

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Tenth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 15, 2007/Phalguna 24, 1928 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): Sir, the farmers of Rajasthan have suffered heavy losses. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, we take up the Question Hour.

Q. 241—Shri P. Karunakaran.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, we have given a notice for suspension of the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have given a notice for suspension of the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have received two notices for suspension of the Question Hour. Generally, this is not the practice. After the Question Hour, I will allow the matter to be raised in the 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): No, Sir. This is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, more than 50 farmers have been killed there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, you cannot allow the State matter to be raised on the floor of the House. It is a law and order problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, Shri Advani ji.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go back to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, how can you allow him to speak? Under what rule are you allowing him? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot challenge the Chair. This cannot be allowed. I have allowed him to make a submission.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I would like to know under what rule you are allowing him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 'You are from the ruling party; you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

\*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want that the House should function properly. I have received two notices for suspension of the Question Hour. I will take them up after the Question Hour. I want that if hon'ble Advani ji wants to say something he may speak, so that the House may function.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri L.K. Advaniji.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the submission of Shri L.K. Advani.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, how can you allow him to speak? Under what rule you are allowing him? You cannot allow him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Achariya, you cannot challenge the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Allocation of Kerosene and LPG to States

\*241. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:  
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

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

(a) the monthly requirement of kerosene and LPG in each State;

(b) The quantity of kerosene and LPG supplied to each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there is acute shortage of Kerosene and LPG in many States;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has received requests from various State for increasing the quota of Kerosene and LPG in favour of their State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (e) PDS kerosene is an allocated and subsidized product. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes quarterly allocation of PDS kerosene to States/Union Territories for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) network. The quantity of PDS SKO for distribution per card holder is decided by concerned State Govt./UT and the same varies from State to State. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connection released in each State/Union Territory. While the initial allotment for 2004-05 was based on the criteria adopted hitherto, additional allocational allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. For the year 2006-07, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2005-06. The quantity of PDS kerosene allocated to the States/UTs during the last three year is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

Government is ensuring that adequate quantity of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is available in the country. LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. In the first 10 months of the current year (April-January), a total of 44.76 lakhs of new LPG connections and 9.97 lakhs of Double Bottle Connections (DBC) have been released by the OMCs. The number of domestic LPG customers has gone up from 7.72 crores as on 01.04.2004 to 9.25 crores as on 01.01.2007.

However, at times, because of operational problems, occasional backlogs do occur. OMCs have reported a backlog of two to four days in three States due to reasons such as distribution in supplies on account of heavy rains, labour unrest in Kerala resulting in closure of bottling plants and increased demand on account of Holi festival. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog

\*Not recorded.

in these States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. State-wise consumption of Domestic LPG for the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

At present, India's domestic consumption of kerosene and LPG is more than the domestic production. The shortfall in domestic production of kerosene and LPG is met through imports by Oil Marketing Companies.

There is no State-wise quota fixed by the Government for the allocation of LPG.

In view of requests received from various State Governments for increasing the SKO allocation, the Government of India commissioned a detailed study of Kerosene detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. NCAER submitted its report in October 2005. NCAER has inter alia

recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. Also, Dr. Rangarajan Committee constituted by the Government to formulate a long-term pricing policy of petroleum product has also recommended to restrict PDS SKO subsidy to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided "in principal" that subsidy on PDS Kerosene may be restricted to BPL families only. The proposal to work out the modalities to implement this decision and for rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene among States/UTs is under the consideration of the Government.

Various State Governments/Union Territories (UTs) have requested additional allocation of PDS SKO to meet urgent and emergent situations arising out of natural calamities such as flood, drought, earthquake, etc. The Government has responded to these requests promptly and made additional allocations to meet the special needs.

#### *Statement I*

##### *Allocation of PDS Kerosene*

(Quantity in MTs)

Name of States/UTs	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5725	5816	5816
Andhra Pradesh	505057	517158	517158
Arunachal Pradesh	9257	9257	9257
Assam	251714	258007	258007
Bihar	631639	647430	647430
Chandigarh	13067	13067	13067
Chhattisgarh	143354	146938	146938
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2782	2782	2782
Daman and Diu	2118	2118	2118
Delhi	168484	168484	168484
Goa	19212	19212	19212
Gujarat	743759	743759	743759
Haryana	142068	145619	145619

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh	50537	50537	50537
Jammu and Kashmir	75487	76044	76044
Jharkhand	211175	211175	211175
Karnataka	461478	461478	461478
Kerala	211033	216308	216308
Lakshadweep	795	795	795
Madhya Pradesh	476691	488609	488609
Maharashtra	1253530	1276876	1276876
Manipur	19907	19907	19907
Meghalaya	20401	20401	20401
Mizoram	6217	6217	6217
Nagaland	12712	13312	13312
Orissa	307295	314977	314977
Pondicherry	12058	12257	12257
Punjab	232813	237192	237192
Rajasthan	396500	398913	398913
Sikkim	5283	5592	5582
Tamil Nadu	545297	558929	558929
Tripura	30093	30832	30832
Uttar Pradesh	1211485	1241772	1241772
Uttarakhand	85959	89849	89849
West Bengal	748228	752103	752103
Total	9013210	9163712	9163712

**Statement II***Consumption of Domestic LPG*

(Quantity in MTs)

Name of States/UTs	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Apr-Dec, 2006)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	771646	774953	581996
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4492	4789	3756

1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh	9704	9504	7430
Assam	154494	160856	120939
Bihar	243802	242918	185365
Chandigarh	30009	29298	21462
Chhattisgarh	90711	96206	71477
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5121	4753	2257
Daman and Diu	3889	3970	3052
Delhi	568574	554485	410548
Goa	37080	39693	28855
Gujarat	554508	554605	406650
Haryana	364989	354393	267397
Himachal Pradesh	76317	76641	59486
Jammu and Kashmir	102955	104801	81185
Jharkhand	88685	89300	67229
Karnataka	591859	579984	436323
Kerala	442496	413624	310532
Lakshadweep	278	174	181
Madhya Pradesh	377220	384593	287044
Maharashtra	1352672	1356331	1009990
Manipur	17013	15929	10980
Meghalaya	11726	12104	9341
Mizoram	16081	17219	13008
Nagaland	12727	12911	9985
Orissa	130062	126730	96007
Pondicherry	22843	21852	18692
Punjab	506718	489478	370076
Rajasthan	415370	409695	308749
Sikkim	7619	7741	5981

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	891041	879836	661053
Tripura	18069	17821	13907
Uttar Pradesh	1052629	1040714	797379
Uttarakhand	124335	124297	95235
West Bengal	478028	488778	376672
Total	9575762	9500976	7150219

[Translation]

#### Infrastructural Facilities at Airports

\*242. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA  
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether infrastructural facilities available at the airports are not sufficient enough to keep pace with the increase in air traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to overcome the situation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee;

(e) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon; and

(f) the other steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to overcome the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The pace of growth of the aviation sector has surpassed all expectations. To meet the increasing demand, the international airports at Delhi and Mumbai have been restructured for development and modernization. Simultaneously, Greenfield airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore are under construction and are expected to be commissioned by mid 2008. Modernization and

development of Kolkata and Chennai airports is also on the anvil. Further, 35 non-metro airports would be upgraded to world-class standards by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Moreover, States are being facilitated to set up Greenfield airports, with private sector participation.

(c) and (d) the Committee on Infrastructure had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Task Force to prepare a financing plan for development of airports. The Task Force broadly Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. In respect of non-metro airports, Airports Authority of India (AAI) should be entrusted with air-side and terminal building development while city side development could be awarded on PPP basis.

(e) and (f) The Committee on Infrastructure approved the Report of the Task Force subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Instead of phasing airports in a sequential manner, development of all the 35 non-metro airports may be taken up under the authority and responsibility of AAI.
- (ii) In select airports, particularly the larger ones, wholly owned subsidiaries of AAI may be created for development and operations of the respective airports.
- (iii) Development of airports in the North-East (NE) region must be taken up by AAI on a priority basis.

The terminal Buildings and Air side works have been awarded/sanctioned for most of the airports which require immediate capacity addition taking into consideration the air traffic growth.

*[English]***Oil and Natural Gas Discoveries**

\*243. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether new oil and gas reserves have been found in many parts of the country by the public and private sector oil companies in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a considerable investments in oil and gas resources overseas have been made;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make India self-reliant in oil and natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) In last three years, 2003-06, ONGC, OIL and Private/Joint Ventures Companies have made 61 Hydrocarbon discoveries resulting in 729 million tonnes of new in-place oil and gas reserves in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tripura as well as Eastern and Western offshore areas of the country.

(c) and (d) To enhance the country's energy security, in keeping with the objectives of the National Common Minimum Programme, national oil companies such as ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL), Gail India Limited (GAIL), and private sector companies such as Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Videocon and Essar have acquired participating interests in oil and gas projects abroad. Approximate investments made by National Oil Companies in overseas E&P projects as at the end of 2006 were about Rs. 20,000 crores in 20 countries.

OVL's Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP) in Sudan, Sakhalin-I Project in Russia, Vietnam Project (Block 06.1), Block 24 in Syria and Mansarovar Project in Colombia in all of which OVL has participating interest, yield oil & gas production of the order of 6 million tonnes per annum. The other assets are at various stages of exploration.

(e) The significant steps initiated by the Government and public sector undertakings for meeting the demand of petroleum products in the country, *inter alia*, include:

- (i) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), Coal Bed Methane (CBM) policy and exploring new areas, especially in deep waters and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields;
- (ii) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes;
- (iii) Developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells, etc., in producing areas;
- (iv) Acquisition of oil and gas assets abroad in order to ensure hydrocarbon security for the country;
- (v) Long term agreements for import of LNG;
- (vi) Transnational gas pipelines;
- (vii) Exploring potential of alternate sources;
- (viii) Conservation of petroleum products;
- (ix) Setting up Strategic Petroleum Reserves.

**Bilateral Tourism**

\*244. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:  
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China are going to join hands to accelerate promotion of bilateral tourism in the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas in which bilateral tourism is proposed to be stepped up;

(d) the concrete measures Government has taken to encourage Indian Tourists to visit China;

(e) whether the Government is considering to relax the procedure to make the potential tourists to get visas easily;



(f) if so, details thereof;

(g) which are the most favoured destinations in India for Indian and foreign tourists;

(h) the number of tourists who visited India during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(i) the total number of Indian tourists who visited China during 2004-05 and 2005-06 and vice versa?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) India and China are already the signatories to an Agreement since 14th January 2002 for cooperation in the field of tourism. In addition, China has accorded 'Approved Destination Status' to India to enable Chinese Travel Agencies to organize the outbound travel groups of Chinese citizens to India. The year 2007 has also been declared as the 'India-China Year of Friendship Through Tourism' to promote two tourism between both the countries.

(c) and (d) As part of the 'India China Year of Friendship Through Tourism', an Action Plan has been finalised to undertake several tourism promotional activities.

(e) and (f) The MoU between India and China, already in existence, provides for visa facilitation procedures to the potential tourists. In addition, Ministry of Home Affairs had decided to grant Long-Term Tourist Visa of a five year duration with multi entry facilities to the nationals of 18 countries.

(g) Both foreign and Indian tourists visit diverse tourist attractions across the country.

(h) The list of tourist arrivals country-wise for the last three years is enclosed as statement.

(i) The total number of tourist flow between India and China in the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 is as follows:

Indians travelling to China			Chinese travelling to India		
2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
3,09,411	3,56,460	4,05,091	34,100	44,897	47,000

**Statement**

*Tourist arrivals in India by country of Nationality during January-December 2003, 2004 and 2005*

Nationality	2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>			
Canada	107671	135884	157643
U.S.A.	410803	526120	611165
Total	518474	662004	768808
<b>CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA</b>			
Brazil	4528	7397	7005
Mexico	3563	4570	5398
Others	13563	16198	23183
Total	21654	28165	35586

1	2	3	4
<b>WESTERN EUROPE</b>			
Austria	16903	21093	27187
Belgium	17309	24007	25596
Denmark	11327	15805	20170
Finland	8001	12525	16258
France	97654	131824	152258
Germany	76868	116679	120243
Greece	3455	4468	4793
Ireland	7083	8996	10052
Italy	46908	65561	67642
Netherlands	40565	51211	52755
Norway	8400	10631	11194
Portugal	8158	10648	11457
Spain	30551	42895	45247
Sweden	18098	26154	28799
Switzerland	24463	28260	34311
U.K.	430917	555907	651083
Others	1306	1633	3074
<b>Total</b>	<b>847966</b>	<b>1128297</b>	<b>1282119</b>
<b>EASTERN EUROPE</b>			
Czechoslovakia	3466	4114	4783
Poland	6336	8445	1093
C.I.S.	38526	61187	75242
Others	6924	8680	10437
<b>Total</b>	<b>55252</b>	<b>82426</b>	<b>101445</b>
<b>AFRICA</b>			
Egypt	3382	3781	4048
Kenya	16563	17538	19816
Mauritius	16308	19823	19760

1	2	3	4
Nigeria	5713	6659	10049
South Africa	23873	32148	39229
Tanzania	8515	9953	11193
Others	18999	25591	30706
Total	93353	115493	134801
WEST ASIA			
Bahrain	4182	4414	4923
Israel	32157	39083	42866
Oman	12352	14927	14979
Saudi Arabia	9961	11929	12444
Turkey	5528	7008	7906
U.A.E.	21374	22668	24560
Yemen Arab Rep.	7717	8826	9423
Others	10325	13953	16720
Total	103596	122808	133821
SOUTH ASIA			
Afghanistan	10079	12705	14025
Iran	17539	24733	28691
Maldives	18345	21099	33915
Nepal	42771	51534	77024
Pakistan	10364	67416	88609
Bangladesh	454611	477446	456371
Sri Lanka	109098	128711	136400
Bhutan	4082	7054	6934
Total	666889	790698	841969
SOUTH EAST ASIA			
Indonesia	9078	11408	12640
Malaysia	70750	84390	96276
Myanmar	3609	4932	5652

1	2	3	4
Philippines	8091	10492	11422
Singapore	48368	60710	68666
Thailand	25754	33442	41978
Others	3276	3736	4774
Total	168926	209110	241408
<b>EAST ASIA</b>			
China (Main)	21152	34100	44897
China (Taiwan)	12685	18179	18894
Japan	77996	96851	103082
Korea (South)	35584	47835	49895
Others	3089	4662	6799
Total	150506	201627	223567
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>			
Australia	58730	81608	96258
New Zealand	13283	16762	20463
Others	1836	2574	3057
Total	73849	100944	119778
Others	10233	14471	21818
Stateless	15516	1434	13490
Grand Total	2726214	3457477	3918610

**Financial Assistance to National Institutes for Handicapped**

\*245. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:  
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

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

(a) the number of disabled persons in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government provides financial assistance to the national institutions for the handicapped

and also to the State Governments for implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act;

(c) if so, the details of financial assistance provided to the institutions and the State Governments during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to ensure that the benefits of the schemes for the disabled persons reach them?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) The number of disabled persons in the country State/Union Territory-wise as per the census 2001 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Funds are not allocated for released Statewise. Financial Assistance is provided under Assistance to Disabled Persons Scheme (ADIP) and Deen Dayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) for assistance to needy disabled persons in

procurement of aids and appliances, for running of special schools, vocational and training programmes etc. The details of funds released to National Institutes under ADIP Scheme during 2003-04 to 2005-06 are given below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Institute	Amount released		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh	368.40	500.00	70.00
Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai	300.00	405.00	300.00
National Institute of Rehabilitation Training & Research, Cuttack, Orissa	165.00	365.00	0.00
National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, Uttaranchal	361.77	235.93	0.00
National Institute for Orthopaedically Handicapped, Kolkata, West Bengal	150.00	158.91	225.00
Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi	500.00	225.00	337.00

(d) Government has taken following steps to ensure that benefits and schemes for the disabled persons should reach to them:-

(i) National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides loans on soft terms through State channelising agencies, to persons with disability for self-employment and income generating activities.

(ii) District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs): 199 DDRCs have been sanctioned so as to provide rehabilitation services.

(iii) National Trust for the Persons with Autism, Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy & Multiple Disabilities has been up to extend support to registered organizations to provide need based services during periods of crisis in the family of the persons with disability and also promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians.

(iv) National Scholarships for Persons with Disabilities Scheme provides for giving every year 500 scholarships to male and female students in different categories of disabilities to pursue post metric/post secondary technical and professional courses from recognized institutions.

#### **Statement**

*State/Union Territory-wise population of Persons with Disabilities as per the Census 2001*

Sl.No.	States/Union Territory	Number of persons with disabilities
1	2	3
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	302670
2.	Himachal Pradesh	155950
3.	Punjab	424523
4.	Chandigarh	15538
5.	Uttaranchal	194769

1	2	3
6.	Haryana	455040
7.	Delhi	235886
8.	Rajasthan	1411979
9.	Uttar Pradesh	3453369
10.	Bihar	1887611
11.	Sikkim	20367
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	33315
13.	Nagaland	26499
14.	Manipur	28376
15.	Mizoram	16011
16.	Tripura	58940
17.	Meghalaya	28803
18.	Assam	530300
19.	West Bengal	1847174
20.	Jharkhand	448377
21.	Orissa	1021335
22.	Chhattisgarh	419887
23.	Madhya Pradesh	1408528
24.	Gujarat	1045465
25.	Daman and Diu	3171
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4048
27.	Maharashtra	1569582
28.	Andhra Pradesh	1364981
29.	Karnataka	940643
30.	Goa	15749
31.	Lakshadweep	1678
32.	Kerala	860794
33.	Tamil Nadu	1642497
34.	Pondicherry	25857
35.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	7057
Total		21906769

**Growth Rate of Food Processing Industry**

\*246. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of Food Processing Industry during each of the last three years;

(b) whether despite rapid growth, the Food Processing Industry is facing various problems;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to overcome these problems;

(d) whether the Government is going to set standards for food and beverages by the end of this year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) According to the Central Statistical Organisation data, growth rate of Food Processing Industry during the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 has been as follows:

Year	Food Processing Industries (Production value Rs. In crores)
2003-04	46387
2004-05	47244
2005-06	49164

(b) and (c) According to a recent study conducted by this Ministry, major constraints being faced by food processing sector are inadequate infrastructure facilities, lack of adequate quality control & testing infrastructure, inefficient supply chain, shortage of processable varieties of farm produce, seasonality of raw material, high inventory carrying cost, lack of easy and concessional credit/lending by banks, high taxation, high packaging cost, lack of affordability, cultural preference of fresh foods etc. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been taking various measures to address these concerns on a continuous basis. It includes a revamped Scheme for infrastructure development during the 11th Plan, strengthening of supply chain and other infrastructure facilities, strengthening/setting up quality testing labs in the country, fiscal and tax incentives, extending priority sector bank lending to food processing sector and other measures.

(d) and (e) Standards for food and beverages are currently being prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. The Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 has been enacted in August 2006. The Food Authority under the Act which will draw up standards is expected to be set up during the year 2007-08.

#### **Caste Certificates to Migrant SCs/OBCs**

\*247. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines regarding the issue of caste certificates to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/OBCs who have migrated to other States, especially to Delhi, to enable them get these certificates easily at the place of migration for securing educational and employment facilities available under the Union Government on the basis of the caste certificates issued to them or to their parents in their home States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed and the time frame fixed for issue of the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) No separate guidelines have been issued to the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) However, the Ministry of Home Affairs, in its letter No. BC 16014/1/82-SC&BCD-I, dated 18.11.1982 addressed to the Chief Secretaries of all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, had stated that the prescribed authority of a State Government/Union Territory Administration may issue the Scheduled Caste/Tribe certificate to a person who has migrated from another State, on the production of the genuine certificate issued to his father/mother by the prescribed authority of the State of the father's/mother's origin except where the prescribed authority feels that detailed enquiry is necessary through the State of origin before issue of the certificate. The certificate will be issued irrespective of whether the caste/tribe in question is scheduled or not in relation to the State/Union Territory to which the person has migrated. This facility does not alter the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe status to the person in relation to

the one or the other. The Ministry of Home Affairs in its subsequent letter No. BC 16014/1/82-SC&BCD-I, dated 22.02.1985, addressed to the Chief Secretaries of all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations clarified that a Scheduled Caste/Tribe person who has migrated from the State of origin to some other State for the purpose of seeking education, employment etc. will be deemed to be a Scheduled Caste/Tribe of the State of his origin and will be entitled to derive benefits from the State of origin and not from the State to which he has migrated.

Further, in regard to reservation in educational institutions and employment under the Central Government, all Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes are eligible for reservation irrespective of their nativity in regard to a State/Union Territory.

As regards Other Backward Classes (OBC), the Ministry of Welfare in its letter No. 12011/11/94-BCC (C), dated 08.04.2004, addressed to Chief Secretaries of all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, had stated that it has been decided that the prescribed authority of a State/Union Territory Administration in terms of the letter No. 36012/22/93-Esst. (SCT), dated 15.11.1993 of Department of Personnel & Training, may issue the OBC certificate to a person who has migrated from another State on the production of genuine certificate issued to his father by the prescribed authority of the State of his father's origin, except where the prescribed authority feels that a detailed enquiry is necessary through the State of origin, before the issue of the certificate. The certificate will be issued irrespective of whether the OBC candidate in question is included in the list of OBC pertaining to the State/Union Territory to which the person has migrated. This facility does not alter the OBC status of the person in relation to the one or the other State/Union Territory and such a person on migration from the State/Union Territory of his origin to another State/Union Territory where his caste is not included in the OBC list, is entitled to the concessions/benefits admissible to the OBCs from the State of his origin and Union Government but not from the State where he has migrated.

[Translation]

#### **Free LPG Connections to BPL**

\*248. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:  
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDA:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to provide free gas connections to the people living below poverty line on the request of some State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such connections provided so far, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have released Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families as per requests received/ Schemes launched in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry. The security deposits for the equipment in such cases have been borne by the respective State Governments.

The State/Union Territory-wise number of LPG connections released as on 1.3.2007 to BPL families by the OMCs are as under:-

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of LPG connections released to BPL families
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3163532
2.	Assam	120188
3.	Chhattisgarh	31133
4.	Jharkhand	47409
5.	Mizoram	11192
6.	Tamil Nadu	70340
7.	Puducherry	6912

[English]

#### **Vacant Posts in Railways**

\*249. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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

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

(c) whether any action plan has been formulated to fill-up these vacancies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The approximate group-wise number of posts lying vacant on Indian railways as on 31.12.2006 are as under:-

Group 'A' & 'B'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
1908	1,27,400	43,781

(c) and (d) Action for filling of vacancies is a continuous process. Vacancies are filled primarily through open market recruitment, which is done through Railway Recruitment Boards or by the Zonal Railways themselves. Other vacancies in the promotional grade are however filled through departmental promotions.

[Translation]

#### **Electrification of Rail Lines**

\*250. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating procurement of technology and equipment from foreign countries for complete electrification of rail lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the introduction of high speed trains is being considered after complete electrification of all rail lines in the Eleventh Plan;

(d) if so, the time by which these schemes are likely to be cleared; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the reasons for delay in complete electrification of all rail lines?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.



(c) No, Sir. Introduction of high speed trains is not feasible on existing rail lines even after electrification as it requires separate dedicated infrastructure. However, Indian Railway plan to progressively increase in the speeds upto 160 Kilometre per hour (KMPH) on identified sections.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Requirement of Gas for Gas-Based Power Plants**

\*251. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of gas required by the gas-based power projects in the country, project-wise;

(b) whether less volume of gas is being supplied to these gas thermal power projects in the country, particularly in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested for supply of gas to the power projects in the State as per their requirements; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued directions on October 12, 1992 that, in view of the likely shortage of gas, in any contract which is signed by GAIL (India) Limited regarding supply of gas to power plants, a provision making it mandatory to build dual fuel capabilities for their fuel requirements, should be incorporated.

Accordingly, most gas-based power plants in the country are capable of running on an alternative fuel apart from gas, viz., naphtha, HSD, etc.

According to Ministry of Power, the total requirement of gas, at 90% Plant Load Factor (PLF) and other assumptions mentioned in the Statement, in gas-based power projects in the country is 54.15 MMSCMD. The project-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement. The average quantity of gas supplied to these gas-based power projects for the period April to December 2006, was 35.24 MMSCMD. Supply of gas to power plants, including those in Rajasthan, is less than the requirement. Supply to power plants in Rajasthan is 2.13 MMSCMD, as against their requirement of 3.16 MMSCMD; that is at Gross Calorific Value (GCV) of 9000 K. cal/SCM for Anta power plant and at GCV of 4150 K. cal/SCM for Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Project (RGTPP). Gas is supplied to the power sector at Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) rate on priority. However, there is a shortfall in supply compared to requirement of gas-based power plants; this is because of overall lower availability of gas in the country.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The entire gas presently available from the producing fields of OIL and ONGCL at Dandewala and Gamnewala respectively in Jaisalmer area has been committed for supply to RGTPP. This is being done through the pipeline network of GAIL. OIL is expecting an additional gas availability of 0.2 MMSCMD by 2007-08. Negotiations for commercial arrangements for the additional gas are under way. This is an isolated area, and there is no gas available from any other source at present. Therefore, RGTPP, which has dual fuel capability, can utilize an alternate fuel to meet its requirement till gas becomes available.

The NTPC power plant at Anta is getting gas from HVJ network of GAIL.

#### **Statement**

*Station-wise Gas requirement at 90% PLF (as on 31.12.2006) and average Gas consumption for April-December 2006*

Sl.No.	Name of Power Station	Installed Capacity in MW	Located in the State	Gas requirement* (as on 31.12.2006) (MMSCMD)	Average Gas supply (April-December 2007) (MMSCMD)
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>CENTRAL SECTOR</b>					
1.	Faridabad CCGT	430.00	Haryana	2.06	1.52
2.	Anta CCGT	413.00	Rajasthan	1.98	1.52

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Auraiya CCGT	652.00	Uttar Pradesh	3.13	2.43
4.	Dadri CCGT	817.00	Uttar Pradesh	3.92	2.62
5.	Kawas CCGT	644.00	Gujarat	3.09	1.52
6.	Gandhar CCGT	648.00	Gujarat	3.11	2.48
7.	Kathalguri CCGT (AGBPP)	291.00	Assam	1.40	1.45
8.	Agartala GT	84.00	Tripura	0.58	0.72
Sub Total (CS)		3979.00		19.28	14.25
STATE SECTOR					
1.	I.P. CCGT	282.00	Delhi	1.35	1.16
2.	Pragati CCGT	330.40	Delhi	1.59	1.35
3.	Ramgarh CCGT	113.80	Rajasthan	1.18	0.61**
4.	Utran CCGT	144.00	Gujarat	0.69	0.62
5.	Hazira CCPP-(GSEG)	156.10	Gujarat	0.75	0.64
6.	Dhuvaran CCPP (GSECL)	106.62	Gujarat	0.51	0.18
7.	Dhuvaran CCPP (GSEL)	72.00	Gujarat	0.50	0.12
8.	Uran CCGT	912.00	Maharashtra	4.38	2.63
9.	Vijjeswaram CCGT	272.00	A.P.	1.31	0.53
10.	Karaikal CCGT	32.50	Pondicherry	0.16	0.19
11.	Narimanam GT	10.00	Tamil Nadu	Not in operation	
12.	Kovilkalappal (Thirumakkottai)	107.00	Tamil Nadu	0.51	0.36
13.	Valuthur CCGT	94.00	Tamil Nadu	0.44	0.42
14.	Kuttalam CCGT	100.00	Tamil Nadu	0.48	0.32
15.	Namrup CCGT	133.50	Assam	0.64	0.36
16.	Lakwa GT	120.00	Assam	0.84	0.58
17.	Mobile Gas TG	21.00	Assam	Not in operation	
18.	Baramura GT	37.50	Tripura	0.26	0.20
19.	Rokhia GT	90.00	Tripura	0.63	0.46
Sub Total (SS)		3134.42		16.22	10.73

1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR</b>					
1.	Vatwa CCGT (AEC)	100.00	Gujarat	0.48	0.37
2.	Trombay CCGT	180.00	Maharashtra	0.86	0.69
Sub Total (PS)		280.00		1.34	1.06
<b>PRIVATE UTILITIES (IPPs)</b>					
1.	GPEC Puguthan CCGT	655.00	Gujarat	3.14	2.26
2.	GIPCL-Stage-I CCGT	145.00	Gujarat	0.70	0.67
3.	GIPCL-Stage-II CCGT	160.00	Gujarat	0.77	0.67
4.	Essar IMP CCGT	515.00	Gujarat	2.47	1.92
5.	Godavari CCGT (Spectrum)	208.00	A.P.	1.00	0.57
6.	Kondapalli CCGT	350.00	A.P.	1.68	0.87
7.	Jegurupadu CCGT (GVK)	235.40	A.P.	1.13	0.67
8.	Jegurupadu CCGT (GVK) Ext.	220.00	A.P.	1.06	0.00
9.	Samikot CCPP/Peddapuram	220.00	A.P.	1.06	0.57
10.	Vemagiri CCPP	370.00	A.P.	10.78	0.18
11.	P. Nallur CCGT	330.50	Tamil Nadu	1.59	0.00
12.	Karuppur CCGT	119.80	Tamil Nadu	0.58	0.47
13.	Valantharavai CCPP	52.80	Tamil Nadu	0.25	0.23
14.	DLF Pvt. CCGT	24.50	Assam	0.12	0.11
Sub Total (IPPs)		3606.00		17.31	9.20
Total		10999.42		54.15	35.24

\* Normative gas requirement taking GCV of gas = 9000 K. Cal/SCM (except for Ramgarh CCGT for which GCV is 4150 K/SCM), station heart rate-2900 K. Cal/kWh for open cycle and 2000 K. Cal/kWh for close cycle

\*\* Does not include gas consumption for the months of Nov. and Dec. 06 as the same has not been received from Ramgarh CCGT.

[English]

#### **Transgender Population**

\*252. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:  
SHRI P. MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the societal isolation experienced by a section of society known as 'transgender';

(b) whether the Government proposes to examine the details of the complexities that arise with regard to their reduction, jobs etc. consequent to their biological condition; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the mechanism to be evolved to deal with the problem faced by them?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to examine the details of complexities arising out of their biological condition.

#### **Setting up of Food Processing Industries**

\*253. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the number of food processing industries set up in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of food processing industries set up by the multi-national companies and the Indian Business houses, separately during the said period;

(d) the number of industries which have started production and the number of industrial projects which are still under construction; and

(e) the approximate number of jobs generated in these industries during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. There has been an increase in the number of food processing industries during the period 2004 to 2006. As far as large and medium scale industries are concerned, a total of 758 food processing units have been proposed to be set up at an investment cost of Rs. 8474 crores, generating 78360 jobs during the period. The year-wise details of the Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEMs) filed and Letters of Intent (LOIs)/Direct Industrial Licenses (DILs) issued are as under:

Year	Number of units (IEMs/LOIs)	Proposed investment (Rs. in Crore)	Proposed employment
2004	241	2047	21286
2005	247	3072	25409
2006	270	3355	31665
Total	758	8474	78360

3417 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda with a proposed investment of Rs. 40,258 crores have been filed and 89 Letter of Intents/Direct Industrial Licenses have been issued with proposed investment of Rs. 2299 Crores under food processing industries since August 1991 to September 2006.

As regards small, mini and micro enterprises in the organized sector and in the SSI sector which do not require licenses to start operations, according to information available with the Ministry of Small Scale Industries, number of Food Processing units as of March 2004 and March 2006 is as below:-

As of	Registered Units	Un-registered Units	Total
March 2004	2,45,690	14,03,717	16,49,407
March 2006	2,70,853	15,15,739	17,86,592

The employment in the food processing units in the SSI sector is estimated to be more than 36 lakhs.

Top 20 foreign companies invested an amount of Rs. 1711.22 crores in Food Processing Industries from January 2000 to March 2006. The amount of FDI inflows in Food Processing Industries are Rs. 174 crores in 2004-05, Rs. 183 crores in 2005-06 and Rs. 222 crores in 2006-07 (upto December). No separate data of License/Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) Acknowledgement issued to Multi-national companies are maintained.

There is no data being maintained in regard to the number of industries which have started production and the number of industrial projects which are still under construction.

[Translation]

#### **Food Processing Parks**

\*254. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the food processing park scheme and the manner in which the farmers and the unemployed persons are likely to be benefited therefrom; and

(b) the number of the food processing parks set up in the country so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) With a view to make available Infrastructural facilities to processing units, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been assisting development of Food Parks under its Plan Schemes @ 25% of project cost in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas, subject to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 crore, for provision of common facilities such as power supply, water supply, cold storage, warehousing facilities, effluent treatment plant, food testing analytical laboratories, common processing facilities etc. The objectives of the scheme include provision of common Infrastructural facilities, common processing/packaging facilities, marketing intelligence etc. for use by the small and medium Industry and farmers, thereby facilitating employment generation through growth of the food processing industry and benefiting the farmers by way of linking up for their produce with the processing industry. By bringing the advantages of value addition and backward linkages to farmers, food parks provide more employment opportunities in various components of its supply chain and higher prices to farm produce. The assistance is available to all implementing agencies including State Government Undertakings, cooperatives, private entities who come forward with viable proposals. The Ministry has approved 54 Food Parks for financial assistance under the scheme so far all over the country. A list indicating number of food parks approved, state-wise, is enclosed as Statement.

**Statement**

*State-wise number of Food Parks approved by MFPI for assistance*

Sl.No.	State	No. of Food Parks
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	1
4.	Chhattisgarh	1
5.	Haryana	2
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	3
7.	Karnataka	3

1	2	3
8.	Kerala	4
9.	Madhya Pradesh	7
10.	Maharashtra	6
11.	Manipur	2
12.	Mizoram	1
13.	Nagaland	1
14.	Orissa	1
15.	Punjab	1
16.	Rajasthan	3
17.	Tamil Nadu	2
18.	Tripura	1
19.	Uttar Pradesh	5
20.	West Bengal	8
Total		54

[English]

**Uniform Tariff Structure for Hotels**

\*255. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that room rents of hotels are exorbitantly high during the peak season;

(b) if so, whether the Government plans to create a Uniform Tariff Structure for hotels at tourist spots;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps taken or being taken to make available low budget hotels?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a rise in hotel room tariffs on account of sudden growth in tourism.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Ministry of Tourism has asked all the State Governments and other land owning agencies including Indian Railways to allot land for hotels especially in the budget category. The State Governments have been advised to follow investor friendly land policies like single window approach for promoting hotel projects, allotting sites on annual rentals/revenue sharing basis, granting extra FSI/FAR for hotels permitting extra commercial usage in the hotels etc., so that the supply position in hotel rooms is improved. The Ministry has a scheme called "Incentive to Accommodation Infrastructure" under which subsidy of 10% of the principal loan is given to hotels between one to three star categories, subject to a maximum assistance of Rs. 25 lakh for one star hotels; Rs. 50 lakh for two star hotels and Rs. 75 lakh for three star hotels. On the request of the Ministry of Tourism, the budget proposal for 2007-08 includes incentive relating to Income Tax Holiday for 5 years for new hotels of budget category coming up between 1.4.2007 to 31.3.2010 in the city of Delhi and some adjoining districts of NCR. The Ministry of Tourism also has schemes for the registration of Guest Houses/Incredible India Bed and Breakfast units/Time sharing establishments with a view to augment availability of classified accommodation in the country.

[Translation]

#### **Delay in Supply of LPG**

\*256. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether the Government has been receiving complaints from various quarters about the delay in supply of LPG to the consumers by the gas agencies in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during 2006-07;

(c) the reasons for delay in supply of LPG to the consumers; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure timely supply of LPG to the consumers and also to check malpractices of gas agencies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Government is ensuring that adequate quantity of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is available in the country. LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. In the current year (April-January), a total of 46.76 lakhs of new LPG connections and 9.97 lakhs of Double Bottle Connections (DBC) have been released by the OMCs. The number of domestic LPG customers has gone up from 7.72 crores as on 1.4.2004 to 9.25 crores as on 1.1.2007. However, at times, because of operational problems, occasional backlogs do occur. OMCs have reported a backlog of two to four days in three States due to disruption in supplies on account of heavy rains, labour unrest in Kerala resulting in closure of bottling plants and increased demand on account of Holi festival. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in these States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

While OMCs are making all efforts to meet the genuine demand of the customers registered with the LPG distributors, they have reported 59 established cases of delay in supply of LPG refill cylinders by their LPG distributors during the year 2006-07 (1.4.2006 to 28.2.2007). Action against the erring distributors is taken in accordance with the provisions under the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs under the MDG, State Governments are empowered to take action against illegal use of domestic LPG. The following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:

- (i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of OMCs is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

- (ii) The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no diversion/black marketing takes place. In terms of the MDG, in case of establishment of any diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action is taken against the distributor:-

Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and

Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

- (iii) Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.
- (iv) Government have advised OMCs to introduce different colours for domestic & non-domestic cylinders. This is expected to help in controlling the diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

#### **Conversion of Railway Stations Into World Class**

\*257. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway stations proposed to be converted into world-class railway stations;

(b) the details of the facilities proposed to be provided at these stations alongwith the expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Railways and the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Nineteen stations viz. Pune, Camac Bunder (Mumbai), Howrah, Lucknow, Anand Vihar (Delhi), Bijwasan (Delhi), Amritsar, Chandigarh, New Delhi, Varanasi, Chennai, Thiruvanthpuram, Secunderabad,

Ahmedabad, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Mathura, Bangalore & Bhopal have been selected to convert into world class stations.

(b) and (c) Railway Board have issued guidelines to zonal railways for developing the identified stations into world class stations. As per the guidelines, the proposed World Class stations would broadly have state of art station building provided with all modern passenger amenities like food plazas, currency exchange counter, hotels, retail outlets, ATM facilities etc. It may have separate departure and arrival arenas to streamline passenger movements with proper connectivity to other transport modes; well illuminated circulating area, adequate signages, inter platform transfer through elevators, barrier free excess for physically challenged persons etc. The development will be done on Public Private Partnership basis. Consultants are being engaged for preparing the scheme, preparing financial model and concession agreement based on which the development will be. It is expected that the funds required for the development will be mobilized by the selected developer by leveraging the available land/air space. Pre-qualification of consultants for New Delhi Station has been done.

[English]

#### **Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites**

\*258. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centrally protected monuments/sites of national importance at present;

(b) whether a large number of centrally protected monuments/sites of national importance are lying unattended;

(c) if so, whether some monuments are under encroachment;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to remove the encroachment; and

(e) the efforts made by the ASI for integrated infrastructure development and conservation/preservation of all monuments/sites with facilities for tourists, so as to give a major fillip to cultural tourism in the country as well as attract overseas visitors?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) There are 3667 centrally protected monuments/sites which have been declared as of national importance. The Archaeological Survey of India undertakes their regular conservation and preservation by way of structural repairs, chemical treatment, laying of gardens and day to day maintenance as per archaeological norms subject to availability of resources.

There are instances of encroachments in some of the centrally protected monuments and a detailed list (State-wise) is enclosed as Statement.

In order to contain the encroachments and removing them, the Superintending Archaeologist in charge of the Circles have been vested with the powers of an Estate Officer to issue eviction notices/orders to the encroachers under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. They are also authorised to issue show cause notices under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules 1959 followed by a direction to the District Collector/Magistrate by Central Government to remove such encroachment under section 19(2) of the Act and Rules 38(2) of the Rule. Assistance in containing and removing encroachments is also sought from the respective State Government/police force and where there are no fruitful results, actions are initiated against the encroachers by filing cases in the court of law.

In addition to the regular watch and ward staff, private security personnel, State police guards and CISF have also been provided for the safety and security of selected monuments. Efforts have also been made to fence the centrally protected monuments in a phased manner.

Apart from this, Archaeological Survey of India has also issued a notification declaring areas upto 100 metres from the protected limits of centrally protected monuments as a prohibited area where all constructions and mining activities are banned. Another 200 metres beyond this limit has been declared as regulated area where construction/mining activity is permitted only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the licence issued by the Archaeological Survey of India.

In order to promote cultural tourism around the protected monuments, the Archaeological Survey of India has taken up projects for the provision of tourist related facilities like drinking water, toilet blocks, approach roads,

pathways, signages, publication counters, etc. at the various monuments. In addition, such facilities are also provided under public-private partnership through the National Culture Fund in selected monuments. Archaeological Survey of India is also preparing integrated site management plans for World Heritage Sites.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Centrally Protected Monuments (State-wise) which are under encroachment*

Sl.No.	Name of the Monument/Site
1	2
	ANDHRA PRADESH: Hyderabad Circle
1.	Ruined Fort, Dharanikota, Guntur District
2.	Rock-Cut Caves, Mogalrajapuram, Vijayawada, Krishna District
3.	Buddhist Site, Neelavati, Vizianagaram District
4.	Sri Bheemeswara Swamy temple, Dakasharama, East Godavari District
5.	Buddhist Remains, Kotturu village, Yelamanchili Mandalam, Visakhapatnam District
6.	Buddhist Remains at Salihundam, Salihundam Village, Gara Mandalam, Srikakulam District
7.	Sri Mukuteswara Temple and Old Vishnu temples, Peddamuddum, Kadapa District
8.	Sri Sowmyanadha Swamy temple, Nandalur, Kadapa District
9.	Sri Kodanda Rama Swamy temple, Vontimitta, Kadapa District
10.	Gateway and Bastion of Old Fort, Kurnool
11.	Sri Umamaheswawra, Swamy Temple, Yaganti, Kurnool District
12.	Temple including the sculpture of Subramanya, Nandavaram, Kurnool District
13.	Sri Venkateswara Vishnu Temple, Srinivasamangapuram
14.	Shri Buggameswara Swamy temple, Tadipatri, Ananthapur District



1	2
<b>ASSAM: Guwahati Circle</b>	
1.	Sri Suryapahar Ruins, Distt. Goalpara (Assam)
2.	Rock-cut caves, Jogighopha, Distt. Bongaigaon
3.	Cachari ruins, Distt. Cachar, Assam
<b>BIHAR: Patna Circle</b>	
1.	Sher Shah Suri's Tomb, Sasaram, District Rohtas
2.	Buddhist Stupa at Kesariya, Tajpur Deur, Distt. East Champaran
<b>CHHATTISGARH: Raipur Circle</b>	
1.	Danteswari Temple, Dantewada, Distt. Dantewada
2.	Chaiturgarh Fort, Lepha, Distt. Korba
3.	Kotmi Fort, Kotmi, Distt. Bilaspur
4.	Ram Chandra Temple, Rajim, Distt. Raipur
5.	Sita Bengra caves, Ramgarh Hill, Udayapur, Distt. Sarguja
<b>NCT OF DELHI: Delhi Circle</b>	
1.	Qudasia Mosque inside Qudsia Garden, Delhi
2.	Tughlaqabad
3.	Portions of City Wall at Kashmeri Gate
4.	Purana Qila
5.	Sarai Shahji
6.	Begumpuri Mosque
7.	Sunehri Masjid, near Red Fort
8.	Neeli Masjid, Hauz Khas
9.	Lal Gumbad, (Chirag Delhi)
10.	Raipur (Mutiny Cemetery, Old Raipur Cantonment North Distt.
11.	Ancient Mosque, Palam
12.	D'Eremao Cemetery Kishanganj
<b>GUJARAT: Vadodara Circle</b>	
1.	Malik Alam's Mosque, Ahmedabad

1	2
2.	Salyed Usman Mosque
3.	Small Stone Mosque, Paldi, Ahmedabad
4.	Dariyakhan Tomb, Ahmedabad
5.	Achyut Bibi's Mosque, Ahmedabad
6.	Ruined Hindu temple & Jain temples on the top of Hill, Pavagadh, Distt. Godhra
7.	Nawab Sardar Khan Roza with its compound wall, Ahmedabad
8.	Mir Abu Turab Tomb, Ahmedabad
9.	Bhadra Tower, Ahmedabad
10.	Great Mosque, Sarkhej, Distt. Ahmedabad
11.	Bahlol Khan Ancient Site Gohilwad Timbo, Amreli Distt.
12.	Ancient Site Gohilwad Timbo, Amreli Distt.
13.	Tomb of Queens of Ahmed Shah, Ahmedabad
<b>HARYANA: Chandigarh Circle</b>	
1.	Gateways of Mughal Sarai, Gharaunda, Distt. Karnal
2.	Ancient Site, Theh Polar, Siwan, Distt. Kaithal
3.	Ancient Site, Khokra Kot, Distt. Rohtak
4.	Ther Mound, Sirsa, Distt. Sirsa
5.	Ancient site know as Jarasandh Ka Qila, Asandh, Distt. Karnal
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH: Shimla Mini Circle</b>	
1.	Gauri Shankar Temple, Nagar Kullu
2.	Narbadeshwar Temple, Sujampur
<b>JAMMU AND KASHMIR: Srinagar Circle</b>	
1.	Ancient Fort and Samadhi of Queen of Raja Suchet Singh, Ramnagar, Distt. Udhampur
2.	Ancient Palace, Ramnagar, Distt. Udhampur
3.	Pathar Masjid, Srinagar

1	2
4.	The Gates in rampart of the fort (a) Kathi Darwaza (b) Sangeen Darwaza, Srinagar
5.	Buddhist Monastery at Alchi
	KARNATAKA: Dharwad Circle
1.	Ali Shaheed Peer Mosque, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
2.	Gates & Walls of City & Citadels, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
3.	Ambar Khana, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
4.	Bathulla Khan's Mosque, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
5.	Gol Gumbaz & other structures, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
6.	Hazi Hassan Saheb's tomb, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
7.	Mubarak Khan Mahal, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
8.	Mustafa Khan Mosque, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
9.	Nav Gumbaz
10.	Water Towers No. 114, 115, 142, 147, 286 Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
11.	Sanda Burz
12.	Gun Firangi Shahi Burz
13.	Sarv ad Didi Mosque
14.	Arquilla Moat, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
15.	Gummat Bavadi, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
16.	Sikandar Shah Tombs, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
17.	Yakub Dabuli's Mosque, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
18.	Ikhlas Khan's Mosque, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
19.	Shah Navaz Khan's tomb, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
20.	Moti Darga, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
21.	Hyder Khan's tomb, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
22.	Nitya Navara Mosque, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
23.	Small Tomb No. 47, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur

1	2
24.	Sonari Masjid, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
25.	Tomb No. 22 near Chand Bavadi, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
26.	Masjid at Katijapur, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
27.	Aqueduct Running from Bhat Bavadi south-west of Torvi village to Taj Bavadi, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
28.	Chand Bavadi, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
29.	Mulla Mosque, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
30.	Zanjari Jahan Begham's mosque, Bijapur, Distt. Bijapur
31.	Fort Gulbarga, Gulbarga
32.	Bidar Fort (Inner & Outer), Bidar, Distt. Bidar
	<b>Bangalore Circle</b>
1.	Gowrishwar temple, Yelandur, Distt. Chamarajanagar
2.	Narayanaswamy temple at Melkote, Distt. Mandya
3.	Someshwar temple at Kolar, Distt. Kolar
	<b>MAHARASHTRA: Aurangabad Circle</b>
1.	Kotla of Twelve Imams, Ahmednagar
2.	Mucca Masjid, Ahmednagar
3.	Trimbakeshwar temple, Tringalwadi Distt. Nasik
4.	Bibi-ka-Maqbara, Aurangabad
5.	Ancient Site at Paithan, Distt. Aurangabad
6.	Ellora Caves, Ellora, Distt., Aurangabad
7.	Grishneshwar Temple, Ellora, Distt. Aurangabad
8.	Devi Temple, Patna, Distt. Jalgaon
9.	Changdeo Temple at Changdeo, Distt. Jalgaon
10.	Balapur Fort, Balapur, Distt. Akola
11.	Achaleshwar Temple, Chandrapur
12.	Mahakali Temple, Chandrapur
13.	Fort wall with Ruins of Palace and gateway at Ballarsha, Distt. Chandrapur

1	2
14.	Taponeshwar Temple, Tapona, Distt. Yeotmal Mumbai Circle
15.	Solapur Fort, Solapur
16.	Ardhnari Nateshwar Temple, Velapur, Distt. Solapur
17.	Yamaidevi temple, Mahalung, Distt. Solapur
18.	Dilawar Khan's Tomb, Rajgurunagar, Distt. Pune
19.	Bhuleshwar temple, Malsiras, Distt. Pune
20.	Raigad Fort, Distt. Raigad
21.	Kolaba Fort Alibag, Distt. Raigad
22.	Mound locally known as Sonar Bhat, Nalasopara (Gas), Distt. Thane
23.	Hemadpanthi Temple, Mahalung, Distt. Solapur
24.	Revdevda Fort, Agarkot Distt. Raigad
25.	Hirakot Old Fort, Alibag Distt. Raigad
26.	Kopeshwar Mahadev Temple, Khirdrapur Distt. Kolhapur
27.	Jogeshwari Caves, Mumbai
28.	Bassein Fort, Vasai, Distt. Thane
29.	Old Portuguese Church, watch tower and caves, Mandapeshwar, Distt. Mumbai Suburban MADHYA PRADESH: Bhopal Circle
1.	Gond Fort called Satkhanda and the tower on Rajghat called Shahburz & the temples there in at Mandla, Distt. Mandla
2.	Pre-historic Rock Shelters at Bhimbetka, Distt. Raichur
3.	Fort, Gourjhamar, Distt. Sagar ORISSA: Bhubaneswar Circle
1.	Khandagiri and Udayagiri Caves, Jagmura, Distt. Puri
2.	Barabati Fort, Cuttack, Distt. Cuttack

1	2
3.	Ancient remains, Sisupalgarh, Bhubaneswar, Distt. Puri
4.	Choudwar Fort, Cuttack RAJASTHAN: Jaipur Circle
1.	Chittorgarh Fort, Chittaurgarh, Distt. Chittaurgarh JHARKHAND: Ranchi Circle
1.	Ruam Fort at Ghatshila, E. Singhbhum TRIPURA: Guwahati Circle
1.	Chaturdasa Devata Temple, Distt. South Tripura, Tripura UTTAR PRADESH: Lucknow Circle
1.	Small high mound at Bara, District Allahabad
2.	Ruined Fort of Samudra-Gupta and Hansagupta at Jhusi, Distt. Allahabad
3.	Extensive mound called hatgauha Dih at Shivpur, Distt. Allahabad
4.	Large brick strewn khera being the ruins of an apparently Buddhist city at Chardah or Chandra, District Bahraich
5.	Tomb of Salar Saifuddin, District Bahraich
6.	Tomb of Rajab Salar Alias Hatila Salar, District Bahraich
7.	Jama Masjid, District Banda
8.	Monuments in memory of General White lock's force, District Banda
9.	Extensive brick strewn mound, at Asotha, District Fatehpur
10.	Bagh Badshahi at Khajuraho, District Fatehpur
11.	Hathikhana mosque or Jaichandi mosque at Hathgaon, District Fatehpur
12.	Circular mound, the site of a temple at Khairai, District Fatehpur
13.	Extensive mound called Garhi, District Fatehpur

1	2
14.	Tiksariya extensive mound & a group of Hindu sculptures, District Fatehpur
15.	Kurari Four temple, District Fatehpur
16.	Aphui mound called Chowki, District Fatehpur
17.	Square sand stone pillar bearing an inscription of Mahipal deva dated samrat 974 in the Municipal Garden attached to the Town Hall, District Fatehpur
18.	Tomb of Bahu Begaum, District Faizabad
19.	Tomb of Shuja-ud-Daula (Gulab Bari), District Faizabad
20.	Tomb of Hazi Iqbal, District Faizabad
21.	Tomb of Nawab Sadar Jahan at Phiani, District Hardoi
22.	Memorial Tomb at Khasaura, District Hardoi
23.	Gandwa, Brick mound locally called bankar garh, District Hardoi
24.	Jain temple mounds at Sumerpur, District Hamirpur
25.	Rani Laxmi Bai Mahal, at Jhansi
26.	Mound at Bithur, District Kanpur City
27.	Memorial well Garden, District Kanpur City
28.	Sawada Kothi, District Kanpur City
29.	Subedar ki Talab, District Kanpur City
30.	Three images and a Gupta Pillar in the compound of a temple at Behta, Ghatampur, District Kanpur Dehat
31.	Karra Fort attributed to Jay Chandra, District Kausambi
32.	British monument at Aurangabad, District Kheri Lakhimpur
33.	Bundela temple at Banpur, District Lalitpur
34.	Ganesh Khera at Banpur, District Lalitpur
35.	Jain temple at Banpur, District Lalitpur
36.	Pali Khera at Banpur, District Lalitpur

1	2
37.	Large temple in front of Panch Marhia Madanpur, District Lalitpur
38.	Jain temple and a Torana or gateway at Siron Khurd, District Lalitpur
39.	Cemetery near Kaiser Pasand near Kaiserbagh Bus stand, District Lucknow
40.	Kalan-ki-Lat at Aminabad, District Lucknow
41.	British Cemetery at Chiria Jheel at Sapru Marg, District Lucknow
42.	Two Cemeteries at Lucknow Faizabad Road, miles 4.5, District Lucknow
43.	Tomb of Janab-e-Aliya, District Lucknow
44.	Bara Imambara/Asaf-ud-Daula's Imambara, District Lucknow
45.	Asafi Masjid, District Lucknow
46.	Maqbara, Shahnajaf or Tomb of Ghazi-ud-Din Haider, District Lucknow
47.	Rauza-e-Kazmain/Kazmain building, District Lucknow
48.	Picture Gallery, District Lucknow
49.	Jama Masjid at Hussainabad, District Lucknow
50.	Chhota Imambara/Tomb of Mohammad Ali Shah, District Lucknow
51.	Tahsin Ali Masjid, District Lucknow
52.	Amjad Ali Shah's mausoleum, District Lucknow
53.	Sher Darawaza/Neil's Gate, District Lucknow
54.	Kaiserbagh Gate, District Lucknow
55.	General Wali Kothi, District Lucknow
56.	Karbala Talkatora, District Lucknow
57.	Dargah Hazrat Abbas, District Lucknow
58.	Dianut-Daula Karbala, District Lucknow
59.	Malka Jahan Karbala, District Lucknow

1	2
60.	Nasir-ud-din Haider's Karbala Dailganj, District Lucknow
61.	Nagram Mound, District Lucknow
62.	Pahamaga Tikuria mound, District Lucknow
63.	Sikchewali Kothi, District Lucknow
64.	Jama Masjid, District Mahoba
65.	Lake of Kirat Sagar, District Mahoba
66.	Lake of Madan Sagar, District Mahoba
67.	Lake of Vijay Sagar, District Mahoba
68.	A flat roofed temple at Urvara, District Mahoba
69.	Large tank at Pathari Kadin, District Mahoba
70.	Isauli Mosque, District Sultanpur
71.	Large Dih Called Majhangaon with brick towers on four corners, District Sultanpur
72.	Mound known as Kutti Satruhan Das, District Sravastinagar
73.	Small round shaped mound, Tandwa, District Sravastinagar
74.	Tomb of Qurban Mohammed at Banger Mau, District Unnao
75.	Old Nawabi Mosque, District Ambedkar Nagar
<b>Agra Circle</b>	
1.	Buriya-ka-Taal, Itmadpur, Agra, Distt. Agra
2.	Jama Masjid, Agra, Distt. Agra
3.	Kankali Tila, Mathura, Distt. Mathura
4.	Kota mound, Mathura, Distt. Mathura
5.	Gateway & Sarai, Ekdil, Etawah, Distt. Etawah
6.	Jama Masjid, Itmadpur, Distt. Agra
<b>Patna Circle</b>	
1.	Dharahra Mosque, Varanasi, Distt. Varanasi
2.	Manmahal, Varanasi, Distt. Varanasi

1	2
3.	Choukhandi Stupa, Varanasi, Samath
4.	Tomb of Abhiman, Meh Nagar, Distt. Azamgarh
<b>UTTARAKHAND: Dehradun Circle</b>	
1.	Gopeshwar Temple, Gopehsvar, Distt. Chamoli
2.	Pandukeshwar Temple, Distt. Chamoli
3.	Mahashu Temple, Hanol, Chakrata, Dehradun
4.	Temples at Gangolihat, Distt. Pithoragarh
5.	Adibadri Group of temples, Adibadri, Distt. Chamoli

#### **Permission to Private Airlines to Fly Abroad**

\*259. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to amend the existing guidelines for allowing private carriers to fly abroad;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Policy for Destitutes Aged Persons**

\*260. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:  
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA  
DESHMUKH:

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

(a) the total population of the old persons in the country at present, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the number of the destitute aged persons in the country;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the above trend in the increase of the destitute persons;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any policy for the medical check-up of the aged persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The total population of the old persons in the country as per the Census 2001, State/UT-wise is given in the enclosed Statement. There is no authentic data available on the levels of destitution among the aged persons. However, the Government, through the Scheme of "Integrated Programme for Older Persons" is giving grant-in aid to NGOs for establishing and maintaining old age homes, day care centres and mobile medicare units. Further, the Central Government is contributing Rs. 200/- per person per month under the National Old Age Pension Scheme for providing monthly pension to the destitute aged persons.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has launched a National Rural Health Mission on 12th April 2005. The Mission covers the entire country with special focus on 18 States for providing integrated comprehensive and effective primary healthcare to the poor, vulnerable and marginalized sections of the society including aged persons. In addition, facilities for medical check-up of the aged persons are available at all Government Hospitals and health centres along with the general health care delivery system.

**Statement**

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Population of the persons aged 60 years and above
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5788078
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17366
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	49916
4.	Assam	1560366
5.	Bihar	5501274

1	2	3
6.	Chhattisgarh	1504383
7.	Daman and Diu	8042
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8814
9.	Delhi	719650
10.	Goa	112273
11.	Gujarat	3499063
12.	Haryana	1584089
13.	Himachal Pradesh	547564
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	675324
15.	Jharkhand	1578662
16.	Karnataka	4062022
17.	Kerala	3335675
18.	Lakshadweep	3729
19.	Madhya Pradesh	4280924
20.	Maharashtra	8454660
21.	Manipur	145470
22.	Meghalaya	105726
23.	Mizoram	49023
24.	Nagaland	90323
25.	Orissa	3039100
26.	Pondicherry	81016
27.	Punjab	2191693
28.	Rajasthan	3810272
29.	Sikkim	29040
30.	Tamil Nadu	5507400
31.	Tripura	232549
32.	Uttar Pradesh	11649468
33.	Uttaranchal	654356
34.	West Bengal	5700099
35.	Chandigarh	44912
Total		76622321

*[English]***Training Courses for Personnel in Armed Forces**

2280. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of persons retiring from Armed Forces every year;

(b) whether the Government is providing any training courses for the personnel in Armed Forces before their retirement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Indian Institute of Management has also come forward to help them to find employment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (c) Approximately 60,000 Armed Forces personnel are retiring every year. The Directorate General of Resettlement under Ministry of Defence is conducting a number of courses for these personnel before the retirement. A list of these courses is enclosed as Statement.

(d) and (e) Indian Institute of Management at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata and Indore are conducting management courses for retiring officers. They are also facilitating jobs placement of the officers.

**Statement***List of Courses—2007-08 (Officers)*

1. Administration of Academic Institution
2. Airline Ground Operations
3. Application Course in Computer
4. Automobile Workshop Management
5. CAD-CAM
6. C-DAC
7. Certificate in Business Management
8. Certified Trainer
9. Club Management Executive Training Programme

10. Coaching for CPL/ATPL
11. CSD Canteen Administration
12. Diploma in Computer Science
13. Diploma in Programming
14. Disaster Management
15. Entrepreneur Development Programme in Export Management
16. Entrepreneurship Development Program in Security Agency
17. Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
18. Event Management
19. Facilities Management
20. Financial Management
21. Food and Beverage Service
22. Food Production Principles
23. Front Office Procedure
24. Hotel Security & Loss Prevention Executive
25. Hospital Administration
26. Hospitality Management
27. Hotel Management
28. Industrial Co-operative Management
29. Industrial Security, Safety and Fire Protection Management
30. International Business and Finance
31. Labour Law Industrial Relations & Human Resource Development
32. Labour Laws, and Tax Laws
33. Lead Auditor ISO Certification
34. Materials Management
35. MS Office & Networking
36. MS Office & Programming
37. Multi Skilled Resettlement Course

38. Professional Programme in Retail Management
39. Seafaring
40. Second Career Transitions Course
41. Supply Chain Management & Logistics
42. Tally Financial Accounting Program
43. Tourism & Travel Agency Management

*List of Courses for 2007-2008 (PBOR):*

1. AC and Refrigeration
2. Administration Management in Mall, Estate and Resort
3. Administration, Finance and Security of Academic Institution
4. Advance Culinary Skills
5. Advance Welding Course
6. Airline Cargo
7. Airline Security Course
8. Airline Ticketing and Reservation
9. Airline Ticketing and Reservation and Air Cargo
10. Application Course in Computer
11. Assembling and Maintenance of Solar Emergency Lamps
12. Assistant Security Officer Course
13. Bakery
14. Bakery and Confectionary
15. Barber's Training Programme
16. Basic Aircraft Maintenance Engineering
17. Basic Engineering Skills
18. Basic Printing Course
19. Book Keeping and Accountancy using TALLY
20. Car Driving
21. Career Counselling Course
22. Central Cooling and Air Conditioning

23. Certificate Course in Foreign Language (French, German, Russian)
24. Certificate in Information Technology
25. Computer Hardware Maintenance and Repair
26. Cooks Training
27. Dental Lab Mechanics
28. Dental Technician-cum-Assistant
29. Desk Top Publishing
30. Desk Top Publishing and Printing Technology
31. DGCAAME License examination Paper-I
32. Diesel Generator Operation and Maintenance
33. Diploma in Airline Services
34. Diploma in Assistant Manager CSD Canteen
35. Diploma in Financial Management
36. Diploma in Graphic Design
37. Diploma in Insurance Management
38. Diploma in Mall Management
39. Diploma in Marketing and Sales Management
40. Diploma in Materials Management
41. Diploma in Personal Management and Industrial Relations
42. Diploma in Physiotherapy
43. DOEACC "O" LEVEL
44. Driving and Maintenance of Cars, Road Safety and Driving Etiquettes
45. Entrepreneur Development Programme in Electrical Home Appliances
46. Electrical Technician
47. Electronic Installation
48. Electronic Technician
49. Electronics and PCB Fabrication
50. Entrepreneur Development Programme in Computer Hardware



51. Entrepreneur Development Programme in Electronics-Instrumentation
52. Entrepreneur Development Programme in Export Management
53. Entrepreneur Development Programme in Home Electronics Entertainment Items
54. Entrepreneur Development Programme in Power Electronics
55. Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management
56. Food and Beverage Service
57. Food Production Principles
58. Front Office Procedure
59. Garment and Handicraft Export Management
60. Health Sanitary Inspector
61. Heavy Vehicle Driving
62. Home Appliances Repair and House Wiring
63. Home Stay Management
64. Hotel Security and Loss Prevention Supervisor Programme
65. Housekeeping and Loss Prevention, Kitchen Stewarding and Storekeeping
66. Housekeeping Supervisor
67. Industrial Cooperative Management
68. Insurance and Risk Management
69. Library and Information Science Programme
70. Management of Tourism Related Venture
71. Marketing Management
72. Mechanical Workshop Training
73. Medical Laboratory Technician
74. Medical Transcription
75. Modern Secretarial Practices
76. Modular Course in Seafaring
77. Motor Driving and Maintenance of Vehicles
78. Motor Vehicle Engineering
79. Multi Purpose Health Worker
80. Mushroom Farming and Floriculture
81. Networking
82. NGO Management
83. O.T. Assistant
84. Office Management and Executive Secretarial Practice
85. On Job Training, House Keeping, Loss Prevention, Kitchen, Stewarding, Store
86. Organic Farming
87. Plumbing
88. Post Graduate Certificate Course in Management
89. Power Electronics
90. Professional Carpentry, Welding and Painting
91. Professional Cookery
92. Professional Programme in Retail Management
93. Repair and Maintenance of Electrical Home Appliances
94. Repair and Maintenance of Electrical Home Appliances and House Wiring
95. Repair and Maintenance of Radio, Music System, Colour TV, CD and VCD Player
96. Rewinding of Electric Motors and House Wiring
97. Secretariat Practice, Typing and Shorthand and Office Management
98. Service and Repair of Automobiles
99. Steward Training
100. Stores and Warehouse Management
101. Sub Fire and Assistant Security Officer
102. Sub Fire Officer
103. Tailoring and Cutting
104. Textile Design

- 105. Tour Guide and Escorting
- 106. Tourism and Travel Agency Management
- 107. Trading of Handloom Product and Gram Udyog
- 108. Welding and Fabrication
- 109. Welding-Pipe Furniture Making
- 110. X-Ray and ECG Technician.

*[Translation]*

**Lack of Basic Amenities at Banaskantha and Patan Stations**

2281. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Banaskantha and Patan Railway Stations in Gujarat are very dirty and they lack basic passenger amenities;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to provide basic amenities at these stations and keep them clean?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Induction of SPY Drones**

2282. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Armed Forces have planned another major induction of spy drones in the near future;

(b) if so, countries from which they spy drones are likely to be acquired;

(c) whether the Army has been using its spy drones to track terrorists and their hide-outs in both J&K and North-East;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has approved any amount for the projects to develop UAVs by the Bangalore-based Aeronautical Development Establishment in collaboration with IAI; and

(f) if so, the details regarding the advantages, qualities and easy handling by our pilots particularly in operating them from warship for even wider surveillance?

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

(a) and (b) There is no proposal for induction of spy drones in the Armed Forces.

(c) and (d) The Army does not hold spy drones. However, a variety of ground based and aerial surveillance activities are undertaken by the Army in order to counter the anti-national operations in various parts of the country.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

**Transport Subsidy for FICNER**

2283. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Industry and Commerce of the North Eastern Region has sought a transport subsidy on finished goods from the place of manufacture in NER to Siliguri;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No such request is pending with Railways.

*[Translation]*

**Pending Railway Project in Uttar Pradesh**

2284. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway projects pending in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the project-wise details of funds allocated and released for these projects during the last three years;

(c) the details of projects lagging behind the schedule; and

(d) the measures taken by the Railways to ensure timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A statement is attached.

**Statement**

The details of the on-going new line, gauge conversion, doubling and Railway Electrification projects falling partly/fully in Uttar Pradesh, expenditure incurred during last three years alongwith remarks and target date wherever fixed are given as under:—

Sl.No.	Project	Cost 2006-07	Expenditure incurred during		Remarks and Target date wherever fixed	
			2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>New Line</b>						
1.	Etawah-Mainpuri (60 Kms.)	129.7	16.47	5.02	9.11	Target not fixed.
2.	Agra-Etawah via Fatehabad and Bah (114.1 Kms.)	214.9	12.06	9.83	11.02	Target not fixed.
3.	Guna-Etawah (344 Kms.)	432.46	24.19	17.42	19.11	Entire section has been completed and commissioned except Bhind-Etawah section (36 kms) which is targeted for completion in 2007-08 subject to forest land is handed over by State Government by March, 2007.
4.	Lalitpur-Satna & Rewa-Singrauli & Mahoba-Khajuraho (541 Kms)	925	18.00	25.33	38.04	Mahoba to Khajuraho (65 Kms) section is targeted for completion in 2007-08.
5.	Rampur-Lalkuan-Kathgodam Road Over Bridge on National Highway (9 Kms.)	18.05	0.01	0.01	0.01	Target not fixed.
6.	Hathua-Bhatni (79.64 Kms.)	230.03	0.00	0.00	12.25	Hathua-Bathua Bazar (22 Kms) is likely to be completed during 2007-08.
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>						
1.	Mathura-Achnera (35 Kms.)	33.67	0.00	0.00	0	Initially work was taken up under Build Operate Lease Transfer scheme and now has been taken up through normal budgetary support.
2.	Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow-Phase I (60 Kms.)	73.42	0.50	0.12	2.39	Target not fixed.
3.	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand Nagar Nautanwa (260 Kms.)	381.17	15.48	27.12	8.55	Target not fixed.
4.	Aunrihar-Jaunpur (506. Kms.)	85.92	0.01	0.01	0.57	Target not fixed.
5.	Kaptanganj-Thawe-Siwan-Chhapra (233.5 Kms.)	320.1	10.01	15.00	47.9	Thawe to Siwan (28.43 Kms) has already been completed and commissioned. Kaptanganj-Thawe is targeted for completion in 2007-08.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura-Bareilly including Material Modification for extension from Bareilly to Lalkuan (545 Kms.)	661.72	42.12	49.47	78.99	Kanpur-Farrukhabad completed and commissioned. Farrukhabad-Kasganj is planned for completion by the end of the March 2007.
	<b>Doubling</b>					
1.	Tundla-Yamuna Bridge (21 Kms.)	27.06	0.00	-1.36	18.58	Phase I work of twin single line between Tundla-Etmadpur without Tundla flyover has been completed.
2.	Allahabad-Subedarganj 3rd line (3.59 Kms.)	3.29	0.00	0.00	0	Completed.
3.	Kanpur-Panki 3rd line (9 Kms.)	65.7	3.31	2.40	2.11	Work is likely to be completed in 2007-08.
4.	3rd line between Panki-Bhaurpur (11.38 Kms.)	23.69	0.00	0.00	0	Target not fixed.
5.	Bhimsen-Juhi (13.82 Kms.)	17.94	0.00	0.00	0	Work is likely to be completed during 2007-08.
6.	Cheonki-Lohgara (26.88 Kms.)	51.58	0.44	3.87	33.25	Work is likely to be completed by the end of the March 2007.
7.	Lohgara-Katiadandi (32.3 Kms.)	65.03	0.00	3.54	4.11	Targeted for completing during 2007-08.
8.	Aligarh-Ghaziabad 3rd line (106.15 Kms.)	230.73	0.00	0.00	0.38	Targeted for completing during 2008-09.
9.	Palwal-Bhuteshwar 3rd line (81 Kms.)	214.68	0.00	0.00	0.65	Targeted for completion during 2008-09.
10.	Bhatni-Baitalpur (28 Kms.)	71.59	0.00	0.00	0	Target not fixed.
11.	Munderwa-Babhnna (45.25 Kms.)	102.1	0.00	0.00	6	Target not fixed.
12.	Gorakhpur-Baitalpur (37.93 Kms.)	89.18	0.00	0.00	6	Targeted for completing during 2007-08.
13.	Ghagharaghat-Chowkaghat (5.63 Kms.)	91.56	0.00	0.00	0	Target not fixed.
14.	Bhatni-Jiradei (38.11 Kms.)	100.27	0.00	0.00	0	Target not fixed.
15.	Babhnna-Mankapur patch doubling (30.15 Kms.)	62.8	0.00	0.00	6	Targeted for completing during 2007-08.
16.	Sahjanwa-Munderwa patch doubling (32.19 Kms.)	80.89	0.00	0.00	0.49	Target not fixed.
17.	Gorakhpur-Sahjanwa (17.3 Kms.)	69.8	6.94	5.00	14.14	Targeted for completing during 2007-08.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18.	Gonda-Mankapur (28.17 Kms.)	52.01	0.00	1.00	9.99	Targeted for completion by 28.02.07.
19.	Sahibabad-Anand Vihar-3rd & 4th line (4 Kms.)	49.57	0.02	0.00	0	Targeted for completing during 2007-08.
20.	Amroha-Kankather (31 Kms.)	56.98	6.15	7.22	2.86	Target not fixed.
21.	Zafrabad-Utratia PH-II (Zafrabad-Srikrishnnagar) (34 Kms.)	70.28	9.99	10.78	26.85	Zafrabad-Sarai Harku (26 Kms.) completed and balance portion is targeted for completion in 2007-08.
22.	Utratia-Chandrauli and Sultanpur-Bandhua Kalan (37 Kms.)	65.83	5.44	4.25	40.43	Sultanpur-Bandhua Kalan completed and commissioned. Utratia-Anupganj completed. Anupganj-Chandrauli (14 Kms.) is likely to be completed during 2007-08.
23.	Balance section of Utratia-Sultanpur-Zafrabad (148 Kms.)	301.18	0.00	0.00	0	Target not fixed.
24.	Hapur-Kankather (42.71 Kms.)	106.64	0.14	6.86	25.35	Hapur-Simbholi (23 Kms) is targeted for completion by March 2007.
<b>Railway Electrification (60 Kms.)</b>						
1.	Khurja-Meerut-Saharanpur (207 Kms.)	89.21	0.00	0.00	0	Target not fixed.
2.	Ambala-Moradabad (274 Kms.)	246.46	23.42	36.70	32.6	Targeted for completion by the end of the March, 2007.
3.	Utratia-Sultanpur-Mughalsarai (288 Kms.)	234.18	0.00	0.00	0	Targeted for completion during 2009-10.
4.	Moradabd-Lucknow-Utratia (338 Kms.)	209.2	0.00	0.00	0	Targeted for completion during 2007-08.

The projects are progressing as per availability of resources. A number of initiatives have been taken for generating additional resources through Public Private Partnership, Cost sharing by State Government, Funding through Ministry of Defence and National Projects. Funds have also been allocated through internal resource generation.

#### **Raising the Level of Railway Line**

2285. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are likely to raise the level of old rail lines under Freight Corridor Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the fund allocated by the Railways for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Existing railway lines which are feeder routes to the Dedicated Freight Corridors will be upgraded for movement of heavier trains. Approximately, 4000 Kms. of feeder routes related to Eastern and Western Corridors have been identified for upgradation.

(c) and (d) Works costing nearly Rs. 400 crore have been identified and included in the Works Programme 2007-08 for above upgradation. It nearly takes 3-4 years to complete such works.

[English]

#### **Operational Problems in DRDO Systems**

2286. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) budget spent on fundamental research during the last three years;

(b) whether any complaints have been received/ reported regarding the operational problems in the systems delivered by DRDO;

(c) if so, the nature thereof and the corrective measures taken;

(d) whether the defence expenditure on imports has come down as a result of DRDO's projects; and

(e) if so, the quantum thereof?

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

(a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has spent about 8-10% of its Annual Budget on fundamental research during the last three years.

(b) and (c) DRDO is the development agency whose products, after being made by the production agency, are delivered to the users. Stringent quality systems are in place at several stages before a product is put to use. Based on the operational feedback, matters at times get referred to the development agency. Corrective actions, wherever necessary, have been taken up by the DRDO.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The cumulative value of DRDO developed products amounts to about Rs. 30,000 crore. This amount can thus be attributed to the reduction in defence expenditure on import.

#### **Setting up of Fruit Based Food Processing Units**

2287. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir to promote setting up of fruit based food processing industries in the State;

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

(c) the financial assistance provided/proposed to be provided by the Government for the purpose;

(d) whether the Government envisages to offer a package with special incentives for small orchardists in Baramulla and Kupwara districts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and up to 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas to various implementing agencies for the overall development of Food Processing Industry. Further, enhanced level of assistance (credit-linked back ended) for setting up/ Upgradation/modernization of Fruit & Vegetable Processing Units is available for all implementing agencies under the mini Mission-IV of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh @ 50% of cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 crores for establishment of new units and Rs. 1.00 crore for upgradation and modernization of existing units. Assistance is considered based on complete and viable project proposals received through respective State Nodal Agencies. The Ministry does not set up projects on its own.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has approved 23 projects in the State during the Xth Plan period with an assistance of Rs. 10.31 crore. 7 projects for setting up of units based on fruits & vegetables processing have been approved during the period involving a total assistance of Rs. 2.85 crores. Further, the Ministry has approved a financial assistance of Rs. 19.40 lakhs

for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) in respect of five project profiles submitted by the State Government under Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan for J&K for financial assistance for which Letter of Intent/ In-principle approval in respect of the projects has been conveyed to enable State Government for arranging land, tied-up means of finance, bank/FI appraisal report etc. required for considering approval of the project proposals for assistance by the Ministry, in term of guidelines.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim has been extended to Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the X Plan with a total allocation of Rs. 845.00 crores, of which Rs. 100.00 crores is earmarked for Jammu & Kashmir to address various issues related to development of Horticulture in a mission mode approach. Under the above mission, assistance is provided to farmers/ entrepreneurs for various activities involved in production of planting material, production and productivity improvement, Post Harvest Management, Marketing and processing of Horticulture produce.

#### **University Status to NCHMCT**

2288. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to accord University status to the National Council of Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to have a statutory educational body in Hotel Management Sector?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Application of the NCHMCT for conferring 'Deemed to be University' status on it was rejected by the University Grants Commission.

(d) There is presently no proposal to have a statutory educational body specific to Hotel Management Sector.

#### **Pool for Sharing Upstream Infrastructure**

2289. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether faced with acute shortage of deep sea drilling rigs the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons has mooted the proposal for forming a common pool for sharing upstream infrastructure among the oil exploring companies;

(b) if so, whether ONGC has the largest fleet of 29 rigs at its disposal;

(c) if so, whether ONGC has any idle rig capacity to spare;

(d) whether rentals for deep sea rigs have risen to an average of more than US Dollar 2,25,000 per day; and

(e) if so, to what extent this situation is likely to affect the deep sea explorations on Indian offshore currently underway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 1.03.2007, ONGC is operating twenty five (25) offshore drilling rigs nine (9) of which it owns. In addition, 70 ONGC owned drilling rigs are also deployed in onshore areas.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The rates are market driven and vary depending on the type of rig, capability etc.

#### **Less Utilisation of Budget Allocation**

2290. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Food Processing Industries have utilized only 30% of its budget allocation for the year 2006-07; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not utilizing the full budgetary allocation by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir; the Ministry of Food Processing Industries have utilized 89.82% of the budget allocated in the revised estimates for the year 2006-2007

till February, 2007. Against an allocation of Rs. 150 crores in the revised estimates for the year 2006-2007, under plan expenditure, the Ministry has utilized Rs. 134.73 crores till 28th February, 2007. The Ministry has also requested for additional allocation for the current year to the extent of Rs. 181.70 crores.

#### **Space of Aircraft Parking**

2291. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airports in metro cities are jostling for the space of aircraft parking;

(b) if so, the number of aircraft which could be parked at the airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad; and

(c) the number of applications which are pending with the Airports Authority of India in this regard?

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

(b) The details of aircraft parking stands available at Delhi are 87 (+12 for general aviation), Mumbai-87, Chennai-46, Hyderabad-17 and Bangalore-18.

(c) The pending applications airportwise are: Chennai (AAI)-Nil, Hyderabad (AAI)-9, Bangalore (HAL)-5, Delhi (DIAL)-17 and Mumbai (MIAL)-Nil.

*[Translation]*

#### **Historical Monuments in Bad Condition**

2292. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of historical monuments are in bad condition in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. Conservation of monuments is a continuous process and the notified ancient monuments of national importance under the control of Archaeological Survey of India are protected and conserved as per the requirements of individual monument.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India undertakes structural repairs, conservation, preservation and environment development of the protected monuments depending upon the requirements and availability of the resources.

*[English]*

#### **Ongoing Railway Project in Orissa**

2293. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated to each of the ongoing rail projects in Orissa during 2006-07;

(b) whether the Railways are aware that many of the projects have been delayed due to lack of funds; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide adequate funds and complete them at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) and (c) The projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources. Railways have taken a number of initiatives to get additional resources from sources other than the normal budgetary support to expedite the progress of the projects. A number of ongoing new line and doubling projects in Orissa have been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for their speedy completion.

#### **Statement**

Outlays provided for various ongoing/sanctioned New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects falling wholly/partly in Orissa in the Budget 2006-07 are as given under:—

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Outlay provided (2006-07) (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3

#### **New Lines**

1.	Daitari-Banspani (155 kms)	155.85
2.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh (56 kms)	19.00



1	2	3
3.	Khurda Road-Bolangir (289 kms)	23.00
4.	Haridaspur-Paradeep (82 kms)	44.00
5.	Angul-Sukinda Road (98.7 kms)	20.00
6.	Talcher-Bimlagarh (154 kms)	10.00
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>		
1.	Naupada-Gunupur (90 kms)	34.00
2.	Rupsa-Bangriposi (89 kms)	15.89
<b>Doubling</b>		
1.	2nd Bridges on Mahanadi & Birupa (3 kms)	39.90
2.	Lanjigarh-Titlagarh (47 kms)	15.00
3.	Rajathgarh-Barang (20 kms)	72.70
4.	Khurda Road-Puri (Phase-I) (15.3 kms)	10.00
5.	Sambalpur-Rengali (22.7 kms)	20.00
6.	Jharsuguda-Rengali (25.6 kms)	10.00
7.	Cuttack-Barang (12 kms)	40.15
8.	Khurda Road-Barang 3rd line (35 kms)	46.60
9.	Jharsuguda Bypass line (8.73 kms)	13.62
10.	Vizianagaram-Kottavalasa 3rd line (34.7 kms)	5.00
11.	Sambalpur-Titlagarh (182 kms)	5.00
12.	Kottavalasa-Simhachalam 4th line (16.9 kms)	0.01

#### **Rail Coach Factory in Assam**

2294. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to establish a Railway Coach building factory in Assam under private-public partnership; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Hostels of SC Students**

2295. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hostels constructed for Scheduled Caste students during the last three years in Bihar along with the location-wise details thereof;

(b) the number of sanctioned hostels for the above category of students not constructed so far along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided for the said hostels during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) This Ministry has not sanctioned Central Assistance to the Government of Bihar under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of Hostels for SC Girls & Boys after 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Grants-in-aid to Central Wakf Council**

2296. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total Grants-in-aid given to Central Wakf Council for development of Wakf properties in the country during the each of last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of properties so far developed by Central Wakf Council during the said period;

(c) whether Central Wakf Council is facing financial crunch to develop Wakf properties in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that Central Wakf Council is provided with sufficient fund for development of Wakf properties in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Grants-in-aid released by the Government

of India to Central Wakf Council (CWC) during last three years and the current year are as under:

2003-2004	—	Rs. 158.00 lakhs
2004-2005	—	Rs. 137.00 lakhs
2005-2006	—	Rs. 143.25 lakhs
2006-2007	—	Rs. 73.00 lakhs

(b) During the last three years, CWC sanctioned financial assistance for the following number of projects:—

2003-2004	—	11 Projects
2004-2005	—	08 Projects
2005-2006	—	07 Projects
2006-2007	—	04 Projects

(c) and (d) Enhanced provision for grant-in-aid to CWC has been proposed for 2007-2008.

#### **Army Welfare Boards In West Bengal**

2297. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in West Bengal where District Army Welfare Boards have been set up;

(b) the dates and years of their establishment;

(c) the number of ex-servicemen who have been provided assistance through them for self-employment and appointment in services during the last three years; and

(d) the assistance provided by the District Army Welfare Boards to ex-servicemen?

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

Burdwan	January 1949
Balurghat (Dakshin Dinajpur)	January 1995
Barampur (Murshidabad)	March 2006
Darjeeling	November 1944
Howrah	April 1949
Jalpaiguri	April 1979

Kolkata	September 1945
Krishnanagar	November 1986
Midnapore	September 1955
24 Parganas (North)	January 2000
24 Parganas (South)	March 1966
(c) 1733 ex-servicemen.	

(d) The following assistance has been granted:—

- (i) Stipend/Book grant of Rs. 360/- p.m. to school/college going wards of ESM.
- (ii) Marriage grant of Rs. 4000/- on marriage of daughter of ESM.
- (iii) Maintenance grant of Rs. 900/- pm to disabled ESM under training at QMTI, Pune.
- (iv) Vending Trolley for disabled ESM including Widows under self-employment.
- (v) Financial Assistance of Rs. 4000/- (one time) for destitute widows under West Bengal Charitable Relief Fund.
- (vi) Children Home/Orphan House and Sainik Shishu Kalyan Sadan.
- (vii) 5 Seats are reserved for ESM/their wards in Engineering.
- (viii) Financial Assistance of Rs. 500/- pm to WW-II Veterans and Rs. 300/- pm to widows of WW-II.

#### **Extension of Rail to Minor Ports**

2298. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has requested for broad gauge railway linkage to minor ports of the State and to connect these with the dedicated railway freight corridor connecting Mumbai-Delhi; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Details of request received from the Government of Gujarat for providing rail linkage to Ports in Gujarat and status of the proposal thereon is as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Port	Status of the Proposal
1.	Dahej Port (Bharuch-Samni-Dahej Gauge Conversion)	This project has been sanctioned and it is to be executed by the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). RVNL has created a Project Specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. Bharuch Dahej Railway Company Limited who will take up implementation of the project. Shareholders' Agreement has been signed on 12.01.07. The anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 165.77 crores. An outlay of Rs. 10 crores has been provided for the project for the year 2006-07.
2.	Hazira Port (Surat-Hazira New Line)	There is proposal to develop Surat-Hazira Railway line through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Creation of SPV for the same is under process.
3.	Dholera Port	Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) is undertaking the Preliminary Engineering cum Traffic Survey (PETS) for rail connectivity to this Port.
4.	Bedi & New Bedi Port Connectivity	A study undertaken by m/s RITES Ltd. is under appraisal in the Ministry.
5.	New line for connectivity to Okha Port, Veraval Port, Simar/Chhara Port (including gauge conversion between Talala-Delvada), Sikka Port, Muldwarka Port, Jaffrabad Port, Mithivirdi Port, Vansi Barsi Port, Porbander Port & Maroli Port	The railway line for each of these ports is less than 10 Kms. in Length. Considering the length of the lines and meager traffic offering, these projects may not be financially viable for the Railways and State Government may develop rail connectivity with their funds.

**Rail Over Bridge at Kosi Junction in Rampur**

2299. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of frequent heavy traffic jam at level crossing adjacent to Kosi Junction in Rampur;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to build a rail over bridge at the above crossing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) National Highway Authority of India has taken up the entire work including Railway portion.

(d) Does not arise.

**Facilities to Disabled Persons**

2300. SHRI NARHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities provided by the Railways to the disabled persons right from entering the railway platforms to the completion of the journey;

(b) whether any arrangement has been made to inform disabled persons about the coaches reserved for them and their locations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of arrangements made to allot the lowest berths to the passengers belonging to disabled persons in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) In pursuance of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation)

Act, 1995, Railways have planned to provide the following seven short-term facilities:

1. Standard ramp for Barrier free entry,
2. Earmarking parking lots for vehicles used by Disabled Persons,
3. Non-slippery walkway,
4. Signage,
5. Toilets,
6. Water taps suitable for needs of handicapped person,
7. "May I Help You" Booth.

Besides, wheel chairs have been provided at important stations.

In the first instance all identified facilities have been provided at all "A" categories stations. Now railway has targeted to provide these facilities at all "B" categories stations during 2007-08 subject to availability of funds.

Regarding inter platform connectivity, trolley paths have been provided at the end of the platforms of important stations which have been authorized for use by handicapped persons on wheel chairs with escorts.

Indian Railways are manufacturing certain passenger coaches, which have a separate compartment specially designed for wheel chair borne passengers. These compartments have facilities like wider door-way, aisle and knee space to permit easy movement of wheel chair, wider berths, toilet adapted to needs of such passengers, arrangements for securing wheel chairs during the journey etc. Some such disabled friendly coaches are already in service. It has been decided to provide one such coach in every mail/express train during next two years.

(b) and (c) Disabled friendly coaches bear relevant signage and marking notice on the coach body.

(d) Computerised Passenger Reservation System automatically allots lower berth to the handicapped persons performing their journey on handicapped concessional ticket and middle/upper berths near the handicapped person to the person accompanying them as escort, subject to availability of such berths at the time of booking.

After departure of the train, if there are vacant lower berths available in the train, and if any physically handicapped person booked on the authority of handicapped concessional ticket, who has been allotted upper/middle berth, approaches for allotment of vacant lower berths, the Conductor/Train Ticket Examiner (TTE) has been authorized to allot the vacant lower berth to them making necessary entries in the chart.

*[Translation]*

#### **Contract of Jubilee Retail Outlets**

2301. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding irregularities in appointment of labour contractors, functioning and sale in Jubilee Retail Outlets operated by the public sector oil companies in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years as on date; and

(b) 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) and (b) The public sector oil marketing companies, viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and IBP Co. Limited (IBP) have reported that they have not received any complaint regarding irregularities in appointment of labour contractors functioning and sale in Jubilee Retail Outlets in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the last two years.

*[English]*

#### **Inland Container Depot at Baddi in Himachal Pradesh**

2302. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey on Inland Container Depot at Baddi in Himachal Pradesh has been conducted by CONCOR;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow up action taken by the Railways on the survey report?

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

(b) and (c) Based on feasibility study Himachal Pradesh Government was approached for setting up of the Inland Container Depot. Himachal Pradesh Government has identified the land for project and Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) is in advance stages of dialogue with Himachal Pradesh Government for setting up of Inland Container Depot at Baddi.

*[Translation]*

#### **Survey for Railway Project**

2303. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects for which survey has been conducted by the Railways during the last three years;

(b) whether approval has been accorded or being accorded to complete the projects for which survey has been conducted; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A total of 213 surveys were completed during the last three years which included 148 for new lines, 26 for gauge conversion and 39 for doublings. Out of these 27 have been sanctioned and 61 have been shelved.

*[English]*

#### **Heritage Structure in Karnataka**

2304. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines to judge a monument as a heritage structure; and

(b) the number of heritage structures listed in Grade-I list in Karnataka which require proper preservation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Under Section

4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological sites and Remains Act, 1958 Central Government can declare any ancient monument or archaeological site as a monument of national importance. The ancient monument would mean any structure, monument, tumulus, cave, rock sculpture, inscription, etc. which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than 100 years.

(b) The two World Heritage sites in Karnataka viz. Group of monuments at Hampi and the Group of temples at Pattadakal are classified as Group 'A' monuments.

#### **IOC's Stake in ONGC and GAIL**

2305. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has sought permission from the Government to sell its stake in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and GAIL (India) Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) On the request of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), this Ministry had accorded approval on 2.12.2005 for offloading of cross-holdings of shares held in each other by IOC, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Gas Authority of India (GAIL). Further, vide letter dated 24.1.2006, this Ministry accorded approval for offloading upto 20% of IOC's equity holding in ONGC and upto 50% in GAIL in the manner approved by the Board of Directors of IOC.

#### **Loss making Trains in Railways**

2306. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the earnings made by Indian Railways during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of increase in passenger amenities provided by the Railways during the above period;

(c) the details of the loss making trains run by Indian Railways; and

(d) the reasons for running these trains in losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The gross earnings of Indian Railways during each of last three years is as under:-

2003-2004	Rs. 42842.16 crores
2004-2005	Rs. 47038.25 crores
2005-2006	Rs. 54404.56 crores

(b) Provision/augmentation of passenger amenities is a continuous process depending upon the level of traffic handled at the stations subject to availability of funds. During the last three years, a number of passenger amenities viz. provision of platforms, their extension, improvement in their surface, improvement in water supply arrangements, provision of toilets/urinals, provision of Foot Over Bridges (FOB), improvement in circulating area, improvement in lighting arrangements, provision of public address system and Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) etc. have been provided at various stations.

(c) Train-wise computation of losses is not maintained by the Railways.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Training Facilities in IGRUA**

2307. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) Rai Bareilly is equipped with the modern and sophisticated trainer aircraft to impart training to pilots;

(b) if so, the details of training curriculum and the number of pilots trained so far;

(c) whether foreign pilots are also availing the training facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The addition further upgradation is under way.

(b) The training curriculum is as prescribed by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and consists

of Ground Training and Flying Training. The Flying Training consists of 200 hours of flying. On successful completion of prescribed training requirements, the trainee has to clear the examination conducted by DGCA, to obtain Commercial Pilots Licence (CPL). The duration of training is two years. A total of 490 pilots have been trained at this Akademi so far. At present there are 168 trainees at different stages of their training.

(c) and (d) The Akademi has trained foreign pilots in the past. However, at present there is no foreigner under training at the Akademi.

[Translation]

#### **Physically Challenged Passengers Friendly Coaches**

2308. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Research Design and Standard Organization of Railways (RDSO) has decided to change the design of railway bogies for convenience of physically challenged passengers on the suggestion of an NGO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said change is likely to make a difference in the number of passengers to be accommodated in a railway coach; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Improvement in facilities and optimization of layout directed towards greater comfort to physically challenged passengers has been a focus area. Indian Railway have already been manufacturing such coaches with disabled friendly compartment since 2001-02. RDSO is also consulting Samarthya-National Center for Promotion of Barrier Free Environment for Disbaled Persons-a Delhi based NGO for inputs to ensure further improvements in coach lay out to optimize the space and amenities required for disabled passengers.

(c) and (d) While providing additional facilities, efforts are made not to reduce the total carrying capacity of the coach.

#### **Drinking Water Facility at Stations**

2309. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that there is no facility of drinking water at several railway stations of the country and the situation is such that at some places there are taps but there is no water and at other places even the taps are missing;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto;

(c) whether the coaches, especially the sleeper coaches of train numbers 2412, 2122 and Mussoorie Express are in dirty and dilapidated condition;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways in this regard; and

(e) the number of such trains, whose coaches are in dilapidated condition, the glass panes of windows are broken and toilets are dirty along with measures taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Indian Railways have more than 8000 stations. Railways endeavour is to provide drinking water to passengers at all stations. Some small stations do not have adequate water source either due to absence of water supply from municipality or presence of brackish water, inadequate ground water yield from hand pumps. Further, even at some of those stations where piped/hand pump supply exists, water scarcity comes up in summer due to lesser supplies by municipality, lowering in ground water level etc. and increased demand. In such cases, availability of drinking water is ensured at stations by arranging water through private water tankers. Even water special trains are run in areas facing heavy shortage of water. Water coolers, mobile water trollies, matkas are arranged for better availability of water to the passengers. Many Non Government Organisations also supplement water supply to passengers. In addition, packaged drinking water/natural mineral water is made available for sale through static as well as mobile catering/vending units. Necessary repairs to water installation are also carried out as and when required. Further, availability of water taps are being ensured through periodic inspection and making good missing taps wherever occurs.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Coaching rakes of all trains, including 2412-Gondwana Exp., 2122 Madhya Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express and 4042 Mussoorie Express are based at various coaching Depot over Indian Railways for their maintenance. The rakes are intensively examined

in the nominated maintenance lines and attended to for cleanliness (exterior and interior), cleaning of toilets and attention to passenger amenity items.

Window glasses which get broken/defective during run as also due to miscreant activities, are also attended to during the maintenance schedules besides cleaning of coach toilets at terminal stations.

[English]

#### MoU between India and France

2310. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any MoU has been signed between India and France to enhance tourism prospects of both the countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it would be helpful in attracting tourists from France to the country?

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

(b) and (c) The MoU between India and France was signed on 20.02.2006 to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism between the two countries. This MoU serves as instrument for marketing and promotion of tourism from the participating countries. This will facilitate launching of promotional and marketing activities, exchange of travel trade delegations, exchange of know-how, facilitating investments, human resource development and organizing special promotional events for mutual benefit.

[Translation]

#### Quality of Pistols/Revolvers

2311. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of permissible revolvers/pistols produced by Department of Defence Production so far;

(b) the State-wise details of the licence-holders who have been provided the said arms;

(c) whether there is a need for technical improvement in the quality of pistols/revolvers;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be improved; and

(e) the time being taken by the Department of Defence Production to issue revolvers/pistols to the licence-holders after receiving the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The production details of permissible/non-prohibited bore weapons so far

in the current year, produced by Ordnance Factories for civilian use, are as under:

Weapon	Produced so far
.32 Revolver	17679
.32 Pistol	4235
.22 Revolver	580

(b) The State-wise details of the license holders who have been provided the said arms.

State	.32 Revolver	.32 Pistol	.22 Revolver
Assam	—	132	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	8	—
Andhra Pradesh	25	59	10
Bihar	269	312	—
Chhattisgarh	50	43	1
Delhi	212	31	83
Gujarat	416	45	20
Haryana	1554	1029	101
Himachal Pradesh	88	33	—
Jammu and Kashmir	132	76	—
Jharkhand	46	58	—
Karnataka	171	31	43
Kerala	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	350	79	42
Maharashtra	623	58	1
Manipur	—	—	—
Meghalaya	1	18	—
Orissa	17	67	1
Punjab	2029	209	83
Rajasthan	307	78	21
Sikkim	1	—	—
Tamil Nadu	10	43	2
Uttarakhand	263	112	1
Uttar Pradesh	11006	1583	125
West Bengal	24	58	16
Union Territory	11	0	31



(c) and (d) Technical improvement of product is a continuous process. In current year *i.e.* 2006-2007, firing mechanism of .32" Revolver was improved to further reduce probability of misfire and work is going on for reducing efforts for trigger pull, which is likely to be implemented in 2007-2008. Similarly, issue of self unlocking was resolved in 2006-2007 by certain design changes in firing mechanism of .32" pistol. Trials are being carried out at present to give coloured Teflon coating to pistol body, for improved surface protection and better appearance, which is expected to be implemented in 2007-2008.

(e) As the Ordnance Factories are basically producing arms and ammunition for Defence Forces, priority is accorded for production of Defence items. Depending upon the workload of Defence Forces, the production and issue of Revolvers/Pistols to the civilian license holders, takes one to four months time.

**New Rail Lines from Nasik to Kalyan, Panwal to Karjad, Maharashtra**

2312. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have given approval to the proposal for new rail lines from Nasik to Kalyan, Panwal-Karjad Pune in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the survey for initiating construction works on the said rail route has been completed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the survey is likely to be undertaken and approval is likely to be accorded for the construction work?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Railway lines already exist between Nasik Road-Kalyan and Panvel-Karjat-Pune.

**Policy on Hanger**

2313. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy of the Union Government to give assets of the National Airport Authority such as hanger land to the State Government for Government purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the policy of fixation of rent of these assets;

(d) whether the Government proposes to allow free utilisation of these assets for non-business purposes;

(e) if so, whether any proposal waiving off the rent of such assets which are not in good condition has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details alongwith the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a policy of Airports Authority of India (AAI), hangars at the airports are licensed to State Government for parking of their aircraft subject to availability of space. In case of construction of hangar by State Government for its use, AAI allots land on nominal licence fee of Re. 1/- per sqm. p.a. to State Governments for this purpose generally where State Government is transferring/giving land at airports on free of cost basis to AAI for expansion/development purposes.

(c) The licence fee for hangar space at airports is fixed and revised by AAI from time to time keeping in view reasonable return on the cost of land, construction of building and other conservancy charges.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) A proposal was received from Madhya Pradesh Government for allotment of land and waiver of charges towards hangar/barracks/land occupied by the Madhya Pradesh Flying School at Bhopal. Waiver of arrear charges amounting to Rs. 2 crores and allotment of 5.87 acres of land on payment of Re. 1/- per sqm. p.a. has been sanctioned subject to certain conditions including that of signing of MOU with AAI regarding land to be provided State Government on free of cost basis at various airports in Madhya Pradesh for expansion/development purposes.

*[English]***Non-viable Petrol Pumps**

2314. SHRI UDAY SINGH:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of this fact that more than sixty per cent petrol pumps of four oil PSUs in the country are below economic viability level;

(b) if so, whether the private oil companies are taking advantage of such below economic viability of oil PSUs;

(c) if so, whether the report of IIM, Ahmedabad has recommended the higher amount of commission for the petrol pumps dealers including petrol pumps situated in rural and remote areas having low volume of sales;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Petrol pumps (retail outlets) are set up after duly assessing the sales potential of the location and as per the economic viability norms of the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs). Financial performance of the outlets operated by OMCs has been satisfactory and commensurate with the prevailing market conditions, which have been affected to some extent due to rapid growth of retail outlets after the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism. To ensure that the retail outlets perform upto the potential, OMCs are constantly counseling the dealership network and investing in upgrading facilities as required.

(c) to (e) The study conducted by IIM, Ahmedabad has recommended cluster based recovery of Service Station Licence Fee. However, the dealer commission for all the retail outlets in the country has been revised by OMCs with effect from 1.3.2007 and the new rates of commission are as under:—

Petrol : from Rs. 848 per KL to Rs. 894 per KL

Diesel : from Rs. 509 per KL to Rs. 529 per KL

**Cultural Ties with Saudi Arabia**

2315. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to strengthen cultural ties with Saudi Arabia;

(b) whether bilateral exchange programmes are proposed to be started for the above purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Culture has forwarded a draft Cultural Agreement to Saudi Arabia through our Mission in June, 2005 to encourage Cultural exchanges between the two countries. The draft Cultural Agreement, inter-alia, envisages interaction/exchanges in the areas of Culture, Youth Affairs & Sports and Mass Media between the two countries.

**Indian Cultural Centres**

2316. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Cultural Centres are located in various countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to establish more such centres during 2007;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Indian Council for Cultural Relations is maintaining 18 Cultural Centres at Moscow (Russia), Cairo (Egypt), Port Louis (Mauritius), Georgetown (Guyana), Paramaribo (Suriname), Jakarta (Indonesia), Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago), London (UK), Berlin (Germany), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Johannesburg (South Africa), Durban (South Africa), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Suva (Fiji), Tokyo (Japan) and 2 Sub-Centres at Bali (Indonesia) and Lautoka (Fiji).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There are proposals for setting up new Cultural Centres at several capital cities such as Kathmandu, Dhaka, Kabul, Beijing, Washington and Tehran during the financial year 2007-08. The setting up of new Centres depends on several factors such as availability of budgetary resources, agreements with the concerned foreign Government and availability of suitable premises etc.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Production of Bio-modular Charge System**

2317. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question No. 2203 answered on March 17, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the production of Bi-modular Charge system will commence from November, 2007 as earlier stated;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay and the new time frame fixed for commencement of production; and

(c) if not, the number in which the requirements of Army are proposed to be met in the meantime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Though, the House was informed on an earlier occasion in March 2005 that the production of BMCS would commence from November 2007, due to time and cost overrun in the project, the same could not be achieved. The Government appointed an expert committee in May 2005 to review the project as a whole. After considering the committee's report as well as the requirement of 155 mm ammunition in future, it was decided to resume work on the project. It is expected that commercial production of BMCS can commence in about 30 months after issue of revised sanction by Government for the increase in the cost of the project.

(c) There is no proposal to import the ammunition at present.

#### **CPSU in Tamil Nadu**

2318. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the profit/loss of the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) functioning in Tamil Nadu CPSU-wise;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to revive the units which are running in losses;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to establish more PSUs in the State as the State's share of central PSUs are very less; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) 10 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) were having their registered offices in the State of Tamil Nadu as on 31.3.2006. CPSE-wise details of profit/loss of these enterprises are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The cases of sick/loss making CPSEs are referred to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments for its consideration and making suitable recommendations to the Government. The Board has since recommended revival of Madras Fertilizers Ltd.

(c) and (d) In addition to the CPSEs mentioned in reply to part (a) of the question, there are 94 other CPSEs which are having their presence in the State of Tamil Nadu, the details of which are given in Statement 10 of Vol. I of the Public Enterprises Survey (2005-06) which was laid in the Parliament on 19.12.2006 and is a public document. All the CPSEs taken together were having total gross block of Rs. 40423 crore and an employment of 111993 persons. The decisions to set up CPSEs are taken by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments in consultation with various stakeholders and with the approval of the competent authority.

**Statement***List of the Central Public Sector Enterprises having their Registered Offices in the State of Tamil Nadu as on 31.3.2006*

Sl.No.	Name of the CPSEs	Profit/(-) Loss during 2005-06 (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	48096
2.	Ennore Port Ltd.	907
3.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	(-) 56090
4.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	(-) 13174
5.	Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.	70235
6.	NTC (Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry) Ltd.	758
7.	Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organisation	174
8.	IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Ltd.	56 (during 2004-05)
9.	Sethusamudram Corporation Ltd.	Under Construction
10.	Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidut Nigam Ltd.	Under Construction

**Recruitment of Military Nurses**

2319. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Military Nurses recruited to the Military Nursing Services during each of the last three years;

(b) the existing vacant posts of Military Nurses in Military Nursing Services; and

(c) the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

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

(a) Year	The number of Military Nursing Service Officers recruited during the last three years are as under:
2004	108
2005	112
2006	107

(b) and (c) There are 132 vacant posts of Military Nurses as on 8th March, 2007. The shortage will be met from cadets of B.Sc. (Nursing) and Probationary Nurses of General Nursing & Midwifery course and candidates from open market during this year.

**Sewagram-Yavatmal-Nanded Rail Link**

2320. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has agreed to bear 40% of the total cost of the Sewagram-Yavatmal-Nanded Rail Link Project;

(b) if so, since when the project has been languishing and the reasons for this delay;

(c) whether the Railways have given its approval for the project;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total cost of the project;

(f) the total length of the project and whether the survey work on the project has been initiated; and

(g) if so, the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (g) Survey for Wardha-Yavatmal-Nanded has been completed as per which, cost of construction of 270 Kms long line has been assessed as Rs. 581 crore with a negative rate of return. State Government was requested to consider sharing of 50% cost of the project. In a meeting with Chief Minister, Maharashtra, Minister for Railways agreed that the proposal would be processed further provided State Government gives its consent to share at least 40% of the cost as a special case in view of difficult conditions amongst farming community in Vidarbha Region. State Government has since shown willingness to share cost of work such as earthen embankment, side drains, metal breaking and spreading etc., upto 35-45%, which could be undertaken under National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and State Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS). State Government is again being requested to agree to share at least 40% of the cost of project without linking it with NREP & EGS.

#### **Trial Report of Bell 407 & Eurocopter Helicopter**

2321. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a trial report of Bell 407 and Eurocopter AS 350 B3 helicopter to be incorporated in Indian Army;

(b) if so, the details and the reaction of the Government on said report;

(c) whether the Government proposes to induct fighter helicopter in the Indian Army Aviation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The trials have been completed and the General Staff evaluation of the trial report approved by the Indian Army has been accepted by the Ministry of Defence.

(c) to (e) Army requirements are worked out on the basis of detailed assessments and threat perceptoins. Equipment induction is an ongoing exercise and undertaken as per the projections in the long term, medium term and Annual Accretion Plan of the services under the provision of the Defence Procurement Procedure.

*[Translation]*

#### **Construction of Houses on Revenue Land**

2322. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Labourers of GREF came from the mainland to the Islands way back in 1969 for the development of the Islands have constructed their own house on revenue land which has been allotted to defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide house site on revenue land to the GREF labourers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) and (b) As per the information received from Andaman & Nicobar Administration 39 labourers including ex-servicemen are on the said land at Campbell Bay.

(c) The decision with respect to providing House site to these labourers is to be taken by the Andaman & Nicobar administration.

*[English]*

#### **Construction of Over/Under Bridge on NH-4**

2323. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of over bridge/under bridge on NH-4 near Kyatasandra-Siddaganga Mutt is proposed to be taken up;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the aforesaid bridge is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received either from State Government of Karnataka or from National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**Concessions to Companies Dealing  
in Petroleum Products**

2324. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether the Government is providing relaxation and concessions to private companies dealing in petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for making such provisions; and

(c) the increase in the burden on the exchequer resulting from the said concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Further private companies are not subject to pricing restrictions by the Government and as such there can be no compensation for marketing of petroleum products within the country by them.

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

[English]

**Subsidy on LPG**

2325. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized to continue subsidy on LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of annual LPG subsidy burden on exchequer; and

(d) the manner in which the Government proposes to cover the gap of production and selling price of LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Government is administering the PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002 through which the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are being paid subsidy currently at 1/3rd level of 2002-03 at a flat rate from the Union Budget. The subsidy from Government has been frozen at the current level and is to be phased out in 2006-07. The issue of further continuation of the Scheme is under the consideration of the Government.

(c) The Government has given subsidy of Rs. 1604.77 crores on Domestic LPG during the year 2005-06.

(d) The Government has not revised the retail selling price of domestic LPG since 5.11.2004, despite increase in international price. Due to this, OMCs have incurred under-recoveries on marketing of this product. The subsidy given by the Government and OMCs on domestic LPG during 2005-06 is given below:

	LPG (Domestic)		
	Per Unit Subsidy (Rs./Cyl.)		
	From Govt. Budget	By Oil Companies	Total
2005-06 (Provn.)	22.58	152.46	175.04

In addition, the Government has also issued Oil Bonds amounting to Rs. 11,500 crore during 2005-06 towards under recoveries suffered by OMCs on Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene.

[Translation]

**Natural Gas from Coal**

2326. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Government is preparing any outline of the action plan on the proposal of producing natural gas from coal in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is identifying the blocks of coal having quality coal and capable of producing gas;

(d) if so, whether the areas have been/are being identified for allocation of its coal blocks;

(e) if so, the quantity of fuel and gas assessed to be produced from this; and

(f) the time by which the scheme of producing gas from coal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coal Bed Methane (CBM) is a natural gas produced from coal seams and is considered as a major source of gas in bridging the gap of demand and supply. In order to develop the CBM resources in the country, Government of India formulated a CBM policy in 1997. So far, Government has awarded 26 CBM blocks for exploration and production of CBM in the country. These blocks are located in the states of West Bengal (4), Jharkhand (6), Chhattisgarh (3), Madhya Pradesh (5), Andhra Pradesh (2), Rajasthan (4), Gujarat (1) and Maharashtra (1).

(c) and (d) Action has already been initiated to carve out prospective CBM blocks for offering in fourth round in consultation with Ministry of Coal. CBM related data will be generated in these areas in order to assess the CBM resources of these blocks before being offered.

(e) and (f) The production potential of the 26 awarded blocks so far is 38 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre per Day (MMSCMD) during their peak production period. The commercial production of CBM is likely to commence by end of 2007-08.

*[English]*

#### **Integrated Management Plan for Hampi**

2327. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received comments of UNESCO World Heritage Centre on the draft Integrated Management Plan for Hampi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre had sent their comments on the draft Integrated Management Plan for Hampi World Heritage Cultural Landscape. In their communication, they have acknowledged the great amount of efforts and quality of work made by the team that drafted the plan. They have also suggested redefinition of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site, possible renomination/extension of the property as the cultural landscape of Vijayanagara Kingdom, operationalisation of the management plan, putting in place a management system and direct involvement of the management authority in the planning process.

As a follow-up action, Archaeological Survey of India has requested the Consultants to re-orient the draft management plan in the light of the recommendations made by the World Heritage Centre.

*[Translation]*

#### **Irregularities in Allotment of Blocks**

2328. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to irregularities in allotment of blocks for exploration of oil and natural gas, several companies having no credit have been allotted blocks where exploration of oil has not started as yet despite lapse of time allowed to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of companies engaged in exploration of oil and gas in both private and public sectors as on January 31, 2007;

(d) the details of the companies which were awarded blocks but failed to achieve the targets of exploration;

(e) whether ONGC and Reliance have drawn up any rig sharing policy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of above.

(c) A total of 30 Indian companies (Public/Private) and 26 Foreign companies are engaged in exploration of oil and gas in the country. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Two companies Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) & Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) did not complete the Minimum Work Programme (MWP) as per Production Sharing Contract (PSC) in few blocks awarded to them. The blocks were relinquished as per PSC provision.

(e) and (f) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and ENI India Ltd. have formed a consortium for sharing their rigs optimally to utilize the available resources.

### **Statement**

As far as Production Sharing Contracts for exploration of blocks and discovered fields in India are concerned, following private and public sector companies are working in India.

#### **I. Private Companies (India)**

1. Petrocon India Limited (formerly Videocon Petroleum Ltd.)
2. Reliance Industries Ltd.
3. Hindustan Oil Exploration Company
4. Selan Exploration Technologies
5. Assam Company Ltd.
6. Tata Petrodyne Ltd.
7. Essar Oil Ltd.
8. Essar Energy Holdings Ltd.
9. Interlink Petroleum
10. Jubilant Enpro Pvt. Ltd.
11. Enpro Finance Ltd.
12. Prize Petroleum Company Ltd.
13. Shiv-Vani Oil & Gas Exploration Limited (SHIV)
14. Reliance Energy Ltd. (REL)
15. Reliance Natural Resources Ltd. (RNRL)

16. Focus Energy Ltd.
17. Adani Enterprises Ltd.
18. Adani Port Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.
19. Jaycee Plastics Industries Pvt. Ltd.
20. Jaiprakash Associates Ltd.
21. Nitin Fire Protection Industries Ltd.
22. HERAMAC Ltd.

#### **II. Public Sector Undertakings:**

1. Oil India Ltd. (OIL)
2. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
3. GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL)
4. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)
5. Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (GSPC) (Gujarat State Undertaking)
6. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL)
7. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL)
8. National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC)

#### **III. Foreign Companies**

1. British Gas Exploration & Production India Ltd. (subsidiary of BG Energy Holding Ltd., U.K.)
2. Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd.
3. Canoro Resources Ltd., Canada.
4. Geo Global Resources Inc. Canada
5. Geo-Petrol International Inc. Canada
6. Hardy Exploration & Production India Inc. (Subsidiary of Hardy Oil & Gas Ltd., U.K.)
7. Heramec Ltd. (Subsidiary of Heritage Oil Corporation. U.K.)
8. Joshi Technologies Inc., USA
9. Niko Resources Ltd., Canada
10. OAO, Gazprom, Russia
11. Okland International LDC, USA



12. Polish Oil & Gas Company, Poland
13. Ravva Oil (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. (subsidiary of Marubeni Corporation, Japan)
14. Tullow India Operations Ltd. (subsidiary of Tullow Oil plc. Ireland)
15. Premier oil North East India (subsidiary of Premier Oil, U.K.)
16. ENI (India) Ltd.
17. Birkbeck Investment Ltd., Mauritius.
18. Santos International Operations Pty Ltd.
19. Newbury Holdings Two Ltd.
20. Petrogas E&P, LLC, Oman
21. Suntera Resources Ltd.
22. Nefto Gaz India Pvt. Ltd.
23. Hallworthy Shipping Ltd., S.A.
24. Silverware Energy Pte. Ltd.
25. Ensearch Petroleum Pvt. Ltd.
26. Welspun Natural Resources Pvt. Ltd.

*[English]*

**Appointment of Chairman and  
Functional Directors**

2329. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the Public Enterprises Selection Board's recommended panel for appointment of Chairman and functional Directors for public sector oil companies have been rejected for reasons other than vigilance/corruption;

(b) the number of cases in which Search Committees have been constituted for selection of Chairman and Functional Directors for ONGC, IOC, HPCL and BPCL;

(c) whether crucial importance of energy security of the country was taken into consideration for selection of Chairman and Functional Directors of these oil PSUs before February, 2007; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Information is being collected from the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and will be furnished.

(b) A Search-cum-Selection Committee has been constituted by the Government for selection of Chairman and Managing Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government is sensitive to the crucial importance of the oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for the energy security of the country.

*[Translation]*

**Crude Oil Production in Mumbai High**

2330. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) whether the work of crude oil production started in the Mumbai High;

(b) whether the crude oil production has declined in the Mumbai High because of the oil wells there have become old;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the rate of decline registered in its production there, in terms of percentage; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/being taken to increase the production in the Mumbai High?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The crude oil production from Mumbai High started in May 1976.

(b) Yes, Sir, the crude oil production had declined in Mumbai High field in past as the oil wells have become old and productivity of wells has gone down.

(c) The field registered its peak production of 20.085 million metric tonne (MMT) in 1989-90. After crossing its plateau, the production gradually declined to 10.966 MMT in 1993-94 which is a natural phenomenon in the life span of any producing field.

Before the launch of re-development programme, the average oil production decline rate during 1995-2000 was around 6-8% and thereafter improvement in production was observed.

(d) A rolling redevelopment plan has been strategised to sustain/augment production from Mumbai High which includes adoption of state-of-the art technologies, infill drilling based on geo-scientific and engineering studies, hiring of domain experts in various areas of activities, optimization of surface facilities, etc.

[English]

### Defence Suppliers

2331. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of approved suppliers of meat, eggs and milk to the Armed Forces of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): The approved suppliers for meat and eggs are classified based on the following parameters:

- (a) **Class 'A' Contractors:** Contract carrying capacity of these Contractors would be above 7.20 crores.
- (b) **Class 'B' Contractors:** Contract carrying capacity of these Contractors will be above 2.40 crores and upto 7.20 crores.
- (c) **Class 'C' Contractors:** Contract carrying capacity of these Contractors will be upto 2.40 crores.

The command-wise details of existing approved suppliers are as under:

Command	Classification		
	Class 'A'	Class 'B'	Class 'C'
Southern Command	12	57	58
Eastern Command	10	68	100
Western Command	33	67	57
Central Command	13	52	84
Northern Command	34	120	69
South Western Command	05	31	27
Total	107	395	395

Fresh Milk is being procured by Army Supply Corps and Military Farms through negotiated contracts with National Co-operative Dairy Federation of India and its member Federations/State Co-operatives. Fifty eight (58) State Federations are participating in negotiated contracts for supply of fresh milk.

### Cooch Behar Airport

2332. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to operate the Cooch Behar Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to become operational?

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

(b) and (c) The strengthening/expansion of runway to 3700 ft., renovation of Terminal building and installation of Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) has been completed by Airports Authority of India (AAI). The operationalization of airport is contingent to removal of some obstacles in the approach path by the State Government.

[Translation]

### Availability of Petroleum and Natural Gas Reserves

2333. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:  
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:  
SHRI AMITAVA NANDY:  
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

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

(a) the latest status of the availability and possibility of oil and gas in the country;

(b) the total consumption of oil and gas in the country at present;

(c) the percentage of the total requirement of the country met by the current oil and gas reserves;

(d) the quantity of oil and gas imported in addition to the domestic production to meet during each of the last three years the requirement in the country; and

(e) the amount of foreign exchange spent in this regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Crude oil and natural gas production in 2005-06 was 32.19 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and 32.20 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) respectively.

(b) Consumption of petroleum products was 113.2 MMT in 2005-06. Gas supply to various consumers including Regasified Liquid Natural Gas (RLNG) was 68.31 Million Standard Cubic Metre per day (MMSCMD) in 2005-06.

(c) The domestic oil resources accounted for 24.3% of consumption of petroleum products in 2005-06.

(d) The quantity of imported oil and Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) in last three years is as under:—

(Figures in MMT)

	Crude	POL	LNG
2003-04	90.434	8.001	0.062
2004-05	95.861	8.828	2.43
2005-06	99.409	13.441	4.81

(e) The amount of foreign exchange spent on import of crude oil and petroleum products in the last three years is as under:—

(US \$ billion) (Rs. in crore)

	Crude	POL	LNG
2003-04	18.3	2.1	36.00
2004-05	26.0	3.3	1696.05
2005-06	36.6	6.3	3253.48

[English]

#### **Tourist Train**

2334. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have developed a tourist train concept which would encourage chartering of special trains for tourist destinations;

(b) if so, whether the Railways propose to run circular train through south India to boost tourism; and

(c) if so, the action taken or being taken to run circular train connecting important south India tourist destinations?

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

(b) and (c) Indian Railways runs the "Bharat Darshan" tourist trains, which take the tourists to various important tourist destinations across the country. The purpose of running such trains is to give opportunity to a common India citizen to see various places of tourist importance in the country and to popularize tourism in the masses. At present two rakes containing seven coaches with pantry car are being run from south India. The train is covering places like Chennai, Madurai, Warangal, Bangalore, Hyderabad & Vijayawada.

#### **Private Quota for Minority**

2335. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on job reservations for minorities in private sector as appeared in the Business Standard dated February 12, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up any high level Committee to explore possibility of reservation in the private sector on economic grounds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Information was sought from industry associations only regarding emerging jobs in the private sector.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Functioning of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation**

2336. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken/propose to take any steps to examine functioning of National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation;

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

(c) the total amount disbursed under different schemes through National Minorities Development and

Finance Corporation during 2005-06, 2006-07 State/UT wise; and

(d) the total number of beneficiaries under various schemes during the said period State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) An Expert Committee of bankers and financial experts has been constituted for examining the functioning of the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) and suggesting an action plan for improving the strategy and operational performance of NMDFC.

(c) and (d) A statement showing the details of disbursement and number of beneficiaries for 2005-06 and 2006-07 (up to 28.02.2007) is enclosed.

**Statement**

*Details of disbursement and beneficiaries of NMDFC for 2005-06 & 2006-07*

(Amount in Rupees Lakhs)  
(Benf. is in Nos.)

Sl.No.	State	2005-06		2006-07 (upto 28.02.2007)	
		Amt.	Benf.	Amt.	Benf.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	854	7448	745.45	4992
2.	Assam	310	720	25	250
3.	Bihar	1	250	4.5	100
4.	Chandigarh	5	8	0	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	100	137
6.	Delhi	11	72	4.5	25
7.	Gujarat-1	0	0	220	540
8.	Himachal Pradesh	150	144	115	127
9.	Haryana	350	700	415	960
10.	Jammu and Kashmir-1	300	565	370	740
11.	Jharkhand	109	363	2.25	50

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Kerala	2000	6195	660	1254
13.	Karnataka	550	1147	0	0
14.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0
15.	Manipur	0	0	0	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0	—
18.	Nagaland	850	1166	450	834
19.	Orissa	115	501	4.5	140
20.	Pondicherry	5	13	10	25
21.	Punjab	500	963	450	900
22.	Rajasthan	105	246	154.72	335
23.	Tamil Nadu	655	4778	472.45	1396
24.	Tripura	5	50	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1118	2156	0	0
26.	Uttaranchal	309	470	265	292
27.	West Bengal	2510	6304	1618	5102
Total		10812	34259	6086.37	18199

*[English]***Welfare Schemes for Defence Personnel**

2337. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced several welfare schemes for the defence personnel including health and housing for their families and educational schemes for their children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the promotional avenues in Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) There are several welfare schemes for defence personnel. The health care to defence personnel and their families is provided through Military Hospitals while the defence

pensioners and their dependents are covered by Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS). Married Accommodation Project (MAP) is a scheme for construction of houses for the armed forces. Army, Navy and Air Force schools have been established for the education for wards of defence personnel. Other welfare measures for them include Group Insurance and CSD facility.

(c) Promotions in the armed forces are done on the basis of eligibility criteria as laid down for the respective services.

**Infrastructure Status of Pipeline Projects**

2338. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether there is a demand from oil industry for grant of infrastructure status to their pipeline projects;

(b) if so, the advantages and constraints in the grant of such status; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Consequent upon granting of infrastructure status to the pipeline project, a company will get tax relief u/s 80 IB of the Income Tax Act. The demand for granting infrastructure status to the pipeline project has been included in the Union Budget proposal for the year 2007-08.

#### **Contract for Laying Railway Line in Malaysia**

2339. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railway Construction (IRCON) International Limited has bagged contract for laying a rail line in Malaysia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the income likely to be generated by the IRCON therefrom?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Maulana Azad Education Foundation**

2340. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI:  
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance allocated/sanctioned by the Maulana Azad Education Foundation Non-Government Organizations/Local Bodies in different State/Union Territories, under the various schemes during 2006-07, scheme-wise, NGO/Local body-wise and State/UTs-wise;

(b) the financial assistance actually utilised by these NGOs under the said scheme during the said period, scheme-wise NGO/Local body-wise and State/UTs-wise;

(c) whether there are number of cases for release of Grants-in-Aid pending with Maulana Azad Educational Foundation for the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by which these cases are likely to be cleared and founds to be released;

(f) whether the Government is planning to introduce National Overseas Scholarship and passage grants for Higher Studies Abroad for Minorities students; and

(g) if yes, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) During 2006-2007, the Maulana Azad Education Foundation has sanctioned grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 6.07 crore to 38 NGOs. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Grants-in-aid sanctioned by the Foundation are released in two instalments. A period of 18 months is given for completing projects. The second installment is released only after utilization certificate for the first is received.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. On account of limitation of resources, both financial and administrative.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Question does not arise.

#### **Statement**

##### *Grant-in-Aid sanctioned/released during Financial Year 2006-07*

Sl.No.	Name & Address of NGOs	Purpose	Grant-in-Aid	
			Sanctioned (Rs.)	Released
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>				
1.	The New Holy Fathima Educational Society, 19-3-262/2/5/A, Madina Colony, Jahanuma, Hyderabad	Construction of school bldg.	1500000	1050000

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Hyderabad Education Society Moghalpura, Hyderabad	Construction of school bldg.	3000000	2100000
	<b>Biher</b>			
3.	Shatabdi Foundation, C/o Shatabadi Public School, Katari Hill Road, Gaya	Construction of school bldg.	1500000	1050000
4.	Abeda High School, Muzaffarpur	Construction of ITI bldg.	1500000	1050000
	<b>Gujarat</b>			
5.	Bachchon Ka Ghar, At. & PO Vagra Distt. Bharuch	Construction of 50 bedded Girls Hostel bldg.	1500000	1050000
6.	Polan Bazar Sarvajanic Minority Muslim Yuvak Mandal, Madarsa Noorul Islam, Shaikh Mazawar Road, Godhra	Expansion of school bldg.	500000	350000
7.	Adarsh Education Trust, Mehtapura, Himmatnagar, Distt. Sabarkantha	Construction of school bldg.	1000000	700000
8.	Modasa Ghandi Education & Social Welfare Trust, Sabaliya Estate, Sanjar Society, Modasa, Distt. Sabarkantha	Construction of school bldg.	1500000	1050000
9.	The Godhra Muslim Minority Education Society, Opp. Masjid Muslim Society, "A" Vejalpur Road, Godhra	Construction of school bldg.	500000	350000
10.	Jamia Animal Quran, Himmatnagar, Sabarkantha	Construction of school bldg.	1000000	700000
	<b>Haryana</b>			
11.	Gramin Vikas Shiksha Evam Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Distt. Mewat	Expansion of school bldg.	500000	350000
12.	Nawab Shamsuddin Memorial Educational & Social Welfare Society, Distt. Mewat	Expansion of school bldg.	500000	350000
13.	Ansarul Muslimeen, Mohalla Hzt Ghos Ali, Panipat (Haryana)	Completion of incomplete school bldg.	700000	0
	<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>			
14.	Imamiya Mission (Educational & Social Welfare Society), Chuchot, P.B. No. 22, HPO, Leh, Laddakh	Construction of 100 bedded Girls Hostel bldg.	3000000	2100000

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Karnataka</b>				
15.	Salsabeel Educational Trust, Masjid-e-Ummul Hasnain Complex, H-Colony, Indiranagar, Bangalore	Construction of school bldg.	1000000	700000
16.	Rifahul Muslimeen Educational Trust, Farooqia Educational Complex Edgah, Mysore	Construction of school bldg.	1500000	1050000
17.	Bibi Fatima Education Trust, Ring Road, Ilyasnagar, Sarakki Gate, Kanakapura, Bangalore	Construction of ITI bldg.	1500000	1050000
18.	New Muslim Educational Society Bijapur	Construction of ITI bldg.	1500000	0
19.	Citizen Educational Society, Mulbagal Distt. Kolar	Construction of 50 bedded hostel bldg.	1500000	1050000
20.	Al-Ameen Khalid Memorial Residential school Trust, Malur Road, Hoskote, Bangalore (Karnataka)	Construction of 50 bedded girls hostel bldg.	1500000	1050000
<b>Kerala</b>				
21.	Irshadiya Charitable Trust Koovallor PO, Kothamangalam, Distt. Ernakulam	Expansion of school bldg.	1200000	840000
22.	Islamic Welfare Trust, PO: Omassery, Koduvally, Distt. Kozhikode (Kerala)	Construction of 50 bedded girls hostel bldg.	1500000	1050000
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>				
23.	St. Judge Education Society, 60 Syed Colony, Housing Board Colony, Karond, Bhopal	Construction of school bldg.	1500000	1050000
24.	Maulana Azad Education Society Dongaria, Tehsil Lalburi, Distt. Balaghat (MP)	Construction of 80 bedded boys hostel bldg.	2500000	1750000
25.	New Holy Home Education Society, 10, Kotwali Gali, Budhuwara, Bhopal	Purchase of Furniture	225000	0
<b>Maharashtra</b>				
26.	Anjuman Mifidul Yatama 11, Siddique Lane, Off Mohd. Umar Rajjab Road, Mandanpura, Mumbai	Purchase of lab equipment & computers	350000	0



1	2	3	4	5
27.	Anjuman-e-Islam, Mumbai, 92, D.N. Road, Off. Badruddin Tayyabji Marg, C.S.T. Mumbai	Construction of Sobhani Hostel	5000000	3500000
28.	Fajandar Education Trust At. & Post Vahoor, Distt. Raigad	Construction of 100 bedded Girls Hostel bldg.	3000000	2100000
29.	Talimi-Adara-e-Mubarakia, Aurwat, Distt. Kolhapur	Construction of school bldg.	1000000	1050000
30.	Paschim Maharashtra Education Trust, 992, Ravivar Peth, Pune (Maharashtra)	Construction of 100 bedded hostel bldg.	6000000	4200000
31.	Ekta Cultural & Educational Sanstha CIDCO, Aurangabad (Maharashtra)	Construction of school bldg.	1000000	700000
<b>Rajasthan</b>				
32.	Rajputana Mohammad Ali Memorial Trust, Opp. Bus Stand, Beawar	Expansion of school bldg.	1500000	1050000
33.	Darul Uloom Faize Ghusia Sansthan Kharchi, Tq. Ramsar, Distt. Barmer	Construction of school bldg.	1500000	1050000
34.	The Three Dots Children Academy Churu Bye Pass, Jhunjhunu	Construction of 100 bedded Boys Hostel bldg.	3000000	2100000
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>				
35.	Crescent Education Society Bangalore Road, Kurubarapalli, Tq. Krishnagairi, Distt. Dharamapuri	Expansion of school bldg.	1500000	1050000
36.	Al-Ameen Idara-e-Aamma Trust, Tirupattur (TN)	Expansion of school bldg.	1000000	700000
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>				
37.	Quami Refahi Society C/o Herra Public School, Hanswar, Distt. Ambedkar Nagar	Expansion of school bldg.	1200000	840000
38.	Islamia School Samiti, Maqboolganj, Raibareli (UP)	Construction of school bldg.	1000000	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>60675000</b>	<b>40180000</b>

**Relaxations in Rules to Private Airlines**

2341. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:  
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
 SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the private airlines companies permitted to start new air services in the country during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government has also given permission to several private airlines to purchase/import aircraft;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the terms and conditions stipulated in this regard;

(d) the number of aeroplanes procured/leased/or taken on lease by these private airlines for their new services;

(e) whether the relaxations in rules have also been given to these airlines for overcoming the shortage of trained pilots; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Six new scheduled airlines have been permitted to start new air services in the country during the last two years. In addition, an initial NOC to operate Scheduled air Transport Service has also been granted to one more company.

(b) to (d) NOC for import of 147 aircraft has been granted to Scheduled Airlines during the last two years. 117 aeroplanes have been procured/leased/taken on lease by these private airlines. Aircraft are allowed to be imported subject to airworthiness requirements and operational control of Aircraft leased by Indian Operators as contained in the relevant Civil Aviation Requirement (CARs).

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

**Creation of New South Western Zone**

2342. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:  
 SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways consider the formation of a new Zone to be called the South Western Zone, consisting of Trivandrum, Palghat, which would consist of areas from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka viable, economically and technically;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**PM Adarsh Gram Yojana for Minority Communities**

2343. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
 SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated 'Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana' to protect the interests of Minority Communities;

(b) if so, the detailed and salient features thereof;

(c) the provision of annual expenditure under this scheme; and

(d) the date from which this scheme is likely to be implemented in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

*[English]*

**Amendment in the Wakf Act, 1995**

2344. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Wakf Act, 1995 is adequate on many counts to manage wakf estate property;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any memorandum and suggestions in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has identified the areas for amendment of the Act; and

(e) if so, the action the Government is going to take to amend the Wakf Act?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) Amendment of the Wakf Act, 1995 is under consideration.

*[Translation]*

#### **High Speed Trains Agreement with Italian Railways**

2345. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently signed an agreement for co-operation with a number of countries and especially with the Italian Railways reported in "Dainik Jagran" dated 16th February, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details in regard to the agreements signed between India and various other countries for the development of Railways during the last three years and the current year;

(d) the total funds required for operating high speed trains; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 3.7.2006 between the India Railways and Ferrovie Dello Stato (Italian Railways) to promote cooperation in rail sector between the two countries. Similar agreements have been signed with German Railway, Russian Railways, South African Railways and French Railways during the last three years.

(d) and (e) High Speed Trains running at speeds above 250 Kmph require separate infrastructure including track, signalling, rolling stock, traction etc. and cannot be run on the existing network of Indian Railways. Construction of Dedicated High Speed Corridors require high capital investment ranging from Rs. 50 Crores per kilometre to above Rs. 200 Crores per kilometre. The Ministry of Railways has decided to undertake the pre-feasibility studies for construction of high speed corridors covering one route in each region of the country, namely, East, West, North and South.

*[English]*

#### **Revenue from Ticketed Monuments**

2346. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of total revenue collection from the ticketed monuments protected by the Government during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government is considering to include more monuments in the protected list;

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

(d) the financial assistance provided to States for the protection of the monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The details of revenue collected as entrance fee at centrally protected monuments during the last three years are as under:

2003-04	Rs. 4359.88 lakhs
2004-05	Rs. 5289.47 lakhs
2005-06	Rs. 5391.06 lakhs

(b) and (c) Archaeological Survey of India is in the process of issuing final notification for protection of the following monuments:

1. Hanuman Temple Complex, Connaught Place, Delhi.
2. Gurni of Shaikh Ali at Defence Colony, Delhi.
3. Kala Gumbad, Pragati Village, Delhi.
4. Shikargah, Jaunti village, Delhi.

5. Narsingharh Fort (Madhya Pradesh)
6. Sthalasayanaperumal Temple, (Tamil Nadu)
7. Gompas & Other historical remains adjoining to Leh Palace, Leh, Ladakh, (Jammu and Kashmir)
8. Siva Temple complex, Pallimanah, Trissur (Kerala)

(d) Archaeological Survey of India does not extend financial assistance to the States for protection of the monuments.

#### **Baggage Checking by Private Developers**

2347. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether passing of baggage skipping security check in international flights is a money spinner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give the private developers the task of baggage checking;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has taken into account the security and the national interest before giving the task to private developers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Appointment on Compassionate Ground**

2348. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications received by various departments for seeking appointment on compassionate ground during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of persons appointed, applications rejected and pending cases out of the total applications received;

(c) the reasons for rejection and pendency of cases;

(d) whether the Government proposes to fix a time frame for such appointments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(c) As per extant policy on compassionate appointment, up to 5% of civilian Group 'C' & 'D' vacancies under direct recruitment quota are available for making appointment on compassionate grounds. Large number of cases are pending or have to be rejected due to non-availability of adequate vacancies for this purpose.

(d) and (e) The existing policy on compassionate appointment as contained in DoP&T O.M. No. 14014/18/2002-Estt. (D) dated 5.5.2003 prescribes a time frame of 3 years during which a case for compassionate appointment can be kept under consideration, subject to periodic review and thereafter if the case has not been absorbed, it is to be closed.

*[English]*

#### **Fuel Centre**

2349. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for setting up of a flight fueling centre in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No such proposal has been received from the State Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**BHEL Plant at Haldia**

2350. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether BHEL proposes to set up an energy efficient and environment friendly co-generation power plant at Haldia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project and the time by which the work in the plant is likely to be completed; and

(d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government 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) A 'Frame-V' Gas Turbine based Cogeneration Power Plant is being set up by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for which the contract has been awarded to BHEL. The value of the contract placed on BHEL by IOCL is Rs. 165 crore. As per the contract, the scheduled date for completion of the co-generation power plant is October, 2008.

**Export Boosting by Railways**

2351. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways and its PSUs have drawn out a plan for boosting exports in India's neighbourhood; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the foreign market proposed to be tapped and locomotives, coaches and other items of Indian manufacture in respect of which export potential is intended to be tapped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes Sir, IRCON International Ltd. and RITES Ltd. are exporting rolling stock to neighbouring countries. Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) are strengthening corridors to hinterland to provide better port connectivity to boost exports.

(b) IRCON is running meter gauge diesel/electrical locomotives on a lease cum maintenance contract to Malaysia since 1963. The state Railway of Thailand (SRT) had shown interest in the concept of leasing-cum-maintenance contract and a trial is scheduled to be held in March, 2007 for running of IRCON locomotives in Thailand.

RITES has plans to tap export potential for locomotives, coaches and other items of Indian manufacture in neighbouring countries. Details are given below:

- Export of diesel locomotives, wagons, crew rest vans and Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) to Sri Lanka for proposed rehabilitation of Coastal Railway line.
- To compete for export of locomotives & coaches to Bangladesh against global tenders expected to be floated shortly against funding by multi-lateral financing agencies.
- RITES is following up on a proposal to supply in-services diesel locomotives and coaches to Myanmar for which preparatory work has commenced.
- RITES has already submitted a proposal for leasing of diesel locomotives to Pakistan and also plans to participate in their future tenders for purchase of diesel locomotives and coaches.

Anti-Collision-Device (ACD) patented by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. is under trial on Northeast Frontier Railway. After successful conclusion of these trials, Konkan Railway intends to explore foreign market for the export of this device.

*[Translation]*

**Rail Links to Border Villages**

2352. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to link the villages near the border areas with railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said areas are likely to be linked with rail services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, some surveys have been taken up to examine rail links with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

*[English]*

#### **Wastage of Fruits and Vegetables**

2353. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that fruits and vegetables worth Rs. 50,000 crore are wasted in the country every year;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some foreign retail giants have shown interest to buy processed food from India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to exploit such offers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (f) 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 & Regulation) Act, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc. The loss due to wastes could be reduced by a developed food processing industry, strengthening of the post-harvest infrastructure and filling the gaps in the supply chain.

The Government, through its schemes for financial assistance for development of food processing industry and other promotional measures, plays a proactive and facilitating role for overall development of food processing sector in the country so as to encourage the industry to make quality products acceptable to buyers international market. With huge potential of retail driven demand, many retail giants including foreign companies have shown growing interest in Indian Agri and Processed food

products. Government through its schematic and policy support is facilitating better market access to the farmers for their long-term economic sustainability and better choice to consumers.

#### **Harassment of SC Students**

2354. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Scheduled Castes students of IITs, IIMs, IISc, Bangalore and AIIMS, New Delhi are being harassed in their respective institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the particulars and nature of alleged atrocities being committed at these institutes;

(c) whether any representations have been received by the Government requesting for intervention; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to set right the injustice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) No case of harassment by any of the Scheduled Castes students in IIMs has been reported to the Government.

IISc, Bangalore has not reported any case of harassment of such students.

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor S.D. Thorat, Chairman, University Grants Commission, was set up on 12th September, 2006 to look into the complaints on the alleged harassment to SC/ST students in AIIMS.

One complaint relating to a PhD student of IIT, Delhi has been reported to the Government which, on preliminary inquiry, has been found baseless.

*[Translation]*

#### **Maintenance of Aircraft**

2355. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO  
GAWALI:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of airworthy planes is less than the requirement;

(b) if so, whether there is lack of infrastructure and other facilities for maintenance, repair and overhaul of such planes;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) All the aircraft in Air India's fleet are airworthy and are made available to meet the commercial schedule. In so far as Indian Airlines is concerned, some of the Airbus A 320 are grounded due to non-availability of serviceable engines and aircraft undergoing major maintenance.

(b) No, Sir. There is no shortage of engine overhaul facilities.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

#### **Development of Ancient Sports**

2356. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special scheme is proposed to be formulated to attract the tourists towards the sports associated with the ancient culture and religion of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Defence Deals and Procurement of Weapons**

2357. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any method has been adopted by the Government to speed up deals and procure weapons early;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) Government has promulgated Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2006 with effect from 1st September, 2006, to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought and time frame prescribed.

Following steps have been taken in DPP-2006 to speed up the Defense Acquisition:

(i) Time frame for procurement activities has been incorporated in DPP-2006 and major deviation would be monitored at the highest level. The time frames has been prescribed in DPP-2006 to reduce internal lead time for procurements as it brings in checks and balances to avoid multi-layered examination on file and follow a path of collegiate functioning at all levels. All major decisions as per the procedure in vogue are being taken at the initiation of the case at the highest level in a time bound manner, which is aimed to reduce the overall lead time for procurement. These include:-

- (a) Acceptance of Necessity
- (b) Quantities to be procured
- (c) Categorisation i.e. 'Buy', 'Make' or 'Buy & Make'.
- (d) Single Vendor Clearance (if applicable)
- (e) Offset percentages (If applicable)
- (f) Detailed scope of trials
- (g) Nomination of productoin agency in cases involving Transfer of Technology (ToT).

(ii) In order to reduce time taken at commercial negotiations and in line with the recommendation of Central Vigilance Commission, there would be no negotiations with L1 bidder in multi vendor cases.

The financial powers of Raksha Mantri & Finance Minister have been enhanced along with delegation of Capital Acquisition powers to the Services (upto Rs. 10 crores) which would speed up the acquisition process.

*[Translation]***Rate of Catering Services**

2358. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways contemplating to increase the rates of catering services; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

**Assistance for setting up of Food Processing Industries**

2359. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE  
PATIL:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has fixed any criteria for providing assistance for setting up of food processing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether officials cause unnecessary delay in regard to processing of applications received by them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan Scheme for technology upgradation/modernization/establishment of food processing industries extends financial assistance to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs for technology upgradation/modernization/establishment of food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 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 & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas. Under the Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission for Development of Horticulture, in difficult and high horticultural potential areas, assistance at still higher rates @ 50% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 crores is available for processing of horticultural produce.

(c) and (d) The applicant units have to provide necessary documents and details as prescribed in the applications for seeking financial assistance under the Scheme. However, in case of incomplete information, the applicant units are required to furnish all relevant information required for processing the grant. Periodical internal review is undertaken by senior officers in case of pending applications. Meetings are also held with the State Nodal Agencies, which are State Government Departments/Corporations which forward the applications from the entrepreneurs and provide interface with the Ministry for speedy receipt of required information and documents for expeditious disposal of the applications. To bring transparency in the procedure for disposal of the applications, the status of each pending application has been displayed on the website of the Ministry. The Government will implement this scheme in a decentralized manner from the 11th Plan by routing new applications through the banks.

**Gauge Conversion of Bareilly-Mathura-Agra**

2360. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gauge Conversion of Kathgodam-Bareilly-Mathura-Agra route has been approved by the railways;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On Kathgodam-Bareilly-Mathura-Agra route, a broad gauge line on Lalkua-Kathgodam section and double broad gauge line on Agra-Mathura section already exist. Further, the gauge conversion of Mathura-Bareilly-Lalkua section has been taken up as a part of Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura and



Kasganj-Bareilly-Lalkua (554.50 Kms) gauge conversion project. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources and is expected to be completed in next 2-3 years.

#### **Private Participation in Production of Defence Items**

2361. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued licences to various private companies for production of defence items during the last few years;

(b) if so, the name and full address of such private companies;

(c) the likely impact on the work to be allocated to Indian companies and the benefits and facilities being enjoyed by them as a result of defence purchases to be made from foreign companies under the offset policy of the Government; and

(d) the estimated target of the work to be allocated to the Indian companies during the 11th Five-Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Names and addresses of the private companies which have obtained licences are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Under the offset procedure notified as part of Defence Procurement Procedure-2006, offset obligations shall be discharged directly by the foreign vendor by direct purchase of, or executing export orders for, defence products and components manufactured by, or services provided by Indian defence industries.

Substantial benefits are likely to accrue to Indian companies as a result of defence purchases to be made from foreign companies under the offset policy during the 11th Five-Year Plan. It is, however, not feasible to estimate the target of work to be allotted to them.

#### **Statement**

Sl.No.	Name of the firm	Address
1	2	3
1.	M/s Ramoss India	106, Mohta Building, 4, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066
2.	M/s Larsen & Toubro Limited	Powai Works Saki Vihar Road, P.O. Box 8901, Mumbai-400072 (Maharashtra)
3.	M/s Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	Jeevan Deep Building, 8, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
4.	M/s Max Aerospace & Aviation Ltd.	3rd Floor, Malakni Chamber, Off. Nehru Road, Vile Parle (East), Mumbai-400099 (Maharashtra)
5.	M/s Anjani Technoplast Ltd.	A-4, Hosier Complex, Phase-II Extn., Noida-201301, (Uttar Pradesh)
6.	M/s TIL Limited	517, B.T. Road, Kolkata-700058 (West Bengal)
7.	M/s Southern Group Industries Pvt. Ltd.	72 Raja Annamalai Bldg. Marshalls Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008 (Tamil Nadu)
8.	M/s Automotive Coaches and Cantonments Ltd.	Sudarshan Building, 86, Chamiers Road, Chennai-600018 (Tamil Nadu)
9.	M/s HBL Power Systems Ltd.	8-2-601, Road No. 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500034 (Andhra Pradesh)

1	2	3
10.	M/s Tata Motors Ltd.	Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai-400001 (Maharashtra)
11.	M/s BF Utilities Ltd.	Mundhwa, Pune-411036 (Maharashtra)
12.	M/s TSL Defence Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	208-216, Aurbindo Place, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
13.	M/s Vectra Engg. Materials Pvt. Ltd.	A-54, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110048
14.	M/s RMX Bridport Defence Systems Pvt. Ltd.	G-5, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi-110065
15.	M/s IDT Limited	A-23, New Office Complex, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024
16.	M/s Alpha-ITL Electro Optics Pvt. Ltd.	24, Service Road, Domlur II Stage Extn., Indira Nagar, Bangalore-560071 (Karnataka)
17.	M/s Alpha Phazotron Radar Equipment & Systems Pvt. Ltd.	24, Service Road, Domlur II Stage Extn., Indira Nagar, Bangalore-560071 (Karnataka)
18.	M/s VXL Technologies Ltd.	20/3, Mathura Road, Faridabad-121006 (Haryana)
19.	M/s Memory Electronics Private Limited	C-1, Udyog Sadan, 3 MIDC, Andheri (E), Mumbai-400093 (Maharashtra)
20.	M/s Indtech Constructions Pvt. Ltd.	17-18, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
21.	M/s Tata Power Company Ltd.	Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai-400001 (Maharashtra)
22.	M/s Alpha Design Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	09, Service Road, Hall II Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560008

*[English]***Rolling Stock**

2362. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways propose to make India a manufacturing hub for rolling stock and other critical railway equipment to capture a significant share of the south-east Asian Market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of investment likely to be made and quantity of rolling stock to be manufactured under this joint-venture?

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

(c) Does not arise. However, with the recent economic upsurge in the country, there has been growth in the traffic demands of the Indian Railways, which is expected to continue into the 11th and 12th Five Year Plans.

To meet the enhanced requirements of rolling stock and components, the Ministry of Railways, are setting up the following factories:

1. A Rail Coach Factory in an estimated cost of Rs. 1685 crores
2. A Diesel Locomotive Factory at an estimated cost of Rs. 2052 crores

3. A Electric Locomotive Factory at an estimated cost of Rs. 1293.57 crores (for which approval has been sought)
4. A Wheel Manufacturing Plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 877.65 crores

All avenues to fund these projects including Joint Ventures, shall be explored. A small amount of Rolling Stock is being exported from the existing Production Units for furthering India's diplomatic interests abroad, and for maintaining a presence in the global rolling stock market. It is expected that the extent of export shall grow when new factories are commissioned.

[Translation]

#### Private Flights in Non-Peak Hours

2363. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to allow private airlines to operate their flights during non-peak hours only to avoid congestion in air traffic in various airports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ease the air traffic at various airports of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) In order to ease congestion in the air, there is a proposal to encourage/incentivise airline companies to operate more flights during non-peak hours at Delhi and Mumbai airports. Some more measures are also being explored to ease the congestion. However, non final decision has been taken in the matter.

[English]

#### Subsidy on LPG and Kerosene

2364. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:  
SHRI GANESH SINGH:  
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

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

(a) subsidy given by the Government/OMCs on petroleum products, product-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government had prepared a policy to phase out subsidies on LPG and Kerosene;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this policy has been implemented;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the subsidy on domestic cooking gas and kerosene supplied to under public distribution system was extended; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The subsidy given by the Government and public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) on LPG Domestic and PDS kerosene and for the current year *i.e.* 2006-07 (Apr-Dec' 06) is given below:

#### LPG (Domestic)

	Per Unit Subsidy (Rs./Cyl.)		
	From Govt. Budget	By Oil Companies*	Total
2006-07 (Apr-Dec' 06) (Estimated)	22.58	154.51	177.09

#### LPG Kerosene

	Per Unit Subsidy (Rs./Litre)		
	From Govt. Budget	By Oil Companies*	Total
2006-07 (Apr-Dec' 06) (Estimated)	0.82	15.95	16.77

\*Gross under-recoveries without considering refinery discount, oil bonds and upstream assistance.

(b) to (g) Government is administering the PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002 through which the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are being paid subsidy currently at 1/3rd level of 2002-03 at a flat rate from the Union Budget. The subsidy from Government has been frozen at the current level and is to be phased out in 2006-07. The issue of further continuation of the Scheme is under the consideration of the Government.

**Freight Corridor between Delhi-Mumbai**

2365. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any MoU has been signed between RVNL, Gujarat Maritime Board, GIDC, Adani Port Ltd. and ONGC for gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej railway line;

(b) if so, the equity contribution of each stakeholder in the project;

(c) whether any public sector undertaking of Government of India is also willing to invest in equity for the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time frame for planning and implementation of the project;

(f) whether it is proposed to integrate this corridor with dedicated freight corridor between Delhi-Mumbai; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed among Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), Gujarat Maritime Board and Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC).

(b) The proposed equity contribution (Rupees in crores) agreed by the shareholders so far is as under:-

Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)—25

Dahej Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Ltd.—10

Gujarat Maritime Board—10

Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Company Ltd.—10

Adani Petronet (Dahej) Port Pvt. Ltd.—10

(c) and (d) No such response was received against Expression of Interest floated by RVNL.

(e) A time frame can be fixed only after signing of Concession Agreement.

(f) and (g) It will be possible to integrate Bharuch-Dahej new line with Western Dedicated Freight Corridor.

[Translation]

**Naxalite Attack on Passenger Train**

2366. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the naxalities had hijacked the Tata-Kharagpur passenger train and looted the weapons of RPF jawans;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith loss of lives and properties therein; and

(c) the stringent action proposed to be taken by the Railways to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 10.12.2006 Train No. 346 Dn. (Tata-Kharagpur Passenger) was stopped at 10.17 hrs. by pulling alarm chain between Chakulia and Kani Mohali in passenger halt in Kharagpur-Tata Nagar section over South Eastern Railway. A gang of naxalites, who were sitting in disguise of passengers in the SLR compartment attached to Guard's Lobby attacked the Cash Escort Party of Railway Protection Force and snatched away the arms and ammunitions from both the RPF personnel. The Railway Protection Force staff sustained bleeding injuries on their persons during the attack. The naxalities also snatched two walkie-talkie sets and whistle from the Driver and the Guard respectively. However, there was no loss of life in this incident.

In this connection, Government Railway Police/Tata Nagar registered a case vide Cr. No. 100/2005 dated 10.12.2006 U/s 395, 397 Indian Penal Code (IPC), 27 Arms Act and 17 Criminal Law Amendment Act and arrested one miscreant.

(c) The following actions are being taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future:—

(1) The strength of Cash and Train Escorting Party of Railway Protection Force in the said affected section has been increased.

(2) Training to Railway Protection Force personnel in counter-insurgency is being imparted to enable them to handle ambush attacks effectively.

(3) Intelligence is being collected regarding the movement of the subversive groups in the

affected sections in close liaison with State and Central Intelligence Agencies for taking appropriate preventive steps in time.

- (4) Close co-ordination with Civil Police, Government Railway Police and other Central Intelligence Agencies is being maintained for sharing of intelligence.

#### **Relevance of Railway Zones**

2367. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the railway zones have been set up to benefit the Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said objective has been achieved;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the reformative measures adopted by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) With the creation of smaller administrative railway zones, it has been possible to achieve an all round improvement in the functioning of the railways due to better supervision and monitoring. Since all zones contribute to the performance of Indian Railways as a whole, the improvement in overall performance of the Indian Railways indicates a significant contribution of the new zones. The following indices reflect the improvement in the performance of the Indian Railways.

During the period April 2006 to January 2007 the originating freight loading was 593.67 million tones as compared to 542.81 million tones during the corresponding period of the previous year, recording an increase of 50.86 million tones implying a growth of 9.37%. Similarly, the total transport output in terms of Net Tonne Kilometres (NTKMs) increased from 358770 million NTKMs to 389170 million NTKMs, which is an increase of 30400 million NTKMs, indicating an overall growth of 8.47%.

The total earnings of Indian Railways during 2006-07 upto February 2007 (approximate) is Rs. 55644.30 crore

as compared to Rs. 48473.64 crore earned during corresponding period of the last year i.e. an increase of 14.79%.

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Accidents during Land Mines Clearing Operations**

2368. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:  
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of soldiers/civilians killed during land mines clearing operations on Indo-Pak border and Line of Control;
- (b) the reasons for accidents during land mines clearance operations;
- (c) whether such accidents during clearance of land mines happened mainly due to non-availability of high quality machines; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for providing latest gazettes and security equipment of Army for quick and timely clearance of land mines?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) One soldier and 61 civilian casualties occurred during land mine clearing operations on Indo-Pak border and Line of Control.

(b) To ensure safety in demining operations, duly trained army personnel who laid the mines and were familiar with the terrain, are employed in mine recovery. Although detailed mapping of minefields is done, due to prolonged deployment some mines sink and get drifted away because of the terrain and environmental conditions. At times, it is further aggravated by rodents tugging at mines, leading to their displacement.

(c) and (d) Mechanical mine recovery equipment was used extensively in mine recovery operations. In addition, soldiers involved in mine clearance operations post Op Parakram were provided with adequate protective gear. Mine detection dogs were also utilized where required. Upgrading of technology is a continuous process.

#### **Over-Bridge at Belsa Crossing**

2369. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the works accomplished so far by the Uttar Pradesh Setu Nigam on Belsa Crossing (Level crossing No. 29A) on Azamgarh-Sarai Rani rail route for which Rs. 50 lakh has been released during 2006-07;

(b) the amount likely to be spent on the overbridge over Belsa crossing near Azamgarh alongwith the amount earmarked for the next year; and

(c) the steps being taken for initiating the construction works and to ensure their timely completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Alignment plan has been finalized. Profile sketch has been sent to State Government for submitting combined General Arrangement Drawing (GAD).

(b) The work estimated to cost Rs. 602.79 lakh each to Railway and State Government. An outlay of Rs. 15 lakh has been proposed during 2007-08.

(c) All out efforts will be made to complete work in time after GAD is approved and Detailed (Combined) Estimate is sanctioned.

#### **Maintenance of Ancient Statues**

2370. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ancient statues of archaeological importance seized in police or CBI raids are not kept properly resulting into damage to these statues;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to hand over such statues to the Archaeological Survey of India; and

(c) the extent of success achieved by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. The ancient statues of archaeological importance seized by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in various cases pertaining to the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 are kept in Malkhana which is well maintained by the Antiquity Unity of the CBI.

(b) and (c) Archaeological Survey of India is accepting such antiquities which are confiscated in favour of the Archaeological Survey of India by the courts at the conclusion of the trial.

*[English]*

#### **Commission on Categorisation of SCs**

2371. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission set up by the Government for categorisation of Scheduled Castes has been non-functional due to refusal by the Chairman so appointed to assume office;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government for appointment of a new Chairman of the Commission; and

(c) the time-frame by which the Commission propose to give its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In accordance with para 6 of the Resolution notified in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), the tenure of National Commission to examine the issue of Sub-Categorisation of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh in one year from the date of taking over of the charge by the Chairperson. The process of appoint the Chairperson has already been initiated.

*[Translation]*

#### **Development of Stations from Manikpur to Jhansi**

2372. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes proposed by the Railways for the doubling and electrification of rail tracks and overall development of stations from Manikpur to Jhansi;

(b) the time by which the Railways is likely to take positive decision on various proposals in this regard;

(c) the time by which said zone is likely to be benefited with the various schemes of Railways; and

(d) the reasons for constant neglect of the zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present, there is no scheme/sanctioned work for doubling & electrification of railway line from Manikpur to Jhansi. However, the

following development works have been planned at various stations from Manikpur to Jhansi:-

- (i) Extension of platforms to accommodate 23/24 coaches trains at Manikpur, Mahoba, Harpalpur, Atarra & Chitrakutdham Karwi stations.
- (ii) One additional platform made at Atarra.
- (iii) Extension of platform shelter at Mahoba and Banda.
- (iv) Improvement of Water supply arrangement at Baruasagar, Niwari stations.
- (v) Improvement of station building, platform, circulating area at Chitrakutdham Karwi and Atarra stations.
- (vi) Extension of Loop line at Newari, Kulpahar, Teherka, Ranipur Road, Belatal, Orchha and Baruasagar stations to accommodate longer trains.
- (vii) Improvement of staff and public amenity works at station platforms, retiring/waiting rooms, circulating area, roads and other buildings etc. by augmentation of power supply, providing lighting, illumination, air circulators, high mast towers etc. at Jhansi, Banda, Atarra, Chitrakutdham Karwi and Manikpur stations. It includes provision of 1 no. 62.5 KW DG set at Chitrakutdham Karwi.

(b) and (c) Some of the above planned works have been done and remaining shall be executed during the year 2007-08. Railway and Rail users shall be benefited with these facilities as and when works completed during the year.

(d) There is no negligence of developmental works on this zone.

*[English]*

#### **Processed Fruits and Vegetables in A.P.**

2373. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:  
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:

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

(a) whether only 2% of fruits and vegetables in the country is estimated to be processed;

(b) if so, the potentials of each State particularly of Andhra Pradesh is processing of fruits and vegetables; and

(c) the steps/measures taken/being taken by the Union Government to boost the food processing industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The utilisation of fruits and vegetables for processing is estimated to be around 2.20% of the total production. The major fruits and vegetables used, amongst other, for processing include mango, apple, pineapple, orange, litchi, mushrooms, tomato, potato, pea, chilly, garlic etc. There is large potential of fruit and vegetables processing in the country including Andhra Pradesh.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes provides financial assistance up to 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil work subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% up to Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas for Technological upgradation/modernization and establishment of food processing industries including fruit and vegetables processing industries. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, higher levels of assistance @ 50% upto Rs. 4.00 crore for a setting up and Rs. 1.00 crore for upgradation of fruit and vegetables processing is allowed. The Government of India has also launched the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) for holistic development of Horticulture in the country.

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 for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. In order to give boost to growth of FPI sector the Government has allowed in 2004-05, under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived for promotion of dairy processing industries. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%.

Excise duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. In the Budget of 2005-06 excise duty of Rs. 1.00 per kg on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per kg on vanaspati was abolished. Customs duty on refrigerated vans was reduced from 20% to 10%. In the Budget of 2006-07, custom duty on packaging machines has been reduced from 15 per cent to 5 per cent, excise duty on condensed milk, ice cream, preparations of meat, fish and poultry, pectins, pasta and yeast has been fully exempted, excise duty on ready-to-eat packaged foods and instant food mixes, like dosa and idli mixes has been reduced from 16 per cent to 8 per cent, excise duty on aerated drinks has been reduced from 24 per cent to 16 per cent and excise duty on packaging paper has been reduced from 16 per cent to 12 per cent. Taxation has been lowered with a view to encourage the growth of Food Processing Industries. In Union Budget 2007-08, it has been proposed to reduce excise duty on biscuits (with retail price not exceeding Rs. 50/kg) and all types of food mixes including instant mixes to 0% from 8%. Customs Duty on Food Processing Machinery is proposed to be reduced from 7.5% to 5%. These measures are designed inter alia to promote and link processing with production. In order to rationalise multiplicity of food laws, an Integrated Food Law *i.e.* The Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2006 has now been enacted. The main objective of the Bill is bring about a single statute relating to food and establish Food Safety and Standards Authority with a view to lay down food standards, effective regulation and enforcement

mechanism. However, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is now the nodal Ministry for implementation of the Act.

[Translation]

#### Petrol Pumps in Rajasthan

2374. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps in Rajasthan at present, company-wise;

(b) the number of petrol pumps closed during the last three years along with the reasons therefor, company-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The number of Retail Outlets (ROs) and the under of RO closed down in the State of Rajasthan belonging to the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and IBP Co. Ltd. (IBP) are given below:-

Name of the OMC	Number of ROs in the State of Rajasthan as on 1.2.2007	Number of ROs closed down in the State of Rajasthan during the last three years (2003-05, 2004-05 and 2005-06)	Reasons for the closure of Petrol Pumps
IOC	856	4	Adulteration and CBI raid.
BPCL	490	9	Action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines, resignation, litigation, court cases, closure of road/traffic diversion, etc.
HPCL	613	7	Poor performance, stock variation, withdrawal of selling license by the District authorities, disputes among the legal heirs, etc.
IBP	130	2	Unauthorized reconstitution and violation of Dealership Agreement
<b>Total</b>	<b>2089</b>	<b>22</b>	



(c) The steps being taken by OMCs to prevent adulteration and stock variation include regular/surprise inspections, sample testing, octane rating test, blue dyeing of SKO, introduction of Smart Card, use of marker system, introduction of tamper proof locking system, installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) in tank trucks, etc.

[English]

#### **Night Landing Facilities at Airports**

2375. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDLWAL:  
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:  
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that night landing facilities have not been made available at some of the airports in the country;

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

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

(d) the funds allocated/proposed to be allocated by the Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Night landing facility is not available at the following operational airports:

Agati, Akola, Baramati, Bhuntar (Kullu), Dehradun, Gaggal (Kangra), Gondia, Jabalpur, Juhu, Kanpur, Kargil, Keshod, Kota, Kandla, Ludhiana, Mysore, Pantnagar, Pondicherry, Porbandar, Rajamundry, Salem, Shillong (Umroi), Shimla, Silchar, Tuticorin and Vellore airports.

(b) Night landing facility has not been provided at some airports either due to lack of demand from Airlines Operators or restrictions caused by surrounding terrain making it impossible for night operations at these airports.

(c) Night landing facilities will be provided at all the operating airports wherever feasible.

(d) For this purpose, an amount of Rs. 27.33 crore has been allocated for the year 2007-08 by Airports Authority of India (AAI).

#### **PSUs using Obsolete Technology**

2376. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are using obsolete technology;

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

(c) whether due to obsolete technology these PSUs are making heavy losses;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the remedial measures the Government has taken/proposed to be taken in respect of these PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) and (b) There are certain sick and loss making CPSEs, which are using obsolete technology. However, a number of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are making efforts to update technology and have dedicated Research and Development (R&D) wings in their establishments. The total expenditure incurred in this regard by 80 CPSEs during 2005-06 was rs. 985.69 crore.

(c) and (d) Reasons for losses/sickness are manifold any may vary from unit to unit. However, some common problems faced/being faced by the sick/loss making enterprises include obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, resource crunch, low capacity utilization, low productivity, excess manpower, heavy interest burden, stiff competition, unfocussed marketing etc.

(e) Proposals for revival/restructuring of sick and loss making CPSEs are referred by the administrative Ministries/Departments to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Enterprises for consideration and making suitable recommendations. The revival package may include modernizations/technology upgradation etc. Further, the Government has delegated powers to Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs to enter into technology joint ventures, strategic alliances and to obtain technology and know-how by purchase or other arrangements.

#### **Liquefied Fuel from Coal**

2377. SHRI K.S. RAO:  
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ);

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

(a) the main recommendations of the Investment Commission on converting coal to liquid fuel and gas for ensuring oil security;

(b) the availability of technology and investments required for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government proposed to initiate steps to set up specific mechanism to examine various aspects for converting coal into fuel and gas on commercial basis and encourage public-private participating in these projects to ensure fuel security and reduce oil imports in the long seen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The Investment Commission has not made any specific recommendation on converting coal to liquid fuel and gas for ensuring oil security.

(b) to (d) Oil India Limited (OIL) is currently studying coal liquefaction processes for production of liquid fuel from the coal resources of the North East region.

OIL initially carried out pilot plant studies during 1999-2002 in a 25 kg/day capacity pilot plant set up in OIL's R&D premises at Diliajan, Assam using M/s Axen NA, USA's coal-oil co-processing technology where Vacuum Tower Bottom (VTB), a refinery products, was used to make coal slurry. The results were very encouraging. However, OIL could not proceed towards commercialization using this technology as adequate quantity of VTB is not available in India.

OIL then successfully carried out coal conversion study with coal only Catalytic Two Stage Liquefaction (CTSL) Technology of M/s Axen NA, USA. Subsequently, site specific pre-feasibility study of CTSL process of M/s Axen NA was carried out by M/s Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) in the year 2006.

In order to select the best suitable technology for the North-East coal for liquefaction, OIL also carried out a pre-feasibility of conversion of North East coal by M/s Hydrocarbon Technology Inc. (HTI), USA's Direct Coal Liquefaction (DCL) technology through bench scale tests at HTI's Premises in USA.

As commercial Coal Liquefaction plan is highly capital intensive, in order to avoid the risk of scaling up of pilot

plant results to commercial size, OIL has now undertaken actions to carry out a feasibility study to confirm liquid product yield and quality, predicted in the pre-feasibility studies.

To confirm the availability and assured supply of coal in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya for a commercial plant, a joint task force between OIL and Coal India Ltd. has been formed. The joint task force has been studying the availability of North East Coal.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has undertaken a pilot project for coal gasification in the sub-surface and is exploring a project for surface coal gasification as well. These projects are with public and private participation. This forms the first step for converting coal to liquid fuel as well.

#### **Religion based Demographic Statistics**

2378. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to prepare religion based demographic statistics; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its aims and objectives?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Religion based demographic data is already available in the Census 2001. The details are in the website: [www.censusindia.net](http://www.censusindia.net).

[Translation]

#### **Supply of Water in Tankers**

2379. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether water was supplied in tankers which were meant to supply diesel to the Army in Ladakh;

(b) if so, since when has this malpractice been going on;

(c) whether army officers were involved in the matter; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such officers and tanker owners?

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

(a) to (d) A solitary incident came to the notice of the Government in July, 2005 regarding water being supplied instead of diesel in seven tankers of Indian Oil Corporation in Ladakh region of Northern Command. A Court of Inquiry was instituted by Army HQ which was completed on 30th July, 2005.

Based on the findings of the Court of Inquiry, disciplinary action has been directed against two Army officers among others. Administrative action has been taken against four other officers who were involved in incident. FIR was lodged against the civilian drivers of the Petroleum Lorries by the Police.

*[English]*

#### **Warehousing Complexes in Railways**

2380. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for construction of rail-side warehouses complexes;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have identified the locations for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds earmarked for these complexes; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railways have entered in to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) for developing 22 rail-side warehousing complexes at different locations. Feasibility for development of rail-side warehouses through public private partnership is also being explored.

(c) Following 22 locations are to be developed into rail-side warehousing complexes of CWC: Mysore, Indranagar, Dehri-on-Sone, Kanhan, Tambaram, Nasik Road, Badnera, Saswad Road, Naini, Yamuna Bridge, Sambalpur, Shakurbasti, Ghaziabad, Alamnagar, Roza, Dankuni, Burdwan, Sanathnagar, Hatia, Kudalnagar, Kandla & Nishatpura. New locations will also be considered as per feasibility.

(d) and (e) Indian Railways is not funding any of these projects, the entire expenditure is being borne by CWC. Efforts are being made both the Railways and CWC to expedite the construction.

#### **Special Courts on Dalit Atrocities**

2381. SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH:  
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:  
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) the names of States where special courts have been constituted so far for fast hearing of cases registered under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;

(b) the names of States where special courts have not been constituted so far under the said Act, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government has requested the State Governments to set up special courts where such courts have not been set up so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) All State Governments except Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland, which are predominantly Tribal Area States, have notified the existing Courts of Sessions as Special Courts for the speedy trial of offences under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have, however, set up exclusive special courts.

The Ministry has been addressing the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to implement the provisions of the Act in letter and spirit.

#### **Welfare of Muslim Women**

2382. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether leading Muslim women academics and activists has criticized the Sachar Committee report for overlooking the specific problems of Muslim women as appeared in "The Hindu" dated February 28, 2007;

(b) if so, whether there is no mention of Muslim women in the report;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for the welfare of the Muslim women;

(e) whether there is any proposal to set up committee to address their concerns; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) "The Hindu" dated 28th January, 2007 and not 28th February, 2007 carried a news-item to this effect.

(b) and (c) The report of the Sachar Committee, laid in the Rajya Sabha on 30.11.2006, deals with the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community of India, including Muslim women.

(d) A number of steps have already been taken for the welfare of women and girls belonging to the minorities, including Muslims. Some of these are the scholarship scheme Maulana Azad Education Foundation for meritorious girl students belonging to minority communities; provision of 75% seats in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas for girl students belonging to SC/ST/Minorities in educationally backward blocks of the country; vocational training schemes of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation for economic upliftment of women belonging to minority communities.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Shifting of Railway Station in Tamil Nadu**

2383. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request from Tamil Nadu for shifting of Railway Stations from Subrubs to proper towns for the convenience of the passengers;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No request has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu. However, requests have been received from Members of Parliament and other individuals for shifting of stations.

(b) Station-wise details for shifting as requested by Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other individuals are as under:

(1) A request from Smt. Rani, M.P., Rasipuram Constituency, for shifting of Talaivasal Railway station on Vriddhachalam-Salem section to a new location at Km. 125.23 to serve Deviyakurichchi village.

(2) A request from Shri M. Appadurai, M.P. for shifting of a Palayamkottai Railway station to a new location between Maharajanagar and Thiagarajanagar in Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur section.

(3) A request regarding shifting of Kayalpattinam Railway station on the Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur station.

(c) These requests were examined and not considered due to space constraints, conflicting interests from other parties of adequacy of facilities at the existing locations.

*[Translation]*

#### **Survey for Madhya Pradesh Rail Lines**

2384. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:  
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for Godian-Balaghat-Jabalpur and Indore-Manmad broad gauge rail line;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the funds allocated and spent so far on these projects till date; and

(c) the time by which work on the said projects are likely to be started?

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

(b) and (c) Gauge conversion of Gondia-Jabalpur (including Balaghat-Katangi) is a sanctioned project, where

Gondia-Balaghat section has been completed and commissioned and the work is in progress on the remaining portion. An expenditure of Rs. 167.45 crore has been incurred on the project till 31.03.2006. An outlay of Rs. 57.40 crore has been provided for the project in the Budget 2006-07. A survey for construction of a new broad gauge line between Manmad and Indore via Dhule-Nardana-Shirpur (350 Kms) was completed in 2004-05. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this line has been assessed as Rs. 1001.16 crore with a negative rate of return. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has been requested to consider sharing of 50% cost of this project.

#### **Development of Tourism in HP**

2385. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of revenue earned in tourism sector in Himachal Pradesh during the years 2003 to 2006 alongwith the current year;

(b) the total funds provided to the State Government for development of tourism alongwith the funds provided to other States/UTs during the above period;

(c) whether any major plan has been formulated for development of tourism in Himachal Pradesh during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India does not maintain any record of District/State-wise revenue earning in tourism sector.

(b) to (d) The funds provided for various tourism related projects to the State of Himachal Pradesh during the financial years 2003-2006 are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Years	Amount Sanctioned
1.	2003-04	182.32
2.	2004-05	2680.00
3.	2005-06	1645.00
4.	2006-07	1871.00

Details of funds provided to other States/UTs during the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the enclosed Statement.

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.

#### **Statement**

##### *State-wise Tourism Projects sanctioned during the years 2003-06*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Amount Sanctioned			
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	946.50	2827.19	2615.82	1040.56
2.	Assam	313.46	986.03	2140.00	2448.39
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1044.60	1325.50	2240.16	1887.80
4.	Bihar	1019.42	1901.43	1212.23	1939.29
5.	Chhattisgarh	1005.00	1117.94	1775.59	3208.20
6.	Goa	36.76	110.00	10.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Gujarat	920.51	138.93	2011.58	347.73
8.	Haryana	1215.38	693.55	639.71	1836.16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	182.32	2680.00	1645.00	1871.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	895.00	819.25	6656.01	4045.58
11.	Jharkhand	1109.00	945.91	1227.27	824.88
12.	Karnataka	932.66	2461.76	1706.52	721.86
13.	Kerala	608.50	2283.63	4858.88	4044.40
14.	Madhya Pradesh	621.90	1595.19	3047.39	3599.78
15.	Maharashtra	931.83	1620.62	2075.04	2769.05
16.	Manipur	82.44	0.00	49.80	939.35
17.	Meghalaya	40.22	963.30	5.00	1376.80
18.	Mizoram	567.70	1086.35	2273.41	2547.33
19.	Nagaland	711.00	2250.69	2528.97	1875.60
20.	Orissa	419.55	1320.74	2309.61	2019.12
21.	Punjab	96.00	724.68	1437.67	3177.82
22.	Rajasthan	1644.81	2516.61	2591.87	953.84
23.	Sikkim	1151.09	660.81	2844.56	1397.42
24.	Tamil Nadu	1339.82	1308.92	4264.62	1866.41
25.	Tripura	450.17	20.00	716.26	291.27
26.	Uttaranchal	230.44	2199.98	2738.00	1456.35
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1115.80	1044.93	3905.23	3329.06
28.	West Bengal	717.44	513.04	989.35	1357.85
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	6.25	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	10.00	467.00	13.70	15.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	29.79	0.00
32.	Delhi	3316.28	628.85	20.00	2395.09
33.	Daman and Diu	265.07	0.00	262.28	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0	7.00
35.	Pondicherry	245.17	451.00	469.39	0.00
Total		24185.84	37663.83	61316.96	55587.99

Note—This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Projects, Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) Projects, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects.

*[English]***'Sky-Bus' System**

2386. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. has proposed 'Sky Bus' system as an alternative to subway system for providing transit solutions to urban areas;

(b) if so, the details of the system; and

(c) the present status of project alongwith funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A techno-economic feasibility study for the implementation of Sky Bus Metro project in Hyderabad was conducted by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. for a private party (M/s. Doxport Technologies, Squadron Berhad, Malaysia) with due permission from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Details thereof are as under:

- Techno-economic feasibility study draft report was submitted on 04.11.2006 to M/s Doxport Technologies, Squadron Berhad, Malaysia.
- Total length 22 km (Uppal to Gudimalkapuram)
- Total number of stations—19
- Capital cost is Rs. 1.782 crores (2006-07).

(c) The Sky Bus Project is currently in developmental stage. The test track for 1.6 km for conducting trials has been constructed at Madgaon. Based on the recommendations of Expert Committee to evaluate the Sky Bus Technology, a technical Advisory Group has been constituted by Railway Board. An amount of Rs. 25 crore has been allocated during 2006-07 by the Ministry of Railways.

**Ajmer and Kishangarh Airports**

2387. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating regarding conversion of air strip at Ajmer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the present status of the proposal to extend runway to 6000 feet at Kishangarh Airport; and

(e) the amount spent by the Government to make airport functional?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Airstrip at Ajmer belongs to Indian Army, Ministry of Defence.

(d) and (e) On the request of State Government of Rajasthan a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of Kishangarh airstrip to cater to commercial operations has been prepared by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and sent to the State Government for vetting. Further action by AAI is contingent on signing of the MoU by the State Government with AAI.

**Cargo Flights to Gulf Countries**

2388. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:  
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to replace Airbus aircraft playing on Thiruvananthapuram-Gulf route with the Boeing aircraft;

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

(c) whether the Government has considered the adverse affects of it on exports from Kerala as the Boeing planes have considerably lower cargo carrying capacity;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to reconsider the decision to replace the aircraft or increase the number of flights of Boeing aircraft;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken/proposed to be taken to arrange flights of cargo facilities?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

#### IGRUA

2389. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to convert Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IRGUA) into a Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred by the Government on IGRUA during the last two years on capital acquisition and modernisation?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government had released an amount of Rs. 3.00 crores during the year 2004-05 and an amount of Rs. 2,30,64,000 during the year 2005-06 as Grants-in-Aid to Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi for its capital acquisition and modernisation programmes.

#### Revitalisation of ITDC

2390. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to revitalise the ITDC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) ITDC management takes several steps from time to time to increase its profitability. Some of these steps taken recently include:-

(i) Repairs, maintenance and essential renovation works in ITDC hotels through an internal generation of funds.

(ii) Drawing up a major revitalisation plan of various activities of ITDC including a major renovation of Ashok Hotel, New Delhi.

(iii) Introduction of new services and facilities in ITDC hotels to make them more competitive.

(iv) Partnering with Global players for duty free business in India and abroad.

(v) Diversification in event management business and other new niche products.

#### Fire Proof Coaches

2391. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rail Coach Factory send the design of the prototype for the fire proof coaches to the RDSO in Lucknow for approval during the year 2003 as published in "Hindustan Times" dated February 21, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the design has been approved by the RDSO;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The development of improved furnishing materials with enhanced fire retardant properties, used in the interior of the passenger coaches is a continual exercise. This work is done by RDSO in association with production units viz., RCF and ICF. As part of this exercise, RCF manufactured a sample Second Class coach in 2003 using some new materials in interiors, which had better fire retardant properties. The properties and experience of using these materials were also shared with RDSO to further improve upon the fire worthiness of passenger coaches.

(b) and (c) Based on the experience of RDSO, the two Production Units, the latest International specifications followed by the Railways of developed countries and active participation of the indigenous industry, a number of furnishing materials used in Indian Railways coaches such as floor boards, floor covering, seat cushioning, seat upholstery, Roof & Wall panels, curtains, etc. have been developed with upgraded fire retardant properties.

(d) Does not arise.



**Acquirement of Modern Air-to-Air Missiles**

2392. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force proposed to acquire some modern air-to-air missiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to acquire such missiles?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Photographs of Old Archives**

2393. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to outsource its digitisation of century old archives of thousands of photographs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria adopted for awarding the contracts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Archeological Survey of India has undertaken a pilot project to digitise 10,000 photo negatives. The work was awarded at the lowest tendered rate for digitisation of glass negatives.

**Operational Efficiency**

2394. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to increase operational efficiency in passenger and freight movement;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by the Railways to achieve the above objectives;

(c) whether any new Zonal office is proposed to be set up for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Improvement in passenger services is an ongoing exercise over Indian Railways. During the current financial year about 545 passenger carrying trains were augmented by more than 745 coaches and nearly 655 mail/express trains were speeded up. Moreover, 73 pairs of new trains were introduced, 50 pairs of trains were extended and frequency of 16 trains was increased despite severe resource constraints. These were achieved by rationalizing the time table, reviewing the existing maintenance practices, integration and standardization of rakes and review of engine and crew links.

India Railways, yet to meet huge freight loading potential for want of more infrastructure, rolling stock, etc. Further, the projected demand that can be carried by Indian Railways by end of XIth five year plan is around 1100 Million Tonnes (MT). It can be achieved through increased operating efficiency and infrastructure development.

The wagon turn round reduced to 6.08 from 6.4 days compared to last year and Net Tonne Kilometers, one of the important operating indices has increased to 3106 from 2860 compared to last year. During current year Indian Railways is aiming at additional freight loading of almost 60 MT over last year through increased operating efficiency, like utilization of empty return ratio, better monitoring through the use of FOIS, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Entry Fee for Foreign Tourists**

2395. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to reduce entry fee of ticketed monuments for foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial impact of the move and the likely loss of revenue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) An Inter Ministerial Meeting recommended that the entry charges at the ticketed monuments may be brought on par for foreigners and Indian citizens. The Ministry of Culture has sought a review of the decision.

(c) Any reduction in the entry charges to the foreigners may result in substantial loss of revenue.

#### **Railway Line**

2396. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway line Munirabad and Mehboob Nagar is likely to be completed by March 31, 2007;

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

(c) the total cost involved in the construction of this Railway Line?

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

(b) The work of Munirabad-Mahbubnagar new line (246 km) project is being progressed as per availability of resources. No target date of completion of the project has been fixed.

(c) The total anticipated cost of this project is Rs. 497.47 crore.

#### **Foreign Exchange**

2397. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:  
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourism sector has been able to earn foreign exchange to the extent of \$ 10 billion in 2006;

(b) if so, any estimate has been made to assess the number of foreign tourist arrival during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to attract more domestic and foreign tourist on the occasion of the 33rd National Games?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) It is estimated that the foreign exchange earnings of India from tourism was US\$ 6.6 billion during 2006.

(b) If the annual growth rate in foreign tourist arrivals in 2007 remains same as in 2006, i.e. 13%, the foreign tourist arrivals in 2007 would be around 5.01 million.

(c) To attract more tourists on the occasion of the 33rd National Games in Guwahati during 9-18 February, 2007, Government of Assam launched massive publicity campaign through the print media, hoardings, banners and posters, etc.

#### **Impact of Terrorism on Tourism**

2398. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of United Kingdom and Australia have advised their tourists to take precautions before visiting India due to terrorist threat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the effect of such advice of inflow of tourists and loss of foreign exchange; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Tourists have been advised to exercise caution and be vigilant while traveling to India.

(c) and (d) No negative impact has come to notice of the Ministry. Tourists arrivals and Foreign exchange earnings during the month of January and February have increased as detailed below:

#### **Tourist arrivals**

Month	2006	2007	% increase
January	444260	514453	15.8%
February	407198	462578	13.6%

#### **Foreign exchange earnings (Rs. in Crore):**

Month	2006	2007	% increase
January	2722.07	3299.51	21.2%
February	5358.05	6303.46	14%

Notwithstanding the travel advisories the major tour operators, travel media and consumers overseas are being briefed on a regular basis about the ground realities.

**Agreement between IOC and Sinopec**

2399. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has signed a MoU with Sinopec, a major integrated National Oil Company (NOC) of China for hydrocarbon cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether memorandum of cooperation between KNOC and Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) also figured in the discussions; 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) During the recent visit of Indian delegation led by Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas to China, Indian Oil Corporation had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Sinopec, China on 14th December, 2006. The following areas of cooperation have been envisaged in the MOU.

- International Trade
- Exploration & production newly in third countries
- Refinery & Petrochemicals (non-regulated products)
- Engineering & Technical Services; and
- Collaboration and exchange of information in the areas of operation, optimization & training, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Merger of BRPL with IOC**

2400. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of merger of Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemical Limited (BRPL) with Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) the time by which the merger process is likely to be completed; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of employees of Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemical Limited (BRPL)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The proposed merger of Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemical Limited (BRPL) with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) is under consideration of the Government of India. As the process of merger of these two companies involve approval of the Government of India and the scheme of merger is subject to proceeding under Sections 391-394 of the Companies Act, 1956, it is not possible to indicate a definite time-frame for completion of the merger.

*[Translation]*

**Facilities to Soldiers**

2401. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Mohanlal Ganj): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide world-class facilities particularly to those soldiers who are posted in difficult places so that the increasing cases of suicides among soldiers can be checked; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Appropriate facilities and infrastructure are provided to the soldiers posted in difficult places. Improvement in facilities and infrastructure for making the working conditions of the soldiers especially in difficult areas, is an on-going process. Various measures that have been taken by the Government to reduce stress in the Armed Forces include:

- (i) rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress situations;
- (ii) liberalization of leave policy permitting splitting of casual leave and annual leave;
- (iii) better man management and prompt attendance of grievances at unit level;
- (iv) improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with the soldiers;
- (v) identification of religious teachers, JCOs of Army Education Corps and regimental Medical Officers as 'Psychological Health Mentors' at unit level and use of their services at different units;

- (vi) training of 50 Junior Commissioned Officers from Army Medical Corps as Counsellors in Northern and Eastern Commands where troops are engaged in Counter Insurgency operations;
- (vii) identification and counselling of persons who are at higher risk of combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, junior leaders and Unit Commanders;
- (viii) introduction of training capsules on relaxation exercise including Yoga and meditation; and
- (ix) all Chief Ministers have been requested to make the civil administration more responsive to the problems of serving soldiers and their families.

#### **Committee on Catering Service**

2402. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court was informed by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation that they have considerably improved the condition of their kitchens following the Court's direction;

(b) if so, whether the High Court has already formed a Committee and has urged them to continue their checks on the railway kitchens and file their report soon;

(c) if so, the extent to which Railways have improved the quality of food being supplied in trains;

(d) whether the Court has already considered their report;

(e) if so, whether the Court has also directed the Ministry of Railways and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation to provide address of the private contractors running pantry cars and kitchens where food is cooked for train passengers to the 4 Member Committee appointed by it; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has taken numerous steps to improve the quality of catering services provided in trains. IRCTC has initiated the process of modernizing the departmental base kitchens at New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. It is proposed to have state-of-the-art equipments and professional manpower for the base kitchens. The licensees have also been directed to upgrade their base kitchens and to obtain International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) certifications. In the existing base kitchens also, continuous efforts are being made to ensure that the food is prepared under clean and hygienic conditions with standard raw materials. The Hon'ble High Court has considered the report submitted by the Committee and appreciated the efforts made by IRCTC to improve the overall quality of catering services.

(e) and (f) In pursuance of the direction of the Hon'ble High Court, IRCTC has provided the addresses the base kitchens in Delhi area to the Committee nominated by it for conducting inspections of these base kitchens.

#### **Shortcomings in Training of Army Officers**

2403. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:  
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Commandant, Vice-Admiral (Rtd.) of National Defence Academy has prepared any report regarding shortcomings in the training of officers of Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has studied the report; and

(d) if so, the decisions taken by the Government on the suggestions made in the said report?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) and (b) The former Commandant of the National Defence Academy (NDA) had prepared a document 'Vision 2020: A Blueprint for Modernisation and Upgradation of National Defence Academy'.

(c) and (d) The report was presented to the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC). The COSC approved the suggestions.

**New Railway Line between Hamirpur  
Road and Harpalpur**

2404. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for laying new railway line between Hamirpur Road and Harpalpur stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways has conducted any survey for laying the said line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request has been received regarding new railway line between Hamirpur Road and Harpalpur station.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Rail Passes to Sports Persons**

2405. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether free rail passes are given to sports persons;

(b) if so, the categories of sports persons to whom such passes are given;

(c) the total number of sports persons who have been given this privilege;

(d) whether Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awardess are given free rail passes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) As per extant Scheme framed by Ministry of Railways, recipients of Arjun Award, Olympic Medalists, Gold Medalists of the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games or Dronacharya Award winners are given complimentary card passes for free travel/journey on Indian Railways.

(c) 847

(d) and (e) No, Sir. It has not been found feasible to enlarge the scope of existing scheme to include recipients of Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award on account of financial and other considerations.

**Revenue Generation Project**

2406. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been drawn up to assist Revenue Generation Projects for development of tourism infrastructure in public-private partnership and in partnership with State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of its implementation;

(c) whether the Government has received any Tourism Infrastructure Development proposal from the State of Jammu & Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism promotes large revenue generating projects for development of tourism infrastructure in public private partnerships and in partnership with other Government/Semi-Government agencies under its scheme "Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects". The projects like Tourist Trains, Cruise Vessels, Cruise Terminals, Convention Centres, Golf Course, etc. qualify for financial assistance with a cap of Rs. 50.00 crore, subject to maximum of 25% of total project cost or 50% of equity contribution of the private promoter, whichever is lower.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Ministry of Tourism, based on the project proposals which were complete in all respect received from the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir, has sanctioned Rs. 46.75 crore for 22 projects related to tourism infrastructure development in the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the year 2006-07.

**Introduction of Trains**

2407. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have since introduced Ajmer-Rewari passenger (MG) (Daily) and Jaipur-Rewari Passenger (MG) (Daily) as proposed in the Railway Budget for 2005-06;

(b) if not, reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Railways to fulfil the demand of people visiting Khatu Shyam, Jeen Mata and Salasar Dham for rail link to these places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 163/164 Ajmer-Rewari Passenger (Metre Gauge) and 499/500 Jaipur-Rewari Passenger (Metre Gauge) have been introduced from 01.07.2005. However, 163/164 Passenger is presently running between Madar and Rewari due to gauge conversion work.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) "Khatu Shyam" is served by Ringas station, "Jeen Mata" is served by Goriyan station on Jaipur-Sikar section and "Salasar Dham" is situated near Ratangarh station. At present, there is no proposal to introduce new train service to serve Ringas, Goriyan and Ratangarh. However, special trains are run during the Mela period for clearing the extra rush of passengers, in addition to augmentation of coaches in regular trains.

#### **Compensatory Employment by KRC**

2408. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large tracts of private lands were acquired for track laying of Konkan Railways against compensation and incentives for the displaced families by way of employment, allotment of railway stalls, etc.;

(b) if so, whether the KRC has fully implemented the rehabilitation scheme for displaced families through compensatory employment in Class-III and IV categories and also allotment of railway station stalls; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith total number of beneficiaries in each category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Konkan Railway has acquired the required stretches of private lands for construction of Railway Line, for which due compensation

was paid as decided by the respective State Governments. No incentives were agreed upon other than payment of compensation.

(b) No rehabilitation schemes were approved for this Railway project.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Utilisation of Budget Allocation**

2409. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has utilized only 34% of its budget allocation for the year 2006-07; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not utilizing the full budgetary allocation by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has utilized 84% of its Budget by 28.2.2007.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Euro-III Fuel**

2410. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the cities in which Euro-III petrol and diesel is being sold;

(b) whether the Government proposes to select more cities for supplying Euro-III fuel particularly in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) In line with the road map laid in the Auto Fuel Policy approved by the Government in October, 2003, Euro-III equivalent Petrol and Diesel is being sold in 13 cities, namely, Delhi/National Capital Region, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Surat, Kanpur, Agra, Solapur and Lucknow.

(b) and (c) As per the Auto Fuel Policy approved by the Government, Euro-III equivalent Fuel is proposed to be introduced all over the country, including Karnataka, with effect from 1.4.2010.

#### **Vacant Posts in PSUs**

2411. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many top posts are still lying vacant in the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the same at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) and (b) As per available information, posts of Chief Executives in 12 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), viz. Braithwaite and Company Limited, Burn Standard Company Limited, Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Dredging Corporation of India Limited, Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited, Instrumentation Limited, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation, North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited are presently lying vacant. The reasons for delay in appointment to such posts include, delay in obtaining vigilance clearance/approval of competent authority, delay in taking over a charge by the appointee, sudden vacancies, posts kept in abeyance as conscious decision by the concerned Ministries, court cases, etc.

(c) The Government has issued detailed guidelines indicating the defined time frame for filling up such posts in CPSEs so that the Public Enterprises Selection Board recommendations should be made at least 6 months in advance of the date of occurrence of vacancies and are sent to the concerned Ministry/Department of completing other formalities.

#### **Derailement of Trains**

2412. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the incidents of derailment of trains occurred frequently near Vinnamangalam railway station in Coimbatore-Chennai Section of Southern Railway and many of the passengers had a miraculous escape in those incidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways to avert such derailment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Only one derailment near Vinnamangalam Station of Southern Railway has taken place during the last three years. On 28.01.2007, five coaches of Train No. 2674 Up Coimbatore-Chennai Central Cheran Express derailed, as a result of which, one passenger sustained grievous injury and nine others suffered simple injuries. As per preliminary report, the accident occurred due to failure of equipment. However, final report of Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, is awaited.

#### **Report of National Commission for Minorities**

2413. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of report of National Commission for Minorities tabled in Parliament alongwith the number of action taken reports tabled by the Government;

(b) whether the recommendations made by the Commission have been implemented by the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the recommendations made by the Commission in regard to Gujarat riots and atrocities on minorities in the country have not been implemented by the Government so far; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government to ensure that the recommendations made by the Commission are taken seriously and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) A total of ten (10) Annual Reports of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), alongwith Action Taken Memoranda (ATM) on recommendations contained therein, have been tabled in Parliament. The status of acceptance is given in each ATM.

(d) and (e) This relates to recommendation No. 8 of the 9th Annual Report of the NCM for the year 2001-2002, the Action Taken Memorandum on which has been tabled in the Rajya Sabha on 12th March, 2007 and is being tabled in the Lok Sabha.

#### **CPSUs in West Bengal**

2414. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any Public Undertaking/Heavy Industry in West Bengal during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the profit/losses incurred by Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) functioning in the West Bengal during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to revive and improve the performance of loss incurring CPSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) As per information available, on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) has been set up in the state of West Bengal during the last three years. The decision to set up a CPSE is taken by the concerned administrative Ministry/Department in consultation with various stakeholders and with approval of the competent authority.

(d) The details of the SPSEs functioning in the State of West Bengal and their profit/loss(-) during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has been set up by the Government to consider and making suitable recommendations on the revival/restructuring proposals relating to the sick/loss making CPSEs submitted by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of CPSEs functioning in West Bengal and their Profit/Loss (-) for the last 3 years*

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andrew Yule & Company Ltd.	-7407	-7544	-5463
2.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	4680	2983	1858
3.	Balmer Lawrie Investments Ltd.	556	343	286
4.	BBJ Construction Company Ltd.	49	33	-2429
5.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	11	-353	795
6.	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	*	*	-1876
7.	Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd.	6	6	6
8.	Bharat Ophthalmic class Ltd.	NA	-3845	-3512
9.	BIECCO Lawrie Ltd.	222	128	-296
10.	Birds Jute & Exports Ltd.	NA	NA	-882
11.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	221	-2190	-2356
12.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	139	94	119



1	2	3	4	5
13.	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	-44274	-11872	-11065
14.	Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd.	-4366	-6726	-14791
15.	Coal India Ltd.	171166	132492	133298
16.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	36386	-67920	-32638
17.	Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.	6532	2753	2931
18.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	-29532	-27088	-30787
19.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	10588	5598	-5616
20.	Hindustan Steel Works Costn. Ltd.	-8597	-9421	-8850
21.	Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.	-3803	-4192	-3065
22.	Hooghly Printing Company Ltd.	24	99	73
23.	I.B.P. Co. Ltd.	1244	5887	21466
24.	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	**	4659	2709
25.	Jute Corpn. of India Ltd.	-1777	153	1685
26.	M S T C Ltd.	5468	3830	1874
27.	National Instruments Ltd.	-160	-871	-870
28.	National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd.	NA	-59890	-43713
29.	NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar & Orissa) Ltd.	-5606	-6508	32385
30.	Smith Stanistreet & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	*	*	-3160
31.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	-4753	-5686	455
Total		127017	-55048	28571

\*CPSEs closed.

\*\*CPSE merged with Steel Authority of India Ltd.

NA = Not Available.

#### Ground Support Work at Airports

2415. SHRI NARHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private agencies are handling the ground support work at different airports;

(b) if so, whether the public carriers including Airports Authority of India (AAI) are not competent enough to handle ground support work at these Airports; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to equip the Government agencies to handle ground support work at the Airports in the country?

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

(b) and (c) In terms of Ground Handling Regulation, 2000, the National Carriers namely Indian Airlines & Air India besides AAI are permitted to render ground handling

services to airlines and the National Carriers are already providing the services at airports.

[Translation]

#### **Kisan Vikas Kendra**

2416. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of petrol/diesel outlets of various oil PSUs commissioned recently in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh under Kissan Vikas Kendra category; and

(b) the number of retail outlets commissioned during the last two years under 'Transport' category in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) 395 petrol/diesel outlets of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and IBP Co. Limited (IBP) have been commissioned during April, 2006—January, 2007 in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh under Kisan Sewa Kendra (KSK) category.

(b) 138 retail outlets under 'Fleet Operator' category have been commissioned by OMCs during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto January, 2007) in these States.

[English]

#### **Computerised Reservation Centres in Himachal Pradesh**

2417. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for opening of three computerised railway reservation centres at Kaza, Rampur and Himachal Pradesh Secretariat has been received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Provision of Computerised Reservation Centres at Kaza, Rampur and Secretariat Shimla have not been found to be commercially justified.

#### **Barrier-Free Bus Queue Shelters for Disabled Persons**

2418. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has provided any special assistance to various State Transport Undertakings for construction of barrier-free bus queue shelters particularly for the benefit of disabled persons;

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

(c) whether there is also a proposal to extend the scheme further; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 1.01 crore has been released to Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), New Delhi for construction of disabled friendly bus stops.

(c) and (d) This is a continuing scheme and proposals are considered on merit.

#### **Operation of AI Fleet to Gulf Routes**

2419. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircraft received by Air India from Boeing;

(b) whether all the new aircraft received by AI is going to be operated in Gulf routes by Air India Express;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the difference between dreamliners and Boeing 737-800; and

(e) the manner in which AI is going to be competitive with other private players to the Gulf sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India and its subsidiary, Air India Charters Limited have placed an order with Boeing for 68 new aircraft of which delivery of 6 B737-800 aircraft has so far been taken.

(b) and (c) These aircraft are being, presently, operated to the Gulf and South East Asia.

(d) The "dreamliner" is a nomenclature used by Boeing for its new technology B 787 wide bodied aircraft, having seating capacity of 286 seats.

The B737-800 aircraft on the other hand is a narrow-body aircraft with a seating capacity of 186 (all economy class seats).

(e) At present, the Gulf routes are served only by the public carriers.

#### **Evaluation of PSUs**

2420. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of those units in the public sector proposed to be closed down or wound up shortly;

(b) the details of immovable assets with such undertaking;

(c) whether the Government has taken any action to assess the value of such assets;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action plan prepared to dispose off these assets?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Government has constituted Board for Restructuring of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) for consideration of proposals of revival/restructuring of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) submitted by concerned administrative ministries and making suitable recommendations. BRPSE has recommended closure of two CPSEs namely: (i) Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL) (ii) Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd. (BYNL) (a holding Company). Government has since approved closure of BOGL. In addition, Government, on the recommendation

of BRPSE, has also approved closure of some units/mills of CPSEs like Cement Corporation of India and subsidiaries of National Textiles Corporation.

(b) As per accounts of the company, book value of fixed assets of BOGL as on 31.03.2005 was Rs. 88 lacs.

(c) to (e) Winding up of company is done as per laid down procedure after disposing off all the assets and distributing the value thereof among the stake holders as per the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 under the direction of Court. The disposal of assets of closed units of CPSEs is undertaken by the management of concerned CPSE as per the procedure laid down in the Companies Act, 1956 and by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

#### **Competition with Low Fares Airlines**

2421. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's keenness to prevent sickness in the aviation industry has asked companies to come up with a fresh proposal and detailed financial plans as the aviation industry is facing acute competition with low fares eroding profits of various airlines;

(b) if so, whether the Government is also planning to impose tough conditions on the entry of new airlines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether increase in the minimum paid-up capital has been implemented and clearances for business and fleet plans are also expected to be tightened; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The Government has a laid down policy with regard to grant of No-objection certificate (NOC) to new airlines, which *inter-alia* stipulate the equity norms as well. This policy is reviewed from time to time depending on the growth and requirements of civil aviation sector.

#### **Crude Oil Production by IOC**

2422. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the responsibility of oil production in certain areas of the country is being fulfilled by the Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, the areas where crude oil is being produced by the Corporation;

(c) the quantum of increase in crude oil production in these areas during the last three years;

(d) the average cost of production of crude oil produced by the Indian Oil Corporation in the country during 2005-2006;

(e) whether the crude oil so produced was sold to the oil refineries at par with the prices of imported oil; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) is actively pursuing exploration activity in the country to step-up indigenous production. IOC is currently participating in a number of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) exploration blocks, Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks and farm-in blocks.

(b) All the domestic blocks of IOC are in different phases of exploration. Crude oil production would depend on successful completion of exploration.

(c) There has not been any production of crude oil by IOC so far.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

*[Translation]*

#### **Ranking of Public Sector Undertaking**

2423. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce ranking system in regard to the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in order to ensure a healthy competition for getting high ranking among them and to obtain information regarding their performance;

(b) if so, whether major basis have been determined for ranking;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has made some arrangements to provide incentives/awards in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The ranking of profit making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), has been done for the first time for 2005-06 and is based on the following parameters:

(i) Sales,

(ii) Percentage of change in sales over previous year,

(iii) Net profit,

(iv) Percentage of change in net profit over previous year,

(v) Return on net worth,

(vi) Earning per share, and

(vii) Dividend pay out ratio.

CPSEs which are having negative net worth or have undergone capital restructuring and whose net worth is less than paid up capital have not been considered in this ranking. Furthermore, CPSEs which did not submit data/information for Public Enterprises Survey 2005-06 or 2004-05 have not been considered for ranking.

(d) and (e) Ranking of profit making CPSEs has been done first time in Public Enterprises Survey 2005-06. No incentives/awards are given to CPSEs on the basis of such ranking. However, CPSEs which have secured excellence in performance on the basis of achievements of targets under Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) system are given "Excellence Awards" and "Excellence Certificates" on the basis of MOU composite scores.

#### **Training Programme for SC Children**

2424. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Non-Governmental Organisations which have been granted permission by the Government to run Primary/Middle level and training programmes for scheduled caste children during 2006-07, State/UT-wise;

(b) the number of organisations whose cases are pending for approval alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether NGO's participation in training programmes being run for the children belonging to backward classes was not invited; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No permission is required from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to run schools and training programmes for the Scheduled Castes children.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. During the year 2006-07, grant-in-aid has been sanctioned to NGOs in various States for skill up-gradation of OBCs.

[English]

#### **Petrol Pump Dealerships**

2425. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the petrol pump dealers have started leaving the dealership of oil PSUs;

(b) if so, the number of dealers have left the petrol pump dealerships during the last one year;

(c) whether the oil companies have conducted any study for ascertaining the reasons;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA

PATEL): (a) and (b) A few cases of dealers leaving the petrol pump/retail outlet dealerships appointed by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been reported. These dealers submit their resignations due to various reasons like, personal reasons, health grounds, financial condition, setting up of new businesses, inability to operate the outlet due to manpower constraints, economic unviability, etc.

(c) to (e) OMCs have not come across to a situation where the dealers leaving the dealerships necessitates conducting of any survey/study to ascertain the reasons. However, on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas, a study was conducted by Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad to look into the indiscriminate growth of retail outlets of OMCs. The scope of the study covered the following aspects:—

(i) Comparison of performance of existing network (1.4.02) *vis-a-vis* expansion undertaken by PSU Cos.

(ii) Study of efficiency and effectiveness of Investment in new ROs and upgradation of existing RO.

(iii) Analysis of PSU Cos. Expansion philosophy.

(iv) Identifying actions for improving performance and developing understanding of customer choice and switching behavior.

(v) Suggest strategies for retaining market share & growth.

#### **Promotion of Dance and Cultural Festival**

2426. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote dance and cultural festival of every State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance provided during each of the last three years, State-wise particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Ministry

organizes various programmes for promotion of dance and cultural activities all over India through Sangeet Natak Academi, New Delhi and seven Zonal Cultural Centres located at Patiala, Allahabad, Kolkata, Dimapur, Udaipur, Nagpur and Thanjavur. State-wise allocation of funds is, however, not made by the Central Government.

#### **Trial of 155 mm. Artillery Guns**

2427. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new 155 mm. Artillery Guns required by the Indian Army have been under trials since 2002;

(b) if so, whether the delay in completion of trials have adversely affected the modernization of Crops of Artillery; and

(c) if so, the time by which the trial is likely to be completed and new Guns inducted in service?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Trials of the 155 mm. Towed guns commenced in 2002. These have been completed.

(b) and (c) Modernisation of the Corps of Artillery is an ongoing process and is being carried out strictly in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) as applicable from time to time. Induction of equipment is done only after ensuring compliance with the above procedures.

#### **New Airport in Gujarat**

2428. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat is considering having a new privately built and operated International Airport between Ahmedabad and Dholera as reported in the 'Times of India' dated December 29, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) was not in favour of having an International Airport between Dholera and Ahmedabad and instead decided in July 2006 to develop and expand the present airport in Ahmedabad by building a new Terminal;

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

(d) whether a pre-feasibility study for the new Airport has been undertaken;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government of India is not aware of any such proposal.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Export of Petroleum Products**

2429. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the petroleum products are going to be the largest exporting items among the exporting items during the year 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the serial-wise names of first 10 items among the largest exporting items during the first nine months of the year 2006-07;

(c) the value-wise names of each petroleum product exported during the above period; and

(d) the percentage of total petroleum products in the total value of exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (d) As per information gathered from the Deptt. of Commerce, the export of petroleum product during April-June 2006 has become the single largest export item from the country accounting for 14.8% of total export.

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

(c) The value-wise name of each petroleum products exported during April-December 2006 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement I****Export Import Data Bank  
Export : Commodity-wise**

(Value in Rs. Lacs)

Sl.No.	HS Code	Commodity	2005-2006	2006-2007 (Apr-Jun)	% Share
1.	2710	Petroleum Oils & Oils OBTND from Bitmns MNRL other than crude PRPN Nes; CNTNG 70% or more by weight of these Oils	5,045,468.92	1,958,656.86	14.8064
2.	7102	Diamonds W/N WRKD but NT Mounted/Set	5,141,052.94	1,085,729.97	8.2076
3.	7113	Artcls of Jewellery & prts thereof; of prcs MTL/of MTL CID with Precious Metal	1,514,660.12	448,210.50	3.3882
4.	2601	Iron Ores & Concrtrs INCL Rstd im pyrits	1,682,880.65	390,324.98	2.9507
5.	9993	Special Transactions & commodities not classified according to kind	383,170.36	258,457.93	1.9538
6.	3004	MDCMNTs (Excl. Items of 3002, 3005/3006) FR Thruput C/Prphyl CTC uses in measured dosesor in pckngs FR RTL Sale	930,519.55	250,249.39	1.8918
7.	6204	Women's/Girls' Suits, ensembles, jackets, dresses, skirts, trousers, BIB & Braqce overalls, brechs & shorts, etc. (Excpt Swimwear)	812,324.03	226,777.13	1.7143
8.	2942	Other Organic Compounds	745,440.68	197,176.37	1.4906
9.	6109	T-shirts, Snglts & other vests, knntd/crchtd	521,305.31	181,701.76	1.3736
10.	7210	FLT-RLLD products of Iron/Non-Alloy Steel of WDTH>=600 MM, CLAD, Platd/Coatd	562,934.13	179,517.25	1.3571

**Statement II**

Total : 2006-07 (Prov.)

	Quantity	Value	
	TMT	Million US\$ (Apr.-Dec. 2006)	Rs. Crore
Export			
LPG	89	58	263
MS	2607	1661	7581
Naphtha	5740	3273	14746
HSD	8600	5013	22952
Lubes/Lobs	7	7	48
Fuel Oil	3047	898	3987
CBFS	78	22	99
Reformate	206	134	617
Benzezne	5	5	21
ATF	2597	1671	7636
SKO	115	93	428
Hexane	2	2	8
Bitumen	48	13	58
Total Products Export	23141	12850	58442

*[English]***Supply of Gas by ONGC to GAIL**

2430. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC and GAIL have signed any agreement for the supply of gas from ONGC's oil and gas fields;

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

(c) the steps taken to further promote the ties between the two companies and to explore more oil and gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gas Supply Agreement between ONGC and GAIL was signed on 7th July, 2006 and is valid for a period of 15 years and covers all existing gas producing locations for APM gas.

(c) Regular meetings are held between companies to market the new and additional gas from Cauvery basin, C-series fields, etc. at market related price. The Companies have identified areas of co-operation in gas marketing, transportation and participation in E & P activities under NELP. Both companies are working together for framing an MoU covering areas of co-operation.



**Special Tourism Zones**

2431. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:  
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to set up Special Tourism Zones (STZs) on the lines of Special Economic Zones in the country;

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

(c) whether the views of the State Governments have been sought in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the locations identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Renewal of Railway Track**

2432. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether renewal of rail track is being carried out by the Railways as per the year-wise target of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether this work has been delayed during the last two years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the zones in which renewal of railway tracks has been delayed;

(e) whether the budgetary allocation for each year in said plan period has been spent; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No, Sir. In the Xth Five Year Plan 23000 km track renewal is planned. Year-wise targets and progress are as under:

Year	Targets	Progress
2002-03	4000	4776
2003-04	3850	4986
2004-05	4725	5566
2005-06	4000	4725
2006-07	4000	4323
Total		24376 (Upto Feb. 07)

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir, except for 2002-2003. Only during 2002-2003 budget allocation could not be utilized as capacity enhancement took some time. In previous years works nearly 3000 km. were only being executed.

[English]

**Replacement of Type-B ECHS Polyclinic**

2433. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new ECHS Polyclinics started at non-military stations alongwith type of ECHS sanctioned, State-wise;

(b) whether the Type-B ECHS polyclinic entitled for the district of Alappuzha in Kerala is replaced by Type-D ECHS Polyclinic;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) A statement indicating the details is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) It was changed to Type-D based on the strength of the Ex-servicemen pensioners. However, the case of its upgradation has been recommended by Headquarter Southern Command recently, which is under consideration.

**Statement**

*Details of new ECHS Polyclinics at  
Non-Military stations*

Sl.No.	State	Polyclinics	Type
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	C
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Chiturst	C
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Giddalur	C
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Kakinada	D
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	D
6.	Bihar	Ara	B
7.	Bihar	Muzaffarpur	C
8.	Bihar	Chhapra	C
9.	Bihar	Dharbanga	D
10.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	D
11.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	B
12.	Delhi	New Delhi (Lodhi Road)	A
13.	Haryana	Jhajjar	B
14.	Haryana	Rewari	B
15.	Haryana	Rohtak	B
16.	Haryana	Jind	C
17.	Haryana	Namau	B
18.	Haryana	Bhiwani	A
19.	Haryana	Fatehabad	D
20.	Haryana	Faridabad	C
21.	Haryana	Kamal	C

1	2	3	4
22.	Haryana	Sonepat	B
23.	Haryana	Panipat	C
24.	Haryana	Yamuna Nagar	C
25.	Haryana	Kaithal	D
26.	Haryana	Kurukshetra	D
27.	Haryana	Gurgaon	A
28.	Himachal Pradesh	Mandi	C
29.	Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	B
30.	Himachal Pradesh	Bilaspur	C
31.	Himachal Pradesh	Una	C
32.	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur	D
33.	Karnataka	Madekeri	C
34.	Karnataka	Mangalore	D
35.	Karnataka	Mysore	D
36.	Karnataka	Bijapur	D
37.	Karnataka	Dharwad	D
38.	Kerala	Palakkad	B
39.	Kerala	Kozikode	C
40.	Kerala	Perintamanna	C
41.	Kerala	Alleppey	D
42.	Kerala	Trissur	B
43.	Kerala	Kottayam	C
44.	Kerala	Pathanamthitta	B
45.	Kerala	Quilon	B
46.	Mizoram	Aizwal	D
47.	Manipur	Imphal (Leimakhong)	D
48.	Maharashtra	Sholapur	C
49.	Maharashtra	Osmanabad	D

1	2	3	4
50.	Maharashtra	Latur	D
51.	Maharashtra	Buldhana	D
52.	Maharashtra	Jalgaon	D
53.	Maharashtra	Satara	C
54.	Maharashtra	Kolhapur	B
55.	Maharashtra	Miraj (Sangli)	B
56.	Maharashtra	Chiplun	C
57.	Maharashtra	Sindhudurg	C
58.	Maharashtra	Thane (Nerul)	C
59.	Maharashtra	Mahad	D
60.	Maharashtra	Akola	D
61.	Maharashtra	Amravati	D
62.	Madhya Pradesh	Rewa	D
63.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhind	D
64.	Madhya Pradesh	Morena	D
65.	Nagaland	Kohima (Zakhama)	D
66.	Orissa	Brahmapur	D
67.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar	C
68.	Punjab	Ropar	B
69.	Punjab	Fatehgarh Sahib	C
70.	Punjab	Hoshiarpur	A
71.	Punjab	Ludhiana	A
72.	Punjab	Mansa	D
73.	Punjab	Muktsar	C
74.	Rajasthan	Jhunjhunu	A
75.	Rajasthan	Sikar	B
76.	Rajasthan	Churu	C
77.	Rajasthan	Nagaur	C

1	2	3	4
78.	Rajasthan	Hindaun City (District Karauli)	D
79.	Rajasthan	Pali	D
80.	Tamil Nadu	Vellore	A
81.	Tamil Nadu	Kanchipuram	C
82.	Tamil Nadu	Cuddalore	D
83.	Tamil Nadu	Villupuram	D
84.	Tamil Nadu	Krishnagiri	C
85.	Tamil Nadu	Salem	C
86.	Tamil Nadu	Srivilliputtur	C
87.	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul	D
88.	Tamil Nadu	Madurai	C
89.	Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirapalli	C
90.	Tamil Nadu	Nagapattinam	D
91.	Tamil Nadu	Tanjavur	D
92.	Tamil Nadu	Theni	D
93.	Tamil Nadu	Tirunelveli	C
94.	Tamil Nadu	Nagarcoil	D
95.	Tamil Nadu	Tuticorin	D
96.	Tamil Nadu	Thiruvannmalai	C
97.	Uttar Pradesh	Noida	A
98.	Uttar Pradesh	Etawah	C
99.	Uttar Pradesh	Mainpuri	C
100.	Uttar Pradesh	Firozabad	D
101.	Uttar Pradesh	Etah	D
102.	Uttar Pradesh	Bulandshahr	B
103.	Uttar Pradesh	Badeun	D
104.	Uttar Pradesh	Akbarpur Matti (Kanpur)	D
105.	Uttar Pradesh	Rae Bareilly	D

1	2	3	4
106.	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh	D
107.	Uttar Pradesh	Muzaffargarh	D
108.	Uttar Pradesh	Fatehpur	D
109.	Uttar Pradesh	Pratapgarh	D
110.	Uttar Pradesh	Azamgarh	D
111.	Uttar Pradesh	Sultanpur	C
112.	Uttar Pradesh	Deoria	C
113.	Uttar Pradesh	Ghazipur	B
114.	Uttar Pradesh	Balia	C
115.	Uttar Pradesh	Orai	D
116.	Uttaranchal	Gopeshwar	B
117.	Uttaranchal	Pauri Garhwal	C
118.	Uttaranchal	Almora	B
119.	West Bengal	Krishnagar	C
120.	West Bengal	Midnapur	D
121.	West Bengal	Burdwan	D

**Construction of Railway Over-Bridges  
in Tamil Nadu**

2434. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the railway over-bridges in Tamil Nadu which are under construction;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on these bridges so far;

(c) whether construction work on some of the bridges is going behind the time schedules;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the completion of these bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Inclusive of works

sanctioned in the Works Programme of 2006-07, at present, 102 works of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges (ROB/RUBs) are sanctioned on cost sharing basis falling in the State of Tamil Nadu. Out of these 8 have been completed and commissioned during the year upto 31.12.2006; at 20 locations physical work is going on, and remaining are in different stages of Planning and Designing. 38 new works have also been included in the Works Programme of 2007-08.

(b) Expenditure incurred on 20 on-going works upto February 2007 is Rs. 41.65 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir. The work at following 4 ROB locations is behind schedule:

(i) Level Crossing (LC) No. 20 at Ukkadam by-pass

(ii) LC No. 100 at Morappur

(iii) LC No. 145 at Ondipudur, and

(iv) LC No. 202 at Chidambaram.

(d) Delay is mainly on account of (i) Contractual problems as a result of increase in rates of construction material, labour rates, etc. (ii) time taken by State Government in approval of General Arrangement Drawings and Estimates (iii) Land acquisition problem for approaches and also (iv) delays in removal of encroachments, public utility services falling in the way.

(e) Zonal Railways have taken steps to expedite construction of ROB at 4 locations viz.:

(i) LC No. 20 at Ukkadam by-pass,

(ii) LC No. 100 at Morappur,

(iii) LC No. 145 at Ondipudur, and

(iv) LC No. 202 at Chidambaram.

**Compensation to Farmers**

2435. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to pay compensation to the farmers who have lost their lands due to defence use on Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of farmers who will be given compensation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d) The details are being collected from Army Authorities and Directorate General of Defence Estates and the information will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

#### **Handing over of Brake Vans of Passenger Trains to Private Sector**

2436. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have handed over the brake vans of passenger trains to the private sector for carrying of goods;

(b) if so, the number of trains in which brake vans are being operated by the private companies;

(c) whether the Railways have allowed these private companies to collect freight at arbitrary rates;

(d) if not, the terms and condition of contract signed with these companies;

(e) whether the said companies can fix additional rates also besides the rates fixed by the Railways;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the porters (Palledar) Group 'D' employees presently working in the Railways are likely to become unemployed due to the partnership of private sector; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (h) With a view to maximise the utilisation of Brakevans and thereby increase earnings, Railways had launched a scheme for leasing of parcel space in Brakevans (SLRs) of passenger carrying trains. Under the scheme, parcel space in Brakevans (SLRs) of passenger carrying trains is leased out to private operators by inviting bids through open

tenders. Parcel space in Brakevans (SLRs) of approximate 600 trains has been leased out so far. The leaseholders, whoever offers highest bid over and above the reserve price, is awarded the leasing contract for parcel space in the Brakevans (SLRs). Further, the leaseholders provide value-added service to their customers by providing door-to-door service including road-bridging from party's premises to his godown and from his godown to railway station. The leaseholder collects remuneration from his customers for providing additional value-added service to his customers in addition to the element of freight. As it depends upon additional service provided by the leaseholder to his various customers on the basis of distance of road-bringing, the charges may vary in each case. Further, in every train one compartment of Brakevan is kept reserve for use of general public for booking done by railway staff. There is no curtailment in the existing workforce of Group 'D' Railway employees.

#### **Decline in Efficiency in Air India**

2437. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and nature of complaints received against the staff and management of Air India (AI) during the last three years;

(b) the number of the officials found guilty on the basis of these complaints;

(c) whether the efficiency of the staff and management of AI has been declining;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the efficiency in AI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last three years, Air India has received 176 complaints against its staff and management. The nature of complaints relate to illegal gratification, customs, CBI/Police, misuse of authority, fraud/forgery, irregularities in tenders and misappropriation.

(b) 85 officials have been found guilty during these years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### **Social Security to Poor**

2438. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the schemes launched by the Union Government for providing social security to the poor have been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Social Security Group Insurance Scheme has also been discontinued;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure that the social security schemes are not discontinued?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Social Security Group Insurance Scheme has not been discontinued. However, after introduction of Janashree Bima Yojana, no new scheme can be introduced under Social Security Group Insurance Schemes.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Rail Reservation Facility at District Headquarters**

2439. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the district headquarters where rail services are yet to reach;

(b) the district headquarters out of the above where rail reservation facility is available;

(c) whether the Railways have decided to provide reservation facility in all such districts where rail service is yet to reach;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The statistics of District Headquarter-wise availability of rail services are not maintained by the Ministry of Railways.

(b) Rail reservation facility is available at 107 non-rail head District Headquarters.

(c) and (d) Provision of computerized reservation facilities have been sanctioned at 65 more non-rail head District Headquarters.

(e) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **New Technology in Crude Oil Refining Sector**

2440. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) whether any research is being conducted in the field of crude oil refining to evolve technology for producing hundred percent transportation fuel;

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

(c) the details of technologies being used in public sector refineries in the country; and

(d) the percentage each of petrol, diesel LPG, Kerosene and naphtha produced with these technologies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) At present the refineries are able to meet the full transportation requirements of the country with exports of petrol and diesel. The final yield achieved in a refinery complex depends on the crude assay,

technologies available and used, demand and supply requirements and logistics of the products. However, refineries are in the process of increasing the distillate yield on commercial consideration.

(c) Oil refining is a combination of several processes involving distillation, thermal cracking, chemical cracking, hydro cracking and product treatment processes, etc. Different refineries use different technologies even for the same process. While the basic crude distillation has been developed domestically, complex technologies are generally available from specific international licensors.

(d) The combined yield achieved by domestic refineries for April-December, 2006 are as under:—

Petrol	—	8.2%
Diesel	—	38.4%
LPG	—	3.4%
Kerosene	—	7.9%
Naptha	—	8.5%

The above yield can be varied depending upon the demand requirement, crude processed and economics to a certain extent.

#### **Construction of Railway Terminals**

2441. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have announced construction of certain new railway terminals during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of railway terminals, the construction works of which have been completed; and

(d) the present status of construction of the remaining railway terminals and the time schedule for completion of these terminals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Commercial Production of Gas**

2442. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of commercial production of gas in the country for the last three years;

(b) the manner in which the New Exploration Licensing Policy will increase the production of natural gas alongwith the details of progress made so far;

(c) the place at which India stands among the countries producing C.B.M. commercially at world level; and

(d) the number of blocks for which the Government has signed agreement for production of CBM alongwith the time of agreement and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The details of the commercial production of gas in the country for the last three years are as under:

	Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre (MMSCM)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
OIL	1,887	2,009	2,270
ONGC	23,584	22,970	22,574
Pvt./JV	6,490	6,780	7,350
Total	31,961	31,759	32,194

(b) In New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) regime, a total of 162 oil & gas exploration blocks have been awarded in the six rounds held during 1999-2000 to 2006-07. So far a total 29 discoveries have been made, out of which two discoveries Bheema and NS in the block CB-ONN-2000/1 were put on Commercial Production and the Development Plan of two gas discoveries in KG-DWN-98/3 blocks are under Development stage. The commercial production from these two discoveries is likely to commence by mid-2008 with peak production @ 80 MMSCM. Other discoveries are at various stages of commercially & appraisal/evaluation.

(c) United States of America (USA) is the leader in Coal Bed Methane (CBM) production in the world. The

successful commercial recovery of CBM in USA has been followed up by several major coal producing countries like Australia, Canada, China. It is expected that commercial production of CBM in India would commence

by the end of 2007-08. Thus India would be the 5th country to produce CBM commercially.

(d) The details of the CBM blocks are given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

*Details of the CBM Blocks*

Sl.No.	Block Name/(Block Nomenclature)	State/ Area in (Sq. Km.)	Awardee/ Contract Signing Date
1	2	3	4
1.	Bokaro [BK-CBM-2001/I]	Jharkhand 95	ONGC-IOC 26.7.2002
2.	North Karanpura [NK-CBM-2001/I]	Jharkhand 340	ONGC-IOC 26.7.2002
3.	Sohagpur East [SP (East)-CBM-2001/I]	Madhya Pradesh 495	RIL 26.7.2002
4.	Sohagpur West [SP (West)-CBM-2001/I]	Madhya Pradesh 500	RIL 26.7.2002
5.	Raniganj East [G (East)-CBM-2001/I]	W. Bengal 500	EOL 26.7.2002
6.	Raniganj North	W. Bengal 350	ONGC-CIL 6.2.2003
7.	Jharia	Jharkhand 85	ONGC-CIL 6.2.2003
8.	Raniganj South [The block was earlier awarded through FIPB route]	W. Bengal 210	GEECL 31.5.2001
9.	South Karanpura [SK-CBM-2003/II]	Jharkhand 70	ONGC 6.2.2004
10.	North Karanpura [NK (West)-CBM-2003/II]	Jharkhand 267	ONGC 6.2.2004
11.	Satpura [ST-CBM-2003/II]	Madhya Pradesh 714	ONGC 6.2.2004
12.	Wardha [WD-CBM-2003/II]	Maharashtra 503	ONGC 6.2.2004
13.	Sonhat [SH (North)-CBM-2003/II]	Chhattisgarh 825	RIL 6.2.2004



1	2	3	4
14.	Barmer (1) [BS (1)-CBM-2003/II]	Rajasthan 1045	RIL 6.2.2004
15.	Barmer (2) [BS (2)-CBM-2003/II]	Rajasthan 1020	RIL 6.2.2004
16.	Bramer-Sanchor [BS (3)-CBM-2003/II]	Gujarat 790	ONGC-GSPCL 6.2.2004
17.	Rajmahal	RM-CBM-2005/III	Arrow Energy India (Pt. Ltd.) 7.11.2006
18.	Birbhum	BB-CBM-2005/III	BP Exp. (Alpha) Limited 7.11.2006
19.	Tatapani-Ramkola	TR-CBM-2005/III	Arrow Energy (I) Ltd. 7.11.2006
20.	Mand-Raigarh	MR-CBM-2005/III	Arrow Energy (I) Ltd. 7.11.2006
21.	Sohagpur	SP (North)-CBM-2005/III	Geopetrol International Inc. 7.11.2006
22.	Singrauli	SR-CBM-2005/III	Coal Gas Mart, LLC 7.11.2006
23.	Kothagudem	KG (E)-CBM-2005/III	Geopetrol International Inc. 7.11.2006
24.	Barmer	BS (4)-CBM-2005/III	Geopetrol International Inc. 7.11.2006
25.	Barmer	BS (5)-CBM-2005/III	Geopetrol International Inc. 7.11.2006
26.	Godavari (North)	GV (North)-CBM-2005/III	Coal Gas Mart LLC 7.11.2006

**Rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers**

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

2443. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken/propose to take any effective steps for proper rehabilitation of slum dwellers illegally occupying railway land in the country particularly in metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, before they are evicted from there;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Housing being a State subject Railways do not have any policy for resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) of encroachers of its land. R&R of evicted persons, who had encroached upon Railway land, if feasible, is to be done by the respective State Governments. However, in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, railways have agreed to bear part cost of relocation of Pre-1996 encroachers located

on Railway land in 'Safety Zone' and on land required for execution of sanctioned projects, as per the Resettlement & Rehabilitation policy of Delhi Government, which has the approval of the Ministry of Urban Development. In Mumbai, for area under Mumbai Urban Transport Project, Railways have executed an agreement with the Government of Maharashtra for sharing the overall project cost equally which, along with augmentation of Railway infrastructure, also includes the cost of R&R of the Project Affected Persons.

[English]

#### **One Rank One Pension**

2444. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:  
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:  
DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering One Rank One Pension formula and constitution of separate Pay Commission for Defence Personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Ex-Services League (Punjab and Chandigarh) Unit has recently made some demands in this regard; and

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

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representations with regard to demand for 'One Rank One Pension' have been continually received. The matter was considered by the Government, but due to administrative, financial, and legal implications, it has not been found feasible to agree to this demand. However, with effect from 1.1.2006, pension of pre-1.1.1996 retirees of all ranks of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) in Army, Navy and Air Force have been revised with reference to the maximum of post-1.1.1996 pay-scales. In addition, the weightage of Sepoy, Naik and Havildar ranks for past as well as future retirees has been

enhanced from 5 years to 10, 8 and 6 years respectively subject to a maximum qualifying service of 30 years. However, if any pension is already getting a qualifying service of more than 30 years with existing weightage, he will continue getting that.

#### **Agreement between ONGC and Cairn Energy**

2445. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has agreed to a proposal of ONGC and Cairn Energy in connection with bringing Rajasthan Oil fields into production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the advantages of such an agreement to ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The development plan of 4 oil discoveries in the block RJ-ON-90/1 has been approved. First oil is expected in 2008-09.

(c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has acquired 30% participating interest in the Mangala development area (covering discoveries of Mangala, Rageshwari, Saraswati and Aishwariya). The estimated quantum of ultimate reserves for above four fields as on 1.4.2006 is 39.49 MMt (O+OEG) out of which ONGC's share is 11.84 MMT (O+OEG).

[Translation]

#### **Low Costs Airlines**

2446. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is encouraging low cost airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of low budget airlines at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has not introduced any classification of low cost airlines and as such there is no distinction in the policy for such airlines.

(c) Based on fare structure and distribution model, Air Deccan, Spice Jet, Go Air and Indigo may be classified as low cost scheduled domestic airlines.

*[English]*

#### **Shortage of Funds for Karwar Naval Base Project**

2447. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy is facing the shortage of funds for its Karwar Naval Base Project, Phase-II & III.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet the shortage of funds; and

(d) the time by which the Phase-II & III are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There is no proposal for Phase-II and Phase-III of Karwar Base Project projected to the Government. The question of shortage of funds, therefore, does not arise at this stage.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Single Gauge System**

2448. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to cover the entire country with railway systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the existing number of broad gauge, meter gauge and narrow-gauge sections;

(c) whether the Railways also proposed to convert the meter and narrow gauge railway tracks; and

(d) if so, the time by which the entire country is likely to be covered with a single Gauge System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The country is already covered by vast network of Railways. The railway lines are not defined in numbers. As on 01.04.2006, there were 48,574 route kms of Broad Gauge, 11,834 route kms of Metre Gauge and 2,924 route kms of Narrow Gauge on the railway system.

(c) and (d) Project Unigauge was taken up in 1992 under which it was decided to convert selected routes from Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge into Broad Gauge. Under this Scheme, conversion of 12207 kms has already been completed upto 31.03.2006 and 1225 kms is targeted for completion during 2006-07. Further, conversion works have been taken up on about 7200 kms. There is no plan to convert all the Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines to broad gauge. However, as announced in the budget 2007-08, efforts would be made to convert majority of Metre Gauge lines to broad gauge during the 11th Five Year Plan.

*[Translation]*

#### **Expenditure on Advertisements**

2449. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by each public sector oil companies for advertisement during each of the last three years as on date;

(b) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to all the public sector oil companies with regard to advertisement of their company;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the criteria fixed for selection of print media and electronic media by the public sector oil companies for publicity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The details of the expenditure incurred by major Oil PSUs on advertisements during the last three years is as under:

Name of the Oil Company	Expenditure incurred on advertisements (in Rs. Crore)		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (as on 01.03.2007)
ONGC	26.00	36.33	29.94
IOCL	137.52	139.18	87.98
BPCL	62.56	45.96	31.16
HPCL	38.74	44.95	49.18
GAIL	12.82	14.99	4.96
OIL	1.69	1.77	1.17

(b) and (c) As per the new advertisement policy of the Government, all advertisements of the Central Government, attached offices, autonomous organizations and Public Sector Undertakings are to be routed through DAVP (Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity) effective from 1st June, 2006.

(d) Each oil PSU has its own criteria for selection of print and electronic media, which are generally based on factors like circulation, reach, comparative cost, budget and corporate needs, etc.

[English]

#### Demand and Supply of Natural Gas

2450. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:  
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) the demand and supply status of natural gas for the last three years and how much demand is being met indigenously;

(b) the anticipated demand and supply requirements for the next three years;

(c) whether the Government has chalked out plans to increase the ratio of natural gas in energy sector in view of huge funds by private and public sector companies;

(d) if so, whether sufficient infrastructure development efforts are being undertaken to meet the surge in demand from piped home supply of natural gas and automobile sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) According to the working group report on Petroleum & Natural Gas for the Xth Five Year Plan, the demand projected was as follows:-

(in MMSCMD)			
Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Demand	155	176	179

The above figures were indicative and price-sensitive.

The supply during the period was as follows:-

(in MMSCMD)			
Year	Indigenous gas supply	Supply of Imported R-LNG Gas	Total
2003-04	62.63	0.18*	62.81
2004-05	61.94	5.34	67.28
2005-06	57.26	11.05	68.31

\*Supply commenced from Feb/March, 2004 and around 65.38 MMSCM was supplied.

(b) According to the report of the working group on Petroleum and Natural Gas sector for the XIth Plan, the projected demand and supply for the next three years is as follows:

(in MMSCMD)		
Year	Demand	Supply
2007-08	179.17	110.99
2008-09	196.64	153.58
2009-10	225.52	168.47

(c) to (e) Government of India has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to augment gas supplies and to bridge the gap between supply and demand for the domestic market. These cover:-

- (1) Intensification of domestic E&P activities;
- (2) Exploitation of coal bed methane gas;
- (3) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation.
- (4) LNG Import; and
- (5) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

The Government of India has also enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks' to provide a regulatory framework for development of gas infrastructure in the country.

#### **Budget Airline for Kerala**

2451. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Kerala to relax some of the conditions regarding the international flights to start a budget airline; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala have requested this Ministry for exemption to their proposed budget international airline from the stipulated conditions relating to fleet size and the length of operation in the domestic sector for an airline to be considered for international operations. This request was not considered as the existing provisions of minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft and experience of 5 years continuous operations in domestic sector for permitting an Indian scheduled carrier to operate international services, are considered to be essential for safe and reliable operations on international routes.

#### **LPG Connections**

2452. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR:

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

(a) the number of persons waiting for LPG connection in the country, State-wise and company-wise;

(b) the number of consumers existing with each companies as on date;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any time frame to clear the waiting list;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of new connections released by each company during 2006, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a), (c) and (d) At present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers and there is no overall waiting list for release of new connection in the country. However, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported waiting list of 4861 in the State of Kerala and 160 in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep as on 1.2.2007 for new LPG connections with their LPG distributors due to inadequate supply of

cylinders by the cylinder manufacturers. Government has advised IOC to make alternate arrangements for supply of cylinders through other suppliers on a priority basis. IOC has reported that the waiting list is expected to be cleared by mid-April, 2007.

(b) At present, 3 Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely IOC, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) are releasing LPG connections in the country. As on 1.3.2007, OMCs are serving 937.55 lakhs LPG consumers in the country. The details are as under:-

Name of OMC	Number of consumers (Figure in lakhs)
IOC	467
BPCL	232.53
HPCL	238.02
Total	937.55

(e) OMCs have released 52,23,270 LPG connections in the country through their LPG distributors during the year 2006. The State-wise/company-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

*State-wise number of connections released by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) during the year 2006*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of connections released		
		IOC	BPCL	HPCL
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	194513	55540	118079
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7334	—	—
3.	Assam	108105	7907	3406
4.	Bihar	79707	19237	28502
5.	Chhattisgarh	72082	15669	19272
6.	Gujarat	104268	83093	45134
7.	Goa	1065	4196	11716
8.	Haryana	89514	37634	37587
9.	Himachal Pradesh	50107	4762	6193
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	24919	8789	39547
11.	Jharkhand	79281	2886	14604
12.	Karnataka	169231	56195	90853
13.	Kerala	125882	45606	69953
14.	Madhya Pradesh	164556	46849	64022
15.	Maharashtra	129321	281706	270794
16.	Manipur	8093	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Meghalaya	7351	—	—
18.	Mizoram	6495	—	—
19.	Nagaland	9735	—	—
20.	Orissa	56977	19109	21947
21.	Punjab	164519	31133	56360
22.	Rajasthan	121538	56072	50150
23.	Sikkim	5429	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	408286	118134	65819
25.	Tripura	11202	—	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	333528	130390	102821
27.	Uttarakhand	44244	8001	15665
28.	West Bengal	187272	40426	65745
29.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	5666	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	8576	1088	900
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	—	1243
32.	Daman and Diu	0	—	982
33.	Delhi	101559	29490	22994
34.	Lakshadweep	63	—	—
35.	Puducherry	7865	3621	3166
Total		2888283	1107533	1227454

#### **Salaries and Facilities to Soldiers**

2453. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:  
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:  
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soldiers of the Armed Forces deployed on borders in difficult situations are being paid meagre salaries and are also not being provided adequate facilities;

(b) if so, the details of the facilities and salaries being paid to them;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to provide adequate facilities to the soldiers and to enhance their salaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) Appropriate pay and allowances are being paid to the soldiers in terms of Government orders issued from time to time. Improvement to facilities and infrastructure is an on-going process. Government has

recently set up the 6th Central Pay Commission to look into the matters of pay and allowances of all Government employees including the armed forces personnel.

#### **Indo-US Joint Exercises**

2454. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Indo-US joint exercises that have taken place during the last three years; and

(b) the extent to which these exercises are likely to be beneficial for India?

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

(a) The details of the Indo-US joint exercises conducted during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Joint Army Exercise	Joint Navy Exercise	Joint Air Force Exercise
2004	3	2	1
2005	4	1	1
2006	3	Nil	1
Total	10	3	3

(b) These joint exercises contribute to enhancing the capability of our Armed Forces through exchange of best practices and procedures and exposure to advanced technology.

These exercises also increase the interoperability which would be of benefit during disaster management situations and peace keeping operations.

[Translation]

#### **HBJ Pipeline**

2455. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGÉ PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur gas pipeline;

(b) whether the Government has received proposals from various State Governments for supply of natural gas to their States from HBJ pipeline;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagidhsapur (HVJ) pipeline is operational.

(b) to (d) Proposals for supply of natural gas from HVJ pipeline have been received from time to time from various State Governments. However, due to less availability of natural gas, no new proposals for supply of natural gas are being considered.

However, the Government of India has initiated various steps to augment gas supplies for the domestic market. These cover:-

- (1) Intensification in domestic E&P activities;
- (2) Exploitation of coal bed methane gas;
- (3) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NHGP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation;
- (4) LNG Import; and
- (5) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

[English]

#### **Airports in Andhra Pradesh**

2456. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has made an agreement with the Government of Andhra Pradesh for expansion of Vijayawada, Rajahmundry and Tirupati airports in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total estimated cost of the proposed expansion of the airports; and

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



THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with State Government of Andhra Pradesh on 14th February 2007 for expansion and development of Vijayawada & Rajahmundry Airports. As per the MOU, AAI will develop these airports subject to acquiring and handing over of the required additional land by the State Government to AAI, free of cost and free from all encumbrances alongwith other concessions.

MOU does not cover Tirupati Airport.

(c) and (d) Subsequent to the signing of MOU, the requirement of additional land is being projected to State Government of Andhra Pradesh in respect of Vijayawada and Rajahmundry Airports following which the expansion plans will be firmed up and estimates will be finalised for taking up the works.

#### **Trained Guides**

2457. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any awareness campaign to sensitise and train guides who are involved in promoting tourism industry in the country;

(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) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the guidelines issued, the selection of Regional Level Guides is to be made through an open transparent process and there is a provision for refresher course. The Regional Level Guides have to be trained through the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (Gwalior). Since 2005, open press advertisements are given for selection of all Regional Level Guides through a transparent procedure. The selection is made on the basis of a written examination and interview. The selected candidates have to undergo a 16 week training programme and subsequently appear for the written examination and viva voce.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Surat Airport**

2458. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:  
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:  
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project for development of Surat Airport has not been completed so far;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to complete the development work at the earliest?

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

(b) and (c) Initially the proposal for development of Surat airport for making it suitable for operations of ATR 72 type of aircrafts with an estimated cost of Rs. 35.30 crore was made. Subsequently, considering the demands from various quarters and keeping in view the overall growth in domestic sector, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has revised the scope of work amounting to Rs. 68.81 crore.

There was a delay in Extension of runway work due to heavy rains/flood at the Surat and non-performance by the agency. However, the works of fire station, Electrical and Mechanical workshop, Electrical sub-section have already been completed. The work of Technical block cum control tower and runway including night landing facilities is likely to be completed in April, 2007. The work of Terminal Building is also in progress and likely to be completed shortly.

*[Translation]*

#### **Good Quality of Railway Tracks**

2459. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated an ambitious scheme to improve the quality of railway tracks so that trains with more heavy loads can travel faster on the tracks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to commence on the said scheme; and

(d) the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Track renewals are carried out on age cum conditions basis and to upgrade track structure to suit traffic requirement.

At the time of track renewal, modern track structure is provided depending on route classification type of traffic and annual traffic density. Modern track structure is capable of heavy load train operation at faster speed.

(c) and (d) It is a continuous process. In the XIth Five Year Plan track renewal works costing nearly Rs. 24885 crore are envisaged.

[English]

#### Daily Wages of CIAL Employees

2460. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the daily wages of the casual employees working with Air India have been increased;

(b) if so, the rate at which wages have hiked and the period from which at effected;

(c) whether the similar casual employees of Air India in Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has been denied of the hiked wages;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the daily wages for CIAL's casual employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. However, some of the casual labourers are being paid wages @ Rs. 215/- per day as per a order of Hon'ble Mumbai High Court i.e., at par with the Contract Workers.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Chitrakoot Dham

2461. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to make the Chitrakoot Dham-Karvi (Uttar Pradesh) a tourist spot;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria being adopted for allocation of funds for this purpose alongwith the amount being allocated?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from the State Government to make Chitrakoot Dham-Karvi (Uttar Pradesh) a tourist spot.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Oil Reserves

2462. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the KPMG, a global consultancy, submitted a report to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas recommended for four options for oil reserves;

(b) the various models adopted by USA, UK, Japan and other developed countries for their oil reserves;

(c) whether those models have been studied by the Government or the Oil Marketing Companies; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a), (c) and (d) M/s KPMG has recently conducted a study on various options for developing strategic petroleum reserve for India under public private partnership. The report has found that stock piling models for strategic storage are not typically based on commercial viability. The four public-private partnership models suggested by KPMG are based on revenue generated by:

(i) high trading gains, or

(ii) providing a priority access to the Indian spot crude market, or

(iii) a levy of cess on petroleum products.

As the cost would be eventually borne by domestic refineries/companies and/or passed on to the consumers in some form, none of the suggested models appear feasible or cost effective.

(b) As UK is an exporter of crude oil, they have only commercial storages. The brief of models of strategic storage adopted by USA and Japan are as under:

#### USA

Ownership	Crude/product	Quantum of storage	Drawdown	Regulation
Govt. (Dept of Energy)	Crude and limited heating oil	727 million barrels 90 days of consumption	By federal order in Emergency	Highly regulated stockpile as it is Govt. owned

#### JAPAN

Govt. & Oil Companies	Crude, LPG and products	578 million barrels 92 days of consumption	Regulated by Min. of Economy	Oil companies mandated to hold stock
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[Translation]

#### Use of LPG in Vehicles

2463. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that Maruti Udyog Limited has launched the LPG version of Wagon-R;

(b) if so, whether the Government has given approval to use cooking gas LPG cylinders in four wheelers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has made any assessment of the adverse effects likely to be caused on the consumers as a result of the approval given for using LPG cylinders in view of the black-marketing of LPG cylinders owing to the shortage thereof; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. M/s Maruti Udyog Limited (Wagon R) have launched vehicles using Auto Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the Indian market.

(b) to (e) No, Sir. Government has not given approval to use cooking gas LPG cylinders in vehicles. Government have permitted the sale of auto-LPG for vehicles *vide* Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicle) Order, 2001. As per the Control Order, only imported or import-substituted auto LPG can be used in vehicles. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) set up Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) based on their commercial considerations and upon the availability of suitable sites in various cities to meet the requirement of auto LPG. While the vehicles are authorized to run on LPG by the State Governments, OMCs are meeting the demand of auto LPG through their refineries/imports.

As per provision of Auto LPG Control Order, LPG as auto fuel should conform to BIS Specification 14861-2000 and should be dispensed from Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) only. The Auto LPG tank in a vehicle should conform to BIS specifications IS 14899 and should be permanently fitted to the vehicle along with various equipments/fittings forming part of the conversion kit having "Type Approval" by one of the testing agencies as notified under Central Motor Vehicle (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2001.

The following measures have been taken to prevent the black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:

(i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the

Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of OMCs is prohibited.

The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the black marketing of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

- (ii) The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no diversion/black marketing takes place. In terms of the MDG, in case of establishment of any black marketing of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action is taken against the distributor:-

Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.

Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and

Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

*[English]*

#### **Air India Flights to Gulf Countries**

2464. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government to introduce low budget Air India Express services connecting Hyderabad to Bangkok, Riyadh and Kuwait NRIs belonging to Andhra Pradesh working in gulf and middle east countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for operation of Air India Express flights from Hyderabad to Riyadh and Kuwait and from Hyderabad to Bangkok.

(c) Air India Express have to immediate plans to operate services from Hyderabad to Bangkok, Riyadh and Kuwait.

#### **Vocational Training to Persons with Disabilities**

2465. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Institute of Vocational Education has prepared a comprehensive plan for imparting vocational training to persons with disabilities and it would be the responsibility of Rehabilitation Council of India to prepare vocational instructors for the future;

(b) if so, the details of plan prepared by Rehabilitation Council of India;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government has set up a Rs. 100 crore corpus fund exclusively for extremely disabled;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the criteria adopted in providing help and assistance to the disabled under this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) No comprehensive plan for imparting vocational training to persons with disabilities has been prepared by Pandit Sunder Lal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education, Bhopal.

(d) to (f) Yes Sir, the Government has set up National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities with a corpus of Rs. 100 crore. The Trust implements a Centre Based Scheme named 'Samarth' in which one of the components is vocational training. The selection of beneficiaries is made on first come first served basis and the criteria for selection is:-

(i) Should belong to the four disability groups of Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities.

(ii) 30% should be from BPL families.

(iii) Girls and boys should be in the ratio of 40:60.

**New Diesel Engine Plant by Maruti**

2466. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a new diesel engine plant through Maruti Udyog Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian and Japanese counter parts held discussion recently on the financial aspects of the proposed plant;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No Sir. Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) is a private limited company with majority shareholding of Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC), Japan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) As per MUL, SMC in partnership with them has set up a new diesel engine Plant at Manesar. This plant is being managed by Suzuki Powertrain India Limited (SPIL). The plant was inaugurated on 06.02.2007. The diesel plant will have a capacity of 100,000 units, which will be expanded to 300,000 units in due course. The total investment for setting up this facility is estimated to be Rs. 2500 crore by 2010.

*[Translation]*

**Development of Panna District**

2467. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to enhance the tourism facilities at Panna District under destination development programme; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard and the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project for development of Panna District of Madhya Pradesh as a destination has been sanctioned on 16.10.2006 for Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 421.36 lakh out of which Rs. 337.00 lakh has been released in favour of the State Tourism Department for execution of the project.

*[English]*

**INS Viraat**

2468. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy has of late critically examined the durability and service fitness of the sole aircraft carrier-INS Viraat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the period for which this flagship of Indian Navy is likely to continue in active service; and

(d) the future plans for acquiring of manufacturing warships for replacements and augmentation of Naval fleet?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A study group has been constituted to explore the feasibility of extending the service life of Indian Naval ship Viraat till 2012. The study group has recommended that extension of the service life of the ship upto 2012 is possible subject to certain repairs being undertaken in addition to routine periodic maintenance.

(b) Warships are inducted in the Navy for replacement and augmentation of Naval Fleet. This is a continuous process based on the threat perception and international security environment. It will not be in the interest of National Security to divulge the details of the replacement and augmentation of Naval Fleet.

**Funds for Tamil Nadu**

2469. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds granted/allocated for Tamil Nadu last year for development of various projects are inadequate;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to provide sufficient funds in this regard;

(c) details of railway projects that have been delayed or cancelled due to paucity of funds in Tamil Nadu during the last year; and

(d) the remedial measures been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Funds are being allocated depending upon the overall availability of resources and as per the State-wise formula. No project has been cancelled during last year due to paucity of funds.

(d) The projects are progressing as per availability of resources. A number of initiatives has been taken for generating additional resources through Public/Private partnership, cost sharing by State Government, Funding through Ministry of Defence and National Projects. Funds have also been allocated through internal resources generation.

*[Translation]*

#### **Extension of Kalka-Shimla Rail Route**

2470. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kalka-Shimla rail route has not been extended at all even after 59-60 years of Independence;

(b) whether the Railways have received any proposal for the extension of the said rail route from Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) As per available records, no such request has been received in the recent past.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Providing Security and Communication Facilities for Gangmen**

2471. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken any step to provide proper security and communication facility to the Gangmen posted in rural areas specially during night;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Steps taken are as under:

(i) Gangmen are being provided with luminous jackets for better visibility to train drivers.

(ii) Refresher Courses and Safety Seminars are organized from time to time to educate Gangmen on safety rules.

(iii) Gumboots are being provided to gangmen

(iv) Walkie-Talkie sets are being provided progressively to patrolmen.

*[English]*

#### **Old Manuscripts**

2472. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether old manuscripts on ancient Indian History and Culture are stored in "National Mission for Manuscripts".

(b) if so, such manuscripts including those inscribed on "THALIOLA" (Palm or Coconut Leaves) are available and stored;

(c) whether such materials are available on website;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is a list of knowledge imparting data called 'Vignana Nidhi- (Treasure of Knowledge)' in the National mission for manuscripts;

(f) whether Arya mansu Sree moola Kalpam and 45 'Thaliola' have been included in such a list; and

(g) if so, the details of the other information available from these manuscripts from Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The National Mission for Manuscripts does not acquire or buy manuscripts. It persuades people to donate their manuscripts to Museums, Universities, Archives and reputed institutions having manuscripts libraries in their

There are some old manuscripts donated by various Resource Centres and individuals from time to time, which are kept at the Mission's Headquarter at New Delhi.

(b) Manuscripts on palm leaves (Thaliola) are available in manuscript repositories across the country, particularly in Southern and Eastern parts of India.

(c) and (d) The digitized copies of these manuscripts are not available on the website of the Mission. However, catalogue details of various palm leaf manuscripts can be found from the national database, the *Kritisampada*, which is available on the website. The database can be searched through the categories of author, material, name of text, etc.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) The *Arya-manjushri-mula-kalpa* is one of the 45 manuscripts included in 'Vijnananidhi—The Manuscript Treasures of India'. This manuscript is available with Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library, Thiruvananthapuram. The content of the work is taken from the Mahayana Buddhism.

#### **Monitoring of Welfare Schemes**

2473. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any steps to monitor the progress of various welfare schemes so as to ensure expeditious implementation of all programmes meant for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many welfare schemes are being implemented at a slow phase and behind the targets;

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

(e) the other steps being taken by the Government to speed up the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment monitors the performance of the schemes/projects being implemented

for the welfare of Scheduled Castes/Other backward Classes through information in the prescribed proforma, utilization certificates and periodical inspections.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Ministry periodically organizes the State Welfare Secretaries Conferences to review the implementation of different programmes and schemes.

#### **Upliftment of SCs**

2474. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no clear cut strategy for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes (SC) population living below double the poverty line;

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

(c) whether only 281 SC artisans were benefited under the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) schemes during 01.04.2001 to 01.03.2004;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to strengthen the monitoring of the NSFDC's schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The thrust of the strategy is to eradicate poverty and empower weaker sections of the society particularly SC/ST population. In almost all the schemes/programmes adequate coverage of the Scheduled Castes beneficiaries is ensured.

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

(c) The NSFDC has extended benefit to 2,12,121 Scheduled Caste beneficiaries in addition to the 281 Scheduled Caste artisans.

(d) Same as above.

(e) NSFDC's monitoring mechanism has been strengthened by way of (i) submission of Quarterly Progress Reports (ii) periodic Utilization Drives

undertaken by NSFDC, and (iii) random inspections of beneficiary units by NSFDC Officials and independent agencies.

*[Translation]*

#### **Shelters for Backward Class Women**

2475. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Union Government is implementing any scheme for construction of shelters for women belonging to backward classes;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received by the Union Government from State Governments to construct shelters for women belonging to backward classes during 2006-07;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the total number of shelters for backward class women constructed by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir. The Union Government is not implementing any scheme for construction of shelters exclusively for women belonging to backward classes

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Selling of their Stake by OMCs**

2476. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies are selling their stake to private sector;

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

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Self-dependence in Technical Efficiency**

2477. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is far behind in respect of self-dependence in technical efficiency in the field of defence equipments in comparison to the developed countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate any policy to set up joint ventures in collaboration with developed countries in this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the country is likely to be self-dependent in defence sector?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Self-dependence, as immunity against technology/product denials by other countries, has been achieved in most of the critical areas in defence over the last two decades. With changing technologies in future, efforts to maintain the self-dependence will continue.

(b) Though, perceivably, the country may be lagging in technologies in comparison with developed countries by about five year, adequate capability exists to be self dependent to meet the country's security needs.

(c) and (d) Government has made provisions to establish joint ventures in critical areas on need basis.

*[English]*

#### **Experts in Crude Oil Production**

2478. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts in the field of crude oil production in public sector oil companies are declining;

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

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



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 422 employees have resigned from ONGC during last 2 years, quoting personal reasons or domestic problems.

(c) In order to retain their employees, public sector oil companies have taken the following steps:-

- (i) Fast track career growth opportunities for talented employees.
- (ii) Introduction of awards/rewards schemes.
- (iii) Counselling, mentoring and nurturing of performing executives as well as developing new competencies and capabilities.
- (iv) Providing opportunities for involvement in decision making.

*[Translation]*

#### **New Rail Routes in Uttar Pradesh**

2479. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted the survey for new rail-routes in Uttar Pradesh under the schemes announced during the year 2006-2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether laying of rail-tracks on the above routes has been sanctioned;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the routes surveyed have been cancelled before laying of the tracks on the above routes; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Surveys for a new line from Khurja to Raya and Lalganj to Bachhrawan in Uttar Pradesh were including in the Budget 2006-2007

(c) and (d) The proposal is under survey stage.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Destination Plassey**

2480. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has sought clearance from the Union Government for a tourism development project called 'Destination Plassey';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to commemorate the Jubilee of the battle of Plassey;

(d) if so, the status of the matter;

(e) whether the Government also proposes to share the funding of the project since this is a national issue; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) 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. Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respect are examined as per scheme guidelines and sanctioned on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under the respective head. A project proposal for Plassey destination was received from the State Government of West Bengal during the year 2006-07. It was not as per the guidelines hence, was not sanctioned.

(c) to (f) No such committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India on Jubilee of battle of Plassey.

However, an amount of Rs. 2639.45 lakh has been sanctioned in the year 2006-07 for tourism related projects for the State of West Bengal. A list of these projects is enclosed as Statement.

**Statement***Tourism Projects Sanctioned for West-Bengal during the year 2006-07*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
<b>2006-07</b>		
1.	Integrated Development of "Tea Tourism Circuit" in North Bengal	388.98
2.	Setting up of a Night-Safari Park at Jorepokhari in Darjeeling, West Bengal under LRG Scheme-Preparation of Feasibility Report	15.00
3.	Development of Kalimpong under Destination Scheme	498.38
4.	Setting up of tourism infrastructural facilities at Goke	355.49
5.	Development of Eastern Dooars Tourism Circuit in Jalpaiguri District	683.58
6.	Development of Beach Tourism Circuit in Purba Medinipur District	598.02
7.	Development of Rural Tourism at village Mukutmonipur, Distt. Bankura	50.00

1	2	3
8.	Development of Rural Tourism at village Antpur, Distt. Hooghly	50.00
Total		2639.45

**Tourism Finance Corporation of India**

2481. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tourism Finance Corporation of India grant loans to private firms in the country;

(b) if so, the details of loan granted by TFCI during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of the criteria and terms and conditions of such loans by TFCI;

(d) the details of the firms who had defaulted in payment of their dues alongwith the funds of TFCI involved therein; and

(e) the steps taken by the TFCI to recover such pending dues?

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

(b) The details of state-wise loans during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	April-Mar 2004	April-Mar 2005	April-Mar 2006
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.6	13.50	6.50
2.	Delhi	46.0	24.0	9.0
3.	Goa	6.3	0.0	0.0
4.	Gujarat	2.4	3.8	5.7
5.	Haryana	13.3	0.0	0.2
6.	Karnataka	0.0	8.0	12.9
7.	Kerala	0.0	1.4	12.9
8.	Madhya Pradesh	3.5	8.8	0.0

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Maharashtra	18.6	14.9	28.3
10.	Orissa	1.2	0.0	0.0
11.	Punjab	0.0	0.0	0.6
12.	Rajasthan	0.5	0.0	7.0
13.	Tamil Nadu	4.0	8.8	29.9
14.	Uttar Pradesh	0.0	7.0	0.0
15.	West Bengal	0.0	6.0	0.0
16.	Union Territories			
	(a) Chandigarh	2.0	0.0	0.0
	(b) Pondicherry	0.0	1.5	0.0
17.	Multi-State/ Others	0.0	12.9	32.8
Total		104.4	110.6	132.9

(c) The criteria for granting loans are as follows:- Minimum promoter contribution to be 30%; Debt- Equity Ratio not exceeding 1.5:1 for hotels and 1:1 to 1.25:1 for other sectors; Repayment Schedule – General norm is 8 years allowing a moratorium of 1½-2 years after commencement of operations; Rates of Interest depending upon the credit rating of the borrower; Clear Titles of land and Necessary approvals from DOT/ Municipal authorities/other to be in place.

(d) Out of 7 cases, 4 cases have been settled/ restructured and an amount of Rs. 16.59 crore has been recovered.

(e) TFCI aggressively pursues for the recovery of NPAs. If the persuasive measures do not fructify, legal recourse is sought and TFCI generally files application with Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) for recovery of dues, sending notices under securitization act etc. Apart from filing application with DRTs/Courts, steps are initiated for recovery the dues by way of "One Time Settlement" and/or restructuring of the outstanding dues on merits of each case.

#### **Demand of Petroleum Product**

2482. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the demand for petroleum products was estimated at 104.80 MT during the beginning of Tenth Five Year Plan excluding the liquid fuel requirement for power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the growth rate of petroleum products during the Tenth Five Year Plan noticed;

(d) whether the Government has studied the reasons of lower growth of petroleum products;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to exploration and enhance hydrocarbon reserves to boost the growth of petroleum product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) As per Working Group report on Petroleum & Natural Gas for the Tenth Five Year Plan, demand for petroleum products as per Base Case for the first year of Tenth Plan 2002-2003 was estimated at 107.1 MMT. However, actual consumption for 2002-2003 was 104.1 MMT.

(c) Year-wise growth rates during the Tenth Plan are as under:

2002-03	—	3.7%
2003-04	—	3.5%
2004-05	—	3.6%
2005-06	—	1.4%
2006-07(Est.)	—	3.8%

(d) and (e) The Working Group on Petroleum and Natural Gas for Tenth Five year Plan Report had projected Annual Compounded Rate of Growth of 3.7% (Base Case) during the Tenth Five Years Plan. Actual growth for first four years has been 3.0%. However, in the current year, which is the terminal year for Tenth Five Year Plan, present growth is much higher at 5.3% for April-January. Hence, final figures for Tenth Plan may be still higher and closer to the original estimates by the Working Group.

(f) Various steps are being taken to intensify exploration and enhance hydrocarbon reserves boost the growth of petroleum products are as follows:

- (i) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP): Under NELP, 110 exploration blocks have been awarded to National Oil Companies, foreign companies and private/joint venture companies through International Competitive Bidding. This includes 20 Exploration Blocks awarded in the fifth round of NELP. Another 55 blocks have now been offered under NELP-VI.
- (ii) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes-in-particular. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these field;
- (iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep waters and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing field;
- (iv) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, and stimulation operations, drilling of wells, etc. in producing areas;
- (v) 26 contracts included 10 contracts under the recent third round have been signed so far for exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM);
- (vi) With the delicensing of the refinery sector since June 1998, more petroleum infrastructure including domestic refineries have been set up in the country.

[Translation]

#### **Payment of Pay and Allowances to Defence Personnel**

2483. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE to be pleased to state:

(a) whether the defence personnel both serving as well retired are not getting full pay and allowances for the last so many years despite the dandion of the Government as reported in the "Dainik Bhaskar" dated January 23, 2007;

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

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

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

(a) to (c) The news-item as reported in "Dainik Bhaskar" dated 23rd January, 2007 is not based on facts. The news-item refers to the recommendation of IVth Central Pay Commission (CPC) which the Government had implemented in 1987. The IVth CPC recommended with illustrations for the deduction of rank pay while fixing pay in the revised pay scale. One retired major had filed a writ petition in High Court of Kerala against the deduction. The High Court ordered to refix the pay of the petitioner without deducting the rank pay. The Government contested the matter by filling an Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court which was dismissed not on merit but on account of delay.

Consequent on the judgment, a number of writ petitions have been filed in different High Courts by serving and retired service officers for grant of similar benefits. On a transfer petition filed by the Government, the Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 5th February 2007 has granted stay on the proceeding in High Court. The matter is presently *sub-judice*.

[English]

#### **Upgradation of infrastructure of Sainik School, Assam**

2484. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for upgradation of infrastructure and development of Sainik School, Goalpara, Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds released for the purpose in the current financial year and also proposed to be released in the 11th plan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No such proposal has been received by the Ministry of Defence.

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

#### **Repair of Road by IRCON**

2485. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether local village link roads were used by IRCON for transporting of heavy materials for the construction of Qazikund-Baramulla rail line in Kashmir Valley;

(b) whether it is also a fact, that heavy movement of loaded vehicles and bulldozers of IRCON have depleted the link roads and rendered these roads unusable;

(c) if so, the measures taken by IRCON to upgrade or rebuild such damaged village link roads;

(d) whether funds have been released by IRCON to State Government for repairing these roads;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by IRCON to ensure that the funds provided by the IRCON are spent on repairing of the damaged road?

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

(b) and (c) The condition of roads has not depleted much except some pot holes which have been repaired by IRCON.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

#### **Integrated Food Law**

2486. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is in process of integrating multifarious laws regulating food processing industries since long;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the matter; and

(c) the time by which the integrated food laws are likely to be brought before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the multiplicity of food laws regulating food processing industries, Government has enacted an Integrated Food Laws entitled "Food Safety and Standards Act 2006" which has been passed by the Parliament, and notified on 24.8.06.

#### **City Gas Distribution Projects**

2487. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:  
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to unveil a policy on setting up city gas distribution projects;

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

(c) the time by which the policy would be unveiled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks' on December 20, 2006. The Policy has come into effect from its date of publication in the Gazette of India on December 22, 2006. Its main objectives are as follows:-

(i) to promote investment from public as well as private sector in natural gas pipelines and city or local natural gas distribution networks,

- (ii) to facilitate open access for all players to the network on a non-discriminatory basis,
- (iii) to promote competition among entities, thereby avoiding any abuse of the dominant position by any entity,
- (iv) to secure the consumer interest in terms of gas availability and reasonable tariff for natural gas pipeline and city or local natural gas distribution network.

The salient features of the policy are as follows:-

1. All the natural gas and city or local distribution pipeline will laid in accordance with the authorization granted by the Regulatory Board under a transparent mechanism. Dedicated pipeline, laid to supply gas to specific consumers, originating from regulated pipelines will not require the authorization.
2. Regulator shall develop a comprehensive set of technical and safety standards as well as a code for grid connectivity.
3. Progressive unbundling of common carrier transmission activity and gas marketing activity.
4. The designed pipeline capacity to be at least 33% percent more than the maximum capacity requirement of the proposer and those who tie up for capacity. Such capacity would be made available on an 'open access and non-discriminatory basis' at transportation rates laid down by the Board.
5. The Board may consider different exclusivity periods for setting up of City gas distribution networks and for marketing of gas by the entity developing such networks.
6. Authorization to the proposer may be cancelled with forfeiture of his security deposit, if the conditions of the authorization are not adhered to or the project is delayed beyond the stipulated milestone(s).
7. Once the project is commissioned, the bid bond would convert into a performance bond and would provide the guarantee for satisfactory compliance of the condition stated in the authorization during the life of the project.
8. The transportation tariff for the transmission pipeline and city or local natural gas distribution network, as also the manner of determining such tariff, will be laid down by the Board.
9. The Government may prepare long term perspective plan for creating gas pipeline network in consultation with the Board, State Governments, Oil and Gas Industry, Gas consuming Industries and other stakeholders. The Plan will be kept in view while authorizing/ approving new pipeline.
10. A Gas Advisory Board (GAB) shall be constituted by the Government to advise the Government on all matters relating to this policy. The advice of GAB shall not be binding on the Government.
11. To complement and supplement the domestic investment, FDI up to 100% permitted in laying natural gas pipeline under the automatic approval route.
12. State Governments are required to ensure various statutory and other clearances on a fast track basis.
13. State Government shall prepare their plans for developing the city or local gas distribution networks, prioritizing the cities or local areas.

#### Construction of Road near Protected Monuments

2488. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ordinance passed by ASI in 1992 stipulating more regulating growth around protected monuments;

(b) if so, whether Delhi Government asked for clearance from ASI to construct road connecting National Highway-24 with Lodhi Road;

(c) whether ASI constituted a committee of experts who short down the proposal of building this road;

(d) if so, whether inspite of expert view ASI has given its clearance to the proposed road;

(e) whether this road is most dangerous to Humayun Tomb and other monuments as reported in the "Asian Age" dated February 07, 2007; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by Government to protect the monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) In 1992, ASI issued a notification declaring areas upto 100 metres from the protected limits of monuments of national importance as prohibited areas where all construction and mining activities are banned. Another 200 metres beyond this had been declared as regulated areas where construction/mining activity is permitted only in accordance with the terms and conditions of licence by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(b) to (d) The Delhi Government had sought No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the construction of a link road connecting NH-24 bye pass with Lodhi Road. This proposal was examined by an Expert Advisory Committee constituted by Archaeological Survey of India and a conditional NOC was issued. As the response of the Delhi Government to the conditionalities has not been received, the NOC has been suspended.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The proposed link road is passing through at a distance of 340 metres from the Humayun's Tomb. Besides Archaeological Survey of India had insisted upon the observance of specific conditions as the proposed link road was passing through areas in the vicinity of protected monuments.

*[Translation]*

#### **Appointment of Labour Contractor**

2489. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines for the oil companies which forbid the duration of appointment of labour contractor at Jubilee and COCO Retail outlets beyond a definite time span; and

(b) if so, the number of such Jubilee and COCO Retail Outlets where the contractors have been appointed for more than 6 months, 12 months and 18 months respectively alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Ministry *vide* letter dated 6.9.2006 has issued broad guidelines for operation of retail outlets

on Company-Owned-Company-Operated (COCO) basis. These guidelines provide the following:-

- (i) Permanent COCO retail outlets are to be operated by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) by their own officers.
- (ii) Existing temporary COCOs to be phased out within one year except in special circumstances, like court cases, complaints, etc.
- (iii) Selection of labour contractors shall be in an open and transparent manner and through advertisement only.
- (iv) Labour contractorship may preferably be given for a period of 3 years in the first instance, instead of earlier systems of giving for one-year period. After 3 years, the same may be advertised again for selection.

*[English]*

#### **Maintenance of Monument by Public Sector**

2490. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public sector undertakings and corporate house have expressed their willingness for the maintenance and upkeep of some historical monuments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to further promote the scheme in consultation with them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Some public sector undertaking and corporate houses have expressed their willingness for the maintenance and upkeep of some of the historical monuments in the country. Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India and National Culture Funds are in the process of consultations with the representatives of trade and industry organizations like the FICCI, CII etc. for promotion of the public-private partnership. The Archaeological Survey of India is also bringing out a publication detailing the monuments where such projects can be taken up.

**Statement***The ASI-NCF projects on Monuments under the Custody of Archaeological Survey of India*

Sl.No.	Name of the Monument	Name of the Sponsoring Agency	State	Fund earmarked for this Project (Rs.)	Remark
10.	Taj Mahal, Agra	Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (Tata Group)	Uttar Pradesh	1.87 Crores	In progress
11.	Jantar Mantar	Apeejay Surendra Park Hotels Ltd.	N.C.T., Delhi	10 Lakhs	In progress
12.	Monuments at Lodi Garden	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	N.C.T., Delhi	1.00 Crore	
13.	Jaisalmer fort, Jaisalmer	World Monument Fund	Rajasthan	\$ 4,3900 & 4 Crores by ASI	In progress
14.	Sun Temple, Konark	Indian Oil Foundation	Orissa	25 Crores	
15.	Kanheri Caves, Mumbai		Maharashtra		
16.	Group of Temples, Khajuraho		Madhya Pradesh		
17.	Group of Monuments at Hampi		Karnataka		
18.	Warangal Fort, Warangal		Andhra Pradesh		

**Improvement in Refining Process**

2491. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has taken any steps to bring improvement in the refining process;

(b) if so, the technologies adopted by IOC in the refining sector; and

(c) the amount of investment proposed to be made by IOC in the new technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) have taken various steps to bring improvement in the refining process. For this purpose, the technologies

adopted by IOC in the refining sector are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The anticipated cost for acquiring new technologies by IOC in refining sector is approximately Rs. 373 crore.

**Statement***Improvement in Refining Process*

- (i) Fluidised Catalytic Cracking (FCC)
- (ii) Hydrocracking
- (iii) Diesel Hydrodesulphurisation
- (iv) Resid Fluidised Catalytic Cracking
- (v) Once through Hydrocracking
- (vi) Diesel Hydrotreatment
- (vii) Catalytic Iso-Dewaxing



- (viii) Wax Hydrofinishing
- (ix) Solvent Dewaxing/Deoiling
- (x) Hydrogen Generation
- (xi) Sulphur Recovery
- (xii) ISOSIV
- (xiii) Soaker Visbreaking
- (xiv) Delayed Coking
- (xv) Catalytic Reforming
- (xvi) Isomerisation
- (xvii) INDMAX
- (xviii) Hexane Hydrogenation
- (xix) Normal Methyl Pyrolidine (NMP) Extraction
- (xx) Residum Oil Supercritical Extraction-Propane Deasphalting
- (xxi) FCC Gasoline desulphurization (Prime-G)
- (xxii) Udex Technology
- (xxiii) Kero-Hydrodesulphurisation Technology
- (xxiv) Lube Hydrofinishing Technology (HFU)
- (xxv) Biturox Technology
- (xxvi) Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) Technology
- (xxvii) FCC Flue Gas Desulphurisation Technology.

[Translation]

#### **Security of Oil and Gas Installations**

2492. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that several massive accident and fire incidents have occurred despite all the security arrangements and alerts in the oil and natural gas installations;

(b) if so, the details during the last three years as on date, undertaking-wise;

(c) whether any inquiry have been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to further strengthen the security arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The details of major accidents and fire incidents in the major Oil PSUs since 2004 to 2006 are as follows:

Name of the Oil Company	No. of major accident/ fire incidents		
	2004	2005	2006
ONGC	3	Nil	Nil
IOCL	8	13	16
BPCL	Nil	Nil	Nil
HPCL	9	19	15
OIL	1	1	Nil
GAIL	Nil	Nil	Nil

(c) to (e) The Oil PSUs conducted their own enquiry to analyse the cause of the accident and corrective steps have been taken to ensure that such incidents do not occur in future. The Ministry has also conducted an independent inquiry into the fire incident at BHN platform of ONGC. Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) conducts periodic safety audits of the oil and gas installations on behalf of the Ministry. The observations of OISD are complied with by the National Oil Companies.

[English]

#### **Creation of New Railway Zones/Divisions**

2493. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for creation of new Railway Zones or Divisions;

(b) whether the Railways have received demands from various State Government for bifurcation or creation of new railway divisions or zones;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) New Railway Zones/Divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other administrative/operational requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and not on regional considerations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) After the recent reorganisation of India Railways, demands for 4 Zones and 7 Divisions have been received from various State Governments.

(d) The demands have not been found feasible as per norms described above except the demand to set up a new Salem Division, which has been accepted.

*[Translation]*

#### **Pricing Policy**

2494. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":  
SHRI K. S. RAO:  
SHRI ANIL BASU:

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

(a) the mechanism worked out and adopted to regulate the costing and pricing of fuels and other petroleum products including ATF;

(b) whether the Government proposes to adopt a new policy to fix the retail prices of petroleum products in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the final 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) As per recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee, the Government has changed the pricing of petrol and diesel from import parity to trade parity basis, (weighted average of import and export parity price in the ratio of 80:20) with effect from 16.6.06. ATF is a deregulated product and its price is determined by public sector oil marketing companies on the basis of international prices.

*[English]*

#### **Airport Economic Regulatory Authority**

2495. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:  
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to establish Airport Economic Regulatory Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) is proposed to be set up, through an Act of Parliament, to fix, review and approve tariff structure for the aeronautical services and monitor pre-set performance standards at Indian airports. The Authority will ensure a level playing field for all categories of airport operators and also oversee and deal with natural monopoly and common user/carrier segments of airports.

(c) A draft Cabinet note along with draft AERA Bill has been circulated to Ministries/Departments concerned for their comments. Efforts are being made to introduce the AERA bill in the current session of Parliament.

#### **Airports Incurring Losses**

2496. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY  
SHRI NARHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of airport in the country are running in losses;

(b) if so, the details of losses incurred by each such airport during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make such airports earn profit?

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

(b) The details of losses incurred (Rupees in Lakhs) by each airport during the year 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are : Port Blair (295.10, 357.43 & 284.88), Cuddapah (5.91, 8.06 & 11.66), Rajamundry (52.35, 137.78 & 62.38), Tirupathi (290.04, 401.34 & 407.57), Vijayawada (158.46, 332.48 & 376.56), Vishakhapatnam (340.34, 270.79 & 298.31), Passighat (4.09, 4.09 & 0.00), Tezu (24.58, 19.02 & 19.72), Dibrugarh (763.20, 412.79 & 546.84), Guwahati (3360.67, 5109.67 & 3711.61), Jorhat (263.88, 172.37 & 181.60), Lilabari (287.00, 203.27 & 290.09), Rupsi (2.15, 2.15 & 0.00), Silchar (223.52, 149.48 & 189.60), Tezpur (92.26, 61.73 & 100.83), Gaya (295.89, 642.23 & 823.82), Patna (1086.27, 1193.64 & 1239.63), Chandigarh (227.85, 279.75 & 258.84), Raipur (277.75, 362.31 & 311.76), Delhi (Safdarjung) (715.04, 702.07 & 1050.21), Bhavnagar (185.17, 356.32 & 439.32), Bhuj (12421, 132.61 & 326.12), Jamnagar (48.32, 77.73 & 32.68), Kandla (48.82, 56.78 & 89.86), Keshod (45.64, 62.13 & 109.26), Porbandar (94.95, 190.57 & 207.84), Surat (25.37, 28.77 & 37.67), Rajkot (264.48, 307.32 & 539.28), Vadodara (235.22, 199.60 & 563.40), Kangra (82.61, 196.10 & 380.96), Kullu (219.52, 298.67 & 362.29), Shimla (185.18, 267.04 & 312.95), Jammu (268.14, 519.51 & 351.70), Leh (56.35, 10.83 & 166.49), Srinagar (134.25, 34.53 & 116.86), Ranchi (590.84, 665.90 & 769.10), Belgaum (176.82, 158.65 & 223.65), Hubli (22.42, 130.81 & 128.88), Mangalore (304.77, 636.40 & 1114.18), Agatti (78.00, 130.04 & 173.66), Bhopal (599.04, 888.40 & 1060.24), Gwalior (172.81, 205.85 & 245.27), Indore (52.89, 315.87 & 436.25), Jabalpur (133.82, 370.19 & 404.94), Khajuraho (421.78, 673.28 & 821.25), Aurangabad (251.45, 362.33 & 431.62), Gondia (0.00, 0.00 & 3.24), Kolahpur (0.00, 0.06 & 5.12), Nagpur (1524.00, 2918.72 & 2439.54), Imphal (604.26, 275.38 & 262.82), Shillong (117.33, 115.59 & 123.26), Lengpui (133.55, 61.22 & 72.83), Dimapur (324.32, 266.79 & 357.77), Bhubneshwar (975.45, 1470.95 & 1357.11), Jharsuguda (47.39, 50.56 & 74.28), Pondicherry (20.43, 29.86 & 42.56), Amritsar (601.05, 755.58 & 500.93), Ludhiana (134.08, 142.91 & 124.33), Pathankot (47.03, 170.30 & 288.31), Jaipur (668.00, 1275.75 & 1195.91), Jaisalmer (6.37, 45.70 & 26.15), Jodhpur (180.03, 248.89 & 292.37), Kota (86.50, 11.89 & 43.80), Nal (Bikaner) (46.15, 115.39 & 94.70), Udaipur (385.08, 408.44 & 592.81), Coimbatore (173.53, 21.07 & 20.10), Madurai (204.61, 399.34 & 454.72), Salem (17.07, 22.48 & 25.08), Tiruchirapalli (450.67, 457.27), Tuticorin (22.70, 28.08 & 31.69), Vellore (6.75,

5.39 & 6.88), Agartala (1361.24, 848.77 & 688.22), Kailashahar (11.71, 11.71 & 1.81), Agra (278.56, 466.46 & 414.26), Allahabad (1007.25, 1613.44 & 192.38), Garakhpur (0.83, 3.37 & 4.28), Kanpur (159.42, 173.90 & 205.43), Lucknow (1048.78, 1080.06 & 1491.36), Varanasi (895.31, 1455.74 & 1491.49), Dehradun (110.12, 126.78 & 144.72), Pantnagar (81.23, 89.58 & 103.98), Bagdogra (633.99, 129.12 & 23.61), Balurghat (4.48, 4.07 & 5.89), Behala (17.47, 20.30 & 21.87), Cooch Behar (12.59, 12.30 & 23.05) and Malda (14.08, 6.38 & 18.55) respectively.

(c) In order to generate non-traffic revenue, a number of commercial facilities have been augmented at the airports like introduction of Fast Food Outlets, Cyber Café, Hotel Reservation Facility, ATM, STD / ISD Outlets, Tea /Coffee Vending Machine and newspaper and magazine vending machines. Consultants have been engaged for suggesting improvements in generating non-traffic revenue at the airports.

#### **Air Package for Tourist Passengers**

2497. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce special air-package for the tourists visiting the Hill regions, particularly Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said package is likely to be introduced for these States; and

(d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to attract more tourists visiting these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines has introduced holiday packages to hill destination such as Kashmir, Leh, Himachal, Darjeelings, Sikkim, Kathmandu, Ooty, Munnar, Mahabaleshwar, Lonavala and Mount Abu. These packages are launched every year 1st April to 30th September and 1st October to 31st March. Holiday packages to Jammu & Kashmir called Jammu & Kashmir Flyways are available to Jammu/Srinagar ex-Delhi. This packages can also be availed from other important cities *via* Delhi. Holidays packages to Himachal Pradesh called Himachal Flyaways are available ex-Delhi and Chandigarh. These packages

can also be availed from other important cities via Delhi/ Chandigarh. The above packages can also be availed ex-Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore via Delhi.

Indian Airlines has also introduced other promotional packages like Super Saver Utsav Plus, Indian Super Saver, Indian Family Fare, Easy Fares, Unchecked Fares, Spot Fares, etc. to promote travel on its network at lower fares.

Private scheduled airline viz. Air Deccan, Spice Jet, Go Air, IndiGo, etc. offer dynamic fare system based on demand for seat which is available across their entire network which are much lower than normal fares. Other scheduled airline viz. Jet Airways, Sahara Airlines, Kingfisher Airlines, etc. offer various levels of air fares which are comparatively lower than the normal air fares.

[Translation]

#### High Powered Committee on Dalit Atrocities

2498. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted a High Powered Committee keeping in view the increasing incidents of atrocities being perpetrated against the Dalits;

(b) if so, the details alongwith composition and terms of reference thereof;

(c) the recommendations submitted so far to the Government by the Committee and follow-up action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Union Government has also ensured constitution of such high powered committees, at State, Division and District levels to implement the provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;

(e) if so, the names of states which have constituted such committees so far; and

(f) the name of States which have not constituted such committee alongwith the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) A Committee under the chairpersonship of the Hon'ble Minister (Social

Justice & Empowerment) has been constituted on 29.03.2006 for effective coordination to devise ways and means to curb offences of untouchability and atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and effective administration/implementation of the Protection of Civil Right Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. While the Hon'ble Minister (Tribal Affairs) is the Special Invitee, the Secretaries in the Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Tribal Affairs, Home Affairs, Law, and Department of Justice, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Joint Secretary (incharge of National Crime Records Bureau), Ministry of Home Affairs, two non-official representatives from amongst SCs and one non-official representative from amongst STs are Members and the Joint Secretary (Scheduled Castes Development), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the Member-Secretary.

Two meetings of the Committee have so far been held to review and monitor the effective implementations of these Acts by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

(d) to (f) Pursuant to the provision of Rules 16 and 17 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995, the Union Territory Administrations/State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Puducherry have constituted State level and District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.

[English]

#### Welfare of Ex-servicemen

2499. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of ex-servicemen as on December, 2006 State-wise;

(b) the details of the schemes being in force for their welfare, rehabilitation and resettlement;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to grant some more benefits to the ex-servicemen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The number of ex-servicemen as on December, 2006 State-wise, is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) Presently, ex-servicemen are provided various facilities for their resettlement and welfare. Resettlement facilities include training to improve their re-employability, reservation in Government jobs, loan assistance through self-employment schemes, formation of ex-servicemen Coal Transport Companies, allotment of oil product agencies, allotment of army surplus vehicles, etc. Important welfare measures for them are canteen facilities, ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme, Prime Minister's Scholarship scheme for higher education for their wards, financial assistance from Raksha Mantri Discretionary Fund and travel concessions. These schemes are continuously reviewed by the Government and new schemes or existing schemes with improvements introduced whenever considered necessary. The Government has declared 2007 as Year of Placement for ex-servicemen. During the year additional emphasis will be laid and renewed efforts made for employment of ex-servicemen in various sectors by enlisting cooperation of all concerned agencies in the Government and the corporate sectors.

**Statement**

*Number of Ex-servicemen as on 31.12.2006*

Sl.No.	States/UT	Number of ex-servicemen
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70601
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	284
3.	Assam	27098
4.	Bihar	64493
5.	Chhattisgarh	4326
6.	Goa	1918
7.	Gujarat	20172

1	2	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	96125
9.	Haryana	227195
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	64865
11.	Jharkhand	17553
12.	Karnataka	61461
13.	Kerala	149382
14.	Madhya Pradesh	35996
15.	Maharashtra	157863
16.	Manipur	5670
17.	Meghalaya	2112
18.	Mizoram	4516
19.	Nagaland	2459
20.	Orissa	25149
21.	Punjab	250023
22.	Rajasthan	135349
23.	Sikkim	1150
24.	Tamil Nadu	116431
25.	Tripura	2088
26.	Uttar Pradesh	238305
27.	Uttaranchal	117193
28.	West Bengal	54169
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	592
30.	Chandigarh	7840
31.	Delhi	35257
32.	Pondicherry	1570
Total		19,99,205

**Remains Hidden In Red Fort**

2500. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the Central Building Research Institute to find the remains that have been hidden in the Red Fort over the years;

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

(c) the response of the Central Building Research Institute and the statues in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India had requested the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee for conducting Ground Penetrating Radar Survey (GPRS) to find out the details of buried structural remains at selected points within the Red Fort on trial basis.

(b) and (c) The survey was conducted as part of the exercise for formulation of the comprehensive Conservation Management Plan of the Red Fort. The sample Ground Penetrating Radar Survey (GPRS) had indicated existence of structural remains on the south part of Chhatta Bazar and Mehtab Bagh. Trial excavations have tentatively confirmed the findings.

#### MIG-29 Fighter Jets

2501. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has offered MiG-29 fighter jets to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete proposal has been received from Russia in this regard;

(d) if so, the detail thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(f) the time by which production of MiG-29 is likely to be started in India alongwith the expenditure incurred?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) A contract was concluded with RAC MiG, Russia in 2004 for purchase of MiG-29-K fighter aircraft for Navy.

(c) No proposal has been received recently from Russia for sale or production of MiG-29 fighter aircraft.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### LPG Agencies

2502. SHRI AJIT JOGI:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

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

(a) the number of LPG distribution agencies allocated by the Government during the year 2006 State-wise/ company-wise;

(b) whether several State Governments have requested the Union Government to allocate more LPG distribution agencies in their States;

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

(d) the decision taken by the Government on the said proposals;

(e) whether the Government has fixed any target to cover more areas under LPG facility for Eleventh Five Year Plan period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) At present, 3 Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) are marketing LPG in the country.

Government have allotted 7 LPG distributorships in the country under "Operation Vijay Special Scheme" (OVSS) (Kargil) during the year 2006. The details are as under:-

States	Name of Oil Company	No. of distributorships allotted
Assam	IOC	1
Himachal Pradesh	IOC	2
Himachal Pradesh	HPCL	1
Jammu and Kashmir	HPCL	1
Punjab	IOC	1
Uttar Pradesh	IOC	1
Total		7

In addition to this, OMCs have allotted 37 LPG distributorships in the country under their marketing plans during the year 2006. The State-wise/company-wise details is shown in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (f) Government have given freedom to OMCs to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining an independent distributorship.

Government have advised OMCs to draw up marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 791 locations for setting up LPG distributorships mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The State-wise details of LPG distributorships are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identification of suitable locations, arranging land for setting up of godown, obtaining various statutory clearances, etc.

#### **Statement**

*State-wise number of LPG distributorships allotted by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) during the year 2006 under their marketing plan*

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	Number of LPG Distributorship Allotted		
		IOC	BPCL	HPCL
1		2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	—	1
2.	Assam	1	—	—
3.	Bihar	1	—	—
4.	Gujarat	—	3	—
5.	Haryana	1	—	—
6.	Jharkhand	1	—	—
7.	Karnataka	—	—	1
8.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	1
9.	Maharashtra	1	—	—

1	2	3	4
10. Orissa	—	—	1
11. Rajasthan	—	—	3
12. Tamil Nadu	2	—	3
13. Uttar Pradesh	6	—	9
14. Uttarakhand	—	—	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>

#### **Installation of CCTVs at Railway Stations/Coaches**

2503. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:  
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chiefs of various police forces and several security agencies world over have called terrorism a threat for whole of the world in the recently concluded seventh international seminar on terrorism held in the National Security Guards campus;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as a follow-up of the seminar, the Railways have decided to install close circuit cameras at the important railway stations of country but have denied the possibility on installing CCTV in railway coaches;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total expenditure incurred to purchase security equipments to ensure the security of railway stations during the last three years and the current year; and

(f) the expenditure likely to be incurred on installation of security equipments at railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) Ministry of Railways have no plan for the installation of Close Circuit Televisions in the railway coaches.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The total expenditure incurred to purchase security equipment to ensure the security of railway stations during the last 3 years including current years, in the Zonal Railways is Rs. 78,24,53,937.

(f) The expenditure likely to be incurred on installation of security equipments at railway stations is Rs. 71,81,88,146.

#### **Rail Coach Factory**

2504. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail coach factories including rail factories for production of other relating to railway that have been set up as on date, State-wise;

Sl.No.	Name of the Unit	Item manufactured
1.	Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan, West Bengal	Electric Locomotives
2.	Diesel Locomotive Work, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	Diesel Locomotives
3.	Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Coaches
4.	Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, Punjab	Coaches
5.	Rail Wheel Factory, Bangalore, Karnataka	Wheel and Axles
6.	Diesel Loco Modernisation Works, Patiala, Punjab	Loco rebuilding

(b) Foundation stones have been laid down for setting up a Rail Coach Factory at Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh and a Wheel manufacturing plant at Chhapra, Bihar.

(c) The anticipated cost of setting up of new coach factory at Rae Bareilly is Rs. 1685 crore and the anticipated cost of setting up of wheel manufacturing plant at Chhapra is 877.65 crores. The anticipated expenditure for these units upto 2006-07, is a token outlay of Rs. one lakh, and Rs. 41.24 crores respectively.

(d) and (e) As on 01.01.07, there is a throwforward of Rs. 58,945 crores to complete the ongoing projects of new line, gauge conversion, doubling, railway electrification and metropolitan transport projects in the country. In addition there is further throwforward of Rs. 6375 Crores for works relating to Production Units and Workshops expected as on 01.04.07.

(b) the number of project including the proposed factories for which foundation stones have been laid;

(c) the total amount sanctioned and released to implement the said factories and projects;

(d) whether the Railways need a sum of more than Rs. 30,000 crore to implement the pending rail projects in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the railways propose to set-up rail coach factory and other rail manufacturing unit/factory proposed to be set up in tribal areas of the country along with details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present, there are six production units under the Ministry of Railways. Their names and locations are as under:

(f) The requirement of Rolling Stock for XIth and XIIth Five Year Plan have already been planned for, through capacity enhancements of existing units and by seeking Parliamentary approval for new units. No further manufacturing units are planned for, at present.

*[English]*

#### **Foreign Tourists**

2505. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian Tourism Office has been inaugurated in Shanghai (China) recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;



(c) the comparative number of tourists visiting India in the last three years from China, SE Asia, Europe, U.S. and the rest of the World;

(d) whether the proportion of Chinese tourists has been dwindling in the past;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to attract Chinese tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Details of number of tourists visiting India from different regions during the last three years are as given below:

Country/Region	2003	2004	2005
China	21152	34100	44897
SE Asia	168926	209110	241408
Europe	903218	1210723	139354
US	410803	526120	611165
Rest of the World	1215901	1479947	162896

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The above chart indicates steady increase in tourist arrivals from China to India.

(f) The steps taken by the Government to promote tourists inflow to India from China are as follows:-

- Printing of tourist literature/collaterals and producing TV commercials in Chinese language.
- Launching of "incredibleindia" website on Chinese language.
- 1500 years of visit of Chinese scholar Xuan Zhuang to India was celebrated and a group of Chinese including the Chinese media visited India in November 2006.

It has been decided to celebrate 2007 as "Indo-China year of Friendship Through Tourism" to promote two way tourism between both the countries and an Action Plan has been finalized to undertake a series of promotional activities for augmenting arrivals from China. These include participation in fairs & exhibitions,

organizing seminars, workshops & road shows, publication of brochures, offering joint advertising and brochure support, inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers and exchange of travel trade media persons from both countries.

#### **Indian Hospitality Chain**

2506. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC proposes to join the league of Indian hospitality chains venturing overseas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the destinations so far short-listed and progress made in this regard;

(d) the extent to which existing ventures of ITDC in the country are likely to be revamped; and

(e) the details of new duty free outlet contracts finalised by ITDC on so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) ITDC management takes several steps from time to time to increase its profitability. Some of these steps taken recently include:-

- (i) Repairs, maintenance and essential renovation works in ITDC hotels through an internal generation of funds.
- (ii) Drawing up a major revitalisation plan of various activities of ITDC including a major renovation of Ashok Hotel, New Delhi.
- (iii) Introduction of new services and facilities in ITDC hotels to make them more competitive.
- (iv) Partnering with Global players for duty free business in India and abroad.
- (v) Diversification in event management business and other new niche products.

(e) During the last one year, ITDC has been awarded the contract for duty free outlets at Airport Authority of India operated Airports at Goa and Bangalore. The contract for outlets at Goa is upto September, 2011 and at Bangalore upto April, 2008. Besides, the ITDC in association with M/s. Aldeasa, S.A. of Spain has been awarded the contract for Mumbai International Airport recently.

#### **Accident of Jaguar Aircraft**

2507. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Jaguar aircraft was crashed on January 18, 2007 in Rajasthan resulting in the death of pilot;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to phase out Jaguars;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) One Jaguar aircraft crashed on 18.1.2007 at Pokhran range in Rajasthan resulting in the death of a pilot.

(b) The Jaguar aircraft was on a live armament sortie over Pokhran range when the accident took place. All such accidents are investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly.

(c) to (e) Phasing out of aircraft is based on the operational requirements, airworthiness of the fleet and residual life. This is periodically reviewed and actions are taken accordingly.

[Translation]

#### **Production of Oil and Gas by ONGC**

2508. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) the target fixed by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for production of oil and gas in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the achievements were as per the fixed targets;

(c) if so, he details thereof for the said period;

(d) if not, the reason therefor;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed by the ONGC in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof anlogwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (f) The details of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)'s target/achievement for production of crude oil and gas for the last three years *i.e.* 2003-04 to 2005-06 are as under:

Year		Oil Production (MMT)	Gas Production (MMSCM)
2003-04	Target	26.387	23317
	Actual	26.057	23584
2004-05	Target	26.174	22127
	Actual	26.484	22970
2005-06	Target	26.614	21406
	Actual	24.404	22574

MMT : million metric tonne

MMSCM : million metric standard cubic per metre.

The gas production target has been achieved in 2003-04 and 2005-06 but the crude oil production target could not be achieved due to the following reasons :

- Less production gain against envisaged gain from ongoing Increased Oil Recovery/Enhanced Oil Recovery (IOR/EOR) schemes in onshore Assets during the year 2003-04 and 2005-06.
- The consequential effects on unfortunate fire accident at erstwhile BHN platform in July 2005 during 2005-06.

**Marketing Policy for LPG**

2509. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a marketing policy for LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to formulate a marketing policy for LPG ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Government have given freedom to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining an independent distributorship. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 791 locations for setting up LPG distributorship mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stand adjourned to meet again at 12:00 noon.

11.07 hrs.

*The House then adjourned till twelve of the clock.*

12.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Papers to be Laid on the Table of House.

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 13 of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992:-

(a) (i) The Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5960/07]

(i) The Annual Report of National Commission for Minorities for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5961/07]

(b) (i) A copy of the Action Taken Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) on the recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5960/07]

(ii) A copy of the Action Taken Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) on the recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5961/07]

(c) (i) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Commission for Minorities for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5960/07]

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Commission for Minorities for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5961/07]

(2) Two Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5960/07 & 5961/07]

- (3) A copy of the National Commission for the Minorities (Group 'C' and 'D' posts) Recruitment Rules 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 255(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5962/07]

- (4) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5963/07]

- (5) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5964/07]

...(Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5965/07]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2004-2005.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5966/07]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, for year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5967/07]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Guwahati, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Guwahati, for the year 2005-2006.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5968/07]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Shillong, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Shillong, for the year 2005-2006.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5969/07]

- (11) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puri, for the year 2004-2005.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Puri, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5970/07]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Punjab Ashok Hotel Company Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5971/07]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the M.P. Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the M.P. Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (12) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5972/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): On behalf of Shri Oscar Fernandes, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5973/07]

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 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the IRCON International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Ircon International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5974/07]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, for the year 2005-2006.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5975/07]

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—

- (1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and its subsidiaries, Allahabad, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and its subsidiaries, Allahabad, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5976/07]

*...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year

2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5977/07]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5978/07]

12.01½ hrs.

## MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

*[English]*

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following two messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2007, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th March, 2007 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2007, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th March, 2007 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill".

12.02 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

### Eleventh Report and Minutes

*[English]*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2006-07) and Minutes relating thereto.

12.03 hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

### Twenty-Sixth Report

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to present the Twenty Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 20th Report (14th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2006-2007)' of the Ministry of Railways.

12.04 hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE

### Eighteenth Report

*[English]*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on "Electoral Reforms".

12.04½ hrs.

## MOTION RE : THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 14th March, 2007."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 14th March, 2007."

*The motion was adopted.*

12.05 hrs.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377, listed for the day, is treated as laid on the Table.

*...(Interruptions)*

- (i) Need to give Rajasthan its due share of water from Beas River

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the due share of Rajasthan in Ravi-Beas river water. Sir, after the Reorganization of Punjab Act 1966, the water was divided between Punjab and Haryana as per the agreement of 1955 and in 1981 an agreement was signed among the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in the presence of the then Prime Minister regarding the division of water of Beas river. As per the agreement the share of Rajasthan

\*Treated as laid on the Table.

was 8.6 MAF which is 52.70 percent of the total water. At that time Indira Gandhi Canal Project was in infantile stage and Rajasthan was not in a position to utilize its entire share of water. Now after the completion of Indira Gandhi Canal system, Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its entire share of water. Now, Rajasthan urges the Central Government, the Punjab Government and Bhakra Beas Management Board to release its share of 0.6 M.A.F. water to the State.

Sir, through you, I would like to urge on the Central Government to issue instructions to the Punjab Government to release 0.6 MAF water for Rajasthan in view of the requirement of water to the State.

**(ii) Need to promote the Arecanut trading under Indo-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement**

[English]

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA (Davangere): In India, Arecanut cultivation is mainly concentrated in Karnataka, Kerala and Assam. Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andaman, Goa and West Bengal are also producing Arecanut in small quantity. In Karnataka and Kerala, cultivation of Arecanut is the main source of income for livelihood of lakhs of agricultural families.

At present, Arecanut production in India has outstripped the consumption. But since 1995 import of Arecanut to India from neighbouring countries like Indonesia and Shri Lanka, is going on due to its better market in India. The quality of imported Arecanut is very inferior. Later the Centre has imposed certain restrictions for import of Arecanut. But even then illegal imports are still going on. Due to this, domestic market is effected severely and small and marginal growers of our country are suffering.

Under Indo-ASEAN free trade agreement, Arecanut is not included in the sensitive list of articles. Hence, I request the Centre to—

- (a) arrange to include Arecanut also under the sensitive list of articles while finalizing Indo-ASEAN-FTA;
- (b) to fix floor price of Arecanut at Rs. 60 to Rs. 65 per kgm;
- (c) to appoint competent agency to test and certify the quality of Arecanut imported; and

- (d) to restrict import of Arecanut to India through single port.

**(iii) Need to give financial support for Chiranjeevi Yojana Initiated by Government of Gujarat**

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): The Planning Commission and Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India have sought the details of Chiranjeevi Yojana from Government of Gujarat.

I urge upon the Government to financially support this programme, as it proved to be very successful even at the pilot stage.

**(iv) Need to grant additional interest subsidy @ 2.2% on the crop loan to be financed by cooperative banks in Orissa**

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): The Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech for 2006-07 had announced:

"the Government has decided to ensure that the farmers receive short-term credit at 7% with an upper limit of 3 lakh on the principal amount. This would require a certain level of Subvention to NABARD. I propose to give subvention. This policy will come into force with effect from Kharif 2006-07."

In pursuance of this announcement, Government of India will provide interest subvention of 25% per annum to public sector banks and regional banks in respect of short term production credit upto Rs. 3 lakhs provided to farmers.

In Orissa, the Co-operative banks are the major players in agricultural finance and lending and finance about 70% of the total crop loan financed by all the banks in Orissa and this sector will be greatly handicapped in implementing the 7% interest scheme in view of the stiff conditionalities imposed by NABARD for providing refinance support to Co-operative Banks in their policy circular for financing Seasonal Agriculture Operation during 2006-07 & 2007-08. So to undo this malady, it is suggested that the Government of India may consider providing an additional interest subsidy to the tune of 2.2% on the entire crop loan to be financed by Co-operative credit institutions in Orissa and the Kalahandi Bolangir and Keonjhar Region in addition to the refinance by NABARD to the extent of 40% of total finance at the concessional rate of 2.5%.



**(v) Need to extend facilities earmarked for SCs to Kashyap, Nishad and Prajapati castes, declared as OBCs in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to some backward castes of the Uttar Pradesh. In view of the economic and social status of some of the backward castes of Uttar Pradesh especially Kashyap, Nishad and Prajapati, it is being demanded for a long time to include the said castes in the list of Scheduled Castes. In this regard the Uttar Pradesh Government has also from time to time said that the said castes have been listed in the Scheduled Caste category, however, till now the facilities earmarked for Scheduled Castes have not been extended to the said castes.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government to issue necessary instructions to include the said caste in the list of Scheduled Castes and take necessary action to ensure that the facilities earmarked for Scheduled Castes are extended to the said castes at the earliest.

**(vi) Need to upgrade and modernize Bagdogra Airport, West Bengal**

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): I draw the attention of the Government to the long outstanding demand of upgradation of Bagdogra Airport to International standard. This important issue had been raised on this floor several times and also wrote to your office. But Government is yet to meet the demand. It may please noted that Bagdogra is adjacent to Siliguri town, which has connectivity with the entire North East. In order to explore the rich potentialities of tourism industry of Darjeeling and Tarai areas up to an optimum level, upgradation of Bagdogra Airport is a must for air connectivity with different overseas airports and other domestic airports like Chennai, Mumbai and Bengaluru. The Government of India has already decided to connect Delhi and Thailand *via* Myanmar by road. The Nathula Pass is being opened for direct road connection with China. Naturally, the industrial potentiality of entire North Bengal will be increased manifold. Considering all these aspects, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal wrote to Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation to upgrade the Bagdogra airport to International standard. I hope that,

Government of India will take due care of the demand raised by Government of West Bengal and immediate actions will be mitigate the problem of people of West Bengal.

**(vii) Need to settle the amount of ex-gratia payment and bonus to the contract labourers of Neyveli Lignite Corporation**

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): There are thirteen thousand contract labourers with a matching number of permanent employees in the Neyveli unit of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NIC). Though this contract labour work in all the units wherever permanent employees work, they do not get same pay for same work. When permanent workers were paid bonus, the contract labour were not paid bonus on the plea that negotiations with them were not completed. They were paid an advance of Rs. 1500 on a condition that it would be deducted from the *ex gratia* payment or the bonus to be decided in the talks. But in November last before the completion of any such talk NLC began to deduct the advance money from the wages of the contract labour. This led to a flash strike in which both the permanent workers and contract labourers participated. Now, even after four months, the talks about *ex gratia* payment and bonus has not even commenced. Both in IOC and BSNL talks on bonus started simultaneously both for permanent workers and the contract labourers. Monthly wages are being paid to contract labour. Hence, I urge upon the Union Ministry of Coal to immediately complete the talks and decide the extent of *ex gratia* payment and bonus making it mandatory to work contractors before NLC could go into regularization and extending of PF, ESI and gratuity to workers.

**(viii) Need to take steps to check hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities in the country**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): I would like to attract the attention of the hon'ble Prime Minister to an urgent problem of public interest and national interest and inform him, through the House, that inflation is at its peak. The poor, the farmers and the labourer are perturbed due to increase in the prices of daily consumer goods. It has become difficult for them to afford to get even food items. The common people are feeling quite depressed. The prices have more than doubled

during the last one-year. People are dying of starvation. No action is being taken against the persons involved in hoarding and blackmarketing and the apprehension is that in coming days the problem will become more serious.

So, through the House, I would like to request the Government that it should give encouragement to the farmers for solution to this problem and take strict action against those involved in hoarding and blackmarketing. I would also request the Government to set up a neutral committee to ascertain the reasons of price rise so that this problem could be solved.

**(ix) Need to exclude OBC candidates qualifying UPSC Examination on merit from reservation quota**

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV (Banka): The provision of reservation was made for the development of backward class people. UPSC which selects candidates for appointment to higher posts includes those backward class candidates who come in merit under the reservation quota for OBC whereas as per the rule, reservation should be given to OBCs excluding those OBC candidates who qualify on merit. Reservation should be provided to the backward class people as per the sentiments and objectives expressed at the time of moving the proposal of reservation for Backward Classes in the House so that backward class people may progress in real sense of the term and they may be brought to the national mainstream.

Through this House, I urge the Government to exclude OBC candidates qualifying on merit from reservation quota.

**(x) Need to bring forth a legislation providing for social security for the unorganized sector**

*[English]*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): The Central Government is taking initiatives for all round development of the unorganized workers of the country. The agricultural workers constitute 90% of the total rural workforce. This section of the rural India is the poorest of the poor among the unorganized workers and is generally deprived of any facility of the social security programmes of the Government.

The miserable plight of these poor of the country is mainly due to non-existence of any Comprehensive Central Legislation to govern them. Moreover, the recent announcement of the Central Government asking the State Governments to share 50% of the financial

responsibilities of the developmental programmes for the unorganized sector only aggravates the problem.

The State Governments are generally suffering from chronic financial crunch. Under the NREGA only partial jobs are generated due to non-availability of funds. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to legislate a Central Comprehensive Act regarding the agricultural workers and take the full financial responsibilities for the social security programmes for them.

**(xi) Need to review the criteria of selection of backwardness of districts under the scheme of Special Development Grants of UGC to Universities and Colleges**

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Attention of the Government is drawn to 'Special Development grants of UGC to eligible Universities and colleges' physically located in Backward Districts based on the total literacy as determined by the Planning Commission. The criteria 'total literacy' fixed by the Commission in order to ensure equity and access to higher education in those backward areas is self-contradictory because higher education is to be encouraged in those backward areas where literacy percentage is comparatively high. It also contradicts the principle of identifying backward areas based on several indexes of socio-economic backwardness fixed by the Planning Commission.

As a consequence many deserving backward districts identified by Planning Commission are deprived of getting UGC grants. For example, the Dhemaji and Lakhimpur districts of Assam constituting more than 70% ST, SC and OBC population considered for backward district grants under RSVY and NREGP, are not entitled for the above-referred special grants of UGC.

Planning Commission may also examine the possibility of identifying blocks as a minimum unit for such backward area grant like RSVY, NREGP and UGC since a block far below the level of average backwardness in a developed districts are presently deprived simply because they are not constituent of a backward district. As a test case, the Majuli and Ujani Majuli block of Jorhat district and Sadia development block of Tinsukia district may be studied for a reasonable conclusion.

I therefore urge upon the HRD Ministry and Planning Commission to modify the criteria of above-mentioned special grants for ensuring equitable development.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Leaders of all the Parties are requested to come to the Chamber.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.30 p.m.

12.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Twelve of the Clock.*

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12.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past Twelve of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

12.31 hrs.

*(At this stage Shri Chandrakant Khaire and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whosoever speaks without my permission, his statement should not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): When NDA was in power, many persons were killed in Bengal, then, not even for a single day NDA Government expressed their grief over this, today they are playing politics. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

---

\*Not recorded.

12.32 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.*

---

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, the Government is prepared to make a statement both on the incident of a naxal attack in Chhattisgarh as well as on Nandigram incident. ...(Interruptions) We are not hiding any fact. ...(Interruptions) As mentioned by the hon. Members from Chhattisgarh, we are prepared to make a statement on Chhattisgarh incident. On Nandigram incident, we are prepared to offer any updated information. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 16th March, 2007 at 11.00 a.m.

14.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 16, 2007/Phalguna 25, 1928 (Saka)*

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\*Not recorded.

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