe for you or me. Not for the millions of people. ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to the statement your Minister has issued. Do not worry my dear friend. Your Cabinet Minister contests the validity of your argument, not me. Let me tell you.

This is the situation. In a situation like this, the real wage of the workers is going down. I am happy that the Cabinet Minister looking after Panchayati Raj – my friend knows him; they are all friends – made a statement. The hon. Minister for Panchayati Raj has said that the 9.2 per cent growth of the country can be attributed to "0.02 per cent of people".

This is what the Minister of Panchayat Raj said. It is said not by an irresponsible trade union leader, but said by a responsible Cabinet member. Therefore, growth is taking place; income is increasing; dividend is increasing; the number of billionaires is increasing; shopping malls are being erected. Shri Chidambaram says that he is happy that people have a place to go in the evening, not just to drink. He says that they have a proper place to go. He takes pride in the growth of concentration of capital. This is where the crux is. There is concentration of capital; there is concentration of wealth; there is disparity of wealth and poverty is on the rise.

Madam, please do not laugh at me if I say that it is easy to become a millionaire in India, but it is difficult to reduce poverty in India, and that it is easy to become a millionaire in India, but it is difficult to arrange for two square meals a day to a poor family.

The point is that the unorganized labour is the worst hit. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here, of course talking to his friend! Talking is a part of the job of the Minister, I know! The point is will he kindly assure us that the Unorganized Labour Bill will be presented to the House during this year. Synthetic tears were shed – not real tears – by the leaders of the Congress Party and the leaders of the Government about unorganized labour, but where is the Unorganized Labour Bill? Where is the fund? Where is the allocation for that?

The Congress Party came to power, defeating the BJP on the promise that it will do something better. Are they doing better? May I call Shri Chidambaram, Mr. Failure? Therefore the point is that the leaders of the Government are speaking of production and productivity. On how many occasions, did our respected Ministers including the Prime Minister attend the meetings of the CII and speak of production and productivity? Do they speak of violation of labour? Have we ever heard hon. Prime Minister speaking in this House about violation of labour law? Violation of labour law is not the agenda. The agenda is to clear the deck for more investment. Nine per cent growth has nothing to do with 700 million people of the country. It is

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my statement, corroborated by the statement of the Minister of Panchayat Raj. I had been speaking like that, but now the Minister said it. It is good; there is introspection in the Congress Party; it is good that the members of the Congress Party are critical of its own policies. It is good; it speaks of health; it speaks of democracy and I welcome it. But let this introspection of the Government be translated into bold new initiative to take care of the problem of unemployment, to take care of the problem of poverty and to take care of the problem of violation of labour laws.

I now come to concrete instances to show how labour laws are being violated in India. The hon. Finance Minister was very glad when Tatas purchased a foreign company; I do not mind. This is class character. Carl Marx said so; I do not dispute it; he has every right to be jubilant at the fact that India is becoming international. But the Finance Minister does not say anything when the Tatas suppressed trade union movement in Jamshedpur. He had no word on that.

Secondly, there is no law for the working class in the country. [Translation] Hon. Minister Sir, be gracious. There is no law for labours and no Government to take case of the interests of the labourers nor there is any mechanism to implement pro-labourers laws. The parliament of India never discusses the violation of labour laws...(Interruptions)

[English]

Sontosh Babu, please speak slowly, you have a manly voice. I am envious of the manly voice.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : Your voice is much higher than my voice.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I am saying manly voice not higher voice. We have been discussing inflation, price rise and we have been discussing for months that prices of the essential commodities have gone high and it is hurting deeply all sections of the people. When the price rise is taking place, workers are not being given

Dearness Allowance. Is it social justice? I would give two examples how DA is being flouted. There was a strike in West Bengal by 2.5 lakh jute workers. What was their demand? They demanded Dearness Allowance. After prolonged two months strike they had been able to get DA upto 200 point when DA was due to 320 points and this was despite the attempt of the West Bengal Government. The private sector just do not give the DA. What is the remedy? Has the Government at any point of time discussed the question of violation of payment of Dearness Allowance in a situation of abnormal rise of prices in the country? Have you ever discussed it in the Cabinet, among the group of Ministers? You have been discussing disinvestment, retail trade, FDI, everything under the sun but workers are not your agenda. This is again a cross character.

I am giving a second example. Today, a strike is going on in Hindustan Motors of Birla Company. What is their demand? For six years Birlas have not given DA to the workers. The Government of West Bengal is trying to help them. Last night the meeting broke up and the management bluntly said that it would not give the DA. What is the remedy? I would like to ask Madam you, the Government and the Labour Minister what is the remedy. If in a situation of abnormal inflation DA is not given to the workers, how do we protect them and can we protect them. Labour laws have no teeth. You have no political will. You have no affinity with the working people of the country. DA is being flouted in a situation of deep inflation.

Trade Union Movement is considered to be a criminal offence. Let me give you a example. Not very far away, Maharashtra is under Congress rule. There was a strike in a transport company. In one day 30,000 people were retrenched, only a few days back. Is it a respect for democracy? Is it a respect for trade unionism? Is it a respect for human rights? In one day 30,000 people were retrenched and new recruitment was also made.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : They have been taken on roll again.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Putting them on roll again is a secondary thing. Wasn't such a step taken?

[English]

That is a separate issue. Why were they retrenched? Do not support this illegal retrenchment

[Translation]

I know everything.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : I fully share his sentiments but at the same time I request him to give the statistics of Dunlop. What it was?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : You have political malice.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am not saying that. You should place the objective so that we all understand how the Government is functioning...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Chatterjee, he is capable of answering.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am saying give the total scenario how things are taking shape in every State. I did not say anything against you or anybody.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Dasmunsiji, I respect your concern for the Dunlop workers but I am saying that I have already given two examples of West Bengal and now I am coming to other States. Please listen to the facts. Thirty-three thousand workers were retrenched. While NDA was in power, Madam Jayalalitha was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. At that time, one lakh workers were retrenched in one day.

[Translation]

The Governments change not the policy. Madam, though the Government change. Policy remain un-

changed. What I have seen in Maharashtra presently was seen by in one in Tamil Nadu as well a few days ago. Therefore, I am of the opinion that the Governments, change but not the policy.

[English]

This is capitalism. This is the capitalist system.

Now I am coming to Bata International. I would ask you two questions on this. Will the foreign companies agree to abide by the Indian laws or the foreign companies will have their own laws? Bata company has dismissed 600 Shop Managers and Shop Assistants within a couple of days. They were just dismissed without any charge sheet. In India what role the Labour Minister can play? He can plead with them. He can plead and talk but this is not our law. It is a matter of shame. It is a matter of undiluted shame that the the Indian Republic after 60 years of freedom do not have a law having teeth to compel the management to fall in line. It is a shame. Is it this freedom Mahatma Gandhi fought for? Is it the freedom Netaji had fought for?

There are more horrible stories I can give you. In Haryana, there is a factory known as Liberty Shoes. Its workers had gone on strike for increase of their salaries. The police arrested them because they had brought out procession. What was the charge? Not a single policeman was injured. Not a single personnel of the management was injured but seven trade union leaders were hauled up under murder charge. I had told this to the Prime Minister three years back. They had been hauled up under murder charge. This is only an attempt to scuttle the trade union. In Haryana again under the Congress rule, there was a general strike. My friend had referred to general strike. What was wrong there? The transport union of AITUC participated in the strike. After the day of the strike the union office was put under lock and key. They will not allow to strike. You think of the Constitution only when OBC comes. But when the workers issue comes, you do not think of the Constitution. This is the partiality. What happened is that they had put the recognized union's office under lock and key. Hon. Oscarji is trying to settle it but let me tell the truth to Parliament. The

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General Secretary of the union has been given a notice that he will be facing premature retirement.

[Translation]

What was their fault, they had gone on strike. No matter what, there shouldn't be any strike. Though there may be retrenchment, lockouts firing from jobs violated of laws but not strike. To strike is to commit an offence which would clashes punishment of premature retirement. If they go on strike, office will lock out in office.

[English]

Shri Sontoshbabu is the public sector Minister. In Oil, there was one day strike and the wage cut was for seven days.

[Translation]

To cut seven day's salary for a strike of one day! This is our republic, democracy and Satyamev Jayate.

[English]

Madam, trade unions are not being allowed to be registered. I had brought it to the notice of the Prime Minister.

In Delhi, right under the nose of the Central Government, applications for registration of trade unions in States like Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan are not being allowed. In this respect, both the NDA and the UPA Governments are the same. If you put forward an application for registration they will send a copy to the management before registration and the management will come to know as to who the culprits are and immediately they will be thrown out of their jobs. This is the democracy that the workers enjoy and this is the democracy that this Government believes in.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : In spite of that you are supporting this Government.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I will come to your pet question.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : How much more time will you take? You have already taken more than 20 minutes

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Madam, there is hardly any occasion in the House when we can talk on labour

issues. I would seek you indulgence in this matter. Moreover, women are gracious in indulgence.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Madam, I highly respect Shri Dasgupta. He was one of my greatest friends in the trade union movement. I have, in every forum, appreciated him for his forthrightness. But my only appeal to him is that he should place the facts very objectively and not only talk about beating of workers by police in Haryana. I saw that incident on television. He was leading the team. I was in tears to see that. The other day workers were beaten very badly in front of the gate of Hind Motors. It was pathetic. He fought for that also. I salute him for that. The attitude of the police everywhere should be taken into account and that should be the proper message to Parliament and we can all educate ourselves.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, I will oblige my friend. I would not be partial. We had a recognized union in Karnataka. The AITUC had a recognized union in the State. Now, in order to suppress the recognized union, there were ruthless transfers, dismissals and suspension of workers for years together. We had brought it to the notice of the Government.

Madam, if I may say very frankly, I have a great respect for Dr. Singh – I have had seen him in Rajya Sabha for many years – but he has no role to play. After he became the Prime Minister we had presented to him a memorandum detailing the instance. But no action has been taken. It is that the Prime Minister is unmindful.* I do not know what I can say about him. I have respect for him. But a man is known by his actions. Repeatedly we have met him. But there has been no action. The Government is elected by the largest democracy of the world and it is powerful enough to defend its own integrity, but is so powerless within the country that the corporates – private and foreign – can do anything they like. The Prime Minister is either unmindful.

Madam, in Jharkhand, recently, there has been a notice that trade union activities cannot be carried on in the premises of the industry. Is it a police State? Is Haryana a police State? Is Jharkhand a police State? Is Rajasthan a police State? The foreign companies are violating the law at their own will. I will give just two instances of M/s. Maruti and M/s. La Farge. The Government is so indulgent about Maruti that it has sold out its own stake to the Japanese company.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

They have dismissed employees without any chargesheet. I wish Shri Dasmunsi is listening to me...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I have come here to listen to my friend only. I got a message. There is a meeting going on in the Rajya Sabha. The Chairman had summoned me. His speech will strengthen my case in my State some times.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Madam, he has love for Bengal.

16.00 hrs.

...(Interruptions) In M/s. Maruti, 24 people have been dismissed without being chargesheeted. At that time, NDA Government was in power and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. I went and met Shri Advani as the Prime Minister was too busy. Let me tell you that 24 people have been retrenched without chargesheet. I told the Prime Minister three years ago on this point and I sought his intervention repeatedly. I never wanted reinstatement. I wanted normal reasonable financial compensation which was not being given and it was not done. Three years back, I have told the Prime Minister on this point.

Secondly, M/s. La Farge is a French cement company in Jamshedpur and the Labour Ministry of Jharkhand has recommended that contract labour should be given a minimum wage. They have flatly refused. They have refused Government's suggestion. It seems that M/s. La Farge is a very important company than the interest of the workers. Why is the Government silent on this? The Labour Ministry is a concurrent Ministry. It comes under the purview of this Ministry. I am talking about foreign companies taking full responsibility. Foreign companies are violating the law of the land with impunity and the Government is too weak. A Government elected by 100 crores of people is weak to touch them. Should it make me angry? Should it have any impact in your psychology? Will the hon. Members of Parliament feel ashamed that this is what is happening in a country like India? Violation of labour law is all rampant. It is ten hours of duty. The Factories Act provides for eight hours and thirty minutes but they are working for ten hours. With Rs. 1000 as their salary, they are working for twelve hours. May Day was done away long before when the workers of America fought for eight working hours. Even today, that is the reality there. What is their wage? An amount of Rs. 1200

is their wage. There is rampant violation of Provident Fund Act, there is rampant violation of Minimum Wages Act, there is rampant violation of ESIC Act and Factories Act, there is rampant violation of Industrial Disputes Act.

Madam, as a woman, you are a mother as well. Do you know that 40 per cent of the working force is women but there is no maternity benefit for women? It is a shame that in most of the places, there is no maternity benefit. It is a constitutional guarantee. Women have no maternity benefit in many areas of the country. Madam, on the one hand, there is violation and on the other hand, there is lack of coverage. The beedi workers, the anganwadi workers, the tea garden workers and the construction workers are the ones who are badly affected in the country. This is the grave situation that we are facing. Economic reform means human resource will be wasted, human resource will be distressed and human resource will be marginalized. The only foreign capital is from the WTO and the World Bank and multinational companies and 9.2 per cent growth means emergence of a powerful reach, super affluent section in the country having no impact on the 70 per cent of the population in the country. Are you not ashamed of it?

Capital is scarce and therefore, capital has to be pampered. Since capital is scarce, human resource is in abundance. There is oversupply of human resource.

Therefore, problems of manpower have to be ignored. Workers must bleed for economic development. Workers' interests must be sacrificed for having 9.2 per cent growth. Market economy shall grow, prosper and develop at the cost of working class. This is the India you are building! This is the India that remains with us after sixty years of freedom.

[Translation]

This won't do, we will not allow it to happen. We will fight against you, we will fight along with labourers on the roads as well as in the parliament..

[English]

This is a warning bell to the Government, who remains in Office with our support. I wish the young compassionate Minister of Labour takes note of the hard realities. I can only tell him that we shall never relent and we shall go on to establish our rights in the country. ...(Interruptions) We will fight. We have full confidence that we will be able to fight you back.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Labour. I should thank the hon. Speaker and the Government for bringing this Ministry for discussion as a first item, especially after a lapse of so many years. Indian labour has undergone a sea-change in the last sixty years since Independence. It is a case of struggle throughout the period and now that liberalization and globalization have come, the incidents of exploitation of labour have increased. Though there are lots of labour welfare legislation in the country, implementation part of those legislative measures is lacking and at many places, the labour provisions are violated through devious means.

In the face of foreign institutional investments and multinational companies entering into the country and dominating the market, protection of labour and implementation of labour welfare measures have become more important, in view of growing tendency among them to exploit the labour and to adopt unfair labour practices. Instead of reforming and diluting the provisions of labour legislations, there is an urgent need to strengthen the labour laws so that all loopholes are plugged.

In Business Process Outsourcing and Call Centres, etc. the women employees are made to work during night shift and for more than eight hours. It affects their health and psychology and leads to family quarrels and tension. Even in western countries, employees during night shift do not work for more than four hours. Therefore, the same norm should be brought here for the health and mental harmony of workers.

About recognition of trade unions in various units, a comprehensive Act has been brought forward by the Maharashtra Government. Once in two years or three years, they have to conduct elections among the workers through secret ballot to determine the recognized trade union within the company or establishment. For example, in public sector undertakings, like BHEL, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, these provisions are already there. The workers are demanding that they should be given the option to decide which is their recognized trade union. The verification method is outdated and it should be replaced by the secret ballot exercised by workers, as we are living in the democracy.

EPF interest rate for the year 2006-07 has not yet been raised to 9.5 per cent, though the interest rates are going up and some nationalized banks are offering ten per cent interest on their FDs. For senior citizens, the Government is already giving 0.5 per cent additional interest. In view of the rise in prime lending rates in the banks, inflationary pressures and high cost of living, the Government should consider increasing the EPF interest rate to ten or eleven per cent for the welfare of workers. It should be taken as a social concept.

There are various definitions for 'workmen' prescribed in various Acts and with the result, the employees are getting away, denying the genuine benefits to the workers. For example, in the Buildings and Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, building worker does not include those employed in a supervisory capacity drawing wages exceeding Rs. 1,600 p.m. In the Cine Workers and Cine theatre workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, those workers getting wages exceeding Rs. 1,600/- p.m. are not included. In the ESI Act, 1948, worker getting more than Rs. 10,000/- p.m. is not eligible for the benefit. In the Plantation Act, Rs. 750/- p.m. has been mentioned as the criterion. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Labour to review all such Acts and incorporate necessary amendments making the workers eligible for such benefits.

Recently, the Central Labour Commissioner, the statutory authority has recommended for conferring Central trade union status after physical verification of individual sector organizations like Labour Progressive Federation, an active Central Trade Unions federation of DMK Labour Wing. I would request the hon. Minister to give sanction to the recommendation and accord recognition to our union.

Keeping in view a large number of workforce are in the informal and unorganized sector, the Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Dr. Kalaignar have brought forward a progressive legislation for providing social security and welfare measures to those workers. They have listed out various categories of workers numbering 60, which are in the cottage industry, household industry like coir work, mat work, laundry including washing of clothes, pappad preparations, commercial cooking, collection of forest products,

cashewnut processing, distribution of LPG cylinders, cycle rickshaw pullers, crackers industry, footwear industry, goldsmith and silversmith, handloom weaving and silk yard weaving, agarbati incense making, printing press, street vendors, kullad and pot makers, workers employed in retail shops, domestic workers, sculpting works, handicraft workers, beedi workers, cigar workers, painters, video and photographers, electricians, carpenters, etc. Under the scheme of the legislation, the unorganized workers employed in these categories can register themselves with various Boards constituted for this purpose, to get various benefits available under the legislation. Insurance claim is given upto Rs. One lakh in case of unfortunate accidental death; varying amount of compensation depending on the disability, Rs. 15,000 grant is given to next of kin in case of natural death of a registered workers.

Apart from compensation and grants given to the workers, grants are given to their children for their education. For example, an amount of Rs. 1,000/- is given to a child of a worker studying in the 10th class. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 1,500/- is given to a child in his 12th class. For higher education also like graduation and technical studies, an amount ranging from Rs. 1,750/- to Rs. 6,000/- is given to the children of these workers.

Sir, not only providing assistance in education, but our State Government has gone a step further to provide social security measures and to be a friend, guide and philosopher and Santa Claus for the workers. At the time of marriage, an amount of Rs. 2,000/- is distributed to such workers for meeting part of expenses. A very important feature of this scheme is that our leader Dr. Kalam has exempted any fee for registration of a worker for this purpose. It means, any eligible worker can get himself registered with the Labour Welfare Board without depositing any fee. Similarly, for renewal of registration, no fee is levied.

One more scheme has been brought to the welfare of these workers, namely, those workers who are above 60 years of age and have registered as members under the scheme for more than 5 years would get a retirement *ex-gratia* amount of Rs. 300 for their life. So, this is the first progressive State which has introduced pension for the workers in the unorganized sector, without collecting a single pie from the worker.

These are all the progressive measures introduced for the first time in the country, for the welfare of workers in the unorganized sector. In the age of globalization and liberalization where survival of the fittest is the mantra, workers are ignored and left to the mercy of God. In such a situation, where outsourcing has become the order of the day, even regular works are getting done through contract labour by unscrupulous employers, this labour welfare legislation is a boon for these unfortunate workers.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to adopt these schemes as model schemes for the whole country.

Thank you very much for giving this opportunity to me to speak.

SHRI D. NARBULA (Darjeeling) : Respected Madam Chairperson, I would thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Labour and Employment for 2007-08 placed by the hon. Minister before this august House. I rise to support the Demands for Grants.

I hail from the tea garden belt. Most parts of my constituency are covered by tea gardens. So, I am very happy that I have got a chance to place before the House the grievances of the people of the tea gardens who have been deprived of the legitimate rights and facilities.

Assam is the greatest producer of tea in India. Next to Assam is West Bengal. In West Bengal, Darjeeling and Terai in the district of Darjeeling and Duars in the district of Jalpaiguri and the North Dinajpur fall within my constituency. We produce tea. In order to give protection to the rights and benefits of the workers of the tea garden, the Plantation Labour Act was passed by the Government of India in the year 1951. Under the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act, rights and interests, and benefits of the workers are protected. This Act was passed in the year 1951 and it has been in operation since 1954. In order to safeguard the rights and interests of the workers of the tea garden, there are provisions under this Act which include arrangement for drinking water, conservancy, medical facilities etc. In addition to these, the Act provides for welfare facilities such as canteens, creches, recreational, educational and housing

[Shri D. Narbula]

facilities. Besides these, there are provisions for limitation of employment regulating working hours and holidays etc. In addition to the Plantation Labour Act, there are Plantation Labour Rules of every State which also make provision to protect the interests and rights of the workers of the tea gardens.

According to the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act, all the tea gardens should have a hospital in the tea garden but there are very few tea estates where they have their own hospitals. In most of the tea gardens, there is no such hospital and the tea gardens cannot provide proper medical facilities to workers as provided in the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act. In the tea gardens, the management should provide houses and quarters to all workers and employees of the tea gardens. These houses and quarters in most of the tea gardens are in a most deplorable condition. People have to open their umbrellas while sleeping in the night in the labour quarters.

According to the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act, 8 per cent of the houses should be built every year in each tea garden but it has never been complied with. Drinking water is one of the main criteria but no drinking water facility is provided in the tea garden by the managements. So, it has become a big problem to the workers and employees of the tea gardens.

The Gratuity Act is there but it is not followed. As per the provisions of the Gratuity Act, when a worker retires, all the amount due to him should be paid up within sixty days of his retirement.

But it is never done so. In most of the tea gardens in my area, the gratuity amount, mostly accumulated by workers, is paid in installments. If it is paid in one installment, the worker can start a new life or he can start a project with that amount. But it is not being done. So, here also they are very badly deprived of this benefit.

The Employees Provident Fund Act was passed in 1952. It is a very major Act, but it is not being implemented

properly. The managements do not put their share in EPF and thereby the workers are very much deprived. So, I feel that some stringent measures should be taken against those managements who fail to deposit the share of the workers in the EPF which they are supposed to get at the time of their retirement.

With regard to minimum wage, in our tea gardens there is a system that an industrial wage agreement is made between the workers, the management and the Government. Otherwise, sometimes the management and the workers sit together and fix up the wage. But even after the conclusion of this agreement, it is not implemented. In most of the tea gardens in Darjeeling, the minimum wage agreed upon by both the parties in the bipartite agreement is never paid to the workers.

Besides these tea gardens, there is a Cinchona Plantation in Darjeeling. More than 50,000 people directly or indirectly depend on this medicinal plantation. This is a Government of West Bengal Undertaking, but it is in a very bad shape. There are several families of the workers where there is no worker. If one worker is dead, he should be substituted by his successor, but it is not being done. As a result, there is no worker in the family. So, many of the families are on the verge of starvation.

The Plantation Labour Act, Factories Act, Payment of Bonus Act, Industrial Disputes Act, these are all old and obsolete Acts. So, I would request the hon. Labour Minister to see that these Acts are amended so that the interests of workers are protected.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Madam Chairman, I thank you for the fact that discussion on the Demand for Grants relating to Ministry of Labour and Employment is being held in the House for the first time during the last ten years. I am going to speak on behalf of my party Shiv Sena on this subject. Through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the sons of the soil i.e. local people should get priority in

employment in all the states like Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh including Maharashtra, where we have been demanding priority to the local people in employment upto 80 percent. This has been our long pending demand and hon'ble Bala Saheb Thakreji have always maintained so. The Marathi people have got priority in employment due to the agitation launched by them in this regard after the local committee for peoples empowerment was set up in Mumbai and Maharashtra. Same should be the stance of the Central Government that priority should be given to the local people in providing jobs so that the strikes among the people of different states could be minimized. Hence, Shri Fernandes should ensure that interview for the same job is held on the same date throughout the country. To cite and example the recruitment examination comprising of written exam and interview for the Indian Airlines, Air India, ESI and other organisations should be held on the same date throughout the country so that the people of different states, say, the people of Maharashtra may not feel the need to go to Tamil Nadu and the people of Tamil Nadu do not have to visit the Andhra Pradesh, upto 80% vacancies should be filled by the sons of the soil on priority basis. This policy should also be adopted by the Union Government.

Madam, this should be implemented wherever it has not been implemented so far. Today, we see the trend of hiring contract labour in private companies so much so that the number of regular employees of the company is 100 or 200 while those on contract are 800 or 1000. These people do not get benefit of any kind. Whenever factory inspector, ESI Inspector or the Labour Inspector visit the factory, they are shown the register by the factory owner and they return back satisfied. When an employee meet with some accident during the work, the inspectors themselves suggest the factory owner to show the accident case in the back dates. This way that employee does not get any benefit because he is shown as employed on contract. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to stop the trend of hiring labours on contract.

Madam, during the regime of the NDA Government, I alongwith the Communist Party had opposed the

introduction the Labour Reforms Bill. At that time I was the leaders of the Shiv Sena, one of the coalition partners of the Government. Balasaheb Thakreji was of the view that as soon as the figure of hired labours falls below the 1000 mark they would be at the mercy of the employer and their employment opportunity will become uncertain which will lead to unemployment. And no factory owner would be in the ambit of labour laws. This trend is very much evident in all the multinational companies. I am of the view that the Chief Labour Commissioner should be bestowed upon some powers to check this trend.

Madam, this process has also begun in many PSUs. Right now, one of our hon'ble Members said that the MD of the Bokaro Steel Plant did not allow the labour movement to continue. The agitating persons were locked in the premises which is quite wrong. Labourers have the right to raise their voice for safeguarding their interest. How will the people work if the contract labourship is allowed to flourish under which factory owner can fire a labourer in the staircase. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to stop this system.

Madam, Bhartiya Kamgar Sena has been operating in Mumbai, Maharashtra and in other parts of the country and other labour unions like CITU, INTAC, AITAC have merged into the BKS in all airways with the exception of Indian Railways where several unions have been operating. I would like to say that the employees of Indian Airlines have been demanding new pay scales for the last 11 years and they have been staging agitation to press for their demand for the last several years. But their demand is yet to be conceded despite it being such a big establishment of the Government of India. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to pay attention towards their demand and to accept their reasonable demand of new pay scales.

Madam, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to direct the Chief Labour Commissioner of the country to look into the matter as to why these employees of the Indian Airlines have not been given pay scale so far. Not only Indian Airlines, but the employees of all other public

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

sector undertakings should be paid attention to as to whether they are getting right facilities and salary or not. At least we can ensure providing all kinds of facilities for the employees of the Public Sector Undertakings.

Madam, many people are resentful about the interest being given on provident fund. I urge upon you to declare 9.5 per cent rate of interest. Why are you not declaring so? For the last one and a half year, 9.5 per cent rate or interest is not being given. Whosoever be the subscriber to the PF, takes whatever is given to him at the time of full and final settlement and even if he is not given 9.5 per cent interest rate. Subsequently, when the fund accrued from the enhanced interest is credited to his account, he does not come to know about it and the fund remains deposited. As such, I urge upon the hon'ble Minister to declare 9.5 per cent interest rate, as it should be upto the provident fund organization to take care of the welfare of the subscriber.

Madam, we have observed that at times, the subscribers do not get home loans to get their houses constructed. As per rules, wherever there is an establishment of 20 people, the scheme of provident fund is applicable. I submit to the hon'ble Minister that this limit of 20 should be reduced to 10. For example E.S.Is. set up in the industrial areas. The E.S.I.C. board has passed a proposal to set up E.S.I.C. in municipal corporation, municipal council areas as well. I would like to submit about it in 5-7 minutes time as being a Member of Parliament, I am the Member of the E.S.I.C. Board. But, about provident fund I would say that is being a security for the future, its cover should be provided even for a group of 10 people and provident fund offices should be set up district-wise along-with regional offices. For example, in my Marathwada region, we have set up sub-regional office. E.S.I.C. should have regional offices for provident fund. I have been demanding for it for many years. That demand is that our members will not visit Nagpur, the members of the Marathwada region will go to the office at Samaj Nagar (Aurangabad) to get their settlement done and as such to

provide more facility, the government should set up regional office, divisional office and more and more district-wise offices at the earliest.

Being an E.S.I.C. member, I would speak about the E.S.I.C. We had been to Ranchi recently. We feel like that after visiting the E.S.I.C. hospitals and dispensaries all over the country because the contribution is deposited with the E.S.I.C. and medical services are provided by the State Government. E.S.I.C. provides them a share of 7:8 but we observed that they do not take care of medical services. The State Governments do not provide medical services properly. There are no doctors, medicines and other required item in the hospitals. We had visited alongwith their D.G. and some of their members. Union leaders, Medical Commissioners were present there and alongwith them. We observed at Ranchi that in one hospital there were only three I.Ps. ESI beneficiaries are there but, only three patients visit the hospitals and the staff is in a large number. Such a situation is prevailing only because even after the existence of the E.S.I. hospitals over there, medical facilities have not been regularly provided. As such the I.Ps., ensured persons, take recourse to private treatment. We have reiterated this fact several times in the general meetings of the E.S.I.C. that if the corporation provides medical services across the country, then only benefit of this scheme could accrue to the employees. I also submitted that I am a Member of Parliament and as per the report of the Standing Committee of Parliament headed by Reddy Saheb, medical services should be run by the E.S.I.C. and not by the State Government. As such, through you, I would submit that our hon'ble Minister may immediately bring it before the cabinet and thereafter get it amended in the Parliament to provide total services for the employees through the E.S.I.C.

The higher officers contend that it would be difficult to attend to the people who are one or two lakhs in number. I would like to ask whether administration is not running smoothly for the employees who are lakhs in number in the P and T and the Railways. There is no reason why our administration cannot be run smoothly. There would be no benefit of the scheme launched way

back in 1948 under which contribution is collected for the ESI cards, if benefit is not rendered to the subscribers, their family members and their dependents. Therefore, through you, I would submit to the hon'ble Minister that medical services should be provided by the ESIC only and not by the State Government. Instead, we should take share from the State Governments in the ratio of 1:8 and we should provide them our services as we do in Delhi.

I belong to the NDA and this is the achievement of the UPA Government, still I felicitated the government during the last meeting for announcing the setting up of four super specialty hospitals. Two hundred crores have been earmarked for setting up of these four super specialty hospitals but this is being talked about only and nothing concrete is taking place as is the case with the meetings of the corporation where only discussions are held but the process of arriving at a decision is very arduous. At times, I feel very dejected as no decisions are taken in the meetings over a period of, say, one year. In this Parliament, decisions can be reached at immediately. Decisions can be made if we approach the hon'ble Minister but in the meetings of the corporation where some decisions are taken, you find that in the next meeting you have before you the minutes of the last meeting and you are not sure whether they should be implemented even at the time of the next meeting. This is not right. I would like to contend that the decision about the super specialty hospital is of the UPA Government and this is a big achievement of this government. Get these four hospitals immediately set up. One each is to be located at Pune in Maharashtra, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Delhi. I would like to submit that only in case of better services being provided by the ESI hospitals, people could benefit. I would like to contend that the government should keep in view the interest of the staff working in these hospitals. In this regard, one Sanjeev Reddy Committee had been constituted. The issue of the pay scales of the insurance inspectors and the Managers has been lying pending for several years and has not been resolved till. Through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that being a performing minister, we have much hope from him.

However, we fail to understand what goes on in his ministry. Files are returned from his ministry. Why do not we provide benefit to the insurance inspectors and managers? They collect revenues. Doctors consume revenues but it is collected by the inspectors and managers. The Government should have a role in taking care of the inspectors and managers and their pay scales should be rectified. The pay scale of the ESIC inspectors was higher in comparison to the excise, custom and income tax inspectors. But now it is lower than their scale. Therefore, something is needed to be done to reform the ESI. In case, the subject to the ESIs is put forth as a special one some day, the views of all the members in this regard could be ascertained. I would like to submit that with regard to its coverage it should be implemented in the municipal corporation area and its adjoining areas. I have submitted that in Maharashtra, it may be got implemented in Ahmednagar, Palghar, Panvel and similar industrial areas such as Rajhangaon near Pune where industries are growing in number. As on date, the people running mall and others are conducting their business in an arbitrary manner. We call entrepreneurs from outside but they lack sympathy for the employees of this area after establishing their enterprise.

Madam, through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that while setting up the special economic zones for which the Central Government, Ministry of Commerce and Department of Industry have given approval, the Government should pay attention towards their ESI, provident fund and labour laws etc. Under SEZ, industries will be provided with all facilities, however, the labourers will be hired for one day and fired the next day. He should also be covered under the labour laws for the security of his job. The NDA stalled the labour reform bill which is the cause of happiness for many a workers today. Had this bill been passed, all the union movements would have come to an end. We do not want to put an end to union movements but we all are aware of what happened in Mumbai during the times of Datta Samant. Many cotton mills in Mumbai have been ruined. They are in a very bad condition. Though the labourers rendered jobless have

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

been paid compensation recently but the Government should also consider the loss they have suffered during all these years. We should protect the interests of labourers in the same way as we make efforts for promoting labour intensive industry. I have expectation of this kind from the hon'ble Minister. If he will protect their interests, he will get their blessings.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara) : Thank you, Madam, for giving me a chance to participate in this discussion.

The National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government gave emphasis on the need for measures pertaining to the welfare of the farmers and labourers, particularly the workers in the unorganized sector. But a close scrutiny of the schemes introduced, funds earmarked against these schemes, and the actual amounts spent on the ground level reveal that most of these schemes could not achieve the desired results and the benefits of these schemes did not reach the targeted sections.

A scheme-wise and programme-wise examination of the execution of these schemes reveals serious lacunae on the part of the implementing agencies and the failure of the Departments concerned. On many of the important schemes such as Construction of Houses for Beedi Workers and Low Income Occupation Clusters, Social Security for Unorganized Sector Workers Scheme and Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer, the expenditure incurred during the period 2006-07 is nil. The Government should take proper measures to ensure the implementation of such important schemes pertaining to the welfare of the poorest of the poor sections in the society.

Madam, according to the data available, the total workforce in the country is 39.7 crore. Out of this, 36.9 crore is in the unorganized sector. The agriculture labourers,

artisans, construction workers, workers in the traditional industries, shops etc., account for the unorganized sector. The socio-economic conditions of these sections are pathetic, and hence require special attention and comprehensive measures for the upliftment of these sections. But our experience is on the contrary. These sections are still being neglected. There was a proposal for a comprehensive legislation regarding agriculture labour, which is still pending for decades. Till date, no step has been taken to introduce the Bill to ensure their social security and welfare. It is also to be noted that there are new sections of the working class like employees of the call centres and private security agencies. At present, they are totally out of the social security coverage. There are no trade union rights for them. Therefore, these sections may also be given the social security.

Madam, another point is the minimum wage for the unskilled workers. The minimum wage is fixed at different rates in various States ranging from Rs. 45—Rs. 128 to Rs. 72—Rs. 189. But in most of the States, the actual wage earned by the labourers is much below the stipulated amount. There is no mechanism to monitor the situation and there is no honest effort by the authorities concerned for the strict implementation of the Minimum Wages Law. There are States like Kerala where the actual earning of the unskilled labourer is much higher than the stipulated minimum wage.

Madam, workers are the most vulnerable sections. Women accounts for major share of the workforce in the unskilled unorganized sectors. But they are more discriminated. Mostly, they are not paid equally with their male counterparts. Even though the women work more, or equally as the male labourer, their earnings are always lesser than that of the male workers. There is a legislation enacted in Seventies providing equal wage for equal work, but the same is not being implemented. Also, the women are subject to various forms of harassment including sexual harassment. Even though there are laws to prevent such incidents, but they are increasingly continuing to occur. This is because of the lack of sincerity in enforcing

the law. Stringent measures are required to be taken against such practices.

Madam, there are over 40 crore labourers in the country. But out of this, only 4.6 crore labourers are covered under the EPFO. A majority of the establishments is still out of the purview of the scheme. They must also be brought under the EPFO so that all the workers get the protection of the scheme. More funds should be allocated to the ESIC. The hospitals run by the Corporation are ill-equipped, and so require upgradation and modernization. There is also a need for more hospitals to cater to the requirement.

Another aspect is the safety of the labourers who are engaged in hazardous areas. The guidelines and norms related to the safety of the workers are not complied with by a large number of employers. Strict measures should be taken against the violators.

The unemployment situation is going from bad to worse in the country. The unemployment rate is fast growing and the available opportunities are too little to absorb growing number of job seekers. The present policy is development without generating employment. The Government too has been on the path of downsizing staff. There is a ban in various Departments on new recruitments. The Railways have been the biggest public sector unit providing employment. There is less recruitment today. Even various services of Railways have been privatized.

Another important point is that in the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, production-linked incentive was given. But the officers were given huge amount and the workers were given paltry sum. In spite of repeated demands and strikes by the workers, the management is not ready to oblige. This is what is happening in a Public Sector company.

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : With the permission of the Chair, I would like to add that when the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, a Public Sector company, paid production-linked incentives, the officers were given

a huge amount and the workers were given paltry amount. One day strike was observed, and seven days' wage cut was done. So, this is what is happening in a Public Sector company.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : Lastly a word on my State, Kerala. Kerala is not industrialized and most of the job opportunities exist in the unorganized sector. But presently the traditional industries and plantation sector in the State have been facing severe constraints. The cashew sector, coir industries, beedi and fisheries are all facing serious problems. It is mainly due to the policy shift of the Government. Therefore, adequate remedial measures will have to be taken to protect these sectors. There is a demand for a Cashew Development Board to be headquartered in Kerala for the comprehensive development of this sector. It should be considered at the earliest. Steps should also be taken to reopen the plantations which are under lock presently and measures should be taken to protect other sectors like fisheries and beedi.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura) : Madam, I am seeking your kind permission to speak from here.

Madam, at present in the country the total workforce is 46 crores, out of which 92 per cent is in the unorganized sector and 22 crore people are agricultural labourers. In most of the traditional industries like sericulture, village industries, women workforce is at a high rate. Out of this, 1.26 crore are child labour.

Madam, there is a saying that the workforce of this nation should look at the world through the eyes of the Government, and the Government should look at the world through the needs and hunger of the workforce of our great nation. Today, what is the situation? What is the condition? Disparity between the rich and the poor is so high. What is the crime the labourers have done? Why are they continued to remain poor for generations in spite of their sweating round the clock? Why are they paid too low when compared to the bureaucrats or corporate managers or the people in IT sector? This disparity is too high. On the one

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

side, a person, who is toiling to get his meals, is getting Rs. 2000 or Rs. 1000. On the other side, people get Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 2 lakh. This much of disparity in a democratic country is really not justified.

The only reason I could find is lack of education among the working class. Is it rationale to have this much of disparity between the educated and the uneducated, between the labour and bureaucrats? How long should this situation continue?

Madam, much worse is the condition of the unorganized labour. However much we speak in the Legislatures, in public platforms these unfortunate people—in spite of their working for 60 years in this great country, they work throughout their life—they are not in a position to have a shelter of their own or an acre of land for their livelihood. They do not even have an amount of ten rupees' saving to their credit even for taking their healthcare. It is pathetic to see millions of such people living like orphans with no minimum means of livelihood for them while officials, Legislators like us could get pensions for our lifetime. It is a crime not to provide the same facilities to the labourers. Unless we bring a change in this situation we cannot improve their condition.

You look at the issues concerning the child labour. Despite what we have been speaking so much, we have introduced to many laws, the situation is not improving. I am happy that the UPA Government has introduced a Child Labour Act to prevent the exploitation of the children. It is fine. But in reality, in implementation there is a lacuna. You look at the industries like mining. In my own State at Bellary and Kudremukh we are having iron ore mining. Women and children were subjected to a lot of health hazards. Their fertility level is affected by this. They are getting a lot of skin diseases. They were not insured for life. In so many accident cases they are not able to get the benefit because they are from the unorganized sector. In many cases, women were exploited.

You can link the migration from rural India to the

drought situation and to the poor social conditions. Because of these they were migrating to urban small towns. There also, the women are exploited by the contractors. Even pregnant women were working on the road when such a hazardous work like road-building is taken up. They are doing such hazardous works. But their lives are not insured. They were not even being considered as labourers due to lack of awareness in them.

Today already issues like child labour and girl child problems are there. The girl-child is already facing a situation like endangered species. If we do not attempt to save them or protect them through proper laws it would be difficult. We should not only formulate proper laws but we must see to it that if anybody violates the Child Labour Act, stringent punishment should be introduced.

I would like to say with all humility that when the UPA Government was formed, of course with the support of the Left Parties, in the CMP we assured the nation that we are bringing forward a Bill to provide better working conditions and welfare to the workers in the unorganized sector. Even the Government is attempting to do it. We are unable to ensure it till this moment.

I think two Committees were already set up to study the conditions. The latest one is the Arjun Sengupta Committee which was also set up. But now we are hearing that another Committee is appointed to study the recommendations of all these three Committees and to again make its recommendations. What I feel is that in this process we are losing time to serve these unfortunate people.

In the last Session also I spoke here regarding the unorganized labour. The Government promised that they would introduce a Bill in this Session. We do not see any hope in this regard. However, best schemes we have, they should be implemented. You look at the health schemes.

My Minister is very sincere. My Minister is very committed. Shri Oscar Fernandes is known for his pro-poor attitude. But he has his helplessness. We are only

formulating good schemes. Where is the amount for them? You look at the issue of child labour where the Ministry needs Rs. 3,800 crore to implement the welfare schemes. I heard that in the first year we allocated only Rs. 125 crore.

It is not enough. I need not hesitate to speak from these Benches that money matters. As long as we are going to speak for the child labour and women, money matters. I appeal to all my senior Ministers present here, and with the support of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi it should be possible, that more money should be allocated to this Ministry. Otherwise, we can give sweet speeches only.

I would also like to submit that the conditions in the ESI hospitals should be improved. On record, they have health facilities in the form of ESI hospitals, but when they go to ESI hospitals, there are sub-standard equipment, diagnosis level is very low and even problem of medicines is there. We should not hesitate to accept certain lacunae because unless we make sure that good quality of life is provided to them, they cannot rise in their lives.

As far as women are concerned, I may tell that when the Committee on Empowerment of Women toured tribal areas of North-Eastern States and visited places like Darjeeling and all that, it observed that in tea gardens or coffee plantations, there is no proper toilet facility. They do not think of hygienic facilities and toilet etc. These things are not there in their priority list. I hope, my Minister will take care of such type of small things in his agenda.

I would like to speak about housing also. Even from housing, we can make out every easily that this is labour class and this upper class socially. Why is there this disparity? It is the labour class which builds the nation, whether it is the Parliament House we are sitting in or the road we are using. It is all because of the sweating of the labour class. They should be ensured a good quality of life and good social standard. I would say that it is not their prerogative but their right to share the fruits of achievements and results of the democratic India. So, we would like to see for them more good and own houses. At least in our lifetime, this disparity should be reduced.

Then only we can claim that we have given them better life. We should see that after 60 years of Independence, everybody should be able to say that he belongs to this independent India, he belongs to this country, this motherland has given him social status, this motherland has given him livelihood and this country has given him shelter. So, I would like to request the Chair to protect the women workforce and also child labour particularly. Nobody sends his child to work happily. It is their *majboori*, their helplessness that they are sending their children to work as labourers. Through Rs. 12,000 crore of funds to SSA, we have reduced the drop out rate. In addition, many State Governments have introduced Mid-Day Meal Scheme to reduce this type of disparity. But still there is a big gap between the rich and the poor.

I think, we have got right and proper policies, but we should deal with an iron hand in implementing them. Once again, I would like to demand, not appeal, from the Government to allocate sufficient funds to address the problem of labour. After all, they are representing this country and they are more in number. So, it is their right to live a life of good standard.

With these words, I would like to thank the Chair.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) :
Madam, we are at the fag end of the discussion. I understand that there is very little time for me. I would like to submit only a few points while agreeing with all the points which have been put forward before the House by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, my colleague.

I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister of Labour that the issue of rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund has been pending almost for more than 18 months, I believe. They are unable to take a decision. Again and again, the Committee is meeting and it is getting postponed. I understand the postponement is because the Finance Minister is not permitting them to go beyond what it is while the demand is for 9.5 per cent rate of interest, which is generally accepted as a consensus among all the trade unions in the country. The bank rates are also going up.

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

17.00 hrs.

I believe that a mechanism should be devised to determine the rate of interest based on a formula rather than the projected income and expenditure every year. It is possible that 9.5 per cent can be given, and it should not be postponed for longer periods.

The coverage of establishments both in the exempted and unexempted sector is very bad in the Employees Provident Fund. A multi-pronged strategy should be adopted like voluntary compliance, special rates, and earmarking of areas, and special efforts should be made to do the coverage. These efforts are being made repeatedly for last several years, but I should say that the result is very little. I believe that a very big amount of more than Rs. 1,200 crore is unclaimed in the EPFO. Some sort of rule should be there to see that it is utilized. Now, it can be given only if it is claimed, otherwise, nothing can be done about it.

As regards the ESIC, the end of duality of the administration is an urgent need if one wants to provide better services. In the State Governments they do not take much interest in it. Therefore, it should be done totally by the ESIC. If you go on doing the duality of the administration, then it will be doing injustice to the workers. There are lots of vacancies of medical officers, paramedical services and unskilled workers, and you cannot do justice in this way. After all, it is the money of the workers with which the ESIC is being run. There is no necessity of the Finance Ministry to appoint the medical officers. The Standing Committee on Labour has asked almost 1½ years back to fill up the vacancies, but in most of the places the vacancies are not coming. They say that we are giving good wages. I think that there is a necessity to revise the scale of medical officers to attract the best doctors for ESIC.

As regards the Director-General of Mine Safety, I am very sorry to say that the Ministry could not get the permission from the Finance Ministry to fill up the vacancies. There are some places where the Finance

Ministry cannot stop the recruitment in the name of the financial restraints because it is a question of the safety of the mines. How can you keep on waiting for years together without filling up the vacancies? I think that more than 400 establishments are to be attended by an officer in a year, which is physically not possible. So many vacancies are there for years together, particularly in areas where risk is too much. It is like playing with the lives of the workers, which should not be allowed. There cannot be a ban on this type of recruitment. The Finance Ministry should be told that the Labour Ministry should have the right to appoint all the necessary officers.

I would like to mention regarding the unorganized labour, which is 92 per cent of the labour in the whole country. Only 8 per cent of the labour is in the organized sector. There were three committees that were appointed by the Union Government to go into the problems of the unorganized labour, and all the three committees have given very good reports. Now, I find that a new committee has been appointed to study the latest report, that is, the Arjun Sengupta Committee report. Why a comprehensive legislation is not coming when very good reports are there? How long will it take to formulate a comprehensive legislation?

There are several very important sectors, which are not covered by any type of law. For example, private security has become a very important centre where lakhs of workers are being employed as private security, but there are no laws. They have to work for 12 hours to 14 hours, and there is no employment security for them. Similarly, there is absolutely no law for call centres of the IT industry. I would like to state that it is unfortunate that the Government, which is supposed to be a model employer, is becoming a very bad employer.

We have *Anganwadi* workers. All these people are not accepted as workers. Unfortunately, because of a judgment of the Supreme Court, *Anganwadi* workers are not considered workers. We do not know what they are to be called as! Should they be called as volunteers? They are doing more or less a fulltime job. They are given more

Rs. 1000 a month, which comes to less than Rs. 30 per day. It is impossible for an *Anganwadi* worker or a labourer to live for a month on Rs. 1000. So, the law should be amended to bring even the *Anganwadi* health workers and all those people into the definition of workers and the minimum wage should be provided to them.

There is an allocation of Rs. 15,000 crore in the plan for the next five years for the unorganized labour. When there is a gigantic number of unorganized labour in this country, only Rs. 15,000 crore is highly insufficient. The Planning Commission should be asked to allocate more funds. I believe, it should be at least three times more of that figure. Something like Rs. 45,000 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore will be necessary to look after the welfare of the unorganized labour in the country. I would like to have a guarantee from the hon. Minister of Labour that the comprehensive legislation on the unorganized labour will be introduced this year itself in this 14th Lok Sabha.

Then, Madam, I come to construction workers. There are more than two and a half crore construction workers in the country. There is a legislation which is not being implemented. The Boards for the welfare of construction workers are to be appointed in various States. It is a very urgent need. It is being left only with the Bills. This is not enough. Something more should be done because this is one of the riskiest jobs. There should be insurance for the construction workers so that their risky job will be taken care of by our Act.

I would like to make the last two points which are related to beedi workers. There is a system of distribution of identity cards. Several lakhs of identity cards have been distributed. But suddenly, this work is moving at a very slow pace. Still, several lakhs of beedi workers, mainly *ghar khata* workers, are not given identity cards. That should be done very urgently.

There is an excellent scheme, a housing scheme, for beedi workers wherein Rs. 40,000 are given as subsidy by the Union Government and Rs. 5000 are to be paid by the worker. Unfortunately, the scheme is a miserable

failure because most of the beedi workers are unable to pay even that amount of Rs. 5000. This Rs. 5000 payment should be totally waived. If it is so necessary that a house should not be given free of cost, this amount should be allowed to be paid in installments. This limit of Rs. 40,000 per house is outdated now. It should be increased to Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 75,000 because the cost of construction of houses has gone up very high.

Madam, I would like to point out that under the scheme for special hospitals for beedi workers, it is proposed that Rs. 2 crore will be given by the Government if any NGO comes forward to construct a hospital and Rs. 10 lakh will be paid of maintaining it every year. For a 20-bed hospital, with Rs. 10 lakh a year no NGO can appoint doctors and paramedical services. That is why, nobody is coming forward even after the Government offering Rs. 2 crore. In the whole country, in the last two years, not a single hospital has been constructed. The scheme should be revised. The Government should consider giving special wards in the existing Government General Hospitals. This amount may be paid to the hospitals. The beedi workers should be given special treatment and special admissions in these hospitals. Or else, allocation for every year should be increased so that these hospitals can remain functional.

Madam, with regard to journalists wage board, I would like to appeal to the Minister that it is pending for the last several months. I do not think it is just accidental. We know that the monopoly Press in India is very powerful. They are trying to influence the Government of India to postpone the appointment of the Journalists' Wage Board. It is an urgent necessity. It will take quite a long time for the Wage Board to meet and to give recommendations. I would also appeal to the hon. Minister that the real representatives of the journalists should be appointed as members on behalf of the journalists and this should not be postponed. I was expecting for the last three years months that this announcement will be coming; every month we were expecting it, but it has not come so far. Now, I hope it will be done.

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

The last point is regarding contract workers and casual workers. There is a very large number of contract workers; there is a special Act regarding contract workers. But unfortunately even in the public sector, there are contract workers; they are not called as contract workers of the public sector, but they say that they have outsourced them to a particular contractor. The Government cannot escape its responsibility by saying so. They are being given the main work, like that of regular workers. They should be absorbed and the contract worker system should go at the earliest and they should be regularized.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the subject.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment is the crucial Ministry. The labour force is engine for growth. Now, everybody is talking about growth – India has achieved 9.2 per cent of growth. Whatever wealth we are creating, it should be distributed to the poorest of the poor. Otherwise, there is no meaning in having this type of growth.

Even in our country, poverty is increasing; disparity among poor and the rich is simultaneously increasing. Inflation, price rise, etc. are affecting labour class. The first failure is that laws are not being properly implemented. Once we implement the laws properly, 50 per cent of the disputes will be settled. We are framing laws at the State level and the Central level, but there is no proper inspection and there is no proper implementation of laws. So, we are facing a lot of problem. The UPA Government, after assuming office in June 2004, had adopted NCMP, the main points of which are enhancement of welfare and wellbeing of farmers, farm labour and workers particularly those in the unorganized sector, assure a secured future for their families in every respect, consultation, consensus and cooperation to strengthen labour-management relations, re-examination of labour laws to reduce inspector raj, ensure the fullest implementation of minimum wage laws for farm labour, enactment of a comprehensive protective legislation for all agricultural workers, etc.

17.13 hrs.

[SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH in the Chair]

The Government will be completing three years soon. If the Government is particular in bringing a legislation for the unorganized sector workers, why has it delayed? It should be explained to this country. Does it need three years? After incorporation of such a thing in the NCMP, had they started the exercise in right earnest, by this time they could have passed the legislation, which would have helped the unorganized sector. The Government has to clarify on the floor of the House whether in the next two years' time, it will bring forward that legislation or not and whether the Government will introduce it in this Session or in the next Session.

Secondly, nearly 50 lakh beedi workers are there in this country and in Andhra Pradesh alone, there are 8 lakhs. Now, there is a notification saying that the 'skull and bones' symbol will be implemented from 1st June. There is a big agitation in Andhra Pradesh and in other parts of the country. Last time when he came to Hyderabad, he convened a meeting and gave an assurance also that its implementation will be postponed. The hon. Health Minister also gave an assurance. The Chief Minister had written letters to the hon. Prime Minister. Even the Prime Minister gave an assurance. Day before yesterday and yesterday also the Ministry was very particular to implement the Notification from June onwards. Therefore, you will have to influence the Health Ministry. You have already given a cushion for six months. You may again put it in abeyance or withdraw the Notification otherwise it will lead to irreparable loss. Most of the workers are women particularly the tribals, Dalits and OBC. The Government of India should take care of these issues.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry) : Respected Chairperson, I am happy to participate in the discussion on the Demand for Grants for Labour and Employment and our Party, Pattali Makkal Katchi, symbolizes the aspirations of labour and their betterment. Naturally, we endorse or support the Demand for Grants moved by the Minister of Labour and Employment.

Madam, as many Members have emphasized, labour is

a crucial variable or factor in the process of production be it in agriculture, industry or service sector. Everywhere the most homogenous factor or the omnipotent factor that is present is the labour. Without labour all the other resources lose their productivity. Therefore, even in these days of mechanization even the best of the countries in the world have not replaced the labour force. Therefore, Madam, labour occupies a pivotal place and it is necessary that this labour is provided all the necessary welfare measures.

Unfortunately, in this country the more we talk about labour the less is done for the labour force. There are various problems. There are various categories of labour in this country and the most important distinction is that only 8 per cent come under the protected sector, namely the organized sector and 92 per cent of the people are unorganized. These people are put to a lot of hardships and difficulties. These are the labourers who are subjected to all kinds of exploitation in spite of the presence of various laws, Acts and other measures. Therefore, the Ministry of Labour will have to play a proactive role especially at a time when we are embarking upon the process of privatization, liberalization and globalization, the bad consequence of all of which is the labour.

The share of labour in the process of privatization is always insignificant. It is only the capitalist class, it is those who are owning land or owning the materials get about 80-85 per cent of the national dividend and labour gets only a marginal significance in that process. We have, knowingly or unknowingly, entered into this path of capitalization or the capital process of growth in this country. Therefore, we have to be all the more careful in protecting the welfare of the labour because it is the welfare of the labour that determines the welfare of the country. About 90 per cent, all of us, in one way or the other happens to be the labouring class and, therefore, this class has to be protected. Unless this is done, our tall talk of promoting the greatest happiness of the greatest number of loses its charm.

Of course, the UPA Government under the Prime Ministership of Dr. Manmohan Singh, is doing its best and many of the welfare programmes have been incorporated in our magna carta, the Common Minimum Programme and

one-by-one we are trying to implement. The assumption of office by the new Labour Minister also has given a new momentum to the welfare measures of the labouring class. However, there are certain problems which our hon. Minister should take into consideration.

One of the very important positive factors that influence the welfare of labour is the amount of wages that he gets. Especially, it is very significant for the unorganized labour where the employers have always the tendency of grabbing the surplus value of the labourers. It is here that the Government will have to be watchful. It is true that we have passed the Minimum Wages Act of 1948 but unfortunately this Act has not yet defined what the minimum wage is. What factors and parameters decide minimum wage have not yet been decided by this Government or by the Ministry concerned. As a consequence of it, every employer in every establishment fixes his own wage as the minimum wage. No common minimum wage is applicable either within a State or between the States and there are different floor levels as well as maximum levels in different parts of the country. Therefore, these wide varying disparities in the wages must be set right. Madam, Chairperson, you would agree that for equal productivity, equal wages should be paid. If a labourer works in Arunachal Pradesh for eight hours and a worker in Puducherry also works for eight hours, both of them must get almost similar wages. What is happening is that in one part of the country he gets less and in other part he gets more. Therefore, these disparities must go.

Secondly, wages must be linked to what is called the Variable Dearness Allowance. In these days of rising prices, the prices of the commodities which enter into the consumption of the workers, are going up. Therefore, the minimum wages should necessarily be linked to Consumer Price Index. Unless it is linked, the purchasing power in the hands of the labour will be less and consequentially we will land up in a situation of greater and greater poverty which is not the aim or the goal of the Government. So, this issue has to be addressed by the Government and the labour in this country must get fair, adequate and remunerative wages for the productivity which it contributes.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

The second important issue which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is that in most of the years, the funds allocated under the scheme of rehabilitation of bonded labour get lapsed. There are various other schemes for which the money is not available. But in this scheme, it is not used and many of the State Governments have also not given utilization certificates. In fact, what is worse is that many of the State Governments are not willing to recognize the fact that there are bonded labour because they consider it as a social stigma. Therefore, what I would urge is that the Government of India must put in place better mechanism so that you are able to spend money and try to rehabilitate the labour. Unless the bonded labour is eradicated in this country we cannot say that we have an independent society where labour is contributing its might and is able to get what it is contributing. Therefore, that area must be covered.

Thirdly, as Members have pointed out child labour problem must also be looked into. The *Safai Karamcharis* are now becoming more important. I think that the Patent Act must be modified so that the problems of the security workers and *Safai Karamcharis* can be solved.

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation has got a lot of arrears. According to the figures given the outstanding provident fund arrears as on 31.3.2005 were to the tune of Rs. 2144.82 crore. Therefore, I would request that the Government should strengthen and gear up its machinery to recover the outstanding dues by taking appropriate legal action against the defaulting establishments besides taking urgent steps for early disposal of pending cases. Finally, the interest rate on EPF should be fixed at the earliest so that we keep labour in happiness.

I think after a long time the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour have come before this House. This is a very happy augury. This is happening in a day or two before the Indian Labour Conference which is going to happen in Delhi. Therefore, the announcements to be made by the hon. Prime Minister must keep this backbone of the country in happiness and enjoyment.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : Madam, Chairperson, thank you very much for allowing me to speak on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

At the outset I would like to say that in this era of liberalization, privatization and globalisation we have to re-define labour and labourer. In this era of IT boom, the workers in this country are at the receiving end. Their working conditions are not defined. They have to work for more hours with minimum wages. The labour laws in this country have been formulated in favour of the workers, but nowadays we are re-modeling them in favour of the employers and even the workers are not being allowed to organize themselves to protect their rights. There are judgments which are against the interest of the labourers. Various orders of the courts are there which go against their interests and tantamount to denying their rights. So, the definition of labour or the work force should be re-defined. Their working conditions and welfare should be ensured.

Madam, as has been mentioned by many of the former speakers, mostly those who are working in the organized sector their interest is protected and those who are working in the unorganized sector, their working conditions are not protected. They are not given the minimum wages. Even the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act are not applicable to them. More than 90 per cent of our work force belongs to the unorganized sector. The working conditions for the people engaged in agriculture, construction work, plantation, in the automobile sector, housemaids, are not defined. The Government has already decided to bring a law to ensure the welfare of the workers engaged in the unorganized sector. I would only like to request the Government to bring this legislation during the current Session of Parliament itself.

Madam, in most of the areas contractualisation of labour is taking place. In case of contractualisation there is no relationship between the employer and the employee. There are middlemen who work between the employer and the employee. Even in a court of law if an employee seeks redressal of his grievance, the employer can escape by

saying that there is no relation between them. So, this contractualisation of labour should not be allowed to take place.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You want abolition of contract labour. Is that so?

DR. K.S. MANJO : Madam, yes.

My next point is about the EPF Pension Scheme, 1995. Now the Government proposes to bring in a Pension Fund Regulatory Board. The EPF pension is one through which a contributory pension scheme has been envisaged in our country. Our experience shows that it is a failure in this country. After 2004, no interim relief has been provided to the employees under the EPF scheme. While instituting this scheme it was said that every year the employees will be given the benefits of this scheme, but every time at the time of annual verification it has been said that it is not profitable and so the benefits could not be given to the employees. I would like to request the hon. Minister to review the scheme. The employees covered under the scheme should not only be given annual increments but also certain modifications should be made in the EPF scheme. Earlier it was said that after 100 months of commutation, the original pension would be given. But in reply to an Unstarred Question in the last Session, it was said that no such thing will be given. The present situation is that, after completing 100 months of the commutation period, the labourers would not get the original amount.

Regarding ESI Hospitals, most of them are in a pathetic situation in our country. In certain States, the Corporation is directly running certain hospitals. In Quilon of Kerala, there is a hospital directly run by the ESI Corporation. But only those workers who are entitled to that particular hospital are getting specialized care and other workers who are registered in other ESI dispensaries are not able to enjoy the benefits in that particular hospital which is directly run by the ESI Corporation. So, I would request the hon. Minister that at least specialized care should be given to all the employees who are registered in other ESI dispensaries also.

As regards Wages Board for Journalists, as Shri Reddy has already mentioned, although the Government has said that they have constituted the Wage Board, the particulars of the Members and the Chairman of the Board are not yet mentioned. I would request the hon. Minister to give us some idea regarding the Chairman and the Members of the Wage Board and the time period by which it will submit their report. Some interim benefit should be given to working journalists.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Madam Chairman, prior to me, my colleagues have spoken on a very important issue. It is true that labourers of unorganized sector are not getting socio-economic security to the desired extent as compared to the organized sector. A number of schemes are formulated for the welfare of labourers, however, the Government fails to take requisite steps for their effective implementation. A short while ago, Shri Reddy was also speaking on this issue. He is the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Labour also. What he has mentioned about the beedi workers is absolutely true. I hail from Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh. Country-wide, maximum number of beedi workers are in Madhya Pradesh and in Madhya Pradesh their maximum number lives in this district. A hospital with a cost of Rs. 6 crore was constructed there for beedi workers. After its completion two years back, a dispensary was shifted there last year which was being run in a rented building earlier. Neither doctors nor other staff were appointed in the hospital. In such a big hospital, only a dispensary was running in just two rooms. Are we really worried about the health and welfare of labourers and want to work for their welfare? Alongwith the completion of the hospitals being constructed by the Labour Department for beedi workers, it should be our top priority to appoint doctors and nurses etc. in these hospitals. Only then the real benefit of these schemes will accrue to labourers. The Government has approved to set up a Provident Fund office in my constituency, Sagar long back. On enquiring about it, they

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

say that it will be opened soon. Poor labourers of my constituency face lots of difficulties in commuting to Indore or Jabalpur. The poor cannot frequently commit up to these areas. Therefore, I request that the office of Provident Fund should be set up over here as early as possible as per the announcement made by the Government. Besides, there is a variation in the rate of wages for beedi workers in different States of Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu etc. though their capacity to do work is almost equal. At one place it is Rs. 27 per thousand while at other it is Rs. 95 or Rs. 85 per thousand. They work for equal period of time but the labourers of other States earn more than the labourers of Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister to a uniform rate of wages for the Beedi workers all over the country. It is ironical that we still have failed to provide minimum wages to the beedi workers in the different States of the country. It is a gross injustice to them. Serious efforts should be made in this regard and an action plan should be drawn to provide uniform rate of wages for beedi workers all over the country.

Madam, regarding housing scheme for beedi workers, I would like to state that at present the Government has decided to provide Rs. 40 thousand to a beedi worker to get a one room dwelling unit constructed. However, this amount is to be given only if the beedi worker deposits Rs. 5 thousand as security money. I would like to submit that the amount of Rs. 40 thousand is quite insufficient to construct a room as on date. Therefore, I request that this amount be enhanced. I also request that instead of giving cash amount to the Beedi workers, Government should provide already made houses to them and the mandatory condition of depositing an amount of Rs. 5 thousand should be waived.

Madam, regarding contract labour, I would like to state that being a committee members, we visit various institutes of the Central Government for inspection. We have seen that a large number of labourers are working over there for a period of time say, four years. It means those institutes

require these labourers in large numbers, but inspite of working there for the last 4-5 years they have not been made permanent. They are employed on contract basis and are given breaks after regular intervals to avoid their continuity. I request the hon'ble Minister to take steps to regularize these labourers.

Madam, I have also observed that these labourers have not been provided with helmet, shoes and other items of their use at work places in the absence of which they face a lot of difficulties in their work. They are also not provided with tea, breakfast and meals at subsidized rates. I request the hon'ble Minister to ponder over it and make such arrangements so that contract labourers could meet their basic needs and also the benefits of the scheme meant for their welfare could be accrued to them. The Government should ponder over it seriously. Now I conclude while thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Madam Chairperson, most of the points have already been raised by the colleagues from our Party. I am very particular about only one issue, about the retirement age of public sector employees.

When the BOGL was closed down in the year 2003, they went to the AAIFR and AAIFR declared it closed. There was no wage negotiation. In 1992 the BOGL was referred to BIFR. There are new wages since 1992. Now, what happened is that the Ministry of Heavy Industries has sent a notice to those who retired at the age of sixty to return their two years' wages. There was a Bipartite Agreement, according to which they agreed to increase the Dearness Allowance to 31.5 per cent. Now, a notice has been served to the employees to return the 31.5 per cent DA also. Seven officers and 167 employees are not getting their wages for fourteen months. One of the employees, Shri Tapan Chatterjee, has already died. It is a shame to the Government. When other public sector undertakings allow their employees to retire at the age of sixty, why

BOGL not do that? There is no wage negotiation since 1992. Their wages are not up to the mark. Now, they have to commit suicide.

So, I urge upon the Government to give fourteen months' salaries and return their two years' arrears because at the time when they joined, a notification was issued that they will retire at the age of sixty.

So, I appeal to the Government of India to increase the age of retirement from 58 years to 60 years in the case of BOGL employees. Likewise, in the case of Bridge and Roof Company, the age of retirement has been decreased to 58 years whereas in the case of other public sector undertakings, the age of retirement of employees is 60 years. So such type of discrimination should not be there.

Madam I would like to say one last word about the unorganized sector. I would request the hon. Minister of Labour and Employment to bring forward a comprehensive Bill for about 40 crore people like those who are beedi workers, construction workers, rickshaw-pullers, agricultural workers etc. so that these people of our society will get the benefit till the age of 60 years and they can live as proud citizens of India.

Madam, with these words, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Madam, I just want to say only two things. I would request the hon. Minister, if it is possible, to bring forward a comprehensive Bill on Unorganized Labour because there are three or four bills which have been circulating outside and nobody knows exactly as to which Bill is likely to come.

Madam, a comprehensive Bill for unorganized labourers is a long over due. There are a number of workers like forest labourers, construction workers, agricultural labourers, casual mine workers and there are self-employed workers also. There are host of workers who do not have any social security nor is there any other process, procedure or mechanism available to them for redressal of problems. As a result, when an accident occurs in a

workplace, they are simply left high and dry. There is hardly anybody to look for them. The question of compensation does not arise and even they are not covered under the definition of workers. So I would request the hon. Minister that the unorganized labourers Bill should be brought as early as possible to give protection to the millions and millions of people of this country who contribute to the growth of this nation and growth to the economy as such. That is my humble demand.

Secondly, I do not know whether the hon. Minister can draw the attention of the Government, or this House should very seriously tell the people concerned in the Government, that the Department of Labour should not be given a step-motherly treatment. My feeling is that it is such an important Department and the problem and the kind of atmosphere which is prevailing in this country, this Department has lost its glory. Once there used to be a Cabinet Minister for the Department of Labour. In addition, earlier quite a huge amount of money was lying at the disposal of the Department of Labour to see that the labourers get their due share and due attention. My feeling is that this importance has gone away. I feel that this Department is starving for funds. In fact, one inspector is looking for four or five laws. He is inspector under the Factories Act. He is inspector under the Minimum Wages Act. He is inspector under the Equal Remuneration Act, and he is also the inspector under the Migrant Workers Act. Perhaps, he may be inspector for some other Acts as well. As a result, he cannot get those laws enforced and implemented. There is a paucity of staff and there is a paucity of facilities to be provided to these inspectors and as a result, the number of Acts simply remain half-heartedly implemented.

Madam, while giving my support to the Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, I request through the hon. Minister to the Ministry of Finance and other concerned Departments that they should make the funds available to this Department. They should make the fund available, perhaps, more than what has been given to the Labour Ministry so that at least the labours

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

of the unorganized sector and also a part of the organized sector are taken care of. So, that is what I have to tell on this occasion.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : Madam Chairman, at the outset I would like to thank the hon. Speaker, the hon. Members of the House and you, as it is after a long time that the House is debating the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : I would like to heartily welcome the hon. Minister for giving his reply in Hindi.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Today 20 hon. Members took part in the Debate. I would like to mention the names of some of them. Shri Rasa Singh Rawat is our very senior colleague, Shri Lal Singhji, who is not present here, deliberated upon the issue quite patiently. Shri Chatterjee, Ganesh Prasadji, Braja Kishore Tripathyji, hon., Gurudas Dasguptaji, hon. Kuppaswami, Nabulaji, Chandrakant Khaireji of Shiv Sena, Sujataji, Tejaswini Rameshji, Shri Sudhakar Reddyji, who is also Chairman of the Standing Committee, Yerrannaiduji, Prof. Ramdasji, Dr. Manojji, Virendra Kumarji, Madhusudan Mistryji, are other Members who took part in the said debate. I would like to thank all of them. I have noted all their points. May be, I am not able to reply to each and every point raised by them. But I would take action on all the points, one by one. I would also try to apprise each Member of the action taken thereon.

Madam, Further I seek your permission to read out the written speech. Subsequently, I would reply to each point in Hindi. Our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji and Chairman of UPA, Smt. Sonia Gandhi Want that that a

legislation for organized and un-organised sector workers should be brought immediately. I assure the House that the said Bill will be brought in this very session only. Simultaneously, the commitment made in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government also...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : I would like to seek a clarification. The hon. Minister has just now announced that he is going to make a legislation for the organized workers.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : It is for the unorganized sector.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : All right, it is for the unorganized sector. But you have also got the organized and the unorganized sectors. So, what sort of a legislation do you want to bring forward for the organized sector?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : For the organized sector, I would like to say that everything is in place. What change we have to bring is a separate thing. That is a separate issue.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : It is about the amendment. But you have talked of the legislation.

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Now I would speak about unorganized sector.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : May I seek one clarification?

MADAM CHAIRMAN : After his reply, you can seek the clarification.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Mr. Minister, I welcome your statement regarding introduction and enactment of a

Bill for the unorganized labour. May I know from you how you are going to solve the question of funding? The crucial question is funding. I was the Chairman of a Committee. If you do not settle the question of Central funding, then it is going to be on paper.

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : In this regard, I would like to say that no Bill can be brought without funding. Funds are necessary for implementing schemes. We would surely provide funds, less or more. The hon. Finance Minister is the Chairman of GoM. He would definitely provide funds. I can't say that we would tackle it in one go. [English] The UPA rejects the ideal of automatic hire and fire.

[Translation]

Some hon. Members discussed about commitment of UPA Government. I would like to reiterate what has been mentioned in CMP.

[English]

It recognizes that some changes in labour laws may be required, but such changes must fully protect the interests of the workers and families and must take place after full consultation with trade unions. The UPA will pursue a dialogue with the industry and trade unions on this issue before coming up with specific proposals. However, labour laws other than the Industrial Disputes Act that create an inspector *raj* will be examined and procedures harmonized and streamlined. The UPA Government firmly believes that the labour-management relations in our country must be marked by consultations, cooperation and consensus, not confrontation. Tripartite consultations with trade unions and industry on all proposals concerning them will be actively pursued. Rights and benefits earned by workers including the right to strike according to law will not be taken away or curtailed.

[Translation]

Madam, fortunately we have got an opportunity to

discuss it in the House. National Labour Conference is scheduled to be held in Delhi tomorrow and the day after. The representatives of all kinds of workers will take part in it. The Hon'ble Prime Minister will inaugurate it. The Management, the workers and the officials of the Government would deliberate upon all outstanding issues. We are getting another opportunity. We have flagged off certain important issues. We would also discuss the labour laws and bonus. Shri Gurudas Dasgupta has asked – whether the Government propose to implement labour laws or not. In this regard, V.V. Giri Institute has been entrusted the responsibility of conducting a study on the lapses in the said law and its implementation. Moreover, the hon. Prime Minister has directed our Department to conduct a study on labour laws. Its meeting will be held in northern region on 7 May.

[English]

Our Secretary will organize meetings in various regions. [Translation] We will surely pay more attention to labour laws.

[English]

Hon. Members of Lok Sabha have made many valuable observations during their speeches for which I would like to express my gratitude. While I shall try to reply to their specific queries, I would like to bring a few facts to your kind notice.

The mandate of my Ministry is to protect and safeguard the interests of workers in general and those who constitute the poor, the deprived and the disadvantaged sections of the society in particular with due regard to creating a healthy work environment for higher production and productivity to develop and to coordinate vocational skill training and employment services to promote welfare and provide social security to the labour force both in organized and unorganized sectors and maintain harmonious industrial relations situation all in tandem with the process of economic and social development. यह आपने मुझ उक्तया था।

There are three areas which are of immense

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importance to us. We would like to inform that the proposal of enactment of legislation and also formulation of the scheme on social security for the unorganized workers as well as the report of the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector were considered by the Committee of Secretaries and two small groups, one headed by the Secretary, Labour and Employment and the other by the Finance Secretary.

Based on the recommendations, a draft Cabinet Note was circulated to the concerned Ministries/Departments. The Cabinet Secretariat has constituted a Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of the hon. Finance Minister to consider the above proposal which is deliberating in the matter. Only yesterday, we had a meeting on this issue and almost we are through and ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : For the last three years, this exercise is going on and so many committees have been set up. I would like to know when it will be finalized.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You can get the clarifications after the reply.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Madam, I have assured you that we are bringing it in this Session. I have not said that we are bringing it in the next Session. I am talking of tomorrow and I am not talking of anything indefinite.

Secondly, in pursuance of the Government's commitment to eliminate child labour in hazardous areas, the National Child Labour Project has been extended to cover 250 districts. A major activity undertaken under the NCLP is the establishment of special school to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, stipend, health care, etc. to children withdrawn from employment. So far, about 3.45 lakh children from special schools of NCLP have been mainstreamed into the formal education system. In addition, a 40 million dollar INDUS Project, that is, Indo-US Joint Project on Child

Labour has also been launched in 20 districts of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and in the NCT of Delhi.

The additional feature of the scheme includes vocational training of the adolescents, strengthening of public education in coordination with Education Department, monitoring and tracking of child labour and providing viable income generation alternatives for their families, etc.

[Translation]

I have already said in the House that it is not just a matter of providing education to children. The department is also working in the direction of ascertaining the condition of their families. BPL families are to be identified and will be provided dwelling units under Indira Aawas Yojna, they are to be issued with ration cards also. Rural Employment Scheme is in vogue throughout the country. Under this scheme we will have to provide jobs also. My ministry is coordinating to provide jobs to child labourers under the said scheme.

[English]

Employment of Children as domestic workers or servants in dhabas, restaurants, hotels, motels, tea-shops, etc. and in other recreational centres has been prohibited with effect from 10th October, 2006

[Translation]

We have taken steps to provide more information to the public in this regard. I would say that the State Government owe more responsibility. We would act against the violations of law.

18.00 hrs.

The law provides for a fine of Rs. 20,000 and imprisonment of one year. The Government are inspecting and it needs the help of the House to implement the said law. Yesterday in a school which imparts education to a number of children, I asked the children if they know about child labour. They replied in the negative...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, I will take just one minute.

Hon. Members, it is now 6 o'clock. If you agree, the time of the House may be extended up to the passing of the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Madam, I would like to seek one clarification from the hon. Minister.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Sure. You can do so after the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : When I asked Children if some children at their homes rendered them help in work, they replied in affirmative. Further, when asked whether they can ask their parents to let those children go home, one child out of them said that he can't tell this thing to his mother. Therefore, it is our duty to go to people and create awareness. The Government enacts laws and acts on any kind of complaint, if received. But the Government can't implement them successfully without the help of the public. The State Governments owe more responsibility in this regard and we are interacting with them. Today the main issue is as to how many people have been provided jobs? We have prepared a comprehensive programme for it. Now I would dwell upon its salient features.

Thirdly, a vocational training with a new to creating a world class skilled labour force is being given maximum importance. We have the advantage of predominantly young population vis-a-vis the rest of the world. There will be increasing opportunities of work being outsourced to India as well as for our work force to work abroad if we are able to retain our competitive edge. Training courses are offered through a network of about 5000 industrial training institutes and industrial training centres located all

over the country. About 0.75 million training seats are available with the ITIs with the reservation for women, SCs/STs, disabled, ex-servicemen etc. as announced by the Union Finance Minister in his Budget speech 2004-05. Action has been initiated for upgradation of 100 ITIs from domestic resources and 400 ITIs through World Bank assistance as Centres of Excellence.

[Translation]

Today, it is a common perception in the country that by certificate course we are not able to enter the industries straightaway and be useful. [Translation] Therefore, we are taking these steps to upgrade their skills. [English] 400 institutes will be upgraded with the World Bank assistance as Centres of Excellence for producing multi-skilled work force of world standard. In his Budget speech 2007-08, the hon. Finance Minister has announced that 1396 ITIs would be upgraded into Centres of Excellence in specific trade and skills under public-private partnerships. The modalities of implementing the announcements are being worked out in consultation with the State Governments.

I would also like to mention about a few other initiatives that we have taken.

The spirit of tripartism is vigorously pursued. Several tripartite meetings of various Committees, Boards, which *inter alia* include 41st Session of the Standing Labour Committee, meeting of the Governing Body of the Central Board of Trustees, meeting of the Central Advisory Committee under the Building and other Construction Workers Act, 1996, Industrial Tripartite Committee on Electricity Generation and Distribution Industry, etc. and those to discuss amendment proposals were held.

There was a feeling that these tripartite Boards are not meeting. Our Members brought to my notice about the jute strike in Kolkata. It is not under the purview of the Government of India at all and it is coming totally under the purview of the State Government.

[Translation]

In this regard, we held a discussion here arranging

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a tri-lateral meeting and tried to make an environment, otherwise there was a problem in Sugar industry. Gunny bags were not available there to pack sugar. They said that they should be given alternative material. If they were provided our jute industry could be on backfoot. Then the State Government settled the issue by convening a meeting.

Gurudas Dasguptaji has just discussed about strike in auto-mobile industry of Kolkata. We are discussing about it and Bata also. [English] We are not leaving any issue without attending. [Translation] Then we will have to go through the law as to what provision is there in the law in this regard. We can do as per the provision and can deal politely going ahead of it.

[English]

The Indian Labour Conference is scheduled to be held on 27th and 28th of April, that is, tomorrow and day after, and the hon. Prime Minister has kindly agreed to inaugurate this Conference.

Strengthening of labour laws to prevent violations is one of the agenda items of the ILC. Welfare schemes for the benefit of beedi, non-coal mine workers and their families as well as construction workers are in operation. The project relating to the business processes, re-engineering of the Employment Provident Fund Organization has been implemented in six Pilot Offices of the Organization.

[Translation]

We had a meeting with the officers of provident fund organization on the day before yesterday. I am happy to telling it in the House that our office has made arrangements to settle the claim within three days in Kerala. There is a provision in our programme to settle the claim within three days. We have take such step. I think we will be able to settle 87 percent claims within three days in the entire country. This is a big step for working class and I am happy telling this.

[English]

The Employees State Insurance Corporation has also launched various schemes of modernization like providing information technology, enabled services for the dispersal of cash benefits and online registration of employers and employees, computerization of medical care in ESI dispensaries and hospitals, new initiatives for having standardized quality system for its services, etc. Two wage boards – one for the working journalists and another for non-journalist newspaper employees – are being constituted.

[Translation]

Its announcement will be made within seven days. All the formalities have been completed and nobody is under pressure of any kind. We have taken a decision on it. It is true that it has been delayed a bit. [English] We are going to announce this.

As directed by the PMO, an Index Review Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. G.K. Chadha has been constituted to review various aspects of Consumer Price Index numbers for industrial workers; and a Working Group is being constituted to suggest ways to moving forward in important labour and employment matters.

I take this opportunity to put on record my gratitude and through you, Madam, the gratitude of the whole nation, to the workers of this country, who are making this nation prosperous by toiling hard incessantly. It is our bounden duty to reciprocate in abundant measures. In this endeavour, the efforts made by our labour leaders especially the representatives of the trade unions are laudable.

[Translation]

Today a number of laws are in favour of workers due to labour movement in the country. Workers got job security owing to labour movements only. Workers seeking living wages said that wages are not satisfactory and got the living wages due to labour movement. Workers got

deferred wages as bonus due to this movement. Bonus Act is also being discussed in labour act and after that it will be amended by moving it in the House. Ceiling will be increased so that maximum number of workers could be benefited. We have taken all these steps. Today there is criticism also, but I would like to assure that we will do much more in this direction. My department is working round the clock. We have sped up to dispose of pending works. We have meeting with the officers of my department whole night. We try to go in the field also.

An Officer told yesterday about the criticism: *[English]* "We are not including more industries bringing them under the purview of the Provident Fund and ESI."

[Translation]

We visited our Kerala office. After that officer presented the report *[English]* "After your visit, we have added 1,500 more units into the programme." *[Translation]* we said that we will visit again and again. You can add 1000 units after one visit then more units can be added by visiting frequently. By this we will take steps to register all the unregistered units in the country.

Besides this, hon'ble Members raised some big points. I have already told about unorganized sector. Concerns have been expressed about beedi workers also in the House. Earlier Rs. 20 thousand were being provided to build houses which our Government have enhanced to Rs. 40 thousand. There was a provision in the law to deposit Rs. 5 thousand at the time of submission of application for house. We removed this provision and announced that there is no need to deposit money for making application. We have made an amendment that Rs. 5 thousands will be deposited after completion of house. There is no need to wait for two-three years after depositing Rs. 5 thousands for a house. You should deposit money while we sanction the house. There is criticism also that what we need to do and what we need not to do.

[English]

I wish to draw the attention this House that

[Translation] each party came into power once. The whole responsibility should not be put only on us. All parties should take responsibility together. If there is something wrong then all parties are responsible. It has been much talked about unorganized sector. Your apprehension is that problem is being solved or not. I would like to assure you that we will present details about it in the house, after that *[English]* it becomes the property of the House. *[Translation]* We have implemented Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in most parts of the country. We discuss about farmers and agriculture workers. When it rains then only agriculture workers get the job. It may be for 100, 150 or 200 days in a year. So the Government took a good step and provided employment to people in 200 districts implementing Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Now it has been extended 330 districts and the government have decided to implement in all rural districts in the country till the agriculture land is available. Thus Government can remove unemployment and if unemployment can be removed then poverty also can be removed.

I think we have covered maximum points.

[English]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : What about PF rate of interest?

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : You have discussed about PF rate of interest. I think we will hold a meeting by 15 may but I would like to putforth one thing before the House that while some demanded 9.5 per cent and some of them 8.5 per cent but what decision has been taken by the House. House passed the law eventually to be given through distribution. Since it is to be given through distribution, so we have no problem to announce that because we will be able to find a wayout and we are trying for this as to what is in our access, we can announce only 8 per cent, we have no problem in it as per the law. Members can only ask as to what is in the law, we have to amend the law. I am not saying that something will happen positively but it is an attempt to do

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so. I would like to say that we will hold a meeting by 15th May [English] and I think we will be able to take some decision by then. [Translation] it has been informed that seven days wages have been deducted for one days's strike in some industries. We will get more information about it and as per the law [English] What we can remedy the matters, I assure the House that we will definitely act on that.

[Translation]

You have raised the issue of Beedi and statutory working is also being discussed at the same time.

[English]

We will take up the matter with Health Ministry and see what remedies we can provide to our people.

[Translation]

It has been said about ONGC and Indian Oil Corporation that statutory payment has not been made and crores of rupees are outstanding. As far as I know it was court's stay and now stay has been vacated and the full amount of arrear has been recovered. There is no balance. The officer has just informed me about it.

I would like to tell about ESI hospitals that there is dual control at present and the State Government bears 1/8 expenditure and runs these hospital. Hon. Member knows that the offer has been given to the State Government for handing over some hospitals and we will provide 100 per cent funding, we are ready to take care. I have given the offer in the meeting with the Labour Ministry and they will accept it day after tomorrow and if they do not accept, then it will be discussed with the Board and the Government. I know it as I have visited several dispensaries and hospitals. There were 17 doctors for four patients in a hospital and the other were fifty patients but the doctors were two only, this is the problem. In some

hospitals, equipments are not there. We are funding [English] There is a gap. [Translation] People's experience is such that at one place there are two owners and at some there is on one. It is our responsibility to provide remedy for that and we will do that.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : The issue of Pay-scales has not been solved in Indian Airlines for the last 11 years.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : If it is with in our purview, we will definitely take up the issue. [English] I have made a note of it. We will act on it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : The Chief Labour Commissioner should intervene in this matter and solve this problem.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : He has said that it is within their purview, they will definitely take it up.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : The issue of EPF pensioners has been raised in this House for quite number of times. They have been clamouring for revision of their pension as well as for some interim relief. I think the number is also decreasing and it is not very much. If something could be done, that would be very very helpful.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Off hand I am not able to respond. I will definitely take up the matter and get back to the hon. Member.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : There is also the case of workers of closed plantations. For the last several years, several plantations have been closed and the management has not been remitting the PF part which the management should remit. The amount has gone into a huge amount. Now when the Commerce Ministry is trying to reopen the plantations, one major hitch is the payment

of this particular amount. The Labour Ministry also has to work in collaboration with the Commerce Ministry for find a solution to this very great problem. Then only the plantations can be opened. I would like to know the views of the Government from the hon. Minister regarding this aspect.

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : We will fully co-operate with the Commerce Ministry and act as law permits. If it is referred to B.F.F.R., there is chance to minimize penalty. [English] We had a meeting day before yesterday. [Translation] The commerce Ministry is finding a way out for the rehabilitation of the plantation workers.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Madam Chairperson, I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. The private insurance sector was supposed to enter for life insurance and health insurance in the unorganized sector. But they do not seem to be making any progress. It is virtually stagnated. What steps is the Ministry taking to implement these two programmes – health insurance and life insurance of the unorganized sector throughout the country? Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Madam, I have just told what we are going to do for unorganized sector. We will present the Bill and take up this issue.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : The scheme is already on. It can be implemented now. But they are not implementing it properly. It is not being implemented anywhere. In your State it is not being implemented because there is a disparity on the figures between the people living below the poverty line. The State's figures are different and the Planning Commission's figures are different and thereby it is not being applicable and the poor people are not getting this benefit.

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Madam, we will see into it.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON : This is a state matter.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : It is a State matter and the Finance Ministry's matter. Mr. Minister, what steps are you taking to stem the rot which is in your UPA's flagship programme of providing employment to the rural people? The achievements there have been the most minimal in the States. What steps are you taking to improve the performance in that sector?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Why do you not implement it in the States? Why are you bothering here?

MADAM CHAIRMAN : It is a State subject. He will reply after getting information.

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : We will tell after gathering information about it.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Madam Chairperson, I had raised a large number of specific cases. The hon. Minister has referred to only one, that is wage cut for seven days for one day's strike. There are many other issues including what is happening in Karnataka. I do not say the hon. Minister can reply to each and everything now. But may I expect that the hon. Minister of Labour and Employment will take all the complaints into cognizance and try to do whatever is possible to defend the interests of the workers? This is one aspect.

Secondly, the Central Government is defaulting in the payment of wages to a large number of public sector employees. This is a concrete case of violation of Payment of Wages Act. We had discussed this matter many years ago,

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calling even the Finance Secretary. Will the Minister of Labour assure that all the cases of default in the payment of wages will be separately looked into and within a minimum time-frame they will be paid?

There is a constant complaint that IT sector workers are unprotected, workers in the media and television sector are unprotected and private school teachers are unprotected. Will the hon. Minister look into it and try to do whatever is possible?

[Translation]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Hon. Member has raised many issues, we assure him that all the issues will be studied on by one and measures will be taken within department of law to solve these issues. If the rules do not provide for it, we will see what steps can be taken further to solve them. The hon. Member himself knows as to what steps we have taken in our individual capacity, I do not want to disclose it in the House. But we are making efforts.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana) : Hon. Minister, there are so many deficiencies in the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act and it should be suitably amended. It does not make clear which is the appropriate Government - State Government or Central Government. When I was in the High Court, I got an order that the State Government is the appropriate Government. Then, in a case in the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court has also given the verdict that appropriate Government is State Government. There are so many deficiencies. Being a labour leader, I am facing these difficulties in the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act. That is why, it needs to be suitably amended.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : If there is a need to amend the law to make things explicit, we will take suitable action.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (Belgaum) : In my area of Karnataka, Belgaum, there are some mills. The workers have been suspended from the factories. They are not provided even the civic amenities by the management. Many times during the last four or five years, we went to the doorsteps of the Chief Minister, Labour Minister and Labour Commissioners, but nobody has bothered about it. Since you are also from Karnataka, I kindly request you to take appropriate step. It is Gokak Mill. The condition of workers is worst there and they are working in inhumane conditions. They are bearing with it. Please take action and reply.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : If you can reply, you reply. Otherwise, it is a State matter. He can write to the State Government directly.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Madam, when the Member has raised the issue of workers, I assure him that we will take care of the interest of the workers but within the purview of the law.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : It is all right.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI : Even they are not paid the compensation. The same factory is there in Baroda.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Suresh, this is a State matter. You can write directly to the State Government.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : Madam, labour is not a State subject. Please do not try to write off every allegation by saying that it is a State subject. Labour is in the Concurrent List and Central Government can equally advise the State Government.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Central Government can make law, but it is a State subject.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : No. In its advisory capacity, the Central Government can always advise the State Government. It is in the Concurrent List.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : They can advise only. The Minister has said that he will take care.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : When hon. Minister was replying, two three points were discussed during that time. We all know as to how child labourers are being exploited. We had also discussed agriculture labourers and unorganized labourers. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the child labour law we have made in not being properly implemented. You have said that the law will be made. But I would like to say that as long as people do not co-operate, nothing concrete will come out. You said that child labour law has been enacted, it is good and people have welcomed it, but what the Government propose to do to get people's co-operation or to make them aware or to contact them as children can be very well protected from exploitation of which they are victims, Madam, the other important point is that the hon. Minister said that the Government will bring a Bill for the welfare of unorganized labourers and the Government is committed to bring the same in this session only and it is saying it again that the Bill will be brought, I would like to know as to when the Bill will be brought and a law enacted?

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Ramk Kripalji, clarification of one question is sought at a time. You have asked about the child labourers which is an important issue and hon. Minister has already explained it in detail earlier. Hon. Minister, please explain about child labour once again.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : I have just given details about child labour. 3.5 lakh children have been brought in the mainstream by admitting them in special schools, we need states' assistance to fulfill this task. It comes within the purview of the State Governments. As far as creating awareness is concerned, we are ready to provide all the required assistance. Our programme may be solely the programme for creating awareness. May be, when I said this, hon. Member was not present in the House. I said only this that we will bring a Bill for unorganized labourers during the budget session and the budget session is not over yet. We will bring a Bill for unorganized labourers in this budget session only.

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : Madam, the hon. Minister has forgotten to make any announcement about the formation of the Wage Board for Journalists. I had raised this issue here, and it has been getting postponed for several months. I would like to have an assurance as to when it will be done.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : The hon. Member might not have been here when I was speaking. I have spoken about this issue also.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Since no cut motions have been moved, I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Labour and Employment to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2008, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the Second column thereof against Demand No. 59 relating to the Ministry of Labour and Employment."

The motion was adopted.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow the 27 April 2007 at 11.00 a.m.

18.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, April 27, 2007/Vaisakha 7, 1929 (Saka).

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