

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 5, 2005/Sravana 14, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I want to make a submission. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No time now. I want to make some observation.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I am sorry I have to encroach into the Question Hour myself.

11.01 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re : Maintenance of dignity and decorum of the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, my attention has been drawn to some reports in the Print Media and I have also seen some of the news items in the Electronic Media on what has happened in the hon. House yesterday. Unfortunately, somewhat one-sided report has been given in some quarters raising questions about the impartiality of the Chair in dealing with the issue desired to be raised by one hon. Member. As such, I wish to make the position clear.

It is necessary to recall only on 26 July, 2005 one Adjournment Motion was admitted by me and there was a full and comprehensive discussion on the question of infiltration of foreigners into our country including infiltration from Bangladesh. The concerned hon. Member did not choose to take part in the debate nor, so far as I have been informed, was even present in the House. The same matter cannot be raised twice in one Session of the House as clearly provided by the Rules. Just because one hon. Member was not present during the discussion in the House does not justify trying to raise the similar issue within a week or, at all, during that Sessions. Rules will have to prevail at all times and for all. If there was any doubt, the reason could have been ascertained from the Chair.

The hon. Deputy-Speaker was in the Chair when the question was raised and he had, if I may say so, rightly informed the House of my decision as the Speaker. But nobody met or tried to know the reasons of my refusal to admit the similar Motion. Whatever may have been the feeling, it could not and cannot every justify in indulging in behaviour as happened yesterday. I wish to repudiate categorically and with all the authority of the Chair and with all sincerity the reprehensible insinuation that my decision was promoted by political considerations. Making such allegations was a deliberate attempt to insult the Chair and thereby insult the House as a whole.

Since I have had the honour of occupying this great Chair, I have been trying repeatedly and most sincerely appealing to all sections of the House to see that the prestige and dignity of the House is maintained and enhanced, which can be only done by our conducting the proceedings in a manner which justifies the responsibility imposed on us by the people of this great country. During the Monsoon Session, we have had several discussions, which if I may say so, the Opposition Parties rightly raised and I had admitted Adjournment Motion and allowed discussion under Rule 184 and I am thankful to all the hon. Members for, by and large, cooperating in the maintenance of the dignity and decorum of the House.

However, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not record my total rejection of the grossly defamatory insinuation made against me about taking decisions on political grounds.

I again wish to appeal to all the hon. Members and all sides of the House that as this House belongs to all and ultimately to the people of this country, let us not do or say anything which will, in any way, compromise with the dignity of the House and belie the expectations of the people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we will take up Q. No. 181 -- Shrimati C.S. Sujatha.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be allowed.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI C. S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara) : Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir... *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate Mr Ajoy Chakraborty. Please sit down. This is not the time to raise it.

Q.No. 181 -- Shrimati C.S. Sujatha

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Privatization in Power Sector

*181. SHRIMATI C. S. SUJATHA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made any assessment of the working of private power companies engaged in the task of distribution of power in several States;

(b) if so, the areas of deficiencies noticed in their working, company-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to monitor the working of these companies to ensure that goals of privatization in power sector are achieved?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No specific assessment has been carried out by the Union Government about the working of private distribution companies. However, the Union Government has been undertaking rating exercise of power sector in various States by independent rating agencies to evaluate the performance of the States. This exercise is carried out annually for a States as a whole. The result of rating exercise of year 2005 are at Annexure-I. Private distribution companies are functioning in States of Gujarat, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Delhi and Kerala.

(b) Distribution of power falls in the domain of the States. Private distribution companies have already been functioning over the years in Ahmedabad and Surat in Gujarat, in Kolkata and Dishergarh in West Bengal, Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai in Maharashtra and Munnar in Kerala.

The State Government of Orissa and Government of NCT of Delhi have privatised distribution in 1999 and July 2002 respectively.

Under the provisions of Electricity Act, 2003 the State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) grants licences for distribution for electricity. As per section 42 of the Act, it is the duty of a distribution license to develop and maintain the

efficient, coordinated and economical distribution system in his area of supply and to supply electricity in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Under section 86 (i) of the Act, SERC has been entrusted the function of specifying and enforcing standards with respect to quality, continuity and reliability of service by licensees.

Assessment done by the Orissa SERC about the performance of the private Distribution Companies in Orissa is at Annexure-II.

Assessment done by the Delhi SERC about the performance of the private Distribution Companies in Delhi is at Annexure-III.

The present status of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (ATC) losses Outage Duration Per Feeder and Reliability Index is given at Annexure-IV.

(c) Central Electricity Authority is monitoring, on a monthly basis, outages duration per feeder, number of outages per feeder and average duration of outages for state capitals and major towns. ATC losses for these cities are being monitored on annual basis. Attention of the State Governments is also being drawn on specific issues emerging out of annual rating exercise and concurrent monitoring for taking remedial measures. Regular meetings are also held with the State Governments. The objective is to improve the quality of supply and consumer satisfaction. Efficiency gains have to be achieved in distribution, both in the public as well as in the private sector in the country.

Section 42 (5) of the Electricity Act provide that every distribution licensee shall, within six months from the appointment date or date of grant of licence, whichever is earlier, establish a forum for redressal of grievances of the consumers in accordance with the guidelines as may be specified by the State Commission.

As per Section 42 (6) of the Electricity Act any consumer, who is aggrieved by non-redressal of his grievances under sub section (5), may make a representation for the redressal of his grievance to an authority to be known as Ombudsman to be appointed or designated by the State Commission.

To enable the regular monitoring of redressal of grievances of consumers, the Electricity Rules 2005 notified by the Central Government prescribes that the Ombudsman shall prepare a report on a six monthly basis giving details of the nature of the grievances of the consumer dealt by the Ombudsman, the response of the Licensees in the redressal of the grievances and the opinion of the Ombudsman on the Licensee's compliance of the standards of performance as

specified by the Commission under section 57 of the Act during the preceding six months. This report under sub-clause (a) above shall be forwarded to the State Commission and the state Government within 45 days after the end of the relevant period of six months.

Annexure - I

Power Sector Rating

S.No.	State	Total (100) March, 2005
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57.03
2.	Gujarat	53.61
3.	Delhi	51.91
4.	Karnataka	51.46
5.	Tamil Nadu	50.94
6.	Goa	50.45
7.	Himachal Pradesh	49.91
8.	West Bengal	44.60
9.	Uttar Pradesh	42.14
10.	Chhattisgarh	39.91
11.	Rajasthan	37.50
12.	Maharashtra	37.25
13.	Punjab	36.82
14.	Haryana	35.16
15.	Tripura	31.65
16.	Kerala	31.48
17.	Assam	27.32
18.	Meghalaya	26.72
19.	Madhya Pradesh	22.79
20.	Sikkim	19.07
21.	Uttaranchal	18.60
22.	Nagaland	15.80
23.	Orissa	13.63

1	2	3
24.	Jammu and Kashmir	9.43
25.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.20
26.	Mizoram	7.88
27.	Manipur	6.55
28.	Bihar	5.78
29.	Jharkhand	3.00

Annexure-II

Assessment made by OERC on the Working of Private Distribution Companies

- **Payment of Power Purchase Bill :** All the Distcos except CESCO are regularly making payment against power purchase bills. CESCO is trying to overcome their deficiency in making full payment.

- **Consumer Metering :** The Commission, after long persuasion, has become successful to introduce 92.5% to 100% consumer metering for the individual Distco.

- **Feeder Metering :**

Name of Distco	33kv feeders (%)	11 kv feeders (%)	11/0.4kv transformers (%)
CESCO	97.6	66.5	16.0
NESCO	100	100	98.2
WESCO	100	100	96.4
SOUTHCO	77.4	100	100

- **Asset Register :** The Commission have made Distcos to submit asset registers.

- **Reduction of T & D losses :**

OERC has framed the formula for evaluation of AT & C loss which is of course inline with that of DERC. Orissa has got four distribution licensees namely Central Electricity Supply Company of Orissa Ltd. (CESCO), North Eastern Electricity Supply Company of Orissa Ltd. (NESCO), Western Electricity Supply Company of Orissa Ltd. (WESCO), Southern Electricity Supply Company of Orissa Ltd. (SOUTHCO). Their AT & C loss is as under :

AT & C Loss	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
NESCO	52.25	50.36	42.96	39.55
WESCO	47.30	46.18	40.60	36.52
SOUTHCO	49.76	51.56	45.71	41.76
CESCO#	55.04	51.10	49.37	44.96

• **Tariff :**

There has been no spurt in tariff since 1st February, 2001 in Orissa for the year FY 2005-06, the existing tariff has been reduced in uppermost slab of domestic consumers.

#CESCO is being run through an Administrator appointed by the Regulatory Commission as AES, the US Company which took over management after privatisation failed to perform satisfactorily.

Annexure-III

Assessment made by DERC on the Working of Private Distribution Companies

L Reducation in Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT & C) Losses

All the three Distribution Companies (Discoms), namely, North Delhi Power Limited (NDPL), BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) have reduced their AT & C losses ever since they were privatised and their performance has been better than the targets assigned in the Policy Directions. The performance of NDPL in this regard has been better than BSES. During the last Financial Year itself, the NDPL has been able to reduce their AT & C losses by about 11%. The corresponding figures for BYPL and BRPL are 4.1% and 4.4% respectively. The tabulated chart given below provides the targetted AT & C loss levels and the actual AT & C loss levels achieved, as on March 2003, March 2004 and March 2005.

(All figures are in %age)

Opening loss levels		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
BYPL 57.2	Target	56.45	54.7	50.7
	Achievement	56.45	54.29	50.12
BRPL 48.1	Target	47.55	46	42.7
	Achievement	47.4	45.06	40.64
NDPL 48.1	Target	47.6	45.35	40.85
	Achievement	47.79	44.86	33.79

II. Improvement in Performance Parameters

- Load shedding has gone down to 0.85% of the input Mus in 2004-05 compared to 2.32% of the input Mus at the time of privatisation.
- The distribution transformer failure rate has been reduced to less than 1% today from 15% at the time of privatisation.
- The average response time for attending to breakdowns has improved considerably.
- Number of options available for payment of bills have increased manifold.

III. Redressal of Grievances of Consumers

In accordance with Section 42(5) of the Electricity Act, 2003, all the three Distribution utilities have set-up their Forums. DERC has also appointed the Electricity Ombudsman in August, 2004 in compliance with the provisions of Section 42(6) of the Electricity Act, 2003.

- 1558 complaints were received in the Forums till 31st July 2005 out of which 1319 complaints have been disposed off.
- 1037 complaints have been decided in favour of the consumers. In 6 cases, Forums have recommended to DERC for imposition of penalty on the licensee.
- 1303 complaints (83.6%) were related to metering and billing.

Annexure-IV

AT & C Losses of Private Discoms (%)

Sl. No.	Discom	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Noida Power Co. (UP)	NA	NA	10.49
2.	BSES (Maharashtra)	NA	NA	11.32
3.	CESC (West Bengal)	19.60	18.00	17.16
4.	AEC (Gujarat)	18.74	16.68	12.63
5.	SEC (Gujarat)	14.23	12.98	11.11
6.	Tata Power Company Ltd (Maharashtra)	NA	#2.4%	NA
7.	Dishergarh Power Supply Co. Ltd. (West Bengal)	6.266	5.68	5.0

#These are T & D losses

Losses for companies in Delhi and Orissa are given in Annexures II and III.

Outage duration (In Minutes) per feeder (11KV Level) for State Capitals/Towns having population more than & lakhs

Sl.No.	Private Discom	Jan 05 to Mar 05
1.	AEC (Gujarat)	115.44
2.	SEC (Gujarat)	68.53
3.	BSES (Maharashtra)	17.13
4.	CESC (West Bengal)	53.04 ##
5.	Dishergarh Power Supply Co. Ltd. (West Bengal)	595.18
6.	New Delhi Power Ltd. (Delhi)	681.60
7.	BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (Delhi)	1281.78
8.	BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (Delhi)	1378.38

April 04 to June 04

Reliability Index (%) of 11 KV Level for State Capitals/Towns having population of over 8 Lakhs

Sl. No.	Private Discom	Jan 05 to Mar 05
1.	AEC (Gujarat)	99.91
2.	SEC (Gujarat)	99.95
3.	BSES (Maharashtra)	99.99
4.	CESC (West Bengal)	99.96
5.	Dishergarh Power Supply Co. Ltd. (West Bengal)	99.55
6.	New Delhi Power Ltd. (Delhi)	99.47
7.	BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (Delhi)	99.01
8.	BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (Delhi)	98.94

© April 04 to June 04

Abbreviations :

BSES	Bombay Suburb Electricity Supply Company (Now Reliance Energy)
CESC	Calcutta Electricity Supply Company
AEC	Ahmedabad Electricity Company
SEC	Surat Electricity Company

SHRIMATI C. S. SUJATHA : Sir, the primary concern of our citizens in relation to power generation and distribution is that of affordability in terms of price and reliability in terms of uninterrupted power supply. I would like to know whether the private operators are able to provide power in reasonable

tariff rates. The experience is otherwise. What is the Government's view on this serious point which is directly affecting the living standard and the developmental targets of our people and the nation?

It is a fact that India ranks top after Japan with the highest tariff rate for High Tension and Extra High Tension consumers prevailing in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Put the question, please.

SHRIMATI C. S. SUJATHA : Sir, I am coming to that only. It appears that the Mid-Term Appraisal by the Planning Commission has made reservation on the thoughtless privatisation of the power sector. If so, what is the Ministry of Power contemplating especially in the light of the recent experience of the refusal of the private operators around Mumbai to resume the distribution of power?

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Let the answer be given. You have to put a very specific question and you should not make a speech now. We should all try to acquaint ourselves with the procedure.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Sir, it appears that you have fixed the first Question every Friday to me only! Last week also, the first Question related to my Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER : That shows your popularity!

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : The part (a) of Shrimati Sujatha's question is whether any specific assessment has been made or has been carried out by the Union Government about the working of private distribution companies. Her first question again comes from three only.

I would like to share with the House this fact. The thrust of the question is that the entire distribution in the country is done by the public sector. Sir, 95 per cent of the distribution, even today, is done by the public sector and only about 5 per cent is done by the private sector as well as the joint sector – that is private sector as well as the State Governments. That is only in two cases – in Delhi and Orissa. There also, this is not done after the new Act came into being. This was also done in these two areas, in these two States. It was according to their own existing law.

The question is that of better service. Service betterment is looked after by each State Government through the Regulatory Commission. The State Government also oversees it. So, enormous power is vested in the hands of the State Regulatory Commissions and also the Central Regulatory Commission.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : My second supplementary is this. I would like to know whether the Government of India has commissioned any comprehensive study of the impact of the unbundling and privatisation of the power sector based on the experiences, especially the experiences of Orissa, Delhi and Maharashtra. Can the hon. Minister give a detailed account of the losses made by the private operators in recent years?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, she wants the detailed account of losses.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : The word "unbundling" is never found in the Act. It is a creation of the media. Reorganisation or restructuring is the word found in the Act. By and large, in the country, no State has so far refused to implement the provisions of the Act including the so-called unbundling or reorganisation. In West Bengal also, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, it is done partly.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not get into trouble!

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : He is prompting me. That is why I told.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not fall into the trap!

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : About the losses in the generation as well as transmission and distribution, I would like to say that the national average loss is now in the range of 40 to 45 per cent. I have got a very lengthy list. If you want, I can read it out or else I can forward full details to her.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. Please be brief.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : I will forward full details to her.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi : Not present.

Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS : The correct pronunciation of my name in Hindi is ' Bhanwar Singh Dangawas.'

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry if I made any mistake.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS : Mr. Speaker,

Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to ask supplementary. I would like to ask the hon. Minister : In private sector there is a scheme to generate electricity through extracting gas out of underground coal by burning it and under the said scheme Coal India Ltd. and ONGC have started an experiment in Gujarat. One such scheme is mooted in Mira Nagar in Medta in my Parliamentary Constituency Nagaur. Would he please get this scheme implemented?

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Sir, this question is about distribution. He is talking about coal.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it coal? You asked about coal.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS : It relates to coal.

MR. SPEAKER : It is power.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is it thermal power generating? Please repeat your question slowly.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS : There is a scheme of the Government to generate electricity by extracting gas from underground coal without undertaking mining. Work has been started in Gujarat under that scheme. Under this scheme coal India Ltd. has proposed to generate electricity by extracting gas from its wells at Mira Nagar in Medta of Nagaur and report has also been prepared for that by inviting experts from Russia. Would the Government start work on that?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Will you encourage generation of power from gas in Rajasthan?

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Everywhere.

MR. SPEAKER : Everywhere! Thank you. You have got your answer. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Till the last few years, electricity boards in all states were in public sector. With the process of economic reforms in place, the Central Government has ordered three separate companies under the new Act to start the work of unbundling electricity boards. The experience

has not been satisfactory in the seven states where this has been implemented. People are facing a lot of inconvenience as a result of distribution work given to private sector in Mumbai, recently. I would like to know whether any such amendment would be made in the present electricity Act to penalise the private companies looking after the distribution work if they create any problem and to save the people from the inconvenience due to not getting electricity?

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, My friend Jogi Ji has talked about giving punishment. To my mind, it's not true that it is happening due to mild or absence of punishment. Regulatory Commission has been empowered to penalise any private company that functions in such a manner, which causes inconvenience to the people. Even the license of the company can also be suspended. I would like to cite an example. In Orissa, a company of USA did not fulfil its commitments. During investigation it was proved that it failed to fulfil its commitments, hence its licence was cancelled.

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : The Act has not teeth, Sir. We have to make it stranger.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : With due respect to my friend, the Act has got full teeth.

MR. SPEAKER : The Act has to be used also.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Yes Sir. That is why, I have mentioned it. In 2001, the non-performing distribution Company, namely, AES of USA was dealt with sternly by the Regulatory Commission and the management was removed and an Administrator was appointed. Obviously, this could be the fate of any non-performing distribution company and the concerned Regulatory Commission will act accordingly and sternly...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY : In spite of providing all these figures here, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is taking into consideration the fact that after privatisation of generation and distribution of electricity, the burden on the consumers has increased by 200 per cent to 250 per cent in the last two or three years. What is the use of having all these details that are being given here? What are the steps going to be taken by the Government to reduce the burden on the consumers and to reduce the cost of production of electricity.

* Not recorded.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Sir, I think, the intention of the hon. Member is that the privatisation is a cause for the increase in the cost of production of electricity. As I have already mentioned, 95 per cent of distribution of electricity is done by the public sector companies in the country, and only 5 per cent is done through private and joint ventures. Wherever the cost is to be upwardly revised, that would only be done with the consent and order of the Regulatory Commission. It is an autonomous and quasi-judicial body. We want competition between the public sector companies and public sector companies as well as between the public sector companies and private sector companies. The competition will reduce the cost of production of electricity and the consumer is ultimately going to be benefited.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has said that the ratio of private and government participation in the field of electricity generation is 5 percent and 95 percent respectively. I would like to know the financial condition of electricity board in today's situation in all states. How many electricity boards of states are running in deficit and whether there is any scheme of the Government to bring improvement in them?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question relates to privatisation.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Sir, in 1990s, the Indian power sector witnessed a huge loss of Rs. 3,000 crore. That was during 1990s. In 2000-2001, it went up to Rs. 30,000 crore. Every year, it is expected that the loss has further increased to Rs. 50,000 crore, but thanks to our reforms and vigorous persuasion, the loss has come down to Rs. 21,000 crore. It is a substantial reduction.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It shows the efficiency of the Minister, and that too within one year.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : You may be aware that in June this year, the rate of generation of electricity has increased by 9.3 per cent.

[Translation]

Rural Sanitation Programme

*182. SHRI GANESH SINGH :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the rural population that has

been actually provided sanitation facilities in the country, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated by the Union Government to each State Governments for sanitation facilities during 2004-05 and 2005-06 till date;

(c) whether rural sanitation facilities have not shown any remarkable improvement despite several efforts made by the Union as well as the State Governments;

(d) if so, the whether the Union Government has identified the lacuna in the implementation of rural sanitation programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per Census 2001, approximately 22% of rural population was having sanitation facilities in the country. The State-wise list is given in Annexure-I. Currently, it is estimated that approximately 33% of rural population is having sanitation facilities.

(b) Government of India is supporting the States for promoting sanitation facilities through Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). TSC is a demand driven programme and fund is released based on actual utilization. Therefore, there is no year-wise allocation of funds in TSC. However, the actual fund released by Union Government to different States during 2004-05 and 2005-06 till date is given in the Statement enclosed at Annexure - II.

(c) Rural sanitation coverage in India is quite low. However, with the introduction of TSC about 1.44 crore households have been provided with toilet facilities which has led to increase in the coverage from 22% in 2001 to 33% at present.

(d) Union Government had conducted an evaluation study in the year 2004 to assess the implementation of TSC in the country and recommended some policy changes to increase effectiveness of the programme. The major recommendations include.

- (a) increase in the unit cost for Individual Household Latrine
- (b) including cost of super structure as part of unit cost of household latrines

(c) to provide fund for taking up solid and liquid waste management.

(e) (i) The Department has initiated action to implement the above recommendations of the evaluation study.

(ii) In order to ensure greater involvement of PRIs, Non Governmental Organisations and key opinion leaders in sanitation promotion, Government of India has instituted "Nirmal Gram Puraskar". First set of awards under "Nirmal Gram Puraskar" were distributed by His Excellency Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India on 24th February, 2005 to 38 Gram Panchayats and 02 Block Panchayats for eliminating the practice of open defecation.

(iii) Mass media campaign for creating awareness about sanitation and hygiene issues has been taken up. Focus on interpersonal communication at district level is being given.

(iv) In order to build the capacity of different field functionaries, training programmes and exposure visits are being organized.

(v) It is proposed to sanction Total Sanitation Campaign projects in all districts of the country to accelerate sanitation coverage.

(vi) Government has also increased the budgetary allocation to TSC considerably in the last two years

Annexure-I

State-wise Rural Sanitation Coverage as per 2001 Census

S.No.	Name of State	Percentage of household having latrines
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	42.33
2.	Andhra Pradesh	18.15

1	2	3
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	47.34
4.	Assam	59.57
5.	Bihar	13.91
6.	Chhattisgarh	5.18
7.	Chandigarh	68.53
8.	Delhi	62.89
9.	Goa	48.21
10.	Gujarat	21.65
11.	Haryana	28.66
12.	Himachal Pradesh	27.72
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	41.80
14.	Jharkhand	6.57
15.	Karnataka	17.40
16.	Kerala	81.33
17.	Madhya Pradesh	8.94
18.	Maharashtra	18.21
19.	Manipur	77.50
20.	Meghalaya	40.10
21.	Mizoram	79.74
22.	Nagaland	64.64
23.	Orissa	7.71
24.	Punjab	40.91
25.	Rajasthan	14.61
26.	Sikkim	59.35
27.	Tamil Nadu	14.36
28.	Tripura	77.93
29.	Uttar Pradesh	19.23
30.	Uttaranchal	31.60
31.	West Bengal	26.93
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	17.32

1	2	3
33.	Lakshadweep	93.14
34.	Daman and Diu	32.02
35.	Pondicherry	21.42
Total		21.92

Annexure-II

State-wise release position under TSC during the year 2004-05 & 2005-06

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	Name of State	2004-05	2005-06 (upto 02.08.05)
1	2	3	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3362.27	400.81
3.	Bihar	120.00	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	1100.17	416.34
5.	Gujarat	3690.44	188.79
6.	Haryana	811.13	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	50.00	85.58
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1044.88	0.00
9.	Jharkhand	1946.71	2077.87
10.	Karnataka	461.99	3059.57
11.	Kerala	805.53	106.59
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2242.97	533.58
13.	Maharashtra	3493.05	364.96
14.	Orissa	4582.48	734.28
15.	Punjab	699.94	0.00
16.	Rajasthan	700.86	2227.19
17.	Tamil Nadu	2972.06	3651.78
18.	Uttar Pradesh	3475.35	1505.22
19.	Uttaranchal	503.23	57.10
20.	West Bengal	1566.85	2407.06
21.	Pondicherry	47.42	0.00

1	2	3	4
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	100.00	0.00
23.	Assam	254.95	0.00
24.	Manipur	0.00	0.00
25.	Mizoram	60.00	0.00
26.	Nagaland	62.69	0.00
27.	Sikkim	74.07	0.00
28.	Tripura	368.73	0.00
Grand Total		34732.44	17816.72

SHRI GANESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether it's not a fact that rural India is least benefited with the educational programmes and as per data furnished as few as 22 percent families have been provided with the lavatory facilities and these too are not in operation due to the non-availability of water and sheds. The Central Government with the cooperation of State Governments propose to provide a grant of Rs. 500 to the families living below poverty line, of which sixty percent will be incurred by the centre, 20 percent will be borne by the state govt. and the rest twenty percent will be collected from the beneficiaries for the construction of toilets. However this idea is not feasible at all. Presently it is impossible to construct the toilets with an amount of less than Rs. two thousand and five hundred. Hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that he has received recommendations and we are going to augment the funds meant for the construction of personal and public toilets. We all are aware that even after 57 years of independence, we have not been able to provide proper public convenience to the people living in rural areas. I would like to ask the hon'ble member whether this official data will form the basis of providing health and sanitation facilities to the people living in rural areas? Whether he is going to form any concrete policy to that end.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. member wants to ask whether it'll remain on paper only or will it be implemented?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Hon'ble Member has raised the issue of sanitation campaign and rural sanitation campaign for which I express my gratitude to him. He has said that as few as 22 percent of the households are having toilets.

Sir, these figures pertain to 2001 census. As per the updated data 33 percent households are equipped with toilets but a lot remains to be done on that count. Agricultural

Finance Corporation had undertaken evaluation in this sphere and observed that the amount being disbursed as subsidy for the construction of toilets for the persons living below poverty line is meager and inadequate. That is old calculation. It should be augmented based on the updated economic status and price hire. For that we have already initiated the process. To my mind, the amount will shortly be augmented and if the honorable Members lend their cooperation, every family particularly the female members of the family will be facilitated with toilets and pure drinking water as the unavailability of such basic facilities stigmatises the society and even the Country as a whole. Sir, that is why we have set the target of providing toilets and safe-drinking water to every family of the country by the year 2015, only then our country can afford to complete with the developed nations of the world and move ahead of them by the year 2020 when all of our rural sanitation campaigns will turn out to be a success and every household will be equipped with the facility of pure-drinking water and toilets.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is a very important issue for the rural people. Let there be proper discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH : Sir, it's a fact that right from the 80's 33 percent area of rural India has been covered so far which to my mind is awfully inadequate. Recently, as per the recommendations of H.E. President of India, the government has launched Nirmal Gram Puraskar Yojana. As many as 38 villages and two blocks have been covered under the scheme. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether he is going to implement this Nirmal Gram Puraskar Yojana across the country.

In my second question I would like to know the time by which the amount will be augmented as has been figured in your reply and in the recommendations that were made to you.

Third question is related to the allocations made for the states. In those allocations, the status of Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand is not quite comfortable. Whether less allocation of funds has triggered such situation. Further, whether efforts should be made to augment the allocation of funds there?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, under the Nirmal Gram Puraskar Yojana, and panchayat where all the households have been provided with toilets and such toilets become functional for all the villagers, residing therein, an aid

of Rs. two to four lakh for the panchayat, Rs. Ten to twenty lakhs for blocks and Rs. twenty to fifty lakh for the districts is to be given as aid under Nirmal Gram Puraskar Scheme. This year itself Nirmal Gram Puraskar has been conferred on 49 Panchayats, and two blocks on the 12th of February by H.E the President of India. We shall distribute the award to be given by hon'ble President on the 12th of Feb next year. Nirmal Gram Puraskar Yojana extends to the whole country. The Panchayats, block or districts that will come forward will be given awards. It's heartening to note that by now, as many as two hundred fifty applications have been received this year wherein West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra etc. are in the leading position. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh is also very much serious on this front. Keeping this in view, a plan has been formulated to provide the facilities of pure drinking water and toilets on mandatory basis in all the schools by 31 March, 2006. We are going to secure breakthrough in collaboration with the State Governments, in this scheme. The support of Hon'ble Members as well as the State Governments is also solicited on large scale. We have communicated to the Chief Ministers to amend the Panchayati Raj laws etc to the effect that the persons dwelling at the households devoid of toilet facilities will be debarred from contesting elections. Help should be extended to those living below poverty line because they can't afford to have the same on their own. They should be made aware and should also be helped. It's due to lack of awareness that the persons living above property lines don't have toilets at their homes. Therefore, we need support of the hon'ble members and of the entire nation to create awareness among the masses. We wish the success of the Rural Sanitation campaign across the country so that India may join the top ranking nations. Therefore, by all means unless and until every household is equipped with the facilities to toilets and safe drinking water, genuine rural development can't be achieved...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, I will not allow, it's not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in so far as different states are concerned, it can well be understood that under complete sanitation campaign the funds will be allocated by the Government of India to the extent to which these have been actually utilized but as far as the Union Territories which are under the direct control of the Central Government are concerned, we are sorry to know that percentage of the households having toilets in Chandigarh, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Lakshdeep, Damandip, and Pondichery is 68.53%, 17.32%, 93.14%, 32% and 21%

* Not recorded.

respectively. In the rural areas of these Union Territories very few households are equipped with the toilet facilities. It is more surprising when I talk about Chandigarh. That is a modern city having only 22 villages and the ones of development in this region lies entirely with the Central Government. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister about the plan formulated especially for the Union Territories. When he wishes to set an example and there is a target before him by which time he will achieve the success of complete sanitation campaign, what plans are to be implemented in the Union Territories in the beginning.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, through-out the country may it be union territory or any state any where in the rural areas, we are committed to extend monetary assistance to the people living below poverty line and at the sametime, an awareness campaign will be launched for the people living above the poverty line...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Anyone interrupting will be blacklisted. It's a very important question. Let us have a very responsive discussion.

SHRI ANNASHEB M. K. PATIL : Sir, in 1999, as per this programme, almost 18 per cent of rural population was having this facility. As he has already stated, in 2001, the percentage of rural population having sanitation facility in the country, has reached to 22 per cent. In 2005, it has increased to 33 per cent. Form 18 per cent, it has gone up to 30 per cent in 2004. During the time of NDA Government, it has increased from 18 per cent to 30 per cent, that is, there is an increase of 12 per cent. For the last 50 years, it was only 18 per cent. That was the actual Programme, but somehow NDA has pushed this Programme very well through 'Nirmal Gram Puraskar' etc. That is why, this Programme is very important as far as women and some public places are concerned.

I know that, as such, rural development is fragmented in various sections. A lot of activities of the rural development have been divided into many sections. Take for example, Panchayati Raj, which is going to implement this Programme, has been attached to the Petroleum Department. Even drinking water has gone to some department etc. This is very important Programme. The hon. Minister said that up to 2015, the entire rural population would have sanitation facilities. How can it be achieved if the Programme is going to be so slow? In the case of Bihar itself, from where the hon. Minister comes ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are a very experienced Member. Put your question.

SHRI ANNASHEB M. K. PATIL : Therefore, I would like to know even in Bihar, if you see the statement ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to ask : "How is it possible to achieve the target?"

SHRI ANNASHEB M. K. PATIL : Yes. Not only that, secondly, he has said about providing funds for taking up solid and liquid waste management. How many proposals he has sanctioned for it?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has the experience of this Department. He has been Minister of this Department earlier. During his regime the amount was pegged at Rs. 165 crore per annum. Now, it has been augmented fourfold to Rs. 700 crore...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You sit down please. You listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If any hon. Minister gives a misleading or an incorrect answer, you have full right to bring a motion for breach of privilege. You write to me, let him not be interrupted now.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, there are approximately 600 districts, out of which total sanitation campaign scheme has been approved in 500 districts which will cost Rs. 5500 crores. Rs. 3300 crores has to be given by Govt. of India and the remaining will have to be shared between State Government and the beneficiaries themselves. Our target for this year is to approve total sanitation campaign scheme in all districts of the country and the amount required will be provided. There will be no shortage of funds. Regarding rural development there people tell that initially it was Rs. 2 thousand crore per annum and then it became Rs. 16000 crores from 14000 crores. At one time it became 40 thousand crore rupees from 16 thousand crore rupees, I am providing factual figures and the amount will be made available in budget and village development will be our top priority. It won't be India Shining but it will be rural India shining and unemployment and poverty will be eliminated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Microphones should be put off!

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : The hon'ble Minister, has made available in his reply the data regarding Bihar for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06. Bihar is a backward and poor state. Mr. Minister belongs to that State and we all know it....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You just ask question. We all know that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking a pointed question. I am not going in for introductory details, your time is precious. Bihar is a poor and backward State; there is a need for this scheme in Bihar. I understand that for the fulfillment of this scheme he has allotted money, more than previous allotment, we thank him for that.

Through you I would like to ask Mr. Minister whether the purpose for which the money was allotted has been achieved so far? Whether the allocated amount for sanitation campaign has reached the poor and villages? As far as I know, the village to which I belong...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You wanted to give information. You ask information.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, I am asking.

[Translation]

Has this Scheme achieved desired results? The Govt. might have asked for the report to ascertain whether the amount allocated and the percentage fixed by it has reached the villages and vilagers at the gross root level.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We are not fully utilising it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please reply in brief.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Bihar out of 38 districts, in 19 districts Rs. 200 crores have been sanctioned for total sanitation campaign scheme

and out of that 41 crore rupees have been released and the remaining amount will be released gradually as per expenditure requirement. Two or three districts of Bihar are performing well. We are trying to bring awareness in every district and want to expedite total sanitation campaign with the cooperation of Panchayati Raj and NGOs. There is shortage in Chhattisgarh also; it is only in five percent homes. The hon. Members were enquiring in this regard. There will not be any reduction in funds in any of the states like Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. We are ready to provide adequate assistance.

[English]

DR. R. SETHIL : Sir, the present amount given for providing a toilet is just sufficient to dig a pit and put a sit out on top. It is not sufficient to construct walls around. In the villages which have hundred per cent sanitation, there is a toilet in every household, but there is just a pit and a sit out. There are no walls around the toilet and nobody uses it. Would the Minister ensure that they are not built just to satisfy the statistician but they are actually used and made useable?

MR. SPEAKER : Where you have got sanitation, whether they are being properly used or not. Is it used?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, efforts are being made in this regard. As the Hon'ble member has said that the toilets have been made but there is no wall around it. Agriculture Finance Corporation have suggested and recommended to provide assistance for the construction of toilets, Pan and the wall around it. We are considering it and early action will be taken in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I find that they are doing it themselves in most of the areas. Now, Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul. He has left after giving his name. Now, Shrimati Susmita Bauri.

SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI : Sir, from my personal experience, I would like to mention that in a village, in my constituency, the progress of the programme is very satisfactory. But will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government for speedy implementation of the scheme?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It should be done as early as possible...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker,

Sir, I myself, am in a hurry. We are doing correspondence with all the hon'ble members to create awareness in this regard. An hon'ble members. Shri Arun Kumar from Rajamundri, Andhra Pradesh has given two crore rupees from MPLADS for the Sanitation Campaign. Cooperation of all the Hon'ble Members is solicited for the construction of toilets and for providing drinking water in schools.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : In Bihar the hon'ble member was saying that Chidambaramji is not giving money. Twenty four thousand crore of rupees...*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : You have taken more time otherwise

[English]

I could have allowed some more hon. Members. Mr. Minister, please do not answer such questions.

Now, Shri Anant Gudhe.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Maharashtra under Rural Sanitation campaign a very good programme named Village Sanitation Campaign is being conducted. For the last five years rural sanitation facilities are being provided for taluk, district and department level in all the villages in the Maharashtra by providing sufficient grant. This programme is being launched in the name of Sant Gadge Maharaj and National Saint Tukdoji Maharaj and we are getting very good results in Maharashtra.

Such programmes are also being conducted in some states like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the government propose to implement such schemes in other states of the country.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the tradition of Maharashtra that from the time of Saint Tukaram and Gadge Baba significant work has been done in the field of construction of toilets and sanitation work. We are thankful to those states who have created awareness about it and we are also trying to create awareness among those states which are not fully aware of it. The Central Government is providing full assistance to the State Government for conducting total sanitation campaign ...*(Interruptions)* We are undertaking sanitation campaign.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not reply to further supplementaries.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am trying to allow everybody.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Prabhunath Singh, I will come to you. Who can ignore you? No Speaker can ignore you.

If you have brief and specific questions, then you will get specific reply. You see, we are stuck up in the second Question. It is because of the importance of the Question, I have allowed so many supplementaries but that does not mean that I will allow 500 supplementaries.

[Translation]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, total sanitation scheme is very good scheme but with this meagre amount of Rs. 500-600 no toilet can be constructed. Even in Rs. 1000 no toilet can be constructed. The money spent by the Government under this scheme is providing futile. Through you I would like to know from the Government that when the Government will implement this scheme in proper way and whether this scheme will be stopped until a final shape is given to it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already told that we are feeling that this amount is not sufficient and we are considering to increase it. We have circulated it and it will be put up before the cabinet and then the same will be passed.

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, Prabhunath Singh Ji! No introductory please.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how the question can be asked without introductory of a question. Before asking question I would like to request you that yesterday..(Not recorded)...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Delete this.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not an unparliamentary expression.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is unparliamentary. My decision will prevail. What can you do?

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : No, No.

[English]

No, I am sorry this should not be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not possible.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you asking question or not?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Hon'ble Minister is laughing.

[English]

He is not affected. Why are you bothered?

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister in his reply has given a list of 28 states to whom the amount has been allocated and among them there are 12 states to whom no amount has been allocated by the Government. It also includes his own states Bihar where no money has been granted in 2004-2005.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am unable to understand that how the Government claim that development work is going on where no money has been given. Hon'ble Minister has said that 33% per cent people are availing this facility. I want to know what is the percentage of people who have spent their own money for getting this facility and the percentage of people who have received of money from Rural Development fund to avail this facility? Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government is misleading the House by showing private arrangements as Governments achievements.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not make it a confrontational issue. Question Hour is something else.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever is being stated by the Hon'ble Member and whatever all the hon'ble Members are starting themselves, speak of the development of village as a subject of the poor people. When the development of the villages is carried out

properly, then people will be able to know about it. All the Members express their views regarding this subject but there are a few Members who just do not have any information about the development of villages.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the points raised by the hon'ble Member regarding Bihar and other States, funds were sanctioned for 19 districts out of 38 districts of Bihar at the time of making the plan initially.

We are ready to provide funds for the remaining districts. We have asked all the States to chalk out their plans and forward the same to us. We will sanction the amount for the survey to be conducted as well as the toilets to be built. There is no discrimination against any State in this regard. However, cooperation of Hon'ble Members, State and district panchayat is needed for the same. This is not that the work can be done with the help of the amount sanctioned by us from here. Cooperation of every person is required for the purpose.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : My specific question is this. In Tamil Nadu, most of the public rural sanitation buildings that have been constructed in the villages are in the name of MLA fund. And most of the buildings are not open. Some buildings that are opened are not being used for lack of facilities. There are facilities like bore well water, etc ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Put your specific question.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : The entire amount of the rural development fund is being wasted. Most of the buildings are used for sheltering buffaloes, playing cards by people, etc. Will the Minister take initiatives to improve the sanitation, facilities for individuals, and enhance the amount being given for construction so that they may be utilised properly? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Same question is being asked. That is the problem. Everyone puts the same question. He has already answer this.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the complaints made by the hon'ble Member are right in the sense that at some places the constructions of toilets was entirely ensured by the Government but they could not be used properly. So, the cooperation as well as the assistance of the Central Government, State Government and the beneficiaries is needed in this regard so that they can understand the importance of these facilities which belong to

them and, the same time, they are required to keep them clean and maintain them properly. We are making arrangements for this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No. 183, Shri Raosaheb Danve. Put your first supplementary. There are other important questions relating to the Finance Ministry.

[Translation]

Employment generation in Rural Areas

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*183. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL :
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to create more employment opportunities for SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities among the rural youth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to generate more employment for rural youths by imparting them training in information technology and communication technology;

(d) if so, the details of specific programme; and

(e) the funds allocated in each State/UT for imparting training in information technology to rural youth?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing two major employment generation Schemes namely Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and the Sampoorna Gamin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) to provide self and wage employment to the families living below the poverty line in the rural areas of the country. The Government have also launched a new wage employment scheme namely National Food For Works Programme (NFFWP) in 150 most backward districts of 27 States of the country to generate supplementary wage employment and provide food security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts. The NFFWP is open to the rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual unskilled work. This programme will be

replaced by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the Bill for which has been introduced in the Parliament.

The Rural Development Programmes have been formulated to provide benefits to all the members of the families living below the poverty line including SCs/STs, OBCs and minorities among the rural youth. However, the programme guidelines of the Ministry of Rural Development have made specific provisions to ensure adequate flow of resources to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Women and Parents of Child Labour withdrawn from hazardous occupations who are Below Poverty Line. Under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) at least 50% of the Swarogaris will be SCs/STs, 40% women and 3% disabled. Under Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) 22.5% of annual allocations at the district and block/taluka level is earmarked for SCs/STs individuals beneficiaries and 30% of the employment opportunities should be reserved for women.

Emphasis is laid on skill development through well-designed training courses under the SGSY. The design, duration of training and training curriculum are tailored to meet the needs of the identified activities, including the activities in information and communication technology. The Ministry is also implementing a number of Special Projects under the SGSY to impart training to the rural poor in various skills including those pertaining to information and communication technology. Acting on the recommendations of the Inter-ministerial group, the Ministry has decided to launch a pilot Programme under SGSY for the unemployed youth in rural areas. In the pilot phase (2005-07) it is proposed to cover at least 1000-2000 rural youths per year in 100 selected districts.

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I have asked the hon'ble Minister about the extent of amount allocated to each State and Union Territory for imparting training to rural youth in information technology. However, the hon'ble Minister has not replied to this question. The Central Government has introduced two schemes for the rural people viz. Swarn Jayanti Swarogjar Yojana and Sampooma Gramin Rojgar Yojana. These schemes have been implemented in 150 backward districts of 27 states. These schemes are in operation on the lines of "Food for Work" scheme for needy people. However, only unskilled workers can work under these schemes. I would like to ask whether there is any provision to impart training to youths under the new SGRY sponsored programme being started in the field of information technology for the educated unemployed in rural areas.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the SGRY scheme and "Food for Work" scheme are wage employment for unskilled labour. There is a provision to impart quality training to the youth and to the unemployed persons in rural area under Swarn Jayanti Gramin Swarogjar Yojana which is under SGSY and this is to be done as per the requirement in those areas. When the unemployed youth complete their training, they will be able to get employment and they can even become self-employed people. There will also be a linkage with the Banks, and there is a provision for marketing of goods produced by them. We have asked them to spend ten percent amount on training only. We had set up a special task force which has submitted its report that various Departments have their own training schemes e.g. Department of Information Technology is conducting its training programme separately. However, we provide financial assistance from our Ministry of Rural Development to the Departments so as to enable them to meet their expenses on training programmes. We also have a provision for training in information technology and computers for which we provide our assistance.

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have two new schemes namely Swarn Jayanti Gramin Swarogjar Yojana and Sampooma Gramin Rojgar Yojana. Besides, Employment Guarantee Bill is likely to be introduced soon. I have asked the Hon'ble Minister whether there is any provision for computer learning programme or training in driving in regard to the two new schemes being introduced by the Government for the educated youth in rural areas.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, there is a provision in SGSY that if someone is willing to do the training course in IT, he can get the project but there is no such provision in SGRY.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I wish to compliment you on your very good supplementary question.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the actual position in rural areas is that the problem of unemployment is aggravating and the unemployed persons are not getting any suitable jobs in towns and cities on the basis of their education received in villages. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what type of training is proposed to be imparted in the field of information technology and communication technology with a view to solve the problem of rural unemployment. I would also like to know about the last two years data related to position of training in computer

or driving. I would ask the hon'ble Minister whether he can submit the data with regard to the States where such training has been imparted.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, if the training project on a subject has to be prepared, there is a provision to provide assistance after getting approval from the Ministry of Rural Development. It is not that we are making schemes for IT and running them. That is a work done by the Department of IT. Our duty is that we have to make provision for imparting training to the unemployed youth as per their field of interest and we approve the projects for the same so that they can get work by way of self-employment and productive self-employment.

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO : Sir, thousands of crores of rupees are being spent on Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana but without much results. So, I wish to know whether the hon. Minister would make it compulsory that for getting these finances they must take the training in an institute, either Government or private. I would like to know whether he would make it compulsory that only students who are trained in these institutes are eligible for taking help under this scheme so that they could utilise the funds properly and get the expected results. Would you make it compulsory to connect training in these institutes to the loans?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, the Hon'ble Member has stated that an amount of one thousand crore rupees has been spent on SGSY and he wants to know about the outcome thereof. I would like to tell him that there are 22 lakh self help groups in the country and efforts are being made for creation of their revolving fund, and to ensure their linkage with banks and economical activity. In this regard, good progress is being made in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. In reply to his question regarding the training. I would say that we are making plans for the training. Even previously, there was a scheme namely "TRYSEM" but that scheme failed only due to stipend factor. This time, proper care is being taken to ensure that. This scheme does not fail. So, if we cannot provide employment to all, we must at least impart a good quality training to them and that, too, on demand so that they can fight against the problem of unemployment. We have made this provision.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Next, Shri Dushyant Singh. Let us encourage young hon. Members.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned in his answer about different schemes of the Government like the SGSY, SJRY and so on. Is the Government considering motivating the unemployed youth through the Rural Development Self-Employment Training Institutes (RUDSETIs) ? If they are going to do it, they would be fulfilling the needs of the common men by training them. So, is the Government considering the idea of giving credit linkages to RUDSETIs to create a new environment for the *aam aadmi* and the unemployed youth? If so, I would like to know in which States has this been done; to how many States has this been given; and what are the schemes for the future.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, we are sending money to every district in all the States under this scheme and, at the same time, we carry out monitoring work in this regard. We are paying attention to participation of the people, strict vigilance and awareness and proper progress is also being made. Within one or two years, people will get all the information as to how the scheme of self employment can be successful in eliminating the problem of unemployment through training programmes. We are running all these schemes vigorously.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, the hon'ble Minister has just stated that any youth can avail of the training facility under SGRY. But, to my knowledge, only those who are below poverty line, are included in self help group. Moreover, they are the ones who get working capital and subsidy. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether the educated youth who are below poverty line will be given training under Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has already answered this question.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : What the Hon'ble Member is saying about SGSY, is very correct. The self help group is for the people living below poverty line but, at the same time, 30 percent of people above poverty line have also been included in it. They are not given stipend and other help but there is a provision to impart training to the people living above poverty line. They have not been deprived of training.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already stated about it.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would

like to tell the hon'ble Minister through you that in view of the fact that the rural youth belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and minority communities have to do a lot of formalities and face numerous difficulties in taking loan from the banks and they cannot avail of the loan without giving 10 percent of the loan amount as bribe. I would like to know what measures are being taken to create easy opportunities of employment for the youth so that they can get hassle-free loans to start their own business?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Very good question.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : So, far as the complaint regarding non-cooperation by the Banks is concerned, I would like to say that 1200 branches of Banks were on zero lending. We communicated to the hon'ble Minister of Finance in this regard. The hon'ble Minister of Finance discussed the matter with the Reserve Bank of India and all officers of various Banks and asked them to cooperate. There is 98 percent recovery from the people living below poverty line and the people belonging to self-help groups. The poor are not non performing assets. It is a big names who constitute non performing assets. The poor people and the people belonging to self-help groups should get full support from Bank and, at the same time, efforts have been made to ensure action on zero lending in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No. 184. All Ministers should work.

[Translation]

FDI Target

*184. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed for FDI during the last three years;
- (b) the details of the FDI made during the each of the last three years;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target fixed; and
- (d) the extent of success achieved by the Government as a result of the steps taken in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a), (c) and (d) No target for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is fixed by the Government. FDI flows are determined, inter-alia, by the global economic situation, market conditions and global FDI flows. Government's endeavour is to maximize FDI inflows by providing a transparent policy framework under which FDI up to 100% is allowed under the automatic route in most sectors/activities. Apart from bridging the savings - investment gap, this has resulted in bringing in modern technology, international best practices, and improving the global competitiveness of Indian industry.

(b) Statement showing FDI inflows, as reported to Reserve Bank of India during each of the last three years, State-wise, is given in the table below.

State-wise and Financial year wise break-up of FDI inflow

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Sl. No.	State	2002-03 Apr-Mar	2003-04 Apr-Mar	2004-05 Apr-Mar
1.	Andhra Pradesh	242.65	353.49	747.85
2.	Assam	2.59	19.48	13.39
3.	Bihar	0.00	1.13	0.00
4.	Gujarat	550.71	917.12	610.53
5.	Karnataka	975.24	926.53	1131.34
6.	Kerala	67.45	44.53	33.77
7.	Madhya Pradesh	5.83	34.85	69.25
8.	Maharashtra	2366.40	1355.30	3183.13
9.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Rajasthan	1.22	1.89	4.58
11.	Tamil Nadu	990.17	603.80	358.47
12.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.03
13.	West Bengal	177.96	84.50	467.37
14.	Chandigarh	843.89	76.71	13.49
15.	Delhi	3062.22	2123.46	3717.53
16.	Goa	139.09	160.59	100.66
17.	Other States not indicated	3445.25	3360.72	4201.34
Grand Total		12870.67	10064.10	14652.73

Source : RBI

Additon to Main Answer :

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (contd.) : Sir, I wish to add that the table given under Part-b is as reported by the regional offices of the Reserve Bank of India located in the States concerned.

MR. SPEAKER : One supplementary may be allowed.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Sir, so far as the FDI inflow is concerned, the figures given by the hon. Minister in the reply are not encouraging. In the year 2002-2003 the FDI was Rs. 12,870.67 crore, in the year 2003-2004 it was Rs. 10,064.10 crore and in the year 2004-2005 the FDI was Rs. 14,652.73 crore.

MR. SPEAKER : The figures are there.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : These figures indicate the Government's failure to attract the FDI particularly in textiles, energy, telecommunication and manufacturing units.

Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, what steps are being taken or have been taken to attract investors in our country so far as these sectors are concerned and what steps have been taken to remove the confusion. Some confusion is there because the Left Parties supporting the Government have also registered their protests against the FDI. What steps have been taken to remove this type of confusion?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, there is no confusion. Nobody is opposed to FDI. All that the Government says is that the FDI must come into this country in order to enhance production, add to capacity, increase employment and improve efficiently. If these considerations are met, nobody is opposed to FDI.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

VAT Implementation

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

(a) whether there is any rise in revenue of State Governments and Union Government after implementation of the VAT systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have noticed any lacunae in the implementation of the VAT system in certain States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to rectify the lacunae?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) Although it is too early to make a precise assessment of the impact of VAT on revenues of the States/UTs, it is seen from the provisional figures of tax collection during the first quarter of current financial year received from the States/UTs that the overall trend of revenue collections is positive and encouraging. VAT is a State level tax and has no impact on the revenues of the Union Government.

VAT is a major tax reform at State level. The VAT system is different from the earlier Sales Tax system in many respects. Any new system takes some time to stabilise. In view of this, some initial problems were faced by the States at the time of introduction of VAT. However, the general feedback from the States is that these problems have been resolved, by the large, through constant interaction with the stakeholders and the new VAT system has been generally accepted by the business community as well as the public. The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers has also been reviewing and monitoring the position constantly and advising the States on appropriate measures to be taken for smooth implementation of VAT.

Rural Electrification

*186. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for electrification of remote areas through non-conventional energy sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposals have been received from certain States particularly West Bengal for electrification of the remote areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) and (b) Under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyautikaran Yojana of the Government, all the unelectrified villages in the country will be taken up for electrification. It has been estimated that out of 1,25,000 unelectrified villages, around 25,000 remote villages are those where grid connectivity may not be feasible or cost effective. Such

villages will be electrified with the help of non-conventional energy sources. The Ministry provides 90% of the cost of electrification as Central Financial Assistance for such villages.

(c) to (e) 1944 remote villages have so far been electrified with non-conventional energy sources and implementation work is ongoing in another 1120 villages. Out of an estimated 1435 remote unelectrified villages in West Bengal, 987 have already been electrified through non-conventional energy sources and in 186 villages, projects are under implementation. New proposals for electrification of around 3000 villages in 18 states, including 236 in West Bengal, have been received. Further action on these will be taken as per the provisions of Ministry's Programme.

[Translation]

Fiscal Deficit

*187. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present position of fiscal deficit of the country;
- (b) whether the Government is contemplating formation of any action plan to bring down the fiscal deficit;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has set any target to remove the fiscal deficit;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which this target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The provisional Union Government Accounts for 2004-05 released by Controller General of Accounts places the fiscal deficit at Rs. 1,27,975 crore which would be equivalent to 4.1 per cent of GDP. The combined fiscal deficit of the Centre and States, which was placed at 9.4 per cent of GDP in 2003-04 (RE), is budgeted to decline to 7.9 per cent of GDP in 2004-05.

(b) and (c) The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBMA), 2003 mandates the Central Government to eliminate the revenue deficit and reduce the fiscal deficit to not more than 3 per cent of GDP by end-March 2009. In pursuance of this mandate, Central

Government has taken a series of initiatives which, *inter alia*, include widening the tax base through phased removal of exemptions, increased coverage under service tax, special drive to realise tax arrears and containing increase in interest payments by maintaining soft interest rates, carrying forward with pension reforms and efforts at targeting subsidies to the poor and truly needy sections of the society. The introduction of State-level value added tax and implementation of the Twelfth Finance Commission award, which include a debt relief and debt write-off package to States linked to the enactment of fiscal responsibility legislations by them, would help reduce their fiscal deficit. Adherence to the fiscal responsibility legislation by the Centre and States would bring down the combined fiscal deficit.

(d) to (f) Elimination of fiscal deficit is not a target under FRBMA, 2003.

[English]

Commercialisation of Research In Science and Technology

*188. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the need for quicker commercialisation of inventions in Scientific Institutions and Universities so as to provide incentives to the scientists; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to secure the patent rights on technologies developed by scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is imperative that commercialization of inventions in scientific institutions and universities takes place at a much quicker pace than at present. This need has been recognized within the international community especially and in particular in the developed world. The *modus operandi* in the developed world is by providing incentives to scientists along with academic independence for carrying out R & D activities. The developed world has realized that there is a necessary correlation between commercialization of inventions and the pace of economic development. India too has recognized this as the way forward. Several schemes have been put in place to achieve above objectives to provide infrastructural and operational support through various schemes and incentives. With increased emphasis on public-private partnership in technology development, the Government, through schemes to Technology Development Board (TDB), New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative

(NMITLI) and Drug & Development Promotion Board (DDPB), provides incentives to commercialize inventions, as these schemes take adequate care to ensure that inventions from scientific institution and universities become an important component of the schemes. Ministry of Science and Technology and Department of Ocean Development allow institutions and universities implementing projects awarded by them to own intellectual property rights emanating from such projects and retain benefits and earnings accrued from patents. Institutions may determine the share of inventors and other persons from actual earnings. However, such share shall be limited to one-third of the actual earnings. Similar schemes are available to the scientists from CSIR and ICAR.

To quicken the pace of commercialization of inventions, it is also of the utmost important that academic institutions, national laboratories and centers of excellence, including IITs and others are giving the academic freedom which alone will increase the number of patent applications that will be filed both within the country and abroad. A quantum jump in patent applications will result in a larger number of patents which in turn will impact on the pace of commercialization of products. It is relevant to mention that of the total number of patents granted, only very small percentage result in commercialization of products. Large number of patents will result in large commercialization of products which in turn will impact on the pace of economic development. The nature of incentives required to be given to the scientific community for the purposes of creation of intellectual property is a matter of intense debate and discussion. What is required is a rationalized and uniform system of incentives applicable to a variety of educational institutions, national laboratories and centers of excellence. The Government is at present looking at this issue and considering measures to improve the prevailing system of incentives which is discretionary, persuasive and adhoc. It may be noted that commercialization of inventions has two important components, namely, patents and products. A strong inter-relationship between products and patents is essential for success in the market place. Globally, the conversion of patents into successful marketable products is not very high. Therefore, it is imperative that more and more patents should be generated at universities and scientific institutions to enhance the chances of introducing more number of products. The number of patents, being obtained by universities and scientific institutions, is still low and is not commensurate with the size of our country and the intellectual powers which exist in the country. Therefore, there is a dire need for investing in human capital working towards these objectives and also investing adequately in R & D infrastructure and related facilities. This calls for not only increase in budget outlay by the Government but also enabling mechanism to bring in larger investment by private sector in R & D.

Many tax incentives are also available to industries for manufacturing products based on indigenous Research &

Development (R & D), which in turn act as incentive for scientific and academic institutions for developing marketable technologies. For example, Section 35 (2AA) of the IT Act 1961 provides for weighted tax deduction of 125% for expenses on sponsoring research programmes at National laboratories functioning under ICAR, CSIR, ICMR, DRDO, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Electronics, IITs and universities. Bulk drugs produced based on indigenous R & D, are exempt from drug price control for a period of five years from the date of commencement of commercial production. If a new drug is invented, the exemption from the Drug Price Control Order could be for a period of 10 years. Depreciation allowance at a higher rate is available in respect of plant and machinery installed for manufacturing goods based on indigenous technology developed in recognized in-house R & D units, government R & D institutions, national laboratories and Scientific and Industrial Organisation (SIRO).

The Government has set up specialized cells/centers/units in its different departments and agencies, which provide technical financial and legal help to scientists for protecting their inventive work in India and other countries. Intellectual property rights, so generated, are also maintained by these cells/centers/units. The ownership of such patents resides with the concerned institutions and the scientists' names appear as inventors in the patent document. Prominent among the Government Departments/agencies are : Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, Department of Atomic Energy, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), ISRO, Indian Council of Forest Research.

Department of Science and Technology set up a Patent Facilitating Centre (PFC) in 1995 to help Indian scientists from academic and R & D institutions to protect their invention in India and elsewhere. PFC cuts across all disciplines and organizations and agencies. It has set up twenty Patent Information Centres (PICs) in 20 States, namely, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal. These PICs are helping scientists, technologists and policy makers in their respective States by creating awareness and extending help for protecting their inventions. These PICs have become a change agent at the State level.

The efforts put in by the Government have certainly enhanced patent filing by the Indian academic and research institutions.

[Translation]

Implementation of Power Projects

*189. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has observed the inordinate delay in implementing various power projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for such delay;
- (c) whether the matter has been discussed with the concerned Ministries and the Planning Commission;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken for early implementation of power projects; and
- (f) the likely cost escalation due to the delay in their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been delay in execution of some power projects. Delays at execution stage is mainly on account of following reasons :

- Geological surprises
- Location of Hydro sites in remote and inhospitable area
- Rehabilitation & resettlement problem
- Contractual problem

Project-wise details are given in the statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The issues relating to delays in execution of power projects are discussed regularly in the quarterly performance review meetings. Where necessary projects specific meetings are also organized.

Regular inter-action with Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Finance Ministry and Planning Commission have led to faster clearances of projects. The procedures for clearances have also been streamlined.

The average lead time for the 500 MW coal based unit has been reduced from 49 months to 38 months, for 210/250 MW units reduced to 28 months from 32 months and for gas based projects it has come down from 24 months to 20 months. The gestation time in respect of new hydro project has also been declining.

(e) To avoid delays in the execution of projects, monitoring mechanism has been strengthened. Members taken include :

- (i) Quarterly review by the Ministry of for each Central Public Sector Undertaking.
- (ii) Quarterly review by the Ministry with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) top level team.
- (iii) Quarterly review by Ministry with Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for all projects of the country. Central Electricity Authority has deputed a Nodal Officer for intense monitoring of each project.
- (iv) Video Conferencing with Chief Executives of select projects at more frequent intervals.
- (v) Visits to projects.
- (f) The details about the likely cost escalation due to delay in the implementation of the project are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Time/Cost Overruns in Power Projects

Name of Project	State/ CPSU	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Schedule Original/ Latest	Estimated Cost Original/Latest (Price level) (Rs. in crores)	Estimated cost overrun (Rs. in Crore)	Reasons for delay
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Central Sector						
Thermal						
Neyveli Exp. I	Tamil Nadu/ NLC	420	Feb. 2001/ August, 2005	1590.58/1586.23 (Exp. Till May, 03)	Nil	Delay in placement of order for main plant. Order was placed on 10th August, 1998. Delay in supply of Bottom Ash Plant refractory material.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hydro						
Dulhaati HEP	Jammu & Kashmir/NHPC	390	July, 1994/ December, 2005	1262.97 (10/88) 3559.77 (11/96)	2296.80	Law and Order problem, withdrawal of French Consortium, poor geological strata in encountered in Head Race Tunnel (HRT), rock burst leading to burial of Tunnel Boring Machine.
Dhauliganga HEP	Uttaranchal/ NHPC	280	1998-1999/ 2005-06	601.98 (12/89/ 1578.31 August, 1999	976.33	U-IV & U-III synchronized on 26th and 28th July, 2005 respectively. The project was delayed due to delay in tie up of funding, acquisition of land and Rehabilitation & Resettlement problems.
Tehri HEP St.1	Uttaranchal/ THDC	1000	March, 99/ March, 2006	3391.40 (3/93/ 6621.32 (March, 03)	3229.32	Resettlement problem, repeated dam safety studies to meet apprehensions of seismic stability, faulty geological strata. There was a mishap in tunnel T-2 on 2nd Aug. 2004.
State Sector						
Thermal						
Akrimota	Gujarat/ GMDCL	250	June, 2003/ Sep. 2005	1338.43/ 1338.43	Nil	One unit commissioned in March, 2005. Delay in readiness of material handling system as matter was subjudice.
Prichha	Uttar Pradesh/ UPRVUNL	420	April, 05/ March, 06	1703.00/ yet to be firmed up	-	Non release of payment to M/s. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited by project authority.
Hydro						
Baglihar-I	Jammu & Kashmir/ JKPDC	450	2004-05/ 2006-07	3810.00 (1998) 3810.00 (1988)	Nil	Law & order problems, delay in construction of dam concerting, there was slow progress earlier due to funds constraints
Larji	Himachal Pradesh/ HPSEB	126	2002-03/ 2005-06	798.98 (3/99/ 875.70 (8/01)	78.72	Delay in award of various contract packages, Rock fall in power house area.
Maneri Bhal-II	Uttaranchal UJVNL	304	2003-04/ 2006-07	1111.39 (2/99_ 1714.41 (2005-06)	603.02	Slow progress in 'HRT and Surge Shaft, contractual issues with National Projects Construction Corporation
Sardar Sarovar	Gujarat/MP/ Maharashtra SSNNL	1450	1994-96/ 2002-07	1551.86 (1986- 87)/5502.00 (2002)	3950.14	250 MW at Canal and Power House commissioned. 400 MW at River Bed Power House commissioned. Resettlement and rehabilitation problems, court cases, withdrawal of World Bank funding.
Ghatghar PSS	Maharashtra/ Irrigation Dept. Govt. of Maharashtra	250	1995-96/ 2005-06	620.78 (1992/ 1184.80 (3/02)	563.82	Delay in land acquisition. Delay in award of major works, delay in completion of lower dam and flooding of Power House due to recent floods.
Pykara Ultimate	Tamil Nadu/ TNEB	150	1994-95/ 2005-06	70.16 (87-88/ 382.81 (99-00)	312.65	Delay in completion of Transmission line due to forest Clearance. Delay in award of Civil & Mechanical works.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Purulia PSS	West Bengal/ WBSEB	900	2002-03/ 2006-08	1456.56 (9/91)/ 2988.28 (4/02)	1531.72	Due to filling of Writ Petition by the bidders and consequent legal impediments, delay diversion of forest land.
Karbi Langpi	Assam/ASEB	100	1985-86/ 2006-07	539.06 (Dec/ 03)/ 1382.56 (5/02)	843.50	Frequent change in executing agencies shifting of project from state to private and then back to state sector. There was fund constraints earlier

[English]

Amendment in Hindu Succession Act, 1956

*190. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government is considering to give equal property rights to women;
- If so, whether the Government is considering to make appropriate amendments in Hindu Succession Act, 1956.
- If so, the details and the present status thereof;
- the details of States which introduced enactments to give equal rights to men and women and the States yet to introduce such enactments; and
- the further measures proposed to be taken by the Government to check the discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c) With a view to removing certain gender inequality under the provisions of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 and based on the 174th Report of the Law Commission of India, the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2004 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 20th December, 2004. The Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice to which the Bill was referred to for examination and report has presented its Seventh Report on the Bill to Rajya Sabha on 13th May, 2005. The Report is under active consideration of three Government and as soon as a decision on the amendments is arrived at, the Government will move for the consideration and passing of the Bill with necessary Official Amendments.

(d) The Governments of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka have made local amendments in the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 conferring daughters also equal rights in Hindu Mitakshara coparcenary property. By enacting the Kerala Joint Hindu Family System (Abolition) Act, 1975, the State of Kerala has totally abolished the right by birth of males and put an end to the Joint Hindu Family System. As a Parliamentary legislation is under process, it is not necessary for any State to introduce any amending legislation.

(e) No separate measures are being considered.

[Translation]

Losses Incurred by RRBs

*191. MOHD. SHAHID :

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- whether Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have suffered losses to the tune of Rs. 183 crore during the year 2003-04 as reported in Dainik Jagran dated 16th May, 2005;;
- if so, the details of loss making RRBs during the last three years, State-wise;
- the reasons for recurring losses;
- whether the Government proposes to wind up the aforesaid banks;
- if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- whether the Government proposes to take remedial steps to improve the functioning of these banks; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 33 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) had incurred a loss of Rs. 183.64 crores during the year 2003-04. The details of loss making RRBs, state-wise during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The main causes for the indifferent financial position of the RRBs are limited area of operation, narrow client base, high cost of services, high establishment cost and low margins and high proportion of Non Performing Assets (NPAs).

(d) No such proposal is contemplated.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Reserve Bank of India (RBI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Government of India have introduced several policy measures for improving the operational and financial efficiency of the RRBs. The important amongst them are as under :

1. Government has decided that each sponsor bank will be held squarely accountable for the performance of RRBs under its control. RRBs that adopt a new governance standard and that abide by the prudential regulations will qualify for receiving funds from the Government for restructuring.
2. With a view to strengthen and improve the viability of RRBs, a process has been initiated for structural consolidation of RRBs by amalgamation of geographically contiguous RRBs sponsored by the same bank within a State.
3. In order to reduce NPAs as also to improve recovery, compromise settlement of dues through Lok Adalats has been introduced.
4. In order to build up the skills and expertise of the personnel of RRBs, NABARD continued to give special priority to RRBs to train their staff through training institutions like Bankers Institute for Rural Development (BIRD), Lucknow, Regional Training Centres at Mangalore and Bolpur. RRBs officials are being trained in specialized areas like Project Management under Farm and Non-farm sectors, Asset-liability management, Fund Management, apart from training in the areas of Internal Control, MIS, Personnel Management and Industrial Relations.
5. Revised instructions were issued for maintenance of SLR by RRBs requiring them to maintain their SLR only in government and other approved securities.
6. In respect of loss incurring RREs, Sponsor Banks have been advised to evolve Bank Specific Strategic Plan for attainment of viability in a fixed time frame.
7. The RBI has constituted an Empowered Committee in its Regional offices with members drawn from NABARD, sponsor banks, convenors of SLBCs and State Governments to ensure that RRBs adhere to good governance and comply with prudential regulations. The Committee would also focus on operational issues and provide clarification on regulatory issues.

Statement

Loss Making Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

			Rs. in Lakhs
Sl. No.	State	Name of Loss Making RRBs	Losses During 2001-02
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kakathiya Grameena Bank	319.66
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank	835.94
3.	Assam	Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank	99.89
4.	Bihar	Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank	226.88
5.		Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank	56.12
6.		Nalanda Gramin Bank	78.44
7.		Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	138.77
8.		Vaishali Kshetriya Gramin Bank	160.85
9.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	414.11
10.		Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	213.75
11.	Gujarat	Surat-Bharuch Gramin Bank	156.73
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	Ellaqui Dehati Bank	618.62
13.	Jharkhand	Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank	336.86

1	2	3	4
14.		Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank	69.70
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore-Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank	23.53
16.		Mahakaushai Kshetriya Gramin Bank	284.41
17.		Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	2.86
18.	Maharashtra	Bhandara Gramin Bank	215.48
19.		Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Gramin Bank	135.48
20.	Manipur	Manipur Rural Bank	116.07
21.	Orissa	Balasore Gramin Bank	1056.76
22.		Bolangir Anchalik Gramin Bank	628.95
23.		Cuttack Gramya Bank	998.89
24.		Kalahandi Anchalik Gramin Bank	805.61
25.		Koraput Panchabati Gramin Bank	399.90
26.	Rajasthan	Aravali Kshetriya Gramin Bank	65.47
27.		Marudhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	370.06
28.	Uttar Pradesh	Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank	101.73
29.		Rani Lakshmi Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank	273.87

Loss Making Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

Rs. in Lakhs

Sl. No.	State	Name of Loss Making RRBs	Losses During 2002-03
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kakathiya Grameena Bank	230.99
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank	1118.66
3.	Assam	Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank	325.50
4.	Bihar	Bhagalpur Banka Kshetriya Gramin Bank	608.99
5.		Champaran Gramin Bank	967.82
6.		Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank	607.76
7.		Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank	576.87
8.		Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank	752.08
9.		Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	208.14
10.		Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank	757.14

1	2	3	4
11.		Vaishali Kshetriya Gramin Bank	1586.99
12.	Chhattisgarh	Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	396.46
13.		Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	164.06
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	Ellaqui Dehati Bank	1210.48
15.		Kamraz Rural Bank	371.17
16.	Jharkhand	Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank	423.52
17.		Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank	413.31
18.		Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank	918.36
19.		Singhbhum Kshetriya Gramin Bank	604.57
20.	Karnataka	Chikmanglaur Kodagu Grameena Bank	96.04
21.	Madhya Pradesh	Jhabua-Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	208.47
22.		Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank	241.45
23.		Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	99.47
24.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad-Jalna Gramin Bank	323.85
25.		Bhandara Gramin Bank	123.39
26.		Chandrapur-Godchiroli Gramin Bank	295.51
27.		Marathwada Gramin Bank	1109.38
28.	Manipur	Manipur Rural Bank	214.90
29.	Nagaland	Nagaland Rural Bank	16.15
30.	Orissa	Balasore Gramin Bank	1285.99
31.		Bolangir Anchalik Gramin Bank	1596.85
32.		Cuttack Gramya Bank	988.85
33.		Kalahandi Anchalik Gramin Bank	188.44
34.		Koraput Panchabati Gramin Bank	337.17
35.	Rajasthan	Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank	99.58
36.		Marudhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	629.70
37.	Uttar Pradesh	Etawah Kshetriya Gramin Bank	91.15
38.		Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank	430.06
39.	West Bengal	Mayurakshi Gramin Bank	495.01
40.		Uttar Banga Kshetriya Gramin Bank	353.00

Loss Making Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)

			Rs. in Lakhs
Sl. No.	State	Name of Loss Making RRBs	Losses During 2003-04
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kakathiya Grameena Bank	336
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank	217
3.	Bihar	Bhagalpur Banka Kshetriya Gramin Bank	318
4.		Champan Gramin Bank	1437
5.		Kosi Kshetriya Gramin Bank	693
6.		Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank	858
7.		Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank	774
8.		Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank	625
9.		Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	549
10.		Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank	1157
11.		Vaishali Kshetriya Gramin Bank	2149
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	Ellaqui Dehati Bank	984
13.		Kamraz Rural Bank	99
14.	Jharkhand	Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank	533
15.		Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank	178
16.		Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank	449
17.	Madhya Pradesh	Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank	111
18.		Chhindwara-Seoni Kshetriya Gramin Bank	194
19.		Jhabua-Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	714
20.		Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank	373
21.		Shahdol Kshetriya Gramin Bank	425
22.	Maharashtra	Akola Gramin Bank	170
23.	Manipur	Manipur Rural Bank	144
24.	Nagaland	Nagaland Rural Bank	41
25.	Orissa	Balasore Gramin Bank	1165
26.		Bolangir Anchalik Gramin Bank	1018
27.		Kalahandi Anchalik Gramin Bank	90

1	2	3	4
28.		Koraput Panchabati Gramin Bank	537
29.	Rajasthan	Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank	60
30.		Marudhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	643
31.	Uttar Pradesh	Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank	148
32.	Uttaranchal	Ganga-Yamuna Gramin Bank	98
33.	West Bengal	Uttar Banga Kshetriya Gramin Bank	1062

[English]

National Power Policy

*192. SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 50% of the nation's population do not have access to electricity;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has announced a policy vision to ensure Power for All by 2012;

(c) whether the Union Government has decided to increase its financial stakes in power projects; nationwide;

(d) if so, the total amount earmarked for this purpose; and

(e) the time by which the amount is likely to be released and the extent to which this will help power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) As per Census 2001, about 44% of the household do not have access to electricity.

(b) The National Electricity Policy notified by the Central Government on 12th February, 2005 aims at achieving, *inter-alia*, the following objectives :

- Access to Electricity – Availability for all households in next five years.
- Availability of Power–Demand to be fully met by 2012. Energy and peaking shortages to be overcome and adequate spinning reserve to be available.

(c) Yes, Sir. Public sector investment in power generation has been stepped up. The National Electricity Policy states that power being most crucial infrastructure public sector investments will have to be stepped up both at the level of Central Government and State Governments.

Considering the magnitude of the expansion of the sector required the sizeable part of the investments will also need to be brought in from the private sector.

(d) and (e) The 10th Plan outlay for Ministry of Power has been increased to Rs. 1,43,399 crore. This marked a 214% increase over the 9th Plan allocation.

Annual Plans of Central Power Sector Undertakings and its bifurcation into Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) and Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) are finalized in consultation with Planning Commission after extensive review of the status of the projects and funds are accordingly released to meet the plan requirements. No project is being delayed due to shortage of funds.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Textile Workers

*193. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy formulated by the Government for rehabilitation of workers rendered unemployed owing to closure of textile-units;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps for seeking assistance from National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) for making proper arrangement to impart training to the textile workers.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the further action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) For rehabilitation of the employees of the closed mills, the Government has implemented the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme with effect from 15th September, 1986. The Scheme provides interim relief for three years to eligible textile workers to enable them to in another employment as follows :-

- to the extent of 75% of the wage equivalent in the first year of the closure of the unit;
- to the extent of 50% of the wage equivalent in the second year; and
- to the extent of 25% of the wage equivalent in third year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The above mentioned existing Scheme is perceived to be adequate in the present circumstances. Therefore, no further action is proposed by the Government in this regard.

[English]

Investment on Rural Infrastructure

*194. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN :

SHRI D. P. SAROJ :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for creating basic infrastructure for the development of villages;
- (b) the name of schemes being implemented in this regard;
- (c) the amount spent on rural infrastructure during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has proposed a massive investment on rural infrastructure in the coming years;
- (e) if so, the amount earmarked and the areas identified for the same;
- (f) whether the proposed scheme is expected to generate more employment in the rural areas;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Rural Infrastructure Programmes of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for Rural Connectivity, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) to provide houses to the rural poor and Rural Water Supply Programme. The details of release of Central funds during each of the last

three years under the above programmes are given in enclosed statement I, II and III respectively.

(d) to (h) The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2005-06 announced a Bharat Nirman Programme for the development of rural infrastructure with the total estimated investment of Rs. 1,74,000 crores. The components of rural infrastructure identified under the programme are, Irrigation, Rural Drinking Water, Rural Roads, Rural Housing, Rural Electrification and Rural Telephone Connectivity. Bharat Nirman is a four year programme which is scheduled to be completed by 2008-09. However, while the Rural Road Programme would need one more year, the programme of Rural Electrification would extend till the end of the Eleventh Plan. Rural Telephone Connectivity is proposed to be completed in three years. While the main objective of Bharat Nirman is to create basic rural infrastructure, it will also generate more employment in the rural areas directly and indirectly. However, no estimates of employment generation have been made.

Statement-I

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - Release of Central Funds

(Rs. in crore)

State Name	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	417.09	117.70	N/R
Arunachal Pradesh	83.23	0.00	0.00
Assam	144.25	105.77	13.43
Bihar	162.06	29.58	8.19
Chhattisgarh	185.45	194.19	131.30
Goa	0.17	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	107.31	42.64	0.68
Haryana	61.09	31.82	4.71
Himachal Pradesh	115.35	57.80	N/R
Jammu and Kashmir	24.56	0.00	N/R
Jharkhand	177.73	44.67	0.00
Karnataka	211.98	33.46	0.00
Kerala	44.56	0.50	N/R
Madhya Pradesh	593.45	370.59	273.77
Maharashtra	180.55	N/R	0.00

1	2	3	4
Manipur	40.00	0.00	N/R
Meghalaya	52.19	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	48.20	45.32	10.08
Nagaland	46.07	14.69	5.84
Orissa	314.87	225.55	N/R
Punjab	65.05	17.74	0.00
Rajasthan	253.05	583.43	216.13
Sikkim	34.99	3.77	0.00
Tamil Nadu	98.94	79.05	0.46
Tripura	23.94	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	476.87	411.23	N/R
Uttaranchal	61.55	N/R	0.00
West Bengal	260.07	197.07	N/R
Andaman & Nicobar Island	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
Damen & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.0
Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	4.65	0.00	0.00
Total	4289.27	2606.57	664.59

Statement-II*Indira Awas Yojana - Release of Central Funds*

(Rs. in crore)

State Name	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	201.23	194.54	248.14
Arunachal Pradesh	6.65	12.16	9.51
Assam	104.34	143.18	279.42
Bihar	293.39	374.22	582.75
Chhattisgarh	29.23	30.68	39.83
Goa	0.50	0.83	1.65
Gujarat	53.31	58.17	70.65
Haryana	19.28	18.34	22.16
Himachal Pradesh	6.27	6.96	10.22
Jammu and Kashmir	9.11	12.54	14.05

1	2	3	4
Jharkhand	80.65	110.34	160.31
Karnataka	75.02	85.16	103.60
Kerala	45.17	57.67	78.39
Madhya Pradesh	102.07	107.34	139.05
Maharashtra	226.37	227.68	226.74
Manipur	5.51	2.86	8.85
Meghalaya	7.42	11.48	8.04
Mizoram	2.31	3.91	4.36
Nagaland	6.67	8.26	7.08
Orissa	806.78	357.28	181.94
Punjab	10.28	10.60	8.81
Rajasthan	47.16	52.75	65.62
Sikkim	1.55	3.09	3.46
Tamil Nadu	144.47	119.89	176.92
Tripura	20.51	27.50	27.98
Uttar Pradesh	312.25	346.29	405.36
Uttaranchal	22.97	39.78	55.79
West Bengal	149.52	154.78	272.96
Andaman and Nicobar Island	1.89	1.09	0.19
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.04	0.24	N/R
Damen and Diu	0.09	0.01	0.02
Lakshadweep	0.03	0.03	0.04
Pondicherry	0.58	0.46	0.08
Total	2792.62	2580.11	3213.97

Statement - III*Rural Water Supply - Release of Central Funds*

(Rs. in crore)

State Name	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	178.24	314.84	371.97
Arunachal Pradesh	36.5	36.76	69.47
Assam	52.53	105.62	140.31
Bihar	37.03	36.05	96.67
Chhattisgarh	29.43	31.78	26.9
Goa	0	0.13	0
Gujarat	99.98	145.68	113.27
Haryana	33.46	34.83	29.64
Himachal Pradesh	82.29	64.86	66.03

1	2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	111.96	150.59	150.22
Jharkhand	19.5	25.01	31.66
Karnataka	143.56	183.5	198.94
Kerala	18.99	70.14	62.8
Madhya Pradesh	95.85	112.17	120.27
Maharashtra	193.36	230.22	292.62
Manipur	9.47	17.02	21.03
Meghalaya	29.36	22.14	30.35
Mizoram	20.97	14.75	20.02
Nagaland	21.81	18.08	20.48
Orissa	58.3	84.53	103.22
Punjab	30.81	26.73	35.33
Rajasthan	235.96	297.46	370.66
Sikkim	8.96	6.31	8.32
Tamil Nadu	75.58	134.92	161.59
Tripura	24.28	27.04	23.95
Uttar Pradesh	113.49	135.1	169.92
Uttaranchal	36.83	27.63	38.94
West Bengal	101.15	109.46	101.66
Andaman and Nicobar Island	0	0.11	20.37
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.36	0.52
Daman and Diu	0	0.01	
Lakshadweep	0	0.01	
Pondicherry	0	0.12	1
Total	1899.65	2463.75	2898.14

Restructuring Self Employment Programmes

*195. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to restructure the self employment programmes with the aim of sustainable income generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation and progress of various schemes in this particular sector and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Swarnjayanti

Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), as self employment programme, to assist the rural poor to come above the poverty line. There is no proposal at present for restructuring of the programme.

(c) and (d) The review of implementation of SGSY is a continuous and on-going process through the monitoring mechanisms of the Ministry such as the Performance Review Committee, Review by Ministers, Area Officers Scheme etc. The performance under the scheme has shown gradual improvement since its inception and coverage of SC, ST and women has also increased. During 2004-05, against availability of funds of Rs. 1505.02 crores, Rs. 1273.22 crores was utilized, Rs. 1640.11 crore worth of credit was mobilized and 262173 Self Help Groups were formed out of which 66484 have taken up economic activities. During 2005-06 (upto June' 05) against availability of funds of Rs. 746.07 crore, Rs. 113.77, crores has been utilized and Rs. 180.01 crore worth of credit was mobilized and 37580 Self Help Groups were formed out of which 6471 have taken up economic activities. The Concurrent Evaluation of SGSY conducted through independent agencies for 2002-03 showed that the programme is well targeted as most of the Swarozgaris belonged to BPL families.

Sale of Centaur Hotel

*196. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Juhu Centaur and Airport Centaur hotels of Mumbai were sold without the benefit of competition and valuation causing significant loss to the Government and were these serious irregularities in the process of privatization as brought out by C & AG in its report;

(b) if so, the details of the loss suffered by the Government in this deal;

(c) whether some other ITDC's hotels were also disinvested on much lower value than the actual values;

(d) whether there is any proposal to investigate all such disinvestments of Government hotels by CBI to unearth corrupt deals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The details of 'reserve price' and sale price in respect of Hotel Airport Centaur, Mumbai and Hotel Juhu Centaur, Mumbai are given in enclosed statement-I.

The Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C & AG) in its Report (tabled in Parliament in May, 2005) relating to the sale transactions of the said Hotels, inter-alia, concluded that "... both transactions became sole bidder cases without the benefit of competition. In the absence of operation of the market effectively, the issue becomes central. It was observed that valuation of the properties and fixation of reserve price

were not consistent with the practice followed by the Ministry in other cases. Various relaxations allowed to the bidder and interventions by the Ministry to facilitate the sale, indicated inadequate efforts to mitigate the risk of transaction in a limited competition scenario. The efforts made to balance the need and urgency to sell the properties and to obtain the best possible price from the sale were also not evident..."

In the light of observations made by the C & AG relating to sale transactions of Hotel Juhu Centaur, Mumbai and Hotel Airport Centaur, Mumbai, Government has decided to refer the case to the CBI for an inquiry.

(c) and (d) 19 hotel properties of ITDC were disinvested between November, 2001 and September, 2002. All these properties were sold/leased at a price higher than their respective reserve price. The details of reserve price and sale price are given in enclosed statement-II.

(e) There is no such proposal at present.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Reserve Price and Sale Price of Centaur Hotels in Mumbai, disinvested in year 2002

S.No.	Name of Hotel	Reserve Price (Rs. in Crore)	Sale Price (Rs. in Crore)
1.	Hotel Airport Centaur, Mumbai	78.30	83.00
2.	Hotel Juhu Centaur, Mumbai	101.60	153.00

Statement-II

Sale Price and Reserve Price of 19 ITDC properties disinvested between November, 2001 and September, 2002

S.No.	Name of Hotel	Reserve price (Rs. in crore)	Sale Price (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4
ITDC Hotels			
1.	Hotel Agra Ashok	3.26	3.93
2.	Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok	1.67	2.01
3.	T Babr, Mamallapuram	5.18	6.81
4.	LVPH Udaipur	6.12	7.52
5.	Hotel Ashok Bangalore	3.40*	4.11*
6.	Hotel Madurai Ashok	3.64	5.49
7.	Qutab Hotel, New Delhi	31.00	35.68
8.	Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi	40.36	76.22
9.	Hotel Hassan Ashok	2.19	2.51

1	2	3	4
10.	Hotel Manali Ashok	1.91	4.00
11.	Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort	41.75	43.69
12.	Hotel Aurangabad Ashok	15.05	17.40
13.	Airport Ashok Kolkata	14.83	20.02
14.	Hotel Khajuraho Ashok	2.01	2.21
15.	Hotel Varanasi Ashok	5.55	9.11
16.	Hotel Project Chandigarh	14.01	17.27
17.	Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi	70.90	95.95
18.	Hotel Indraprastha, New Delhi	18.34	45.03
19.	Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi	23.78	30.30

*Reserve price and Bid price of Hotel Ashok Bangalore was fixed as "Minimum Guaranteed Annual Payment" per year with increase of 25% from April 1, 2007 and every five years thereafter, on lease thirty years.

[Translation]

FEMA Cases

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

(a) whether the cases relating to Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) which were being dealt with by the Enforcement Directorate as of now will be settled by the Reserve Bank of India as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated the February 2, 2005;

(b) if so, the basis on which this policy has been changed by the Government;

(c) the number of cases relating to FEMA pending for disposal as on 31st March, 2005; and

(d) the number of cases relating to FEMA disposed of by the Reserve Bank of India as on date?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) provides for investigation, adjudication and compounding of contraventions. The Enforcement Directorate continues with the investigation and adjudication of cases under the said Act. In terms of the Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, 2000 powers were given to the Reserve Bank of India and the Enforcement Directorate for compounding of contraventions. However, vide an amendment made in September, 2004, in the Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, 2000, the powers of Reserve Bank of India were expanded to compound the contraventions of all the sections of FEMA except clause (a) of section 3 of the said Act which prohibits a person to deal in or transfer any foreign exchange or foreign

security to any person not being an authorized person. For contravention of the said clause (a) of section 3 of FEMA, the Enforcement Directorate would continue to exercise powers of compounding.

(b) The amendment in the Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, 2004 was made with a view to further simplify and rationalize procedure under FEMA and to provide comfort to the citizens and corporate community by minimizing transaction costs, while taking severe view of willful, *malafide* and fraudulent transactions.

(c) As on 31st March, 2005, while in the Directorate of Enforcement, 662 Show Cause Notices were pending for adjudication for violation of various provisions of FEMA, one case which was referred by the High Court of Kolkata to the Reserve Bank of India was pending with the Bank.

(d) One case has been disposed of by the Reserve Bank of India as on 1st August, 2005.

[English]

Jute Production

*198. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether only five per cent of jute production in the country went towards making products of jute diversification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the detail of the initiatives taken by the Government to promote diversification of jute products;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Jute Technology Mission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) to (c) The present of the Jute Diversified Products (JDPs) is about 8% of the total jute goods production in the country. The Government has initiated a number of measures to boost production of JDPs in the country. The measures include programmes run by the National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD). These are : (1) the Jute Service Centre Scheme, (2) the Jute Raw Material Bank Scheme, (3) the Market Support Scheme, (4) the Jute Entrepreneur

Assistance Scheme, (5) the Micro Finance Scheme, (6) the Machinery Development Scheme, and (7) the Design & Development Scheme. The Jute Manufacturers Development Council also has a Capital Subsidy Scheme for the modernization of jute mills.

(d) and (e) The Government is considering a proposal to implement a Jute Technology Mission in the country. However, the project is yet to be approved by the Competent Authority.

[Translation]

Villages Selected under "Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas"

*199. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI :

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified and selected any villages/circles for implementing Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA);

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

(c) the amount of money sanctioned for each village/circle and the time limit fixed to achieve the target, state-wise; and

(d) the details of amenities likely to be provided to these villages/circles along with the likely date of their becoming operational?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development in consultation with the Planning Commission has decided to initially launch a pilot for the implementation of the Scheme Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA). Under the pilot phase, 7 facilities namely power, telecom, road and transportation, health, education, water supply and marketing are envisaged to be provided in the selected clusters. The pilot phase is being launched in Seven States with one cluster in each state comprising 10 - 15 villages. The pilot phase is likely to be completed in two to three years time with an estimated cost of Rs. 4 to 5 crore per cluster. In the initial phase the scheme is to provide physical connectivity in the selected clusters. The details of the States, districts and clusters selected for the implementation of the scheme in pilot phase, along with the position of funds released are given below:

S.No.	State	District	Cluster Selected	Amount Released (Rs. Crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Annantpur	Raya Durg	1.5
2.	Assam	Sonitpur	Gohpur	1.5
3.	Assam	Muzzafarpur	Moti pur	1.5
4.	Maharashtra	Hingoli	Basmath	1.0
5.	Orissa	Jagat Singhpur	Kujanga	1.5
6.	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	Shahpura	1.5
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Etawah	Bharthana	1.5

[English]

Funds to NGO under Rural Housing

*200. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

DR. K. DHANARAJU :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes under implementation for the construction of houses in the rural and backward areas in the country;

(b) the cost involved in the construction of each unit;

(c) the total allocation made and utilized under each scheme indicating the number of houses constructed thereunder during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(d) the details of the ongoing projects under the same, State-wise;

(e) the details of the NGOs provided assistance thereunder during the said period, State-wise;

(f) the criteria for assistance under the same;

(g) the steps taken by the Government to check the misutilization of funds by NGOs, if any; and

(h) the outcome of the reviews undertaken for effective implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) The Ministry of Rural

Development is implementing Indira Awaas Yojana for the construction of houses for the rural BPL families throughout the country except Delhi and Chandigarh.

(b) Under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), present ceiling of assistance for the construction of new houses is Rs. 25,000/- per unit for the plain areas and Rs. 27,500/- per unit for the hilly/difficult areas which is applicable with effect from 1.4.2004. The upper limit in respect of conversion of kutcha houses into semi/pucca houses (Upgradation) is Rs. 12,500/- per unit which is also applicable from 1st April, 2004.

(c) State-wise details of total allocation funds utilized and number of houses constructed under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) to (f) From 1st April, 1999 to 31st March 2004, a project based Scheme namely Innovative Stream for Rural Housing and Habitat Development was in operation. This Scheme has been discontinued and merged with the main Scheme of Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) with effect from 1.4.2004. It was envisaged that at least one Innovative Project will be sanctioned in one district for further replication under IAY. Upto Rs. 50 lakhs per project used to be sanctioned to DRDA and upto Rs. 20 lakh to NGOs. Statement-II showing State-wise details of ongoing projects and assistance provided to NGOs during the said period is enclosed.

(g) and (h) In order to check the misutilization of funds, Officers of the Ministry and HUDCO are deputed from time to time for physical verifications of the projects. Besides, the National Level Monitors (NLMs) and District Level Monitoring Agencies (DLMs) also undertake physical verification of assets created under the Scheme in selected districts. The deficiencies/irregularities pointed out by the agencies are further examined and corrective measures are taken.

Statement-I

State/year wise allocation (central plus state), utilisation of funds and number of houses constructed during last three years and current year i.e. 2005-06 under the Indira Awas Yojana

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			2005-06		
		Allocation C+S	Utilisation of funds	Number of Houses Constructed	Allocation C+S	Utilisation of funds	Number of Houses Constructed	Allocation C+S	Utilisation of funds	Number of Houses Constructed	Allocation C+S	Utilisation of funds	Number of Houses Constructed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16083.69	20122.58	126837	18225.83	19453.50	105298	23975.77	24813.84	126039	32532.56	3715.44	20846
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	759.89	665.38	3423	837.00	1215.89	6646	1101.31	950.76	4162	1265.91	0.00	0
3.	Assam	17098.20	10433.62	65587	18832.79	14318.35	78752	24779.99	27941.87	129495	27992.31	2825.89	17354
4.	Bihar	43717.12	29339.43	172524	49509.11	37422.41	183782	65128.45	58275.18	252026	96027.63	12583.28	56304
5.	Chhattisgarh	2752.07	2923.19	16255	3116.68	3068.27	18302	4099.95	3982.75	20134	5030.89	100.40	1795
6.	Goa	103.97	49.80	269	117.76	83.26	233	154.91	164.82	428	200.37	34.62	169
7.	Gujarat	4625.13	5330.60	27053	5237.95	5817.24	31189	6890.43	7064.63	33654	15954.71	791.07	3718
8.	Haryana	1563.93	1927.66	9840	1771.12	1833.58	9175	2329.87	2215.56	8845	2240.05	7.80	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	691.88	626.66	3413	783.55	696.12	3941	1030.75	1021.72	4749	790.08	23.25	129
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	827.63	911.35	5749	937.28	1253.69	8412	1232.99	1404.54	7252	2454.03	0.00	0
11.	Jharkhand	12844.51	8064.81	40482	14546.23	11033.91	60290	19135.33	16031.16	66081	8565.24	0.00	0
12.	Karnataka	8324.69	7502.49	42452	9427.61	8516.22	49833	12401.88	10360.19	50707	12533.91	943.99	5471
13.	Kerala	5158.63	4517.33	32107	5842.08	5767.37	39825	7685.16	7839.16	39831	6970.01	1335.58	6910
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9603.89	10206.99	63691	10876.32	10734.48	65768	14307.61	13905.33	75365	10005.52	362.92	5372
15.	Maharashtra	14770.44	22637.13	85970	16727.41	22767.55	103135	22004.63	22673.85	105449	19619.41	454.86	7635

Rs. in lakhs

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
16. Manipur	906.01	551.34	2571	987.96	286.30	1666	1313.11	885.17	5820	1098.87	0.00	0		
17. Meghalaya	1203.80	741.83	3305	1325.92	1147.50	6465	1744.63	1080.97	4665	1913.84	0.00	0		
18. Mizoram	288.97	231.06	1305	318.31	380.72	2202	418.83	435.76	2052	407.85	0.00	0		
19. Nagaland	777.12	666.73	6898	855.93	826.19	5966	1126.23	716.11	5099	1266.45	0.00	0		
20. Orissa	12855.96	80678.23	444869	14672.47	35728.08	154205	19301.39	22620.13	89891	18866.33	706.32	2415		
21. Punjab	1036.00	1028.10	5651	1173.27	1059.94	6050	1543.41	880.79	4460	2770.28	106.87	475		
22. Rajasthan	4364.08	4715.54	37592	4942.27	5274.69	41888	6501.47	6561.81	31070	8017.48	770.22	2115		
23. Sikkim	208.33	155.17	1149	229.47	308.97	2041	301.83	346.08	1584	242.21	19.11	143		
24. Tamil Nadu	8081.77	14446.87	62988	9152.52	11988.64	57069	12040.00	17692.31	58687	13025.29	551.23	824		
25. Tripura	1757.67	2050.88	10321	1935.96	2749.89	15003	2547.32	2797.54	12132	2465.89	42.43	0		
26. Uttar Pradesh	29466.67	31225.28	177190	33370.67	34628.98	190950	43898.51	40536.06	199096	43131.67	2049.90	5823		
27. Uttaranchal	3060.57	2297.13	11799	3466.07	3977.92	21666	4559.57	5579.45	26376	2162.36	296.77	2460		
28. West Bengal	17369.21	15188.82	86709	19670.45	15478.41	90601	25876.16	27296.38	150515	26024.53	1524.97	10220		
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	146.82	188.68	532	166.27	108.52	671	218.73	18.73	60	309.46	0.00	0		
30. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	77.05	3.48	54	87.26	23.98	14	114.78	0.00	0	51.56	0.00	0		
31. Daman and Diu	31.89	8.24	48	36.12	0.72	7	47.51	2.09	9	23.07	0.55	3		
32. Lakshadweep	2.50	2.75	5	2.83	2.76	14	3.72	3.75	16	20.00	0.00	0		
33. Pondicherry	72.90	57.31	403	82.55	45.64	264	108.59	7.84	88	154.14	0.00	0		
Total	220742.93	279496.46	1548641	249275.02	258009.69	1361230	327924.92	326106.33	1515837	364133.91	29247.41	150281		

Statement-II**Approved Projects for NGOs under Innovative Stream for Rural Housing & Habitat Development
(State-wise/year-wise for the last three years)***(Rs. in lakhs)*

S.No.	Name of NGOs	Amount Approved	Released during 2002-03	Release during 2003-04	Release during 2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh					
1.	Village Development Society District - Vanasthalipuram	13.52	3.38	-	3.38
2.	Praja Pragati Seva Sangam, Machilipatanam, Distt. - Krishna-521001	17.50	4.38	-	4.375
3.	Brethern Institute for Rural Development, Distt. - Prakasam	20.00	8.00	-	8.00
4.	Haritha Association for Learning Environment, Distt. -Khammam - 507115	10.96	2.74	2.74	-
5.	Gramodaya Organization for Rural Development, District - Krishna - 521181	18.20	4.55	-	4.55
6.	Sai Seva Samiti, Distt - Cuddapah - 516218	20.00	5.00	-	-
7.	Arundhati Yvajana Sewa Sangam, Koritapdu Guntur - 522007	18.80	4.70	-	-
8.	Gramabhyudaya Seva Yuvajana Samajam, Distt. - Srikakulam	20.00	5.00	-	5.00
9.	Mother Teresa Orphan Society, Distt - Rangareddy - 500 060.	14.80	3.70	-	-
10.	Nitya Krushi Rural Development Educational & Health Society, Distt - Anantapur - 515001	16.72	4.18	-	3.52
Bihar					
11.	Shakti Mahila Vikas Swalambi Sahakari Samiti Ltd., Madubani	20.00	4.00	-	-
Gujarat					
12.	Zarpan Nasarpur Vibhag Kelvani Mandal, Distt - Surat	19.98	4.99	4.99	-
13.	Ahmedabad Action Study Group Ahmedabad - 380001	12.00	-	-	4.00
Kerala					
14.	Welfare Services, Eamakulam	20.00	8.00	-	4.00
15.	C.N. Memorial Vanitha Samajam, Distt - Thiruvananthapuram	16.20	3.24	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Sanathan Mahila Samajam & Nursery School Distt - Thiruvananthapuram - 695126	13.50	-	3.90	-
Madhya Pradesh					
17.	R.R. Laboratory, Bhopal	35.49	17.75	-	-
18.	Star School Samiti Distt. - Indore - 452009	18.64	4.66	-	6
19.	Civil Engineering Technology Development Centre, Distt - Vidisha - 464001	14.50	3.63	-	-
Manipur					
20.	Wangoo Sabal Youth Development Association, Bishnupur - 795133	20.00	5.00	-	5.00
Nagaland					
21.	Sunray Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd., Dimapur	20.00	-	8.00	-
Orissa					
22.	Manab Seva Sadan (MASS), Distt - Denkanal - 759146	20.00	-	-	8.00
Rajasthan					
23.	Shri Haridev Shiksha Samiti, Bharatpur	15.72	3.93	-	3.93
24.	Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Shiksha Samiti, Jaipur-302025	15.72	3.93	-	3.93
Tamil Nadu					
25.	Co-operation League in Development and Employment, Kanyakumari	20.00	-	-	4.00
26.	Nehru Rural Development Society, Distt.-Thiruvannamalai	20.00	5.00	-	-
27.	Integrated Rural Community Development Society Thiruvallur - 602001	20.00	5.00	-	5.00
Uttar Pradesh					
28.	Jan Manas Vikas Sansthan, Lucknow - 226016	20.00	8.00	-	4.00
29.	Pinky Gramodyog Sansthan, Distt - Ambedkar Nagar	19.98	4.87	-	-
30.	Antarashtriya Bharashtachar Unmulan Evam Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Chakaleshwar, Goverdhan, Mathura (Uttar Pradesh)	20.00	8.00	4.00	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
31.	Sarvghom Snattkottar Sanskrit Mahavidhyalaya, Goverdhan, District -Mathura, Uttar Pradesh	19.92	-	3.98	-
West Bengal					
32.	Comprehensive Area Development Service, North 24 Parganas - 743165	20.00	5.00	-	-
33.	Agradut Polly Unnayan Samity, Distt - Hawrah - 711226	20.00	5.00	-	5.00
34.	Kalyachak Netaji Subhash Sangha, Distt - Midnapore	19.68	4.92	4.92	9.84

Excise Exemption to Industries

1894. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of individual units applied for excise exemption in Assam since inception of the New Industrial Policy and excise exemption;

(b) the details of excise exempted units and also product details of all such units operating in Assam; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government for the successful implementation of this Scheme in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) These details are not maintained in the Ministry. Such details are being collected and will be laid on the table of the house in due course.

(c) For the successful implementation of the NEIP in Assam, Union Government extends financial assistance to various Departments of concerned States like the Directorate of Industries, and institutions such as State Industrial Development Corporation, State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporations etc., towards development of infrastructure with related facilities such as power, water, roads and communication facilities, etc. Under the NEIP Government of India provides finance for the development of :

- (a) Growth Centres (GCs); and
- (b) Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres (IIDs)

Further, the Central Government also provides a range of subsidies and fiscal incentives to eligible units in the Region, under NEIP 1997. Important subsidies provided are Transport subsidy, Central Investment subsidy, Central Interest Subsidy, Insurance Subsidy etc. Main fiscal incentives provided under

the policy are income tax exemption and excise duty exemption. Excise duty exemption under the policy is for a period of ten years from the date of commercial production.

[Translation]

Amendment to SICA, 1985

1895. SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to make amendment in the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of sick units of small scale industries revived by BIFR during last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) BIFR has not revived any sick Small Scale Industries during the last three years.

[English]

Finance to Power Sector

1896. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of loans advanced by Banks and LIC for power projects in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise?

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

Private Participation in NCES

1897. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage public/private participation in the setting up of Non-conventional Energy Sources projects or modernization/strengthening existing sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; particularly in Andaman and Nicobar Island; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Private participation is being encouraged for setting up grid-interactive renewable power projects. Renewables contributes about 6 per cent

(6160 MW) to the total power generating installed capacity in the country, as on 31.3.2005. As much as 18 per cent (2436 MW) of the additional power generating installed capacity that has been commissioned during the first 3 years of the 10th Plan (2002-2005) has come from renewables. Of this, 13 per cent (1967 MW) has come from wind power, 2 per cent (267 MW) from small-hydro power and around 3 per cent (407 MW) from bio-energy. Around two-third share in the total grid interactive renewable power installed capacity is that of the private sector and only one-third of the Government. To encourage private investment, financial and fiscal incentives which include accelerated depreciation, relief from taxes & duties are being provided. In addition, preferential tariff is given to grid interactive renewable power in most potential states. A higher level of central financial assistance, on par with special category states, is being provided for setting up renewable energy projects in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Details of state-wise grid-interactive renewable power installed capacity, including in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, as on 31-3-2005, are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of State-wise grid-interactive renewable power installed capacity, as on 31.3.2005

S.No.	States/UT	Small Hydro Power (MW)	Wind Power (MW)	Biomass Power (MW)	Biomass Gasifier (MW)	Waste to Energy (MW)	Solar Power (kWp)	Total Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	178.81	120.60	267.30	15.38	21.65	275.00	604.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	33.70	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	33.88
3.	Assam	2.11	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	2.23
4.	Bihar	45.90	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	45.92
5.	Chhattisgarh	11.00	0.00	11.00	0.51	0.00	0.00	22.51
6.	Goa	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.07
7.	Gujarat	7.00	253.53	0.50	14.26	2.95	0.00	278.24
8.	Haryana	62.70	0.00	6.00	1.06	0.00	0.00	69.76
9.	Himachal Pradesh	108.08	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	108.09
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	109.74	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.00	0.00	110.26
11.	Jharkhand	4.05	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	4.13
12.	Karnataka	274.88	410.68	152.00	4.61	1.00	30.00	843.20
13.	Kerala	84.62	2.00	0.00	0.73	0.00	25.00	87.37

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14.	Madhya Pradesh	41.16	28.85	1.00	4.73	2.73	339.00	78.81
15.	Maharashtra	207.08	456.30	36.00	3.82	1.90	185.00	705.29
16.	Manipur	5.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.45
17.	Meghalaya	30.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.71
18.	Mizoram	14.76	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	14.96
19.	Nagaland	20.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.47
20.	Orissa	7.30	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.03	0.00	7.40
21.	Punjab	111.40	0.00	22.00	0.70	1.75	325.00	136.18
22.	Rajasthan	23.85	284.74	7.80	0.22	0.00	150.00	316.76
23.	Sikkim	35.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.60
24.	Tamil Nadu	77.70	2036.95	173.00	5.03	1.98	211.00	2294.87
25.	Tripura	16.01	0.00	0.00	1.10	0.00	0.00	17.11
26.	Uttar Pradesh	21.50	0.00	73.00	4.87	8.00	325.00	107.69
27.	Uttaranchal	72.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	72.50
28.	West Bengal	92.30	1.10	0.00	6.95	0.00	50.00	100.40
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.25	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	100.00	5.52
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.07
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	650.00	0.65
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.00	25.00	0.63
Total		1705.63	3594.75	749.50	66.03	41.98	2740.00	6160.74

**Financial Assistance by HUDCO for
Rural Housing Schemes**

1898. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided by HUDCO for various rural housing schemes and projects in the country during the last three years and current, State-wise;

(b) whether HUDCO is considering to reduce the interest rate to give boost to rural housing development, and

(c) if so, the details and extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) HUDCO started extending financing for rural housing schemes since 1977 and so far (as on 30.6.2005) has sanctioned a loan amounting to Rs. 7141.67 crore for construction of 93.19 lakh dwelling units in the rural areas of the various States. HUDCO's rural housing programme by and large caters to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category of the people living in the rural areas. During the current year, no scheme has been sanctioned in the rural areas.

Further, during the last three years, details of the loan

sanctioned and dwelling units sanctioned for rural housing schemes are as given below :

Year	Loan sanctioned (Rs. in crores)	Dwelling units sanctioned
2002-03	431.48	413078
2003-04	590.91	542428
2004-05	2002.50	864857

The year-wise, state-wise list of the rural housing schemes sanctioned during the last three years is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) HUDCO is providing assistance to people belonging to EWS category for construction of houses at 7.5% (floating) rate of interest, with an extent of finance upto 90% of project cost. Further, HUDCO is also extending finance at a concessional rate of interest of 7.0% (floating) for EWS housing schemes for socially disadvantaged categories such as windows, SC/STs, physically handicapped, single women above 35 years of age and households in natural calamities affected areas. However, for bulk loan of Rs. 50 crores and more additional rebate of 0.5% is applicable, thus making it effective at 6.5%.

Statement

List of Rural Housing Schemes Sanctioned during the last three years

(Rs. in lakh)						
Scheme No.	State	Scheme Name	Agency	Project Cost	Loan Amount	Units (in Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Year 2002-2003						
17780	Andhra Pradesh	EWR (R) HS in Srikakulam, Vizianagram etc. Dts of AP.	APSHC	17500.00	10000.00	100000
17902	Andhra Pradesh	EWR (R) HS in various Dts of AP	APSHC	5228.83	2987.90	29879
17801	Gujarat	78 LIG HS at Kodinar in Junagardh Dt	GRHB	91.26	66.30	78
17802	Gujarat	58 LIG HS at IDAR, Varvada, Bhiloda, Sabarkantha Dt	GRHB	58.00	49.30	58
17803	Gujarat	25 LIG CLHS at Madhapur, Kutch Dt	GRHB	37.50	31.25	25
17713	Karnataka	Ashraya RHS under Navagrama Yojna in Karnataka	RGRHCL	4200.80	2100.40	21004
17714	Karnataka	Ashraya RHS in Karnataka	RGRHCL	11400.00	5700.00	57000
17794	Karnataka	Improvement of Addl. 300 villages of Rural (LIG-R)	KLAC	6000.00	4800.00	60000
17808	Karnataka	Ashraya RHS in Karnataka	RGRHCL	2600.00	1300.00	13000
17815	Karnataka	EWS (R) Ashraya HS in various Dts	RGRHCL	14000.00	7000.00	70000
17673	Mizoram	Comp CLHS at PH-III Mara Dt	MARA	194.44	130.00	106

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17899	Orissa	Cash Loan Sch for Rural Beneficiaries	OCHS	124.95	100.00	250
17939	Orissa	EWS (R) Members of Primary HBCS	OCHS	2374.00	1900.00	4750
17704	Tamil Nadu	Cons. of EWS (R) Hs in 28 Dts of Tamil Nadu	TNRHIDC	12872.81	6458.98	37686
17705	Tamil Nadu	Upgradation of EWS (R) Hs in 28 Dts of Tamil Nadu	TNRHIDC	1979.04	478.55	19142
17915	Tripura	Const. of HS for EWS (R) at Agartala	DOWSC	59.85	45.00	100
Total				78721.48	43147.68	413078

Year 2003-04

18039	Andhra Pradesh	EWS RHS for H.A. in Nalgonda Dt	APSHC	32.39	15.41	79
18153	Andhra Pradesh	EWS (R) HS for E.W.S. in various Dts of AP	APSHC	45000.00	30000.00	200000
18054	Karnataka	Ashraya EWS RHS Under A.C.S. in Gulburga	RGRHCL	1666.80	833.40	8334
18275	Karnataka	Improvement of 1000 Vill. Under Swachcha Gram Prog	KLAC	10000.00	8000.00	200000
18304	Karnataka	Takeout Fin Sch for Cons. of HS under Ashraya HS	RGRHCL	12380.00	5522.74	56900
18232	Kerala	Janakeeya Parappida Padhathi, Ph-II Ernakulam	KDP	7768.00	5512.50	15750
18244	Orissa	EWS (R) HS Primary HS Bldg. Coop. Society	ORHDC	3123.70	2500.00	6250
18139	Tamil Nadu	EWS (R) Upgrade in HS in Tamil Nadu	RDDGOTN	16184.59	6707.29	55115
Total				96155	59091.34	542428

Year 2004-05

18566	Andhra Pradesh	EWS RHS for Tsunami victims in AP	APSHC	16714.25	11700.00	66857
18479	Bihar	Prog. Loan for EWS HS for Flood Affected Areas	BShB	140062.5	125000.00	500000
18478	Jharkhand	Deen Dayal Awas Yojana EWS HS Scheme in Jharkhand	JShB	55600	50000.00	200000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18939	Karnataka	Ashraya EWS RHS in various Distt. of Karnataka	RGRHCL	2600	1300.00	13000
18401	Karnataka	Ashraya EWS RHS in various Distt of Karnataka	RGRHCL	14000	7000.00	70000
18573	Orissa	EWS RHS for Super Cyclone Affected Distt.	ORHDC	5865.48	5250.00	15000
Total				234842.23	200250.00	864857
Grand Total				409719.19	302489.02	1820363

Agency Details

APSHC	A.P. State Housing Corporation
BSHB	Bihar State Housing Board
DOWSC	Deptt. of Welfare for SC/ST, Agartala
JSHB	Jharkhand State Housing Board
KDP	Kollam District Panchayat
KLAC	Karnataka Land AMY Corporation
OCHC	Orissa Cooperative Housing Corporation
ORHDC	Orissa Rural Housing Development Corporation

RDDGOTN	Rural Development Deptt. Government of Tamil Nadu
RDDGOTN	Rural Development Rural Housing Corporation
RGRHCL	Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation
TNRHDC	Tamil Nadu Rural Housing & Ind. Development Corporation
MARA	Mara Autonomous Council Gujarat Rural Housing Board

Smuggling of Gemstone

1899. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the smuggling of gemstone from mineral rich KBK districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the value of gemstone seized during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) the number of persons arrested in such cases during the said period with the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent of such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No case of smuggling of Gemstone from mineral rich KBK districts in Orissa has been reported by Customs field formations and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence.

(b) to (d) Nil in view of (a) above.

Encouraging Scientific Research

1900. SHRI A. K. MOORTHY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to bring forward a legislation to encourage scientific research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) Discussions are taking place whether or not there is a need to have legislation to encourage scientific research in the country.

Rural Construction Centres through HUDCO

1901. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to set up rural construction centers for providing technical know-how for constructing low cost houses in all districts headquarters of the country through HUDCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such centers proposed to be set up, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Complaints Against PSBs

1902. SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received against the public sector banks, in regard to issue of initial public offers (IPOs);

(b) if so, the share prices of Punjab National Bank which were rigged upto 517 just few days before the IPO;

(c) the maximum, minimum and issue price of Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Allahabad Bank during 2005;

(d) whether the Government/SEBI has received representation from various quarters in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether SEBI has undertaken any inquiry in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

EFC Grants for Elementary Education to Karnataka

1903. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have granted funds of Rs. 1900 lakhs under EFC Grants for Elementary Education to the Karnataka State for construction of 1000 class rooms and released an amount of Rs. 764.18 lakhs for this purpose;

(b) if so, whether the State Government have utilised Rs. 708.41 lakhs out of this amount;

(c) whether the State Government have also sent Utilisation Certificate in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have received any request for releasing the balance grant of Rs. 1135.82 lakhs;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the request of Karnataka Government's; and

(f) if so, the time by which the balance amount is likely to be released by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) for its award period

2000-05 recommended a grant of Rs. 1900 lakhs for Elementary Education to Government of Karnataka. State Government had submitted utilisation certificate for Rs. 776.56 lakhs. Based on pace of utilisation of funds during 2000-05 Govt released a sum of Rs. 1425 lakhs to the State Government.

(d) and (e) Claims received within the prescribed period have been considered and grant released.

(f) No further grant can be released for the purpose as EFC award period is over on 31.3.2005.

NCES Villages

1904. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to chalk out a plan to develop Non-Conventional Energy Sources villages in all the States and Union Territories keeping in mind the shortage of conventional energy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a set of programmes for promoting use of non-conventional energy sources for meeting various energy needs in rural areas in the country. The Programmes are :

(i) The Remote Village Electrification Programme which aims at electrification of remote unelectrified census villages where grid connectivity is likely to be either not feasible or not cost effective. So far, 1944 villages have been electrified under the Programme.

(ii) The Integrated Rural Energy Programme which envisages taking up 2-3 clusters of villages in each district for preparation and implementation of energy plans for meeting energy needs for different purposes in the most effective and environment friendly manner, 333 such clusters of villages have been taken up since 2003-04 in 20 States and Union Territories.

(iii) A set of test projects are also being implemented for demonstrating the concept of village energy security in remote unelectrified villages primarily using locally available biomass materials. The basic objective is to meet the total energy requirements including cooking, lighting and

motive power. So far, 24 test projects have been taken up in 3 States.

- (c) Does not arise.

Currency Handling Machine

1905. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of the banks have not equipped themselves with proper and adequate number of currency note handling machines in order to check re-circulation of non-issuable currency notes;

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

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to ensure that non-issuable notes are sent back to the Reserve Bank of India for eventual disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that all banks maintaining currency chests have been advised to provide note sorting machines of appropriate capacity at all the currency chest branches in a time-bound manner. Banks with up to 100 currency chests were required to install note sorting machines at all their currency chests by the end of May 2005 and banks having more than 100 currency chests are required to provide such machines by the end of November, 2005.

(c) Even now also the currency chests are expected to duly sort the banknotes into reissuable and non-issuable and send only the non-issuable banknotes to RBI for eventual disposal & destruction. The installation of currency sorting machines will further facilitate faster and smoother processing and sorting.

Chandrapur Power Plant, Assam

1906. SHRI M. K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the feasibility report of reviving the Chandrapur Power Plant in Assam which was running on Low Sulphur High LSHS oil and Furnace Oil and shut down in 1999;

- (b) if so, the outcome of the report;

(c) the main reasons for shut down of the plant;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revive the plant; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) have not received any feasibility report for reviving the Chandrapur Power Plant in Assam.

(c) to (e) Both the units are under suspended operation since June, 1999 due to uneconomic operation because of exorbitant cost of fuel namely Low Sulphur High Speed (LSHS) and Low Sulphur Furnace Oil (LSFO). Efforts to restore the plant in the past by considering various alternative fuels like gas, coal could not succeed.

Austerity Measures

1907. SHRI G. V. HARSHA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has given any direction to public sector banks for containing the expenses of banks in order to maintain and sustain long-term profitability; and

(b) if so, the details of the banks that were found by the RBI to have over spent on non-banking activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

TAX-GDP RATIO

1908. SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the tax/GDP ratio in 2004-05;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to raise the tax/GDP ratio;

(c) whether widening the tax base and reducing tax rates have increased revenue collections; and

(d) if so, the details about how the Government has arrived at such conclusion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) For the period 2004-05, the tax/GDP ratio for direct taxes provisionally works out to 4.24% whereas in case of indirect taxes, it is 5.51%.

- (b) A number of steps have been taken to augment

tax compliance which include rationalization of tariff structure, review and withdrawal of tax exemptions to the extent possible, plugging leakage of revenue through strengthening anti-smuggling and anti-evasion measures, simplification of tax collection procedures to improve tax compliance, levy of Education Cess, Securities Transaction Tax, Fringe Benefit Tax, etc.

(c) and (d) The consistent increase in direct tax/indirect tax collections is combined result of various economic factors as well as legislative and administrative measures taken by the Government including widening of tax-base and rationalization of tax rates. However, it is not feasible to ascertain the increase in revenue collection attributable to individual factors.

Finance for Power Sector

1909. SHRI K. C. PALANISAMY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Power has proposed for setting up of sector-specific special purpose vehicles instead of the Omnibus entry for funding infrastructure projects; and

(b) if so, the details of the formation of SPV to extent long term finance to power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Power has not made any such proposal for the consideration of the Competent Authority.

Production of Minerals

1910. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States producing copper and lead;

(b) the quantum of these minerals produced annually in those States during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the step taken by Government to increase its production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) States of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Sikkim produce copper, whereas States of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Sikkim produce lead.

(b) State-wise annual production of copper ore is as under :-

		(Qty. in tonnes)		
S.No.	States	2002-03	2003-04 (Provisional)	2004-05 (Provisional)
1.	Jharkhand	89486	-	-
2.	Madhya Pradesh	2273531	2321026	2053711
3.	Rajasthan	701773	574283	871632
4.	Sikkim	6503	7663	5815
Total (All India)		3071293	2902972	2931158

State-wise annual production of lead concentrate is as under :-

		(Qty. in tonnes)		
S.No.	States	2002-03	2003-04 (Provisional)	2004-05 (Provisional)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3153	-	-
2.	Rajasthan	55806	72958	81601
3.	Sikkim	148	111	34
4.	Total (All India)	59107	73069	81635

(c) To increase the exploration and production of copper, lead etc., the Government of India has opened up the non-fuel and non-atomic mineral sector for private investment including foreign direct investment involving reconnaissance, prospecting and mining operations. Besides, prospecting work has been carried out by the Geological Survey of India and State Directorates of Geology & Mining. Hindustan Copper Limited, a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Mines, has also stepped up its development work to sustain/increase production of ore in its leasehold areas. Hindustan Zinc Limited, which produces lead, has also expanded its mining capacity.

Sale of NTC Mills

1911. SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sold some mills under the control of NTC recently;

- (b) if so, the names of such mills;
 (c) the reasons for sale of these mills; and
 (d) the amount realised as a result thereof, mill-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) to (d) In accordance with the Rehabilitation Scheme sanctioned by BIFR, National Textile Corporation (NTC) has sold surplus lands of some NTC mills (list enclosed as Statement) to generate funds for VRS to workers, serving of bonds, modernization of mills and payment to creditors.

Statement

Surplus Land Belonging to	Price at Which Sold (In Crore Rupees)
1	2
NTC (APKK & M) Ltd., Bangalore	
Alagappa, Mills, Algappanagar	0.78
Mysore Mills, Bangalore	79.16
Natraj Mills, Nirmal	2.31
MSK Mills, Gulbarga	17.08
Netha Mills, Secunderabad	24.02
Minerva Mills, Bangalore	71.51
Kerala Luxmi Mills, Trichur	2.15
Azam Jahi Mills, Warrangal	18.22
Total	215.23
NTC (DP & R) Ltd., N. Delhi	
Kharar Textile Mills, Kharar	1.05
Suraj Textile Mills, Malout	0.56
Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi	67.01
Bijaynagar Cotton Mills, Bijaynagar	1.95
Panipat Woollen Mills, Kharar	9.84
Total	80.41
NTC (UP) Ltd., Kanpur	
Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	3.20
Bijli Cotton Mills, Hathras	4.69
Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	11.73
Swadeshi Mills, Maunathbhanjan	3.15
Total	22.77

1	2
NTC (MN) Ltd., Mumbai	
RBBA Mills, Hinghanghat	0.58
Savatram Ram Prasad Mills, Akola	0.09
Vidarbha Mills, Achalpur	0.86
Model Mills (Plot No. 3), Nagpur	11.10
RSRG Mills, Ashok (Plot No. 3)	1.00
Tata Mills, Mumbai	13.75
Kohinoor Mills No. 3 Mumbai	421.00
Total	448.38
NTC (SM) Ltd., Mumbai	
Barshi Mills, Barshi	0.12
Dhule Textile Mills, Dhule	2.52
Challisgaon Mills, Challisgaon	3.04
Apollo Mills, Mumbai	180.00
Mumbai Textile Mills, Mumbai	702.22
Jupiter Textile Mills, Mumbai	276.60
Elphinstone Mills, Mumbai	441.75
Total	1606.25
NTC (TN & P) Ltd., Colmbatore	
Swadeshi Cotton, Mills, Pondicherry	32.54
Pankaja Mills, Coimbatore	0.69
Omparasakthi Mills, Coimbatore	4.50
Kalleswarar 'A' Mills (site No. 2)	0.54
Sri Rangavilas Mills, Coimbatore	15.82
Coimbatore Murugan Mills, Coimbatore	1.89
Krishnaveni Mills, Coimbatore	5.20
Sree Bharti Mills (under sale to PTC)	13.08
Total	74.26
NTC (WBABO) Ltd., Kolkata	
Jyoti Weaving Factory, Kolkata	11.52
Total	11.52
Grand Total	2458.82

Cost of Road Construction under PMGSY

1912. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has carried out any assessment of the cost of road construction under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for different types of terrain in the country;

(b) if so, the separate total cost per kilometer for mountainous, hilly, desert and plains terrain;

(c) whether the Government has also made any arrangements for supervising the construction by having consultants or supervisions from the Centre itself; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of consultants/supervisors and the expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) The Government has not carried out any general assessment of the cost of road construction under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for different types of terrain in the country. The cost of road construction under the scheme is estimated in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for each road work, prepared by the State Government, based on the investigations carried out on site specific conditions.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has advised the 10 Core States, 2 Hill States and 7 North Eastern States on 13th June, 2005 that they can engage Project Implementation Consultants (PIC) to assist Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) in preparation of Project Proposals, Work Procurement, Construction Supervision, Project Performance Monitoring, Training of PIU and Contractor personnel, Application of Social and Environmental Safeguards.

The North-Eastern States have further been advised on 22nd July, 2005 that they can also have Project Management Consultant (PMC) to assist the State Rural Roads Development Agency (SRRDA), with 100% funding from PMGSY.

[Translation]

Foreign Advocates

1913. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to allow foreign advocates to practice in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Exemption of Excise Duty on Fuel

1914. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for continued exemption of Excise duty payment in NAPHTHA AND LSHS till LNG is made available to the State;

(b) if so, the response of the Government; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to make LNG available to the state?

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

(b) The request of Government of Kerala is under examination.

(c) To make LNG available at affordable prices, the Government has kept customs duty on LNG at a nominal rate of 5% plus Nil CVD. Further, Petronet LNG Limited is setting up a LNG Terminal at Kochi.

Agriculture Credit

1915. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently announced a series of measures for enhancing agriculture credit flow and providing credit related relief to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by NABARD and other credit related agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has made an announcement on 18th June 2004 on doubling the flow of agricultural credit in three years envisaging the various relief measures for farmers. RBI/NABARD/IBA have issued guidelines to all banks for providing debt relief to farmers in distress/arrears by restructuring/

rescheduling the dues of farmers into term loans of upto five years period with a moratorium period of upto two years. Guidelines have also been issued to finance farmers under heavy burden of debt from non-institutional agencies like money lenders and for One Time Settlement for small and marginal farmers. The farmers availing benefit under these schemes are also eligible for fresh loans.

(c) NABARD/RBI has, inter-alia, taken following steps, to provide easier loans to farmers and people living in rural areas:

- (i) The banks have been asked to simplify the procedure for sanction of loan.
- (ii) One page documentation has been circulated among banks for adoption.
- (iii) Reserve Bank of India has instructed banks not to insist on collateral or margin for loans upto Rs. 50000/-.
- (iv) Banks have been asked to issue Kisan Credit Cards to all eligible farmers.
- (v) Financing of Self Help Groups is being emphasised.
- (vi) A Project has been initiated for lending by banks to joint liability groups of tenant farmers and oral lessees.

R & D Facilities for Pharmaceutical Industry

1916. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to promote Research and Development (R & D) facilities for Pharmaceutical Industry in various States, particularly in Gujarat meant for small entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount provided for the purpose during the last three years and the current financial year; and

(c) the details of amount being spent on R & D by various pharma companies in the country during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Department of Science and Technology under Ministry of Science and Technology is operating a programme called Pharmaceuticals Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) which has supported the following 10 state-of-the-art research facilities for drug research and development in different parts of the country since 1994-95 to 2004-05.

S.No.	Name of the State	Institute	National Facility
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI),	Regulatory pharmacology and toxicology
2.	-do-	-do-	Pharmacokinetic and metabolic studies
3.	-do-	-do-	Strengthening of Pharmacological testing facilities
4.	-do-	-do-	Combinatorial chemistry-cum-medium throughput screening
5.	Punjab	National Institute for Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali	Bioavailability
6.	-do-	-do-	Pharmacoinformatics
7.	West Bengal	Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata	Identification of immunomodulating potential of products and extracts of natural origin
8.	Karnataka	Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore	Characterisation of crystals of biological macromolecules of medicinal and industrial importance
9.	Andhra Pradesh	Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad	Transgenic and gene knockout mice
10.	Delhi	Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi	Genomics research for drug discovery

These facilities are utilized for R & D by institutions and pharmaceutical industries including small entrepreneurs. The amount provided by PRDSF programme to various institutions for establishing state-of-the-art research facilities during the last three years viz. 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 is Rs. 498 lakhs, Rs. 600 lakhs and 387 respectively. During

the current financial year, no funds have been released for such research facilities.

(c) The details of amount being spent on R & D by various pharma companies are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The details of amount being spent on R & D by leading Pharma companies in the country during 2001-02 to 2003-04 are given below :

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
		R & D Exp.	% of annual turnover	R & D Exp.	% of annual turnover	R & D Exp.	% of annual turnover
1.	Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd.	77	3.6	192	6.3	276	6.1
2.	Dr. Reddy's Lab. Ltd.	111	7.1	163	10.2	226	13.0
3.	Sun Pharmaceuticals	34	4.4	66	6.7	108	10.2
4.	Cadila Healthcare Ltd.	42	7.1	38	4.0	88	7.6
5.	Wockhardt Ltd.	30	4.4	34	4.7	60	6.2
6.	Cipla Ltd.,	22	3.5	52	3.3	57	2.9
7.	Nicolas Piramal	10	1.2	12	1.2	56	4.4
8.	Lupin Ltd.	54	5.6	36	3.2	46	3.7
9.	Aurobindo Pharma Ltd.	13	1.3	22	1.9	46	3.5
10.	Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	22	5.1	31	7.0	40	8.9
11.	Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	12	4.7	31	9.2	37	9.8
12.	Biocon India Ltd.	7	4.4	11	4.3	23	4.4
13.	USV Ltd.	12	3.3	15	3.7	21	0.4
14.	Alembic Limited	14	2.3	20	3.5	20	3.2
15.	IPCA Labs Ltd.	8	1.8	13	2.7	17	2.6
16.	Sushan	9	2.3	9	2.2	11	4.0
17.	Cadila Pharma	9	2.3	9	2.2	10	2.4
18.	Unichem Ltd.	10	3.3	9	2.7	8	2.2
Total		496	4.0	761	4.8	1150	4.7

Production of Mica

1917. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Mica produced during each of the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the quantum of Mica exported to other countries, country-wise;

(c) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of Mica in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under control of Ministry of Mines, the Statewise production of mica produced during the last three year is as under :-

State	(Quantity in tonne)		
	2002-03	2003-04 (P)	2004-05 (P)
Mica (Crude)			
India	1232	1076	1366
Andhra Pradesh	907	978	1330
Bihar	11	3	1
Jharkhand	133	29	8
Rajasthan	181	66	27
Mica (Waste & Scrap)			
India	2342	2928	2802
Andhra Pradesh	1104	2262	2285
Bihar	11	2	*
Jharkhand	30	84	35
Rajasthan	1197	580	482

*Negligible
P Provisional

(b) and (c) As per the information furnished by the Department of Commerce, the foreign exchange earned on account of mica exported during the year 2003-04, was equivalent to Rs. 136.76 crores. The main countries of export and the value of export are given below:-

Countries	Values in Crores
Peoples Republic of China	24.25
Japan	22.97
United States of America	17.28
Netherlands	10.16
Belgium	9.78
United Kingdom	7.39
Finland	7.26
Federal Republic of Germany	6.42

Incidentally, it is also mentioned that production estimates of mica are made by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) on the basis of the information furnished by reporting mines. However, mica is also recovered from secondary sources and tailings, details of which are not maintained. The statistics on export of mica include export of mica in all forms and also re-exports.

(d) As per the National Mineral Policy 1993, the exploration/exploritation of the non-fuel and non-atomic minerals including mica has been thrown open to the private sector. However exploration of mica and setting up of mica based Industries will depend on availability of mineral and economic viability of such project.

Old Age Pension to BPL Persons

1918. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate amount of pension being provided at present and to be provided in the near future to the persons BPL who cross the age of 60 years;

(b) the share of State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the estimated amount to be provided by both State and Union Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development had been administering the Centrally Sponsored National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) consisting of the National Old Age Pension Scheme and the National Family Benefit Scheme until the Programme was transferred to the State Plan along with the Annapurna Scheme with effect from the financial year 2002-03. Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, the Central assistance was being made available to the States/UTs for payment of an amount of Rs. 75/- per month per beneficiary to the destitutes aged 65 years and above.

Ministry of Rural Development now has no scheme for providing old age pension; State Governments/UT Administrations provide old age pension. However, the Ministry of Finance releases funds as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) in accordance with the allocations made by the Planning Commission to States/UTs to augment their efforts in this regard. The ACA is a combined allocation for the implementation of NSAP and Annapurna Scheme. The States have requisite flexibility in the choice and implementation of the Schemes. The Ministry of Rural Development has no Budget Provision for the transferred Schemes.

Silk Industries in Karnataka

1919. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has released Grants for the development of Silk Industry in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has selected some centres for raising their standards at par with international silk industries markets; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) and (b) The details of funds released to state Government of Karnataka under centrally sponsored Catalytic Development Programme by the Central Silk Board during the last three years is given below :

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Amount	1506.05	714.24	825.38

(c) and (d) Under the market initiatives Central Silk Board has introduced futures trading in conchoon and raw silk on the platform of National Commodity Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX), Mumbai, a national level Multi Commodity Exchange. This alternative system of trading would help the industry through better price discovery. Bangalore has been identified as delivery centre for raw silk and Ramanagaram and Siddlaghatta for cocoons.

The Central Silk Board in collaboration with the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) is implementing a Project for Strengthening the Extension System for Popularizing Bivoltine Sericulture in three southern states viz Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Under this project, 8 Technical Service Centres, 4 Basic Seed Farms and 5 Grainages have been upgraded in Karnataka to produce quality bivoltine silkworm seed.

The CSB has established Textile Testing Laboratory & Silk Conditioning and Testing House at Bangalore; Raw Silk Testing Centres at Kollegal & Siddlaghatta, Cocoon Testing Centre at Ramanagaram, Demonstration Cum Technical Service Centre at Dharwad to provide required technical support to the stake holders of the industry to produce quality silk of international standard.

[Translation]

Coordination Committee on Energy

1920. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI :

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH :

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has set up a new high profile Co-ordination Committee on energy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition of the Committee; and
- (c) the terms of references of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition of the Energy Coordination Committee is as follows :

- (i) Prime Minister Chairman
- (ii) Minister of Finance
- (iii) Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas
- (iv) Minister of Power
- (v) Minister of Coal
- (vi) MoS for Non-Conventional Energy Sources
- (vii) Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission
- (viii) Member (Energy), Planning Commission
- (ix) Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister
- (x) Chairman, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council
- (xi) National Security Adviser
- (xii) Principal Secretary to PM - Convenor

Member Secretary, Planning Commission and the Secretaries of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would be permanent invitees to the meetings of the Committee.

(c) The terms of reference of the Committee is as under :

- (i) Identify key areas requiring energy policy initiatives, so that the overall objectives of economic development, energy security and energy efficiency are met
- (ii) Monitor vulnerabilities that directly impinge on energy security aspects
- (iii) Outline the follow up action that needs to be taken for implementing identified policy initiatives

- (iv) Identify institutional mechanisms for implementing policies
- (v) Periodically monitor key policy decisions
- (vi) Commission studies which would enable arriving at appropriate decisions

Industrial Development In Rajasthan

1921. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the progress made in the industrial field in Rajasthan during the last three years;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to declare Rajasthan State as tax free zone; and
- (c) if so, the time by which the same would be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Industrial Development is primarily the responsibility of the concerned state Government. The Central Government supports the efforts by providing support/incentive under its various Schemes, particularly for development of industrially dsadvantageous areas.

(b) and (c) So far as direct/indirect taxes levied by the Government of India are concerned, there is no proposal under consideration of this Ministry to declare Rajasthan State as a tax free zone.

Pending Excise Cases

1922. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether around 50 thousand cases involving Rupees more than ten thousand crores of Central Excise Duty are pending with the Central Excise officials for the last several years;
- (b) if so, the reasons for non-clearance of such cases by the (above) officials and the exact number of such cases as on date alongwith the total amount actually involved therein;
- (c) whether inordinate delay is being caused by the interested parties in the above cases due to procedural constraints; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove those procedural constraints?

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

[English]

Fluorosis In National Capital Region of Delhi

1923. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain villages in South Delhi have been hit by fluorosis as reported in Hindustan Times dated May 20, 2005;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether such studies are also likely to be conducted in other villages of National Capital Region of Delhi;
- (d) if so, details of the plans worked out in this regard;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore;
- (f) the preventive measures taken to check spreading of the fluorosis and to educate people regarding the disease; and
- (g) the plans drawn to provide safe drinking water to people of National Capital Region of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) to (c) Some villages in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi are endemic for fluorosis based on high fluoride in ground water.

(d) to (g) All the villages in NCT of Delhi have been covered with safe drinking water supply. Delhi Jal Board supplies 675 MGD of water, which is potable, safe and conforms to the standards laid down by Bureau of Indian Standards. In areas having shortage of water, the supply is made through water tankers. Quality of drinking water supplied by Delhi Jal Board is checked at all stages from the water treatment plant to the consumer end. As reported by Delhi Jal Board, 6 water quality testing laboratories are monitoring the quality of drinking water for ensuring its potability.

Credit Rating Agency

1924. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether SIDBI plans to set up a Credit Rating Agency;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the aims and objective for setting up of this agency;
- (d) whether SIDBI would go alliance with financial institution; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard?

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

(b) SIDBI has decided to launch a rating agency with focus on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME). A memorandum of understanding has been executed between SIDBI, Dun & Bradstreet (D & B) and Credit Information Bureau of India Limited (CIBIL).

(c) The Credit Rating Agency would provide lending institutions with an external assessment of their clients. It will help the SME borrowers to receive better interest rates and credit terms.

(d) and (e) SIDBI has received commitment from various banks like Punjab National Bank, SBI, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and ICICI Bank for participating in the share capital.

Indo-US Bilateral Talks

1925. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is coordinating with the United States to establish Indo-US bilateral Cooperation in the field of Energy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the agreement made between both the countries under the bilateral cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India and the United States of America announced an agreement on 14.04.2005 on a new Energy Dialogue. The co-chairperson from the Indian side is Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and from the US side, their Energy Secretary. The first meeting of the Indo-US Energy Dialogue took place on 31.05.2005 in Washington DC. The meeting resulted in an understanding to establish a Steering Committee to supervise the five Working Groups under the dialogue in the following areas:

- Civil Nuclear Energy
- Oil & Gas
- Power & Energy Efficiency
- Coal
- New Technologies & Renewable Energy.

The Indo-US Energy Dialogue is aimed at promoting increased trade and investment in the energy sector by working with the public and private sectors to identify further areas of cooperation and collaboration.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds

1926. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides financial assistance to States to strengthen power projects and to streamline transmission and distribution system to bring down commercial losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the financial assistance provided to each State, particularly to Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of proposals for financial assistance from States are pending with the Union Government at present, State-wise; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to clear these proposals expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) The Government of India provides funds for strengthening and upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system in densely electrified zones in urban and industrial areas under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in order to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial losses, improving quality of supply of power, increasing revenue collection and improving consumer satisfaction. The said programme has two components viz. (i) investment component and (ii) incentive component. Under investment component, funds are released as Additional Central Plan Assistance to the States for strengthening and upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system. Under the incentive component of APDRP, 50% of the actual cash loss reduction effected is given as grant to such Utilities that reduce cash losses over the base year of 2000-01. Details of funds released to the States under investment component are given in enclosed statement-I and grants released under incentive component are given in enclosed statement-II.

(c) The details of the proposals received and recommended under APDRP by the Advisor-cum-Consultant (AcC) concerned i.e. National Thermal Power Corporation or Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., State-wise, are given in enclosed statement III.

(d) The proposals recommended by the AcC are considered by the Steering Committee which are held at regular intervals and decided on merits.

* The reply was subsequently corrected through a Correcting Statement made in the House on 18.12.2005 and was also placed in Library under L.T. No. 3296/2005. The reply to part (d) of the question has been corrected as under.

The proposals recommended by the AcC are considered by the Steering Committee which are held at regular intervals and decided on merits.

Statement-I

Funds released to the States under investment component of APDRP

S.No.	Name of State	Funds Released		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Andhra Pradesh	163.82	402.94	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	36.68	0.00
3.	Assam	96.97	0.00	61.88
4.	Bihar	66.11	20.88	226.19
5.	Chhattisgarh	10.00	43.07	106.14
6.	Delhi	105.51	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	22.04	8.54	82.82
8.	Gujarat	105.41	183.45	111.40
9.	Haryana	56.33	112.66	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	43.05	120.87	0.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	20.00	180.50	114.47
12.	Jharkhand	12.00	43.60	98.27
13.	Karnataka	145.15	290.30	0.00
14.	Kerala	30.43	74.23	125.89
15.	Madhya Pradesh	74.87	10.00	45.00
16.	Maharashtra	138.48	107.98	21.77
17.	Manipur	2.67	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	6.57	14.56	37.24
19.	Mizoram	3.78	25.18	0.00
20.	Nagaland	13.14	10.47	19.22
21.	Orissa	54.35	0.00	19.67
22.	Punjab	53.98	124.76	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	125.84	219.70	40.49
24.	Sikkim	17.21	60.17	77.35
25.	Tamil Nadu	111.57	232.59	97.66
26.	Tripura	2.67	6.10	28.87
27.	Uttar Pradesh	80.12	0.00	54.40
28.	Uttaranchal	174.63	6.13	60.00
29.	West Bengal	19.02	21.15	0.00
Total		1755.52	2356.51	1428.73

Statement-II

Funds released to the States under incentive component of APDRP

S.No.	State	Incentive Released			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (till date)
1.	Gujarat	236.38	-	-	-
2.	Maharashtra	137.89	-	-	-
3.	Haryana	5.01	100.48	-	-
4.	Rajasthan	-	137.71	-	-
5.	Andhra Pradesh	-	265.11	-	-
6.	Kerala	-	0.00	-	64.94
7.	West Bengal	-	0.00	73.00	302.76
Total		379.28	503.30	73.00	367.70
Grand Total		1323.28			

Statement-III

Details of the proposals received under APDRP from States

S.No.	Name of State	Number of projects	Cost of the projects
			(Rs. in crores)
1.	Chhattisgarh	1	3.32
2.	Karnataka	2	26.19
3.	Madhya Pradesh	1	2.49
4.	Maharashtra	2	199.37
5.	Punjab	1	6.19
6.	Sikkim	2	114.06
7.	Uttar Pradesh	3	329.35
Total		12	680.97

[English]

Raising Additional Capital by SBI

1927. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India is planning to raise the additional capital by the second or third quarter and put the additional requirement at Rs. 3,000 crore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) State

Bank of India (SBI) does not require additional capital to maintain the regulatory Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 9% during the financial year 2005-06. However, SBI or for that matter any other bank, may, from time to time, review their requirement of capital for expansion of business and for raising their CRAR to a comfortable level commensurate with that of banks rated strong internationally.

Sanchayika Scheme

1928. DR. K. S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of Sanchayika Scheme of National Savings;
- (b) whether this scheme has achieved its objectives;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government propose to continue the "Sanchayika Scheme" to inculcate the saving habits in schools students;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce some other schemes in place of this Sanchayika Scheme; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (h) The objective of Sanchayika Scheme is to inculcate the habit of thrift among students and to promote student leadership. Fulfillment of the objective of the scheme is an ongoing process.

The recent amendment to the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873 which now permits investment in small saving schemes only to individuals, has necessitated restructuring of the Sanchayika Scheme. At present, there is no proposal to discontinue the scheme.

Karnataka Land Acquisition (Karnataka Amendment) Ordinance, 2003

1929. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Karnataka Land Acquisition (Karnataka Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 is pending with the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which statutory clearance is likely to be given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) and (b) The

Karnataka Land Acquisition (Karnataka Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 for Amendment in Section 28 & Section 34 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 was referred by Ministry of Home Affairs to this Ministry for comments. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for providing President's Assent for such type of proposals received from various State Governments in consultation with the concerned Ministries.

(c) the proposal was examined and it was informed to the Ministry of Home Affairs that Amendments of Section 28 & Section 34 in the Karnataka Land Acquisition (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 can not be acceded to because it proposes to lower the interest rate from 9% to 6% per annum for the excess compensation awarded by court and from 15% to 9% after the expiry of one year from the date on which possession is taken as provided under Section 28 & Section 34 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. The Ministry does not favour any proposal to give lower rate of interest of landowners, whose land is being acquired.

[Translation]

Microzonation Work at Jabalpur

1930. SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether microzonation work has been carried out in Jabalpur being on earthquake sensitive area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Union Government for the development of Jabalpur being an earthquake sensitive area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Sir, as per the seismic zoning map published by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) the country has been divided into four seismic zones. Zone V is considered to be most vulnerable to earthquakes, while Zone II is the least. Jabalpur falls in Zone-III and can be expected to experience moderate intensity earthquakes. A multi-disciplinary project of the Department of Science & Technology during 2002-03 to establish the methodology of microzonation. The report prepared on the work done contained first cut maps on geology, seismo tectonics, liquefaction potential, site response and shear wave velocity etc.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration with the Union Government.

[English]

Export of Silk

1931. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :
SHRI RANEN BARMAN :
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of silk exported to different countries during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of foreign exchange earned therefrom during this period;

(c) whether the export of silk is declining;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the incentives given by the Government to silk producers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) Quantum of silk goods exported to major silk importing countries during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) Country-wise foreign exchange earnings from export of silk goods during last 3 years is given below :

Country	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05 (P)	
	crore Rs.	Mn. US \$	crore Rs.	Mn. US \$	crore Rs.	Mn. US \$
USA	714.50	147.65	726.66	158.11	836.65	186.21
UK	189.21	39.10	200.07	43.53	254.35	56.61
Italy	125.09	25.85	141.69	30.83	204.42	45.50
German	140.02	28.94	166.89	36.31	161.31	35.90
U.A.E.	138.95	28.71	289.69	63.03	146.29	32.56
Spain	75.42	15.59	154.39	33.59	146.12	32.52
Hongkong	183.65	37.95	130.87	28.48	135.36	30.13
France	99.54	20.57	92.66	20.16	102.24	22.76
Saudi Arabia	66.39	13.72	69.94	15.22	88.08	19.60
Singapore	66.07	13.65	88.07	19.16	77.48	17.24
Oothers	495.21	102.34	718.27	156.28	595.38	132.51
Total	2294.05	474.08	2779.19	604.70	2747.68	611.55

P : (Provisional figure are subject to change after final data received from DGCI&S, Kolkata)

The above table shows an improvement in exports of silk goods in dollar terms.

(e) Several programmes and schemes to increase the quality, productivity and the competitiveness of the domestic silk industry have been instituted. The important ones are :

- Research and Development efforts of Central Silk Board have been stepped up to improve quantity and productivity of sericulture, by evolution of more productive and stress tolerant breeds and hybrids of mulberry and non-mulberry foods plants and silkworms; and development of low cost reeling and processing technologies in silk;
- Seed Support & Technical Assistance is being given by the Central Silk Board to State Governments, farmers & reelers by maintenance of parent races and basic seed, supply of commercial seed, and augmentation of grainage facilities for production of disease free high yielding and drought resistant seeds;
- Central assistance is being extended to States through Centrally Sponsored & Central sector schemes to strengthen farm infrastructure, increase area under sericulture, upgrade reeling

facilities, improve finishing processes, strengthen seed supply, cocoon & silk testing systems;

- Low cost and productivity enhancing technologies developed by the Central Silk Board are being popularized through central assistance to beneficiaries, training to the States' extension machinery and beneficiaries, organizing of various awareness programmes, etc.;
- For technology upgradation of the indigenous silk industry loan at 5% point less than applicable bank rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textiles sector is available inter alia to silk sector.
- Supply chain issues between the farmers, raw silk producers and the weavers are being addressed by advocating contract farming models, price linked grading, etc.
- An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been provided in the X Plan for the Sericulture sector to support the above strategy & programmes;
- Export of value added silk items is being encouraged through assistance to exporters for participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad, market research & surveys, etc.

Statement

Countrywise Export Earnings

Country	2002-03				2003-04				2004-05 (P)				
	Silk Goods		Carpet		Silk Goods		Carpet		Silk Goods		Carpet		Total
	Qty. (M.T.)	Value	Qty. (HK. sq. mt.)	Value	Qty. (M.T.)	Value	Qty. (HK. sq. mt.)	Value	Qty. (M.T.)	Value	Qty. (HK. sq. mt.)	Value	Value
U.S.A.	4190	686.30	0.601	28.20	3406	687.99	0.620	38.67	3940	797.22	0.632	39.43	836.65
U.K.	1166	181.80	0.107	7.41	854	189.80	0.110	10.27	1091	243.85	0.113	10.50	254.35
Italy	744	123.25	0.023	1.84	552	139.39	0.038	2.30	789	202.07	0.039	2.35	204.42
German P. Rep	604	116.85	0.292	23.17	456	133.76	0.626	33.13	434	129.58	0.638	31.73	161.31
U.A.E.	953	136.88	0.019	2.07	1482	287.09	0.027	2.60	746	143.65	0.027	2.64	146.29
Spain	389	75.09	0.004	0.33	803	153.58	0.009	0.81	760	145.29	0.009	0.83	146.12
Hong Kong	849	183.24	0.004	0.41	455	130.33	0.008	0.55	429	128.91	0.008	6.45	135.36
France	596	93.46	0.091	6.08	421	86.33	0.085	6.33	491	101.68	0.086	0.56	102.24
Saudi Arabia	382	66.04	0.006	0.35	347	69.02	0.015	0.92	435	87.13	0.014	0.95	88.08
Singapore	361	65.00	0.011	1.07	342	86.31	0.022	1.76	299	75.69	0.023	1.79	77.48
Others	3474	470.01	0.371	25.20	3408	695.38	0.443	22.89	2636	570.05	0.451	25.33	595.38
Total	13708	2197.92	1.529	96.13	12526	2658.96	2.001	120.22	12050	2625.12	2.040	122.56	2747.68

P : Provisional data : subject to change after final data received from DGCI & S.

Power Transmission Line

1932. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any scheme under the consideration of the Power Grid Corporation to lay a power transmission line to link Srinagar, Kargil, Leh and Ladakh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the current status of the scheme and the total funds likely to be incurred thereon; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) to (d) A scheme has been formulated for the construction of 220 KV transmission line for Alistong (Srinagar) to Leh via Drass, Kargil and Khalsi along with 4 No. of sub-stations near Drass, Kargil, Khalsi, and Leh towns under the State-Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 633.79 Crores. However, while considering investment approval, the Nimoo Bazgo and Chutak Hydro Electricity, Projects, have been accorded priority as compared to the transmission line.

Shortage of Recovery Officers in DRTs

1933. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :

SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 2000 orders of the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) involving recovery of huge funds stuck in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of banks and Financial Institutions (FIs) are lying pending for execution for the last few months due to shortage of recovery officers to execute them;
- (b) if so, the details of such orders indicating the tune of pending in various DRTs and amount in such cases; and
- (c) the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the pendency of execution of the orders of DRTs could be attributable to other factors as well, including resistance the dilatory tactics adopted by borrowers and third party intervention (e.g. tenants, workers, shareholders, etc.). There are DRTs where orders are pending for execution despite there being no shortage of Recovery Officers. It is,

therefore, difficult to ascertain the exact number of orders pending execution due to shortage of Recovery Officers only.

(c) Action has already been initiated for selection of Recovery Officers to fill the vacant posts and it is expected that appointments will be finalized by September, 2005.

[Translation]

Per Capita Power Generation

1934. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the per capita power consumption in the country as on date, State-wise, as compared to other countries in the world; and
- (b) the measures being taken by the Government to increase per capita availability of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) The per capita annual consumption of electricity in the country was 592 kWh during 2003-04. The State-wise break up is given in the enclosed statement.

The data on per capita electricity consumption in a few selected countries, as given in "Key World Energy Statistics" of International Energy Agency is as under :-

Name of the Country	Per Capita annual electricity consumption in kWh in 2002
Australia	10502
France	7366
Germany	6742
Russia	5350
U.K.	6158
USA	13228
China	1208
Brazil	1843
Pakistan	384
Malaysia	2883

(b) The steps taken by the Government to enhance power availability in country are given as under :-

- A capacity addition of 41,110 MW has been targeted for 10th Five Year Plan in the country.
- Early stabilization of newly commissioned units and overall increase in Plant Load Factor of thermal units.

- Creation of a National Grid for optimum utilization of generation capacity and inter-regional transmission of power.
- Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation have mobilized themselves adequately to see that the execution of a good project is not hampered due to lack of funds.
- Renovation and modernization of old and inefficient generating units.
- With a view to provide access to electricity to all households within five years, the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana has been launched.

Statement

Per Capita Consumption of Electricity

(kWH)

Name of the State/U.Ts.	2003-04
1	2
Haryana	923.83
Himachal Pradesh	794.32
Jammu and Kashmir	647.46
Punjab	1277.11
Rajasthan	539.62
Uttar Pradesh	299.63
Uttaranchal	825.10
Chandigarh	1499.58
Delhi	1542.04
Gujarat	1175.23
Madhya Pradesh	474.78
Chhattisgarh	677.66
Maharashtra	878.57
Goa	2178.47
Daman and Diu	7037.98
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	7496.78
Andhra Pradesh	718.84

1	2
Karnataka	642.26
Kerala	386.20
Tamil Nadu	866.43
Lakshadweep	341.72
Pondicherry	1894.45
Bihar	75.44
Jharkhand	564.26
Orissa	695.42
West Bengal	410.19
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	420.29
Sikkim	765.68
Assam	160.08
Manipur	218.37
Meghalaya	416.02
Nagaland	155.91
Tripura	263.65
Arunachal Pradesh	224.64
Mizoram	300.76
Total (All India)	592.00

*As per UN methodology : Per Capita Consumption equal to gross generation.

[English]

Education Cess

1935. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) amount accrued in 'Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh' and other head out of the Education cess as levied in terms of budget for 2004-05;

(b) the criteria fixed for utilization of the amount for specified purposes showing the allocation and utilization made so far State-wise against each component; and

(c) the targeted accrual by the end of current financial year and benefit to be derived out of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) As per the Revised Estimates 2004-05, the receipts under Education cess is estimated at Rs. 5010 crore.

(b) and (c) The receipts from the cess are to be utilized exclusively for Elementary Education, including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Allocations to States are not being made separately against the cess but released under the individual schemes related to Elementary Education in accordance with the guidelines of such schemes. Budget Estimates of 2005-06 assumes Rs. 6975 crore as receipts from Education cess.

[Translation]

Loan Under Welfare Scheme

1936. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :

SHRI HITEN BARMAN :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: the total loan disbursed to unemployed youths under various welfare schemes during last one year as on date, State-wise, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : According to the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, the State-wise & Scheme-wise details of number of accounts and amount disbursed during 2004-05 by Public Sector Banks to unemployed youths under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (NSLRS) are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

1	Name of the State/UTs	Name of the Schemes							
		PMRY		SGSY		SJSRY		NSLRS	
		No. of Accounts	Amount disbursed	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount disbursed	No. of Accounts	Amount disbursed	No. of Accounts	Amount disbursed
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15495	9913.10	94097	9589.19	6714	1762.10	522	72.59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	60	40.48	1745	232.95	5	1.30	-	-
3.	Assam	3499	2229.7	47188	4020.22	638	231.99	29	3.70
4.	Bihar	8787	7146.29	130320	16624.51	1396	462.54	75	19.10
5.	Chhattisgarh	2204	1300.92	15542	2146.17	1924	419.51	111	17.43
6.	Goa	45	30.94	733	80.83	29	7.11	6	0.92
7.	Gujarat	6414	3050.25	29760	2832.72	3200	892.95	2106	153.22
8.	Haryana	6648	3681.98	10674	1536.42	1437	519.10	130	28.34
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2767	2210.75	7773	1166.66	422	205.68	159	53.48
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	581	532.68	4754	1294.47	982	437.39	-	-
11.	Jharkhand	4097	3137.88	34608	4768.45	305	98.92	-	-
12.	Karnataka	8743	5220.25	31516	2831.74	2478	712.14	481	124.23
13.	Kerala	15029	7705.62	38474	3185.26	3690	904.89	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14197	8817.84	65838	4821.52	2995	1821.25	2036	490.88
15.	Maharashtra	18607	10270.5	41569	4449.4	4361	1346.48	773	167.38
16.	Manipur	132	69.5	406	99.11	4	1.75	-	-
17.	Meghalaya	300	185.18	1650	410.84	219	73.98	6	1.05
18.	Mizoram	98	58	793	122.83	3	0.96	-	-
19.	Nagaland	97	96.1	2029	415.04	428	175.24	-	-
20.	Orissa	3529	1888.98	52104	6969.18	2951	779.20	356	107.57
21.	Punjab	7163	4378.02	6786	1361.63	740	233.31	2	0.25
22.	Rajasthan	9785	5171.78	28471	4502.52	4343	1011.65	961	255.41
23.	Sikkim	22	16.75	1298	138.89	39	13.35	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	13211	5342.85	156450	5128.56	2124	374.93	16	1.70
25.	Tripura	1437	919.77	6750	756.09	367	110.51	-	-
26.	Uttaranchal	5860	3902.57	19709	1447.54	654	332.69	74	9.64
27.	Uttar Pradesh	36297	24372.26	105323	9460.25	4681	1803.15	303	60.28
28.	West Bengal	3328	2109.32	145577	5341.42	1210	237.26	48	3.17
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	115	88.74	278	7.38	4	1.09	-	-
30.	Chandigarh	191	117.58	14	4.61	45	15.05	-	-
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22	15	14	2.05	-	-	-	-
32.	Daman and Diu	4	3.27	-	-	-	-	-	-
33.	Delhi	649	452.19	153	4.2	156	41.48	15	3.88
34.	Lakshadweep	3	1.82	27	1.7	-	-	-	-
35.	Pondicherry	318	109.23	2326	59.03	254	38.13	-	-
	Not specified	897	918.19	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	190631	115506.28	1084749	95813.38	48798	15067.08	8209	1574.22

*[English]***Review of Listing /Delisting Norms**

1937. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

SHRI SURESH KURUP :

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to give relief to the small size companies, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has received and revised the listing and delisting norms;

(b) if so, the major changes and modifications being made in the system and the main objects and reasons for such changes; and

(c) the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Health Insurance

1938. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 50 per cent health insurance policies lapse in a year for non-payment of premium;

(b) If so, whether the Government has assessed specific reasons for such a drastic default in payment by the customers;

(c) if so, the details is thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to lure the customers for opting the health insurance policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. On the other hand, coverage under the health insurance policies is increasing every year and its renewal ratio is better as compared to other insurance policies.

(d) Insurance companies take care to send renewal notices to the existing policyholders and provide incentive for renewal in the form of 'no claim bonus' @ 5% per year subject to a maximum of 50%.

Expenditure on Scientific Research

1939. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU :

DR. K. DHANARAJU :

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

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

(a) whether Scientific Research work in India is declining for want of financial support from the Government;

(b) the financial support/assistance provided to the public and private sector for the purpose during each of the last three years by the Union Government, State-wise; and

(c) the number of Indian scientists selected as Fellow of Royal Society during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir. The 10th Plan Science & Technology outlay for scientific agencies has been increased from Rs.12022.17 crores in 9th Plan to Rs. 25243.00 crores.

(b) Number of schemes are implemented by various Central Ministries/Departments for funding sponsored Research & Development projects in institutions and universities located in various states. A statement covering state-wise number of R & D projects and their approved cost for latest available three years is enclosed.

(c) Two Indian Scientists were selected as Fellow of Royal Society during the year 2003 and 2005.

Statement

State-wise support to Extramural R & D Projects

State	No. of Projects	Approved Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of Projects	Total Cost of Projects (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of Projects	Total Cost of Projects (Rs. in Lakhs)
	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
Year	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	49.87	4	158.43	2	42.72
Andhra Pradesh	134	1722.36	167	4892.64	175	2793.81
Arunachal Pradesh	9	159.71	7	98.67	13	101.99
Assam	42	549.89	38	573.72	62	773.66
Bihar	15	139.48	10	87.56	9	237.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chandigarh	64	828.57	75	1808.50	70	930.19
Chhattisgarh*	1	15.96	8	79.33	8	84.72
Delhi	223	4227.12	290	6763.73	251	3982.89
Goa	9	96.56	4	47.00	9	138.77
Gujarat	50	561.21	63	667.47	73	898.39
Haryana	32	211.89	36	431.08	44	436.02
Himachal Pradesh	18	185.39	34	617.99	19	426.60
Jammu and Kashmir	13	229.14	24	293.66	16	246.86
Jharkhand*	35	475.83	38	932.71	33	1632.97
Karnataka	176	3257.03	222	3921.25	278	7573.53
Kerala	73	1067.50	84	1697.28	101	1865.79
Madhya Pradesh	51	689.44	41	905.64	44	412.98
Maharashtra	203	3420.00	236	4367.55	266	5785.16
Manipur	8	141.94	4	71.15	6	69.17
Meghalaya	7	79.09	6	78.01	9	199.01
Mizoram	2	32.63	4	42.65	2	27.03
Nagaland	2	18.39	4	60.98	3	45.15
Orissa	34	312.87	39	382.56	38	392.75
Pondicherry	9	121.86	12	119.01	21	178.80
Punjab	46	403.98	26	326.87	58	720.47
Rajasthan	35	512.60	47	700.41	53	503.77
Sikkim	1	32.20	3	44.42	2	25.66
Tamil Nadu	209	3207.73	225	5373.67	298	3359.15
Tripura			3	27.28	4	49.91
Uttar Pradesh	226	2745.10	242	3273.47	294	3836.16
Uttaranchal*	45	297.37	73	1179.69	118	1950.88
West Bengal	234	2878.29	235	4471.61	339	5146.31
Total	2009	28671.00	2304	44495.99	2718	44869.00

[Translation]

Assistance from USA for Bio-Technology

1940. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to seek cooperation from U.S.A. in the field of bio-technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any talks have been held between the two countries in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the decision taken following the aforesaid talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT : (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. In addition to the ongoing cooperation with USA in the areas of Contraceptive and Reproductive Health Research (CRHR), Vaccine Action Programme (VAP), Agriculture Biotechnology, Brain Research and a new arrangement proposed to be signed soon in the area of Vision Research, the Government of India and USA are seeking for increased cooperation in the field of biotechnology.

(b) to (d) The US Department of Commerce has forwarded a proposal for 'Enhanced US-India biotechnology cooperation' under the High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG). The proposal has emerged out of the HTCG meeting held in Washington on 15th June, 2005. Hon'ble Minister for State (S & T) and the Secretary, Department of Biotechnology participated in the meeting. The main areas for cooperative activities as suggested in the above mentioned proposal include strengthening of patent protection in India; encouraging the commercialization of research in India; discussion on export control related to biological and chemical items; expanding US-India cooperation in transgenic agriculture; and facilitating US-India Cooperation in clinical research.

Talks are going on for cooperation in the areas of stem cell research, genomics and proteomics. A dialogue has already been initiated in these areas. A joint Indo-US workshop on 'research and development in genomics covering health, agriculture and industry' was held in Bangalore, India in September, 2003.

(e) The proposal for the 'Enhanced US-India biotechnology cooperation' forwarded to the Government of India in July 2005, is under discussion and consideration. However, the proposed statement of intent on the Indo-US collaboration on expansion of Vision Research has been approved by both the Governments.

[English]

Recovery of Live shells

1941. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether over 200 deadly live explosive shells have been recovered from the Ganga at Garhmukteshwar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the policy of the Government to allow importers of deadly war scrap into the country;
- (d) whether the importers of scrap material are involved in smuggling of precious metal like gold and silver;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the remedial measures taken by the Government to prevent the smuggling through containers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No such recovery has been made by any customs formation.

- (b) Nil in view of (a) above.
- (c) To check incidence of import of live shells/war material in scrap import, the Government has reviewed Import Policy and issue Circular No. 56/2004 - Cus dated 18-10-04 prescribing the procedure for clearance of imported scrap.
- (d) No such case/intelligence has come to the notice of DRI and Customs field formations.
- (e) Nil in view of (d) above.
- (f) All Customs field formations including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband items including shells/war material in scrap through containers.

Completion of Power Projects

1942. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some of the State Governments are not getting their due share of power allocated from the Central power distribution agencies;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has worked out any plan for the completion of some of the Central Power projects in States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The States are getting their due share of power from central generating stations as per their allocation.

(c) and (d) At present, projects totalling about 21,000 MW capacity are under execution in the Central Sector for the benefit during 10th and 11th Plan. For timely completion of the projects under construction, the monitoring mechanism has been strengthened. The Central Electricity Authority has a nodal officer for each project, both at the conception stage as well as during the execution.

[Translation]

Shortage of Toilets in Rural Areas

1943. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is an acute shortage of toilets in rural and tribal dominant areas of the country;

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

(c) whether certain States particularly Maharashtra have sent any proposals for providing a cent-per cent grant to the beneficiaries during the last three years and current year;

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

(e) the decision taken by the Government on each such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Census 2001, sanitation coverage in rural areas of the country was only about 22%. The major reason for shortage of toilets in the rural areas is lack of awareness and felt-need for sanitation and hygiene facilities.

(c) to (e) The Central Government extends financial and technical assistance to States for accelerating rural sanitation coverage through a Centrally sponsored programme, namely Total Sanitation Campaign. The programme envisages grant of financial incentive for construction of household toilets to BPL beneficiaries only with shares of Central Government, State Government and beneficiary in the ratio 60 : 20 : 20 for Basic Low Cost Unit (BLCU) of toilets costing upto Rs. 625, and in the ratio 30:30:40 for BLCU costing between Rs. 625 and Rs. 1000. Proposals have been received from State Governments, including Maharashtra, regarding sanction of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects. These proposals are examined and sanctioned promptly. State-wise number of TSC projects sanctioned during the last three years and the current year is given in the statement enclosed. TSC projects have been sanctioned for all rural districts of Maharashtra.

Statement

Sanction of the projects during the last three years and current year

S.No.	State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006*	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	4	0	0	12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	3	1	5	9
4.	Bihar	6	0	0	5	11
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	2	1	3	9
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0	0	0	1
7.	Goa	0	1	0	0	1
8.	Gujarat	2	0	20	0	22
9.	Haryana	3	12	0	0	15
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5	0	0	4	9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	10	0	0	12
12.	Jharkhand	2	0	16	0	18
13.	Karnataka	0	0	15	9	24
14.	Kerala	7	0	0	0	7
15.	Madhya Pradesh	9	30	0	0	39
16.	Maharashtra	11	13	0	0	24
17.	Manipur	3	0	0	0	3
18.	Meghalaya	0	2	0	0	2
19.	Mizoram	1	1	0	3	5
20.	Nagaland	1	0	0	0	1
21.	Orissa	10	0	15	0	25
22.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Punjab	2	9	0	2	13
24.	Rajasthan	5	0	11	11	27
25.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	11	6	1	0	18
27.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	13	29	0	0	42
29.	Uttaranchal	5	7	0	0	12
30.	West Bengal	5	3	0	0	8
Total		115	132	80	42	369

*Till date

*[English]***Ceiling on Bank Dividend**

1944. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has raised the ceiling on bank dividend payment ratio to 40 percent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RBI has developed any mechanism to ensure that their increase is not misused by the banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines on 4th May, 2005 raising the dividend payout ratio to 40% for banks which comply with the minimum prudential requirements i.e. CRAR, Net NPA, provisions of Section 15 & 17 of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 etc. These guidelines are available at RBI website www.rbi.org.in.

(c) and (d) RBI has prescribed a reporting system whereby all banks declaring dividend are required to report, in the prescribed proforma, details of dividend declared during the accounting year within a fortnight of such declaration.

*[Translation]***Foreign Exchange Reserves**

1945. SHRI AJIT JOGI :

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :

SHIR HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the foreign exchange reserve has witnessed decline during the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for decline in the foreign exchange reserves;
- (d) the position of the foreign exchange reserves during each of the last three years; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check the decline in the foreign exchange reserve in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The foreign exchange reserves (including foreign currency assets, gold, Special Drawing Rights, and reserve position in the International Monetary Fund), which stood at US\$ 141.5 billion as at end-March 2005, declined to US\$ 137.5 billion on July 22, 2005.

(c) The decline in foreign exchange reserves, inter alia, includes the effect of depreciation of non-US currencies (such as Euro, Pound Sterling and Yen) held in reserves, vis-a-vis the US Dollar.

(d) The foreign exchange reserve stood at US\$54.1 billion, US\$76.1 billion, and US\$113.0 billion, respectively, as at end-March 2002, end-March 2003, and end-March 2004, respectively.

(e) India's foreign exchange reserves have grown significantly since 1991. At present, India is one of the top emerging market economies, in terms of reserves held. The overall approach to the management of India's foreign exchange reserves in recent years reflects the changing composition of the balance of payments and the 'liquidity risk' associated with different types of flows and other requirements. The policy for reserve management is, thus, judiciously built upon a host of identifiable factors and other contingencies. Talking these factors into account, India's foreign exchange reserves continue to be at a comfortable level and consistent with rate of growth, the share of external sector in the economy and the size of risk-adjusted capital flows.

World Bank Guidelines on Poverty Alleviation Programmes

1946. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has made any comments on misuse of funds under Poverty Alleviation Programmes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the new guidelines of the World Bank in this regard; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) The Ministry of Rural Development is not aware about the comments of the World Bank of misuse of funds under Poverty Alleviation Programmes.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

VAT Rebate to S.E.Z. Engaged Companies

1947. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government purpose to give rebate in VAT to the companies engaged in Special Economic Zones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the percentage of rebate proposed to be given;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the names of the companies included in S.E.Zs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (d) VAT, being a tax on sale or purchase of goods within a State, is a State subject under Entry 54 of the State List of the Constitution of India. The design of VAT has been finalized by the States collectively, through the deliberations in the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, according to which the units located in Special Economic Zones will be granted either exemption from payment of input tax or refund of the input tax paid within 3 months. This benefit is to be provided to all the units in the Special Economic Zones.

*[English]***IFCI**

1948. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has been prohibited by the Government from taking fresh advances;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the IFCI's fund requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The package of financial assistance to IFCI include payment towards small investors of below Rupees one lakh, servicing ADB loan and credit line from KFW (leading German Development Bank) and payment of differential interest rates on IFCI SLR bonds held by Public Sector Banks/FIs. Banks and Financial Institutions have simultaneously agreed to roll over SLR bonds and restructure non-SLR liabilities.

*[Translation]***Ombudsman In Banks**

1949. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has appointed an Ombudsman for the redressal of grievances of the Bank's customers;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases received by the Ombudsman during last three years as on date and the number of cases disposed of out of them;
- (c) the action taken against erring bank officials so far; and
- (d) the result of the action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established Banking Ombudsman Offices in 15 centres all over India for the redressal of grievances of the Bank's customers.

(b) The details of number of complaints received and disposed off by the Banking Ombudsman Offices during the last three years (April-March) is given below :-

Particulars	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Complaints handled (including pending complaints of previous year)	6506	9483	12034
Disposed of (including rejected complaints)	5269	8009	10403

(c) and (d) The objective of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme is to resolve the grievances of the customers. There is no provision in the Scheme for taking action against the erring bank officials. However, banks are free to take action against their staff if the complaints of customers warrant so.

**Direct Release of Funds to Villages
for Rural Development**

1950. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to release

funds under rural development schemes to the districts directly and also to make the district administration liable for the same;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The total Central funds allocated under the rural development schemes namely, the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programmes (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) are released to the Zila

Parishads/District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) directly. However, funds under the Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign are released to the Zila Parishads/District Water and Sanitation Mission/DRDAs. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) funds are released to the State Level Autonomous Agencies, set up by the States for receiving the funds from the centre, who in turn make available funds to the Programme Implementation Units (PIUS) in the Districts.

Voter Identity Cards

1951. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH :

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :

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

- (a) whether any progress has been made by the Election Commission in issuing of Voter Identity Cards;
- (b) the percentage of voters to whom Identity Cards have been issued by the Election Commission, State-wise and region wise;
- (c) the total cost thereof;
- (d) the time by which such Identity Cards are likely to be issued to all the voters; and
- (e) the steps taken to remove the anomalies found in preparation of such cards and to display them in electoral list?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been considerable progress in issuing of Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) to eligible electors enrolled in the existing electoral roll. At present nearly 69.50% of electors have been provided Electors Photo Identity Cards. A Statement showing State/ Union Territory-wise percentage of electorate in the 2004/ 2005 roll provided with Electors Photo Identity Cards is enclosed.

(c) The expenditure on preparation of Electors Photo Identity Cards is shared between the Central and the State Governments on 50 : 50 basis. A sum of Rs. 542,80,74,000/- has been released to the State Governments as the Government of India's share of the expenditure on the issuance of Electors Photo Identity Cards.

(d) The Election Commission has stated that the

registration of electors is a continuous process, excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of election process. Therefore, the scheme of issue of EPIC to the registered electors is necessarily a continuous process as every new elector will also have to be covered under the scheme. The Commission has outlined steps to complete issue of EPIC in two phases. It has fixed a threshold limit of 85% coverage in the first phase during which filed campaigns for extensive coverage of electors included in the existing roll are launched. The campaign is taken up using a targeted approach. In the second phase, those States/UTs, where threshold target of 85% has been achieved, go into the Maintenance Mode for issuing EPICs to residual electors. In this mode permanent Designated Photography Location (DPL) centers are provided at the district/sub-divisional headquarters. The electors who have either been left out for any reason or those electors who are added to the roll later on are required to go to these Designed Photography Locations to get their cards prepared. It is the endeavour of the Commission to issue EPICs to all the electors enrolled in the electoral rolls at the earliest possible.

(e) The Election Commission has informed that the scheme of EPIC was introduced in 1993 independent of electoral rolls. The EPIC details were not captured in the electoral roll. The Computerisation of Electoral Rolls Programme in 1997 created the basic ground conditions through which integration of EPIC with the electoral rolls became possible. Accordingly, the Commission issued revised guidelines in May 2000 for EPIC programme detailing technical specifications and implementation strategy that envisaged its full and complete integration with the programme of Computerisation of electoral rolls. Thereafter, intensive revision of electoral rolls has been undertaken in 2002 and 2003 in all States/Union territories, except Jammu & Kashmir and the North-Eastern States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura to update the rolls as well as to capture the EPIC number in the electoral roll to synchronize the electoral database with that of EPIC. The Enumerators visited every house and collected the names of all eligible persons and also the EPIC numbers of the persons already possessing such cards. The same strategy is being followed during the current intensive revision of electoral rolls w.r.t. 01-01-2005 as the qualifying date in the six North Eastern States of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura and Jammu & Kashmir. In Arunachal Pradesh the above mentioned strategy would be followed during the next intensive revision to be undertaken w.r.t. 01.01.2006 as the qualifying date.

Statement**Election Commission of India
Status for the Progress of Elector's Photo Identity Card**

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Total electors w.r.t. 1.2004 electoral roll * Total electors w.r.t. 1.1.2005 electoral roll	Electors issued with defect-free Identity Cards	% of EPIC issued
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	*52,215,678	39,395,792	75.45
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	624,086	304,822	48.84
3.	Assam	14,995,084	67,479	0.45
4.	Bihar	*52,651,751	29,964,656	56.91
5.	Chhattisgarh	13,691,885	9,620,499	70.26
6.	Goa	*952,723	773,942	81.23
7.	Gujarat	*33,847,275	24,807,957	73.29
8.	Haryana	*12,642,552	11,187,854	88.49
9.	Himachal Pradesh	*4,159,962	3,053,116	73.39
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6,345,696	3,198,936	50.41
11.	Jharkhand	*17,736,462	10,690,664	60.28
12.	Karnataka	*39,947,927	30,766,798	77.02
13.	Kerala	*20,824,302	20,817,124	99.97
14.	Madhya Pradesh	38,386,651	27,254,099	71.00
15.	Maharashtra	62,667,450	44,455,999	70.94
16.	Manipur	*1,667,729	786,907	47.18
17.	Meghalaya	*1,335,812	1,033,575	77.37
18.	Mizoram	*559,132	405,785	72.57
19.	Nagaland	1,040,347	723,749	69.57
20.	Orissa	*26,231,561	20,701,672	78.92
21.	Punjab	*16,659,243	12,025,689	72.19
22.	Rajasthan	*34,751,347	26,900,347	77.41
23.	Sikkim	*288,674	220,297	76.31
24.	Tamil Nadu	47,204,675	34,474,455	73.03

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Tripura	*2,130,299	1,610,496	75.60
26.	Uttar Pradesh	110,284,179	63,895,986	57.94
27.	Uttaranchal	*5,640,034	3,938,864	69.84
28.	West Bengal	*48,085,522	40,862,587	84.98
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	*250,191	210,714	84.22
30.	Chandigarh	*563,610	288,389	51.17
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	*126,256	83,615	66.23
32.	Daman and Diu	*80,961	59,847	73.92
33.	Lakshadweep	*39,892	35,564	89.15
34.	NCT of Delhi	8,748,816	5,699,482	65.15
35.	Pondicherry	636,022	636,022	100.00
Total		678,013,786	470,953,779	69.46

Note : The electoral roll for the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and NCT of Delhi w.r.t. 1.1.2005 as the qualifying date are yet to be finally published. In respect of Arunachal Pradesh, no revision w.r.t. 1.1.2005 is being undertaken. In view of the above, the column 2 of the above Table contains the figures of electors in relation to abovesaid States/UTs w.r.t. 1.1.2004 as qualifying date.

Price of Houses Under Indira Awas Yojana

1952. SHRI HANSRAJ J. AHIR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the prices of houses being constructed under Indira Awas Yojana in view of the increasing rate of construction material;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding reducing of share by the concerned States despite increased financial assistance given by the Government;

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

(e) the details of present prices of houses being constructed under Indira Awas Yojana, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry.

(c) and (d) No such complaint has so far been received in the Ministry.

(e) Under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is being implemented in all the States/Union Territories except Delhi and Chandigarh. Present ceiling on assistance for construction of new houses is Rs. 25,000/- per unit for the plain areas and Rs. 27,500/- per unit for the hilly/difficult areas which is applicable with effect from 1.4.2004. The upper limit in respect of conversion of kutchha houses into semi/pucca house (Upgradation) is Rs. 12,500/- per unit which is also applicable from 1st April, 2004.

[English]

Assistance to PNB and Dena Banks

1953. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS
SADHU YADAV :

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab National Bank and Dena Bank have sought assistance from Government to bail them out from their financial problems;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the reasons for sickness;

(d) whether the non-performing assets are the main weakness of Public Sector Banks; and

(e) If so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Punjab National Bank has not sought any assistance from the Govt. as it is a financially sound bank. Dena Bank has submitted a proposal seeking financial assistance from the Government to meet Basel II requirement and for growth, which is under examination.

(c) High Non-Performance Assets (NPAs) and low recovery are major factors for weak financial health of Dena Bank.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government of India Reserve Bank of India have stipulated certain steps for recovery of loans, which, inter-alia include evolving and implementing a recovery policy by banks, filing of suits in civil courts/DRTs, issue of notices under SARFAESI Act, 2002, compromise settlement and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. As on 31.03.2004, total NPAs of Rs. 20705 crore have been recovered by Public Sector Banks.

Warning System on Coastal Areas

1954. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to install advanced warning systems for all the coastal States including Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the system would be purely indigenous or whether the Government is planning to seek technological assistance from abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funds earmarked for this purpose; and

(f) the deadline by which system become operational.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE

OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been proposed to set up a Tsunami and Storm Surge Early Warning system covering entire Indian coastline with the following components;

- Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate in near real time occurrence of a tsunamigenic earthquakes.
- Installation of Tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity.
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking.
- Modeling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast.
- The establishment of a centre for collection of the information, analysis and generating status advisories.

(c) The system would be developed indigenously.

(d) Even though the system is being developed indigenously, we are closely cooperating with other countries in the Indian Ocean region to share the data with and from other countries for more effective coordination and warning system.

(e) The system is estimated to cost Rs. 125 crores.

(f) The warning system is scheduled to be operational by September, 2007.

Export Duty Drawback Scheme

1955. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to have expansion of the existing Export Duty Drawback Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of the country's exports, value-wise;

(d) whether India's merchandise exports in rupee terms during 2003-2004 stood at around Rs. 2,91,580 crores;

(e) whether the Ministry has now prepared a comprehensive list of various inputs that are used in the manufacture of export products; and

(f) the time by which these proposals of expansion of existing drawback scheme will be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (f) The Drawback Schedule, 2005-06 which came into force with effect from 5th May, 2005 covers about 2620 entries comprising 685 entries at the four-digit level and 1935 entries at the six-digit/eight-digit/modified six/eight-digit level. Though the entries add to a total of 2620 only, the number of manufactured products covered by these entries would be many times this figure. In terms of product coverage, the new Schedule has much wider scope in comparison with the Drawback Schedule, 2004-05 which covered about 1050 entries only.

The drawback rates, notified on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee appointed by the Central Government, have been determined on the basis of certain broad parameters including, *inter alia*, the Standard Input/Output Norms (SION) published by DGFT.

India's merchandise exports in 2003-2004 were Rs. 2,93,367 crores (approx.).

Pension Liabilities of the Government

1956. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent survey conducted on Indian Retirement Earnings and Savings by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy estimates, the Government's current pension liabilities is about 1.7 trillion;

(b) if so, the ratio of GDP *vis-a-vis* pension liability, this liability of GDP constituted; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to trim its pension liability to manageable level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Under a technical assistance agreement with the Asian Development Bank, a national sample survey was conducted to study the income, expenditure and savings behaviour of the Indian labour force. The database generated by this survey is in the public domain and can be accessed at www.finmin.nic.in. It is understood that consultants of Invest India Economic Foundation (IIEF) and the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) have analysed this data and estimated that the Implicit Pension Debt (IPD) or the current pension liabilities on account of Central and State Government employees is Rs. 17,35,527 crores approximately which is about 55.88% of India's GDP.

(c) Government has implemented a new restructured defined contribution pension scheme, namely, the New Pension System (NPS) for all Central Government employees

(excluding Armed Forces, in the first stage) joining from January 1, 2004. The NPS is based on defined contributions, which is 10 per cent of the salary and DA with matching contributions from the Government in respect of Central Government employees. The NPS is a funded pension system which defines the liability of Government upfront in case of Government employees.

HIV Vaccine

1957. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether further tests are being conducted for the HIV/AIDS vaccines developed by the scientists of our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of scientists and details of the Research Institute involved in the aforesaid project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Under the National Jai Vigyan Science & Technology Mission launched by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), a prototype candidate vaccine based on DNA and MVA (Modified Vaccinia Ankara) has been developed for HIV-1 subtype 'C' at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. This prototype vaccine has potential as preventive vaccine as it induces robust and broad based clade-specific and cross-clade specific immune response in experimental animals. The prototype vaccine is now ready for pre-clinical toxicological studies. If regulatory requirements are fulfilled, this vaccine candidate is slated for phase-I human clinical trials. Negotiations with an Indian biotech firm are in progress for GMP grade production of vaccinogens for the human clinical trials.

In another effort, phase-I human clinical trial has been initiated using Adeno Associated Virus (AAV) based HIV/AIDS vaccine (tg AACO9) by National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune on 7th February, 2005. Further, at the National Institute for Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Kolkata and the National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune another HIV/AIDS vaccine candidate (MVA based) is under advanced stages of development. This vaccine is also slated for human clinical trials at Chennai shortly after the necessary scientific, ethical and regulatory clearances are obtained.

(c) Nine scientists alongwith their team from AIIMS, New Delhi; NARI, Pune; NICED, Kolkata; Tuberculosis Research Centre (TRC), Chennai; Indian Institute of Science (IISc.); Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New

Delhi are the active groups involved in the vaccine development and related field.

[Translation]

Check on Extension of Desert Land

1958. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the area of the desert land is increasing day-by-day in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such extension of the desert land; and

(d) the success achieved thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) to (d) Desertification is a land degradation process due to extreme climatic conditions, inappropriate management practices and socio economic conditions. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a long term area development programme viz: Desert Development Programme (DDP) with the objective of combating desertification by rejuvenating the natural resource base on watershed basis in the affected areas identified by a High Level Technical Committee adopting scientific criteria. A statement showing state wise DDP coverage is enclosed. Since, 1995-96 till 2004-05 a total of 11476 DDP projects (each of about 500 ha.) have been sanctioned to the programme states to treat an affected area of about 57.38 lakh hectares. The impact assessment studies of sample DDP projects have revealed positive impact in areas such as land productivity, rise in water table, increase in bio-mass, crop yield, net sown area, increase in per capita income, decrease in outmigration etc.

Statement

State-wise DDP coverage

Sr. No.	Name of the States	Area identified (in Sq. Kms.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19136
2.	Gujarat	55424
3.	Haryana	20542
4.	Himachal Pradesh	35107

1	2	3
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	96701
6.	Karnataka	32295
7.	Rajasthan	198744
Total		457949

[English]

Power Shortage

1959. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some neighbouring countries are extending help to India to meet the power shortage in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet ever increasing demand for power supply of the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) India and Nepal have terms of co-operation for bilateral exchange of power for mutual benefit. The quantum of power exchange between India and Nepal during last three years is given below :-

(Figures in MU)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Export from India to Nepal	150	112	145
Import by India from Nepal	186	158	97

India and Bhutan have terms of co-operation for exchange of power. Power generated at Chukha HEP (4x84 MW) and Kurichu HEP (4x15 MW) implemented with Indian technical and financial assistance, is exported to India. The quantum of power exchange between India and Bhutan during last three years is given below :

(Figures in MU)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Import by India from Bhutan	1401	1752	1736
Export by India to Bhutan	1.54	2.18	2.35

(c) Electricity being a concurrent subject, supply and distribution of electricity in a State is in the purview of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned and Central Government has a complementary role in adding generation capacity in the Central Sector through Public Sector Undertakings.

Steps being taken to improve generation and availability of power in the country include targeted capacity addition of 41,110 MW for 10th Five Year Plan, exploitation of hydro potential at a fast pace, creation of a robust National Grid for optimum utilization of generation capacity and inter-regional transmission of power, up-gradation of sub-transmission and distribution system in States, demand side management, energy efficiency and conservation measures, providing interest subsidy on loans by the Power Finance Corporation for renovation and modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units, early stabilisation of newly commissioned units, tapping of surplus power of captive power plants etc.

Quality of Drinking Water Sources

1960. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government has proposed to institutionalize rural water quality monitoring and surveillance systems for testing the quality of all drinking water sources in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the modalities worked out for effective implementation of the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) and (b) A rural water quality monitoring and surveillance programme for testing the quality of all drinking water sources has already been pilot tested in four districts viz. Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh), Kangra (Himachal Pradesh), Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) and Sehore (Madhya Pradesh). Based on pilot studies, action has been initiated to obtain the necessary approvals for implementing the rural water quality & surveillance programme in the country. It is a community based programme that seeks to involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions at all levels in routine testing the quality of drinking water sources using field test kits under the guidance and supervision of the districts and the State level laboratories. Complex problems would be referred to districts and the State level laboratories. The programme would be implemented by the State Governments under technical guidance of a State Referral Institute to be identified by them. At the national level, the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has been identified as the National Referral Institute, which would

provide technical consultancy to the Department of Drinking Water Supply in administering the programme.

FDI Application by POSCO

1961. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Korean Company POSCO has submitted any application for FDI to the Union Government in connection with its proposed investment in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the size of equity participation in the proposed company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) No application has been received by the Union Government from the Korean company POSCO for the proposed Foreign Direct Investment in Orissa. However, a Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) has been signed between Government of Orissa and Pohang Steel Company (POSCO) of South Korea on 22.6.2005 for setting up a 12 million tonnes steel plant at Paradeep with a proposed investment of around US\$12 billion.

Earthquake Disaster

1962. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Assam to establish an elaborate and fully equipped advanced warning system in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to mitigate any possible disaster which may follow on earthquake in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Ministry of Home Affairs, the nodal agency for disaster management has initiated efforts to strengthen the preparedness for effective handling of the disaster situation arising from natural calamities including earthquake in the country by taking up the training and equipping of specialist

response teams of National Disaster Response Force. These specialist teams are being trained in "medical first response" and "collapsed structures search and rescue" and will be available to supplement efforts by the State Governments concerned in the event of a major disaster situation. The State Governments have also been advised to set up specialist response teams. GOI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme has also been taken up in 169 districts in 17 multi-hazard prone states including 12 districts in Assam as a pilot programme. Under this programme, 12 district Disaster Management Committees have been constituted in Assam. Disaster Management Teams at District, Block, Gram Panchayat and Village level are being trained in first aid and search & rescue, teachers are being imparted training in disaster management, engineers/architects, masons are being trained in disaster resistant technologies/construction, 9 district management plans and 685 village Disaster Management Plans have been prepared and construction of Emergency Operation Centres at state level is being supported in 12 districts of Assam.

U-Probe Scheme

1963. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project namely "U-Probe has been started in Uttaranchal for generation and collection of weather related figures and for students participation for its use;

(b) whether out of selected schools for above said "U-Probe" more than half of the schools are without equipments and hence the success of this plan is doubtful;

(c) if so, the reasons for slow progress of this scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. U-PROBE is an acronym for Participation of youth in Realtime/field Observations to Benefit

the Education in Uttaranchal State. The U-PROBE project is being implemented in 100 senior schools of Uttaranchal State.

(b) No Sir, there is no doubt in the success of this scheme. The installation of Meteorological instruments is to be completed in two Phases. In Phase-I, Meteorological Laboratories have been installed in 41 senior secondary schools/Government Inter Colleges. In Phase-II, the instruments fabrication/procurement for remaining 55 Meteorological Laboratories is in progress at India Meteorological Department. By September, 2005, these instruments will be dispatched to Government Inter College, Rishikesh for the schools in Garhwal region, and Govt. Inter College Haldwani for the school in Kumaun region.

(c) Setting up meteorological laboratories and installation of instruments require specified 'site criteria' to be met and site preparations, which can only be done in a phased manner.

(d) The project is for five years duration and installation is likely to be completed in the current financial year.

Setting up of Power Project By DVC

1964. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Damodar Valley Corporation has installed several Thermal Power Plants during the last three years;

(b) if so, the places where these projects installed with their power generation capacity; and

(c) the places identified for setting up further power plants?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the last three years Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has installed only one (1) unit of 210 MW (Unit-IV) capacity Thermal Power Plant at Mejia, Post : Durlapur, District: Bankura, West Bengal. The unit was put into commercial operation on 13.02.2005.

(c) Details of places identified for setting up further power plants by DVC are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Target Date of Commissioning (COE)
1	2	3	4
1.	Mejia TPS Extn. Unit 5 & 6 (2x250 MW) Location : PO, Durlapur Dist : Bankura State : West Bengal	500	U No. 6 : 12.01.2007 U No. 8 : 12.03.2007

1	2	3	4
2.	Chandrapura TPS Extn. Unit- 7 & 8 (2x250 MW) Location : P.O. Chandrapura Dist : Bokaro State : Jharkhand	500	U No. 7 : 27.01.2007 U No. 8: 27.03.2007
Total		1000	

11th Plan Projects (2007-12)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Target
1.	Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Station (TPS) Unit 1 & 2 (2x500 MW) (Under implementation through, Maithon Power Ltd. a proposed Joint Venture Company (JVC) of Tata Power Company and DVC Power Company and DVC) Location : Nirsa Dist : Dhanbad State : Jharkhand	1000	U No. 1 : 42 months & U No. 2 : 48 months from date of Letter of Authorisation (LOA)
2.	Bokaro Steel TPS Unit- 1 & 2 (2x250 MW) (proposed implementation through Bokaro Power Supply Corporation Ltd, a JVC of DVC & SAIL) Location : P.O. Bokaro Steel City Dist : Bokaro State : Jharkhand	600	U No. 1 : 31 months & U No. 2 : 33 months from date of LOA
3.	Durgapur Steel TPS Unit - 1 & 2 (2x500 MW) Location : P.O. Durgapur Dist : Burdwan State : West Bengal	1000	U No. 1 : 42 months & U No. 2 : 48 months from date of LOA
4.	Kodarma TPS Stage - 1 : Unit - 1 & 2 (2x500 MW) Location : P.S. Jainagar Dist : Kodarma State : Jharkhand	1000	Stage - 1 U No. 1 : 42 Months and U.No. 2 :48 Months from date of LOA
5.	Panchet Hill TPS Unit - 1 & 2 (2x500 MW) Location : Neturia Block, Panchet Dist : Purulia State : West Bengal	1000	U No. 1 : 42 months & U No. 2 : 48 months from date of LOA
6.	Ramgarh TPS Stage-I : Unit 1 & 2 (2x500 MW) Location : Village, Chattaramaru (Ramgarh) Dist : Hazaribagh State : Jharkhand	1000	U No. 1 : 42 months & U No. 2 : 48 months fromdate of LOA
Total		5500	

**Social Audits Under Sampoorna
Garmeen Rozgar Yojana**

1965. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the social audit by the gram sabhas is one of the important transparency and accountability mechanisms under SGRY Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of such audits conducted and assessment reported by gram sabhas on SGRY works during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the number of social audits conducted by the gram sabhas are very low; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore alongwith the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure social audits as a regular exercise by gram sabhas?

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

(b) It is the responsibility of the State Governments to implement SGRY as per provisions contained in the Guidelines. Details of social audits through Gram Sabhas are not maintained at the Centre.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It has emphasised that social audit of all works need to be encouraged under the programme. To ensure more transparency and participation, for every work sanctioned under the SGRY, constitution of a Village Monitoring Committee has been made mandatory to monitor the progress and quality while work is in progress. The final report of the Committee would be attached along with the completion certificate of the work and would be placed in the next meeting of the Gram Sabha of the Panchayat where the work has been executed.

Adverse Balance of Payment

1966. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the balance of payment of the country as on date;

(b) whether there is adverse balance of payment; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) The balance of payments estimates are available upto end-March 2005. According to these estimates, there was a deficit of US\$6.4 billion in the current account of the balance of payments for the year 2004-05. For the same period, there was a surplus of US\$32.6 billion in the capital account of the balance of payments. As a result, there was an accretion of US\$26.2 billion in the foreign exchange reserves of the country during 2004-05. The balance of payments continues to remain healthy and the external sector continues to be a source of strength for the economy.

Modernisation Programme

1967. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the implementation of composite e-Governance and modernization programme 'DCA21';

(b) the amount earmarked and the amount actually spent on the project as on date; and

(c) the names of private companies involved in the implementation of the project 'DCA21'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Company Affairs has launched an e-Governance and modernization programme called 'MCA21 e-Governance Project' (earlier known as 'DCA21'). The project is expected to be implemented over a period of 60 weeks starting from the date of signing of the contract. It is proposed to be implemented in two phases, i.e. two pilot locations of Delhi and Coimbatore by December, 2005 and rollout at all other locations by May, 2006.

The contract has been signed with the selected operator on 01.03.2005 and the process of implementation has been started. The approved cost of the project is envisaged at Rs. 341.214 crore (plus Rs. 4.68 crore on account of change in the scope of software), following the Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) model. Payments to the operator would be made after achieving important milestones during the implementation phase and in the form of equated quarterly instalments during the operation phase on the basis of adherence to specified Service Level Agreements (SLAs). As the first payment of cost of the development of Bespoke Software and cost of digitisation will become due after the successful Acceptance Test and Certification of the pilots at Delhi and Coimbatore, which is expected in December 2005, no payment has been made to operator so far.

M/s Tata Consultancy Service Ltd. (TCS) led consortium have been selected as the operator following a open bid process. The contract has been signed on 01.03.2005. Besides, M/s Satyam Computer Services Ltd. have been engaged as the Change Management Consultants for a total fee of Rs. 72 lakhs plus Service Tax, out of which, an amount of Rs. 17.63 lakhs has been spent till date.

Investment in Power Sector

1968. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed investment norms for companies to enter into power distribution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) Distribution of electricity falls in the domain of the State Governments and any decision to privatize distribution rests with the concerned State Government. No investment norms have been notified by the Central Government in this regard.

Sixth proviso to section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the Appropriate Commission may grant a licence to two or more persons for distribution of electricity through their own distribution system within the same area, subject to the conditions that the applicant for grant of licence within the same area shall, without prejudice to the other conditions or requirements under this Act, comply with the additional requirements relating to the capital adequacy, creditworthiness, or code of conduct as may be prescribed by the Central Government, and no such applicant who complies with all the requirements for grant of licence, shall be refused grant of licence on the ground that there already exists a licensee in the same area for the same purpose.

Under the above provisions of the Act, Central Government has notified the Distribution of Electricity Licence (additional requirements of Capital Adequacy, Creditworthiness and Code of Conduct) Rules, 2005 which contain conditions of requirement of capital investment for distribution network.

- (b) The details of these norms as contained in these rules are given in the enclosed statement.
- (c) Does not arise.

Statement

Requirements of capital adequacy and creditworthiness

- (1) The Appropriate Commission shall, upon receipt of an

application for grant of licence for distribution of electricity under sub-section (1) of section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003, decide the requirement of capital investment for distribution network after hearing the applicant and keeping in view the size of the area of supply and the service obligation within that area in terms of section 43.

- (2) The applicant for grant of licence shall be required to satisfy the Appropriate Commission that on a norm of 30% equity on cost of investment as determined under sub-rule (1), he including the promoters, in case the applicant is a company, would be in a position to make available resources for such equity of the project on the basis of networth and generation of internal resources of his business including of promoters in the preceding three years after excluding his other committed investments.

Explanation : - For the grant of a licence for distribution of electricity within the same area in terms of sixth proviso to section 14 of the Act, the area falling within a Municipal Council or a Municipal Corporation as defined in the article 243 (Q) of the Constitution of India or a revenue district shall be the minimum area of supply.

Requirement of Code of Conduct

The applicant for grant of licence shall satisfy the Appropriate Commission that he has not been found guilty or has not been disqualified under any of the following provisions within the last three years from the date of the application for the grant of licence:

- (a) section 203, section 274, section 388B or section 397 of the Companies Act, 1956;
- (b) section 276, section 276B, section 276BB, section 276C, section 277 or section 278 of the Income Tax Act, 1961;
- (c) section 15C, section 15G, section 15H or section 15HA of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act 1992;
- (d) clause (b), (bb), (bbb), (bbbb), (c) or (d) of sub-section (1) of section 9 of the Excise Act 1944;
- (e) section 132 or section 135 of the Customs Act 1962, and that the applicant is not a person in whose case licence was suspended under section 24 or revoked under section 19 of the Act, within the last three years from the date of application;

Provided that where the applicant is a company, it shall satisfy the Appropriate Commission in addition to provisions of this rule that no petition for winding up of the company or any other company of the same promoter has been admitted under section 443 (e) of the Companies Act, 1956 on the ground of its being unable to pay its debts.

Delimitation Commission

1969. SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the delimitation process for Maharashtra has begun;
- (b) if so, the present status of the delimitation process;
- (c) the reasons for delay; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The delimitation process for the State of Maharashtra has begun. The first meeting with the Associate Members to discuss the allocation of seats to various districts including Scheduled Caste seats was fixed for the 5th of August, 2005 in the Secretariat of the Delimitation Commission. But the meeting has been adjourned due to floods and heavy rainfall in several parts of the State, particularly Mumbai. Under the scheme of the Delimitation Act, 2002, Associate Members are to be associated with the delimitation work from the very beginning. As a consequence there have to be more than one meeting with the Associate Members from each State to prepare a draft delimitation of Constituencies. Thereafter, the draft delimitation proposal is published in the Government of India Gazette and the State Gazette, etc. for suggestions and view from the public. Finally, the public meetings are to be held by the Commission in the State and the draft finalized.

(c) Due to dissolution of the Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and consequent re-nomination of Associate Members after due constitution of the new Lok Sabha and the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, the delimitation work in respect of State of Maharashtra was delayed.

(d) The delimitation work relating to the State of Maharashtra is likely to be completed by March, 2006.

[Translation]

VAT Implementation

1970. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether uniform tax structure has emerged after the implementation of VAT in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the witnessing uniform tax structure after implementation of VAT;

(c) if not, the names of the States where uniform tax structure has not been implemented as yet alongwith the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (d) VAT, being a tax on sale or purchase of goods within a State, is a State subject under Entry 54 of the State List of the Constitution of India. The tax structure under VAT has been finalized by the States collectively, through the deliberations in the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) and the same has been adopted by all the States/UTs who have implemented VAT. The tax structure consists of two basic rates of 4% and 12.5%, with an exempt category, a special rate of 1% for a few items and a 20% floor rate of tax for items outside VAT. There are a few cases of deviations by some States from the uniform tax structure, which are being addressed by the EC from time to time. Further, the States/UTs that have not implemented VAT continue to follow the earlier Sales Tax structure, which is different from VAT. VAT being a State subject, the Central Government is only playing a facilitating role in adoption of uniform tax structure under VAT by the States.

[English]

Funds Released under PMGY

1971. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated and utilized under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana during the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(b) the targets set under the Yojana, State-wise; and

(c) the details of plan of the Government to achieve the targets and the progress made under it in different State especially in Madhya Pradesh during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) The funds allocated and utilized under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana for all States including Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, is given in the enclosed statement. However, the Scheme has been discontinued from the current year.

(b) Targets are not set under the Yojana.

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement*Allocation and release under PMGY for the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States	Allocation	Releases	Allocation	Release	Allocation	Releases
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15644.00	15644.00	15644.00	15644.00	15644.00	15644.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6500.00	6500.00	6500.00	6500.00	6500.00	6500.00
3.	Assam	19000.00	19000.00	19000.00	19000.00	19000.00	19000.00
4.	Bihar	24173.00	24173.00	24173.00	24173.00	24173.00	24173.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	3435.00	3435.00	3435.00	3435.00	3435.00	3435.00
6.	Goa	72.00	72.00	72.00	36.00	72.00	36.00
7.	Gujarat	7122.00	7122.00	7122.00	7122.00	7122.00	7122.00
8.	Haryana	1834.00	917.00	1834.00	1834.00	1834.00	1834.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7000.00	7000.00	7000.00	7000.00	7000.00	3500.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	18000.00	18000.00	18000.00	18000.00	18000.00	18000.00
11.	Jharkhand	7446.00	3723.00	7446.00	7446.00	7446.00	7446.00
12.	Karnataka	8273.00	8273.00	8273.00	8273.00	7273.00	8273.00
13.	Kerala	7608.00	7608.00	7608.00	7608.00	7608.00	7608.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8500.00	8500.00	8500.00	4250.00	8500.00	8500.00
15.	Maharashtra	10917.00	10917.00	10971.00	5458.50	10917.00	5458.00
16.	Manipur	4800.00	2400.00	4800.00	2400.00	4800.00	4800.00
17.	Meghalaya	4112.00	4112.00	4112.00	4112.00	4112.00	4112.00
18.	Mizoram	4300.00	4300.00	4300.00	4300.00	4300.00	4300.00
19.	Nagaland	4526.00	2263.00	4526.00	4526.00	4526.00	4526.00
20.	Orissa	10863.00	5431.50	10863.00	10863.00	10863.00	10863.00
21.	Punjab	4442.00	4442.00	4442.00	2221.00	4442.00	2221.00
22.	Rajasthan	10611.00	10611.00	10611.00	10611.00	10611.00	10611.00
23.	Sikkim	3000.00	3000.00	3000.00	3000.00	3000.00	3000.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	11547.00	11547.00	11547.00	11547.00	11547.00	11547.00
25.	Tripura	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	5693.00	5693.00
26.	Uttaranchal	7000.00	7000.00	7000.00	7000.00	7000.00	7000.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	37087.00	37087.00	37087.00	37087.00	37087.00	37087.00
28.	West Bengal	18490.00	18490.00	18490.00	18490.00	18490.00	18490.00
	All India	271302.00	256567.50	271302.00	256936.50	271995.00	260779.50

High Voltage Electric Wire

1972. SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Feeder II of 11000 told from Chapra to Siwan in Bihar passes through various residential areas;

(b) if so, whether it has caused loss to life and property from time to time;

(c) whether the Government has initiated any move to shift the said overhead high voltage wires from residential areas to safer places like N.H. keeping in view the safety of people living under constant danger;

- (d) if so, the progress made so far in this regard; and
 (e) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) has informed that feeder No. II of 11000 volt from 33/11 kV P/s/s Talpa (Chapra) feeder feeds power up to Rivilganj of Chapra District only. It does not supply to Siwan.

(b) The BSEB has informed that no damage to life and property has been reported so far.

(c) to (e) The BSEB has informed that there is no proposal to shift the overhead high voltage wire.

[Translation]

Technology for Handloom

1973. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has explored the possibility of increasing the production of handlooms;
 (b) if so, the details of the new technology developed; and
 (c) the finance and other incentives provided by the Government to adopt the latest technology in handloom industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) to (c) The production of handloom has increased from 5493 million sq. meters in 2003-04 to 5704 million sq. meters in 2004-05. The Government of India has also taken certain further steps to increase the production of handloom by introducing new schemes like introduction of Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme, more than doubling the skill up-gradation programmes and doubling the exhibitions of handloom fabrics besides other welfare schemes like New Health Insurances Scheme and Bunkar Bima Yojana.

Under the Mill Gate Price Scheme, all types of yarn is made available to the eligible handloom organizations to facilitate regular supply of basic raw material to the handloom sector and help utilize the full employment potential of the handloom sector.

[English]

Tax Evasion by MNCs

1974. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether MNCs are maintaining two sets of account books—one correct one and the other manipulated one to evade taxes;
 (b) if so, whether the Government pondered over the matter and taken any steps in the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the MNCs which have been found maintaining two sets of account books and the amount of tax evasion involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) All companies, including multinational companies (MNCs), are statutorily required to maintain books of accounts and get the same audited by an accountant under section 44AB of the Income-tax Act, 1961. The Audit Report is required to be submitted along with the return of income.

Reports received from the field formations of the Income Tax Department do not indicate that MNCs are maintaining two sets of account books in order to evade tax.

(b) and (c) Correctness of books of accounts is verified by the Income Tax Department at the time of scrutiny of returns. Where the Assessing Officer is not satisfied with the correctness of the accounts, appropriate action under the law is taken. Further, Section 277A, of the Income Tax Act, 1961 provides for prosecution for falsification of books accounts.

(d) Not applicable, in view of reply to part (a) above.

Utilisation of Funds Available in IEPF

1975. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE :

SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH :

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased refer to the reply given to USQ No. 7162 Dated 13th May 2005 and state:

- (a) the steps being taken to utilize the amount available under Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF);
 (b) whether the amount sanctioned and disbursed to the Investors Association very late in a financial year;
 (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
 (d) the number of proposals received from Investors Association during the last one year;
 (e) the funds sanctioned for the year 2005-06 and the programme chalked out for 2005-06.
 (f) the status of total fund credited to IEPF till now;
 (g) whether the Government is considering to transfer the said fund to SEBI; and
 (h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) It has been decided to implement the following activities for utilization of funds under investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF):

- (i) Education programmes through Media (Electronic as well as print media);
- (ii) Providing financial assistance to Voluntary associations or institutions for Investor's Education and Protection including research activities;
- (iii) Coordinating with institutions engaged in Investors education, awareness, and protection activities;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) During the year 2004-05, IEPF has received 34 applications from various Voluntary associations and Institutions for registration as well as financial assistance.

(e) For the year 2005-2006, the IEPF has been allocated a budget of Rs. 2.5 crores. The programme chalked out for 2005-2006 is as follows :-

- (i) Organisation of Two "Training of Trainers" programmes especially for new organizations which have a rural outreach, even if such organizations had not been registered with the IEPF.
- (ii) Media Campaign through DAVP by organizing three series of investor education publicity campaign and also through AIR-FM.
- (iii) Organisation of three Investor Melas at three different cities to provide opportunity to the capital market intermediaries and the investors to come together.
- (iv) Organisation of three investor related seminars at three different cities by involving reputed business schools.
- (v) Preparation of a Compendium of activities of IEPF undertaken during the last two years.
- (vi) Programmes conducted through voluntary organizations/associations.

(f) As per the information received from the Registrar of Companies, an amount of Rs. 370,47,95,998/- has been credited to the IEPF as 31.05.05 maintained in the Consolidated Fund of India.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

National Children Science Congress

1976. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 12th National Children Science Congress was held recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed therein; and

(c) the outcomes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir, The 12th National Children's Science Congress was held during December, 27 - 31, 2004 in Guwahati, Assam.

(b) The focal theme was 'Harness Water for a Better Tomorrow.' Young scientists in the age group of 10-17 years of age presented their findings on local problems in the area of water harvesting, conservation, water needs and water borne diseases. Over five hundred and sixty projects from different states and union territories selected from district and state level events were discussed.

(c) The objective of the event was to provide a forum for young scientists to interact and exchange their ideas. Some projects have been identified for hand holding including financial support.

Private Participation in NCES Programme in Andaman and Nicobar Island

1977. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to encourage Public/Private participants in Non-conventional Energy Sources in Andaman and Nicobar Islands after Tsunami devastation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Private participation is being encouraged for setting up grid-interactive renewable power projects. Renewables contributes about 6 per cent (6160 MW) to the total power generating installed capacity in the country, as on 31.3.2005. As much as 18 per cent (2643 MW) of the additional power generating installed capacity that has been commissioned during the first 3 years of the 10th Plan (2002-2005) has come from renewables. Of this, 13 per cent (1967 MW) has come from wind power, 2 per cent (267 MW) from small-hydro power and around 3 per cent (407 MW) from bio-energy. Around two-third share in the total grid interactive renewable power installed capacity is that of the private sector and only one - third of the Government. To encourage private investment, financial and fiscal incentives which include accelerated depreciation, relief from taxes & duties are being provided. In addition, preferential tariff is given to grid interactive renewable power in most potential

states. A higher level of central financial assistance, on par with special category states, is being provided for setting up renewable energy projects in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Details of state-wise grid-interactive renewable power installed capacity, including in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as on 31-3-2005, are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of State-wise grid-interactive renewable power installed capacity, as on 31.03.2005

Sl. No.	States/UT	Small Hydro Power (MW)	Wind Power (MW)	Biomass Power (MW)	Biomass Gasifier (MW)	Waste to Energy (MW)	Solar Power (MW)	Total Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	178.81	120.60	267.30	15.38	21.65	275.00	604.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	33.70	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	33.88
3.	Assam	2.11	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	2.23
4.	Bihar	45.90	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	45.92
5.	Chhattisgarh	11.00	0.00	11.00	0.51	0.00	0.00	22.51
6.	Goa	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.07
7.	Gujarat	7.00	253.53	0.50	14.26	2.95	0.00	278.24
8.	Haryana	62.70	0.00	6.00	1.06	0.00	0.00	69.76
9.	Himachal Pradesh	108.08	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	108.09
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	109.74	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.00	0.00	110.26
11.	Jharkhand	4.05	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	4.13
12.	Karnataka	274.88	410.68	152.00	4.61	1.00	30.00	843.20
13.	Kerala	84.62	2.00	0.00	0.73	0.00	25.00	87.37
14.	Madhya Pradesh	41.16	28.85	1.00	4.73	2.73	339.00	78.81
15.	Maharashtra	207.08	456.30	36.00	3.82	1.90	185.00	705.29
16.	Manipur	5.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.45
17.	Meghalaya	30.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.71
18.	Mizoram	14.76	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	14.96
19.	Nagaland	20.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.47
20.	Orissa	7.30	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.03	0.00	7.40
21.	Punjab	111.40	0.00	22.00	0.70	1.75	325.00	136.18
22.	Rajasthan	23.85	284.74	7.80	0.22	0.00	150.00	316.76
23.	Sikkim	35.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.60
24.	Tamil Nadu	77.70	2036.95	173.00	5.03	1.98	211.00	2294.87
25.	Tripura	16.01	0.00	0.00	1.10	0.00	0.00	17.11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
26.	Uttar Pradesh	21.50	0.00	73.00	4.87	8.00	325.00	107.69
27.	Uttaranchal	72.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	72.50
28.	West Bengal	92.30	1.10	0.00	6.95	0.00	50.00	100.40
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.25	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	100.00	5.52
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	650.00	0.65
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.00	25.00	0.63
Total		1705.63	3594.75	749.50	66.03	41.98	2740.00	6160.74

Foreign Assistance for Power Sector

1978. SHRI JAYABEN B.THAKKAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State level reforms and restructuring of the SEBs are being supported by multilateral funding agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Department for International Development (DIFD), Canadian International Development Association (CIDA) and USAID; and

(b) if so, the total assistance has been given to States by each multilateral funding Agency during the last two years for power reforms and restructuring sector, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. State level Reforms and Restructuring of the SEBs are being supported by multilateral funding agencies like World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Department for International Development (DFID), Canadian International Development Association (CIDA) and USAID. Details of such assistance received during the last two years are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of foreign assistance received for reforms and restructuring of Indian Power sector projects during last two years:

Sl. No.	Project	Executing Agency	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
ADB				
1.	Assam power sector development programme & project	ASEB	409.50	0.00
2.	Gujarat power sector development programme & project	GEB	562.40	206.82
3.	M.P. power sector development programme & project	MPSEB	452.52	170.36
IBRD			Total ADB	377.18
4.	A.P. Power sector restructuring project	APTRANSCO	25.64	0.00
5.	Orissa power sector restructuring project	GRIDCO	222.78	70.12
6.	UP power sector restructuring project	UPPCL	136.03	48.54

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project	RRVPNL	182.41	82.10
		Total IBRD	566.86	200.76
	DFID			
8.	A.P. Energy Efficiency Project	APTRANSCO	14.79	0.00
		Grand Total	2006.07	577.94

Additional Projects for which quantification is not feasible

CIDA

9. Energy Infrastructure Services Project - I (Kerala, A.P. and M.P.) C \$ 13.8 Million during 1997-2004

10. Energy Infrastructure Services Project-II (UP, A.P. and M.P.) C \$ 13.9 Million during 2002-2006

DFID

11. M.P. Power Sector Restructuring (Technical Assistance), DFID provided consultants directly to MPSEB.

USAID

12. Distribution Reforms Upgrades & Management (DRUM). This is a part of US \$ 55 Million ECO Project.

Rate of Interest on Investment

1979. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has a plan to safeguard the interests of senior citizens, pensioners and widowers against the falling rates of interest on investments;

(b) if so, the details of the same;

(c) whether there is any proposal to include charitable societies/trusts in this category;

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) With a view to providing a safe and attractive source of investment to senior citizens and pensioners, Government has introduced the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, 2004 with effect from 2nd August, 2004, with a higher than market rate of interest of nine per cent per annum.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The Senior Citizens Savings Scheme is available for investment by individual only.

Profit of NALCO

1980. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of profit/loss earned by National Aluminium Company; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to further boost the profit of NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) The net profit earned by National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) for the last three years is as under :-

Year	Net profit (Rs. in crore)
2002-03	520.92
2003-04	737.37
2004-05	1234.84

(b) Optimum capacity utilisation of different production units, changing the product mix in favour of value added products in line with market requirement, competitive bidding in purchase of raw materials and services, judicious development of manpower, development of surplus cash, savings on interest and financial charges, proper working capital management, etc. are some of the major steps taken by NALCO to further boost the profit of the Company.

[Translation]

Electricity to BPL

1981. SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a scheme to provide electricity to the people living below the poverty line in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount proposed to be spent on the said scheme;

(d) the number of families likely to benefited by this scheme, State-wise; and

(e) the amount allocated and released to each State, particularly to Maharashtra in Tenth Five Year Plan under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) Yes Sir, Government of India has introduced a scheme in April, 2005 "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) - Scheme for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification", for attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) goal of providing access to electricity to all households including BPL households in five years. Electrification of un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households would be financed with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme in all rural habitations. Households above poverty line would be paying for their connections as prescribed connection charges and no subsidy would be available for this purpose.

(b) Under the Scheme Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for projects for :

- (i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.
- (ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/habitations and provision of distribution transformers(s) of appropriate capacity in every village/habitation.
- (iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System from conventional sources for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).

The scheme *inter alia* provides for financing of electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme in all rural habitations.

Details of the scheme are enclosed in statement-I.

(c) The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 16,000 crore. For Phase-I of the scheme, constituting last two years of the X Plan, Rs. 5000 crore as capital subsidy has been approved by the Cabinet.

(d) The scheme is intended for providing access to

electricity to all households, including BPL households in the country in five years. 2.34 crore BPL households are estimated to be covered. Rs. 4620 crore is estimated to be the cost for electrifying BPL households free of charge Rs. 1500 per BPL household will be the average cost as per Kutir Jyoti dispensation.

(e) Under GOI scheme "Accelerated electrification of one lakh villages and one crore households" which now stands merged with RGGVY, Rs. 964 crore were released during 2004-05. Statewise details of disbursement made under the scheme are enclosed in statement-II.

The draft DPRs of Ratnagiri and Solapur districts of Maharashtra State involving an outlay of Rs. 5025.91 lakh, covering electrification of 912 villages, 72270 households including 23454 BPL households received recently are under appraisal in REC.

Statement-I

*(Ministry of Power Office Memorandum
No. 44/19/2004-D(RE) dated 18th March 2005)*

Sub : Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana - Scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification

Approval of the President is conveyed for the "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana - Scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification" for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) goal of providing access to electricity to all households in five years.

1. The scheme would be implemented through the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).
2. Ninety per cent capital subsidy would be provided for overall cost of the projects under the scheme.
3. The present approval is for implementation of Phase I of the scheme for capital subsidy of Rs. 5000 crores during the 10th Plan period.
4. States must make adequate arrangements for supply of electricity and there should be no discrimination in the hours of supply between rural and urban households.
5. For projects to be eligible for capital subsidy under the scheme, prior commitment of the States would also be obtained before sanction of projects under the scheme for :
 - i. deployment of franchisees for the management of rural distribution in projects financed under the scheme, and
 - ii. the provision of requisite revenue subsidies to

the State Utilities as required under the Electricity Act, 2003.

6. Scope of the Scheme

Under the scheme, projects could be financed with capital subsidy for provision of -

7.1 Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB)

- Provision of 33/11 KV (or 66/11 KV) sub-stations of adequate capacity and lines in blocks where these do not exist.

7.2 Creation of Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI)

- Electrification of un-electrified villages.
- Electrification of un-electrified habitations.
- Provision of distribution transformers of appropriate capacity in electrified villages/habitation(s).

7.3 Decentralised Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply

- Decentralised generation-cum-distribution from conventional sources for villages where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective provided is not covered under the programme of Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources for providing electricity from non-conventional energy sources under their remote village electrification programme of 25000 villages.

7.4 REDB, VEI and DDG and DDG would also cater to the requirement of agriculture and other activities including

- irrigation pumpsets
- small and medium industries
- khadi and village industries
- cold chains
- healthcare
- education and IT

This would facilitate overall rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation.

7.5 Rural Household Electrification of Below Poverty Line Households

Electrification of un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households would be financed with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme in all rural habitations. Households above poverty line would be paying for their connections at prescribed connection charges and no subsidy would be available for this purpose.

The over-all subsidy of components from paras 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.5 taken together should be kept within 90% of the over-all project cost. The over-all cost estimate of different components for all villages and households are at the Annexure - I.

7.6 The project covers the entire country. The details of the un-electrified villages and households access to electricity as per census 2001 is in the Annexure-II and Annexure-III.

7. Franchisees

In the management of rural distribution through franchisees who could be Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Users Association, Cooperatives or individual entrepreneurs, the Panchayat institutions would be associated. The franchisees arrangement could be for system beyond and including feeders from substation or from and including Distribution Transformer(s).

8. Revenue Sustainability

Based on the consumer mix and the prevailing consumer tariff and likely load, the Bulk Supply Tariff (BST) for the franchisee would be determined after ensuring commercial viability of the franchisee. Wherever feasible, bidding may be attempted for determining the BST. This Bulk Supply Tariff would be fully factored into the submissions of the State Utilities to the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) for their revenue requirements and tariff determination. The State Government under the Electricity Act is required to provide the requisite revenue subsidies to the State Utilities if it would like tariff for any category of consumers to be lower than the tariff determined by the SERC. While administering the scheme, prior commitments may be taken from the State Government regarding-

- (a) Determination of bulk supply tariff for franchisees in a manner that ensures their commercial viability.
- (b) Provision of requisite revenue subsidy by the State Government to the State Utilities as required under the Electricity Act.

9. The capital subsidy for eligible projects under the scheme would be given through REC. These eligible projects shall be implemented fulfilling the conditionalities indicated above. In the event the projects are not implemented satisfactorily in accordance with the conditionalities indicated above, the capital subsidy could be converted into interest bearing loans.

10. The services of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have been offered to the states for assisting them in the execution of Rural Electrification Projects as per their willingness and requirement. With a view to augment the implementation capacities for the programme, REC has entered into Memorandum of

Understanding (MOUs) with NTPC, POWERGRID, NHPC and DVC to make available CPSU's project management expertise and capabilities to states wishing to use their services. This is being operationalised through a suitable Tripartite Agreement.

11. Upto 1 per cent of the total subsidy under the scheme would be used for associated works/efforts of the programme linked to research, technology development, capacity building, information system development, awareness and other administrative and associated expenses and under-taking of pilot studies and projects complimentary to this rural electrification scheme.
12. This scheme merges the existing "Accelerated Electrification of one lakh Villages and one crore Households" and the Minimum Needs Programme for rural electrification.
13. The scheme will be subject to evaluation and a view on modification required for implementation during 11th Plan will be taken after a comprehensive review towards the end of 10th Plan.
14. The expenditure involved on above scheme would be debitable to the following Head under Grant No. 73 - Ministry of Power for the year 2004-05 and corresponding head of account for the subsequent years.
 - 2801 Power (Major Head)
 - 06.796 Rural Electrification
 - 3- Rural Electrification
 - 03.00.33 - Subsidies.
15. This issues with the concurrence of Finance Wing vide their diary No. 3766/2055-JS& FA dated the 18th March, 2005.

Sd/-
(Ajay Shankar)
Additional Secretary to the Government of India
Tel : 23715378

To,

1. The Chief Secretaries of all States
2. The Secretary, Power/Energy of all States
3. Chairman of all States (Utilities)
4. Chairman & Managing Director, REC Scope Complex, New Delhi.

Copy to :

1. Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi.
2. Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Sectt., Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Expenditure (Plan Finance), New Delhi
4. Chairman, Central Electricity Authority, R.K. Puram, New Delhi

5. Secretary, Planning Commission, New Delhi.
6. Secretary, Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, New Delhi.
7. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. Secretary, Department of Panchayati Raj New Delhi
9. Secretary, Ministry of Programme Implementation, New Delhi
10. Department of Development of North Eastern Region, New Delhi
11. CMDs of NHPC, NTPC, POWERGRID, DVC
12. PPS to Secretary (P)/PS to SS(P)/AS(GC)
13. All JSs/All Directors/DS in the Ministry of Power.

Sd/-
(Ajay Shankar)
Additional Secretary to the Government of India
Tel : 23715378

Anexure-I

Scheme on Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Village Electrification

Cost Estimates of the Scheme

	<i>Rs. In crore</i>
1. Electrification of 125,000 un-electrified villages which includes interalia development of backbone network comprising Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) and Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI) and last mile service connectivity to 10% Households in the village @ Rs. 6.50 lakh/village	8,125
2. Rural Households Electrification (RHE) of population under BPL i.e. 30% of 7.8 crore. Un-electrified Households/i.e. 2.34 crore households @ Rs.1500/H/H as per Kutir Jyoti dispensation	3,510
3. Augmentation of backbone network in already electrified villages having un-electrified inhabitations @ Rs./1 lakh/villages for 4.62 lakh villages	4,620
Total (1+2+3)	16,255
Outlay for the scheme	16,000
Subsidy component @ 90% for Items 1 & 3 and 100% for Item 2	14,750
Component of subsidy to be set aside for enabling activities including technology development @ 1% of outlay	160

Annexure-II**Status of Village Electrification as on 31.3.2004**

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of inhabited villages as per 1991 census	Total No. of villages electrified	Balance unelectrified villages	% age of electrified villages
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565	\$	100
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2335	1314	64
3.	Assam	24685	19081	5604	77.30
4.	Bihar	38475	19251	19224	50
5.	Jharkhand	29336	7641	21695	26
6.	Goa	360	360	-	100
7.	Gujarat	18028	17940	\$	100
8.	Haryana	6759	6759	-	100
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	16891	106	99.38
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6477	6301	176	97.28
11.	Karnataka	27066	26771	295	98.91
12.	Kerala	1384	1384	-	100
13.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	50474	1332	97.43
14.	Chhattisgarh	19720	18532	1188	94
15.	Maharashtra	40412	40351	-	100
16.	Manipur	2182	2043	139	93.63
17.	Meghalaya	5484	3016	2468	55
18.	Mizoram	698	691	7	99
19.	Nagaland	1216	1216	-	100
20.	Orissa	46989	37663	9326	80.15
21.	Punjab	12428	12428	-	100
22.	Rajasthan	37889	37276	613	98.38
23.	Sikkim	447	405	42	90.60
24.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	-	100
25.	Tripura	855	818	37	95.67
26.	Uttar Pradesh	97122	57042	40080	58.73
27.	Uttaranchal	15681	13131	2550	83.73
28.	West Bengal	37910	31705	6205	83.63
Total (States)		586463	47382	11241	80.80
Total UTs		1093	1090	\$	100%
All India		587556	474982	112401	80.80%

\$ Balance villages are not feasible for electrification.

* As per the new definition of village electrification (effective from 2004-05) total number of unelectrified villages is estimated to be around 1,25,000.

Annexure-III**Rural Households Electrification - 2001 Census**

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of Rural Households	Households Having Electricity	% electrified House-holds	%un-electrified Households
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12,676,218	7,561,733	59.65	40.35
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	164,501	73,250	44.53	55.47
3.	Assam	4,220,173	697,842	16.54	83.46
4.	Bihar	12,660,007	649,503	5.13	94.87
5.	Chhattisgarh	3,359,078	1,548,926	46.11	53.89
6.	Delhi	169,528	144,948	85.50	14.50
7.	Goa	140,755	130,105	92.43	7.57
8.	Gujarat	5,885,961	4,244,758	72.12	27.88
9.	Haryana	2,454,463	1,926,814	78.50	21.50
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1,097,520	1,036,969	94.48	5.52
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,161,357	868,341	74.77	25.23
12.	Jharkhand	3,802,412	379,987	9.99	90.01
13.	Karnataka	6,675,173	4,816,913	72.16	27.84
14.	Kerala	4,942,550	3,238,899	65.53	34.47
15.	Madhya Pradesh	8,124,795	5,083,424	62.32	37.68
16.	Maharashtra	10,993,623	7,164,057	65.17	34.83
17.	Manipur	296,354	155,679	52.53	47.47
18.	Meghalaya	329,678	99,762	30.26	69.74
19.	Mizoram	79,362	35,028	44.14	55.86
20.	Nagaland	265,334	150,929	56.88	43.12
21.	Orissa	6,782,879	1,312,744	19.35	80.65
22.	Punjab	2,775,482	2,482,925	89.46	10.54
23.	Rajasthan	7,156,703	3,150,556	44.02	55.98
24.	Sikkim	91,723	68,808	75.02	24.98
25.	Tamil Nadu	8,274,790	5,890,371	71.18	28.82
26.	Tripura	539,680	171,357	31.75	68.25

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Uttar Pradesh	20,590,074	4,084,288	19.84	80.16
28.	Uttaranchal	1,196,157	602,255	50.35	49.65
29.	West Bengal	11,161,870	2,262,517	20.27	79.73
Union Territories					
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	49,653	33,807	68.09	31.91
2.	Chandigarh	21,302	20,750	97.41	2.59
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	32,783	27,088	82.63	17.37
4.	Daman and Diu	22,091	21,529	97.46	2.54
5.	Lakshadweep	5,351	5,337	99.74	0.26
6.	Pondicherry	72,199	58,486	81.01	18.99
All India		138,271,559	60,180,685	43.52	56.48

Statement-II

Disbursement by REC under the Programme "Accelerated Electrification of One Lakh Villages and one Crore Households" during 2004-05

As on 31.3.2005

Sl. No.	Name of State	Disbursement by REC						
		No. of projects	Estimated cost of project Rs. in Lakh	No. of villages to be electrified	No. of rural household to be electrified	Amount disbursed (Rs. in Lakh)	Loan Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	Capital Subsidy (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	West Bengal	12	38473.75	4280	145803	11449	6869	4580
2.	Bihar	13	66746.59	7604	316251	20024	12014	8010
3.	Uttar Pradesh	61	213320.75	28862	1154241	63996	38398	25598
4.	Rajasthan	8	3109.76	472	12433	933	560	373
Total		94	321650.85	41218	1628728	96402	57841	38561

[English]

EFC Grants for Computer Training to Karnataka

1982. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have granted funds of Rs. 1161 lakhs under EFC Grants for Computer Training to School Children to the Karnataka State and released an amount of Rs. 486.15 lakhs for this purpose;

(b) if so, whether the State Government have utilised Rs. 458.96 lakhs out of this amount;

(c) whether the State Government have also sent Utilization Certificate in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have received any request for releasing the balance grant of Rs. 694.85 lakhs;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the request of Karnataka Government; and

(f) if so, the time by which the balance amount is likely to be released by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) recommended a grant of Rs. 1161 lakhs to the State of Karnataka for computer training to children at school level. State Government had submitted utilization certificate for Rs. 756.96 lakhs. Based on pace of utilisation of funds during 2000-05, Govt released a sum of Rs. 870.75 lakhs to the State Government.

(d) and (e) Claims received within the prescribed period have been considered and grant released.

(f) No further grant can be released for the purpose as EFC award period is over on 31.3.2005.

[Translation]

Setting up of Kalpana Chawala Planetarium

1983. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council for Science Museum has decided to set up at "Kalpana Chawla Planetarium" at Karnal;

(b) if so, the details regarding progress of this project; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to complete the work in a time bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The "Kalpana Chawla Memorial Planetarium" is being set up in Kurukshetra, Haryana and not in Karnal.

(b) The building is 75% complete and the Planetarium will be completed in the financial year 2006-2007.

(c) Action is being taken to complete the work in a time - bound manner.

[English]

Residuary Non-Banking Companies

1984. SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has done any study, inquiry about functioning, deposit mobilization, investment financial performance of major Residuary Non-Banking Companies recently;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any special audit has been undertaken;

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

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to protest small investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not conducted any specific study regarding these aspects. However, RBI has been carrying out inspection of RNBCs under RBI Act, 1934. During the course of inspection these aspects are examined.

(c) and (d) Special audit of the major RNBCs has been commissioned under powers available in RBI Act, 1934. At present, special Audits for two companies are under progress.

(e) In order to impart greater liquidity and safety to the investment of RNBCs, the investment pattern was rationalised. RBI issued fresh instructions on improvements in the functioning of RNBCs including transparency of operations, connected lending relationship, corporate governance standards, avoiding untenable rates of commission to agents, adherence to "know your customer" rules etc.

Training Centres for Bio-Gas Development

1985. SHRI K. C. PALANISAMAY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of Bio-gas Development Training Centres established by the Government in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the subsidy/assistance provided to each State for bio-gas plants during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) Central Financial Assistance has been provided for nine Bio-gas Development and Training Centres (BDTs) for imparting technical training and publicity support for proper implementation of the biogas programme under the National Biogas and Manure Management Programme. State-wise details of BDTs are given in the enclosed statement - I.

(b) State-wise details of Central Financial Assistance provided for bio-gas plants during 2002-03 to 2004-05 are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I**State-wise details of Biogas Development and Training Centres**

S.No.	State	Location
1.	Rajasthan	Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur
2.	Tamil Nadu	College of Agricultural Engineering, Tamil Nadu Agril. University, Coimbatore
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur
4.	West Bengal	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
5.	Karnataka	University of Agriculture Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore
6.	Punjab	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore
8.	Uttar Pradesh	State Planning Institute, Lucknow
9.	Uttaranchal	College of Home Science, G.B. Pant University of Agri. & Technology, Pantnagar

Statement-II**State-wise details of Central Financial Assistance provided for Biogas Plants during 2002-03 to 2004-05**

State/Agency	(Rupees in Crore)			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	4.28	5.75	2.41	12.44
Arunachal Pradesh	0.16	0.13	0.51	0.80
Chhattisgarh	2.52	-	0.39	2.91
Gujarat	2.47	2.32	1.19	5.98
Haryana	0.16	0.47	0.21	0.84

	1	2	3	4	5
Himachal Pradesh	0.22	0.15	0.07	0.44	
Jharkhand	0.03	-	-	0.03	
Karnataka	5.73	2.36	-	8.09	
Kerala	3.74	3.34	1.58	8.66	
Madhya Pradesh	3.98	1.86	1.47	7.31	
Maharashtra	2.80	1.24	2.66	6.70	
Manipur	0.19	0.11	0.27	0.57	
Meghalaya	0.25	0.37	0.12	0.74	
Mizoram	0.35	0.24	0.28	0.87	
Nagaland	-	0.18	-	0.18	
Orissa	1.77	4.73	1.68	8.18	
Punjab	-	-	0.22	0.22	
Rajasthan	0.07	0.06	0.02	0.15	
Sikkim	0.25	0.25	0.62	1.12	
Tamil Nadu	0.27	0.63	0.31	1.21	
Tripura	0.15	0.71	-	0.86	
Uttar Pradesh	-	1.55	1.54	3.09	
Uttaranchal	0.15	0.08	-	0.23	
West Bengal	4.15	6.07	2.41	12.63	
Others (Including KVIC, BDTCS etc.)	11.09	4.62	3.95	19.66	
Total	44.78	37.22	21.91	103.91	

Development Work by Mining Companies

1986. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector undertakings in mineral sector in the country State-wise;

(b) whether any effort is being made by those PSUs in the peripheral development during the last three years;

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

(d) the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Mines is responsible for survey and exploration of all minerals, other than natural gases, petroleum and atomic minerals, for mining and metallurgy of non-ferrous metals like Aluminium, Copper, Zinc, Lead, Gold, Nickel, etc. and for administration of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation), Act 1957 in respect of all mines and minerals other than coal, natural gas and petroleum.

The Ministry of Mines, at present has three public sector undertakings namely, National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO), Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL), Kolkata (West Bengal), and Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL), Nagpur (Maharashtra).

A number of activities like community education programmes, facilitating availability of drinking water, repair and development of approach roads of surrounding areas, arranging health awareness programmes, school health programmes and medical camps in rural areas, were undertaken by the PSUs for upliftment of the community in and around their townships as part of their social responsibility.

During the last three years HCL could not make any peripheral development works due to financial constraints. MECL carries out exploration for minerals at different locations over a short duration through temporary establishments and as such peripheral development is not feasible. NALCO has spent the following amount for peripheral development.

Year	Rs. in Lakh
2002-03	460.18
2003-04	483.96
2004-05	1044.79
Total	1988.93

[Translation]

Trimming Non-plan Budget

1987. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the initiatives to cut down 10 per cent non-plan budget allocation have failed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on this failure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. Central Government has initiated several measures to moderate growth in its non-plan expenditure, including issue of guidelines on expenditure management - fiscal prudence and austerity, dated September 24, 2004. As a result of these measures, during 2004-05 Central Government's non-plan expenditure increased by a moderate 4.9 percent over 2003-04 as against growth of 15.7 per cent in 2003-04 and 15.6 per cent in 2002-03. As against Revised Estimates (2004-05) of Rs. 368404 crore, non-plan expenditure as per provisional accounts have been contained at Rs. 366288 crore.

[English]

Smuggling of Cardamom and Pepper

1988. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints of smuggling of Cardamom and Pepper of India from Guatemala and Vietnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this matter was brought to the notice of the Ministry in their Consultative Committee meeting also;

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

(e) the number of smuggling cases detected by the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Complaints of under valuation in the import of Cardamom from Guatemala to India and of mis-declaration of country of origin in respect of Cardamom of Guatemala and Pepper of Vietnam in order to avail SAPTA/ISFTA Notification benefits have been received.

(c) This was brought to the notice of the Ministry in the last meeting of the Consultative Committee meeting.

(d) The field formations have been asked to intensify vigil to check cases of smuggling, undervaluation and mis-declaration.

(e) The details of seizure cases of Cardamom are appended below:

Year	No. of cases	Quantity (in kgs)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
2002-03	108	2359	21.25
2003-04	213	8939	59.42
2004-05	174	11349	66.29

No case of seizure of Pepper has been booked during last three years.

Food Processing Stocks

1989. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attractive valuations, and expected growth rate in the near future and Government's thrust on agriculture and agro-related business have all led to a surge in the food processing sector with some stocks of the sector appreciating up to 100 per cent in the past one month since 2nd May, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of appreciation of the stocks of food processing sector during the last three months;

(c) whether market capitalization of this sector also witnessed a rise of almost 20% in the last one months; and

(d) if so, steps the Government proposes to take to meet food processing stocks which are on rise and keep up the momentum in the stock market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Stock Exchange, Mumbai, (BSE) has informed that it does not have any index on food processing sector, and in the absence of the same, the classification given by 'Capitaline' has been used to categorise the companies under food processing sector. Based on the above classification, there were 33 companies, which were traded on the Exchange during the month of May, 2005 (in case the scrip is not traded on May 2nd the price comparison is done with the earlier last trade price). The following stocks have risen by 100% or more in the past one month during the period May 2, 2005 to August 2, 2005.

Name of the scrip	% rise from		
	2.05.05 to 2.06.05	2.06.05 to 1.07.05*	1.07.05 to 2.08.05
Aridhi Hi-Tech	155.17	-	-
Mefcom Agro Products	-	-	122.25
Tai Inds.	-	139.48	-

(b) The details of appreciation of the stocks of food processing sector during the last three months (i.e., from May 2, 2005 to August 2, 2005) are as follows :

Name of the scrip	% rise
1	2
Sapatarishi Agro	312.00
Tai Inds.	254.55
Aridhi Hi-Tech	217.24
Mefcon Agro Inds	148.92
Freshtrop Fruits	137.72
Trans Techno	125.45
Nijjer Agro	125.39
GRM Overseas	105.56
Himalya Intl.	99.63

1	2
Tasty Bite Eat	81.17
Saboo Sodium	80.46
Mount Everest	70.09
Agro Dutch Inds.	69.50
Shah Foods	62.88
DFM Foods	54.71
REI Agro	54.46
Chordia Food	47.29
ADF Foods	46.04
Lakshmi Overseas	42.05
Kothari Ferment	41.33
Foods & Inns	38.85

1	2
Sunil Agro Foods	37.50
Flex Foods	35.79
Super Bakers (I)	32.00
Chamanlal Setia	25.82
SKM Egg Products	25.61
Hind Inds.	18.40
Satnam Overseas	12.99
KRBL	9.01
Bambino Agro Ind	4.44

(c) Yes, Sir. BSE has informed that the market capitalisation of these 33 companies has risen by nearly 19.3% during the period between May 2, 2005 to May 31, 2005.

(d) The objective of the Government and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is to ensure that capital markets operate in an orderly, transparent, safe and fair manner. SEBI has taken several surveillance and risk management measures for protecting market safety and integrity. SEBI keeps under constant watch the developments in the capital markets in consultation with the stock exchanges, depositories and other agencies for detecting and preventing any manipulation and taking deterrent action.

Smuggling Cases

1990. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of smuggling from Singapore, Bangkok and Hongkong into the country are on the increase during the past six months;

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

(c) whether this trend has affected domestic market and industry adversely; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to curb this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The details of cases of smuggling from Singapore, Bangkok and Hongkong into the country during the past six months are as under :-

Period	No. of cases	Value of goods seized (Rs. in crores)
01-01-2004 to 30-06-2004	632	8.77
01-01-2005 to 30-06-2005	340	7.61

(c) Nil in view of (a) & (b) above.

(d) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of all contraband items into the country.

Jute Industry

1991. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government announced a package for the jute industry with higher subsidy on capital investment of 20 percent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is encouraging the production of Geo-Textile with wider marketing network in India and overseas market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government has amended the Jute Manufacturers Development Council Incentive Scheme for Modernization of Jute Industry to provide assistance @20% under the scheme for modernization and upgradation of jute mills in new locations in jute growing areas or in non-jute growing areas having inadequate jute processing facilities. These mills should have paid cess for at least three months.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government is encouraging the production of Geo Textiles with a marketing network in India and the overseas market. For this purpose, the following steps have been taken:-

(1) To provide upgraded machinery and requisite technicalities for producing Jute Geotextiles of the right standard to meet domestic and overseas demand.

(2) To organize technical awareness programmes in all the states.

(3) To provide "External Market Assistance (EMA)" at the rate of 5% on export of Jute Geotextiles.

- (4) To hold discussions and field trials with various concerned authorities/departments, viz., the Central Public Works Department, the State Public Works and Irrigation Departments, the Border Roads Organizations and the National Highway Authority of India to promote Jute Geotextiles.
- (5) To implement a pilot project using Jute Geotextiles in rural roads under Prime Minister's Gramin Sarak Yojana in five States viz. Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa & West Bengal covering 47.84 Kms.

Cess on Petrol

1992. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the time since when additional excise duties in the form of cess on petroleum products like petrol and diesel are being collected;
- (b) the various purposes for which such cess is being collected;
- (c) amount collected for each purpose since its inception;
- (d) the share of such levy to the gross revenue of the Union Government over the last three years, year-wise; and
- (e) the amount utilized and for which purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Additional duty of excise was imposed in 1998 budget on Motor Spirit (commonly known as petrol) and in 1999 budget on High Speed Diesel. These additional duties of excise are deemed as cess for the purposes of Central Road Fund Act, 2000,

and proceeds thereof are credited to the Central Road Fund.

(b) and (c) Amount credited to the Central Road Fund is to be utilized for following purposes and separate collection for different purposes is not made.

- (i) development and maintenance of national highways;
- (ii) development of the rural roads;
- (iii) development and maintenance of other Satta roads including roads of inter-State and economic importance;
- (iv) construction of roads either under or over the railways by means of a bridge and erection of safety works at unmanned rail-road crossings; and
- (v) disbursement in respect of such projects as may be prescribed.

(d) The share of additional excise duties on petrol and diesel in gross revenue of the Union Government for the last three financial year was as under :-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Gross Tax Revenue	Cess on MS & HSD	% Share
2002-03	216266	5241	2.42
2003-04	254348*	7440	2.92
2004-05	306021*	9069	2.96

*For 2003-04 and 2004-05, revenue collection figures are taken 'Accounts' and 'Revised Estimate (RE)' figures respectively.

(e) As per enclosed statement.

Statement

Year wise allocation from the Central Road Fund for different purposes is as under :-

Rs. in crore

	2001-02 (R.E.)	2002-03 (R.E.)	2003-04 (R.E.)	2004-05 (R.E.)	2005-06 Budget Estimates
1	2	3	4	5	6
Grants to States	350.00	944.84	875.60	835.53	1478.55
Grants to States for Inter State and Economically Important Roads	15.00	95.00	95.00	92.00	162.05

1	2	3	4	5	6
Grants to UT Governments	17.07	35.16	35.16	32.47	56.81
Grants to UTs for Inter-State and Economically Important Roads	1.00	5.00	5.00	4.00	8.54
Investment in NHAI	2100.00	2000.00	1993.00	1848.00	3269.74
Railways	300.00	264.00	433.00	401.00	710.81
Rural Roads	2500.00	2500.00	2325.00	2148.00	3809.50
Total	5289.07	5844.00	5761.76	5361.00	9496.00

[Translation]

Implementation of Drinking Water Schemes

1993. SHRI GANESH SINGH :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government formulate various schemes and makes the State Governments responsible for their implementation particularly in the field of drinking water schemes;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government conducts field review of these schemes or merely relies on the figures provided by the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has ever checked the actual position regarding implementation of the drinking water schemes;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government is aware that despite multi-dimensional schemes in vogue nearly 80% population in the country is still deprived of drinking water; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) to (c) Water is a State subject. State Government plan, sanction and implement drinking water supply projects for providing drinking water facilities to all rural habitations. The Central Government supplements their efforts by providing financial support and technical assistance under a centrally sponsored scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The field review of all the rural development

programmes (including rural drinking water) is conducted regularly through evaluation studies, national level monitors, district level monitors and Area Officers's scheme. Besides, there are Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at State level and District Levels for ensuring quality expenditure and to monitor the execution of the schemes in the most effective manner. Under the Swajaldhara programme, review missions are sent for ensuring that the projects are being implemented in accordance with the Swajaldhara guidelines. The Department also reviews the actual position regarding implementation of various rural drinking water schemes by holding Conferences with the State Secretaries in charge of drinking water supply.

(d) to (f) Based on the Comprehensive Action Plan 1999 (CAP 99) and the subsequent coverage status reported by the States, 96.13% of rural habitations have been covered with the stipulated level of drinking water supply. However, as coverage status is always a dynamic one, the fully covered habitation may slip back to partially covered or not-covered category due to various factors like, source going dry, increase in population, systems outliving their utility etc. All the States were requested to conduct a fresh habitation survey in the year 2003 to ascertain the status of drinking water supply. The results of the survey are under validation by the Indian Institute of Public Administration. A four-year plan (from 2005-06 to 2008-09) under Bharat Nirman envisages coverage of not only the uncovered habitations of balance CAP 99 habitations, but also the slipped back ones.

[English]

Shortage of Funds for Rural Development Schemes

1994. SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed that certain schemes which are being implemented for rural development are lagging behind the targets due to the non availability of sufficient funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to mobilize sufficient funds;

(c) whether there is any proper monitoring system for the evaluation of such schemes regarding their achievements;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) The Ministry of Rural Development has not received any notice from the State Governments/ District Level Implementing Agencies about non availability of central funds as prescribed in the guidelines under its schemes.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Ministry has developed a comprehensive system of Monitoring the implementation and impact of the programmes including utilization of funds through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance of Review Committee, Area Officer's scheme, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee and the State/District Level with greater involvement of members of Parliament, National Level Monitors to monitor quality of work and adherence the implementation as per the guidelines of schemes. Besides, the State Governments have been advised to adopt a four-pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency (iii) People's Partnership and (iv) accountability - social audit through Gram Sabha. In addition to this, the States have been advised to constitute the Village Level Monitoring Committee for each work under SGRY and NFFWP mandatorily which will monitor the progress and quality while work is in progress and final report of the Committee would be attached along with the completion certificate of work for consideration of Gram Sabha of Gram Panchayat where work has been executed. The programmes of the Ministry are also evaluated through Impact Assessment Studies/Concurrent Evaluation Studies by the reputed independent Research Organisations located in various corners of the country.

Handloom Development Centre

1995. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is in process of setting up handloom development centers in the country;

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

(c) the total funds allocated for the State of West Bengal for the current financial year, centre-wise; and

(d) the total number of persons likely to be benefitted from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) and (b) The Scheme for setting up of Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units (HDC & QDU) was introduced in the year 1993 and discontinued with effect from 01.04.1998. The committed liabilities under the Scheme were entertained, however, upto 31.03.2002. There is, therefore, no proposal to set up any further Handloom Development Centres in the country.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Dabhol Power Project

1996. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the local people have opposed the revival of Dabhol Power Project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the power plant has also polluted the creek by discharging water from the cooling towards; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to save the environment hazards created by the plant?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) No such representation has been received by the Ministry of Power from the local people in recent times opposing the revival of the Dabhol Power Project.

(c) and (d) The Dabhol power plant has been inoperative since it shut down in May-June, 2001 following contractual disputes between the Maharashtra State Electricity Board and Dabhol Power Company. Upon restart, the company acquiring the assets shall implementing the stipulations of the Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board (MSPCB) so as the ensure that operating of the plant is in conformity with the statutory requirements on pollution related matters.

Non-Banking Financial Companies

1997. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI is formulating any scheme to strengthen the Non-Banking Financial Companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that policy regarding the NBFCs has been indicated in the Annual Policy Statement for the year 2005-06. The emphasis has been on developing NBFCs into a financially strong sector with improved skills and technology. The Bank has endeavoured to develop the sector on sound and healthy lines in the interest of depositors. The Bank has from time to time, relaxed norms for banks' lending to NBFCs for on lending to agriculture, Small Scale Industries, Small Road and Water Transport Operators (SRWTO) which are treated as priority sector lending for the banks. The Bank has also permitted the banks for financing the NBFCs against second hand assets. These measures have been taken to ensure flow of resources to NBFCs.

[Translation]

Desalination Plant

1998. MOHD. SHAHID :

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

SHRI MUNSHI RAM :

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Institute of Ocean Development has developed the desalination plant;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) the cost of such desalination plants;
- (d) the cities in which such plants have been set up so far; and
- (e) the cities where such plants are proposed to be set up during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, an autonomous body of

the Department, has developed a Low Temperature Thermal Desalination System (LTTD) technology for conversion of sea water into potable water. The LTTD is a process by which fresh water is produced by flashing warm surface seawater under low vacuum conditions and condensing the vapour using cold deep-sea water. After successful experiments in the laboratory NIOT demonstrated the LTTD Technology on an experimental basis on a barge mounted plant off Tuticorin, which successfully produced 10 lakhs liters in a 10-day period and the water quality is found to be excellent.

In the meantime NIOT has set up a LTTD plant with a capacity of 1 lakh liter per day, at Kavaratti in Lakshadweep. A 600m long pipe was successfully deployed for drawing the cold water. The heavy plant components were fabricated and installed. The plant was successfully commissioned in May 2005. The water produced is of excellent quality. The plant is generating about one lakh liter per day.

(c) and (d) The cost of 1 lakh liter LTTD desalination plant established at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep in May 2005 is about Rs. 4.95 crores.

(e) The Lakshadweep Administration has shown interest to NIOT to set up such plants in six more islands in 2005-06.

[English]

NPA of Financial Institutions

1999. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the value of non-performance assets in rupee in the financial institutions in the country as on March 31, 2005, institution-wise;
- (b) the present recovery position of outstanding amount of loans of such institutions, institution-wise;
- (c) the amount written off against profit amounts during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for recovery of outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) Based on the information from Fis, the position is stated as below :-

Rs. in crores

Name of Fis	NPA in value of Rupees	Recovery position	Amount written off during the last three years
1	2	3	4
IDBI Ltd.	847 (net)	4720 (2002-03 to 2004-05)	2408.47
EXIM Bank	609.10 (Gross)	214 (2004-05)	46.75
SIDBI	1026 (Gross) 407 (Net)	2453 (2004-05)	443.93

1	2	3	4
IFCI Ltd.	9283 (Gross) 2688 (Net)	4964 (2003-04 to 2004-05)	147.2
IIBI Ltd.	1595.75 (Gross)	321.12 (2002-03 to 2004-05)	10.32

(d) The steps taken to deal with Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of Financial Institutions include; strengthening the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), implementation of Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) mechanism, enactment of SARFAESI Act, 2002, amendment of SARFAESI Act, enabling legislation for setting up of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), One Time Settlement Scheme (OTS) and creation of Stress Assets Stabilization Fund (SASF).

[Translation]

Penalty Imposed by SEBI

2000. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the market regulator SEBI has decided to impose a heavy penalty on the companies which fail to appoint the stipulated number of independent directors by the end of the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the companies which have appointed and have failed to appoint the stipulated number of independent directors in accordance with the norms of corporate proposal till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) SEBI has directed all the stock exchanges to amend the Listing Agreement pertaining to corporate governance by replacing existing clause 49 with the revised clause 49 notified on October 29, 2004. The revised clause 49, Inter-alia, provides for appointment of at least one-third of the Board of Directors as independent directors in case where the Chairman is non-executive director and at least half of the Board of Directors as independent directors in case where Chairman is an executive director. The last date of the compliance of the revised clause 49 of the Listing Agreement is 31.12.2005 and further necessary action could arise thereafter.

[English]

Merger of UTI

2001. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to merge UTI with any other organisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration to merge UTI with any other organization.

Solar Energy

2002. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA :

SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in the country during the last three years through solar photovoltaic systems State-wise;

(b) the number of villages proposed to be electrified during the current year;

(c) the details of funding of projects for solar electrification in the State; and

(d) the ratio of contribution of Centre and State and percentage utilization thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) The state-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Solar Photovoltaic electrification projects in 883 villages are presently under implementation in the current year.

(c) and (d) The Ministry provides a Central Financial Assistance of 90% of the benchmark costs of electrification of villages through solar photovoltaic systems. The balance cost has to be financed either through contribution from beneficiaries or by the states from their own resources. The percentage utilization of funds allocated for the Programme during 2002-03 was 58%, during 2003-04 was 100% and during 2004-05 was 35%.

Statement**State-wise Number of Villages Electrified Through Solar Photovoltaic Systems during the Last 3 years**

Sl.No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	-	47
2.	Assam	36	-	3
3.	Chhattisgarh	30	152	53
4.	Gujarat	-	-	2
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	90	-	-
6.	Jharkhand	0	0	24
7.	Manipur	-	-	106
8.	Meghalaya	-	-	24
9.	Orissa	8	10	-
10.	Tripura	-	-	16
11.	Uttaranchal	139	52	-
12.	West Bengal	245	312	90

SFIO Probe

2003. MOHD. MUKEEM :

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA :

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :

SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN :

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to news item captioned "Investors seek SFIO probe into Asian Consolidated Scam" as reported in the "Indian Express" dated the June 2, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the nature of investigation carried out by Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO);

(d) the number of cases referred to SFIO during the last two years;

(e) the outcome of these investigation;

(f) whether the Mumbai High Court has removed the interim stay on the probe of 14 corporate groups associated with Ketan Parekh;

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of the companies;

(h) whether SFIO is also conducting investigation of Ketan Parekh Group; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the news item mentioned above, it was reported that one Midas Touch Investors Association, Kanpur had alleged that Asian Consolidated Industries Limited made a public - cum - rights issue of Rs. 115.47 Crore for setting up a project for manufacturing beer/soft drink cans but did not set up the project and after seven years of the public-cum-rights issue, went into liquidation proceedings.

(c) The company, M/s Asian Consolidated has gone into liquidation with effect from 16.10.1997. The investigation of the affairs of the company was not entrusted to an officer drawn from the SFIO. Of these, investigation in respect of five cases has been completed. Based on the investigation reports, prosecution is filed in appropriate Courts.

(d) and (e) During the last two years, the Ministry of Company Affairs has referred 29 cases for investigation by inspectors drawn from the SFIO. Of these, investigation in respect of five cases has been completed. Based on the investigation reports, prosecution is filed in appropriate Courts.

(f) and (g) The Mumbai High Court has vacated interim stay in respect of 16 Ketan Parekh Group of Companies as per details enclosed as statement.

(h) and (i) Investigation of 16 Ketan Parekh Group of Companies is being carried out by inspectors drawn from SFIO. The investigation reports from SFIO are awaited.

Statement

The list of Ketan Parekh Group of Companies in respect of whom the Mumbai High Court has vacated the interim stay order for investigation :-

1. M/s. NH Securities Ltd.
2. M/s Triumph International Finance Ltd.
3. M/s KNP Securities Pvt. Ltd.
4. M/s VN Parekh Securities Pvt. Ltd.
5. M/s Panther Investrade Ltd.
6. M/s Panther Fincap and Management Services Ltd.
7. M/s Saimangal Investrade Ltd.
8. M/s Panther Industrial Products Ltd.
9. M/s Goldfish Computer Pvt. Ltd.

10. M/s. Nakshatra Software Pvt. Ltd.
11. M/s Chitrakoot Computers Pvt Ltd.
12. M/s Luminant Investment Pvt. Ltd.
13. M/s Triumph Securities Pvt. Ltd.
14. M/s Classic Credit Ltd.
15. M/s Classic Shares & Stock Broking Services Ltd.
16. M/s Manmandir Estate Development Pvt. Ltd.

[Translation]

National Tax Tribunal

2004. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Tax Tribunal (NTT) has started functioning;

(b) if so, the number of cases disposed of by the National Tax Tribunal till date;

(c) the total amount involved in disputes in the tribunal as on 31st March, 2005; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government for the speedy recovery of the disputed tax amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme

2005. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing financial assistance to the textile workers of closed textile units under the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of workers benefited under this scheme during the last three years;

(d) whether the workers are facing any hardships in getting relief under this scheme; and

(e) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken

by the Government to mitigate the hardships of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the Scheme is furnished in the enclosed statement.

(c) The number of workers benefited under this scheme during the last three years is as follows :-

Year	Number of workers
2002-03	980
2003-04	343
2004-05	3298
Total	4621

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS)

1. Introduction

The Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme came into force with effect from 15th September, 1986 with the objective to provide interim relief to textile workers rendered unemployed as a consequence of permanent closure of any particular portion or entire textile units. Assistance under the Scheme is payable to eligible workers only for the purpose of enabling them to settle in another employment. Such assistance is not heritable, transferable or capable of being attached on account of any other liabilities of the worker. The worker's eligibility shall cease if he takes up employment in another registered or licensed undertaking. The rehabilitation assistance will not be curtailed if the workers fixes himself in a self-employment venture.

2. Closed Textile Unit

For the purpose of this scheme, closed textile unit means :-

- a unit licensed or registered under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 or with the Textile Commissioner as a medium scale unit on the day of its closure;
- it has obtained the requisite permission for closure from the appropriate State Government under section 25(O)

of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 or alternatively an official Liquidator was appointed under Companies Act, 1956, for the purpose of winding up of the unit.

- The unit was closed down on or after 6th June 1985.
- This also includes partially closed units wherein the State Governments recommended that an entire uneconomic activity (like weaving or processing) is scrapped as a part of rehabilitation package for a sick/weak mill (as per the RBI definition) approved by the Nodal Agency/BIFR provided the scrapped capacity is surrendered for cancellation and endorsement is made on the License/Registration certificate to this effect.

3. Eligibility

Any workers would be eligible provided he/she has been engaged in a closed textile unit on the date of its closure continuously for five years or more and earning a wage equivalent of Rs. 2500 per month or less for the mills closed between 06.06.1985 to 05.02.2002 and Rs. 3500 or less thereafter. They should be contributing to provident fund maintenance by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner of the State concerned.

4. Period and Quantum of Relief

Relief under the Scheme is available only for three years on a tapering basis but will not extend beyond the date of superannuation of any worker. The worker is entitled to get relief:

- to the extent of 75% of the wage equivalent in the first year of the closure of the unit;
- to the extent of 50% of the wage equivalent in the second year; and
- to the extent of 25% of the wage equivalent in the third year.

5. Operation of the Scheme

The scheme is administered by the office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai through its Regional offices and in coordination with State Government, Official Liquidator, Provident Fund Authorities, concerned designated Trade Union and designated Banks. The State Government will collect the details of the workers etc. from the management/official Liquidator/provident fund authority etc. and prepare a list of eligible workers and forward the same to the concerned Regional Office of the Textile Commissioner in the prescribed Proforma. The list will be scrutinized by Regional Office of the

Textile Commissioner and the list of eligible workers with eligible relief is sent to State Government and designated trade union, besides keeping on a notice board. The individual eligible workers are required to open a separate Savings Bank Account in the designated nationalized Bank and forward a certificate to the effect along with his relief claiming application to the Regional Office of the Textile Commissioner through the State Government. In the mean time the Regional office of the Textile Commissioner examines the proposals and assesses the fund requirement and reports to the Head quarter Office of the Textile Commissioner for releasing fund. On receipt of fund allocation, necessary fund is allotted to the Regional Office in the form of Letter of Credit opened by the Pay & Accounts Officer (Textiles) Mumbai. On receipt of funds, Regional Office of the Textile Commissioner disburses the relief by sending a consolidated cheque in favour of the designated Bank along with the list of eligible workers and the amount of relief to be paid to each of the eligible workers.

[Translation]

Withholding of Funds under Indira Awas Yojana

2006. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has withheld the first instalment of the amount to be released under Indira Awas Yojana for Bihar during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The 1st instalment of funds is released to the DRDA/Zilla Parishad automatically if the 2nd instalment of funds during the previous year was released without any condition. If the release of 2nd instalment was conditional during the previous year the 1st instalment during next year, is released on fulfilment of those conditions. The 2nd instalment of funds to all the DRDAs of Bihar was released in advance because of flood situation, with the condition that the Utilization Certificates and the Audited Reports in respect of the funds released during 2004-05 under normal IAY as well as Special Assistance, will be submitted before release of 1st instalment during the year 2005-06. The 1st instalment of funds has been released to all the districts of Bihar on receipt of required documents except eight districts i.e. Bhagalpur, Khagaria, Kishanganj, Madhepura, East Champaran, West Champaran, Sheikhpura and Sitamarhi.

Bio-Village Scheme

2007. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Bio Villages Schemes operating in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government propose to extend the Bio-villages concept throughout the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The department has funded four biovillage projects under the scheme "Biotechnology-based Programmes for Rural Development" to benefit the farmers and rural folk.

In Gujarat, a model biovillage was sanctioned in 1997-98 at Mocha-Gorsar village in Porbandar District to train the farmers in biofertilizers production, modern agro-technology, cultivation of various crop varieties and disease & pests management aspects including seaweeds cultivation, preparation of liquid seaweed fertilizers and cultivation of bio-diesel and fodder plants in the wasteland. A drinking water plant was established to produce 30,000 litres of drinking water per day through reverse osmosis to meet the demand of villagers.

In Madhya Pradesh, a biovillage project was sanctioned in 2001-02 for implementation at Naya Gaon, Bharuchi, Intkhedi, Dangarwada, Bahmani/Chapra, Patpara, Kalyanpur, Juari and Nitaya/Kalukheda villages in Katni, Mandla, Raisen Jabalpur, Umaria, Shahdol, Betul and Hoshangabad districts for entrepreneurship development through training and demonstrations in various activities viz. mushroom cultivation, biofertilizers, sericulture, vermiculture, bee-keeping and honey harvesting, spirulina production, pisciculture, floriculture, lac-cultivation, post-harvest technologies and development of value added products.

In Uttar Pradesh, a programme was sanctioned in 2002-03 to implement at Shahajahanpur district to demonstrate biofertilizer and biopesticides application in sugarcane crops, to educate the farmers about the use of *Trichogramma* as a biocontrol agent against sugarcane pests and to train them in cultivation of hybrid and high-yielding varieties of sugarcane. In West Bengal, a programme was sanctioned in 2001-02 at Nadia district to establish community seed village and to train the farmers in seed production technology of pulses, paddy and oilseeds as an enterprising occupation.

(b) and (c) As such, DBT has no scheme for extending the bio-village concept throughout the country.

(d) The department has a scheme on "Biotech-based Programmes for Societal Upliftment", which is being implemented throughout the country to benefit SC/ST, women and rural people through demonstration and training programmes conducted in proven and field-tested technologies.

[English]

Renewable Energy Sources

2008. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering augment power generation through renewable energy to contribute significantly to India's energy security;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards detailed scientific studies on various aspects of renewable energy and also stressed the need for comprehensive national level renewable energy policy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether many countries have already enacted Renewable Energy Act to support is study and to maximum generation;
- (f) whether India is lacking in this area; and
- (g) if so, the details and action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) and (b) Renewable energy, including large hydro, contributes around 34 per cent to the primary energy mix in the country. The challenge in the coming years will be to retain this share. At present, grid-interactive renewable power installed capacity contributes around 6 per cent to the total power generating installed capacity in the country. However, during the first 3 years of the 10th Plan (2002-05) around 18 per cent contribution to the power

generating installed capacity has come from renewables, as against the aim of 10 per cent during the 10th & 11th Plan periods (2002-12). Of this, 13 per cent (1967 MW) has come from wind power, 2 per cent (267 MW) from small-hydro power and around 3 per cent (407 MW) from bio-energy.

(c) and (d) Under the Electricity Act, 2003, the National Electricity Policy 2005 covering, inter alia, renewable power has already been enunciated.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. The European Commission as part of its obligation under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce Green House Gases emissions has issued a directive to member countries fixing quotas for grid-interactive renewable power as a consequence of which individual European Union member states are taking/have taken appropriate legislative action. Some others countries have followed suit. The Indian programme incidentally is not climate change driven but emanates out of energy security/self-sufficiency concerns. The Electricity and Tariff Policies under the Electricity Act, 2003 would be comprehensive enough to provide a policy and regularly framework for balanced growth for renewable power in the country. In this connection, the State Electricity Regulatory Commission under the said Act have been empowered to determine quotas for grid-interactive renewable power in the area of their jurisdiction for which preferential tariff will be given. Already, this country is fourth in the world in the installation of grid-interactive wind power after Germany, Spain and the United States. In addition, the country has large programmes on small hydro and bio-energy grid interactive power.

**Pending Projects under DPAP
and IWDP**

2009. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for allocation of funds to States under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme and Drought Prone Areas Programme;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposals/projects under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme and Drought Prone Areas Programme from certain States during the last three years and current year;

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

(d) the number of projects proposals sanctioned by the Government so far, State-wise;

(e) the present status of the remaining projects/proposals; and

(f) the time by which the remaining projects/proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) and Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) are demand driven programmes and no State-wise allocation of funds is made under these programmes. Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development, every year sanctions new projects as per the respective guidelines. The prioritised new IWDP projects are sanctioned in the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) meeting depending upon the extent of wastelands, capacity of State to handle wastelands, past performance of ongoing projects and availability of funds under the programme. Under DPAP, new projects, each of 500 hectares, as per the respective guidelines, are sanctioned keeping in view the criteria that includes DPAP coverage in the State, performance of the ongoing projects, budget availability etc. under the Programme. Under IWDP and DPAP, funds are released to Zilla Panchayats (ZPs)/ District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/State Governments in instalments over the project period of 5 years. The first instalment of Central share is released along with the sanction of new projects and subsequent instalment is released on receipt of specific proposal from ZP/DRDA/State Government along with supporting documents.

(b) to (f) Prioritised list of districts for sanctioning IWDP projects are invited from the State every year and projects sanctioned as per the availability of budget after meeting out the committed liability of ongoing projects. Those prioritised project proposals which are not sanctioned in a particular year, lapse by the end of the year. Only if the States prioritize those projects in the next financial year (not sanctioned during the previous year), they are considered in the PSC. Therefore, there is no pendency of left over projects. Under DPAP, no proposals are invited as projects are sanctioned to the blocks as identified by the Hanumantha Rao Committee (1994). State-wise number of projects sanctioned under IWDP and DPAP during the last three years i.e. 2002-2003 to 2004-05 and in the current year i.e. 2005-06 till 2.8.2005 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	No. of projects sanctioned under IWDP		No. of projects sanctioned under DPAP
		2002-03 to 2004-05	2005-06	2002-03 to 2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	10	865
2.	Bihar	18	13	166
3.	Chhattisgarh	17	7	348
4.	Goa	2	2	0
5.	Gujarat	20	11	741
6.	Haryana	8	5	0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	10	13	130
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	10	198
9.	Jharkhand	10	0	564
10.	Karnataka	20	16	675
11.	Kerala	3	12	0
12.	Maharashtra	19	10	899
13.	Madhya Pradesh	31	15	803
14.	Orissa	16	7	452
15.	Punjab	4	5	0
16.	Rajasthan	18	15	305
17.	Tamil Nadu	21	19	464
18.	Uttar Pradesh	26	9	478
19.	Uttaranchal	13	11	277
20.	West Bengal	6		176
	Total	289	190	7541
		North Eastern States		
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	29	20	0
22.	Assam	64	17	0
23.	Manipur	18	7	0
24.	Meghalaya	14	6	0

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Mizoram	15	15	0
26.	Nagaland	17	4	0
27.	Sikkim	7	4	0
28.	Tripura	7	3	0
	Total	171	76	0
	Grand Total	460	266	7541

Note : Each DPAP project consists of 500 ha. area.

No new project has been sanctioned under DPAP during 2005-06 so far.

Forecasting of Monsoon

2010. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU :

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR :

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

- the reasons for significant difference in the monsoon forecast made by different agencies;
- the disparity between the monsoon forecast and the actual monsoon during the last year; and
- the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the drawbacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Monsoon forecasts prepared by different agencies differ because they make use of different methods and different input parameters. Basically there are two common methods for preparing long range forecasts, viz statistical and dynamical. Statistical methods are based on using global and regional parameters as the predictors and the forecast method is derived by using past 30-40 years of data. Dynamical methods are mathematical models which treat the physics and dynamics of atmosphere and ocean explicitly. Global sea surface temperature data are used as boundary conditions for this type of models.

(b) The performance of IMD's official forecasts for the last three years is given below :

Year	Actual (% of LPA)	Forecast (% of LPA) \pm 4%
2002	81	101
2003	102	98
2004	87	100

LPA : Long Period Average

In 2002, the forecast failed after which two models (8 & 10 parameters) were introduced in IMD which gave correct forecast for the year 2003. But, in the next year the IMD forecast failed to predict the drought of 2004, the Indian drought of year 2004 was not predicted by any model in the world. The drought of 2004 was caused by an unexpected warming in the central pacific which could not be anticipated by the designated E1-Nino centers.

(c) IMD is making the best efforts to improve the capabilities in Long Range Forecasting. This year, IMD developed indigenously new statistical models, which showed very promising results. These models in the hindcast mode predicted the drought of 2002 and 2004, which otherwise the operational models failed to do so.

In addition, IMD has also implemented a dynamical prediction system, under a collaborative research programme with Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. For this purpose, IMD adopted the dynamical model developed at the Experimental Climate Prediction Centre (ECPC), Scripps Institute of Oceanography, USA. At present, analysis of the performance of this model and its skill is underway.

The National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting and a few other research institutions like CSIR Centre for Mathematical Modelling and Computer Simulation (CMMACS) are also carrying out dynamical model studies. However, these studies have still to be validated for routine operational use.

Corporate Tax of Top 100 Cos

2011. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the corporate tax collection from top 100 private companies during 2004-05;
- (b) the amount of tax evaded by such companies; and
- (c) the amount saved by them due to the various tax incentives given to them by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Company-wise details of tax collection are not centrally maintained. The tax-payments by specific companies for FY 2004-05 can only be obtained from the returns of income of such companies, which, however, are due to be filed by 31st of October, 2005.

(b) The amount of tax-evasion is quantified after the return of income is scrutinized and income is assessed. Since the returns of income of corporate taxpayers for FY 2004-05 are yet to be filed, the amount of tax evaded by top 100 private companies is not possible to be quantified.

(c) Such detailed can not be compiled without the return of income for FY 2004-05, which is due to can filed by 31st of October, 2005.

VAT Implementation

2012. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :

SHRI B. MAHTAB :

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY :

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the implementation of the VAT system in majority of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the attitude of the States who have not implemented the system so far as Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, etc.

(d) whether many traders have not claimed credit for inventory; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) The

general feedback from VAT implementing States/UTs is that the new system has been received well by the business community as well as the public. There were some initial problems at the time of introduction of VAT, which have been resolved by and large by the States through constant interaction with the stakeholders.

(c) Regarding the States/UTs who have not yet implemented VAT, there is no information regarding these States/UTs deciding to implement VAT, except for the UT of Chandigarh, who have decided to adopt the Punjab VAT law, for which necessary legal formalities are in the process of being completed.

(d) and (e) Although the dealers have started claiming credit in respect of inventory in a number of States, it is likely to take a few months before the process is completed.

[Translation]

Modernisation of NTC Mills

2013. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernize some mills of National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, the details of such mills, State-wise;

(c) the total amount proposed to be spent on these mills;

(d) whether all these mills were incurring losses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) In accordance with the Rehabilitation Schemes approved by the BIFR/Government, 65 unviable mills have been closed, 2 mills have been handed over to the Government of Pondicherry and 52 other mills have been identified for revival. Out of these, 22 mills have been identified for modernisation in the 1st phase.

(b) State-wise list is as under :

Karnataka	1. Minerva Mills
Kerala	2. Algappa Textile Mills
	3. Cannanore SPG. & WVG. Mills
	4. Kerala Laxmi Mills
	5. Vijayamohini Mills

Mahe	6.	Cannanore SPG & WVG. Mills
Maharashtra (North)	7.	Podar Mills
Maharashtra	8.	Barshi Textile Mills
	9.	Finlay Mills
	10.	Tata Mills
	11.	India United Mills No. 5
Tamil Nadu	12.	Cambodia Mills
	13.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills
	14.	Pankaja Mills
	15.	Pioneer Spinners Mills
	16.	Sri Rangavilas S. & W. Mills
	17.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit
Rajasthan	18.	Udaipur Cotton Mills
Gujarat	19.	Rajnagar Textile Mill No. 1
West Bengal	20.	Arati Cotton Mills
Madhya Pradesh	21.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills
	22.	New Bhopal Textile Mills

(c) An amount of Rs. 483.1 Crore has been estimated for investment on new machinery, renovation and margin money for modernization of these mills.

(d) and (e) All the NTC mills are incurring losses. The total accumulated losses of the NTC Group as on 31.3.2004 was Rs. 9829 Crore.

Service Tax on Export of Fruits & Vegetables

2014. SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed service tax on export of fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, whether this will have adverse impact on the Indian Economy and the traders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) Service tax is not leviable on export of fruits and vegetables. However, Government had received representations from various

exporters, including exporters of fruits and vegetables, to exempt all exports from the levy of service tax on the taxable service of transport of goods by aircraft. Considering these representations, Government, vide notification No. 29/2005-Service Tax, dated 15th July, 2005, have fully exempted transport of export goods by aircraft from the levy of service tax.

Sampoorna Gramin Vikas Yojana

2015. SHRI D. P. SAROJ :

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for implementation of Sampoorna Gramin Vikas Yojana in the country;

(b) the number of districts covered thereunder, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for not covering all the districts under the Yojana; and

(d) the time by which the remaining districts are likely to be covered thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) No such programme, namely, Sampoorna Gramin Vikas Yojana is being implemented by this Ministry.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Foreign Assistance for Wasteland Development

2016. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic resources are inadequate for the development of wasteland in areas like Southern Plateau which receives scanty rainfall and land slide-prone Himalayan region;

(b) if so, whether the Government has sought for any foreign assistance for development of these regions;

(c) if so, the names of the countries from which financial assistance has been received during each of the last three years; and

(d) the areas of the land in hectares developed by the Government from this assistance, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development is administering programmes such as Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) in the country including the Southern Plateau and Himalayan Region for development of desert and drought prone areas wasteland/degraded

lands. These programmes are being implemented on watershed basis and have components to develop/reclaim wastelands and degraded lands by checking land degradation and putting such lands to productive use. The details of areas sanctioned and funds released under the IWDP, DPAP and DDP to various States including the Himalayan Region and Southern Plateau areas during the last three years are as under :-

Programmes	Project sanctioned	Project area (in lakh hectares)	Funds released (Rs. in crores)
IWDP	460	24.60	848.57
DPAP	7563	37.82	844.79
DDP	4764	23.82	614.78
Total	12787	86.24	2308.14

The project sanctioned under the above schemes are implemented over a period of five years. Accordingly, the projects are at various stages of implementation.

following projects which also include development of wastelands with the assistance of foreign donor agencies in Southern Plateau and Himalayan region. The physical and financial progress of these projects during the period 2002-03 to 2004-05 are as below :

2. Ministry of Rural Development administers the

S.No.	Name of the Project	Amount received/utilized (Rs. in crores)	Wasteland Developed (in hectares)
1.	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), assisted Tree Growers' Cooperatives Project (TGCP)	16.83	Andhra Pradesh - 3015 Karnataka - 1552 Gujarat - 1221 Madhya Pradesh - 922 Uttaranchal - 215 Total - 6925
2.	European Commission (EC) assisted Haryana Community Forestry Project (HCFP)	42.06	25000
3.	Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) assisted Attappady Wasteland Comprehensive Environmental Conservation Project, Kerala	34.54	9271
4.	Department for International Development (DFID), U.K. assisted Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project (APRLP)	166.92	125000

While funds for implementation of the project at S.No. (4) above are being provided through the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development, under other three projects these are being provided directly to the Implementing Agencies through the Department of Economic Affairs.

[English]

Harnessing of Bio-Technology

2017. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes a National strategy to harness biotechnology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the sectors likely to be benefited after the finalization of such strategy; and

(d) the time by which the new National strategy will come into existence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The Department of Biotechnology has formulated a Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy. The main thrust of the proposed strategy is on promoting biotech innovation research and product development to facilitate economic growth. The purpose is to ensure that the country not only builds on the existing platform but expands the base to create global leadership in Biotechnology by unleashing its full potential.

(c) The draft strategy provides a framework within which specific actions can be taken for promoting biotechnology development. Cross cutting issues such as human resource development, promotion of innovation and industry, infrastructure development and manufacturing, biotech parks, regulatory mechanisms, public communication and participation are addressed. The Draft Strategy also deals with specific measures in sectoral areas such as agriculture, health care, environment, basic sciences, industry etc.

(d) The Draft National Biotech Strategy was placed on the departmental web site on 31st March, 2005 and was open for comments up to 16th May 2005. More than 250 comments have been received from students; scientists from academia, research institutes and industry; policy makers, NGO's and international organizations. Consultations have also been held with representatives of NGO's and industries.

The suggestions received are now being examined within the department and with relevant Expert groups. Inter ministerial discussion/consultation are also being organized. The revised document incorporating these suggestions will be examined by the Expert Committee and thereafter finalized. In these circumstances it is not possible to give any specific timeframe for operationalization of the new National Biotechnology Development Strategy.

[Translation]

Tax Exemption for ICC Champions Trophy

2018. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tax exemption for holding the forthcoming Champions Trophy has been granted by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the loss to be suffered by the Government due to this decision;

(d) whether the Government proposes to extend the said income tax-exemption for organizing the other sports besides cricket; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) The Government had decided to grant income-tax exemption to ICC Development International Limited (IDI) in respect of payment of US \$42 million received by IDI from the Global Cricket Council (GCC) on account of sale of media and sponsorship rights for the ICC Champions Trophy, 2006 to be held in India.

(c) The exact revenue loss likely to be suffered by the Government due to this decision cannot be quantified at this stage as the amount of likely expenditure relating to this transaction is not known. However, any revenue loss on account of this exemption is likely to be offset by revenue gain from various sources, especially tourism, because of holding of this prestigious international event in India.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The Government has decided to amend the Income Tax Act, 1961 to give a suitable tax exemption for income arising out of international sporting events, conducted in India, approved by the International body set up to regulate the relevant sport, having multination participation. The exemption shall be available upon notification by the Central Government of the International sporting event, the beneficiaries and the category and proportion of income to be exempted.

[English]

Backward States Development Fund

2019. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated guidelines for allocation of financial assistance from the Backward States Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which have benefited from this Fund; and

(d) the amount earmarked for allocation to States during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The guidelines for the Backward Regions Grant Fund are yet to be finalized by Planning Commission.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Power Exchanges

2020. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any task force has visited US, Norway, Canada, Australia and the UK to study the power markets in these countries;

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

(c) the extent to which US and other countries have decided to jointly work out the establishment of power exchanges; and

(d) the extent to which these exchanges by the task force has helped India to achieve goal and self-sufficiency in the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : (a) to (d) An initiative has been taken to examine various issues related to feasibility of wholesale power exchange at national level in India and to develop a Detailed Project Report for the same through a consortium of consultants viz. M/s. CRISIL and M/s. NordPool Consulting Norway.

In this regard, a Core-Team (with representatives from Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), POWERGRID, NTPC and Power Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (PTC) has been constituted to interact with the Consultants.

A team of representatives from Ministry of Power, CEA, POWERGRID, NTPC and PTC visited Norway, Netherlands, Canada, USA and Australia in the first fortnight of April, 2005 to study power markets in these countries.

The visit has helped in the study of distinctive features of the various markets visited and identification of key issues to be addressed in the development of an appropriate model for a power exchange in India, which will provide a transparent and neutral platform for promoting competition in supply of electricity at wholesale level and thus improving efficiency in power sector.

Taking over of Banks by SBI

2021. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS
SADHU YADAV :

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has taken over a bank in Mauritius recently and proposed to take over some more banks shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the foreign banks so taken over are profitable banks;

(d) if so, the financial health of the banks; and

(e) the extent to which taking over banks would help in growth of SBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has acquired 51% equity stake with management control in Indian Ocean International Bank Ltd (IOIB) in Mauritius. Presently, SBI has no other proposal for acquisition in Mauritius.

(c) and (d) IOIB has been profitable during the last three years and earned a net profit of Mauritius Rupee 33.44 Million as on 30th June 2005 and had a capital adequacy ratio of 23.98%.

(e) The acquisition of IOIB has given an existing profit making platform to SBI for launching retail banking and other products in the Mauritius market.

IT In Orissa

2022. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of revenues collected by Income Tax Department in Orissa during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the target set for the above years have been achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether any case of litigation is pending in the High Court in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount involved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The total amount of revenues collected by Income Tax Department in Orissa in last three years is as follows :

Financial Yr.	Amount of Revenue collected
2004-05	Rs. 2197.65 crore*
2003-04	Rs. 1399.38 crore
2002-03	Rs. 942.74 crore

*The figures for 2004-05 are provisional.

(b) The target was exceeded in Financial Year 2004-05 and there was a small shortfall of 1.5% in Financial Year 2003-04. In Financial 2002-03, 87% of the target was achieved.

(c) Targets for revenue collection for a particular region are fixed assuming certain growth parameters. In some years, the actual performance of the economy remains lower than the assumptions made while fixing the targets, resulting in shortfalls.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In the last three years the Income Tax Department in Orissa has filed 190 appeals before the High Court.

(f) In the cases where the assesses of Orissa have filed appeals before High Court/Supreme Court, the amount of arrears outstanding as on 31.5.2005 is Rs. 8 crore (approximately). In the appeals filed by the Income Tax Department, though there are no outstanding arrears, as in such cases the Department has lost at the stage of ITAT, there would be revenue involved if the Department succeeds in appeal. However, the amount of such revenue is difficult to ascertain.

Crop Year	No. of Licensed opium cultivators in three states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (including those in tribal areas)				No. of cultivators in tribal areas	
	M.P.	Raj.	U.P.	Total	M.P.	Rajasthan
2002-03	48459	44364	9219	102042	71	4752
2003-04	48207	46695	10795	105697	90	4693
2004-05	42351	43532	1787	87670	49	4470

(b) The production of opium during the last three years is as under :-

Copy year	Total production of Opium at 70 degree Consistence (in Metric Tonnes)
2002-03	684
2003-04	1087
2004-05	439 (Provisional)

(c) Instructions have been issued to various drug enforcement agencies and some State Governments to initiate steps for the destruction of illicit cultivation of opium and create awareness about the dangers of illicit cultivation. The total areas of illicit opium crop destroyed in the country during the

[Translation]

Opium Cultivators

2023. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the opium cultivators in the country particularly the tribal areas, State-wise;

(b) the production of opium during each of the last three years; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the illegal cultivation of opium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The number of opium poppy cultivators in the three States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh where poppy cultivation under licence is undertaken, and in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan (There is no scheduled tribal area in Uttar Pradesh) during the last three years are as under :-

past three years in 539 acres during 2002, 1243 acres during 2003 and 417 acres during 2004.

[English]

Low Cost Laptops

2024. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the low-cost Laptops as announced by the Government have come into existence in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the same will be available in the country for the use of common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) The low cost computers have been developed by M/s. Encore Software Ltd., Bangalore under the new Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) programme being implemented by CSIR. The prototypes of the computers were launched on 10th May, 2005. Presently, the company is tying up with several component suppliers for manufacturing and marketing the product, and the same will be available in the market in a few months time.

Seizure of Gold, Diamond and Cash

2025. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unclaimed Gold biscuits, diamond studded ornaments and cash seized from the terrace of National Academy of Direct Taxes premises at Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of seized items;

(d) whether any investigation has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In the evening of 23 May, 2005 an unclaimed bag was found on the terrace of the official residence (in the campus of the National Academy of Direct Taxes) of an officer couple of NADT. The Police authorities were immediately informed in writing by the concerned officer about the bag containing valuables. The bag was taken over by the police authorities after making proper *panchnama*.

The details of the items and the approximate value of these items as assessed by the police, found in the bag are as under :-

(i)	12 gold biscuits	-	Rs . 6,00,000/- (approx.) valued by police.
(ii)	A gold medal weighing 100 gms of Bharat Petroleum	-	Rs. 50,000/-
(iii)	Gold items (Jewellery)	-	Rs. 5,61,000/-
(iv)	Cash	-	Rs. 1,16,000/-
	Total	-	Rs. 13,72,000

(d) to (f) The Nagpur Police are enquiring into the matter.

Banking Reforms

2026. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI UDAY SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is seriously considering to fresh reforms in Banking Sector in the country;

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

(c) whether banking sector in the country is not showing the desired results as required;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which fresh banking sector reform would help in the growth of public sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 2005-06 stated that Reserve Bank of India has prepared a road map for banking sector reforms. Accordingly, Reserve Bank of India released the road map for foreign banks alongwith the guidelines on owner and governance in private sector banks.

(c) to (e) These reform measures have had major impact on the overall efficiency and stability of the banking system in India. The present capital adequacy of Indian banks is comparable to those at international level. There has been a marked improvement in the asset quality with the percentage of gross non-performing assets (NPAs) to gross advances for the banking system reduced from 14.4 per cent in 1998 to 7.2 per cent in 2004. The reform measures have also resulted in an improvement in the profitability of banks. The Return on Assets (RoA) of the banks rose from 0.4 per cent in the year 1991-92 to 1.2 per cent in 2003-04. Considering that, globally, the RoA has been in the range of 0.9 to 1.5 percent for 2004, Indian Banks are well placed. The banking sector reforms also emphasized the need to review the manpower resources and rationalize the requirements by drawing a realistic plan so as to reduce the operating cost and improve profitability. During the last five years, the business per employee for public sector banks more than doubled to around Rs. 25 million in 2004. The reforms would help in strengthening of balance sheet, lowering of transaction cost and improvement in customer service through increased competition and improved risk management.

Weaving in Small Scale Industries

2027. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether spinning and weaving sector being reserved category for small scale industries is providing employment to large persons in urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of persons earning their livelihood by making production in this sector;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to delist the spinning and weaving sector from the reserved list for Small Scale Industry; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Though the spinning and weaving sectors are not reserved category for small scale industries (SSI), the employment being provided by these sectors is as follows:

Sectors	Number of Persons Employed
Spinning (SSI)	40961 (as on 30.04.2005)
Powerloom Weaving (SSI)	4757383 (as on 31.03.2005)
Total	4798344

(c) and (d) Since spinning and weaving are not in the reserved list of small scale industry, the question of their de-listing does not arise.

Fund Allocation under Total Sanitation Programme

2028. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing rural sanitation schemes in the rural areas of the country at present;

(b) the name of agencies through which the amount is spent to complete the work under the same;

(c) the criteria fixed for grant of funds under the said schemes;

(d) the funds allocated under each of the schemes during the last three years and till date, State-wise

(e) whether any survey has been conducted for improvement in sanitation in rural areas; and

(f) if so, the details and outcome thereof alongwith follow up action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is the only on-going Centrally sponsored sanitation scheme in the rural areas of the country at present. TSC has been sanctioned in 520 districts in the country with an outlay of Rs.5580.11 crore out of which shares of Central Government, State Government and the Beneficiary are Rs. 3314.19 crore, Rs.1255.62 crore and Rs.1100.29 crore respectively.

(b) TSC is executed through Zilla Parishad, District Water & Sanitation Mission (DWSM) or District Rural Development Agency in the States.

(c) Grant of funds to TSC is done as per the prescribed guidelines. Funds are sanctioned for the following components: (1) Start-up Activity, (2) Administrative Expenses (3) IEC Activities (4) School Sanitation (5) Individual Household Latrines (6) Community toilets (7) Anganwadi toilets and (8) Alternate Delivery Mechanism (setting up Rural Sanitary Marts and Production Centres). The fund-sharing pattern for different components is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) TSC is a demand driven programme and no State-wise fund allocation is made. However, funds are released to the States in four instalments, based on utilization of funds released in the earlier instalment. The funds released to the States in the last three years and till date, State-wise are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) and (f) All State Governments have been advised to conduct Base Line Survey in each district for assessing the extent of sanitation coverage and taking steps for improvement in sanitation in rural areas. Based on the Base Line Survey results and the Project Implementation Plan received from districts, TSC projects have been sanctioned to these districts.

Statement-I**TSC Component-Wise earmarking and funding pattern**

S.No.	Component	Amount earmarked as percent of the project outlay	Contribution percent		
			GOI	State	Household/Community
a.	Start-up Activities (Preliminary Surveys, Publicity etc.)	Less than 5% (Subject to a ceiling of Rs. 20 lakh per district)	100	0	0
b.	IEC, Including Motivational Awareness and Educative Campaigns, Advocacy etc.	More than 15%	80	20	0
c.	Alternate Delivery Mechanism (PCs/RSMs)	More than 5% (Subject to a maximum of Rs. 35 Lakh per district)	80	20	0
d.	(i) Individual Latrines for BPL disabled households (ii) Community Sanitary Complexes	Less than 60% (Subject to para 9 (d) of the Guidelines)	60	20	20
e.	Individual household latrines for APL	Nil	0	0	100
f.	School Sanitation Including Anganwadis (Hardware and Support Services)	More than 10%	60	30	10
g.	Administrative charges, including training, staff, support services, Monitoring & Evaluation etc.	Less than 5% (Subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 lakh per district)	80	20	0

Statement-II**Funds Released to States during the last three years and till date**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	1600.87	4660.35	3362.27	400.81	10024.3
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	10	90	0	100
3	Assam	0	199.31	254.95	0	454.26
4	Bihar	1548.7	0	120	0	1668.7
5	Chhattisgarh	175.64	0	1100.17	416.34	1692.15
6	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.15	0	0	0	3.15
7	Goa	0	0	134.67	0	134.67
8	Gujarat	194.65	12.5	3690.44	188.79	4086.38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	Haryana	402.9	62.06	811.13	0	1276.09
10	Himachal Pradesh	79.29	0	50	85.58	214.87
11	Kammu and Kashmir	0	76.48	1044.88	0	1121.36
12	Jharkhand	223.87	284.61	1946.71	2077.87	4533.06
13	Karnataka	0	0	558.57	3059.57	3618.14
14	Kerala	439.27	864.13	805.53	106.59	2215.52
15	Madhya Pradesh	718.1	4352.79	2242.97	533.58	7847.44
16	Maharashtra	591.37	725.05	3592.72	364.96	5274.1
17	Manipur	0	103.56	0	0	103.56
18	Meghalaya	0	221.37	0	0	221.37
19	Mizoram	0	11.51	60	0	71.51
20	Nagaland	13.79	0	62.69	0	76.48
21	Orissa	1113.85	284.16	4582.01	734.28	6714.3
22	Pondicherry	0	0	47.42	0	47.42
23	Punjab	52.67	0	699.94	0	752.61
24	Rajasthan	265.62	119.12	700.86	2227.19	3312.79
25	Sikkim	17.98	38.36	74.07	0	130.41
26	Tamil Nadu	2192.49	2768.98	2972.06	3651.78	11585.31
27	Tripura	249.56	819.21	368.73	0	1437.5
28	Uttar Pradesh	2272.4	3120.44	3475.35	1505.22	10373.41
29	Uttaranchal	151.16	13.4	503.23	57.1	724.89
30	West Bengal	1528.88	1181.1	1566.85	2407.06	6683.89
Total		13836.21	19928.49	34918.22	17816.72	86499.64

Evasion of Excise Duty

2029. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether manufacturers of Pan Masala/Gutkha, Polyester Yarn/Fabrics, Cigarette, Capital Goods, Iron & Steel, and Cinematographic Films are evading excise duty worth thousands of crores of rupees per annum;

(b) if so, details thereof 'item-wise, year-wise' for the last three years; and

(c) action taken to recover the entire amount of tax evasion from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Some cases of evasion of excise duty by Pan Masala/

Gutkha, Polyester Yarn/Fabrics, Cigarette, Capital Goods, Iron & Steel, and Cinematographic Films have been detected.

(b) Details of cases booked in last three years are as follows:

Commodities	Year	No. of cases detected	Amount involved in crores
1	2	3	4
Pan Masala/	2002-03	7	21.27
Gutkha	2003-04	8	30.54
	2004-05	9	26.25
Polyester Yarn/	2002-03	69	284.47
Fabrics	2003-04	67	170.31
	2004-05	43	66.08

1	2	3	4
Cigarettes	2002-03	-	-
	2003-04	3	42.37
	2004-05	1	.0016
Capital Goods	2002-03	4	26.85
	2003-04	9	40.35
	2004-05	9	6.36
Iron & Steel	2002-03	84	134.31
	2003-04	82	41.39
	2004-05	73	39.08
Cinematographic	2002-03	-	-
Films	2003-04	1	8.35
	2004-05	-	-

(c) Action as per Central Excise Act, 1944 and the Rules made there under is being taken to recover the amount. So far Rs.19.81 Crores, Rs.23.09 Crores and Rs.30.01 Crores have been recovered during the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

[Translation]

Integrated Wasteland Development Programme

2030. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects being implemented by various agencies under I.W.D.P. and the funds released by the Government during the last three years for this purpose, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has associated the local Members of Parliament for the monitoring of the works being undertaken under this programme;

(c) If so, whether the Government has received any complaints that the concerned Members of Parliament are not consulted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) 1151 projects have been sanctioned under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) for treatment of non-forest wastelands/degraded lands on watershed approach w.e.f 1.4.1995 till 31.7.2005. The watershed projects under IWDP are being implemented through the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Government line departments to act as a Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) at the village/ground level. State wise details of funds released to DRDAs/ZPs/State Governments under IWDP during the last 3 years (2002-03 to 2004-05) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Ministry of Rural Development has constituted the district level vigilance and monitoring committees with the members of 14th Lok Sabha nominated as Chairmen/Co-Chairmen and members of Rajya Sabha nominated as Co-Chairmen to supervise, exercise, vigilance and monitor the implementation of all programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development including IWDP.

(c) to (e) No such complaints pertaining to IWDP have been received in the Department of Land Resources.

Statement

Funds released under IWDP from 2002-03 to 2004-05

Sl. No.	State	No. of projects sanctioned under IWDP	Funds released (Central share) under IWDP (Rs. in lakhs)	Project Implementing Agencies
		2002-03 to 2004-05	2002-03 to 2004-05	
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	22	7798.47	PRI/Govt. line Deptt.
2	Bihar	18	871.88	-do-
3	Chhattisgarh	17	3470.76	-do-
4	Goa	2	82.5	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
5	Gujarat	20	4300.38	-do-
6	Haryana	8	1107.31	-do-
7	Himachal Pradesh	10	4195.46	-do-
8	Jammu and Kashmir	5	885.74	-do-
9	Jharkhand	10	519.67	-do-
10	Karnataka	20	6181.15	-do-
11	Kerala	3	570.85	-do-
12	Maharashtra	19	3314.55	-do-
13	Madhya Pradesh	31	8861.74	-do-
14	Orissa	16	4282.54	-do-
15	Punjab	4	244.54	-do-
16	Rajasthan	18	4990.56	-do-
17	Tamil Nadu	21	5302.07	-do-
18	Uttar Pradesh	26	5434.23	-do-
19	Uttaranchal	13	1927.72	-do-
20	West Bengal	6	239.4	-do-
Total		289	64581.32	

North Eastern States

21	Arunachal Pradesh	29	1614.48	Govt. line Deptt.
22	Assam	64	6372.87	Govt. line Deptt.
23	Manipur	18	1501.3	Govt. line Deptt.
24	Meghalaya	14	661.71	Govt. line Deptt.
25	Mizoram	15	2742.63	Govt. line Deptt.
26	Nagaland	17	5320.33	Govt. line Deptt.
27	Sikkim	7	777.37	Govt. line Deptt.
28	Tripura	7	418.24	Govt. line Deptt.
Total		171	19408.93	
Grand Total		460	83990.25	

*[English]***Two percent Cess on Direct Taxes**

2031. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of 2% cess on direct taxes for the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 has been ascertained by reconciling the accounts;

(b) if so, the amount arrived at; and

(c) if not, by when the reconciliation of accounts is expected and the amount of 2% cess arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The total amount of collection under the head surcharge (not cess) on direct taxes for the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 stands finalized and reported by the Controller General of Accounts as Rs. 2187.82 Crore and Rs. 556.89 crore, respectively.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to para (a) above.

Cyclones in India

2032. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 13 per cent of the world's cyclones occur in the ocean around India;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any research in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome of the study; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. Only 7% of the world's cyclones occur over North Indian ocean.

(b) A long series of data on tropical cyclone over North Indian ocean (from 1877 onwards) is available. A systematic study and extensive research work has been carried out in respect of cyclone climatology relating to genesis, development, track forecasting and storm surge prediction etc.

(c) In the field of climatology, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has brought out an Atlas on the 'Track of Storms and Depressions in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea' for the period 1877 to 1970 and another volume to cover the period 1971-1990. The same is being updated every year from 1991 onwards.

IMD has come out with a Quasi-Langrangian Model for track forecast of tropical cyclones with a horizontal resolution of 40 km. The model has been updated to get 6 hourly track forecast up to 72 hrs. The forecast graphic output of this model is made available on IMD web site.

For the storm surge prediction, IMD uses both Nomograms developed by IMD and Dynamical Storm Surge Model developed by IIT, New Delhi. Very recently IMD has also implemented Dynamical storm surge model of NIOT, Chennai for the east coast of India on experimental mode.

(d) In view of (c) above, the accuracy of cyclone forecasts issued by IMD is generally at par with tropical cyclone forecast services of other developed countries like USA, Japan, Australia etc. However, with the development of new observing systems such as Buoys, Doppler Radars and new generation Satellite, these forecasts are likely to improve further.

Special Rural Development Schemes for Tsunami Affected People

2033. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch special schemes for Tsunami affected people in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on these schemes; and

(d) the time by which special schemes are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Government of India has approved a Special package of Rs. 3644.05 crore named as "Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami affected Areas" to provide assistance for immediate relief and response, revival of fishery and agriculture sectors, construction of temporary (intermediate) shelters, immediate repair/restoration of infrastructure, besides special relief to orphans, unmarried girls above 18 years of age, widows and disabled persons. Details are given in the enclosed statement. In addition, an amount of Rs.150.00 lakh with foodgrains 558 MT to Kerala and Rs.210.00 lakh with foodgrains 2629 MT to Tamil Nadu were also released over and above the normal Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) allocations under the 5% of funds and foodgrains meant for utilization in the areas of acute distress arising out of natural calamities.

(d) The implementation of the Special Package by the affected States/UTs has already started.

Statement**Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for the Tsunami affected States/Union Territories****A. Main Land:**

(Rs. In Crore)

State	From CRF/ NCCF	Other Ministries	Fishing Sector		Fishing Harbour grant	Housing	Total
			Subsidy	Loan			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh	19.53	13.00	27.66	7.51	-	2.30	70.00
Kerala	84.10	23.21	44.85	34.13	13.07	50.00	249.36
Tamil Nadu	617.20	62.50	441.08	566.47	9.94	650.00	2347.19
Sub Total	720.83	98.71	513.59	608.11	23.01	702.30	2666.55
Pondicherry	39.78	2.5	32.01	31.13	0.20	50.00	155.62
Grand Total	760.61	101.21	545.60	639.24	23.21	752.30	2822.17

Note: Includes additional, Rs. 91.13 crore has been approved under fishery sector. (Rs 84.54 crore – Tamil Nadu, Rs. 3.42 crore – Kerala, Rs. 1.01 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 2.16 crore to Pondicherry.)

CRF = Calamity Relief Fund

NCCF = National Calamity Contingency Fund

B. Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

(Rs in Crore)

Assistance covered	Amount	Remarks
(A) Assistance as per CRF/NCCF norms	313.19	This includes 15.37 crore from ARWSP out of the budget of Department of Drinking Water Supply
(B) Assistance covered under norms with relaxation of scale	215.65	This includes 7500 MT foodgrains (Rice) under SGRY, valued at Rs. 7.50 crore
I Assistance covered under norms with a special package		
(i) Revival of economic activity		
(a) Fishermen	15.01	
(b) Agriculture	239.54	
(ii) Rehabilitation of orphans, widows, disabled, unmarried girls	8.60	
(iii) Immediate restoration of administration and infrastructure activity	29.89	
Grand Total	821.88	

ARWSP = Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

SGRY = Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana

C. Total Package (A+B): Rs. 3644.05 crore

**Project for Water Supply
in Haryana**

2034. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has chalked out a major project for water supply in Mewat area of Haryana;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the information provided by the Government of Haryana, a project for augmentation of drinking water supply in Mewat area has been approved and is being implemented by the Government of Haryana.

(b) The project envisages augmentation of drinking water supply in 503 villages falling in six Blocks, namely Hathin, Punhana, Nuh, Ferozpur Jhirka, Nagina and Taoru of Mewat area. The project also envisages recharging ground water table by construction of 283 water-harvesting structures.

The total cost of the project is Rs.205.91 crores. 75% cost of the project will be met through loan from National Capital Region Planning Board and 25% will be borne by the State Government from its own resources.

(c) The project is likely to be completed in a period of three years.

[English]

**Guidelines for Financial Assistance
to States**

2035. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has issued guidelines for loans, financial assistance and grants-in-aid for various projects/schemes in special and non-special category States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some States have registered their protests in this regard;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No guidelines have been issued for loans and financial assistance for various projects/schemes for states' plans. However Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended that Central Government should not act as an intermediary for future lending to States and allow the States to approach the market directly. Government of India has accepted this recommendation of Twelfth Finance Commission and accordingly States have been conveyed about the decision.

(c) and (d) In response to this decision, States have raised apprehensions on issues of regularity of fund flows for State Plans, inability of some States to raise market borrowings, high cost of small saving funds and caps on market borrowings by the States.

(e) Government of India has accepted the recommendation of Twelfth Finance Commission to borrow on behalf of Fiscally Weak States who are unable to raise funds from the market and allow other States to borrow from the market directly.

**Modern Technology for "Provision of
Urban Amenities in Rural Areas"**

2036. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI RAO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether village knowledge centre was one of the essential components for realizing the goals of graduating into a knowledge society and lead to the transformation of the nation into a developed country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to back "Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas" (PURA) with modern technology to bridge the rural urban divide;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) Providing knowledge connectivity in the form of good educational and training institutions is one among the seven identified components under the scheme Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA), and is essential for realizing the goals of graduating into a knowledge society and to bridge the urban rural divide. The Ministry of Rural Development in

consultation with Planning Commission has decided to initially launch a pilot phase for implementation of the scheme Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA). Under the pilot phase, the following seven facilities are proposed to be provided:

- (i) Road and transportation
- (ii) Power connectivity
- (iii) Electronic connectivity in the form of reliable telecom, internet and IT Services
- (iv) Knowledge connectivity in the form of good educational and training institutions
- (v) Market connectivity to enable farmers to get the best price for their produce
- (vi) Drinking water supply
- (vii) Health facilities of basic quality and standards.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in Power Sector

2037. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the target set for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in power sector for each of the last three years;
- (b) the actual target achieved during the above period;
- (c) the additional power generation capacity created during the above period; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to mobilize additional FDI in power Sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) No targets have been set for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in power sector as the inflow of capital largely depends upon the prevailing investment climate and the foreign investors' confidence and their perception of investment risks in deciding the country and choice of sector within the country for investment.

(b) As per information available with Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, the actual FDI inflows during January, 2002 to May, 2005 amounted to Rs.3559.06 crores, as per details enclosed in Statement-I.

(c) During the last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05, the generation capacity addition was 10822.6 MW (excluding non-conventional energy sources). Details are furnished in Statement-II.

(d) The Electricity Act, 2003 creates a liberal framework for development of the electricity industry, promoting competition therein protecting interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalization of electricity tariff, ensuring transparent policies regarding subsidies, constitution of Regulatory Commissions and establishment of Appellate Tribunal. The Act reduces entry barriers in different segments of power supply industry and promotes competition and in turn efficiency improvements.

Generation has been delicensed by the Act. The Act provides for non-discriminatory open access in transmission from the very onset. Open access in distribution is to be introduced by the SERCs in phases.

Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the appropriate Commission shall adopt the tariff if such tariff has been determined through transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government. Central Government has issued the guidelines for competitive bidding for determination of tariff for procurement of power by distribution licensees. It is expected to facilitate private sector participation in generation.

Proposals for Foreign Direct Investment in respect of power generation transmission & distribution projects (other than nuclear power plants) no longer require the approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) for foreign investment and are eligible for automatic approval.

Statement-I

Countrywise Break-up for FDI inflows received from January 2002 to May 2005

SECTOR POWER

(Amount in Rs. crore)

S. No.	Name of the Country	Amount of Foreign Direct Investment Inflows (In Rs.)	%age with Inflows
1	2	3	4
1.	Austria	1.04	0.03
2.	Canada	0.04	0.00
3.	Cayman Island	115.80	3.25

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
4.	Denmark	0.92	0.03	14.	Singapore	3.82	0.11
5.	Finland	22.76	0.64	15.	Spain	0.29	0.01
6.	France	35.00	0.98	16.	Switzerland	8.27	0.23
7.	Germany	57.42	1.61	17.	U.A.E.	2.27	0.06
8.	Italy	5.41	0.15	18.	U.K.	300.15	8.43
9.	Japan	1.26	0.04	19.	U.S.A.	154.52	4.34
10.	Korea (South)	2.00	0.06	20.	Unindicated Country	0.05	0.00
11.	Mauritius	2819.96	79.23	21.	Seychelles	4.47	0.13
12.	NRI	23.56	0.66	Grand Total		3559.06	
13.	Russia	0.05	0.00	<i>Note: 1. Amount includes the Inflows Received through SIA/FIPB route, acquisition of existing shares and RBI's automatic route only</i>			

Statement-II**Project-wise Details of Actual Capacity Additions
Year-wise/Region-wise**

As on 22.7.2005

Name of the project	State	Sector	Type	Installed Capacity (MW)	Actual Commissioning (in MW)		
					02-03	03-04	04-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nathpa Jhakri	H.P.	C.S.	(H)	1500.0	0.0	1500.0	0.0
Chamera-II	H.P.	C.S.	(H)	300.0	0.0	300.0	0.0
Rihand-II	U.P.	C.S.	(T)	1000.0	0.0	0.0	500.0
Pragati COPP	DEL.	S.S.	(G)	121.2	121.2	0.0	0.0
Pragati CAPP	DEL.	S.S.	(G)	104.6	104.6	0.0	0.0
Baspa-2*	H.P.	P.S.	(H)	300.0	200.0	100.0	0.0
Panipat U-7 & 8	HAR.	S.S.	(T)	500.0	0.0	0.0	500.0
Ramgarh CCGT-2	RAJ.	S.S.	(G)	75.3	75.3	0.0	0.0
Kota TPS STIV	RAJ.	S.S.	(T)	195.0	0.0	195.0	0.0
Suratgarh III	RAJ.	S.S.	(T)	250.0	0.0	250.0	0.0
Region Total					501.1	2345.0	1000.0
Indira Sagar JV	M.P.	C.S.	(H)	1000.0	0.0	500.0	500.0
Akrimota TPP	GUJ.	S.S.	(T)	250.0	0.0	0.0	125.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Dhuvaran CCGT	GUJ.	S.S.	(G)	218.6	0.0	106.6	0.0
Sar. Sarovar	GUJ.	S.S.	(H)	1450.0	100.0	0.0	350.0
Bansagar Ton III	M.P.	S.S.	(H)	60.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
Bansagar Ton II	M.P.	S.S.	(H)	30.0	15.0	0.0	0.0
Region Total					135.0	606.6	975.0
Simhadri tps	A.P.	C.S.	(T)	500.0	500.0	0.0	0.0
Ramagundam III	A.P.	C.S.	(T)	500.0	0.0	0.0	500.0
Neyveli PST EXT	TAM.	C.S.	(T)	420.0	210.0	210.0	0.0
Mapp-I uprating	TAM.	C.S.	(N)	100.0	0.0	0.0	50.0
Peddapuram cc \$	A.P.	P.S.	(G)	78.0	78.0	0.0	0.0
Srisaïlam LBPH	A.P.	S.S.	(H)	900.0	300.0	150.0	0.0
Almatti dam PH	KAR.	S.S.	(H)	15.0	0.0	15.0	0.0
Raichur U-7& 8	KAR.	S.S.	(T)	420.0	210.0	0.0	0.0
Almatti dam PH	KAR.	S.S.	(H)	275.0	0.0	0.0	165.0
NLC II ext. u-0	TAM.	P.S.	(T)	250.0	250.0	0.0	0.0
Karuppur CAPP	TAM.	P.S.	(G)	119.8	0.0	0.0	70.0
Valuthur CCST	TAM.	S.S.	(G)	34.0	34.0	0.0	0.0
Valuthur CCGT	TAM.	S.S.	(G)	60.0	60.0	0.0	0.0
Kutralam CAPP	TAM.	S.S.	(G)	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Region Total					1642.0	475.0	785.0
Mezia U-4	DVC	C.S.	(T)	210.0	0.0	0.0	210.0
Talcher II	ORI.	C.S.	(T)	2000.0	500.0	500.0	1000
Potteru Ph I & II	ORI.	S.S.	(H)	6.0	6.0	0.0	0.0
Region Total					506.0	500.0	1210.0
Kopili HE St.II	ASS.	C.S.	(H)	25.0	0.0	25.0	0.0
Likakhong DG	MANI.	S.S.	(D)	18.0	18.0	0.0	0.0
Bairabi HFO \$	MIZO.	S.S.	(D)	22.9	0.0	0.0	22.9
Rokhia II U-7	TRI	S.S.	(G)	42.0	21.0	0.0	0.0
Baramura GT Ext.	TRI	S.S.	(G)	21.0	21.0	0.0	0.0
Likim-Ro	NAGA	S.S.	(H)	8.0	8.0	0.0	0.0
Region Total					68.0	25.0	22.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bambooflat DG *	A&N	P.S.	(D)	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
Rangat Bay DG	A&N	S.S.	(D)	6.0	0.0	0.0	6.0
Region Total					20.0	0.0	6.0
India Total					2872.1	3951.6	3998.9

Total Generation capacity created 10822.6 MW
(out of planned Xth plan target of 41110 MW)

[English]

Shortage of Notaries

2038. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the acute shortage of Notaries in the country and as a result thereof the public is facing difficulties;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has received any request from some State Governments to enhance the number of Notaries;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the Notaries Act so as to enhance the number of Notaries to be appointed by the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Kerala only have requested to enhance the number of Notaries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Subsidy Policy

2039. MOHD. SHAHID: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to review the provision of subsidy as appearing in 'Dainik Jagran', dated the June 10, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Lahiri Committee has since presented its report;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof;

(e) the names of the areas/commodities in respect of which subsidies are proposed to be withdrawn;

(f) whether the people living below poverty line are getting the benefits of these subsidies; and

(g) if so, the reasons for doing away with subsidy by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (g) The National Common Minimum Programme of the Government of India makes a commitment to target all subsidies at the poor and the truly needy like small and marginal farmers, farm labour and urban poor. In pursuance of this, the Ministry of Finance commissioned a study by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi. Based on the study by NIPFP, a report outlining some policy issues was presented to Parliament on December 23, 2004 for generating an informed debate on the subject. This report also discussed the benefits incidence of the subsidies on people living below the poverty line. To benefit from broad-based consultation, discussions were held with stakeholders in May 2005 and comments of public were invited in June 2005. No decision has been taken regarding restructuring subsidies. No committee has been set up by the Government in this regard as mentioned in the 'Dainik Jagran', dated the June 10, 2005.

[English]

Recommendations of National Advisory Council on Rural Development

2040. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Advisory Council has suggested measures for reforming administration and management of land by inducting the new technology;

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

(c) the action so far taken by the Government on the suggestions of National Advisory Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes, National Advisory Council has suggested that for preparation and updation of Land Records, the old manual methodology should be discarded and computer technology may be adopted to obtain accurate surveys. Aerial photographs should be used with the help of agencies like Survey of India, ISRO and others for the preparation of land maps. The agencies may be requested to take up Pilot Projects to evaluate the suitability of GPS and other available technologies. All Sub-Divisional and Taluk offices should be linked to the District computers to have connectivity including the NICNET or directly with the computerized land records available for use and regular dynamic synchronous updation of websites.

(c) The scheme of Computerization of Land Records (CLR) with 100% financial assistance from Government of India is an ongoing Scheme. The main objective of the Scheme was to create digital database of land records and issue of computerised copies of Record of Rights (ROR) to land owners on demand at a reasonable price. Under the Scheme of CLR, funds are released to the State Governments for undertaking basic data entry work, setting up of computer centres at tehsil/taluk/sub-division level and imparting training to Revenue staff involved in the computerisation work. So far 582 districts, 3309 tehsils/taluks

and 562 sub-divisions of the country have been brought under the programme with the total financial support of Rs.344.98 crore. In 2721 tehsils/taluks computer centres have been set up and from 2607 tehsils/taluks, computerised copies of RoR are being issued to landowners on demand.

Under the scheme of Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land and Records (SRA & ULR), which is also an ongoing scheme, financial assistance is given on 50:50 sharing basis between Centre and the States for the purchase of modern survey equipments like GPS and Electronic Total Station (ETS), construction of Record Rooms, office-cum-residence of Patwaries and Survey Training Institute etc. Since inception of the scheme, the Government of India has given financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 285.40 crore to State/UTs under this Scheme. From time to time, States/UTs are requested to adopt modern technologies in Survey and Settlement operations through the Scheme of SRA & ULR.

[Translation]

Assistance to Other Countries

2041. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government has provided assistance to other countries for relief work in famine-stricken regions during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Brief particulars of assistance pledged by the Government of India, country-wise, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Name of the country	Particulars of assistance pledged
1	2
Bangladesh	Assistance worth Rs. 100 crore for supply of commodities in the regions affected with floods.
Sri Lanka & Maldives	Some assistance for carrying out relief work in regions affected with Tsunami.
Afghanistan	1 million tonnes of wheat for carrying out relief work.
Indonesia	Assistance worth US\$ 3 million for carrying out relief work in regions affected with Tsunami and earthquake.
Vietnam	Medicines worth Rs. 5.38 lakh.

1	2
Thailand	Assistance worth US\$ 0.5 million for victims of Tsunami.
Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK)	2000 MT of White Rice worth Rs. 2.28 crore, 200,000 units of Dexamethasone injections, 1000 MT of rice worth Rs.1.61 crore and 2000 MT of rice.
Cambodia	Rs. 13.95 crore.
Tajakistan	Wheat, rice, sugar & tea worth US\$ 5 million delivered as drought relief.
Sudan	20000 tonnes of wheat worth Rs. 17.33 crore for the people affected by famine in the Western region of Darfur.
Cote d' Ivoire	5000 MT of Rice worth Rs. 7.08 crore and 5000 MT of Sugar worth Rs. 7.94 crore.
Chad	5000 MT of Rice worth Rs. 7.50 crore.
Suriname	Medicines wor1h Rs. 20.6 lakh.
Jamaica	Medicines wor1h US\$ 0.2 million were supplied as relief assistance.
Grenada	Relief Assistance – Medicines worth US\$ 0.05 million and Roofing material worth US\$ 0.05 million.
Haiti	Relief Assistance – Medicines worth US\$ 0.01 million.
Dominican Republic	Relief Assistance – Medicines worth US\$ 0.05 million and US\$ 1 million for construction of Day Care Centre.
Guyana	Medicines worth US\$ 0.1 million provided as relief supply.
Saint Vincent and Grenadine	Medicines worth US\$ 0.05 million provided as relief supply.

[English]

Earthquake

2042. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the major earthquakes reported during each of the last three years, location-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness among the public for the adoption of safety measures to overcome the situation arising out of earthquakes in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No major earthquake (M>6) has been reported in the year 2003. However, a great event of

magnitude of 9.3 occurred off the coast of Sumatra Island in Indonesia on 26 December, 2004. This event was followed by 11 aftershocks in 2004 and 13 aftershocks in 2005 (till 0900 hrs. IST of 29.07.2005). Details of these aftershocks are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), has published various guidelines for building construction and retrofitting etc. Adoption of these guidelines can help in reduction of loss of life and property due to future earthquakes. Also, the Department of Science & Technology supports periodical organisation of earthquake awareness programme in different parts of the country in the form of workshops & short term courses. A video film both in English and Hindi has been prepared for creating awareness among common people. Besides DST's efforts, Ministry of Home Affairs has also initiated several programmes dealing with earthquake education & awareness at national level.

Statement**Details of main shock and aftershocks ($M \Rightarrow 6.0$) of Sumatra earthquake during the year 2004**

Year	Date		Time (IST)			Lat. (Deg. N.)	Long. (Deg. E)	Magnitude (Richter Scale)
	Month	Day	Hour	Min.	Sec.			
2004	12	26	06	28	51.1	3.3	96.1	8.3
2004	12	26	06	51	17.4	5.9	93.4	6.1
2004	12	26	06	52	21.1	7.2	94.3	6.1
2004	12	26	07	30	37.4	7.1	95.5	6.0
2004	12	26	09	51	27.8	7.0	92.8	7.2
2004	12	26	14	50	6.9	8.9	92.1	6.1
2004	12	26	15	49	28.7	13.3	93.2	6.1
2004	12	26	16	35	11.8	14.3	92.4	6.2
2004	12	27	06	19	35.9	13.3	91.9	6.1
2004	12	29	07	20	58.1	9.4	93.5	6.1
2004	12	29	11	26	48.9	8.9	93.1	6.0
2004	12	30	23	28	13.6	12.4	92.0	6.0

Details of aftershocks ($M \Rightarrow 6.0$) of Sumatra earthquake during the year 2005

Year	Date		Time (IST)			Lat. (Deg. N.)	Long. (Deg. E)	Magnitude (Richter Scale)
	Month	Day	Hour	Min.	Sec.			
2005	1	1	11	55	54.6	5.7	91.9	6.6
2005	1	2	21	05	56.5	6.4	92.8	6.0
2005	1	4	14	43	13.8	10.5	92.1	6.0
2005	1	10	03	42	54.4	5.0	95.3	6.0
2005	1	24	09	46	49.8	7.8	92.4	6.3
2005	3	28	21	39	34.3	2.4	97.8	8.3
2005	4	3	08	41	1.7	2.2	97.5	6.1
2005	4	16	22	08	9.8	2.4	97.2	6.0
2005	4	28	19	37	37.2	2.4	97.0	6.1
2005	5	18	17	07	42.3	5.9	92.5	6.3
2005	5	19	07	24	53.8	2.4	97.6	6.3
2005	7	5	07	22	4.1	0.8	97.7	6.2
2005	7	24	21	12	11.0	8.3	92.3	7.2

Interest on Loans

2043. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI G. K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the leading banks such as ICICI and HDFC have increased their Car/Home loan interest rates recently;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, ICICI and HDFC have increased their Car/Home loan interest-rates recently. Since RBI has deregulated the interest rates on advances above Rs. 2 lacs with effect from 18th October 1994, the rate of interest on advances are determined by the banks themselves. In order to enhance transparency in banks' pricing of the loan products, banks were advised vide RBI's Monetary & Credit Policy Statement dated April 29, 2003 to announce a Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) taking into account (i) actual cost of funds, (ii) operating expenses and (iii) a minimum margin to cover regulatory requirement of provisioning/capital charge and profit margin, with the approval of respective Board of Directors and ensure that BPLR truly reflects the actual cost. Accordingly, individual banks determine their interest rates to be charged to a particular borrower subject to BPLR and spread guidelines. However, banks are free to charge interest on housing loans, consumer loans without reference to their BPLR. For this reason, the rate of interest on housing and other consumer loans may vary from bank to bank and may also be below or above BPLR. Banks also have freedom to offer all categories of loans on floating rates by using market benchmark in a transparent manner.

Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana

2044. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up a special fund to encourage development activities in the neglected rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the performance and functioning of Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) during the last three years and current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the grants provided and utilized under this Yojana during the said period, State-wise;

(f) whether certain States have demanded more funds for effective implementation of the Yojana;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such programme, namely, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) is being implemented by this Ministry. JGSY was merged with the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) with effect from 25th September, 2001.

(d) to (h) Do not arise.

Guidelines Laid Down by CERC

2045. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down a set of rules that are crucial for the implementation of the Electricity Act, 2003;

(b) whether Ministry was required to come out with these guidelines by June, 2005; and

(c) if so, the extent to which these rules have been able to improve power position in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, which has come into force from 10th June, 2003, Central Government has notified various rules, guidelines, orders as well as the National Electricity Policy in the form of gazette notifications/resolutions.

(b) Section 183(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003, is reproduced below:

"If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of two years from the date of commencement of this Act".

10th June, 2003 being the appointed date for commencement of the Act, any order under Section 183 could be issued on or before 9th June, 2005.

(c) Various rules, orders etc., issued under the provisions of the Act are required for carrying out the provisions of the Act so that the objective of the legislation can be achieved.

Genetic Diversity of Tiger Population

2046. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a programme to conserve genetic diversity of tiger population in the country has been, launched as appeared in 'The Hindu' dated of May 20, 2005;

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

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the country by launching this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology has already established the "Laboratory for conservation of endangered animals (LACONES)" at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad jointly with the Central Zoo Authority, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) LACONES is monitoring genetic variation among populations of endangered animals including the tiger through DNA fingerprinting. Besides cells, semen, eggs and embryos are being cryopreserved for ex-situ conservation. Studies have revealed that Indian tigers show moderate genetic variability of about 26%. Scientists have developed a non-invasive method for extraction of DNA from faecal samples and wherever possible, hair samples, for assessing the genetic diversity in tigers.

(c) The studies would be useful in determining the population and assessing the genetic diversity in Indian tiger

population. It would reveal the genetic health of the population and provide insights as to whether inbreeding depression has set in. The information could be used to plan breeding programmes and to improve the genetic variability of the tiger population.

[Translation]

E-Governance of Rural Development Programmes

2047. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided for implementation of e-governance for proper operation of rural development programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds have been allocated for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details of the amount allocated, State-wise; and

(e) the time-frame fixed for operation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Rural Development has embarked on a number of initiatives to dovetail the advances of Information Technology with effective implementation of its programmes. The Ministry's web-site www.rural.nic.in is accessible to all users providing ready information on various aspects of rural development in general, and the Ministry in particular. For proper monitoring of the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development, on-line monthly financial statements from District Rural Development Agencies and on line monthly progress reports for specific programmes have been introduced providing transparency and easy access. The Ministry is also implementing a scheme of Computerisation of Land Records with the objective of creating digital database of land records and issue of computerized copies of the Record of Rights (ROR) to land owners.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs.102 crores has been allocated for computerization of Land Records and other E-Governance initiatives in the Ministry of Rural Development during the financial year 2005-06. No State-wise allocation is made.

(e) The allocated funds are earmarked for utilization during the current financial year.

[English]

Damodar Valley Corporation

2048. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to bring Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) under the purview of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) On a clarification sought by the DVC related to jurisdiction of appropriate Regulatory Commission over the Corporation, Ministry of Power has clarified in June, 2005 that:

- (i) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has jurisdiction under section 79 of the Electricity Act, 2003 in respect of generating stations of the DVC and the inter-state transmission of electricity undertaken by the DVC.
- (ii) The concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commission has jurisdiction in terms of section 86 of the Act in respect of distribution of electricity and intra-state transmission of electricity undertaken by DVC.

Changes in Guidelines on Hariyali Scheme

2049. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the guidelines for Hariyali Scheme issued by the Union Government in April, 2003 have incorporated a number of changes in accordance with 73rd amendment to the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether certain problems in implementation of projects have increased as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether certain States, particularly Maharashtra have requested for changes in these guidelines;

(d) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) the time by which such requests are likely to be acceded to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a)

Guidelines for watershed development have been suitably revised to provide a pivotal role to the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) w.e.f 1.4.2003 under Hariyali Guidelines.

(b) to (e) While there are no complaints from the State Governments on the spirit of Hariyali Guidelines for implementation through the Panchayati Raj Institutions, suggestions from States including Maharashtra are being received from time to time on operational issues, which are sorted out in consultation with the concerned States.

Overseas Investment by Indian Companies

2050. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any information of the investment made by Indian companies abroad; and

(b) if so, the details of the sectors, countries and amount invested during the last three years, year-wise?

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

(b) The information as given by RBI is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Actual outflows on account of overseas Direct Investment in Joint Ventures (JV)/ Wholly Owned Subsidiaries (WOS) abroad

(Amount US\$ million)				
S.No.	Name of the Country	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1	Afghanistan	-	0.0163	-
2	Algeria	-	0.5454	0.2490
3	Australia	56.675	31.5107	40.7549
4	Austria	-	-	0.1035
5	Azerbaijan	-	-	2.0500
6	Bangladesh	1.0095	1.5677	0.9737
7	Bahmas	-	0.0210	-
8	Bahrain	0.3300	-	0.0540
9	Belgium	0.7836	8.5760	1.1502

1	2	3	4	5
10	British Virgin Island	3.7295	3.5948	20.9515
11	Bermuda	98.9950	227.4771	2.6000
12	Botswana	-	0.0500	0.0200
13	Brazil	3.1727	6.1853	19.2357
14	Burkina Faso	-	0.0438	-
15	Channel Island	-	-	3.6396
16	Cambodia	0.0200	-	0.0153
17	Canada	1.0981	0.3962	1.5154
18	Cayman Island	-	0.0050	2.7567
19	China	21.3688	19.5517	17.5845
20	Colombia	0.2086	-	-
21	Cyprus	-	0.0250	1.9300
22	Czech Republic	-	0.0074	0.7692
23	Denmark	-	-	7.3237
24	Egypt	0.0051	2.7110	0.3553
25	Ethiopia	0.1080	0.5570	0.2800
26	France	1.586	81.6648	12.7363
27	Finland	-	0.0213	0.0126
28	Germany	4.9698	17.5696	9.8276
29	Ghana	-	-	0.1100
30	Hongkong	4.7278	19.3373	45.1349
31	Hungary	0.1487	1.6221	-
32	Indonesia	0.1151	0.2769	12.3060
33	Iran	-	0.9317	7.7357
34	Israel	-	0.5007	0.1750
35	Ireland	-	4.4214	3.5605
36	Italy	0.1574	0.0899	7.4065
37	Ivory Coast	-	-	11.2400
38	Japan	0.2771	0.0435	-

1	2	3	4	5
39	Kazakhstan	0.1088	-	5.8500
40	Kenya	0.6777	0.0163	0.1935
41	Kuwait	0.0702	0.5465	0.7127
42	Kirghystan	-	-	2.7500
43	South Korea	-	51.5100	1.6101
44	Libya	-	11.0062	2.3480
45	Luxembourg	0.9503	-	-
46	Malta	35.3833	39.6297	10.0360
47	Mauritius	113.5784	58.1966	158.2569
48	Myanmar	2.0744	8.4326	7.7253
49	Moldova	-	-	3.2500
50	Malaysia	0.6447	2.0604	3.7629
51	Mozambique	-	-	10.0650
52	Mexico	-	-	0.1620
53	Nepal	4.1248	1.0441	3.6939
54	Netherlands	10.8623	14.9579	22.3119
55	Niger	-	-	0.0100
56	Nigeria	4.0835	3.0534	1.6039
57	Namibia	-	0.0522	-
58	New Zealand	-	0.0270	0.0007
59	Norway	0.0100	-	-
60	Oman	69.7480	83.5938	4.8042
61	Philippines	0.0100	1.0056	3.8859
62	Poland	0.4985	-	0.1518
63	Qatar	-	0.3238	-
64	Romania	-	0.0971	-
65	Russia	251.2995	371.4393	260.6183
66	South Africa	0.1224	1.3984	2.0338
67	Senegal	-	15.000	-
68	Saudi Arabia	0.1200	-	-

1	2	3	4	5
69	Singapore	36,4388	13,9573	228,4790
70	St. Vincent	-	-	0.0500
71	Sri Lanka	8.6858	42.9681	6.8467
72	Spain	-	0.1860	-
73	Sudan	669.9739	4.3683	232.6035
74	Swaziland	-	0.0694	0.9593
75	Sweden	2.1400	-	-
76	Switzerland	1.0377	1.0958	30.2380
77	Syrian Arab Republic	-	-	0.9254
78	Tajikistan	-	0.0150	0.0280
79	Thailand	8.8887	5.8316	3.6188
80	Tanzania	0.0110	0.2395	0.1800
81	Trinidad & Tobacoo	-	0.6000	-
82	UAE	14.017	24.7209	47.0664
83	Uganda	-	0.2000	-
84	U.K.	30.721	82.7636	120.2792
85	Ukraine	-	-	3.9800
86	USA	232.7476	210.5528	126.6911
87	Uruguay	1.000	1.9555	2.2400
88	Uzbekistan	1.5920	0.1280	0.1870
89	Vanatua	-	-	2.3010
90	Vietnam	-	12.4143	0.0550
91	Zambia	-	0.0700	0.0350
92	Zimbabwe	-	-	0.1750

Rural Water Supply in Desert Prone Areas

2051. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced any programme for supporting rural water supply in desert prone areas of the country;

(b) if so, the number of districts covered thereunder and allocation of funds made during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any disparity in allocation of funds to States, particularly to Gujarat under the programme; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and the steps taken by the Government to bring parity therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) To supplement the efforts of the State Governments in providing drinking water supply to rural habitations, the Central Government renders financial assistance under a centrally sponsored scheme, namely, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). This scheme already has a component viz., ARWSP (DDP) to support rural water supply in the areas covered under Desert Development Programme (DDP).

(b) 40 districts in 7 States are covered under ARWSP DDP. These are:

States	No. of DDP districts
Andhra Pradesh	1
Gujarat	6
Haryana	7
Himachal Pradesh	2
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Karnataka	6
Rajasthan	16
Total	40

The state-wise detail of the amount allocated under ARWSP (DDP) during the last 3 years and in the current year is given at statement.

(c) and (d) There is no disparity in allocation of funds to the States under ARWSP (DDP). The inter-State allocation under ARWSP (DDP) is made in the proportion of the number of No Safe Source (NSS) habitations as prescribed under guidelines. Every year before allocating funds under ARWSP (DDP) States are requested to furnish data of no safe source habitations in the areas identified under DDP. In case any State fails to furnish the said data, the same is taken from the records available with the Central Government.

Statement**Allocation made under ARWSP (DDP)**

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Name of State	Amount Allocated			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	Andhra Pradesh	1388.00	1424.00	609.00	130.00
2	Gujarat	153.00	153.00	66.00	1153.00
3	Haryana	944.00	968.00	660.00	78.00
4	Himachal Pradesh	8.00	8.00	10.00	2020.00
5	Jammu & Kashmir	64.00	65.00	330.00	165.00
6	Karnataka	1177.00	1208.00	1559.00	2085.00
7	Rajasthan	6019.00	6174.00	7966.00	12594.00
	Total	9753.00	10000.00	11200.00	18225.00

Promotion of Handicraft Industry

2052. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to promote handicrafts industry in the country, specially in Gujarat and tribal areas;

(b) whether the handicraft industry has been badly affected;

(c) if so, the schemes being formulated by the Government to promote this industry; and

(d) the amount allocated for promotion of handicraft during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The measures taken by the Government to promote and develop handicrafts in the country, which also covers the State of Gujarat and tribal areas, include implementation of schemes for integrated development of craft clusters under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY); design & technology upgradation; marketing & support services; export promotion, training and extension; workshop; research and development; Bima Yojana for handicrafts artisans; Special Handicrafts Training Project (SHTP) etc.

(b) No, Sir. The progress made by the handicrafts sector can be seen from the trend available in increase of exports of handicrafts and hand-knotted carpets since 2001-02, which is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Years	Exports	%Growth in export
1.	2001-02	9205.63	-
2.	2002-03	10933.61	+ 18.77
3.	2003-04	12765.18	+ 16.75
4.	2004-05	15255.90	+ 19.51

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The schemes for promotion & development of handicrafts are Centre Sector Schemes and state wise allocations are not made. However, the amount allocated for promotion & development of handicrafts in the country during the last three years is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Allocation (Rs. in crores)
1.	2002-03	88.00
2.	2003-04	103.55
3.	2004-05	105.00

Visit to Glacial Continent

2053. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level team has visited the glacial continent to take stock of various operational and scientific activities during February, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the strengthening Antarctic Programme of India evolved after such visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An eight member Indian delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ocean Development visited Indian Antarctic Station 'Maitri' during 2-4 February, 2005 to gather first hand information about the scientific activities being carried out and inspect the available research and other facilities. The delegation inspected the on going field research work around Maitri, Historic site, India Point and also made a courtesy visit to the nearby Russian station, "Novolazarevskaya". This visit, the first by a Minister, not only helped in boosting the morale of the Indian team working in the harsh Antarctic conditions, but has also given significant attention to our Antarctic Programme.

(c) Based on the inspection, steps has been taken to improve the living quarters for the scientific personnel at Maitri. Ten containerized insulated living modules and two containerized bathing modules will be sent to Maitri with the next expedition. The main station building, built in 1989, has already outlived its expected life span of ten years. Experts from Engineers India Limited (EIL) and Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC), Chennai have inspected the building and based on their report, action is being taken to further strengthen the main building. India is also planning to establish a new research base, for which a site has been selected and preliminary surveys have already been conducted.

[Translation]

Solar Energy

2054. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the production cost for solar energy for M.W. in the country as on date;

(b) whether the essential plants and equipments for solar energy production are indigenous;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the total amount spent in importing such essential equipments during the last three years;

(e) the names of the companies from where these are imported; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to promote solar energy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Solar energy can be harnessed through two routes, namely solar photovoltaic and solar thermal, by direct conversion to electricity and heat energy respectively. Use of solar energy to generate electricity at mega-watt level has not been done in the country so far. Further, power generation from solar thermal energy is still in the experimental stages in the country. However, the estimated unit cost of generation of electricity from solar photovoltaic and solar thermal route is in the range of Rs. 12-20 per kWh and Rs. 10 -15 per kWh respectively.

(b) to (e) An industrial base has been created in the country to indigenously manufacture solar cell modules, which are the most essential items required for the production of solar photovoltaic systems/applications. Imports are also being made from different companies mainly from USA, Europe, and Russia etc. to meet the domestic as well as export requirements. Since solar cell modules are covered under open general license, no data on imports is maintained by the Ministry.

(f) The Ministry has been implementing comprehensive programmes for the development and utilization of solar energy in the country. As a result of the efforts made so far, a number of devices and systems have been developed in the country. These include solar water heaters, solar cookers, solar lanterns, solar home and street lights, pumps, small power packs and photovoltaic systems for battery charging applications etc.

In addition, to popularise generation and development of solar energy in the country a number of incentives like subsidy, soft loan, 80% accelerated depreciation, concessional duty on import of raw materials and certain products, Excise duty exemption on certain devices/systems have been provided by the Government.

[English]

Non Listed Companies

2055. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from world over organization for Economic Cooperation and Development summit held in Turkey has pointed out that non-listed companies should also follow corporate governance norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decisions taken at the summit;

(c) whether India is already in the process of introducing corporate governance norms for unlisted public companies; and

(d) if so, the extent to which India has considered these norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) This Ministry does not have any formal invitation nor has participated in the said conference.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Ministry is separately promoting a dialogue with the Trade & Industry representative bodies and Professional Institutes to encourage voluntary adoption of good Corporate Governance practices in the Indian context.

Duty on School Bags

2056. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government has imposed any excise duty on school bags which is used by majority of students;

(b) if so, the percentage imposed on school bags;

(c) whether Government is considering to exempt excise duty on school bags; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) All kinds of bags, including schoolbags, attract the mean Cenvat rate of 16% *advalorem*. However, under the general exemption scheme for small scale units, full exemption from excise duty upto an annual value limit of Rs. 1 crore is available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Talcher Power Project

2057. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government are aware of the frequent disruption of power generation in Talcher Thermal Power Plant under NTPC in Orissa;

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

(c) the steps taken to remove the technical defect if any and to continue uninterrupted generation of power in that plant?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There have been some unit outages of Talcher TPS during the last year (2004-05), which are attributable to equipment failures in 220 KV and 132 KV switchyards due to over-aging as Talcher Thermal Power Station (TTPS) (Stage-I - 4x60 MW + Stage-II - 2x110 MW) were commissioned in the year 1967-69 (Stage-I) and 1982-83 (Stage-II) respectively.

(c) Renovation and modernization has been initiated and is under implementation. Once the Renovation & Modernization (R&M) of the project is completed, it is expected that such outages will be eliminated.

[Translation]

Per Capita Debt Burden of the Country

2058. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita debt burden of the country as on date;

(b) the amount of interest on the loan during the last three years and the current financial year till date; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to reduce the burden of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The per capita total liabilities of the Central Government was Rs.19291 as on 31.3.2005, based on the population data for 2001.

(b) The expenditure on interest payment by Central Government during the last three years and upto June, 2005 during the current financial year are as under :

(Rs. crore)			
2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
117804	124088	126540	26428

(c) The Central Government has been making concerted efforts to reduce its fiscal deficit and thereby moderate growth in interest bearing liabilities. Specific initiatives have also been taken to reduce the costs of borrowings and restructure part of outstanding debt to lower their carrying costs.

[English]

**Recommendations of CII on
Village Roads**

2059. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has urged the Government to make construction and concreting of village roads as major priority for 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts being made for improving rural infrastructure in North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development has not received any such recommendation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

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

(e) The efforts of the Ministry of Rural Development for improving the rural infrastructure in the North Eastern Region are through the following programmes:

- i. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)
- ii. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
- iii. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
- iv. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

v. National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP)

vi. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP)

vii. Rural Water Supply (RWS) Programme.

Implementation of these programmes is the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

**Handloom based Development and
Marketing Scheme of Kerala**

2060. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for Handloom Based Innovative Products Development and Marketing Scheme (Krithika) SGRY of Kerala is pending with Union Government;

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

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry has sanctioned the project titled 'Handloom Based Innovative Products Development and Marketing Scheme (Krithika)' for the district Kannur, Kerala in March 2005 with the total cost of Rs. 1108 lakh.

[Translation]

**Pending Proposals under Sampoorna
Grameen Rozgar Yojana**

2061. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States have sent several proposals under SGRY to the Government during the last three years and current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cost involved in each such proposal, State-wise;

(c) whether these proposals have been approved and cleared;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard alongwith steps taken to approve each such proposal without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is an allocation based programme. Funds under the programme are not released based on project proposals.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Strike by Employees of Banks

2062. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some bank employees have observed strike recently;

(b) if so, the number of days they have observed as strike during last one year;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the loss of amount in each bank as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposal to be taken by the Government to prevent such bank strikes in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The Indian Banks' Association has reported that during 2004-05 bank employees owing allegiance to five apex level workmen unions and four apex level officers' associations in the banks struck work for two days on 24.08.2004 and 22.03.2005. The loss if any, to the banks on account of strike cannot be quantified. However, in terms of the extant instructions, the principle of "No Work-No Pay" is followed by the bank management for the striking employees.

Employment to Tsunami Affected Rural Persons

2063. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that employment is not being provided to unemployed Tsunami affected rural persons in Andaman and Nicobar Islands under job guarantee scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement to implement the scheme in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill (NREGB), 2004 was introduced by this Ministry in the Lok Sabha on 21.12.2004. The Bill aims to provide for atleast 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to rural poor household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Bill has not yet been passed by the Parliament. Hence, it is not possible to indicate the steps taken by the Government for its implementation at this stage.

Power Generation

2064. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the sixth largest energy consumer in the World but its production of power is far below than the other developed and developing countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Hydel and Thermal power projects functional in the country as on date, separately, State-wise;

(d) the total installed capacity and power being generated by each of them at present;

(e) the details of total demand, availability and shortage of power reported in the country as on June 30, 2005, State-wise;

(f) the States which have requested to the Union

Government for additional allocation of power from the Central pool during the last six months, and the details of power allocated to them; and

(g) the concrete efforts made/being made by the Government to enhance the power generation capacity to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) As per statistics provided by International Energy Agency in their publication "World Energy Outlook 2004", India is sixth among the top ten in the world electricity markets.

However in terms of per capita consumption of electricity, India's rank is quite low in comparison to other developed and developing countries. The per capita annual consumption of electricity in the country was 592 kWh during 2003-04. The latest data on per capita electricity consumption in a few selected countries, as given in "Key World Energy Statistics", of International Energy Agency is as under:

Name of the country	Per Capita annual electricity consumption in kWh (2002)
Australia	10502
France	7366
Germany	6742
Russia	5350
U.K.	6158
USA	13228
China	1208
Brazil	1843
Malaysia	2883

(c) As on 31.3.2005, the number of hydro and thermal power stations in the country is 255 and 293 respectively. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) Statement-II giving installed capacity as on 31.3.2005 (State-wise) and Power being generated State-wise for the year 2004-05 and for the months of April 2005 to June 2005 is enclosed.

(e) The details of demand, availability and shortage of power in the country for the period April-June, 2005 are given in enclosed Statement-III.

(f) The details of requests received by the Union Government from the States and for additional allocation of power from Central pool and the reaction of the Union Government are given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

(g) The measures taken to improve the availability of power in the country, include:

- A capacity addition of 41,110 MW has been targeted for 10th Five Year Plan.
- Increase in Plant Load Factor (PLF).
- Early stabilization of newly commissioned units.
- Exploitation of hydro potential at a faster pace.
- Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units with interest subsidy on loans by the Power Finance Corporation.
- Tapping of surplus power from captive power plants.
- Enhancement of inter state and inter regional power strengthening of inter regional transmission links and ultimately in formation of National Grid.

Statement-I

Statewise Thermal and Hydel Power Stations as on 31.3.2005

State/U.T.s	Hydro	Thermal
1	2	3
Haryana	1	4
Himachal Pradesh	17	1
Jammu and Kashmir	10	5
Punjab	11	4
Rajasthan	8	4
UttarPardesh	13	4
Uttaranchal	12	-
Chandigarh	-	1
Delhi	-	3
Central sector (NR)	6+5	10
Sub-Total (NR)	83	36

1	2	3	1	2	3
Gujarat	3	25	Jharkhand	1	3
Madhya Pradesh	8	4	Orissa	5	1
Chattisgarh	1	2	West Bengal	7	28
Maharashtra	26	12	D.V.C	3	5
Goa	-	1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	34
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	Sikkim	6	2
Daman & Diu	-	-	Central Sector E.R.	1	3
Central Sector W.R	1	4	Sub-Total (ER)	26	79
Sub-Total (WR)	39	48	Assam	1	11
Andhra Pradesh	16	11	Manipur	1	21
Karnataka	24	6	Meghalaya	4	5
Kerala	20	4	Nagaland	2	5
Tamil Nadu	23	15	Tripura	2	10
Lakshdweep	-	11	Arunachal Pradesh	7	1
Pondicherry	-	1	Mizoram	2	23
Central Sector S.R	-	4	Central Sector N.E.R	5	2
Sub-Total (SR)	83	52	Sub-Total (NER)	24	78
Bihar	3	3	Total (All India)	255	293

Statement-II

*All India Sector-wise & Type-wise Power Generation/Programme PLF for
the Year 2004-05 and Current Year upto June-05*

Sector	Type	2004-05			Apr.-05 to June-05			
		Capacity (As on 31-03-05)	Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)	PLF%	Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)	PLF%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Centre	Diesel	0	0	0		0	0	
	Gas	4419	27150	25187.93		6106	6498.69	
	Hydro	8771.15	30838	29387.73		9515	10222.31	
	Nuclear	2770	15440	16845.29	70.7	3737	4391.39	73.2
	Steam	25047.5	165299	168906.6	81.7	42276	44627.4	83.4
Centre Total		41007.65	238727	240327.6		61634	65739.79	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Private	Diesel	596.999	3143	1885.96		617	557.89	
	Gas	3709.4	19834	15640.67		4807	4338.12	
	Hydro	905.45	3392	3163.87		815	840.92	
	Steam	3741.375	24712	26034.33	85.1	6779	7410.7	95.5
Private Total		8953.224	51081	46724.83		13018	13147.63	
Private (IMP)	Diesel	0	0	0		0	0	
	Gas	515	1400	1516.46		344	481.09	
	Steam	500	1069	2422.14		1099	889.94	
Private (IMP) Total		1015	2469	3938.6		1443	1351.03	
State	Diesel	604.736	1054	632.77		117	168.31	
	Gas	3478.42	16694	17128.41		4025	4233.8	
	Hydro	21294.46	49770	51943.69		10176	11397.36	
	Steam	38002	226017	226720.2	69.6	59514	57916.1	70.6
State Total		63379.61	293535	296425.1		73832	73713.57	
Captive-PTC/Bhutan IMP		600	0			394	318.56	
All India Total		114355.5	586412	587416.1	74.8	150321	154270.6	76.6

PLF% Indicate of Total Coal Based Stations

*State-wise/ Sector-wise & Type-wise Power Generation/ Programme PLF in Northern Region
for year 2004-05 and current year upto June-05*

1	2	3	2004-05			Apr.-05 to June-05			
			Capacity (As on 31-03-05)	Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)	PLF%	Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)	PLF%
Chandigarh	State	Diesel	2	0	0		0	0	
	State Total		2	0	0		0	0	
Chandigarh	Total		2	0	0		0	0	
Delhi	Centre	Steam	720	5400	5463.6		1407	1339.38	
	Centre Total		720	5400	5463.6		1407	1339.38	
	State	Gas	612.4	4150	4091.38		952	982.41	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Steam	382.5	1650	1617.14		466	405.23	
	State Total		994.9	5800	5708.52		1418	1387.64	
Delhi Total			1714.9	11200	11172.12	74.3	2825	2727.02	73.5
Haryana	Centre	Gas	430	2900	3161.9		715	732.81	
	Centre Total		430	2900	3161.9		715	732.81	
	State	Diesel	3.918						
		Hydro	62.4	300	289.55		77	81.03	
		Steam	1540	7350	6877.24		2359	2295.54	
	State Total		1606.318	7650	7166.79		2436	2376.57	
Haryana Total			2036.318	10550	10328.69	69	3151	3109.38	68.8
Himachal Pradesh	Centre	Hydro	3924	14691	13284.14		4948	5426.33	
	Centre Total		3924	14691	13284.14		4948	5426.33	
	Private	Hydro	386	1759	1462.82		440	450.85	
	Private Total		386	1759	1462.82		440	450.85	
	State	Diesel	0.13						
		Hydro	323	1326	1273.33		397	397.59	
	State Total		323.13	1326	1273.33		397	397.59	
Himachal Pradesh	Total		4633.13	17776	16020.29		5785	6274.77	
Jammu and Kashmir	Centre	Hydro	1170	5330	5650.41		2014	2291.53	
	Centre Total		1170	5330	5650.41		2014	2291.53	
	State	Diesel	8.94						
		Gas	175	0	23.74		0	0	
		Hydro	309.15	770	731.09		249	228.67	
	State Total		493.09	770	754.83		249	228.67	
Jammu & Kashmir Total			1663.09	6100	6405.24		2263	2520.2	
Punjab	Centre	Hydro	1493.15	5800	4344.32		1114	1339.32	
	Centre Total		1493.15	5800	4344.32		1114	1339.32	
	State	Hydro	1149.65	3770	3354.63		1163	1410.86	
		Steam	2130	13720	14383.83		3250	3220.85	
	State Total		3279.65	17490	17738.46		4413	4631.71	
Punjab Total			4772.8	23290	22082.78	77.5	5527	5971.03	69.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rajasthan	Centre	Gas	413	2950	2785		695	647.42	
		Nuclear	740	3270	4577.91	70.6	986	1038.86	64.3
	Centre Total		1153	6220	7362.91		1681	1686.28	
	State	Gas	113.8	250	359.93		63	94.91	
		Hydro	432	584	935.5		70	79.11	
		Steam	2295	18400	17113.33		4248	4417.4	
	State Total		2840.8	17234	18408.76		4381	4591.42	
Rajasthan Total			3993.8	23454	25771.67	85.1	6062	6277.7	88.1
Uttar Pradesh	Centre	Gas	1489	9800	9577.6		2298	2153.04	
		Nuclear	440	2570	2780.06	71.6	534	608.89	63.3
		Steam	5620	38650	40724.2		9480	10111.24	
	Centre Total		7529	51020	53061.86		12312	12872.87	
	State	Hydro	518.6	1759	1171.26		280	260.22	
		Steam	4102	20050	19701.82		5286	5205.64	
	State Total		4620.6	21809	20873.08		5546	5465.86	
Uttar Pradesh Total			12149.6	72829	73934.94	76.3	17858	18338.73	76.9
Uttaranchal	Centre	Hydro	120	652	496.69		340	117.87	
	Centre Total		120	652	496.69		340	117.87	
	State	Hydro	980.85	3433	3111.13		667	1003.36	
	State Total		980.85	3433	3111.13		667	1003.36	
Uttaranchal Total			1100.85	4085	3607.82		1207	1121.23	
NR Total			32066.49	169284	169323.6	77.1	44678	46340.06	76.6

PLF% 'Indicate of Total Coal Based Stations in the State

*State-wise/ Sector-wise & Type-wise Power Generation / Programme / PLF in Southern Region
for year 2004-05 and current year upto June-05*

State	Sector	Type	Capacity (As on 31-03-05)	2004-05			Apr.-05 to June-05		
				Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)	PLF%	Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)	PLF%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	Centre	Steam	3600	24300	25291.93		6647	7633.69	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Centre Total		3600	24300	25291.93		6647	7633.69	
	Private	Diesel	36.8	246	0		0	0	
		Gas	1013.4	7169	6180.26		1568	1506.31	
		Hydro	3.75						
	Private Total		1053.95	7415	6180.26		1568	1506.31	
	State	Gas	272	1980	1993.4		526	486.59	
		Hydro	3621.01	6719	5812.57		891	775.92	
		Steam	2952.5	21430	23356.6		6057	5478.06	
	State Total		6845.51	30129	31162.57		7474	6740.57	
Andhra Pradesh	Total		11499.46	61844	62634.76	90.9	15689	15880.57	91.6
Karnataka	Centre	Nuclear	440	2900	2926.25	75.9	543	817.21	85
	Centre Total		440	2900	2926.25		543	817.21	
	Private	Diesel	106.5	717	278.78		138	61.09	
		Gas	220	1638	629.55		309	95.21	
		Hydro	55.2	177	162.61		11	2.76	
	Private Total		381.7	2532	1070.94		458	159.06	
	Private (IMP)	Steam	260	804	516.33		308	350.03	
	Private (IMP) Total		260	804	516.33		308	350.03	
	State	Diesel	127.92	350	271.14		42	50.27	
		Hydro	3306.8	9833	8747.47		1609	1983.05	
		Steam	1470	10880	10717.93		2621	2592.88	
	State Total		4904.72	21063	19736.54		4272	4626.2	
Karnataka	Total		5986.42	27299	24250.06	83.2	5581	5952.5	80.8
Kerala	Centre	Gas	350	2050	620.5		294	241.24	
	Centre Total		350	2050	620.5		294	241.24	
	Private	Diesel	21.84	140	15.74		24	6.85	
		Gas	174	1100	111.83		158	33.34	
		Hydro	0	95	70.65		10	12.34	
	Private Total		195.84	1335	198.22		192	52.53	
	State	Diesel	234.6	684	296.9		68	86.27	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Hydro	1818.2	3685	6073.37		1323	1398.81	
	State Total		2052.8	4369	6370.27		1391	1485.08	
Kerala Total			2598.64	7754	7188.99		1877	1778.85	
Lakshdweep	State	Diesel	9.968	0	23.41		3	7.49	
	State Total		9.968	0	23.41		3	7.49	
	Lakshadweep Total		9.968	0	23.41		3	7.49	
Pondicherry	State	Gas	32.5	255	275.69		66	63.26	
	State Total		32.5	255	275.69		66	63.26	
Pondicherry Total		32.5	255	275.69		66	63.26		
Tamil Nadu	Centre	Nuclear	390	1600	1480.48	49.7	324	412	85.5
		Steam	2490	16665	16742.84		4439	4889.17	
	Centre Total		2880	18265	18223.32		4763	5301.17	
	Private	Diesel	411.659	2040	1501.57		431	466.56	
		Gas	400.5	1653	464.3		593	210.07	
		Steam	250	1430	1335.82		398	470.46	
	Private Total		1062.159	5123	3301.69		1422	1147.09	
	State	Gas	431	2169	2002.17		487	491.34	
		Hydro	1995.85	2505	4413.11		673	994.21	
		Steam	2970	20880	20002.69		5509	4991.92	
	State Total		5396.85	25554	26418.17		6669	6477.47	
Tamil Nadu Total			9339.009	48942	47943.18	76.8	12854	12925.73	82.9
SR Total			29466	146094	142316.1	84.1	39070	36606.4	86.9

PLF% Indicate of Total Coal Based Stations in the State

State-wise/ Sector-wise & Type-wise Power Generation / Programme / PLF in North Eastern Region for year 2004-05 and current year upto June-05

State	Sector	Type	Capacity (As on 31-03-05)	2004-05			Apr.-05 to June-05		
				Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)	PLF%	Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)	PLF%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Arunachal Pradesh	Centre	Hydro	405	1250	1641.51		325	376.33	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Centre Total		405	1250	1641.51		325	376.33	
	State	Diesel	15.88						
		Hydro	18.5	20	2		2	0	
	State Total		34.38	20	2		2	0	
	Arunachal Pradesh Total		439.38	1270	1643.51		327	376.33	
Assam	Centre	Gas	291	1800	1615.15		359	399.11	
		Hydro	225	1000	913.53		277	246.57	
	Centre Total		516	2800	2528.68		636	645.68	
Private	Gas		24.5	192	136.33		34	31.05	
	Private Total		24.5	192	136.33		34	31.05	
	State	Diesel	20.69						
		Gas	244.5	840	755.26		156	188.02	
		Hydro	2						
		Steam	330	60	0.13		29	7.28	
	State Total		597.19	900	755.39		185	205.3	
Assam	Total		1137.69	3692	3420.4	15	855	882.03	16.4
Manipur	Centre	Hydro	105	500	629.07		91	84.69	
	Centre Total		105	500	629.07		91	84.69	
	State	Diesel	45.41	10	0		2	0	
		Hydro	1.5						
	State Total		46.91	10	0		2	0	
	Manipur Total		151.91	510	629.07		93	84.69	
Meghalaya	Centre	Hydro	50	0	194.98		85	50.32	
	Centre Total		50	0	194.98		85	50.32	
	State	Diesel	2.05						
		Hydro	167.52	595	615.19		128	128.38	
	State Total	Total	169.57	595	615.19		128	128.38	
	Meghalaya Total		219.57	595	810.17		213	176.7	
Mizoram	State	Diesel	51.858	10	0		2	0	
		Hydro	4						
	State Total		55.858	10	0		2	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mizoram Total			55.858	10	0		2	0	
Nagaland	Centre	Hydro	75	175	254.16		40	21.75	
	Centre Total		75	175	254.16		40	21.75	
	State	Diesel	2						
		Hydro	25.5	61	0		14	0	
	State Total		27.5	61	0		14	0	
Nagaland Total			102.5	236	254.16		54	21.75	
Tripura	Centre	Gas	84	550	571.18		122	136.32	
	Centre Total		84	550	571.18		122	136.32	
	State	Diesel	4.848						
		Gas	106.5	400	485.37		98	122.74	
		Hydro	16	60	68.83		12	13.25	
	State Total		127.348	460	554.2		110	135.99	
Tripura Total			211.348	1010	1125.38		232	272.31	
NER Total			2318.254	7323	7882.69	15	1776	1813.81	16.4

PLF% Indicate of Total Thermal Stations in the State

*State-wise/ Sector-wise & Type-wise Power Generation / Programme / PLF in Eastern Region
for the year 2004-05 and current year upto June-05*

State	Sector	Type	Capacity (As on 31-03-05)	2004-05			Apr.-05 to June-05		
				Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)	PLF%	Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)	PLF%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Private	Diesel	20	0	89.87		24	23.39	
	Private Total		20	0	89.87		24	23.39	
	State	Diesel	40.048	0	41.15		0	22.26	
		Hydro	0	7	7.29		1	1.13	
	State Total		40.048	7	48.44		1	23.39	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Total		60.048	7	138.31		25	46.78	
Bihar	Centre	Steam	840	5950	6082.1		1442	1529.48	
	Centre Total		840	5950	6082.1		1442	1529.48	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	State	Hydro	44.9	122	50.23		9	5.65	
		Steam	553.5	370	153.78		120	38.82	
	State Total		598.4	492	204.01		129	42.47	
Bihar Total			1438.4	6442	6286.11	52	1571	1571.95	52.3
Jharkhand	Centre	Gas	90	0	0		0	0.8	
		Hydro	84	156	147.7		20	5.58	
		Steam	1657.5	4404	4360.39		1302	1120.74	
	Centre Total		1831.5	4560	4508.09		1322	1127.12	
	Private (IMP)	Steam	240	0	811.43		544	397.18	
	Private (IMP)	Total	240	0	811.43		544	397.18	
	State	Hydro	130	232	148.74		10	0.62	
		Steam	1260	2850	2069.8		758	527.78	
State Total			1390	3082	2218.54		768	528.4	
Jharkhand Total			3461.5	7642	7538.06	26.7	2634	2052.7	27.9
Orissa	Centre	Steam	2970	19250	19444.4		5210	4957.73	
	Centre Total		2970	19250	19444.4		5210	4957.73	
	Private (IMP)	Steam		285	1094.38		247	142.73	
	Private (IMP)	Total		285	1094.38		247	142.73	
	State	Hydro	1835.5	5307	6864.03		1138	1075.24	
		Steam	420	2900	3185.45		790	879.12	
	State Total		2255.5	8207	10029.48		1928	1954.36	
Orissa Total			5225.5	27722	30588.26	82.1	7385	7054.82	78.6
Sikkim	Centre	Hydro	60	340	369.64		94	83.76	
	Centre Total		60	340	369.64		94	83.76	
	State	Diesel	5	0	0.17		0	0.02	
		Hydro	31.998	40	61.04		12	12.31	
State Total			36.998	40	61.21		12	12.33	
Sikkim Total			96.998	380	430.85		106	96.09	
West Bengal	Centre	Hydro	60	144	112.82		12	21.04	
		Steam	2790	17830	15926.45		4409	4525.59	
	Centre Total		2850	17974	16039.27		4421	4546.63	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Private	Steam	1201.375	6610	7238.48		1975	2058.97	
	Private Total		1201.375	6610	7238.48		1975	2058.97	
	State	Diesel	12.198						
	Gas		100	0	0		0	0	
	Hydro		161.7	475	508.4		106	71.49	
		Steam	3305	16670	17072.51		4512	4572.29	
	State Total		3578.898	17145	17580.91		4618	4643.78	
West Bengal	Total		7630.273	41729	40858.66	66	11014	11249.38	71.8
	ER Total		17912.72	83922	85820.25	60.4	22735	22071.72	63.3

PLF% Indicate of Total Coal Based Stations in the State

*State-wise/ Sector-wise & Type-wise Power Generation / Programme / PLF in Western Region
for year 2004-05 and current year upto June-05*

State	Sector	Type	Capacity (As on 31-03-05)	2004-05			Apr.-05 to June-05		
				Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)	PLF%	Prog. (MU)	Actual (MU)	PLF%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Chhattisgarh	Centre	Steam	2100	16050	17049		3897	4253.09	
	Centre Total		2100	16050	17049		3897	4253.09	
	State	Hydro	120	450	385.73		27	51.28	
		Steam	1280	7640	7925.57		2078	2273.17	
	State Total		1400	8090	8311.3		2105	2324.45	
Chhattisgarh	Total		3500	24140	25360.3	85.4	6002	6577.54	69.5
Goa	Private	Gas	48	0	335.97		74	68.54	
	Private Total		48	0	335.97		74	68.54	
Goa Total			48	0	335.97		74	68.54	
Gujarat	Centre	Gas	1292	7300	6856.6		1623	2187.95	
		Nuclear	440	2900	2513.53	65.2	648	769.02	80
	Centre Total		1732	10200	9370.13		2271	2956.97	
Private		Diesel	0.2						
		Gas	909	7047	6447.49		1722	1988.5	
		Steam	640	4645	4845.29		1286	1406.19	
	Private Total		1549.2	11692	11292.78		2988	3394.69	
	Private (IMP)	Gas	515	1400	1516.46		344	461.09	
	Private (IMP) Total		515	1400	1516.46		344	461.09	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
State		Diesel	17.28						
		Gas	478.72	2850	3028.6		728	747.92	
		Hydro	995	1368	1088.92		298	277.52	
		Steam	4304	25742	25270.4		6817	6349.35	
	State Total		5795	29960	29387.92		7841	7374.79	
Gujarat	Total		9591.2	53252	51567.29	70.7	13444	14187.54	72.3
Madhya Pradesh Centre		Hydro	1000	800	1348.76		155	157.22	
		Steam	2260	16800	17821.7		4043	4267.29	
	Centre Total		3260	17600	19170.46		4198	4424.51	
	Private	Hydro	13.5	61	29.75		9	0	
	Private Total		13.5	61	29.75		9	0	
	State	Hydro	836	2485	2223.9		70	72.04	
		Steam	2262.5	14225	14359.65		3637	3437.3	
	State Total		3118.5	16710	16583.55		3707	3509.34	
Madhya Pradesh Total			6392	34371	35783.76	81.1	7914	7933.85	77.8
Maharashtra	Centre	Nuclear	320	2200	2587.06	92.3	702	745.71	100.2
	Centre Total		320	2200	2587.06		702	745.71	
	Private	Gas	920	1035	1334.94		349	385.1	
		Hydro	447	1300	1438.04		345	374.97	
		Steam	1650	12027	12614.74		3140	3475.08	
	Private Total		3017	14362	15387.72		3834	4235.15	
	State	Gas	912	3800	4112.87		951	1046.61	
		Hydro	2386.83	3864	4006.38		770	1077.62	
		Steam	6425	43200	42932.13		10877	11225.47	
	State Total		9723.83	50864	51051.38		12698	13349.7	
Maharashtra Total			13060.83	67428	69026.16	78.8	17234	18330.56	83.7
	WR Total		32592.03	179189	182073.5	78.6	44668	47118.03	80.8

PLF% Indicate of Total Coal Based Stations in the State

Statement-III

Actual Power Supply Position for the period April to June 2005

State System/ Region	Energy				Peak			
	Requirement	Availability	Surplus/Deficit (-)		Peak Demand	Peak Met	Surplus/Deficit (-)	
	(MU)	(MU)	(MU)	(%)	(MW)	(MW)	(MW)	(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	332	332	0	0.0	240	240	0	0.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Delhi	5,704	5,677	-27	-0.5	3,706	3,600	-106	-2.9
Haryana	5,837	5,501	-336	-5.8	4,319	3,764	555	-12.9
Himachal Pradesh	1,009	1,007	-2	-0.2	702	702	0	0.0
Jammu and Kashmir	2,385	1,991	-394	-16.5	1,296	1,116	-150	-11.8
Punjab	9,099	8,442	-657	-7.2	7,731	5,992	-1,739	-22.5
Rajasthan	7,454	7,310	-144	-1.9	4,575	4,375	-200	-4.4
UttarPradesh	14,140	11,409	-2,731	-19.3	8,175	6,588	-1,587	-19.4
Uttaranchal	1,226	1,206	-20	-1.6	874	837	-37	-4.2
Northern Region	47,186	42,875	-4,311	-9.1	27,927	24,864	-3,063	-11.0
Chhattisgarh	3,322	3,176	-146	-4.4	1,889	1,737	-152	-8.0
Gujarat	15,191	13,461	-1,730	-11.4	9,783	7,102	-2,681	-27.4
Madhya Pradesh	8,485	6,786	-1,699	-20.0	5,248	3,942	-1,306	-24.9
Maharashtra	26,402	21,825	-4,577	-17.3	15,741	10,881	-4,860	-31.0
Daman and Diu	315	315	0	0.0	213	213	0	0.0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	599	599	0	0.0	304	304	0	0 0
Goa	593	593	0	0.0	354	354	0	0.0
Western Region	54,907	46,755	-8,152	-14.8	31,328	22,827	-8,501	-27.1
Andhra Pradesh	12,967	12,545	-422	-3.3	7,558	7,435	-123	-1.6
Karnataka	8,420	8,299	-121	-1.4	5,574	5,442	-132	-2.4
Kerala	3,427	3,371	-56	-1.6	2,495	2,439	-56	-2.2
Tamil Nadu	13,817	13,636	-181	-1.3	7,989	7,805	-184	-2.3
Pondicherry	430	430	0	0.0	249	249	0	0.0
Lakshdweep	6	6	0	0	6	6	0	0
Southern Region	39,081	38,281	-780	-2.0	22,609	21,756	-853	-3.8
Bihar	1,941	1,601	-340	-17.5	1,050	965	-85	-8.1
DVC	2,431	2,397	-34	-1.4	1,412	1,412	0	0.0
Jharkhand	1,001	958	-43	-4.3	590	555	-35	-5.9
Orissa	3,687	3,616	-71	-1.9	2,255	2,255	0	0.0
West Bengal	6,518	6,361	-157	-2.4	4,085	3,925	-160	-3.9
Sikkim	58	57	-1	-1.7	47	45	-2	-4.3
Andaman and Nicobar	60	42	-18	-30.0	40	31	-9	-23
Eastern Region	15,636	14,990	-646	-4.1	8,890	8,520	-370	-4.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Arunachal Pradesh	53	52	0	-0.9	69	68	-1	-1.4
Assam	912	837	-75	-8.2	691	611	-80	-11.6
Manipur	116	109	-8	-6.6	102	99	-3	-2.9
Meghalaya	312	253	-59	-18.9	266	188	-78	-29.3
Mizoram	57	53	-4	-7.4	65	65	0	0.0
Nagaland	105	99	-6	-5.9	90	71	-19	-21.1
Tripura	191	166	-25	-13.1	171	138	-33	-19.3
North-Eastern Region	1,746	1,569	-178	-10.2	1,266	1,092	-174	-13.7
All India	158,536	144,470	-14,067	-8.9	88,667	77,085	-11,582	-13.1

Lakshdweep and A & N Islands stand-alone systems, power supply position of these, does not form part of regional peak demand/ peak met

Statement-IV

Request Received from State for Additional allocation from Central Pool during last six months (Jan. to June 2005)

Month	State	Allocation sought (MW)	Allocation Made (MW)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
Jan. '05	MPSEB	Restoration of 50 MW ER power via NR	50	
	Jharkhand	*	50	
	Rajasthan	Enhancement of allocation from 149 MW to 275 MW from UA Quota		Not recommended due to comfortable power supply position in the State
Feb. '05 & Mar. '05	Kerala	Special allocation of 180 MW from ER for pooling with power from Kayamkulam CCPP to reduce the cost	110	
	Tamil Nadu	Constituence of special allocation of 180 MW from ER	180	Allocation extended for further 2 years.
April '05	Bihar	Enhancement of allocation	90	500 MW TSTPP Stage-I under outage
	Jharkhand	-do-	20	
	Bihar	*	70	From Unallocated quota of Talcher Stage I & II for 3 days (Reduce inflow into Farraka Barrage)
	Jharkhand	*	23	
	West Bengal	*	120	
May '05	Gujarat	*	increased from 162 to 175	From Unallocated power of WR
	Maharashtra	*	increased from 200 to 230	

1	2	3	4	5
	Gujarat	*	increased from 60 to 77	From Unallocated power of ER
	Maharashtra	*	increased from 95 to 125	
June '05	Delhi	Increase in assistance C.M., Delhi for enhancement of allocation during summer	148 to 247 from UA power and 11 to 33 MW RAPS UA power during 11.00 hrs to 24.00 hrs.	
	Punjab	Assistance for paddy season	U.A. enhanced from 99 to 218 MW & Additional 22 MW from RAPS	
	Chhattisgarh	Restoration of 47 MW power from NTPC Stations in ER	60	From Unallocated power of ER
	ASEB	Unallocated power of 80 MW		CEA Recommended increase in allocation to 64 MW from existing 37 MW. Decision of MoP awaited.

* Reference in MCP

Sale of Equity of Jessop and Company

2065. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to sell the remaining Government equity in Jessop and Company to its strategic partner Ruias;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether workers of Jessop & Company have gone to the Supreme Court questioning the disinvestment process of the company; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As per the Share Purchase Agreement/Shareholders Agreement between Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited (BBUNL), Indo-Wagon Engineering Limited (the strategic partner) and Jessop & Company Ltd. (JCL), BBUNL has a 'put option' to sell its remaining shareholding in JCL to the strategic partner. This 'put option' is valid between 29.08.04 and 28.08.06.

As per information made available by the Department of Heavy Industry, a final decision has not been taken regarding sale of BBUNL's remaining equity in JCL.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Reply affidavit has been filed by the Union Government.

[Translation]

Power Generation

2066. MOHD. SHAHID:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed likely impact of power on growth rate, in percentage;

(b) whether all the power plants in the country are working at their full capacity;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the target of total electrification in the country under the new Power policy of the Government is likely to be achieved by 2012;

(e) if so, the total funds likely to be incurred thereon; and

(f) total power generated in the country (in magnet) under said target?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) The ratio of elasticity between electricity generation and Gross Domestic Product growth rate between 1992-93 to 2003-04 has been worked out as 0.98.

(b) and (c) The generation achieved during 2004-05 and up to June, 2006 was more than the Target for Generation. Certain power stations performed below their full capacity due to reasons mentioned below:

- (i) Delayed/weak Monsoon
- (ii) Unscheduled & long forced outages
- (iii) Poor performance of ageing plants
- (iv) Fuel shortages

(d) to (f) The National Electricity Policy announced on 12th February, 2005 envisages "Power for All by the end of 2012" and Per Capita Availability of power to be increased to over 1000 Units by 2012. To achieve this target, it is estimated that a capacity addition of over 1,00,000 MW is required during X and XI Plan period. A requirement of Rs. 9,00,000 Crores has been estimated by Committee of Financing for Power Sector during X and XI Plans.

Royalty on Minerals

2067. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given as royalty on minerals to the States producing minerals during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the current rate of royalty on minerals per ton as on date;

(c) whether the Government proposes to vest powers on the concerned States once again to amend the royalty rates on minerals;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Royalty rates of major minerals are notified by the Central Government and revenue accrued therefrom is collected and retained by respective State Governments. Amount of royalty received by State Governments is not centrally maintained in the

Ministry.

(b) Rates of royalty on major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing) were last notified vide Gazette notification no. 677(E) dated 14.10.2004, a copy of which was laid on the table of the House on 22.12.2004.

(c) to (e) Royalty rates for minor minerals defined under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, are determined and notified by the respective State Governments under their respective Minor Mineral Concession Rules. Royalty rates for major minerals are determined and notified by the Central Government to maintain uniformity in rates of royalty all over the country for these minerals. There is no proposal to vest powers on the State Governments to amend the royalty rates of major minerals.

[English]

Jute Mills

2068. SHRI. S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The details of mills located in the country under the management of the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation (NJMC), State-wise;

(b) whether there is continuous decline in production in the above mills during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether mills under NJMC were referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) due to their continuous losses; and

(e) If so, the present status of the case and the fate of the workers engaged in the above mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking of Govt. of India has six jute mills under its fold. National, Kinnison, Khardah, Alexandra, Union mills are located in West Bengal and the remaining one mill, namely the Rai Bahadur Hadrut Mall (RBHM) Mill is located at Katihar in Bihar.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The production (M/T) for the years is given below:

2003-04		8144
2002-03	:	13144
2001-02		22367

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) vide its Order dated 8.7.2004 ordered the winding up of NJMC Ltd. and referred the matter to the Calcutta High Court for appointment of liquidator for the Corporation. However, the Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) vide its Order dated 20.7.2005 stayed the orders of BIFR. In the meanwhile, the Government approved a proposal to reduce the manpower of the NJMC Ltd. by offering VRS to all the employees of the Organisation, including the employees of the Head Office and to extend budgetary support to the extent of Rs 978.00 crores for providing VRS, liquidating statutory arrears, gratuity and secured liabilities of NJMC Ltd. The competent authority has approved the above proposals with the direction that the mills at Kinnison and Khardah will be referred to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) and VRS offered to their employees. Accordingly, action has been initiated to offer VRS to the employees and the two mills viz; Kinnison and Khardah jute mills, have already been referred to the BRPSE.

Life Insurance Venture

2069. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether AMP life, the foreign partner of AMP Sanmar Life Insurance Company has decided to wind up its operation in India;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to protect the policy holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that AMP Life has decided to concentrate on core wealth management business in Australia and New Zealand and withdraw from insurance business in many countries including India.

(c) IRDA has also reported that the company has adequate assets to meet the liabilities of its policyholders.

Merger of NTC Subsidiaries

2070. SHRI IQBALAHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation has drawn up any structural and business recast for the merger

of all seven NTC subsidiaries into the holding company and modernization of 22 mills and unification of another 18 mills through the JV route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Group of Member on merger has made any resuscitation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the replies taken to implement these resuscitation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) Government has approved the proposal of NTC for merger of all the NTC Subsidiaries into a single Company. The matter is pending with BIFR for orders.

Further, with the amount available through sale of assets, modernization of 32 NTC mills in the 1st phase has been approved. For early modernization of other mills, NTC is looking for strategic private partners.

External Commercial Borrowing

2071. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present norm and limit on External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) by Indian companies;

(b) the details of loss suffered by Gujarat Government as a result of discrepancy in the system;

(c) whether the Finance Ministry has undertaken a review on the issue of ECB with a view to help corporate sector in getting cheap funds from abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per the extant policy, corporates registered under the Companies Act, 1956, [except financial intermediaries such as banks, financial institutions (FIs)], are eligible borrowers to raise ECB. ECB can be accessed under two routes, namely:

(i) Automatic Route - up to USD 500 million equivalent during a financial year; and

(ii) Approval Route. - beyond USD 500 million and proposals not covered under auto route.

(b) In accordance with Article 293 of the Constitution of India, the executive powers of the State extends to borrowing within the territory of India and as such States cannot directly raise foreign currency loans outside the country. The loss to the Gujarat Government as a result of ECB policy, therefore, does not arise.

(c) and (d) The policy on ECB is reviewed regularly in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) keeping in view the current macroeconomic situation and within an overall annual ceiling consistent with prudent debt management. Government undertook a review of ECB policy recently and issued a Press Note on June 03, 2005. RBI has issued detailed guidelines on ECB which are available on RBI's website at www.rbi.org.in

Demonstration of Sagar Nidhi

2072. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct a new multi-purpose technology demonstration vessel 'Sagar Nidhi';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the Sagar Nidhi including the cost of the project; and

(d) the time by which the construction of vessel is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government proposes to acquire a multipurpose vessel "Sagar Nidhi" for technology services and demonstration. The vessel would be useful for the programmes pertaining to ocean science and technology such as deep seabed mining, ocean energy, gas hydrates, and submersibles.

(c) and (d) The vessel is expected to have facilities for deep seabed coring, systems for launching Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV)/Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV), and submersibles, dynamic positioning system, low free board and low windage area, salvage and tow capability to assist in emergency situations, large deck space, containerized equipment handling for the science programmes, modular labs for science vans and containers. The present estimated cost of the new vessel is Rs. 231 crores. The vessel is likely to be delivered in June 2007.

FIPB Approved FDI

2073. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had approved certain proposals of foreign direct investment in companies on the basis of the recommendations of the FIPB; and

(b) if so, the details of the companies whose FDI proposals have been approved during the last three years?

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

(b) During April, 2002 to March, 2005, the Government has approved 2257 proposals from different countries through FIPB route, involving Foreign Direct Investment of Rs. 16160.30 crore.

[Translation]

Loans to States

2074. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have taken loan from the Union Government during the last three years and till date in the current year;

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

(c) the purposes for which the State Governments had taken these loans and the purposes for which these have been utilised;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints regarding huge misuse of the loans taken by the State Governments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Statement is enclosed.

(c) State Plan Loans were provided to the States for undertaking Developmental Works in the State under Annual Plans approved by Planning Commission.

(d) to (f) The State Governments are accountable to their legislature for proper utilization of funds. Besides, Accounts of States are subject to audit by C&AG of India under Article 151(2) of the Constitution. However, if there is a shortfall in expenditure against the Plan outlays, a proportionate cut is made from the Central assistance released to the States.

Statement

**Central Assistance (Block Loans), Medium Term Non-Plan Loan
and Ways & Means Advances released to the States**

S.No.	States	(Rs. in lakhs)											
		Block Loans			Medium Term Non-Plan Loan			Ways & Means Advance			2005-06 (so far)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
1	Andhra Pradesh	236882.63	310779.28	182807.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	7100.47	9819.21	6571.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20000.00	0.00
3	Assam	24221.42	28857.94	22826.21	46500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47000.00	5000.00	20000.00	0.00	0.00
4	Bihar	124718.88	115870.88	129088.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	42014.08	43492.96	43325.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Goa	5935.36	6095.25	8242.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	213356.61	216051.24	177868.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Haryana	31070.23	32765.35	27329.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	13729.05	15884.40	12882.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12500.00	10000.00	0.00	0.00
10	Jammu and Kashmir	25163.72	46914.53	50832.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Jharkhand	39944.07	31474.86	31450.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1548.00	10000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	149725.41	144290.28	153144.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	Kerala	99703.47	65288.72	112238.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	17800.00	31000.00	35000.00	35000.00
14	Madhya Pradesh	143423.13	171411.84	161656.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	31200.00	0.00	25000.00	0.00
15	Maharashtra	104725.38	106873.92	145413.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	2500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Manipur	7600.80	7560.38	7786.25	37100.00	0.00	60900.00	57288.00	44500.00	33100.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	6794.24	7527.19	4542.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	6500.00	0.00	6500.00	0.00
18	Mizoram	4964.95	7099.92	5870.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Nagaland	4827.38	5946.46	5614.06	36500.00	0.00	0.00	5000.00	0.00	10000.00	10000.00
20	Orissa	106489.22	113701.12	140978.58	69200.00	0.00	0.00	69500.00	40000.00	0.00	0.00
21	Punjab	39968.76	38775.59	34244.35	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	15000.00	20000.00	0.00
22	Rajasthan	90520.75	162368.17	145392.24	46250.00	0.00	0.00	19900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Sikkim	2905.88	3768.39	3880.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Tamil Nadu	87824.19	100823.37	102466.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	Tripura	7432.26	7939.10	7968.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	306820.46	305869.91	282051.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	Uttaranchal	24514.95	23372.10	13879.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	West Bengal	147826.57	135804.68	163194.58	43800.00	0.00	0.00	65000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		2100004.32	2266427.04	2183556.59	279350.00	200.00	60900.00	336616.00	206000.00	159600.00	65000.00

Note: No Block Loans and Medium Term Non-Plan Loan has been released to any State during the current financial year (2005-06) so far.

[English]

Export of Garment

2075. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western market is looking towards various countries to fulfil their garment needs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the quality of Indian garments has posed a great problem to fulfil the requirement of western market; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to keep its brand image intact?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Western market is looking towards various countries including India to fulfill their garment needs. Till December, 2004 when India's export of textiles including garments to Western countries such as EU, USA & Canada was under quantitative restrictions, the quantitative restraint level of some categories of garments by these Western countries were fully utilized and embargo was imposed on some of the categories, meaning thereby Indian garments are very much in demand/needed by the Western market. After the removal of quota restrictions, export of garments has increased to these countries. The export of readymade garments has increased from US\$ 4.24 billion in April-February, 2004 to US\$ 4.40 billion in April-Feb, 2005. In order to grab a larger share of the western market, Indian textile industry needs to make more investment towards modernization to improve the quality of textile fabric and garment.

(d) The Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to increase export of textiles including garments and to keep its brand image intact. Some of the important initiatives taken are as:

- (i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.
- (ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.
- (iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.
- (iv) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Techno-

logy Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.

- (v) Ministry of Textiles has recast the Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) and Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES) for speeding up the implementation of the Schemes and to actualize the vision of attaining export target of \$50 billion by 2010. This scheme is based on Public - Private Partnership (PPP) and envisages engaging of a professional agency for project execution.
- (vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.
- (vii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (viii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.
- (ix) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (x) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of

textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

- (xi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

Chinese Currency

2076. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the China has revalued its currency recently;
- (b) If so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed its impact on Indian export;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to manage the impact of revaluation of Yuan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. From July 21, 2005, China has moved to a managed floating exchange rate regime based on market forces with reference to a basket of currencies. As a result, the Chinese Yuan is no longer pegged to the US Dollar.

(c) to (e) It is still too early to assess the impact of the new operating regime of the Chinese currency on Indian exports. However, India is expected to gain in competitiveness and trade at the margin, though the effect might vary across sectors.

Gram Urja Pariyojana

2077. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced Gram Urja Pariyojana in the country to provide power to the villages;
- (b) if so, the number of villages covered in the first phase under this scheme, State-wise;
- (c) the expenditure incurred on the implementation of said scheme in each State, as on date; and
- (d) the extent to which power shortage has been overcome by the implementation of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing Remote Village Electrification Programme for electrification of unelectrified remote census villages with non-conventional energy sources. The Ministry has so far provided support under the programme for electrification of 3064 villages of which 1944 have been completed. In addition, a set of test projects are also being implemented for demonstrating the concept of village energy security in remote unelectrified villages primarily using locally available biomass materials. The basic objective of these projects is to meet the total energy requirements including cooking, lighting and motive power. So far, 24 test projects have been taken up. State-wise breakup of the completed projects and the total expenditure incurred are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The Remote Village Electrification Programme aims at meeting the power needs of those unelectrified remote villages where conventional electricity is not likely to be available and thus would help in mitigating the power shortage situation in those villages.

Statement

a. State-wise distribution of villages Electrified so far under the RVE Programme

S. No.-	State	No. of Villages Electrified	Expenditure incurred (in Rs. Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1	Arunachal Pradesh	66	658.71
2	Assam	39	111.57
3	Chhattisgarh	325	1176.13
4	Gujarat	2	8.61
5	Himachal Pradesh	1	27.0
6	Jammu and Kashmir	90	1862.80
7	Jharkhand	24	943.21
8	Madhya Pradesh	-	109.25
9	Maharashtra	-	313.63
10	Manipur	106	842.01
11	Meghalaya	24	498.40
12	Mizoram	-	144.75

1	2	3	4
13	Orissa	18	42.89
14	Rajasthan	-	360.72
15	Sikkim	-	8.60
16	Tripura	31	1896.90
17	Uttaranchal	231	1280.18
18	Uttar Pradesh	-	1542.67
19	West Bengal	987	2968.00
Total		1,944	

b. Test Projects Taken up on Village Energy Security

State	Number of Test Projects sanctioned	Year-wise Amount Released (in Rs.)	
		2004-05	2005-06
Madhya Pradesh	11	4654745	4654745
Rajasthan	6	2760345	-
West Bengal	7	3458522	-

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance in Power Sector

2078. MOHD. SHAHID:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign financial assistance/grant received for power sector projects in the country during each of the last three years, agency-wise;

(b) the details of the power projects undertaken with the above funds, project-wise;

(c) the funds utilized so far, project-wise;

(d) whether there is escalation of loss due to slow progress of these projects; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to implement these projects at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) The information regarding the total foreign financial assistance received for power projects in the country, agency and state-wise and the details of utilization of such external assistance, during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) During the last three years actual utilization of External Assistance has been maintained at more than 100% of the budgeted estimates.

Implementation of all on-going power projects including those receiving External Assistance is regularly monitored. To focus on and to resolve specific problem areas in implementation of externally aided on-going power projects, a Project Monitoring Cell is functional in Ministry of Power.

Statement

Sl. No.	Project	Executing Agency	Disbursement (Rs. in Crore)		
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
ADB					
1	Power Trans. Sector Proj. - I	Powergrid	99.53	0.00	0.00
2	Power Trans. Sector Proj. - II	Powergrid	122.79	131.96	65.79
3	Assam Power Sector Development Programme & Project	ASEB	0.00	409.50	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Gujarat Power Secor Development Programme & Project	GEB	31.57	562.40	206.82
5	M.P. Power Sector Development Programme & Project	MPSEB	198.00	452.52	170.36
	Total	ADB	451.89	1556.38	442.97
DFID					
6	A.P. Energy Efficiency Project	APTRANSCO	83.35	14.79	0.00
	Total	DFID	83.35	14.79	0.00
IBRD					
7	Power Sector Develop. Proj.-II	Powergrid	332.77	514.59	331.22
8	A.P. Power Sector Restructuring Project	APTRANSCO	189.47	25.64	0.00
9	Orissa Power Sector Restructuring Project	GRIDCO	146.71	222.78	70.12
10	UP Power Sector Restructuring Prjoject	UPPCL	227.01	136.03	48.54
11	Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project	RRVPNL	144.43	182.41	82.10
	Total	IBRD	1040.39	1081.45	531.98
JBIC					
12	Simhadri Thermal Power Proj.	NTPC	358.12	182.99	0.00
13	Northern India Trans. System	Powergrid	16.95	46.42	43.15
14	Dhauliganga HEP	NHPC	150.46	133.13	310.85
15	Tural H.E.P.	NEEPCO	14.55	47.92	18.55
16	Simhadri & Vizag Transmission Project	APTRANSCO	103.02	85.53	42.53
17	Srisaillam Left Bank HEP	APGENCO	58.84	0.00	0.00
18	R&M of Kothagudam "A" HEP	APGENCO	2.27	0.00	0.00
19	R&M of Umiam HEP	MESEB	11.06	1.32	0.00
20	Ghatghar Pump Storage Project	Irrig. Deptt./Gom	163.83	0.00	0.00
21	Anpara "B" Thermal Power Stg.- II Project	UPRVUNL	46.86	0.00	0.00
22	Purulia Pumped Storage Project	WBSEB	127.62	303.53	365.96
23	West Bengal Transmission Project	WBSEB	109.18	49.38	36.66
24	Bakreshwar TPP Unit 1, 2, 3 Project	WBPDCL	145.09	43.22	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
25	Bakreshwar TPP Unit 4 & 5 Project	WBPDC	0.00	1.13	91.84
	Total	JBIC	1307.85	894.57	909.54
KFW					
26	Energy Investment Prog	PFC	11.94	14.90	0.00
	Total	KFW	11.94	14.90	0.00
Switzerland					
27	Swiss Mixed Credit	Delhi	0.71	0.00	9.58
Grand Total			2896.13	3562.09	1894.07

*[English]***Service Tax**

2079. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of services to which Service Tax was initially introduced;

(b) the number of services to which Service Tax is extended till now;

(c) the revenue generated through Service Tax during the last three years and the expected revenue through Service Tax during the current year.

(d) whether in the Telecom Service, the Service Tax is also levied on the rent of the fixed telephone instrument rather than the actual service i.e. call charges

(e) if so, whether the Government has any plan to withdraw the Service Tax on the rent of the telephone; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Service tax was introduced in budget 1994 on three services.

(b) At present, service tax is leviable on eighty four services specified under section 65(105) of the Finance Act, 1994.

(c) The revenue collected from service tax during the last three financial years is as under:

Year	Revenue (in Crore Rs)
2002-03	4122
2003-04	7891
2004-05 (Provisional)	14,134

The Budget Estimate for 2005-06 is Rs. 17,500 crore.

(d) The value of the taxable service for the purpose of levying service tax is the gross amount charged by the service provider of such service provided or to be provided by him

(e) and (f) At present, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to exempt service tax on the rent of the telephone since service tax is leviable on the gross amount charged by the service provider.

Coal Shortage

2080. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation is ramping up its hydel capacity as part of the strategy to offset coal shortages;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan chalked out by NTPC in this regard;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed by NTPC with various States in this regard;

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

(e) the details of the ongoing NTPC hydel project along with their cost and capacity; and

(f) the time by which each of such projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (f) As a matter of strategy to achieve optimum power generation through proper hydro-thermal mix, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has taken up the

Hydroelectric Power Projects. The details of on-going projects/new hydel projects of NTPC along with the capacity, cost, date of signing of Memorandum of Understanding/

Implementation Agreement and scheduled completion are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project and State	Capacity of the Project (MW)	Memorandum of Understanding/ Implementation Agreement signed with the concerned State on	Estimated Cost of the Project (Rs. in crore)	Scheduled Completion
A. On-Going Projects					
1.	Koldam in Himachal Pradesh	800	26.02.2000	4492.79 (IV Qtr./2001)	2009-10
B. New Projects					
2.	Loharinag Pala in Uttaranchal	600	23.06.2004	2417.78 (1st Qtr./2004)	2010-11
3.	Tapovan Vishnugad in Uttaranchal	520	23.06.2004	2545.53 (1st Qtr./2004)	2011-12
4.	Lata Tapovan in Uttaranchal	162	18.08.2003	691.98 (IInd Qtr./2005)	2011-12
5.	Rammam-III in West Bengal	90	28.04.2005	460.52 (1st Qtr./2005)	2011-12

In addition to above, NTPC is exploring sites for Hydro Projects in Arunachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh etc. These projects would be taken up subject to techno-economic viability and allocation by respective State Government for implementation by NTPC.

[Translation]

Complaints Against Custom Officers in Airports

2081. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the complaints received, particularly from the Foreign Diplomats, against the customs officers deployed at the international airports at New Delhi during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that these officers harass the foreigners/Diplomats;

(c) if so, details thereof during the last three years and as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to initiate strict action against the guilty officers so that the foreigners/diplomats may not be harassed in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No complaints against the customs officers deployed at the international airport at New Delhi were received by this Ministry during the last one year from the Foreign diplomats.

(b) The officers are courteous to all passengers.

(c) Details of complaints during the last three years are as follows:

- (i) A complaint from the Ambassador of Luxembourg to India was received in April 2003 regarding the long queue at the Customs counter at departure and the behaviour of a lady officer. On enquiry it was ascertained that no lady customs officer was posted at the counter referred by the Ambassador on the date of the incident. As regards the long queue, it was found that very few passengers who are on the suspect list are checked, otherwise all passengers walk through the customs counters without any questioning.
- (ii) A complaint was received from Mr. Ilya Komov, a foreign national on 23.3.2005 alleging that a Customs officer had extorted USD 200 from him without issuing any receipt for the same.

- (iii) A complaint was lodged by one Yoshito Miyazaki, a Japanese national on 28.3.2005 alleging that he was made to pay USD 400 as he was carrying 2 laptop computers for which no receipt was given to him.

The above two complaints by foreign nationals are being looked into to ascertain the facts for necessary action.

(d) Steps are being taken to prevent such incidence from recurring in future. As a matter of practice no diplomat or his family members enjoying diplomatic status is subject to any preventive check by Customs. Officers are also briefed regularly in the handling and clearance of diplomats and foreign nationals.

NBFC Under Company Law

2082. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring non-Banking Financial Companies under the jurisdiction of Company Law Board for monitoring their administration and functioning;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Restructuring of CAPART

2083. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has established the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) Organisation under the Ministry of Rural Development in 1986;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal for re-engineering and repositioning of CAPART in the context of changed national and international scenario;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) was established in 1986 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 by merging People's Action for Development (India) (PADI) and Council for Advancement of Rural Technology (CART). The objectives of the society for which it was formed inter alia include objectives to promote voluntary action for enhancement of rural prosperity, injection of new technological inputs, act as national nodal point for dissemination of rural technologies, aim at transfer of appropriate rural technologies to various public and private bodies, promote and coordinate projects aimed at all round development in the rural sector, create employment opportunities, promote self-reliance and improvement in the quality of life of the people in the rural areas.

(c) to (e) In the context of changed national and international scenario, CAPART, in order to introduce re-engineering and repositioning of the organization, had held 12 interactive sessions with NGOs working in rural areas from various parts of India including those from National Standing Committees, Regional Committees, Governing Body and Executive Body of CAPART towards the end of the year 2004. These interactive sessions culminated in a National Brainstorming meeting held on 28.12.2004 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and President, CAPART. Based on the deliberations at this interactive session as well as at the National Brainstorming meeting, CAPART's various procedures, methodology, reclassification of schemes, methods to promote greater transparency in the working, revised sets of objectives etc. were prepared and discussed in the Executive Committee and General Body of CAPART during their meetings held in 2005. Based on the deliberations at these meetings, the revised Guidelines of CAPART will be deliberated at the forthcoming meetings of the National Standing Committees of CAPART. The deliberations at these National Standing Committees on the revised Guidelines of CAPART will be submitted before the Executive Committee for finalization.

Renovation of Power Projects

2084. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details and the number of thermal power projects renovated and modernized under Phase-I and II of R&M, State-wise;

(b) the benefit accrued by way of renovation and modernization; and

(c) the details of the projects undertaken or to be

undertaken for renovation and modernization during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The Phase-I of Renovation & Modernisation (R&M) of thermal power stations on 163 units having capacity of 13570 MW at 34 power stations was successfully completed at the cost of Rs.1066.00 Crores, out of which Rs.402 Crores were given as Central Loan Assistance by Government of India. The intended benefits were achieved including the additional generation of 10,000 Million Unit (MU)/annum. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

Under Phase-II, R&M work on 198 thermal units having a total capacity of 20869 MW at 44 thermal power stations were undertaken. An increase in generation of 5000 MU/ annum was achieved. Besides, Life Extension works on four

units (300 MW) were also completed. An expenditure of Rs.862.00 Crores was incurred. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) 106 old thermal units having capacity of 10413 MW have been identified for Life Extension(LE) works during the 10th Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 9200.00 Crs. After implementation of the LE Scheme, the economical life of the units would get extended by another 15-20 years and the generating capacity would increase to 10747 MW besides overall improvement in the performance of the units. In addition, 57 thermal units having capacity of 14270 MW, which are comparatively new units and are performing well, have also been identified for Renovation & Modernisation (R&M) works to sustain their performance at an estimated cost of Rs.977.00 Crs.

The details are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Phase-I R & M Programme (7th Plan)

Sl. No.	Name of Station	Unit No. & Capacity (in MW)	Cost of Completion (Rs. in lakhs)		
			CLA	State Plan	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Delhi					
1	Badarpur	3x100+2x210	0.00	3384.21	3384.21
2	IP	1x35+3x62.5+1x60	1301.86	3844.00	5145.86
Haryana					
3	Faridabad	3x60	856.45	1351.86	2208.31
4	Panipat	2x110	817.02	999.26	1816.28
Punjab					
5	Bhatinda	4x110	2167.06	2180.50	4347.56
Uttar Pradesh					
6	Panki	2x32+2x110	2514.00	1952.00	4466.00
7	Obra	5x50+3x100+5x200	4070.00	2700.00	6770.00
8	Harduaganj	3x30+2x50+4x60+1x110	3655.04	4639.96	8295.00
Madhya Pradesh (Now Korba (E) station is in Chhattisgarh State)					
9	Korba 'E'	1x10+3x30+4x50+2x120	324.56	1461.47	1786.03
10	Amarkantak	2x30+2x120	122.46	1277.26	1399.72

1	2	3	4	5	6
11	Satpura	5x62.5+1x200+1x210	1752.68	2029.34	3782.02
Gujarat					
12	Gandhinagar	2x120	902.14	788.07	1690.21
13	Dhuvaran	4x83.5+2x140	511.61	1134.26	1645.87
14	Ukai	2x120	544.59	1105.52	1650.11
Maharashtra					
15	Koradi	4x120	966.88	1844.87	2811.75
16	Nasik	2x140	462.62	113.03	575.65
17	Bhusawal	1x62.5	61.63	8.97	70.60
18	Paras	3x30+1x62.5	40.11	46.58	86.69
Andhra Pradesh					
19	Kothagudem	4x60+4x110	3042.00	6213.00	9255.00
20	Ramagundam "B"	1x62.5	0.00	416.58	416.58
Tamil Nadu					
21	Ennore	2x60+3x110	2698.35	9309.93	12008.28
22	Tuticorin	3x210	645.00	216.00	861.00
23	Neyveli	6x50+3x100	0.00	5112.00	5112.00
Orissa					
24	Talcher	4x62.5	2261.27	765.94	3027.21
Jharkhand (Earlier in Bihar State)					
25	Chandrapura-DVC	3x140+3x120	2125.00	4432.00	6557.00
26	Bokaro-DVC	3x50+1x55	1088.00	184.00	1272.00
27	Patratu	4x50+2x100+2x110	1149.24	4333.91	5483.15
Bihar					
28	Barauni	2x15+2x50	1123.99	859.20	1983.19
29	Karbigahia	2x1.5+1x3+1x7.5	500.76	84.17	584.93
West Bengal					
30	Durgapur-DVC	2x55*+1x140	208.42	330.58	539.00
31	Santalidih	4x120	1371.10	425.78	1796.88
32	Bandel	4x80	723.02	1984.12	2707.14

1	2	3	4	5	6
33	Durgapur-DPL	2x30+1x70+2x75	2154.75	100.80	2255.55
Assam					
34	Namrup	3x23+1x12.5+1x30	0.00	798.94	798.94
Total		13570.50 MW	40161.61	66428.11	106589.72

Statement-II**R & M Programme (Phase-II)**

Sl. No.	Name of Station	Units and their Capacity (in MW)	Total Units	Expenditure incurred (Rs. Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
Delhi				
1	Badarpur	1-5(3X95+2X210)=705	5	0.00
2	I.P.	1-5(1X30+3X62.5+1x60)=277.5	5	831.96
Haryana				
3	Faridabad	1-3(3X55)=165	3	511.87
4	Panipat	1-2(2X110)=220	2	320.29
Punjab				
5	Ropar	1-2(2X210)=420	2	713.46
6	Bhatinda	1-4(4X110)=440	4	656.28
Rajaasthan				
7	Kota	1-2(2X110)=220	2	2762.94
Uttar Pradesh				
8	Obra	1-13(5X50+3X100+5x200)=1550	13	1612.27
9	Panki	1-4(2X32+2X110)=284	4	1581.50
10	Harduaganj	1-8(1X30+2X40+4X50+1X105)=455	8	515.63
11	Parichha	1-2(2X110)=220	2	894.00
Madhya Pradesh				
12	Amarkantak	1-4(1X30+1X20+2x120)=290	4	2367.11
13	Satpura	1-9(5X62.5+1X200+3x210)=1142.5	9	4712.23
Chhattisgarh (Earlier these stations were in Madhya Pradesh)				
14	Korba (E)	1-6(4X50+2X120)=440	6	4391.46

1	2	3	4	5
15	Korba (W)	1-2(2X210)=420	2	775.38
	Gujarat			
16	Ukai	1-5(2X120+2X200+1x210)=850	5	1976.96
17	Gandhinagar	1-2(2X120)=240	2	95.63
18	Dhuvaran	1-6(4X63.5+2X140)=534	6	743.29
19	Wanakbori	1-3(3X210)=630	3	841.82
	Maharashtra			
20	Kordia	1-7(4X115+1X200+2x210)=1080	7	3385.88
21	Nasik	1-5(2X140+3X210)=910	5	5949.19
22	Bhusawal	1-3(1X58+2X210)=478	3	1479.61
23	Chandrapur	1-4(4X210)=840	4	2518.95
24	Parli	1-5(2X30+3X210)=690	5	1434.11
25	Paras	2(1X58)=58	1	1602.35
	Tamil Nadu			
26	Ennore	1-5(2X60+3X110)=450	5	2608.22
27	Tuticorin	1-3(3X210)=630	3	402.96
28	Mettur	1-4(4X210)=840	4	228.54
29	Neyveli (NLC)	1-9(6X50+3X100)=600	9	18090.18
	Andhra Pradesh			
30	Kothagudem	1-4(4X60)=240	4	5637.00
	A' (OECF)			
	Kothagudem	1-4(2X105+2X110)=430	4	1234.68
	B' & 'C'			
31	Nellore	1(1X30)=30	1	668.55
	West Bengal			
32	Kolaghat	2-3(2X210)=420	2	673.97
33	Santalidih	1-4(4X120)=480	4	1243.32
34	Durgapur (DVC)	1-4(2X75+1X140+1x210)=500	4	1537.47
	Jharkhand (Earlier these stations were in Bihar state)			
35	Chandrapur (DVC)	1-6(3X140+3X120)=780	6	2428.59

1	2	3	4	5
36	Bokaro (DVC)	1-3(3X50)=150	3	257.15
37	Patratu	1-10(4X40+2X90+2x105+2x210)=770	10	3729.82
Bihar				
38	Barauni	1-4(2X50+2X105)=310	4	60.96
39	Muzaffarpur	1-2(2X110)=220	2	67.50
Assam				
40	Bongaigaon	1-4(4X60)=240	4	741.11
41	Chandrapur	1(1X30)=30	1	184.20
42	Kathaiguri & Goleky	1-7(3X2.705+4X2.705)=18.93	7	534.02
43	Lakwa	1-4(4X15)=60	4	219.43
44	Namrup	1-5(3X23+1X12.5+1x30)=111.5	5	2942.52
Total			198	86164.4

Statement-III

Sl. No.	Name of Station/ Units	Present Rated Capacity (MW)	Maximum Output (MW)	Capacity Expected after LEP (MW)	Additional Power Generation (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Delhi						
1.	Badarpur unit 1-5	705	705	720	15	420
Haryana						
2.	Panipat units 1, 3 & 4	330	300	330	30	260
3.	Faridabad units 1-3	165	159	180	21	150
Punjab						
4.	Bhatinda units 1-4	440	400	440	40	520
Uttar Pradesh						
5.	Obra units 1-13	1482	1335	1550	210	1400
6.	Panki units 3-4	210	190	220	30	120
7.	Harduaganj Units- 1, 3, 4, 5 & 7	325	235	340	105	285
Maharashtra						
8.	Nasik units 1-2	280	250	280	30	280
9.	Paras unit-2	58	58	62.5	4.5	60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Bhusawal unit-1	58	58	62.5	4.5	60
11.	Koradi units 1-4	460	440	480	40	480
12.	Parli units 1-2	60	60	60	0	60
Chhattisgarh						
13.	Korba (East) units 1, 4, 5 & 6	320	280	340	60	240
Madhya Pradesh						
14.	Satpura units 1-5	310.25	300	310.25	10.25	350
15.	Amarkantak Units 1-4	290	240	300	60	200
Gujarat						
16.	Gandhinagar Units 1-2	240	200	240	40	240
17.	Dhruvan units 1-6	534	422	534	112	220
18.	Ukai units 1-2	240	210	240	30	240
Tamil Nadu						
19.	Ennore unit 1-2	120	100	120	20	100
20.	Tuticorin unit 1-2	630	630	630	0	300
Andhra Pradesh						
21.	Vijayawada Units 1-2	420	420	420	0	300
22.	Kothagudem Units 6-8	325	300	360	60	320
West Bengal						
23.	Santalalidh units 1-3	360	260	360	100	400
24.	Bandel units 1-4	320	260	330	70	340
25.	Durgapur-DVC Unit-3	140	110	140	30	165
Jharkhand						
26.	Chandrapura- DVC units 1-6	750	570	780	210	780
27.	Bokaro units 1-3	135	0	172.5	172.5	50
28.	Patratu units 4-8	430	315	470	155	500
Bihar						
29.	Barauni units 4-5	100	0	100	100	200
Assam						
30.	Chandrapur unit-1	30	0	30	30	30
31.	Namrup unit-1	23	23	23	0	30
32.	Bongaigaon units 1-2	120	0	120	120	100
Total		10,410.25	8830	10,744.75	1909.75	9200

Thermal Units Identified for R&M During 10th Plan

Sl. No.	Name of Station	Unit	Capacity (MW)	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crore)
Rajasthan				
1.	Kota	1-5	850	60.97
Punjab				
2.	Ropar	1-6	1260	101.64
Maharashtra				
3.	Nasik	3-5	630	48.47
4.	Koradi	5-7	620	54.35
5.	Chandrapur	1-6	1840	62.21
6.	Parli	3-5	630	31.12
7.	Khaperkheda	1-2	420	6.47
8.	Bhusawal	2-3	420	24.03
Gujarat				
9.	Kutch Lignite	1-2	140	103.7
Madhya Pradesh				
10.	Singrauli	1-7	2000	184.23
11.	Vindhyachal	1-6	1260	111.19
Chhattisgarh				
12.	Korba STPS	1-6	2100	109.26
Andhra Pradesh				
13.	Ramagundem	1-6	2100	80.28
Total			14270	Rs. 977.00

Speedy Clearance at Customs

2085. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government recognizes that Air Expresses/Courier Industry acts as a catalyst for the speedy growth of internal and international Trade and Commerce;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of the fact regarding the enormous delay that takes place in custom clearance in various international Airports;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the Immediate Release Guidelines for Air Express Consignments issued by the World Customs Organisation;

(d) if so, whether the Government intends to adhere to that or is considering to formulate its own different policy for speedy clearance;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) likely time frame for implementing the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir, Air Expresses/Courier Industry assist in the growth of Trade and Commerce.

(b) The clearance of the cargo is done expeditiously in various international Airports. Further, Government has initiated an automation project for clearance of goods, through courier, which is expected to make cargo clearances even faster.

(c) Yes Sir, the World Customs Organisation has issued Guidelines for the Immediate Release of Consignments by Customs. The Guidelines apply equally to all consignments including air express consignments.

(d) The Government already has a policy of facilitating trade and ensuring speedy clearance of all consignments in a way which does not jeopardize government revenue or national security.

(e) and (f) Many of the provisions recommended by the said Guidelines issued in 2003 such as the de minimum provision (non levy of duty below certain amount), provision for immediate release of correspondence and documents having no commercial value without payment of customs duty on the basis of the accompanying declarations, immediate release of low value consignments such as gifts and samples on the basis of a consolidated declarations have been in existence in India for a long time even before the issue of said Guidelines. The Government further intends to bring down the dwell time for cargo clearance which will facilitate trade.

National Power Tariff Policy

2086. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a transparent National Power Tariff policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether different States have stressed the need for continuing providing cross subsidy while formulating National Power Policy; and

(d) if so, the facts in details and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) Section 3(1) of the Electricity Act, 2003, provides that the Central Government shall, from time to time, prepare the National Electricity Policy and Tariff Policy, in consultation with the State Governments and the Authority for development of the power system.

The Government has undertaken extensive consultations with the State Governments on draft Tariff Policy. Views of the State Governments on various aspects including the cross-subsidy have been received and are being given due consideration while finalizing tariff Policy.

12th Finance Commission

2087. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has asked all State Governments to indicate the amount to borrow from the market within the limits prescribed by the 12th Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the details of response from the States, State-wise alongwith action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether the Union Government has asked these States to appraise of the resource mobilization model for 2005-06 in the wake of RFC proposal to permit States to borrow from the market;

(d) if so, whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been received by the Government from the States; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended that Central Government should not act as an intermediary for future lending to States and allow the States to approach the market directly. Government of India has accepted this recommendation of Twelfth Finance Commission and accordingly States have been conveyed about the decision and asked to project their borrowing requirements.

States in their responses to this decision have raised issues of regularity of fund flows for State Plans, inability of some States to raise market borrowings, high cost of small saving funds and caps on market borrowings by the States. Some States have also conveyed their borrowing requirements.

(e) Government of India has accepted the recommendation of Twelfth Finance Commission to borrow on behalf of Fiscally Weak States who are unable to raise funds from the market and allow other States to borrow from the market directly.

Power Cuts in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

2088. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that frequent power cuts in Andaman and Nicobar Islands particularly in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure uninterrupted power supply?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) There are no frequent power cuts in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. However, there are interruptions of varying

duration. The main reason for interruptions in power supply are falling of trees and branches on overhead lines and snapping of conductors due to high speed wind and rain as most of the overhead lines pass alongside trees and plantation as the forest cover in these islands is around 86% and sufficient corridor/right of way is not available for transmission and distribution network. Pruning and trimming of branches and leaves of trees is periodically being done to reduce the interruptions.

Interests of Small Investors

2089. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert group headed by Justice N. H. Kania has recommended for setting up of a separate Investor Projection Fund for protecting the interests of small investors from fraud by corporate and market intermediaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An Expert Group headed by Mr. Justice M.H. Kania recommended a separate Investors' Protection Fund under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act for the purpose of investor education and awareness and for compensation to the small investors in respect of fraud or misrepresentations or misstatements by companies or intermediaries. The Report has been put up on the SEBI website for public comments.

[Translation]

Gyan Kendras

2090. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified certain villages for establishing Gyan Kendras under the 'Mission 2007' as reported in the Dainik Jagaran dated July 13, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the villages so identified, State-wise and district-wise;

(c) the role assigned to these Gyan Kendras;

(d) whether funds have been earmarked for implementation of this scheme and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these Gyan Kendras are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) As per the schedule finalized by NABARD (in consultation with Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation) for the year 2005-06, 10,000 Village Knowledge Centres (Gyan Kendras) would be set up in ten selected States/UTs. As on date no project report indicating list of villages to be covered has been received from any of the State Governments by NABARD.

(c) The Village Knowledge Centres are expected to act as a delivery mechanism for information on various aspects like agriculture input and output prices, agricultural practices, weather alerts, health, education, etc., based on the needs of the local people. In addition, it would also become a focal point for e-governance and deliver government services through the same channel depending on the level of computerisation of operations of the state government.

(d) The Hon'ble Finance Minister has allocated Rs. 100 crore in budget 2005-06 under RIDF for credit support to State Governments to set up Village Knowledge Centres (Gyan Kendras). Ten States/Union Territories namely West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal have been selected in the first phase in consultation with M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation for setting up 10,000 Rural Knowledge Centres / Gyan Kendras by March 2006.

(e) Mission 2007 (a National Level Initiative launched by integrated efforts of 80 organisations including civil society organisations) envisages setting up of Rural Knowledge Centres in every village of the country by the 60th year of Independence i.e. 15 August 2007.

[English]

Sea Water In Villages

2091. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that after Tsunami effect the people of coastal areas particularly in District of Tamil Nadu of the country, are panicky of high tide sea waves as sea water intrudes in the nearby villages because of increase of sea level as a result of melting of snow in Antarctic Region;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted by the Government on such unusual navigation activities;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. No sea level rise has occurred due to melting of snow in Antarctic region after Tsunami. Snow melt in polar region and resultant sea level rise are very long term phenomena. However, sometimes especially during monsoon months due to intensive wave action associated with onshore winds and tidal conditions, inundation of seawater takes place along the coastal areas, which is a seasonal phenomena. This causes the nearby coastal population to get scared remembering the devastating Tsunami of 26.12.2004.

(e) Does not arise.

Issue of Fake IT Returns

2092. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the alleged irregularities made by some income tax officials in regard to the issuing of fake income tax refund certificates as reported in the Indian Express dated the June 9, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of income tax officials found to be involved therein;

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against them; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check recurrence of such cases?

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

(b) Some cases of bogus claim of refund by filing fictitious returns of income with fictitious TDS certificates have come to the notice of the income-tax authorities at Delhi. The investigation in these cases has been handed over to the Economic Offence Wing of Delhi Police.

(c) So far, one official of the Income Tax Department has been found to be involved in the cases detected in Delhi.

(d) The official involved in the said refund cases has been placed under suspension. In addition to criminal proceedings initiated by the Police, further action as per Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules will be initiated against the official after receipt of report from Delhi Police.

(e) The steps being taken to check fraudulent claim of refunds include:

a. Implementation of Electronic Clearing System (E.C.S.) for direct credit of refund to the bank account of the taxpayer.

b. Instruction to the field officers to keep refund stationery in personal custody and to send Advice Notes of refunds to clearing banks only through authorized departmental personnel.

c. Proposal to dematerialize TDS certificates so as to preclude possibility of claim of refund against fictitious TDS certificates.

d. Administrative approval of Commissioner of Income Tax for issue of high-value refunds.

Polymetallic Nodules Programme

2093. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the first country to achieve the status of Pioneer Investor in the area of polymetallic nodules programmes;

(b) if so, the present status of the survey and exploration;

(c) since deep sea mining and polymetallic nodules programme was taken up the number of survey carried out the area explored and number of samples picked up; and

(d) the details of the analysis of sample?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently close grid survey for the retained area (75000 square km.) in selected blocks in Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) are under progress to identify first generation mine site.

(c) Under the survey and exploration component of the polymetallic nodule programme 70 cruises were undertaken in the CIOB and about 11000 samplings were undertaken since the polymetallic Nodules programme was taken up.

(d) The average concentration of metals in polymetallic nodules found from analysis of samples indicate the presence of Copper (1.17%), Nickel (1.21%), Cobalt (0.13%), and Manganese (24%).

Investment in Infrastructure Sector

2094. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated investment made by the Union Government in infrastructure sector in India in the current year;

(b) the share of investment in infrastructure in GDP;

(c) whether there is increase in such share or decline in the country during the last three years;

(d) plans of the Government to further stepping up investment in infrastructure;

(e) whether private sector has taken the responsibility of providing funds for infrastructure development in India;

(f) if so, the details of top 10 private companies which have invested in infrastructure development during the last three years; and

(g) the details of reciprocal favours are made available to such companies by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The central plan outlay for energy, transport and communications sectors and telecommunication and electronic industries for 2005-06 (Budget Estimates) is Rs. 1,13,614.6 crore (Expenditure Budget Vol. I, 2005-06).

(b) and (c) The share of gross capital formation in infrastructure as a proportion of GDP was 4.5 per cent, 3.3

per cent and 3.5 per cent during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(d) to (g) Infrastructure development requires large investments that cannot be undertaken out of public financing alone and in order to attract private capital as well as the techno-managerial efficiencies associated with it, the government is committed to promoting Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure development. The Government has put into effect a Scheme for Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure and has made a provision of Rs. 1500 crore for it during 2005-06. A Committee on Infrastructure under the chairmanship of Prime Minister has been constituted to expedite and streamline infrastructure projects and reforms. Certain fiscal concessions are also extended to investments in the infrastructure sector. Some of the major private companies investing in infrastructure development during the last three years are Tata Power Co. Ltd., Reliance Energy Ltd., Bharti Tele-Ventures Ltd., Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Jaiprakash Associates Ltd., Reliance Utilities & Power Ltd., Tata Tele Services Ltd., Jindal Thermal Power Co. Ltd., Torrent Power A E C Ltd. and Gujarat Gas Co. Ltd.

Wind Energy

2095. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of waste based and wind based energy projects established in each State with the Central assistance as on date, separately;

(b) the quantum of energy generated by these projects, State-wise;

(c) whether some State Governments have forwarded their proposals for establishing such projects in their State;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(e) the quantum of assistance provided by the Government to each State during the last three years for the purposes;

(f) whether any external assistance has been received for these projects during the last three years;

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

(h) the extent to which this programme supplements the demand of power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A total of 25 Waste-to-Energy Projects have been set up with Central Financial Assistance under the Waste-to-Energy Programme. Central Financial Assistance (CFA) is provided for setting up of only limited number of demonstration wind power projects for opening up of new sites. A total of 36 demonstration projects, aggregating to 70.6 MW installed capacity have been set up so far in ten States with Central Financial Assistance. State-wise information is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Moreover, a total wind power capacity of about 3670 MW has been installed in the country so far as commercial projects through private investments.

(b) The State-wise information on the quantum of energy generated by the above projects is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) No proposals have so far been forwarded by State Governments for establishing waste-to-energy projects. Wind power projects are mostly set up as commercial projects through private investments at potential windy sites and such projects are cleared by the respective State Nodal Agencies/State Electricity Boards.

(e) The State-wise details of Central Financial Assistance provided by the Ministry during last three years for setting up of power projects based on urban and industrial wastes and demonstration wind power projects are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(f) and (g) External Financial Assistance amounting to Rs 11.70 Crore (US\$ 25,99,400) has been received from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for implementation of a project on development of high rate biomethanation processes for urban and industrial wastes. Information on State-wise and year-wise support provided out of UNDP funds is given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

(h) Urban and industrial waste-to-energy and wind power projects with an aggregate capacities of 45 MW and 3740 MW respectively have so far been installed in the country.

Statement-I

State-wise Number of Power Projects set up in the Country with Central Financial Assistance

(a) Urban and Industrial Wastes to Energy Projects:

Sl. No.	State	Projects Set up (No.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7
2.	Gujarat	3
3.	Karnataka	2
4.	Madhya Pradesh	2
5.	Maharashtra	2
6.	Orissa	1
7.	Punjab	2
8.	Uttar Pradesh	3
9.	Tamil Nadu	5
Total		27

(b) Demonstration Wind Power Projects:

Sl. No.	State	Projects Set up (No.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Gujarat	7
3.	Karnataka	4
4.	Kerala	2
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1
6.	Maharashtra	6
7.	Rajasthan	3
8.	Tamil Nadu	8
9.	West Bengal	1
10.	Orissa	1
Total		36

Statement-II

State-wise Quantum of energy generated from Urban and Industrial Waste to Energy and Wind Power Projects

(a) Urban & Industrial Waste to Energy Projects:

Million units of electricity (kwh)		
Sl. No.	State	Projects Set up (No.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	114.45

1	2	3
2.	Gujarat	14.16
3.	Karnataka	3.20
4.	Madhya Pradesh	12.40
5.	Maharashtra	6.38
6.	Punjab	1.99
7.	Uttar Pradesh	15.00
8.	Tamil Nadu	0.96
Total		168.54

(b) *Wind Power Projects:

Million units of Electricity (kwh)

Sl. No.	States	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	715.68
2.	Gujarat	1324.89
3.	Karnataka	1020.98
4.	Kerala	15.86
5.	Madhya Pradesh	180.78
6.	Maharashtra	2594.21
7.	Orissa	1.17
8.	Tamil Nadu	10845.84
9.	Rajasthan	75.56
10.	West Bengal	1.65
Total		16774.97

*Including demonstration wind power projects

Statement-III

Details of Central Financial Assistance provided by the Ministry to various States during the last three years (2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05) for setting up power projects based on Urban and Industrial Wastes and Wind Energy

(a) Urban & Industrial Wastes

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Central Financial Assistance
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.81
2.	Gujarat	1.15
3.	Punjab	1.14

1	2	3
4.	Tamil Nadu	9.20
5.	Uttar Pradesh	8.29
6.	Delhi	0.52
7.	Jharkhand	0.11

(b) Demonstration Wind Power Projects:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	States	Control Financial Assistance
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.13
2.	Karnataka	7.94
3.	Maharashtra	2.84
4.	West Bengal	2.04

Statement-IV

State-wise and Year-wise information on External Financial Assistance provided for Waste to Energy Projects based on Urban and Industrial Wastes.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total Assistance in last three years
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.58	37.93	30.34	75.85
2.	Gujarat	29.33	-	19.69	49.02
3.	Punjab	331.71	212.09	-	543.80
4.	Tamil Nadu	89.74	-	100.90	190.64
Total		458.36	250.02	150.93	859.31

Financial Crisis in States

2096. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States are facing crisis in respect of financial resources;

(b) if so, the details of these States;

(c) whether the Union Government have recently received requests from the Chief Ministers of various State Governments for financial assistance to resolve their financial crisis;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government thereon, State-wise, particularly in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some States have large revenue deficit, and reported debt stress. Details of States having revenue deficit to revenue receipts ratio in excess of 25% is placed in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) During the year we have received requests from the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Manipur for advance release of Share in Central Taxes or Normal Central Assistance or Non-Plan Gap Grant. Government of India in such cases has advanced States' entitlements of Plan and Non-Plan assistance or provided Ways and Means Advances to enable the States to overcome their short-term liquidity constraints. However no such requests have been received from the State of Bihar.

Statement

Sl. No.	States	RD/RD over 25% in 2003-04 (RE)
1.	Himachal Pradesh	38.70
2.	Kerala	29.30
3.	Madhya Pradesh	35.30
4.	Orissa	30.60
5.	Punjab	25.90
6.	Uttaranchal	35.20
7.	Uttar Pradesh	60.70
8.	West Bengal	53.90

RD : Revenue Deficit,

RR : Revenue Receipts

Source : RBI Report on State Finances 2004-05.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): I have given notice for moving a Privilege Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is under my consideration.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given notice under rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All these notices are under my consideration.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Is my notice under your consideration? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Whatever notices have been received, they are under my consideration. Please cooperate.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (I) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957:
 - (i) The Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 280 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th May 2005,
 - (ii) S.O. 889 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2005 regarding reservation of area in the State of Karnataka for undertaking mining operations through the State Trading Corporation of India Limited.

[Placed in Library. See. No. LT 2436/05]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 183 of the Electricity Act, 2003:
 - (i) The Electricity (Removal of Difficulties) Second Order, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 789 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2005.
 - (ii) The Electricity (Removal of Difficulties) Order,

2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 790 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2005.

- (iii) The Electricity (Removal of Difficulty) (Third) Order, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 792 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2005.
- (iv) The Electricity (Removal of Difficulty) (Fourth) Order, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 793 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2005.
- (v) The Electricity (Removal of Difficulty) (Fifth) Order, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 794 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2005.
- (vi) The Electricity (Removal of Difficulty) (Sixth) Order, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 795 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2005.
- (vii) The Electricity (Removal of Difficulty) (Seventh) Order, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 796 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2005.
- (viii) The Electricity (Removal of Difficulties) (Eighth) Order, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 798 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2005.
- (ix) The Electricity (Removal of Difficulties) (Ninth) Order, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 799 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2437/05]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:

- (i) The Appellate Tribunal for Electricity Salary, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of the Officers and Employees (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 281 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 2005.
- (ii) The Electricity Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 379 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 2005.

(iii) The Electricity (Procedure for Previous

Publication) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 387 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2438/05]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. L-7/25/(7)/2004-Legal (Hindi and English versions) in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2005 directing that the billing of charges in terms of the Commission's Notification No. L-7/25(7)/2004-Legal, dated 1st October, 2004, shall be continued on provisional basis for a period upto 30th October, 2005 or till disposal of the applications made by the utilities for approval of tariff, whichever is earlier, and shall be subject to adjustment after final determination of tariff by the Commission based on such applications issued under the Electricity Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2439/05]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between Rural Electrification Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2440/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2441/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 17 A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972:
- (i) The General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Supervisory, Clerical and Subordinate Staff) Amendment Scheme, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 633 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2005.
 - (ii) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Officers) Amendment Scheme, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 634 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2005.
 - (iii) The General Insurance (Termination, Superannuation and Retirement of Officers and Development Staff) Amendment Scheme, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 635 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2005.
 - (iv) The General Insurance (Employees') Pension Amendment Scheme, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 636 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2442/05]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:
- (i) G.S.R. 300(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/2005-Cus., dated the 2nd May, 2005.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 301(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind three Notifications mentioned therein.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 424(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 26/2000-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2000.

- (iv) G.S.R. 476(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (v) G.S.R. 483(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 207/89-Cus., dated the 11th July, 1989.
- (vi) G.S.R. 494(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to notify specific areas as Special Economic Zone for Software Development and Information Technology Enabled Services, at Salt Lake City, Kolkata in the State of West Bengal.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2443/05]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:
- (i) G.S.R. 268 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt cotton yarn in various forms removed from one factory to another for the purpose of processing during the period starting from 1st July, 2001 and ending on 24th March, 2003.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 274 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the First and Second Schedules to Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 to rectify certain mistakes occurred while implementing the 8 digit tariff code from 6 digit tariff code.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2444/05]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9 A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:
- (i) G.S.R. 455 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 62/95-CE dated the 16th March, 1995.

(ii) G.S.R. 299 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 19/2005-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2005.

(iii) G.S.R. 452 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the validity of anti-dumping duty on Sodium Nitrite, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China.

(iv) G.S.R. 454 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 111/2002-Cus., dated the 10th October, 2002.

(v) G.S.R. 461 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on specified rubber chemicals originating in, or exported from, the European Union, People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei and the United States of America, on provisional basis, on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Anti-dumping.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2445/05]

(5) A copy of the Income-tax (21st Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 979 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2005, under of section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2446/05]

(6) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 477 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt service tax on service provided to any person, by an aircraft operator, in relation to transport of export goods by aircraft under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2447/05]

(7) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Rule, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 474 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th July, 2004

under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT2448/05]

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 8th of August, 2005 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion and Voting on the following Demands and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bills:
 - (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2005-06
 - (b) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2002-03.
3. Consideration and adoption of the recommendations of Railway Convention Committee (2004) contained in their Second Report on 'Rate of Dividend for 2005-06 and other ancillary matters'.
4. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005 and consideration and passing of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2005 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
5. Consideration and passing of the Displaced Persons Claims and Other Laws (Repeal) Bill, 2004, after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Considering the strategic position of Bagdogra Airport of West Bengal, having a number of SAARC countries in its vicinity, it is necessary to develop this airport into an international standard

airport for improvement of air connectivity necessary for improved trade relations.

2. For speedy disposal of passport applications received from the applicants of North Bengal, it has become extremely necessary to upgrade the present passport applications receiving office of Siliguri into Regional Passport Office.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Sir, following subjects, may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to discuss the issue of increasing corruption in the country and measures to check it.
2. Need to discuss drought situation in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) Construction of the second terminal at the Trivandrum International Airport. The foundation stone for the terminal was laid by the hon. Prime Minister long back, but no further action has taken place so far.
- (ii) Upgradation of Regional Vocational Training Institute at Trivandrum as an ITI level Institute.

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, I would like to submit that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:

Abolition of capitation fee received by the self-financing engineering and medical colleges may be provided immediately through a relevant Constitution Amendment Bill in this Monsoon Session itself.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I propose that the following items be taken as matters for discussion in this august House in the next week:

- (i) Mid-term appraisal of the 10th Five-Year Plan.
- (ii) Implementation of the land reforms programmes all over the country.

MR. SPEAKER: It is an important issue. We shall have a discussion on the Mid-term appraisal.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Early completion of proposed ring road around Jaipur to solve the problems of traffic in Jaipur.
2. Todaraisingh railway line was dismantled. It should be converted into broadgauge at the earliest since thousands of people visit Kalyanji of Diggipuri during this month every year.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly, I will be happy.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Sir, the following subjects may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. A major portion of country's total population is living below poverty line. The benefit of the schemes being implemented by the Government to bring them above poverty line is reaching a few people. This is a challenge for the country. The survey conducted so far with regard to the people living below poverty line shows that names of lakh of people have not been included. There is a need to conduct a proper survey and to take action so that their name may be included in the list.
2. The problem of unemployment is assuming alarming proposition day by day. Number of schemes launched by the Government to ameliorate the severity of unemployment is far less than the number of unemployed. Educated and uneducated unemployed of the country are completely frustrated. Employment opportunities in public sector are decreasing day by day. Therefore, necessary steps should be taken to solve this problem.

[English]

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I suggest the following two items to be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) Mullapperiyar Dam is in Kerala Territory, which is controlled by Tamil Nadu. It has become a danger to Kerala due to rise of water in the dam. As Tamil Nadu is the beneficiary and in full control thereof, it is for the Government of that State to open the spillway and to release the water. But the dam

cannot contain so much of water. It may break, which will eventually wash of, at least, four districts of Kerala and kill lakhs of people. Therefore, there is need for permanent solution to this problem.

- (ii) Pepper, cardamom, arecanut and vanilla farmers are in deep crisis due to steep fall in price. The Government should urgently intervene in this matter.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) From the data-table published by Mijia Thermal Power Project situated in West Bengal it is clear that shortage of coal, at stock, is more than 1.31 lakh metric tonnes in the month of August 2000. To make-up the above noted shortage, specific coal consumption was, shown as very high, which is clear from column-B of that table. As a result, difference in the coal stock became negative, which is not practically possible. Negative difference indicates that electricity was produced without coal, and then coal was received at the plant. These high-level irregularities need proper investigation.
- (ii) The migrated people from the then East Pakistan rehabilitated at Udham Singh Nagar in Uttaranchal. Out of two lakhs, about 80 per cent of the migrated people belong to Namasudra by sub-caste. Uttaranchal State Assembly has taken a unanimous resolution on this issue, but still they are upper-caste, whereas in West Bengal Namasudras are Scheduled Castes.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Punnu Lal Mohale – not present.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we come to important 'Zero Hour' matters. I wish to compliment most sincerely and express my great admiration, if I may say so, for the hon. Members who are waiting to raise their issues after 6 p.m., or after the end of scheduled business. You are showing exemplary concern for the issues that you wish to raise. I am grateful to them for their kind cooperation. This is what the country needs. I, once again, express my sincere gratitude to all of them. I am sorry that many of the hon. Members have to wait till late evening, but their commitment to Parliament and their commitment to the people is proved by their kind cooperation. I wish to compliment each one of them.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, the Chair should also give encouragement to the Members.

MR. SPEAKER: You can see the wonderful results we are having. Without your cooperation, it is not possible. I am also thankful to the hon. leaders for their kind willingness and kind support.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, no hon. Minister is present in the House after 6 p.m.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already indicated to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that it would be treated as a breach on their part and it would be suitably dealt with by the Chair.

We will take up the Calling Attention notice later because of urgency of some other matters. You know it because you are there, and I thank you for your cooperation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the Ministry of Coal has introduced E-auction in all subsidiaries of Coal India and because of E-auction, the price of coal has been increased by 150 per cent. Due to this, the small-scale industries, small-scale units, cottage industries, big manufacturers are facing a lot of difficulties.

Previously, there was a system of linkages and thousands and thousands of small units, which are there in our country, used to get coal from a particular coal mine. After the introduction of E-auction, this coal linkage of the small units, tiny units, cottage industries has been snapped. Thousands and thousands of small, tiny and cottage units are today on the verge of closer.

In my constituency, there is a large number of brass and bell metal units. They are dependent on the coal for the production of brass and bell metal materials. Due to abnormal increase in the price of coal by 150 per cent, thousands of units will be ultimately closed down. Thus, there will be unemployment. Thousands of people who are engaged in these units will be rendered unemployed, and will be rendered jobless.

Sir, the reason given by the Ministry was that Mafia used to control the price of coal because there was open cell system as well as linkage system. But with the introduction of E-auction, a few Mafia are now controlling it sitting at one place.

In the rural areas, people depend on coal even for cooking food. They cannot now use firewood and they are also facing a crisis today. The tribal people, poor people living in the rural areas, in addition to small and cottage industries are facing a crisis today.

Sir, I urge upon the Government that the system which was there before the introduction of E-auction in non-coal sector should be restored. Linkages with the small units which were there earlier should be restored. Twenty-five million tonnes of coal should be earmarked for the domestic use and for use by the small-scale units, cottage industries so that thousands of small-scale, cottage and tiny units do not face any crisis and they are not closed down. I would urge upon the Government to restore the earlier system and save thousands and thousands of small units of our country.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur) : Sir, I would like to associate myself with his statement.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): Sir, I also associate myself with his statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We need this cooperation. Prof. Malhotra, I have been informed by the hon. Home Minister that the report would be filed on Monday.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since he told that it would be tabled on 8th, I only wish to say that the Commission wanted to present the report on January 31. I am not involving any motive but at that time there was election in Bihar and their term was going to end on January 31. Thereafter, they submitted the report on February 9. Tomorrow and the day after tomorrow are holidays. You are saying that it would be submitted on Monday. I would like to mention only two things that when the Phukan Commission report was submitted, they completely rejected it. ...*(Interruptions)* It might not have anything like that in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is not brought in your notice and you know it.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am making a request. No obituary reference has been made so far about those three thousand people who have died. I appeal to you to consult others also on the matter. Obituary reference must be made some-day because it has not been made for them so far. It has been made in the case of Britain. Please make an obituary reference about them after consulting others.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, I will consider your suggestion. I am now giving the floor to you, Shri K. Yerrannaidu on your special request. The hon. Members should stay and not go away.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today is Friday.

MR. SPEAKER: So what if it is Friday, it's a working day. Please learn from the person sitting beside you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice the injustice done to Vizag Port-Master list candidates. For the past two months, they have been agitating. They are requesting for their employment under the Major Port Trust Act, 1963. Recently, the hon. Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Mr. Baalu, visited the camp and promised to ensure their employment. Now, the candidates are demonstrating in front of the Vizag Port Trust, and all the political parties visited the camp. However, so far, justice has not been done to those people.

I am requesting, through you, Sir, the hon. Minister of Shipping to intervene immediately and to do justice to those people.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Francis George, you were absent yesterday when your matter came up.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You were not there in the evening when your matter was taken up.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I was told that there would be no 'Zero Hour' as the discussion was going on.

MR. SPEAKER: Who told you? This is not the way to function. However, as a special case and keeping in view the importance of the subject, I am allowing you. It should not be repeated in future. If any hon. Member misses his turn, he will not get a second turn.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, the Mullaperiyar Dam on the River Periyar was constructed in 1895 by the Presidency of Madras under a lease from the erstwhile Maharaja of Travancore for a period of thousand years. Now, the entire catchment area falls within the Tiger Reserve and it is an Elephant Reserve too.

The Tamil Nadu Government is exclusively utilising the water resources for itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make provocative remarks. This does not help you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Let them hear what I have

to say. There is no dispute between the people of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. You should look at it from an Indian view.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: This relates to the safety of the people living in Kerala. We have no objection to Tamil Nadu taking water and using it in any way it likes. There has been a decision by both the States with the approval of the Central Water Commission to keep the water level of the dam at 136 feet. That is because the dam has outlived its safe life period. This is a 110 year old dam built on very conventional methods using lime and *surki*. There has been expert opinion about the safety of the dam. What is happening is, due to heavy rains and great inflow from the catchment area. ...*(Interruptions)* How can you say this is false information? These are facts. These have been verified by both the States and the Central Water Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. You mention what is relevant to the Central Government.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: This dam is located in my Constituency. If there is any damage or danger to the dam and the water reached the Idukki Arch Dam and by chance if there is any damage to that dam; four Districts forming the heartland of Kerala – Idukki, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Alleppey – will be washed away. The loss of life would be unimaginable. Kerala's only request is that the level of the water should be kept at 136 feet as agreed upon by both the States and approved by the Central Water Commission. The mud and rubble that has been put before the spillway has to be removed by the Tamil Nadu Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan now.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: We have no objection and there is no dispute.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, this is a very serious issue for the people of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: You associate with that. All hon. Members from Kerala associate with this. Their names should be recorded regarding this association. Shri Suresh Kurup, Shri N.N. Krishnadas, Shri C.K. Chandrappan, Shri P.C. Thomas and a few other hon. Members from Kerala associate themselves with Shri K. Francis George on this issue.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I request the Central Government to immediately intervene and prevail upon the Tamil Nadu Government to keep the water level at 136 feet. It is a question of life and death for the people of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not ignoring it. That is why I have asked you to raise this issue even breaking the rule. You should appreciate that.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded Mr. Thomas, except that you have associated.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards bomb explosion in Shramajivi Express in Uttar Pradesh. It has been stated in the enquiry report of the mishap that RDX content has also been found in that explosion. At the same time, it has also made the intention of a bigger explosion clear. If we retrospect about such incidents, similar-kind of explosion had taken place in Shabarmati Express on Roja Junction near Faizabad. A similar bomb explosion had taken place in Gomati Express also. There seems to be a linkage in all these explosions. Terrorism may be given any name, whether we call it Islamic terrorism or something else but now the roots of terrorism, drifting away from borders, have started spreading in the entire country.

There is an organization named NDF in Kerala. It has also its links with the ISI in some way or the other as revealed by higher officials in their report. Whether it is Kerala or Uttar Pradesh, SIMI sponsored explosions have taken place everywhere. Earlier, SIMI had been banned. Now it seems that in entire Uttar Pradesh whether it is at Deoband, Saharanpur, Muzaffar Nagar or Kanpur, their training camps are there. All these facts have been revealed by the Special Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two aspects of my concern. Firstly, the country is in crisis due to treason or terrorism in some way or the other. Secondly, as a mother, a lady like me feels very bad when SIMI or Babhar Khalsa like organizations mislead youth. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? This will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This is very very unfortunate.

...*(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) Where comes RSS in between? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ashok Pradhan, it is unfortunate. You are a senior Member and former Minister. I shall control them. Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am concluding. My concern is that these organizations mislead youth of the country. Pakistan is also instrumental in it. I would like to request the Government to deal with such organizations sternly. It should be paid attention to that such organizations do not surface again after 'POTA' being repealed.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India that two-three days ago, I was in Khajuwala, Raisinghnagar and Parliamentary constituency area of Falodi and Jaisalmer bordering with Pakistan. Even today, all TV channels of Pakistan are telecast there. Earlier, the hon. Minister had told in Lok Sabha and I had raised this matter in Lok Sabha earlier also that in bordering districts, even today, all Pakistani channels are telecast but the proposal of setting up a high power transmitter within Indian borders has not been implemented as yet. Through you I would like to request the Government of India that the bordering area of Rajasthan where the Pakistani channels are telecast and the telecast of Indian channel is insignificant, a high power transmitter should be set up either in Khajuwala or Rai Singh Nagar or Falodi or Jaisalmer so as to facilitate the telecast of Indian channels.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, Multi National soft drink giant like Coca-Cola have got exclusive exploitative rights to tap the ground water potential in several parts of the country. Rare ground water resources like aquifers and river-beds even in drought prone areas are ruthlessly fleeced of invaluable water resources. At a time when basic water needs are not met, these MNCs commercially exploit these rare ground water resources in many parts of the country

Not recorded.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

like Plachchimedha in Kerala and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and in Sivagangai District and Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu. Gangaigondan in Tirunelveli District situated near Tamiravaruni river bed has got a rich water potential as ground water aquifer. This has potential to meet the demands for basic water needs of drought prone villages and town in that area. Heavy drawing of water to the extent of 9 lakhs of litres per day from Tamiravaruni river-bed and more water from Gangaigondan aquifer would affect 46 villages around the place in due course. This may eventually leave them high and dry without water even for drinking purposes. This trend must be arrested. Such MNCs must be stopped forthwith from heavily drawing and exploiting ground water for the manufacture of soft drinks.

These MNCs have managed to get permission to manufacture soft drinks. These soft drinks are also not free from pollution. The Pollution Control Board of Kerala has found that lead and cadmium chemical compounds are present in the soft drinks manufactured by Coca Cola Company in Plachchimedha. Hence, I urge upon the Government to take it upon itself as a National issue involving poor innocent people living in such areas. It should not be treated as a mere State subject. I also urge upon the Union Government to set up an expert committee to go to places where all these MNCs are manufacturing soft drinks affecting the interests of the poor as well. The views of the local bodies in those areas must be given due consideration before opening of such MNC units.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The other admitted matters will be taken up at 6.00 p.m.

12.29 hrs.

BIHAR BUDGET, 2005-06

Demands for Grants on Account (Bihar) – 2005-06

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House takes up item Nos.8 and 9 together.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I have already placed the Annual Finance Statement for the State of Bihar for 2005-06. Very briefly, the revised statement reflects the following.

On the Revenue Account, the receipts are estimated at Rs.19,128.97 crore and expenditure is likely to be Rs.19,134.82 crore resulting in a small revenue deficit. On the Capital Account, the receipts are estimated at Rs.7,100.88

crore while the expenditure is likely to be Rs. 7,193.85 crore resulting in a deficit of Rs.92.97 crore. Taking into consideration the opening cash balance, the Revenue Account, the Capital Account and the transactions in the Public Account, the year is expected to close with a surplus of Rs.923.59 crore.

I commend this Budget to the House and request the House to pass it.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 4, 6 to 12, 15 to 27, 29 to 33 and 35 to 52."

LOK SABHA

*Demands for Grants on Account (Bihar) for 2005-06
submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. & Name of the Demand		Amount of Demands for Grants 'On Account' to be submitted to the vote of the House (inclusive of the amount already voted by the Lok Sabha on 19th March, 2005)	
1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1.	Agriculture Department	1826976000	0
2.	Animal Husbandary Department	698345000	0
3.	Building Construction Department	808442000	981853000
4.	Cabinet Secretariat and Coordination Department	55423000	0
6.	Election	1138845000	0
7.	Vigilance	58402000	0
8.	Civil Aviation Department	37888000	7500000
9.	Co-operative Department	311988000	93549000
10.	Energy Department	107643000	10505443000
11.	Excise and Prohibition Department	136147000	0
12.	Finance Department	2227804000	83333000
15.	Pension	20591480000	0
16.	National Savings	20535000	0
17.	Finance (Commercial Tax) Department	227448000	37500000
18.	Food, Supply and Commerce Department	553483000	0
19.	Forest and Environment Department	437590000	6000000
20.	Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare Deptt.	7012567000	170080000
21.	Higher Education Department	5079138000	0

1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
22.	Home Department	9681677000	566668000
23.	Industries Department	265370000	88037000
24.	Information and Public Relation Department	99561000	0
25.	Institutional Finance and Programme Implementation Deptt.	17044000	0
26.	Labour, Employment and Training Department	1374748000	
27.	Law Department	1396462000	0
29.	Mines and Geology Department	63774000	0
30.	Minorities Welfare Department	19002000	74309000
31.	Parliamentary Affairs Department	5233000	0
32.	Legislature	283918000	0
33.	Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department	133285000	123334000
35.	Planning and Development Department	2133624000	0
36.	Public Health Engineering Department	1095789000	1859935000
37.	Rajbhasa Department	117818000	0
38.	Registration Department	206470000	4133000
39.	Disaster Management Department	1149728000	0
40.	Revenue and Land Reforms Department	1975816000	23812000
41.	Road Construction Department	2106896000	4435916000
42.	Rural Development Department	8619070000	4082842000
43.	Science and Technology Department	171862000	8250000
44.	Secondary, Primary and Adult Education Department	28199091000	24853000
45.	Sugarcane Department	97299000	423000
46.	Tourism Department	28520000	46875000
47.	Transport Department	68800000	750000
48.	Urban Development Department	1484468000	105903000
49.	Water Resources Department	2116997000	5960934000
50.	Minor Irrigation Department	2166030000	532338000
51.	Welfare Department	5442788000	3964000
52.	Youth, Art and Culture Department	179105000	8325000
	Total	112030389000	29836859000

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Katihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to discuss vote on accounts demanded for the budget of Bihar for the year 2005-2006 presented by hon'ble Minister of Finance. We all are aware of financial condition of Bihar, the path on which Bihar is treading. Today Bihar is passing through a strange phase. Elections were held recently in Bihar in February and this very House imposed President's rule there on 7th March 2005. We understand the circumstances but one more strange situation has emerged there. When people's representatives were trying to establish the rule of a welfare state and people's government there, the legislative assembly was dissolved on 23rd May, 2005. In these circumstances first Minister of Finance sought the leave of this House on vote on accounts for five months on 7th March, 2005 which was also necessary but now again he is asking for vote on accounts for four more months by extending his demand. The circumstances are such that we will support that but with some observations. I want to put forward my views before the House on this subject. Hon'ble Minister of Finance and those who are interested in Bihar, they are fully aware of the shattered economic condition of Bihar. We all were assured that now HE Mr. Governor is moving there and conditions of Bihar will improve now. Bihar, which has been famous for its development, education and hospitality before and after independence, is continuously on the path of degrowth since 1970. The last 15 years of governance of Lalu Prasadji and Shrimati Rabri Deviji as Chief Ministers has caused, a great damage to Bihar. The roads of Bihar are not in good condition, education is in bad shape, there is no electricity and industries have closed down.

To cap it all, the law and order situation there is at its worst. The law and order situation of Bihar has been amply discussed here. I do not have much to say on that. I want to say that we had a faith in President's rule that the shattered condition will improve and also not a glowing past of Bihar could be relieved and gradual progress could set in Bihar. But I am sorry to say that after the President's rule condition has worsened. Murders and kidnappings have started again. Today Bihar is in a state of dilemma. The Government has no control over administration. In these circumstances I would ask the hon'ble Minister of Finance as to how he proposes to improve the condition of Bihar. We have got your letter in this regard. To a layman budget means the money allocated from here will be used for poors, backward areas and needy there. The State Government will utilize this money through this budget. I have to say with much grief that the things quoted by Hon. Governor to media and his officers after reaching Bihar. I would like to discuss in brief. It may be that my words may shock some Members

sitting on either side. Bihar has the potential but it needs to be exploited. Bihar has everything which can help in building Bihar. Earlier also Bihar has proved to be a pioneer to give direction. I am of the view that given hand of talent that Bihar possess, the kind of energy people have, and the capacity to work, Bihar can make a lot of progress that would require direction and capital.

I would like to quote the statements of Hon. Governor given to the public and officers through newspapers. He has been saying continuously that he wants to build Bihar. Whatever resources the Govt. are providing by the hon'ble Governor will take Bihar on the path of the progress. But I am pained to say when he said "To control crime and to maintain law and order every possible action will be taken"

This is not my personal statement. This view has been expressed by His Excellency Governor. This means that crime has increased in Bihar and law and order situation has deteriorated. This statement is intended to improve the situation by Hon. Governor. I would like to read some of his lines. Hon. Governor Sardar Buta Singh has said—

"To check crime and to maintain law and order situation, police administration must take every possible action".

Hon. Governor was addressing the Director General of Police and other officials present during the meeting with the departmental secretaries. Whatever he said, I do not want to reproduce it fully but want to state in brief. Hon. Governor said,

"Take the oath to make Bihar a modern state and devote yourself fully and work honestly in this direction to achieve and fulfil this goal."

But what followed is known to everyone. Just a few days ago the chief Secretary there intended to go on leave in the circumstances known to all.

The remarks made by the DGP reflect the administrative competence there.

MR. SPEAKER: You know that this has thoroughly been discussed earlier.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Yes, I am aware of that. I was just referring to that in the introduction. I would like to make the house aware of the statement made by the Governor regarding the security. He said that the security of children, women and the aged need special attention and he's already given directions to the officials concerned. Hon'ble Governor said that the extremists, anti-social elements and terrorists have adopted the path of harassing the people. Special measures should be taken to control

such situation. I have to submit that despite all these announcements virtually nothing has been done there. I want to bring it to the notice of hon'ble Minister of Finance that the developmental work has been disrupted during the five months of President's Rule. During President's rule only 6 percent of the amount meant for developmental schemes has been spent whereas 25 percent time of the financial years has passed. During the current fiscal year against Rs. 5300 crore, only Rs. 300 crore could be spent. It's believed that this expenditure was also non-plan expenditure. Due to lack of resources, the funds allocation of Rs. 24 thousand crore of 10th Five Year Plan estimated to be plugged at Rs. 19610 crore only. Now, the hon'ble Minister of Finance will explain the current status in this regard. In the budget presented by the hon'ble Minister there's mention of the fiscal deficit and the other issues here also been referred to. I want to tell that the targets fixed for the years 2002 and 2007 can't be accomplished due to lack of resources. It's because of the non-mobilisation of resources by the state Government and the non-allocation of Central assistance. During this period, the increase in the non-plan revenue expenditure by Rs. 500 crore will also drastically affect the plans. This issue also needs to be taken into account. As per the sources, the reason for such state of affairs are attributed to the lack of resources on one hand and the slow pace of implementation on the other. As per the reports published in the months of June this year, expenditure has been incurred to the tune of Rs. 300 crore and the major amount of expenditure is related to establishment. Expenditure hasn't been reported from many departments so far.

On the rural development front against the plan expenditure of Rs. 58583 as little as Rs. 10368 lac has been spent while as per the reports received from the department of primary education as against the plan of Rs. 46189 only Rs. 3799 lac is reported to have been spent. Reports have not been received from several other departments so far. The Planning Commission has made a written communication in this regard and regarding information of expenditure. The officials are of the view that until the reports are presented, it is difficult to figure out the amount of expenditure. The trend prevails in Bihar that they don't obtain the details of expenditure and think that the work will commence in the month of October and as a result when they start work on agenda, they are severely faced with the problems of inclement weather and the other bottlenecks. In the first place, I don't get an opportunity to express myself and now you are not allotting me proper time to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you speak for an unlimited period of time?

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: The time allotted by our party must be provided to me.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The BAC has agreed to have a two-hour debate on this. And I have allowed you also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It's the rules of the game. We can't allow unlimited time.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: As against the existing targeted value, the state government has been able to incur an expenditure of Rs.8020 crore only. As per the estimate of the Department of Finance, as much as Rs. 11590 crore is to be spent by the State Government in the coming two financial years. The plan expenditure for the year 2005-06 has been fixed to Rs. 5300 crore. The pace of expenditure on the developmental schemes is very slow. According to the sources of the Department of Finance, during the tenth Plan period Rs. 2376 crore was not provided to Bihar Electricity Board which is the case of injustice with Bihar. Rs.616 crore has been meant for the upgradation local bodies have not been received. A serious controversy surfaced over this issue before the panchayat elections. Despite the recommendation of the Planning Commission, funds could not be released. Similarly, the payment of the share of the Union taxes to the state is less by Rs. 1020 crore which is far below estimation.

Sir, you have laid a statement on the table of the house. The roads in Bihar are also in dilapidated condition. The level of education is very low in Bihar. There are no school buildings there. Recently, after visiting a few hospitals we have come to see that hospitals are devoid of buildings and medicine. Our area is flood-prone as nearly 28 districts of Bihar are affected by flood.

The situation prevalent in these districts is such that the diarrhoea breaks out there frequently but the anti-diarrhoeal medicines are not available in adequate quantity. I would like to urge upon you to pay attention to these issues. The important thing is that if the Government want Bihar to make progress, it will have to spend more money on electricity head. Today, the production of electricity in Bihar has come to a standstill. There is a need for modernisation and renewal of old power plants.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Thank you for your cooperation.

[Translation]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Sir, the money

[Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary]

released by the Central Government to rectify the mis-management in Bihar, is not being used properly there. Bihar is lagging behind. There is a need to bring about improvement in its situation. I want to express something more in this regard. If you please allow me to speak for about five minutes more, I would be able to express my views on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not aware that there has been a very good debate on this subject?

[English]

You have covered everything. Bihar should be obliged to you. Thank you.

Now, Shri Nikhil Kumar.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, I am the only speaker from my Party.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not mean that there is unlimited time available to you. Time is according to your Party's entitlement. At least start your speech now.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, we are discussing the Revised Estimate of the Bihar Budget for the current financial year.

We had, last time, approved in this very House, an amount of Rs.26,000 and odd crore, for this financial year's budget. Now, the State of Bihar has come up with an additional demand of Rs.500 crore. Actually, the budget calculations show that Bihar State needs an amount of Rs.900 crore for its development and other works. Out of this, it will be in a position to mobilise its own funds to the extent of about Rs.400 crore. So, it means that it needs nearly an additional requirement of about Rs.500 crore.

Sir, I rise to support this demand of the Bihar Government, which is in the Revised Estimate of the current year's budget. Bihar is an unusual State; there are areas which are inundated by floods, and as a result, the crops are washed away; people are displaced and we do not know how long this condition will last. This is the situation which is repeated year after year. Again, in the same State, there are areas, which have suffered a failure of monsoon and thus, there is drought. In these areas, there is no crop and there is lack of employment; there is poverty and above all, the whole State is now gradually going towards the path of Left-wing extremism.

My own constituency, the area that I come from, and its neighbouring areas are deeply plagued by Left wing extremism in a very grave degree. As a result, that area needs a lot of attention. In fact, Bihar needs special attention.

It is not a Special Category State but I do realise that if the Government of India has some yardstick based on backwardness, unemployment, lack of development and opportunities which are plagued by the threat of Left wing extremism, Bihar is an excellent instant where it should be covered by a Special Category State. That is not there. I make a plea to the Government of India that it should consider very seriously including the State as a Special category State.

Apart from that, as I said, it is because of all this that Bihar needs special attention and we need to take a serious stock of the situation there. There is shortage of power. There is abundance of water on one hand and there is lack of water on the other leading to scarcity and drought. This condition of drought would have been prevented had the State of Jharkhand being cooperative and agreed to the construction of Suez Gate on two rivers that originate in that State and flow into the South Bihar. These are the two rivers that lead to a network of irrigation canals, distributories, feeders, etc.

For sometime now there is a dispute going on between Bihar and Jharkhand. I must compliment the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, to have taken the initiative to summon the people in the Bihar and Jharkhand Governments and brokered some kind of an agreement between them which meant that while the Bihar Government will provide funds, the Government of Jharkhand will construct the Suez Gate. When they went back, Jharkhand officials back-tracked and as a result we are suffering the brunt of it. There is no water in our canals because there is no reservoir on the two rivers that feed us. These two rivers are rained and if there is a failure of rain, there will be no water in our reservoirs. As a result, our irrigation canals are denuded of water. I would, therefore, appeal to the State of Jharkhand and to the Ministry of Water Resources that together they should sit down and bring about some kind of a compromise, agreement to release water and to construct the Suez Gate on these two rivers so that it becomes a permanent solution for future.

I would say that this whole area, in fact the entire State of Bihar has been very seriously studied and it is found that out of 38 districts, 37 have been designated as backward districts. I am definite that South Bihar districts are backward. They are backward in terms of lack of employment, crop production, road connectivity and above all in power. It is in these areas and, especially in my Constituency Aurangabad, that we need to implement the National Food for Work Programme. I would like to say a word about the National Food for Work Programme.

A total amount of Rs.5,000 crore has been set apart for this programme throughout the country. This will cover 150

districts. A good deal of this amount is unspent, as a result there is saving. If only the number of districts covered by this National Food for Work Programme is increased from 150 to 170, without increasing the overall allocation of fund, that is over Rs.5,000 crore, it will help many districts in Bihar being included in the list of districts to be covered by this programme. It will be a great boon at least to my district because it is on the border line. I would very strongly appeal to the Government of India to consider this suggestion, that is, while retaining the limit of Rs.5,000 crore as fund allocation for the entire country for this programme, the number of districts to be so covered may please be increased from 150 to 170.

The next point is about the fact that it has become some kind of a fashion to describe Bihar as backward, lacking in administrative infrastructure and so on. We must take note of the fact that in the revised estimates that we have received here, nearly Rs.1315 crore have been provided for under the Rashtriya Shram Vikas Yojana. Of these, as much as Rs.300 crore have been set apart for power and the energy sector. This is all very nice and I recommend that this should be expedited. But at the same time, the point is how do you spend this money. Bihar is suffering from an acute shortage of power. After the creation of the State of Jharkhand, there are just two major power plants in the State, namely, Barauni and Kati. Unfortunately, Kati, which has a total production potential of 220 megawatt, has been lying dormant and non-functional for the past almost 15 years. As regards Barauni, which has been feeding Bihar with good deal of power requirement, it is also working only to about one-third of its capacity.

We have recently heard that the Bihar Government and the Governor of Bihar has managed to enter into an agreement with the BHEL and the NTPC to firstly re-start Kati and bring it to its full functional form and secondly to examine what can be done to upgrade the functioning of Barauni and to modernise it. It is here that I wish to make a small submission that we have laid down certain procedures. These procedures are time consuming, especially in a State like Bihar. Like we pay attention to the North-East and to Kashmir, there is a need to give special attention to Bihar and to see that the procedures are streamlined so that there, is no red tapism. For instance, projects under the RSVY have to be approved by the Planning Commission. No matter how big the financial implication is, they all have to go to Planning Commission. As a result, the Planning Commission takes its own time and an overall delay of six months to something like a year takes places. This can be reduced if there is a view taken that not all projects should go to the Planning Commission but up to a certain limit say up to

Rs.1000 crore or Rs.500 crore or something like that would go to Planning Commission. I do not wish to make a suggestion about the exact limit but some such decision should be taken to facilitate quick decision making at the State level.

I would also invite the attention of the Government of India to the fact that this kind of procedure affects also the projects that are being considered by the NABARD. No doubt, NABARD is doing very useful work. But every project that is referred to NABARD has to be first assessed for its viability. This viability assessment is done not in Bihar but elsewhere. If only NABARD or the Government of India could kindly consider placing in Patna or anywhere in Bihar its own expert staff which could examine the technical feasibility of any project, it will cut delays and it will be able to hasten development work.

So my second appeal is that, in addition to what I have suggested earlier about the Planning Commission, NABARD should be directed to place its expert staff at Patna to make its expertise available in seeing that every project that is referred to it is analysed and assessed for its viability as quickly as possible without any avoidable loss of time. The adequate strength of appraisal staff should be placed at Patna.

The third point is that there is a very large population of the Scheduled Castes in the State. I think it is unusually large and the Government of India has an excellent programme of the Indira Awaas Yojana which is calculated to offer a great deal of relief and succour to this section of the society.

13.00 hrs.

Unfortunately, a sum of Rs. 468 crore has been earmarked in the current year's Budget with the result that less than 29,000 dwelling units will be constructed. This is mere chicken feed; this is mere pittance. I appeal for an increase in the allocation under the Indira Awaas Yojana by at least 50 per cent, if not more. It would, even then, not be adequate, but at least it will meet the demands of the deprived sections and we would be able to see as to how much relief we have been able to provide to them.

Sir, road connectivity is an important contributory factor to the progress of any country. I do not have to cite instances. These instances are very well-known. The latest one being that of Malaysia. The State of Bihar, particularly, needs a great deal of road connectivity. We have an excellent selection of schemes to construct roads. I would like to invite attention to only two of the schemes. One is the Prime Minister's Golden Quadrilateral Road Project. Two hundred

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

and fifty kilometres of National Highway II passes through Bihar. The progress on this has been stopped of late and as a result there is much inconvenience to the people who travel along this road. I have often found that because of the delay in road construction, there is a very long queue of heavy vehicles blocking the traffic there because a two-way traffic is not possible on this road. This is particularly so between Dehri-on-Sone and Dobi. The National Highway Authority of India must be requested to give special attention to this part to see that the construction is speeded up this stretch.

The second part is the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (PMSGY). Some central agency has been given the task to construct the roads under this scheme. In my area itself there are three major roads. It is now quite some time that work order in respect of only one of them has been issued. There are two other important roads, both running into something like 50 kilometres each, which have been left out and the concerned authorities, particularly IRCON, needs to be told to pay special attention to expedite the work of construction on these very important roads that have been selected under the PMSGY.

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised many issues. Please conclude now.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, I am into my last point. I mentioned something about power. Power shortage is endemic and it is well-known.

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate that the State of Bihar is under President's Rule, but that does not mean that this House becomes Bihar Assembly. The entire debate cannot take place here.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: I am asking for central assistance. In the past five years, the Government of India, meaning thereby the previous Government had released as much as Rs. 10,000 crore for rural electrification. But it is very surprising that the State of Bihar did not get its share at all. It is for this now that I would like to appeal to the Central Government that the share of Bihar for electrification must be given. Unless this is done, we would continue to have a classic case of the State of Bihar being criticised as being this and that and so on. So, something meaningful needs to be done to see that the Administration in Bihar is spruced up.

MR. SPEAKER: The next speaker is Shri Mahboob Zahedi. You will have five minutes. You can complete even before that as well.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (Katwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I

am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the budget of Bihar. I would try to conclude in five minutes. I would not like to repeat the views expressed on the budget of Bihar by the Hon'ble Members who have spoken prior to me. I want to speak on a new topic different from what the others have said. I would like to state that the Central Government is still carrying their responsibility and this question is continuing since proclamation on 7th March. The budget which is being prepared at present, has to be utilized by them and if needed, this amount can be further enhanced. I do not want to go into the details of education, health, industries and other such issues. The major issue in Bihar is related to farmers. The crop sowed by the farmers is a very crucial issue. In this regard, I noticed that the farmers are not going to be benefited from the allocation made for this year in comparison to what had been allocated for the same in the previous budget. I would like to urge upon the Minister of Finance to address this issue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know that Bihar is worst affected by the floods as well as the drought. There are three-four rivers which take their course to Bihar from Nepal and which bring the devastating flood with them every year. When the issue regarding Bihar was discussed, we had heard that a Committee had been set up with Nepal in regard to check this floods. It is a matter of regret that the House was not at all informed about the discussion held or the decision taken in this regard. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister to state about the situation arising out of non-communication with Nepal. This is regarding the flood caused by the rivers outside our country. When we talk about our State, then we consider various aspects viz., how to carry out repair work of the dams, lakes, dams which are damaged in Bihar. This is also necessary to see whether the repair work is being done with the amount sanctioned.

I would like to say a few words about the drought situation. When the floods hit the areas, we saw that in some areas, there was abundant water while some other areas were drought hit. We have built a number of dams over the rivers in the country. I would like to know whether we can take the water of those rivers to the areas which are affected by drought and whether we can utilize the ground water properly. There are three-four vital issues. Today, the farmers lay stress on commercial crops. These include sugarcane, rice, wheat and pulses. The farmers are badly affected by the drought and then they face the floods. Afterwards, the farmers do not find any markets to sell whatever little crops are left with them. Where can they go? Is there any remunerative price for them? Consequently, the life of a farmer becomes very tough. Moreover, there is no regular electric supply in the state. There is no supply of electricity in Muzaffarpur and Barauni.

I would like to express my views about the National Highways. I am not talking about the internal roads. I had visited that place. I had to suffer from spine trouble when my visit to that place was over.

MR. SPEAKER: Everyone has to face the same problem.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are cases of migration from Bihar. Sugar mills have already closed down.

[English]

I cannot say about the exact number of sugar mills.

[Translation]

However, as per the information with me, around 24 out of 75 mills are running and the remaining ones are closed down. As a result, the farmers and the workers are badly affected. I, through you, Sir, would request the hon'ble Minister of Finance to find out the measures to check the migration. If there is unemployment, poverty, then the anti-social elements will rise and the cases of migration will also increase. They cannot be held fully responsible for it.

[English]

There is heavy migration from Bihar to other States and even outside the country also.

[Translation]

We should consider it seriously. The Central Government are fully responsible for it. When the election is held and the new Government is formed, they will decide about it. When it happens, the Central Government have to think about it. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Bihar Budget. I would like to say that the estimate of Bihar Budget is Rs. 19128.97 crore and in addition to the expenditure on other items along with that, the expenditure on plan outlay has been kept at Rs. 687.47 only. I would like to inform that Bihar is a very poor state. The State is facing the problems of unemployment, plight of farmers and illiteracy. The allocations that should have been made in the budget and the expenditure that should have been incurred, have not been done on the aforesaid items so far. I would like to tell that farmers constitute the majority in Bihar. They undertake cultivation for subsistence. Bihar can be divided into two parts. The southern part of the river Ganga is known as South Bihar. Before the partition of Bihar it was

known as Central Bihar. You will be surprised to know that dozens of rivers like Sone, Punpun, Phalgu, Dardha, Morhar, Lokayin, Kararua etc. flow there but it is a curse that this area is always affected by drought and in order to deal with this drought situation, I think, concrete embankments should be built along rivers and irrigation facility should be provided to the farmers by carving out canals from the rivers which will go a long way in solving the problems of farmers and it will ensure the effacement of poverty and unemployment from Southern Bihar.

Sir, similarly these rivers do no good in North Bihar, on the contrary, the rivers flowing from the hills of Nepal destroy standing crops. I would like to say that when flood and drought occur, whether it is the State Government or the Central Government both show their concern how to combat these calamities. For protecting agricultural land and farmers' crops concrete embankments should be built along rivers and canals should be carved out of them to check drought and floods.

Sir, there is poor management of education in Bihar. High Schools are there. Many high schools function under unaided education system. Colleges also function under this system. Adequate funds are required to be spent on education. There are primary schools in villages but there is no infrastructure. The schools are running without buildings and teachers. There is one teacher for one hundred fifty two hundred students. How can the spread of education be expected there? Primary education is the backbone of education. It is also the backbone of economic development. Infrastructure needs to be changed.

I would like to tell that the roads are also in very bad condition there. Whether these have been built by the district councilor rural engineering organization. All these roads are in dilapidated condition. Therefore, funds are required for repairing them. Therefore, I would like to say that we need to change the infrastructure. Electricity is not available there. After the partition of Bihar, the production of electricity is almost nil. At the same time, the Govt. are aware and all the hon. Members of the House know that activities of extremists are also on the increase rapidly. After all what is its reason? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh, how much more time will you take?

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I shall take a little more time.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Then, continue after recess.

13.15 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch
till Fourteen of the clock.*

14.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seven
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT
(BIHAR) 2005-06

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh will continue. Now, I would request you to please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been putting forth my views on Bihar Budget right now. I want to continue further. Earlier, I had also said that poverty in Bihar can also be attributed to the lack of adequate irrigation facilities. The budgetary outlay for irrigation is not as much as required. Secondly, I had mentioned that one of the reasons of backwardness of Bihar is the mismanagement in education right from the primary school level up to high school level. There is only one teacher for about 150-200 children in primary schools. The teacher units in Bihar have not got the approval for past several years as a result a number of villages are still schoolless. The Government should have made provision for this in the Budget. Provision of rooms should be made according to number of classes and number of students. A number of schools and colleges are being run by the private organizations there and provision should be made in the budget to bring those school and colleges under the jurisdiction of the Government.

Sir, apart from all these issues, I would like to mention one more fact that there is no industry in Bihar. All the industries be it sugar industry or any other industry have also been closed. With the partition of Jharkhand, there is no such industry left, in which people could get employment.

I would like to mention one thing also that Khadi and

village industries have their own place in entire India. Lakhs of people used to get employment through Khadi and village industries in Bihar, but today its condition has become from bad to worse. All the khadi and village industry centres have been closed. Through you, Sir, I would like to say to the Government that if eradication of unemployment is to be done in real terms and if the people are to be given employment, there is a need to increase money on Khadi and village industries also. Special provision have to be made to revive the Khadi and village industry centres of that State which have been closed. Financial assistance was given to the small industries by the Finance Corporation, but those industries are not functioning properly somewhere in the absence of power and in other areas in the absence of finance.

I support the budget of Bihar which has been presented, but, through you, Sir, I would like to urge upon the Minister of Finance that provision of some more amount should be made in the Budget. If the Govt. want to eradicate unemployment and poverty from Bihar, it have to incur expenditure on education, irrigation and transport etc. Whatever amount is spent on establishment and other heads, lesser funds are actually spent on the schemes vis-a-vis the amount allocated under the said heads. There is a need to enhance the same.

At the end, I would like to say that there is no provision to combat the extremism in the State. The extremists commit the crimes at their own will. Police take a lot of time to reach the site of incident. The senior officers of police say that there is a shortage of police force and they are unable to post them everywhere and under such a situation how can they protect each and every person. Keeping in view the situation of Bihar, provision of necessary funds should be made to equip the police force with all the facilities in order to combat the terrorism.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you only five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Bihar Budget. Hon'ble members from both ruling party as well as opposition parties have expressed their views on this. This has always been our endeavour and the states have also maintained that country can progress only when the states progress. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the two states, which are called the heart of India. If we do not provide education, health, drinking water and employment

facilities etc. in these states and say that India is progressing a lot, then it will be nothing but an exaggeration.

I would like to tell the Finance Minister that I have often visited Bihar. A few months ago, our party had organized its national conference there. We found there that the roads were in a dilapidated condition in Bihar. If the roads in the capital of the state are not in order what impression will officers of any state or the center or the outsiders, who want to invest money in other states have? This is a matter of concern. I will request the Finance Minister to increase the allocation in the Bihar budget.

Hon. Minister should provide a special package for Bihar as it is reeling under poverty. Our hon. Member has just said that there exists great extremism be it in the name of Ranbir Sena or militant students. They are poor and belong to SC/ST and backward class. They do not have employment. They lack education. They are facing the problem of food, clothes and shelter. When they do not get these facilities or the Government is not able to provide them such facilities they become militants and get involved in militant activities. Recently, here a discussion was held on Manipur. The students are involved in the matter. They want autonomy for their state. Similarly, you should pay special attention to Bihar so that poverty prevailing there may be alleviated. The overall progress of the country, I think, depends upon the development of Bihar.

With these words, I extend my sincere thanks to you.

DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON (Lohardaga): I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Bihar Budget. I will speak in favour of this budget. My colleague Shri Shailendra Kumar has said that Bihar is an important state and until it makes progress along with the development of the country, it will not be able to make progress with the pace of development of the country. We can visualize the economic development of the country but we cannot move forward leaving behind a state weak in our country and cannot make the whole country progress. The budget of a state is passed in its assembly but in special circumstances it is being discussed here. The first thing we have to understand is that we have to develop Bihar economically. What is the economy of Bihar? It is permanently an agriculture state, therefore, agriculture will have to be developed there, as there is no industry. Some agro-based industries, sugar mills existed there, but they are sick. As minerals, forests do not exist there, agro-based industry have to be boosted.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to paucity of time, I will not go into detail and only touch the main points. Agro-based industries and agriculture have to be boosted there. Irrigation

is needed for the development of agriculture. I would like to ask as to what is the present status of irrigation in Bihar. While the country has 40 percent of irrigated land, this percentage in Bihar is only 20. This percentage has to be increased. The area as well as the average of irrigated land has to be increased. Only then irrigation can be done there. A number of rivers are there for this purpose. We have nothing to do but to construct dams on these rivers. The construction of dams will not only facilitate irrigation but also help generation of hydro-electricity. The question of electricity was being raised by Shri Nikhil Babu. Other people agreed that there was no electricity in Bihar. My point is that opportunities are already there but we have to boost them and the country as well. We cannot say that Bihar is poor, and it has to progress on its own. It is also the duty of the country to help it to move forward.

When agriculture is discussed, land reform becomes a very important factor. The Zamindari Abolition Act was first passed in Bihar only in 1948. But what happened? You go to the villages in Bihar, particularly in the central Bihar. In villages 85 percent of the land is with 15 percent people and 85 percent people are landless. A little while ago, the hon. Member was telling that expenditure is being incurred to curb naxalism on account of which no development is taking place there. Why did it take root there only I am a witness to that? The naxalism flourished in Bihar because the land reforms law was not implemented. It is a need of hour to implement the land reforms law there.

Today, landlords still have got large chunks of land under fictitious titles including even those of dogs, cats, cows and buffaloes owned by them. If we implement the land reforms properly, we will be able to mitigate the naxalite problem. Therefore, I would like to request all my friends in Bihar that they should take up the task of land reforms after the formation of Government there and only then we can improve the situations prevalent in Bihar.

Sir, the discussion goes on and I admit that I belong to Jharkhand. I got my education in Bihar and I was in job there. However, as I belong to Jharkhand, I came back here. After creation of the state of Jharkhand the situation in Bihar has deteriorated as far as economic aspect is concerned. Nothing has been left there. All the industries existed in Bihar have now been taken over by Jharkhand. The same position is with electricity which has also been taken over by Jharkhand. Therefore, nothing exists there now. So, I demand that special efforts should be made by the Government of India to improve the economic condition of Bihar. Therefore, I support their stand because Bihar can make progress only when these efforts are made. Jharkhand has become a separate State and Bihar can make progress

[Dr. Rameshwar Oraon]

only when special arrangements are made by the Government of India in this regard. At the same time, I would like to draw your attention towards one important aspect that no state can make progress with financial aid only. There is a need to improve the mentality of people as well as their work-culture. Besides that I would like to say one more thing and also request all my friends in Bihar not to take this issue otherwise. There is a saying in Bihar. I have studied upto class 12 in Bihar. People used to laugh at me since I belonged to Bihar. They used to call me a Bihari and also used to pass the remarks that a Bihari generally cannot work at three occasions firstly just before the meal, secondly during the meal and thirdly after the meal. There is no time left after this. Before meal, he feels hungry during the meal, he does not do anything and after the meal, he falls asleep. Hence, there is a need to change this work-culture. What targets can be achieved if only money is sanctioned and released? What are the areas covered for spending money? This State is not able to spend even 35 percent of the whole amount of budget. The inefficiency is so much that ...*(Interruptions)*. I belong to Bihar. I am not speaking against Bihar. I myself am a Bihari. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): What is he saying? ...*(Interruptions)* What is he saying about Bihar? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON: What words did I express for the people working outside Bihar? Bihari persons of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* I said that Bihari persons of Bihar. The same position does not apply to the Bihari persons outside Bihar. They work very hard outside Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* In the budget earmarked for Bihar, a lot of wastage has been noticed. So, by checking this wastage, we can spend more amount on the development of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

In the olden times, Bihar was known as a great centre of learning. The Universities of Nalanda and Taxila had earned reputation. People used to come to these centres from outside. All our colleagues have had their education from University of Patna. I, myself, am a product of Patna University. I had come all the way from Jharkhand to join the course at this University since it was a reputed University at that time. Today, this University has somewhat lost the status which it maintained earlier. A large amount is being spent on education in Delhi and other places. Therefore, I request that the standard of education in Bihar should be improved. Only then the development of Bihar can be ensured.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the documents of a general budget is not an ordinary one but it bears and reflects the details of

the plans to be formulated in future in the public interest. It's really unfortunate for Bihar that the discussion on appropriation Bill is being conducted for the second time in this six months for some reason or the other. As I said, Budget Document is not any ordinary document rather it's a document indicative of such future plans which are instrumental in the prosperity of the State and in improvement of the standard of living apart from triggering prosperity and economic development. For all this to happen the improvement in the fiscal health of the state and thereby increase in per capita income is the most essential thing to be kept in mind. Unless there is increase in the per capita income, we can not bring about change in the existing situation. Currently, per capita income is very low in Bihar, the Minister of Finance would be having documentary evidence of it. As of now, the per capita income is Rs. 3,757 in Bihar. In the neighbouring state viz. Uttar Pradesh per capita income is Rs. 6,635. While in Orissa and West Bengal, the per capita income is Rs. 7039 and Rs. 11,389 respectively. If we cast a look at the National level, the per capita income is Rs. 12,226/- in which Punjab scores the top position having the per capita income of Rs. 17,326/-. We can not think of the economic growth of a state where the per capita income is Rs. 3,757 per annum. There was dissolution of the Bihar Vidhan Sabha on May 23, 2005. The Budget of this year presented by the hon'ble Minister of Finance is of Rs.19,128.97 crore. Out of which as much as Rs. 19134.82 crore i.e. around Rs. Five crores has been shown as deficit. Now the issue is as to how this deficit is to be met. This apart, the expenditure covered under non-plan head is three times more than the one in the plan-expenditure head. Unless we cut down the non-plan expenditure of any state, we can not implement the items covered under plan-expenditure head for the development of a State. Therefore, I would like the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to furnish the details in his reply. The Minister of Finance ought to clarify it as after the imposition of the President rule in the State, it is the responsibility of the Central Government and of the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance should clarify as to how he will cut down expenditure under non-plan head in Bihar?

Development forms the basis of any budget and infrastructure is the key factor for development. Infrastructure includes roads, electricity, schools, education and law and order and lacking all these presently Bihar is backward in all spheres. Right now, our honourable colleague Shri Ganesh Prasad Singhji was saying that there were no school, roads or hospitals there but at the same time he should give an account of the work relating to development done by his party during the last 15 years. Nothing but 15 years misrule of his party is responsible for the fractured state of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address to the Chair.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': The allocation of funds made for Bihar in the NDA regime exceeds all allocations made during the past fifty years. This can be debated over separately. In Bihar, where there used to be roads 15 years earlier, has been transformed into potholes now. The school-buildings have collapsed now. Over 95 percent of high schools are without buildings. The schools which had buildings 15 years ago have now turned into rubbles.

Currently, the power generation in Bihar is 30 megawatt. Electricity is the most important factor for the development of any state. Given such meagre production of power, one can imagine the pace of development in the state. The unavailability of infrastructure is the basic reason behind the worse state of law and order in the state. Hon'ble Member Shri Rameshwar Oraon has been a police-officer in the state of Bihar. A couple of minutes earlier, he referred to Naxalims. Now, Naxalism has turned out to be the biggest problem which the law and order of Bihar is faced with. There are several districts of Bihar where there is no police administration. No police administration is in command of the area. Hon'ble Minister of Home affairs is very much present here. A parallel administration is functioning in these areas, as no development taking place over there. The poverty is on the constant rise. Therefore, the Minister of Finance should suggest today as to how there can be improvement in the situation prevailing in the state of Bihar. There is a centrally sponsored scheme. Last year, replying to the questions on Budget the Minister of Finance had said that so many schemes were to be launched in the State. Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development is present here. Just half an hour earlier, I was having parleys with him. I made him aware that of all the schemes launched by the Central Government, be it Rashtriya Samvikas Yojna or Indira Awas Yojana or Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojna, only 25 to 30% of the budget is being spent on these schemes.

After almost every week we come to read in the newspapers that Union Minister of Rural Development wrote a letter to the Bihar Government that the expenditure was nil there. It would not get Bihar anywhere. The Administrative System is in such a bad shape there that the amount is not being spent. Thus the allocation of funds made by the Centre remains unutilized. There should be proper utilization of money there. Development should take place there. This is the fate of centrally sponsored schemes there.

Hon. Minister of Finance, the need of the hour is that all these aspects should be given proper consideration. This is the third consecutive year of drought in Bihar. It is true that

there has been a deluge in Maharashtra particularly in Mumbai and people have been affected by flood. Therefore, assistance is needed there because Mumbai being the economic capital contributes a lot to the revenue of the country. But Bihar has been reeling under drought conditions for three years. There is no rainfall there. What measures the Government are taking to deal with drought situation? The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is present here and he is also the in-charge of the department dealing with natural calamities. I would like to know from the Government to explain the measures to bail out the people of Bihar from the horror of drought.

The UPA Government and the Congress Party are continuously saying that they are committed to the welfare of the minorities. The Party which ruled Bihar for 15 years said that it protected minorities. Shri Shakeel Ahmad is present here. I would like to ask him about the condition of Madarsas in Bihar. If he is aware of it, let me know the condition of Minorities there and what is he doing to improve their economic condition? Until the Government improve their level of education and standard of living, they could not be brought on the path of prosperity. We may keep on trying to get the votes of Minorities in the name of secularism and communalism but it would no way ensure their development. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is aware of the prevailing law and order condition in Bihar. It is being misused there, though the President rule is imposed there. I would like to tell that the law and order machinery is being used against political opponents there. The husband of Shrimati Lesi Singh, who is the Member of the dissolved Legislative Assembly and who has been the Member of the Legislative Assembly earlier also, was murdered. But the investigation of the murder could not be carried out impartially. When we made much hue and cry, then it was investigated by the CBI. Those found guilty, have now got bail. I would not like to mention the Political Party with which these criminals are associated, because the entire Bihar knows it. But as a result of their arrest, Lesi Singh is being harassed by the entire police administration every other day by implicating her in one case or the other and registering an FIR against her. If the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs desires, he can get details from the SP of Purnea and the administration there. It will also enable him to know the extent to which law and order machinery is being used against political opponents. The Budget has to be passed. The President rule is a compulsion for all of us there but when the hon. Minister of Finance replies he should assure the people of Bihar that whatever is going on there, including ransom and lawlessness for the last four months in the name of President rule would be controlled and would be under surveillance of the Central Government, only then this budget should be passed.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand to support broadly the Budget for the State of Bihar for 2005-06 and the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget.

Now, Bihar is under the President's Rule and this august House also endorsed the extension of the President's Rule. So, the situation existing in Bihar, the present problem of Bihar and the socio-economic condition of Bihar have been dealt with at length during the discussion. I am not going into that. But, Sir, while I am standing to support the Budget, I must express some reservations and some dissatisfaction in some aspects.

Bihar is a State of immense potentiality but still Bihar is a backward State in terms of irrigation, in terms of poverty alleviation, in terms of employment, electricity, road connectivity and so on. Bihar is now facing the problem of extremism. It is agreed by all, it is accepted by all, that poverty and backwardness are the breeding grounds of extremism. So far as the UPA Government is concerned, they have a concrete commitment for implementation of the social programmes. But to my mind, what is missing in this Budget is the priority. What has been taken as priority for development of the State of Bihar is missing at this present juncture.

Irrigation is the main problem. It is known to all that Bihar is a State of diversity in climate. In the northern part of Bihar, around 18 districts are prone to flood and the rest of Bihar, especially the southern part of Bihar is a drought-prone area. Most of the rivers in the northern area of Bihar are coming from Nepal. So some sort of initiatives should be taken by the Union Government at the time of flood so that Bihar can be saved from the problem of flood, and this problem can be solved. So, my appeal to the Union Government is to give thrust to the social aspects. While the Minister is going to reply, he should clarify what is the main priority that has been taken for preparing this Budget and the Demands for Grants.

Once again I thank and I support the Demands for Grants on Account in respect of Budget for the State of Bihar.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Shri Vijoy Krishna, you have only two minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bihar is a very large State and hon. Friends have said so many things about Bihar. My friend Shri Lalanji was speaking

here and he was having largest data. These people have more or less ruined Bihar, they have divided Bihar. NDA Government took initiative and special package meant for Bihar was not given. Hon'ble Members working under the aegis of that party represent feudal forces of extremist areas. I am astonished that the people responsible for protecting extremism, speak against it. These things reveal the direction in which they wish to lead the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. You have already spoken.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: These people do not identify the Bihar as the land of Chanakya, the historical Bihar of Patliputra and the Bihar which made Gandhi, "Mahatma Gandhi". They do not talk of that Bihar whose people promoted Hindi from Mauritius to distant countries. They know the Bihar infested with caste-system and extremism because they represent those forces. I do not want to indulge in allegations and counter allegations.

The flood situation in Bihar today is very grim. Bihar is either wrought with flood or drought. The water that gushes in from the rivers of Nepal causes flood in Bihar that results in severe inundation. It is always discussed that Central Government with the help of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh should find a way to tackle the flood situation. This should be done at the earliest.

The large chunk of Bihar suffering from drought constituting Tal Chaur specially Tal area of Mokama, Barahiya and Fatuah. It is very difficult to reach these areas for 4-6 months. I want to know if there is any special scheme for that area or not?

Diyara is an old problem and there are many Diyara areas. One Diyara Development Board should be set up constituting various Diyara areas of Buxar to Patna, Patna to Danapur, Danapur to Barh, Barh to Bhagalpur, Bhagalpur to Farakka Diyara blocks separately. If the Government can take effective measures to harness the agriculture and irrigation problems of Bihar, then only we can progress of Bihar, then only we can progress. To get rid of power problem of Bihar the power producing units of Kanti and Barauni should be expanded.

Sir, the dying Barauni Power unit should be revived. The NTPC of Barh should be expanded at the earliest. Navinagar case should be addressed then only we can expand the infrastructure of electricity. Today whole of Bihar is reeling under the power crisis.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say that whatever few central undertakings are there in Bihar, are on the verge of collapse. That is not the point of discussion here. The Government are aware of Bharat Wagon Okama which is an undertaking of Ministry of Heavy Industries. Today that is to be disinvested. I would like to thank Minister of Railway for the order he placed to them to manufacture Railway wagons and he got the payment made to those employees. Likewise there are many undertakings in Bihar which ought to be saved. There are many things. I think this is the question of Bihar lying on the point of stagnation. This question should not be indulged into allegation and counter allegation and the pains and sufferings of Bihar has to give way a new path and we all have to trudge through that pain and sufferings.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Finance Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for this brief but a useful debate on the Bihar Budget.

Sir, it was not our intention to come back to this House again when we first presented the Budget and asked for a Vote on Account in May. But for reasons explained by the hon. Home Minister in the earlier debate, since elections cannot be held in the next couple of months, we have to come back to this House and ask for another Vote on Account. The problems of Bihar cannot be solved in this House. The problems of Bihar can be solved only by the people of Bihar, their elected representatives in their elected House. Therefore, while I sympathize with what hon. Members have said, for the present all that I can say is that we are doing our best to ensure that in the interim, development does not suffer in Bihar.

Sir, what are we spending the money on? What have we outlaid the money on? The bulk of Plan expenditure, which according to the Annual Plan is Rs. 5,230 crore, the bulk of it is for energy, primary and adult education, rural development, road construction, water resources, urban development and social welfare. In the Budget for 2005-06, there are some positive features. Firstly, the Annual Plan outlay has increased from Rs. 5,531 crore to Rs.6,087 crore. The State's share in Central taxes will increase from Rs. 9,116 crore last year to Rs.10,479 crore this year. Likewise, grants from the Central Government to the State Government will increase from Rs.3,889 crore to Rs. 4,359 crore.

As you are all aware, only some States got specific grants for health and education, Bihar in a way that is not very complimentary, has got a Special Grant both for health and education.

Money is not a constraint for the development of Bihar. In fact, I regret to say that some of the criticism is valid. In the first three months, the expenditure has been very low. The reason could partly be that the Budget and the Vote on Account were approved only in May and there was an uncertainty about whether the elections would be held immediately or elections would be held only in October-November. But I shall certainly request the Governor and advise the Bihar Administration that they must step up the expenditure. In the first three months, the expenditure is only a little over five per cent and that is unacceptable. I would certainly advise the Governor and I would certainly request the Governor and his Administration to step up the outlay and the expenditure.

14.46 hrs.

(SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*)

Sir, I am told that some good programmes are underway, some initiatives have been taken and that the results of these initiatives would be visible in the next few months. Under the Indra Awas Yojana, against a target of 1,65,062 houses, up to June, 28,792 houses have been constructed.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': But it is a very low percentage.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I said so. I said, it is low.

I am giving a few examples. Under the NABARD Schemes, under RIDF, funds have been provided for rural roads: Rs. 5.89 crore for an RCC bridge on Falgu river in Gaya district; Rs. 2.13 crore for an RCC bridge on Mohu river in Gaya district; and Rs. 2.13 crore for an RCC bridge on Bhutahi river. Rs.70 crore have been allotted for 625 kilometres of roads.

In the energy and power sector, 18 grid sub-stations have been taken up for upgradation under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. The Power Grid Corporation is implementing 1,100 kilometres of transmission lines. Under the APDRP, Rs. 866 crore have been allotted for projects for upgradation and strengthening of the distribution sector. This is being implemented by the Power Grid Corporation. Under rural electrification, 36 districts have been taken up for 100 per cent electrification on turnkey basis by the Power Grid Corporation. There are therefore some initiatives which have

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

been taken up. While I could see that the utilisation is low, I sincerely hope that the pace would pick up and I would advise the Governor to do that.

The constraint in Bihar is not money, as I said, but we must aim to improve governance. I have no doubt that the people of Bihar would vote their representatives, would constitute an Assembly as early as possible, and the new Government would provide good governance. As far as the Centre is concerned, we are extremely sympathetic to Bihar. As you would find, under every head of expenditure, Bihar gets its share; in fact, in the eyes of some of the States, Bihar sometimes gets more than its share. The Twelfth Finance Commission has been generous to Bihar.

Money is not a constraint and I am aware that Bihar today has adequate cash balances to spend. They should spend the money. They should quicken the pace of implementation and I shall certainly convey the sentiments of this House to the Governor and his administration.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Sir, do you want to constitute a monitoring cell here, in your Ministry, to monitor the expenditure in Bihar?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Well, all I can say is that I will ask for periodic reports from the Government of Bihar on the pace of expenditure and if it is possible I shall try to visit Bihar once to see which are the Departments which need to be galvanised in order to quicken the pace of the expenditure.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Very good. Thanks.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there is an additional Demand and you will find that more money is being sought in order to enhance the allocation under certain heads. When I will come to that, I will explain that.

While I am grateful to the hon. Members, I urge and request all of them to pass the Vote on Account. Thank you.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Minister, thank you very much for your excellent comment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (Bihar) for the year 2005-2006 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of

Bihar, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 4, 6 to 12, 15 to 27, 29 to 33 and 35 to 52."

The motion was adopted.

14.25 hrs.

[English]

BIHAR APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT)
NO. 2 BILL, 2005-06

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar for the services of a part of the financial year 2005-2006.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar for the services of a part of the financial year 2005-2006."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar for the services of a part of the financial year 2005-2006, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Bihar for the services of a part of the financial year 2005-2006, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.55 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Natural Calamities in the country - contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Calling Attention has been postponed by the hon. Speaker. So, if the House agrees, I request the hon. Home Minister to reply to the discussion regarding natural calamities.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, India is vulnerable to natural disasters as 60 per cent of the land mass is prone to earthquakes, about eight per cent area, that is, over 40 million hectares is prone to floods and about 8,000 kilometres of coastline is prone to cyclones. In addition, drought, landslides and avalanches are also regular features. The country was also recently hit by the tsunami.

In this season also, floods have affected various States and I would like to begin my response by submitting to the august House the present position about floods. Sir, I am replying to the debate which had taken place some days back and I may add a few things which have not been mentioned and yet which have occurred after that period.

I would like to inform the House that rainfall in July, over the country, as a whole is 97 per cent of its long period average (LPA). Over the four broad, homogenous regions of India, rainfall is likely to be 97 per cent of its LPA over North-West India, 95 per cent of the LPA over North-East India, 102 per cent of the LPA over Central India and 97 per cent over South Peninsula.

The country has received 426.4 mm rainfall till 27th July, 2005, which is 102 per cent of the average rainfall of the country during this period. Thirty one out of thirty six meteorological sub-divisions have experienced normal to excess rainfall during this period.

I would like to inform the august House that during the current South-West Monsoon season, heavy rains and severe floods/flash floods were reported from the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. There have been reports of moderate to heavy rains and floods of a varying yet lesser degree from other States.

Floods have been caused for more than one reason which inter alia include the first wave of the flash floods which took place in Himachal Pradesh on account of a rupture in the artificial lake at Pareechu, heavy rainfall in the catchment areas, rivers carrying a huge quantum of silt, raising the river beds resulting in a decrease in the water carrying capacity, rising temperature resulting in snow and glacial melts and rivers or streams carrying flows in excess of their transporting capacity within their beds resulting in an overflow into adjoining land or area.

15.00 hrs.

The provisional estimates of damage — as reported by the affected State Governments — based on their preliminary assessment is as follows. The number of districts affected is 161; the number of villages affected is 18,771; the population affected is 190.37 lakh; the human lives lost is 1,581, and this does not include the number of human lives lost in Maharashtra; the livestock lost is 70,087; and the number of houses damaged is 4.42 lakh. These were the figures given, and there may be some slight change in the actual statistics, which will become available now.

The concerned State Governments promptly responded to the situation and undertook rescue and relief operations on a large-scale in the areas affected by floods. These include evacuation and shifting of the people to safer places, setting-up of relief camps, providing gratuitous relief, distribution of essential commodities, provision of safe drinking water, health and hygiene measures.

The Government of India has closely monitored and rendered necessary financial and logistic support to deal effectively with the flood situation in the country. The National Crisis Management Committee under the Cabinet Secretary and the Home Ministry has been conducting regular reviews and follow-up meetings with the representatives of the affected State Governments and the Emergency Support

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

Ministries to provide required financial and logistic support.

The Central Government deployed Air Force helicopters, Army boats, Army Columns and Central Paramilitary Forces to assist the State Governments in the rescue and relief operations. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provided the requisite stocks of essential medicines and drugs, bleaching powder, Chlorine tablets, ORS packets to meet the requirements of the State Government, and to prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases and epidemics. Additional stocks of essential commodities and petroleum products were provided to the flood-affected States wherever needed. The Ministries and other concerned Organisations, that is, the Ministries of Road Transport and Highways, Telecommunications, Power, Drinking Water Supply, National Highway Authority of India, Border Roads Organisation were directed to ensure immediate repair and restoration of the damaged infrastructure on a priority basis.

The hon. Prime Minister and myself have visited the flood-affected areas of Maharashtra on 28 July 2005 and have first hand information on the flood situation in the State. I had also visited Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat earlier to review the flood situation. Considering the severity of the flood situation in these States, an immediate financial assistance of Rs. 500 crore to Gujarat, Rs. 500 crore to Maharashtra and Rs. 100 crore to Himachal Pradesh has been provided from the NCCF to enable these States to carryout rescue and relief operations, and restore immediate connectivity.

In addition, the first installment of the Central, share of CRF amounting to Rs. 92.25 crore to Gujarat, Rs. 83.59 crore to Maharashtra, Rs. 32.42 crore to Jammu and Kashmir, Rs. 95.34 crore to Madhya Pradesh, and Rs. 10.62 crore to Arunachal Pradesh have been released. In respect of Himachal Pradesh, both the installments of CRF amounting to Rs. 75.52 crore have been released.

I would like to inform the august House that the Government of Gujarat has submitted a memorandum demanding financial assistance of over Rs. 8,110 crore, including Rs. 4,113 crore for long-term reconstruction and rehabilitation. The Inter-Ministerial Central Team has visited Gujarat for making an on-the-spot assessment of the damage and requirement of the funds. The team is to submit its report shortly.

As regards Himachal Pradesh, the Government of Himachal Pradesh has submitted its memorandum in which the damages suffered by the State Government is estimated

at Rs. 1,000 crore. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team has visited Himachal Pradesh for making an on-the-spot assessment of the damage and requirement of the funds. The team is to submit its report shortly.

In case of Madhya Pradesh, we have just received their memorandum. A Central Team has already been deputed to visit the State from 29 July 2005 onwards for making an on-the-spot assessment of the damage caused by the floods and requirement of the funds.

The Government of Nagaland has also submitted a memorandum seeking additional financial assistance of Rs. 7.10 crore for landslides and flash floods, which occurred as a result of cloudbursts in Mokokchung and Tuli Towns of Mokokchung district on 26-05-2005. A Central Team was deputed to assess the damages and requirement of the funds. The Central Team has since visited the State and submitted its report. Further action on the report of the Team would be taken in consonance with the extant norms and the items, and as per prescribed procedure, that is, with the approval of the IMG and HLC. In the meantime, the first installment of the Central share of CRF of Rs. 1.44 crore has been released to the State on 21-06-2005.

There have been some suggestions received from the hon. Members about the long-term measures to be taken for the prevention of natural calamities, especially, floods in Assam and northern-part of Bihar. The hon. Members have also spoken about strengthening of Brahmaputra Board, and the havoc created by the rivers coming from Nepal and Bhutan. There are also suggestions from the hon. Members that the inter-linking of rivers can help in solving the problem of floods to a great extent.

Some of the hon. Members have also highlighted the need for proper monitoring of relief funds released to the State Government. I would like to inform the House that a Task Force was set-up for Flood Management/Erosion Control under the chairmanship of the Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) to look into the problem of floods in Assam and neighbouring States, namely, West Bengal, Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Task Force submitted its report on 31-12-2004. The report of the Task Force was circulated to the various Ministries, Planning Commission and the concerned State Governments. After receiving the comments on the report of the Task Force from the Ministries and the concerned State Governments, the recommendation of the Task Force will be taken up.

The Government of India is having a continuous dialogue with Nepal in the co-operation of water-resource development. The UPA Government took steps, and a Joint

Project Office was opened in Biratnagar in Nepal in August 2004 to carry out surveys and investigations on the Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme, for which the Government of India has kept a provision of Rs. 29.34 crore. In addition to irrigation, power benefits and navigational facilities, the above project will also provide flood-control benefits, particularly, in North Bihar.

I would like to bring to the notice of the august House that a scheme for advanced warning from Nepal has been in operation covering 42 stations on various rivers in Nepal, from where the data is obtained and processed by CWC for flood forecasts. It has been agreed with the Government of Nepal that the stations be increased from 42 to 47 and there is also a proposal to modernise 5 key hydrological stations located in Nepal. To facilitate this scheme, the Government has approved an amount of Rs. 1.88 crore and the Joint Standing Committee is monitoring the progress.

Regarding cooperation with Bhutan to assess the probable causes and effects of recurring floods and erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India (in Assam and North Bengal), an India-Bhutan Joint Group of Experts (JGE) on flood management has been constituted which held its first meeting in November, 2004. The JGE further constituted a Joint Technical Team to have a more detailed technical examination of the problem.

Regarding Inter-Linking of Rivers, I would like to inform the House that the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government indicates that it will make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking of rivers of the country starting with the southern rivers and this assessment will be done in a fully consultative manner.

Regarding proper utilisation of the funds released to the State Governments, I would like to inform the august House that the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) and Ministry of Home Affairs have prescribed a format for submission of items-wise expenditure under CRF/NCCF. The State Governments are required to incur expenditure on relief operations as per the Government of India approved items and norms. They are required to send a copy of this information in the prescribed proforma to the Accountant Generals (AGs). The State AGs have been requested to carry out test checks on the basis of information submitted to them by the States. However, I would like to inform that any other suggestion from the hon. Members to improve the system will be suitably incorporated.

Regarding river-erosion problem in West Bengal, I have been informed by the Ministry of Water Resources that

Government of India has been providing financial assistance to Government of West Bengal since Ninth Plan, During Ninth Plan, Rs. 17.88 crore was released. During Tenth Plan, Rs. 25.78 crore has been released, There is further provision of Rs. 36 crore in the Tenth Plan and the amount will be released if utilisation certificate is provided by the Government of West Bengal.

As the august House is aware that besides cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood and hailstorm, the definition of natural calamity, as applicable at present, has been extended to cover landslides, avalanches, cloud burst and pest attacks. The suggestions given by the hon. Members for inclusion of some more hazards in the list of natural calamities covered under CRF/NCCF have been taken note of and the same would be placed before the appropriate forum for consideration.

With regard to the suggestions of the hon. Members regarding inclusion of the subject 'Disaster Management' in school curriculum, I am happy to inform the House that Disaster Management education has been included in CBSE syllabus for VIII, IX and Xth standard. The books have been shared with the State Governments. The Governments should include the syllabus on the same lines through their respective school boards of education.

To meet the challenges posed by natural and manmade disasters, the Government have brought about a paradigm shift in its approach to disaster management. There is a change in orientation from a relief centric approach to a holistic multi-disciplinary approach. The new approach covers mitigation and preparedness in addition to post disaster response and rehabilitation as they go hand in hand for vulnerability reduction and rapid professional response to disasters. With this objective the Government proposes to enact a law on Disaster Management to provide the requisite institutional mechanism for drawing up and monitoring the implementation of the disaster management plans ensuring measures by various wings of Government for prevention and mitigating effects of disasters and for undertaking a holistic, coordinated and prompt response to any disaster situation. Accordingly, the Disaster Management Bill, 2005 has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 11th May, 2005 and is presently under examination by the Standing Committee of Parliament. Pending enactment of the Disaster Management bill, the National Disaster Management Authority under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister has been constituted through a notification for laying down the plans and policies for disaster management.

I would like to assure the hon. Members that the

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Government would give due importance to the valuable suggestions given by them during the discussion to deal effectively with the situation caused by floods and other natural calamities.

Sir, the discussion had taken place on this topic for hours together, on three days consecutively, I suppose. This is the reply given to that debate. If the reply had taken place on the same day, probably many questions could have been asked and the Government could have been required to reply to those questions. I do not know whether the hon. Members want to ask any questions on this today. If they want to, I shall endeavour to respond to their questions. Thank you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, erosion in Ganga Basin of West Bengal is a national problem because this river passes through rather four States. In his reply, the Home Minister has stated that a very small amount of Rs.19 crores or Rs.20 crores or Rs.36 crores has been allocated. Sir, a plan was prepared in 1996 and an estimate was worked out. I would like to know as it is a national problem, it should be treated on a national basis and sufficient funds should be allocated to tackle the erosion of Ganga Basin of West Bengal. I would like to know from the Home Minister that in order to have short-term and long-term plans, would sufficient funds be allocated to tackle the erosion problem of West Bengal?

SHRI D. V. SADANAND GOWDA (Mangalore): Sir, sea erosion is a part of natural calamity. During heavy rains, there are heavy sea erosions in all the places of coastal belts. During this year, in Karnataka, houses of more than 1,000 fishermen have been submerged into the sea. As far as natural calamities are concerned, there are several proposals which are pending before the Central Government for the last four to five years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If you want a reply, you have to be very brief.

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the long pending proposals with regard to sea erosion in respect of the State of Karnataka would be cleared by the Central Government immediately so as to avoid further erosion and control natural calamities. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura): I would like to join the hon. Member regarding the pending proposals of Karnataka.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, I had talked to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs with regard to

the natural calamity which had occurred last time. Though another calamity has also occurred, yet the electricity supply has not been restored in the villages of Jammu & Kashmir particularly in my constituency for the last ten days. Moreover I would like to know from the Government what measures are being taken by them to ensure that people do not encroach upon the drains and rivers and also don't fell the trees. What steps are being taken by the Government to ensure proper drainage system?

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Is the Minister thinking of creating a national authority and also to bring a new legislation? If so, my request would be that this draft Bill should be put on the website of the Ministry so that he can get comments on this new Bill before it is presented to the Parliament.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Which Bill are you referring to?

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: I am referring to the Bill on Disaster Management. It should be done so that people could offer their comments before it is presented to Parliament. Secondly, this Bill should encompass the creation of an authority not only at the State level but also at the district level because most of the time when actual disaster takes place, the district authorities have to run immediately. Thirdly, is the Government thinking of making insurance compulsory because of change in climate?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): I think, there is a need for creation of a disaster management voluntary cut in every State. Secondly, with regard to inter-linking of rivers, recently, I had been to Bangladesh. Now, the anti-Indian lobby in Bangladesh are funding out the anti-Indian campaign. This information should be given as to what exactly we are going to do about linking of rivers.

Hon. Minister for Science and Technology was there.

Last time, I just appealed to him that while building a multi-storeyed building, approval of a Structural Engineer is actually required. I would like to know whether the Government is going to make any proposal in this regard.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know this. Tamil Nadu is the most affected Tsunami area. Till today, there is no development in the Tsunami-affected areas of Tamil Nadu. Pucca houses have not been constructed. There was a big expectation among the Tsunami-affected people. I would like to know whether the Central Government has pumped

in any money from here or not. It is because the State Government is making an allegation that the Central Government has not pumped in any money for the construction of houses; supplying of boats, nets and everything else. Will the Minister respond to this?
 ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I have only one question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: At 3:30 p.m., we have to take up Private Members' Business.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, the Special Team to the State of Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time is short. The Minister has to give his reply.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, do you want to extend the time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. It is now difficult. No time is there. You give your reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Do you want reply to the questions, which have already been asked? ...*(Interruptions)*
 I can talk to you afterwards. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): MR. Chairman, Sir, I had taken part in discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon'ble Minister is giving reply. You please ask about it later.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there was a flood in Uttar Pradesh on large scale. ...*(Interruptions)*

The engineers at Ganga Barrage in Ganga Katni, Kanpur had taken a wrong decision due to which a number of villages were washed away. I would like to know what measures are proposed to be taken by the Government to decide the fate of the villages which have been adversely affected and the people who have lost their crops due to floods. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Patil, please reply to it.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, Shri Achariaji has said that the amount of money, which is given to deal with erosion problem, is very small. I agree with him. But we have some more money. If the Government of West Bengal has spent some money and if that information is given to the Government of India, we would like to give more money.

As far as providing more funds for this purpose is concerned, this is a point which is well taken. We will look into it.

Sea erosion is also a problem. We are looking into as to how to deal with it - whether by having mangrove growth, by having sea-wall at various places - and many other things. In the period of Tsunami, this issue has been discussed at great length. Now, it would be possible to do something which would really help.

A question was asked about disaster management - whether the Government would put the Disaster Management Bill on the internet or not. I would say that we have already introduced the Bill in the House. That Bill is with the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee can invite anybody to appear before it and can record his statement. Any person willing to say anything on that can give his views in writing or orally to it. Those views will be considered. I would like to say that the Disaster Management Bill, which we have introduced in the House, provides for the National Disaster Management Authority, State Disaster Management Authority and also the District Disaster Management Authority.

We have also said that if the State Government wants to have its own law, it will be able to have its own law. It can, under the Bill which we have introduced here which will become a law, constitute the State Disaster Management Authorities or it can constitute such an Authority, under its own law.

As far as Tsunami is concerned, we have given funds to the State Governments; I am sure, the State Governments are not complaining. Probably people do not have full information about the amount of money which is given to the State Governments. In the first phase, we have given the succour; in the second phase, we have made temporary arrangements and in the third phase, we are going to construct the houses. They have prepared the plans; those plans have been shown to the Planning Commission of India. They are looking into it and huge amount of money has been promised to be given to them. In accordance with their requirements, funds will be made available to them and they will make use of those funds. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

Probably, about boats and nets, he shall have to get the information. The Finance Minister himself and other Ministers who had been there from the Government of India, have looked into this matter in great detail. Boats have been ordered; nets have been ordered and they are being given to the people over there. We have catamarans, bigger boats and some other bigger boats - three kinds of boats - are being given and the nets are also being given. He shall have to get that information from the Minister coming from Tamil Nadu, the Finance Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

As far as the electricity in Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, funds have been given to the State Government and we hope that the funds will be made use of by the State Government to provide the requirements.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, we shall take up Private Members' Business. Item No. 21. Shrimati Krishna Tirath to continue her speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The previous business is over and we have already started the Private Members' Business. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

15.33 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

Re: Reservation of one third of seats for women in all the State Legislatures and Parliament - contd.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, last time the Reservation for Women Bill had been brought in the House by Shri C.K. Chandrapan on 6 May, 2005. When I was taking about this bill, the proceedings of the second House had begun. So, today, I would submit some points in favour of the bill for reservation of women. There is a provision in this Bill for adequate representation of women in State Legislatures and Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. I am proud of the constitution of my country, which has been drafted by Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar Saheb who gave equal rights to the women in this constitution. He gave equal rights to women in every sphere, viz, education, employment and other fields. Today, under the same constitution women have been making strong efforts for 33 percent reservation in both the Houses of Parliament and legislatures and in every sphere for the last 16 years. I

wanted to support this Bill because there is a need to bring about all round development of women i.e. their physical, mental, educational and political development.

This development can take place only when reservation is provided to women. The paths of progress for women should never be closed. We have got equal rights in this country through our constitution. Why should we not get same rights in elections and politics? Why should we lag behind in politics? I feel that the nation can make progress only when women get 50 percent reservation. However, at present, we are seeking 33 percent reservation, which we are not getting. I would say that I raised this issue in Parliament in view of the voices raised by the women everywhere in the country. The women run their houses very sincerely and honestly. They work hard in offices, too. They are now in politics. They are elected representatives of people and I feel proud that during the Congress regime in 1992, the women were given 33 percent reservation in local bodies under our Panchayati Raj System, which had been launched by our former Prime Minister, Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Women came forward and participated in it, they faced difficulties also, they were called by so many names but their husbands supported them. On occasions they were ridiculed also but since then women have become so competent in all these years that they have experienced victory, defeat and all other things. Now they understand also what their rights should be. We are sitting in Delhi, but the condition of women is different in villages, rural areas and urban areas. Therefore, I want that we should be given equal opportunity to shoulder the responsibilities.

When the country gained independence, women shouldered equal share of responsibilities in freedom struggle also, whether it was Rani Lakshmbai or were any other women freedom fighters. Even today there are many women, if I start counting their name a huge volume will come up. But the issue of giving us reservation has been sidelined on some pre-text or the other. Many Governments were formed but today we have the UPA Government with Smt. Sonia Gandhi as its chairperson, she also wants reservation for women. While considering truth and honesty as their guiding principles when they enter the Government, will work in the Government, will solve the problems of women and will work keeping in view the legislation and schemes to be made for women. Therefore, we should be given 33 per cent reservation in state governments and the central government including both Houses of Parliament. The reservation should be extended to the Dalit women, the women belonging to the scheduled caste and schedule tribe

because they come from such backward areas where they do not get opportunity to move forward, when they are provided with reservation, it will make them expressive and instill self-confidence and self-respect in them and they can say that they are the citizens of India, they are born in India. By virtue of being the citizen of India, women here should be empowered. I wish that there should be one-third reservation for women in cabinet also.

15.39 hrs.

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*)

I have some data regarding womens' representation in state legislative assemblies. In 1951-52 the womens' representation in Bihar Legislative Assembly was 3.6 per cent, in Uttar Pradesh, it was 1.2%, in Rajasthan and Kerala it was zero, in West Bengal 0.8%, and in Andhra Pradesh it was 2.9%. Similarly, from 1960 to 1965 the number of women members in Bihar was 7.9%, in Uttar Pradesh 4.4% and in Rajasthan 4.5%. I think women have made progress in Rajasthan. Similarly, in Kerala from zero per cent to 3.9% women got elected for its Legislative Assembly. 4.8% per cent women in West Bengal and 3.3% women in Andhra Pradesh got elected to their respective legislative assemblies. Thus, we see that there has been increase somewhere and otherwise in women, representation in various state legislative assemblies till 1997. But the data for 1998 in respect of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are not available. Rajasthan had seven per cent women-representation in its legislative Assembly. There is no data respect of Kerala & West Bengal also for the said period. In Andhra Pradesh 9.5 per cent women got elected for the Legislative Assembly. Similarly, in 1996 when a constitution amendment bill was introduced in Lok Sabha, it was referred to a parliamentary committee. That committee presented its report on December 9, 1996 during 11th Lok Sabha. But due to the dissolution of Lok Sabha the bill also lapsed.

I would like to say that we have demanded 33% reservation. Smt. Kanti Singh is present here. She was also present in the meeting in which we discussed that we must be given this reservation. We had voiced our concern that when everyone has been given equal rights by the constitution of India, why should we lag behind. Therefore, in order to honour the constitution, we should be given this reservation. Today, women empowerment is a buzz word everywhere. They help others to move forward but fail to do so themselves. Until women are given reservation, they would not be able to move ahead. Women are hard working but when it comes to allotting seat or fielding them in the election, they are marginalized on the pretext that they are weak. To my mind, it's a myth. In order to demolish this belief

if we get the facility of reservation, it is my conviction that women have the potential to rule the country with all force. The former Prime Minister of the country Shrimati Indira Gandhi was also a woman who ruled the country. Even today, the entire country even our opposition parties including the V.H.P. also admit this that if some one ruled this country properly it was Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

When the war was going on against Pakistan on the issue of Bangladesh, the arrival of American fleet was the cause of concern. Then Shrimati Indira Gandhi had warned in very strong words that we do not wish to fight against any country but our Army is capable, therefore, either America should remove its fleet or we have the potential to answer in the same coin. As a result, America removed its fleet. During the regime of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, our country registered many landmark achievements.

I made a mention of her because she was herself a woman who became the Prime Minister of the country. Where she could do such a good job, it is not undue to demand 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies. Women, in Parliament and outside also, whether through NGOs or other organizations carrying flags raise this demand that they must get reservation. They do this for the development of the country and not for their vested interest.

Today, women are facing many atrocities. There are cases of female foeticide. In private companies, factories or govt. offices, wherever women work, their bosses whether they are IAS officers or someone else, commit atrocities on them. To check this, they must be given reservation, only then they will be able to raise their voices, otherwise their subdued voices will remain crushed and they will not be able to raise their voices. Therefore, women must get their right. The Constitution has conferred this right on them. They will get this right only when they get seats in Parliament and State legislative Assemblies through reservation and have their representation in governance. Moreover, this is possible when women are fully competent in enacting laws and formulating plans. They can do this job very well.

Not only I but women all over the country also think on this line. In 1984, the representation of women in Parliament was the highest. At that time, out of the total 544 MPs, 44 were women that constitute 8.1 percent. At that time the Congress party was in power. Today, all of us should put this thing that the Resolution moved by Shri Chandrapanji be passed in Parliament. Our Rajya Sabha MP, hon. Ambika Soniji has raised this demand that women should be given 33 percent reservation.

During 1952 to 1962 the women participation

[Shrimati Krishna Tirath]

increased but that increase was not in such ratio that rights of women could be secured in every field. Today, if any bill to check atrocities on women is brought, our full strength should be there. It is the need of the hour that women number in the House should increase.

Today, plight of women is very pitiable. When a woman becomes old, her own children leave her. We have formulated the Swadhar Yojna for such women. Destitute homes have been established for them but their condition is not ameliorated there as well. The amelioration is possible only when they get participation in the governance, and they enact laws, run governments. Only then they would be in a position to understand the problems of women and ensure reservation for them.

Hon. Home Minister had brought about a bill, which states that if the seats in the House are increased to 800, women will get 33 percent reservation. But despite that increase, they will get only 25 percent reservation. Let us see what happens. But today our demand is to get 33 percent reservation in this present strength itself. It has been proposed to raise the seats to 800. But another step after that is to carry out delimitation, which is not a minor thing. But that will sideline the issue of reservation. Today, delimitation process is being carried out all over India. Delimitation of State Assembly constituencies and Parliament Constituencies is taking place. But delimitation will not help as to decide which seat should or should not be reserved. We demand that there should be reservation of 33 percent seats for us in legislative assemblies and Parliament.

The NDA Government did not bring this Bill seriously last time. Had they brought it seriously, we would not have required to do that much exercise today. I have full confidence in our brothers that we will get their full support on the issue of reservation.

With these words I support this Bill and believe that we will get 33 percent reservation in State Legislative Assemblies and both the Houses of Parliament.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Madam, I rise to support the resolution moved by Hon'ble C.K. Chandrappan. First of all I shall thank him for bringing forward this resolution despite being a male member of male dominated country and male dominated society, so we should not doubt the intention of men. Definitely he deserves to be thanked. Hon'ble Madam, Chairman, 58 years have passed since independence. In the biggest panchayat of the country where policies of the country are formulated, where economic system and foreign policy of the country is decided,

where the matters for laboratories to roads and electricity are discussed, where budget of the country is decided, there the lesser number of women denotes that after 58 years of independence the progress required to be made by the India has not been achieved because the strength of female member in the House is very low. The democracy of our country is believed to be the most reliable democracy. Other countries respect our democratic credentials. ...*(Interruptions)* If you people keep silence then at least females members will be able to express their opinion amongst you. ...*(Interruptions)*

CHOUHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): We are supporting you whole heartedly.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Nothing will happen with a support like this only. Your chairperson Madam had said in the manifesto to bring up this. Madam, 14 months have passed since then and it has not been brought so far. ...*(Interruptions)* So please listen carefully. Madam Chairman, I won't be able to speak like this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You will be given opportunity to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura): This brings all men together across party lines to defeat this Bill. I am saying this with due respect to my brothers on this side and also that side. It is nice to see Madam Chairman in the Chair who has given us some time to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam Chairman, the democracy of India is a well recognized democracy of the world. But what kind of democracy is this? Madam through you I would like to ask those who are present as well as absent in this House that whether it is not mockery of democracy? If we see the plight of women from 1952 to 2005, I have the data, the number of seats has been increased but the strength of women has not been increased. 22 out of 499 in the year 1952; 27 out of 500 in the year 1957; 34 out of 503 in the year 1962; 31 out of 523 in the year 1967; 22 out of 521 in the year 1971; 19 out of 544 in the year 1977; 28 out of 544 in the year 1980; 44 out of 544 in the year 1984; 27 out of 517 in the year 1989; 39 out of 544 in the year 1991, 40 out of 544 in the year 1996, 43 out of 543 in the year 1998, 48 out of 543 in the year 1999, 44 out of 543 in the year 2004. How disappointing situation is this. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, it is a matter of grave concern. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You all please listen to her.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam Chairman, we have not been able to cross the figure of 50 as yet. In this way how this country will make progress? How this country will prosper? This is the condition of the biggest Panchayat of the country which formulates policies. We are fifty percent of the total population although our population is decreasing due to female foeticide. We are 996 out of 1000 somewhere and somewhere we are 991 out of 1000. our number is declining due to female foeticide there and here we are also being denied reservation as a result of which our attendance is becoming thin.

My colleague who is also a chairman of a committee on women empowerment has also said that our Dalit, scheduled castes sisters should also get reservation. I fully agree with you, but Krishna jee, just have a look on history who are the sisters who have progressed? Only those sisters have made progress who had a helping hand either from their husbands or fathers. Everyone quotes Indirajee. Who propelled her to this House? She came to this House by virtue of her father, not at her own. Who catapulted Banjir Bhutto to power? She acquired power by virtue of her father. Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh and other sister came to power by virtue of whom? It was her father. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Women are capable of themselves. They will come. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Even after her father's demise, she proved to be a great leader. Indirajii took India to commanding heights. She was the unchallenged leader of her times. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can express your views when your turn comes.

...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Women are enemies of women. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is nothing like that. There is no need to repeat it again and again. One should not comment like this. These things have gone old. No woman is enemy of other women.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Hon'ble Chairman, Madam, I am speaking a harsh reality. Women should accept the truth. You talk about down-trodden women. Smt. Meera Kumar was elected because Late Jagjivan Ram was the member of this house. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to talk about those women who belong to villages, who hail from backward areas, who do not have the protective hand of their father, husband or brother. Reservation is required for those women.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Whatever reservation is there, I have mentioned about that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have already delivered your speech. Please do not interfere in between.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have spoken very well.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No business is being transacted. I have seen your quarrels very closely.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam Chairman, perhaps my sister is not able to understand my feelings. Why is reservation necessary? Why there is a demand for that? Can we imagine that 33 percent of our sisters will get elected to his house without reservation. It can never be possible. I quoted these examples because those sisters could reach this house due to this reason and could be able to get higher posts. I am not quoting the example of India only. I have quoted the examples of Pakistan and Bangladesh. The reason for quoting these examples was that they could reach to the highest posts in their respective countries because they had the protective hands of their father or

* Not recorded.

[Shrimati Karuna Shukla]

husband. Unless the women living in distance places. Women belonging to the scheduled castes, tribal women, women belonging to the backward classes would get the benefit of reservation, their participation in this house will not be possible. The hon'ble Member raised serious objections when I mentioned names.

Secondly, I would like to say something about a situation which occurred 16 years back. I have been elected as the member of this House for the first time. I have been a member of legislative assembly. I brought a non-statutory resolution in the legislative assembly. A number of undesired exercises are being continuously made in respect of the Woman Reservation Bill since 1996. Railway Minister Shri Laluji is not present in the house today. He agreed to enthrone her wife as Chief Minister but when the women Reservation Bill will be presented in this house, he will oppose the same and tear away its copies. Laluji is also not present in the House today. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Madam Chairman, this is not correct. She has every right to represent the people. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the uneducated people who are voting more. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please expunge this word.

...*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please don't make personal comments.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I know.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): Madam, she is a woman, I think she do not have any objection in this regard. She is favouring the woman Reservation Bill, so how can she condemn a woman? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: I am not talking about any woman, I am talking about Laluji. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: She cannot say anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Please listen carefully. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: This is the double-standard face of your party. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Okay. You speak when your turn will come.

[Translation]

That word has been expunged.

[English]

I have told them.

[Translation]

You are a wise fellow, I have told them.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam, if there is any objection on this word, it should be expunged. I am saying it myself to expunge it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Madam, you are a senior member of this house and sitting on the Chair. You are very honourable for us. I like to say that when she is not a member of this house, as to why her name is being mentioned here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam, kindly expunge this word. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Karunaji, I have expunged the word. You please proceed.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Wife of Laluji, can I say this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Yes, the hon'ble member can. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam, I can say this. ...*(Interruptions)* Please permit it to go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This has been done. You are not listening to me. I have already said it before your mention that this word should be expunged. It is not so, I am also

* Not recorded.

concerned about it. I am also here in this house for many years. Please do not do like this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: She is speaking so well. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: The hon'ble member is treating me as a member of Parliament of BJP. Kindly listen to me keeping in mind the feeling of a woman and ponder over my views. I am a woman member of Parliament of BJP but first of all I am a woman and after that I am a member of Parliament of BJP. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: We are of the view that the desired subject does not pertain to any particular caste, society or any party. It is our universal subject. Please express your views in a standard way over this issue. We want this only. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There shall be no comments now. I am sorry. This word has been expunged.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam, if something is objectionable in my language, in my version, please tell me so. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna): Please go ahead with positive thinking not with the negative one. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you, young man, we will do the same.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam, my thinking in this regard is very broad. I am also the daughter of Gwalior region I meant to say that. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Everyone has understood. Now you please speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam, why is it that the RJD and the Samajwadi Party did not allow the women reservation bill to be introduced in the House whenever it was presented between the year 1996 and 2003. Why is it

that they tore off its copies? This clearly shows that no male wants that. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Madam, her speech. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You should speak when your turn comes. Such intervention will impede the proceedings. You are yet to speak.

[English]

No, no she is not yielding to you.

[Translation]

You are not being given time. You will not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam, I am speaking on the basis of facts. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: She is yielding, you will not intervene. No, I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam, I have viewed on TV and have record what I am saying. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Frequent intervention will not be tolerated.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is all right.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Why do not you speak. ...(Interruptions) Let the Women Reservation Bill get introduced. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. It is more than fifteen minutes now. Please address to me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam, there should be a will power with fair intention to introduce Women Reservation Bill. When there is fair intention and will power, women will not be considered in a segregated manner. So many women had struggled for the freedom of the country. When Shrimati Krishnaji was referring to Jhansi ki Rani, the rest of the members particularly male members stressed on referring the names of the other women too. Avantibai Lodhi had struggled. Durgabai had also struggled. Now look once again. I am talking of mentality, Jhansi ki Rani had moved forward sitting on the horseback holding sword in one hand, I would like to remind you of the fact that the male ones had fastened a child with her back so that her affectionate love may remain in her focus lest motherly love should impede her fighting spirit. Why was it done? Whether Rajia Sultan did not look after the functioning of the State? Efforts were made to make her unsuccessful. I am citing the examples of women because. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: History is made, it is not changed. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: I am not writing history, I am not too great as to write history. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. Karunaji, you should not say something like that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have myself told on behalf of the Chair. Every Member sitting here understands. I have immediately told that thing.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam Chairman, this Women Reservation Bill has been a laughing stock from 1996 to 2003. At the time of election, it is said in the manifesto that when we form our government, we will bring women reservation bill. Fourteen months have already elapsed since this Government came to power but what is going on? Government's intention is not good. On the one hand, the work pertaining to de-limitation is going on while on the other, the hon. Minister of Home informs us through a letter that he would like to increase the number of seats in Parliament from 543 to 800. How come this contradiction? If the work pertaining to de-limitation, is going on, seats cannot be increased. Stop that. If the Government is really serious to get this Bill passed, we, the women folk are ready to accept

it in any form. If you bring the Bill in any form during this 14th Lok Sabha we will accept it. At times, it is said that one seat will be contested by a male candidate one by a female candidate. Will it not be a doubling? Then this will pose many difficulties. Again the same old story. It seems that the Government neither have any intention to get this Bill passed nor it have a will power to do the same. Whenever, we talk to any male candidate of any party, he will say that she cannot win, she is a losing candidate. Perhaps there is a certain winning formula for a male candidate that he will certainly win the seat he contests. Therefore, whether we talk about Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly. I talk of rising above party politics. If the Government is serious to get the Women Reservation Bill passed, it should not be made a mockery. This is our right. We have a right to get 50 percent whereas we are demanding only 33 percent. Awareness is being noticed in the working of Panchayats after giving 33 percent reservation to women. At that time it was being said that for women folks their husbands, fathers would work, they would not be able to work. Therefore, if the intention is definitely clear and wrong intentions are not there, then there is no doubt that we will accept the Women Reservation Bill in whatever form it is passed.

Madam Chairman, I support the Resolution brought by the hon. Member Shri Chandrappan.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Madam Chairman, I support the Resolution moved by Shri Chandrappan. This is a controversial issue pending long before Parliament. The issue is so controversial that we could not reach or rather arrive at a consensus with regard to the passing of the Bill.

There are many reasons adduced or even alleged for not taking the Bill into consideration. Before I go into the details, I would like to say that we must bear in mind one thing. The reservation is not a law of perpetuity. Whenever there is inequality, whenever opportunity is denied to a section of the community, the Constitution provides a provision for reservation. So, applying that principle, we have given this facility. This reservation is applicable to the Backward Communities, the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people. The fundamental and cardinal principle of our Constitution is that there must be equal opportunity for every citizen. Due to various reasons, social or economic or otherwise, this equal opportunity is denied to certain sections of the society.

The Founding Fathers of our Constitution deemed it necessary that there must be some kind of reservation for

the lower strata of the society. So, that principle is there. Here also, the same principle is applicable in the case of women. We speak for empowerment of women. While speaking about the empowerment of women we do not accept the principle of reservation in their case equally. We all admit that more than half of the population is women. So, their representation is highly essential in the power sharing process. We had an experience in the last 10 to 15 years – when this Constitution was amended – for giving one-third representation in the local bodies and even a local list was formed with the Constitution. When that amendment was passed, there were apprehensions that whether women would be able to discharge their functions as members of the local bodies. That was the apprehension first expressed at that time. For the time being, we did not take into consideration giving representation in the legislative bodies. We were giving representation to women in the local bodies. We have now the experience. As Zila Panchayat Presidents they are functioning properly in many of our districts and we have very good administration. In my State, so far as this Panchayat administration is concerned, I have a better experience, a very vast experience for the last more than half a century. I was elected as the President of a Panchayat as early as in 1953. It became a Municipality subsequently. So, about the Panchayat administration I had my own personal experience. I had been the President of a Panchayat for more than ten years. I have been a legislator for more than 25 years. Now, I am in the Parliament for the third time. So, considering my vast experience, for the last more than half a century, I can definitely say that women are now capable of being members of the Legislature. The vast experience which I had in the recent past is that women were quite able, sufficient in administering the local bodies, particularly, the Zila Panchayats. The Presidentship of Zila Panchayats was also reserved. It is because due to various reasons, they may not be able to win the Presidentship of a Panchayat or a Zila Panchayat or a Block Panchayat or a Gram Panchayat. So, even there also we put in a reservation that one-third Presidents of the Zila Panchayats shall be women. That was provided in the Act. When I was in the Legislature, that Act was passed and with a specific provision for women reservation for Zila Panchayats. Now, one-third of the Zila Panchayats are governed by women and that is very good. We have our experience. Then, Presidentship of the one-third of the Block Panchayats was also reserved for women. These also were run very well. Then, one-third Presidentship of the Gram Panchayats was also reserved for women and that also is very good. So, in the recent past, our experience is good as far as the representation of women in the elected bodies is concerned. Now, we have come to such a stage that without providing reservation for women in law making process, in the governing process, in

controlling the Executive, both at the State level and at the Central level, it is futile to say that women have been given reservation. In our day to day experience, harassment of the women is the order of the day. Women cannot even travel or even walk through the road. It was possible in the past. Now, even one per cent women are not in a position to pass through a public road at night. Kidnapping, raping, all these heinous offences are being committed against women. We have been making a special legislation as to what are these grave offences, and that also by a process of special statute constituting special courts for this purpose. That is the situation in the country. So, we will have to think over it. Should we not give them power? They must have power to control the administration. That is possible only if they are given due representation in the Legislature as well as in the Parliament.

Now, I will submit that as to how this could be achieved. Unfortunately, there are some tendencies or some thinking among politicians that the women's representation should not be at their own risk. The male representation is the order of the day. Some people take the constituencies as their own hereditary property. They think that the constituency must be represented by them. Afterwards, it must be represented by their own sons and not by their daughters. This is the thinking among some people. These people have made such and such a situation in this country that they alone could contest the election and win over. So, there cannot be any perpetuity or any kind of reservation for males in a particular constituency.

Now, when this matter was discussed, three proposals have come out. The first one is that there are 540 seats in the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: So, 180 seats will have to be reserved for women. There is a proposal that 720 seats will be made; 540 will continue as such for males and 180 seats reserved for women. In certain constituencies, there will be two MPs – one a male MP and another a female MP. That is a proposal now advanced in certain quarters which is ridiculous. Moreover, the exchequer will be put to some hardship. The taxpayers will have to bear or meet the expenses of 700 MPs in the country by giving gender representation in the Parliament. So, we will have, in a particular constituency, one male MP and a female MP which is very; very ridiculous. We cannot accept this proposal but it is still there for consideration.

Another proposal advanced at this stage is this. Actually, when some political parties – registered political

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

parties – submit a list of candidates, it is the look-out of the Election Commission to see whether they propose one-third of their declared seats to women. That also is not a practical solution. No political party will declare their list of candidates because one-third reservation of seats for women is an impossibility. But still that is being considered by the Election Commission also. The Election Commission also is now considering about this double representation of reserved 180 seats. Parliamentary constituencies having a male member and a female member is another matter that is to be considered.

Lastly, our leaders have thought over of bringing in some consensus in the House, especially in the Parliament. Consensus is not an easy thing. We have tried to have consensus many a time but failed. Consensus will never come out in such a process. So, I will request all the major political parties to reconsider this stand. We should take a bold decision. The Bill should go through its own course. It should be moved in the House; it must be properly discussed and a democratic way for failing or passing a Bill will have to be adhered to. It cannot be by consensus. No consensus can be arrived at in the House about women's representation because consensus can never be had because only a very few people may oppose it. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: So, I would request the hon. Members or the political parties concerned to come forward bravely, courageously with a Bill moving it in the House. We will have a lengthy discussion, and we can make a proper and democratic decision at the conclusion of the discussion.

Sir, the UPA leaders are aware of the fact that the Opposition is also in favour of giving representation to women in the House. When all of us discuss this Bill together, the true colours of each and every party will be out and we will know where the BJP stands and where other political parties stand on this matter. So, the UPA Government should have the political courage to come forward with the Bill and get it passed in the House so that we can all be real champions of women's reservation and their empowerment. Otherwise, all our claims will only be lip service.

Therefore, I, once again, request the Government that the Bill should again be brought before this House so that we can discuss it here and pass it in a democratic way.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I would request the Members to please make brief speeches because the list of speakers is very long and we have to accommodate all of them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Madam, Chairman, this is a Private Member Bill by Shri C.K. Chandrappan and it is about giving reservation to women in State Legislative Assemblies as well as in Parliament. We are discussing this Bill in the light of the Prime Minister's meeting with all party leaders held today morning so that some consensus could be achieved, discussion can take place and some decision may be taken on the basis of consensus.

Madam Chairman, I humbly would like to say that the Congress and the BJP parties are in some sort of a competition of speaking more on the question of women so that the whole country can get a message that the particular party is in favour of women. But the ground reality is that these two parties have different opinions on this issue and they know it very well. But these partymen accept this reality neither in the House nor outside the House.

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): What is the stand of the Samajwadi Party on this issue, please tell us?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): The difference between you and us in that we speak and you tear up papers. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Thawar Chand Gehlotji, you are more decent than us. It suits you. Madam Shri Tahwar Chand Gehlot is a bit unwell today.

Madam Chairman, I was telling that there is some sort of a competition between both the parties, Congress and BJP. Samajwadi Party is in favour of reservation for women. We are not against it. I take pride that I belong to that Party which was headed by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. He always did justice with backward classes. He did justice with women also.

This is true that women have been neglected in the society and we all together have to think as to how to do justice with them. Another problem is of making women self dependent, to make them realise as to how they get the feeling of self respect, and to increase the average literacy rate among them. I think these questions need to be emphasized upon. I am not putting the condition of merit here. I do not want to differentiate between men and women. But I would like to say one thing that they have to be given empowerment. Women should go to assemblies as well as Parliament, I do not want to say anything against them. Women got reservation in Gram Panchayats, many women became Pradhans of Panchayats but those who were

educated and aware of their rights are working efficiently. Where women are not educated and also not aware of their rights, definitely they are facing difficulties. The main thing is that women should be courageous, they should try to get educated.

Madam, Chairman, It is true that from 1996 to 2000 many times efforts were made to bring this Bill in the House. Women reservation Bill was moved in Lok Sabha on 14th December, 1998. The apprehension mentioned therein is that on the pretext of reservation women of some elite groups and castes many come to the parliament, as well as legislative assemblies and with this we may start saying that women have got reservation. I think that will not provide justice to women at any cost. Before providing reservation to women you will have to ensure that what would be the fate of Dalit women of other backward classes and Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansalji, you please tell how will you deal with the women of minorities? I earnestly request you as you have mentioned only those women have progressed whose husband's propelled them and those women progressed whose father's helped them. I have a little apprehension that women friends in disguise may also not be given chance to come forward in the name of reservation. So long you do not provide reservation to the women of downtrodden community and their rights are protected or enhanced, till then there will be no meaning of this reservation.

What is the ground reality? The ground reality is that neither BJP nor Congress enjoys majority in the House. This is the age of coalition governments. The opinion of the constituent parties of this UPA Government is divided. Let me make clear that the Congress, Rashtriya Janta Dal and many other parties have different opinion. Their opinion is different from the opinion of Shiv Sena or JDU and by and large every big party and friendly parties also never have had consensus on this women reservation Bill. Therefore no consensus emerged.

I remember that in the last Lok Sabha i.e. in the 13th Lok Sabha Women Reservation Bill was discussed and at the time of introduction of the Bill Shri Joshi was the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Joshiji intervened in the matter and a solution was tried to be found out. In the Bill, which was being drafted, there was a provision that once the seats reserved for women will not be reserved next time for them. We are the members of Lok Sabha. We have sentimental relations with the public, we have emotional relations with them, we are bound to go to the public, because if we do not go to them, next time we will not be elected. If we do not work among them then it is difficult for us to go to them. Our voters will not give us votes and if this provision is implemented that the seat once reserved for women will not

be reserved for them next time then whether it is a man or woman liking to visit Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha constituency as there was a shortcoming in this Bill, an effort was made to evolve a consensus and brought to the notice of Shri Joshi Ji, the Speaker of Lok Sabha to evolve a consensus comprising all parties. You should try to take a unanimous decision, to find out a unanimous formulae so that this House is not divided on this serious issue. It is unfortunate that no consensus has emerged on this issue. Once again I would like to tell you that there is no need to make hurry on this issue. There is not even a single party in this House which do not want that justice should not be done to women which is against them but the question is that, and Karunaji please forgive me, what our fellow colleagues or people from your side speak differently in Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha or in the gallery of Lok Sabha. I do not want to mention all these things. The language they speak here and the language they speak outside is altogether different, this is the biggest question of the day and one need not divide the House on this question.

Samajwadi Party is of the opinion that after consulting various parties separately we should fix the percentage as to how much reservation is required for women and the Election Commission should be authorised to cancel the recognition of a political party which do not give the required number of seats to women. This is the stand of Samajwadi Party. I would like to make a request through you that it is a baseless and false allegation against Samajwadi Party that this party is against women's reservation. I want that women should get justice, women should get reservation. A consensus should be evolved on this issue. The Election Commission should be authorized that after evolving consensus if a particular party fails to provide required percentage of ticket to women candidate, its recognition should be cancelled.

With this, I conclude my speech.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): I rise to speak in support of the bill introduced by Shri Chandrapan. Through you, I would like to tell that the constitution maker of this country Babasaheb Ambedkar had provided for the reservation of not only women but also for the socially, economically, educationally and politically backward people through the Constitution. The apprehensions expressed by him while making the provisions seem to be quite true even after 57-58 years of independence. The Preamble to the constitution provided for basic amenities i.e. food, clothing and shelter and education to every citizen of this country those who have nothing to cover their feet, no clothes to wear and the food to eat. Even after such a long time after having attained independence, the Members of this House

[Shri Rajaram Pal]

have not been sincere and honest to ameliorate the conditions of these destitutes. They do not have money for their access to us nor words to express their miseries. It appeared that measures to improve their lot would be discussed in the House. Some arrangements would be made for their betterment but even after 57-58 years of independence there is no improvement in their condition. Today, women reservation bill is being discussed. Babasaheb Ambedkar had said that whatsoever good the constitution of a country may contain, if the intention of the authorities implementing it is not sincere, I would be useless. It is applicable to women reservation bill also. All political parties want to take political mileage out of it but no one is truly serious in empowering them economically, socially, educationally and politically, since I am a soldier of the Bahujan Samaj Party and this Party follows the foot prints of Babasaheb Ambedkar. The Bahujan Samaj Party wants to create an India as dreamt by Babasaheb Ambedkar. I would like to say today that big claims are made for women but protection of their rights have not been made as yet. Those poor, weak women folk for whom there is provision of reservation in the Constitution, the same is not being honestly implemented even after 57-58 years of independence. The Members sitting in the House who get elected under that reservation are not active in implementing that reservation policy completely. They do not talk about reservation for they are afraid of losing their own seats if they raise the reservation issue. Therefore, while providing for reservation to those people in this House Babasaheb Ambedkar had provided for double voting system. His only objective behind double voting system was to strengthen the position of Schedule caste, schedule tribe people winning out of their votes from reserved seats then. They will not be dependent on anyone's help or guidance. They will raise their views for the welfare of their society in the house freely. The fear of their right being taken away has created hindrance and it has not been implemented even after 57 years. Today, I would like to say this only that while passing the women reservation bill the common view expressed by Shri Ramji Lal Suman should be honoured because when big claims are being made for women, the percentage of reservation to be provided should be unanimously decided. I would like to demand that before providing for reservation, this House should seriously think about giving place to women belonging to dalit, backward and minority. I would like to tell the House that if we really want to empower the women, if we want to give women the right to lead life with self-respect and dignity, the extent of reservation to be given should be thoroughly discussed and the decision should be arrived at with unanimity and not in a hurry. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: 16 years have lapsed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Through you, I would like to demand unanimity in it. I strongly support the Bill introduced for the empowerment of women.

(English)

SHRIMATI K. RANI (Rasipuram): Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for having given me the opportunity to say a few words on the Resolution moved by the hon. Member from Trichur, Shri Chandrappan. The Resolution urges the Government to bring forward a suitable legislation to reserve at least one-third of the seats for women in all the State Legislatures and in Parliament. I stand here now to fully support the Resolution.

16.38 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since we do not have much time, let us very quickly have a cursory look over the history of empowerment, and then let us look at some facts as it exists today, before I again insist on such a Resolution which the Government should bring forward.

Sir, women are half the world's electorate but are a deprived lot. It is not a myth, but it is a reality. The right of women in politics is part and parcel of the human rights. So, National Parliaments are the most legitimate and appropriate institutions to bring about partnership between men and women in politics. But there is a wide gap between the goals enunciated in the Constitution, legislation, policies and programmes on the one hand, and the ground reality of the status of women in India on the other hand. As a consequence of this, the access of women to education, health and productive resources is inadequate, and so, they are marginalised and socially excluded.

With this background, in 1996 the Government drafted a National Policy for the Empowerment of Women. In recent years, there has been considerable work on the question of empowerment and also on developing a clear conceptual framework for this vague notion. We all know that empowerment aims at increasing women's access to social, economic and intellectual resources and also in taking control over them. So, it is in this context that reservation policy should be viewed and not as a panacea nor as a pre-requisite for everything. Thus, it is clear that reservation for women is an important and a necessary enabling condition for empowerment.

With this end in view, we have had many Committees making recommendations for reservation for women and we also have had many Conferences and Seminars,

nationally and internationally, agreeing to this line of thinking.

Now, let us look at some facts about representation of women in our Parliament. In the First Lok Sabha, we had 22 women Members, which increased to 27, in the Second. It is very unfortunate to note that it increased only up to 40 women Members in the Eleventh Lok Sabha, though in the Eighth Lok Sabha, we had 44 women Members, which is a mere 8.1 per cent compared to the total number of seats in the House. In the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, we have 45 Members, which is 8.3 per cent. In the Upper House also, this percentage varies between six per cent and 12 per cent. So, we find that the representation of women in Parliament as far from satisfactory, especially when we compare it with other countries of the world where it is highly satisfactory. Let me not go into those figures because time is short. Otherwise, of course, everyone knew about those facts and figures because the statistics are available.

Since the time of 73rd Constitutional Amendment, there has been an extensive debate on the implications of this measure for balance of power in rural politics. This issue has been further sharpened by a larger debate on Reservation Policy, resulting in several differences and opposing viewpoints. But the optimists argue that by ensuring women's direct access to formal political power, women's social position will automatically change. They also further believe that women will be less corrupt and more responsible in executing their duties than men. I say this without any ill-feeling against the male Members here.

After the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, the Constitution 81st (Amendment) Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha in 1996 to provide reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies. The Bill was referred to a Joint Select Committee since there was no consensus on passing that Bill in that form. That Committee submitted its recommendations to the House and again, with those recommendations, the Constitution 84th (Amendment) Bill was introduced in 1998 for the same purpose. Since those Bills lapsed on the dissolution of concerned Lok Sabhas, again in 1999, the Constitution 85th (Amendment) Bill was introduced, which also could not see the light of the day.

So, what we find so far is that all the attempts at reserving one-third of seats for women in Parliament and in State Legislatures were scuttled very successfully. On the other hand, if you see the experience of the last 15 years or so, we find that women are more educated and more capable not just inside their homes but outside too.

Now, we have the UPA Government at the Centre,

which came to power with a National Common Minimum Programme. I am confident that it will overcome all the obstacles with their vast experience and very soon, it will bring forward such a legislation to reserve one-third of seats for women.

Our Home Minister gave an assurance to the delegation of Mahila Congress that called on him some months ago, that Women's Reservation Bill would be tabled in Parliament in the Monsoon Session. I am sure he would make it happen.

Another view that is gaining ground and momentum is—this is what we read in newspapers—that the Government is proposing to add 33 per cent seats in Parliament and State Legislatures instead of creating a quota within the existing number of seats. It could be done in whichever fashion that is acceptable to all, but it has to be done.

Before concluding, I feel that reservation for women is a social necessity and a national obligation. Political empowerment is needed for economic and social justice. So, a suitable legislation should be introduced and passed in this House.

With these words, I fully support the Resolution brought forward by my hon. friend and I hope and trust that the Government would introduce and pass such a legislation in this Session itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is good but do not make it a practice. Since you are a woman and you are speaking on the Resolution seeking women reservation, I did not object. But do not repeat it by reading like this.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the Women Reservation Bill is being discussed here. It is not for the first time that a discussion is being held on this issue. Now it seems that this discussion is taking place for the last so many years. Now the question arises when the matter regarding providing reservation to women or anything relating to women is discussed, why this discussion takes place? I have been a student of psychology. I started pondering over this issue having the concept of family in mind- and found many things in common. As some one has said here that the mother-in-law harasses the Bahu. We should avoid to pass such type of comments and when we talk that it is only the Mother-in-Law or Sister-in-Law who creates troubles for Bahu, then I would like to ask from them whether Father-in-law is also not living in that house? I do not want to say any more on this issue but I would like to say that it would be better if we think beyond that vigorously.

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

Sometimes, I feel why such discussion is taking place. We see in the family, generally a family is centred around a woman, although we may not accept this fact. For example, if a bahu of a family goes out for service or for any other matter every member of the family thinks over it in his/her own way. Perhaps the mother-in-law would think that it was she who nourished her children for so many years and kept herself engaged in household work and now if the bahu goes out of the Home for work then again she would have to handle domestic work and look after grandson or grand daughter. This is why it is not fair to allow the bahu to get employed elsewhere. Father-in-law too, will feel that his hegemony will be jeopardized. I was the person; I was the deciding factor in the House. Now, if the bahu moves out of the house, she will speak her mind, perhaps, she may join the decision making process and I (Father-in Law) may cease to be the lonely deciding factor on the family front. Her husband would feel that as of now, her role has been of a donor, the entire family expenses are borne by him. So, therefore, he is also afraid of losing his significance. The Devar (brother-in-law) feels that if she goes out for employment then, what would happen to his employment. They will have one seat as is being happened here. Everybody suffers from the psychosis of losing his seat. Everybody is thinking in his own way. It is not that the woman has no capabilities. Such things were not happened in the past or no one has thought on this issue. Yes, there is one person who had thought on this issue. If I do not take the name of that person you might be surprised. But, we must take right things in the right spirit. It was Mahatma Gandhi who had taken this factor into account. I remembered one evening when Mahatmajee was delivering his speech and women were being referred to, he always emphasized that he dreamt of Ram Rajya in Hindustan and wanted to bring Ram Rajya. During the course of discussion, a woman asked as to whom the women should take to, be their ideal. While replying to her question Mahatma said that every women should follow Sita's ideals. If it happens, then Ram Rajya will be established in the country. After hearing this the woman said that if a woman should take Sita as her ideal, then it means that the male ones should also imbibe the ideals of Ram. At this Mahatma ji said that he did not mean so. He firmly believed that if the woman of the country acquired Sita's traits then the male ones would have no option except to behave like a Ram. These are not my words, there are the words of Mahatmaji. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, the ideal of women's should not be that of a Sita who dwelt in the jungle but would become a Sita who attends to the proceedings of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not interrupt Mr. Ramdas Athawale. She is not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Shri Ramdasjee. There is a little trace of Ram in you, so please be seated.

It was Mahatmaji that understood the capability of woman in real sense of the term. If we look back, during the days of freedom struggle....., women have been working since the ancient times. However, he aimed at the entire women folk including the women from simple households and said that unless their participation in freedom struggle is ensured and until and unless the element of awareness is infused into them, the nation would not get independence. He put forth this view and said that women of every household would have to make themselves apprised of this reality, be it Swadeshi Andolan or the movement to put foreign clothes on fire. This was how he communicated this message to every household, as a result, we did see that thousands of women came forward to join the struggle for freedom and we got freedom. However, thereafter, the situation so developed that women were again compelled to be confined to the four walls. Therefore, when we talk of providing reservation to the women, it does not mean reservation of seats in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha or State Legislatures. The concept is also aimed at ensuring their empowerment and active participation in the national politics. We must have our role in administering the affairs of the country.

The agricultural policy of the country is decided here. As present as many as 80 per cent women are working in the agricultural sector. We are aware that the less number of male farmers attend farming.

Therefore, if women are not involved in the formulation of the agricultural policy of the country, how can you formulate a successful agricultural policy? This is not necessary that the women should plough the fields.

Likewise, when we formulate the labour policy here, we all know that in the country in unorganized sector women constitute 80 per cent of total workforce. We formulate policy for the country in Parliament be it foreign policy or legislation for empowerment of women or right to property. The women should participate more and more in the process of taking decision while making a law since the decisions taken in the process affect the women, their lifestyle and behaviour. Not only the women but also their whole family are affected by these decisions. Keeping in view the less participation of

women in this regard, the reservation of women is an area of much concern.

Sometimes, I am surprised to see that the men have taken it for granted that it is only they who dominate this society. They have also taken it for granted that it is only they who in reality contribute but the situation is different. A family is run with the help of both men and women members. A country can run on similar lines. I am not talking about a particular party but I am putting my views as to why we are preparing the background with regard to the points raised here and the comments made on the reservation for women. This is not an issue of reserving some percentage of seats for a specific category. We have developed this mindset of giving all credits to the men for everything. This is not the case. I do not also feel that a woman is superior to a man. When we talk about reservation, it includes education also and if there is a provision for reservation, then mostly the educated women will get elected and the uneducated women will not be able to come forward. When we see the data, it does not present a clear picture of the same. The rate of literacy is the highest in Kerala and it is very low in Rajasthan. However, if you see the Legislative Assembly of Kerala, you will find that the percentage of women is decreasing there day by day. At first it was between three and four percent which has now come down to one percent. In Rajasthan, the participation of women in Legislative Assembly has gone up from four percent to five percent. This is not necessary that the solution to the problem can be hammered out only if all the women are fully educated in this regard. It is well known that the uneducated women associated with the "Chipko Movement" did not have to go to any school for education for the purpose. They were motivated by their emotions and they strongly launched the movement.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we talk about equal opportunities, then we think about not only the interests of the women Members of Parliament but also the interests of the men Members of Parliament. Hence, this is not a small matter. When we talk about the reservation for women, then we somewhere talk of reforming the entire society of women.

Today, where are those women who left their homes in very large numbers during freedom movement? Now, there is a discussion on women who went missing but I will not take up this issue today. When we see the history of India post independence, we find that there was a transformation of the whole women community whether they are IAS officers, truck drivers, rickshaw pullers or pilots. These are good for example but do they get equal opportunity in every field? They do not get such opportunity. So, those who talk about Dalits or backward women, separate reservation for

minority women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, the reservation is already there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Yes Sir, I am concluding.

[Translation]

What we are doing, is an amendment in the constitution and there is no provision for separate reservation for backward people or minorities in the constitution. If provision of reservation is to be made on such ground, it should be done for the men as well as women. A woman can understand the problems of other women with the same emotions even if the woman is backward or illiterate.

Different type of matters are being raised here. We have been expressing our views for years. The sitting of the committee was held. A Committee was constituted on the first bill and it was chaired by Smt. Gita Mukherjee. The committee thoughtfully drafted the bill but it was put in cold storage. Then we expected the Election Commission to reserve some percentage of seats for women but it could not make much headway. Then, it was considered to double the number of total seats. Then again, there was an opinion with regard to increasing the number of seats to 900 and to provide reservation to women accordingly. Sometimes, we are worried to find ourselves confused at providing reservation to our colleagues. Now the situation is such that all the parties favouring reservation for women, express the same opinion of giving importance to this issue anyhow. Moreover, they are in favour of involving more and more women in the process of taking decisions and asking each other to take steps in this regard. I say that everything should be done to prove this matter and to accede to the reservation policy.

17.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at last I would like to ask as to why there is any need for reservation for women. We have been giving this example for years — "Abla Jiwan haee tumhari yahi kahani" i.e. Women, you are weak, this is your story. We enjoy saying it. I would prefer to say something different in this connection. Why do we demand reservation? Why do we want to have more and more participation of women in taking decisions? It is because we want to say that it is too much now and so we would like to prepare such a woman force which would prove to be like this — "Sabla bankar likho nai kahani, mun mein vishwas, bano swabhimani, rashtrabhimani." (Be strong enough to write a new story, have faith in yourself, have self-dignity and be proud of nation). Therefore, we seek reservation for women.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Shri A. Krishnaswamy will speak. Please be brief because women are very much interested to speak. So, let them speak.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): On behalf of DMK Party, I support this Private Member's Resolution. Our DMK party is one which pioneered this movement in Tamil Nadu. Our leader Shri Periyar, the founder of our party, struggled for the women's rights. He struggled for the re-marriage of the widow. There was one Poet, Bharatiyar, who was born in Pondicherry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the time allotted for discussion on this Resolution is over. If the House agrees, the time for discussion on this Resolution may be extended by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. The time for discussion is extended up to 6 p.m.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: There is a Tamil saying which was said by Bharatiyar, who was a great poet. It is:

"Pattangal alvathum sattangal saivathum paarinil penngal nadaththa vandhom"

The great poet thought about the future and said this in the year before 1930 which means that 'in future, the women will become graduates and women will rule the country'. Now, it has happened. The leader of the Congress Party, Madam Indira Gandhi ruled this country. Now, our dynamic leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is guiding this country.

Not only that, we see so many women members now-a-days fighting for the welfare of the society. I read in a newspaper that in the local body set up, local panchayats, only the women chairmen and members are very honest and they are struggling and working very hard for the society. ...*(Interruptions)* A few may be corrupt. ...* That is different. Some may be emotional like Kumari Mamata Banerjee as she had been yesterday. We have to ignore that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, every Member will have five minutes to speak because there are a number of speakers while we have only 60 minutes.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, right from 1967, our Party, DMK has ruled Tamil Nadu four times. First time, our founder leader Shri Perarignar Anna was the Chief Minister.

Then, our beloved leader Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister.

Right from 1967, we made it mandatory to include a woman Minister. Not only that, in this 14th Lok Sabha, out of 15 Members our party has, three are women Members out of which one is Minister. When our party was ruling the State of Tamil Nadu in the year 1989, we made a legislation giving equal share in property to women. We made a law that men and women should get equal share in their ancestral property.

We also made 33 per cent reservation for women in the employment of State Government.

In the year 1996 — when we came to power again — we brought the legislation of 33 per cent reservation for women to contest in the local body elections. In addition to this, we have also made a provision in our Party that right from the grassroot-level to the high command all the Deputy Secretaries should be women members. This was our Party stand on this issue.

Shri Ramji Lal Suman also mentioned here that if we bring this Bill, then the reservation aspect should be followed. Otherwise, the downtrodden, backward community, and the Scheduled Caste people would be neglected in it. I am saying this because our women are very backward compared to the forward caste women. I feel that the people of the forward caste community are, at least, 25 years ahead as they have been going for jobs. They have been going abroad also for doing their job. On the other hand, the backward and downtrodden people have just now started going for jobs.

In the earlier situation, the women representatives could not function without any support or help from the male members like their husband, etc. Therefore, they always used to be dominated. If there is reservation for SC, ST and backward class people, then it will be fruitful for them. This is our Party position on this issue. Otherwise, the dominated section of the community will take advantage, and the upper-class women will become representatives of the people. They will come into the State Assemblies and the Parliament as representatives, and this measure would not be useful for the downtrodden people. Therefore, there should be a reservation policy, and I welcome it on behalf of my Party.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. At the outset, I would like to say that my Party supports women reservation in the Legislatures and in the Parliament. The Resolution, which has been moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan clearly reflects this mood, namely, that we should have adequate representation in both the Parliament,

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

and also in different Legislatures of this country. Therefore, my Party supports it.

This reminds me about the fact that it was Shri Biju Patnaik during his second Chief Ministership tenure in the early 1990s – before the 73rd and 74th amendments were done in this Parliament – that he introduced 33 per cent or 1/3rd reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj institutions and urban bodies in Orissa.

Subsequently, it was Selvi J. Jayalalitha who introduced specific reservation for women in Tamil Nadu. These are the first two States that introduced reservation for women. Thereafter, the State of Kerala also introduced reservation for women. Subsequently, the 73rd and 74th amendments came into force, and there has been reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj institutions and also in urban bodies. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, in 1996 when we came to power we brought reservation for women in the State of Tamil Nadu, and not Selvi J. Jayalalitha. The DMK Party – when it came to power – and during the tenure of Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu it was introduced, and not by Selvi J. Jayalalitha. Therefore, this portion mentioned by the hon. Member should be expunged. It is wrong. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishnaswamy, let the hon. Member conclude. Everybody is getting the chance to speak on this issue in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, the hon. Member is mentioning wrong facts in the House. How can it be allowed to go on record? It is wrong. ...(*Interruptions*) It was only in 1996 during the Chief Ministership of Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi that it was introduced in Tamil Nadu. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, I would request that it should be expunged. Please expunge it from the records. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would say that different State Governments, in their wisdom, have enacted reservation for different castes.

17.10 hrs.

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*)

In different Parliaments of this world, reservation has been there relating to caste, relating to religion, relating to language, and even in case of minorities, reservation also has been there. This idea of having reservation according to gender is a new concept. This concept was first formulated

by the United Nations in 1975 when it declared the decade from 1975 to 1985 as the 'Decade for the Women'. Subsequently, in 1985, a Delegation comprising some Members of the then Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha went to Beijing to attend the International Year of the Women. There, in the Social Council of the United Nations, it is called 'Economic and Social Council of the United Nations', it was first propagated that adequate representation for women, specially 33-1/3 reservation for women, should be done in the decision-making process levels. This was the wording. This decision was taken in that international forum. At that time, I think, 191 countries were members of the United Nations where this decision was taken that all administrative set ups in different countries should encourage women's participation in the decision-making process. That is how this idea was formulated.

Madam Chairperson, when you were speaking about empowerment of women, you had very categorically stated what Mahatma Gandhi had done during the freedom struggle. My mother was involved in the struggle. She was encouraged by Mahatma Gandhi himself. A number of women from a remote village of Orissa travelled hundreds of miles not only to meet Mahatma Gandhi, but also to offer their ornaments and also to dedicate themselves for the cause of this nation. This has happened when whole country rose forgetting the gender bias. Mahatma Gandhi had specific project work for them. That is how the society developed and the conscience developed and empowerment was given.

At the same time, I would also like to mention, Madam, while involving women in the decision-making process, we should take into account that from 1993-94 till 2005, how many reviews have been made after the empowerment of women in the Panchayati Raj institutions, in the urban bodies, what impact it has had in the decision-making process, what impact it has had in the administrative processes, and what impact it has had on the society at large. Of course, matters have been raised as to what impact it has had in the society, in the household, and in the family itself. That is another matter. I would like to know from the Government whether actually any study has been made about the impact it has had because it is necessary.

In one of the meetings where a number of delegates had come from abroad, a number of lady parliamentarians were totally enthused that this type of Bill is being discussed for the last so many years on women empowerment where we will have 33-1/3 reservation for the women here in this Parliament. They were looking up to India.

They were enthused. At the same time, they also

[Shri B. Mahtab]

wanted to know as to what type of impact it would have on their societies if so many Members come to the Parliaments of Irish or Iceland or Finland or any of the Scandinavian countries. What impact it would have on their societies in the decision making process? As a concept, there is no doubt, this idea should be supported but in the practical level, we all know as to what has happened since 1998 till 2005 and as to why a consensus should be reached to arrive at a decision.

I would say that the main party of UPA, the main party of NDA, and the main party which is in between, support this. So also we support it. So what is the problem of piloting this Bill in this House and get it passed in Rajya Sabha? Who is pulling the leg? Who does not want it? Everybody wants empowerment of women. But at the same time, I would like to draw the attention of this House, through you, Madam, to another point. A great change has taken place after the addition of the Tenth Schedule and after the Anti-Defection Law had come into force. We talked of empowering the women so that they can come and take part in the decision making process. What decision do we take here, in this House? Decision is actually not taken in different legislatures. We all know that the decision is not actually taken in this House either. Certain things are debated and discussed but actually decision is taken in the Cabinet; actually the decision is taken in party headquarters. Very rarely, decision is only given a stamp of approval in this House. But actually decision is taken there.

The Election Commission in its wisdom had suggested as to why not different political parties decide and give reservation of one-third seats to women candidates when they select their candidates but the actual decision is taken there in the political party headquarters. It is because after the amendment in the Anti-Defection law, which has been included in the Tenth Schedule, leader is the main person. Hardly the Members, who get elected to the House or the legislature, they can do anything to go against the decision of the leader. It is the leader who decides how his party is to run; it is the leader who decides in what manner the party has to vote. Otherwise, the Member will forfeit his seat. The House does not take the decision. Yet we support the Resolution moved by Shri Chandrappan. We support that this House empower them. Empowerment that will come through the representation of one-third women Member in this House or in legislature is that a sense of dignity will come; a sense of recognition will come; a sense of appreciation will come. Only thing, I think, that is also required is that which had happened during pre-Independence or during the freedom struggle when recognition by the society;

recognition by the leader; recognition by the political parties was given to women then they were at the forefront of the freedom struggle. Somehow or other within the last 58 years, many political parties had lost track. I think, this time, the political parties should think over this and strive to empower women Members and by doing so can remove the gender bias. If this type of recognition is given, I would say, Biju Janta Dal supports reservation for women, and personally, I also support the reservation for women.

MS. INGRID MCLEOD (Nominated): Madam Chairman, I rise to participate in the discussion on the resolution moved by Shri C. K. Chandrappan to bring a suitable legislation to reserve one third seats for women in all the State legislatures and both Houses of Parliament.

Madam, adequate representation to women in parliamentary bodies is a contentious issue. This issue is debated in many forums and remains close to the hearts and minds of millions of Indian women, who, no doubt, have a stake and interest in voting women to power. It is now nine years that the Bill providing for 33 per cent reservation for women was first introduced in Parliament. Given that women represent 48.3 per cent of the total population, which is almost 50 per cent of the total population, it is imperative that they share in the responsibility of governance at the highest level. The average Indian woman can no longer be considered backward women. Marching from kitchen to Cabinet has long been the greatest success story in women's development.

In retrospect too, few women make it to the Parliament to participate in decision-making and legislation, which by and large affect the country. Women all over the country feel the need for more representatives who understand their feminine interest. Women take for granted that women representatives are more suitable to protect their interest. Despite all indications and statistics, women are being, to the contrary, denied the right of 33 per cent reservation in the Indian Parliament.

Women constitute a large workforce in our economy and provide sustenance for their families. If women were to demand pay for all kinds of work that they do, the economy would crumble. Even our esteemed Finance Minister will have sleepless nights. If all women in India were to go on a strike only for one day, it would spell: 'DISASTER. UNPRECEDENTED'.

We do hear of huge rallies and strikes in support of some obscure political cause, often stage-managed, to achieve their cause. Are women expected to resort to dishonest tactics just to prevail over an unreasonable and obdurate lobby whose only object is "don't let the Women's Reservation Bill see the light of day"?

Madam, the national policy for empowerment of women in the Ninth Plan talks about providing equal access to participation in political life. Women do have access to participation in politics. But why should it be only at the lowest levels? Surely the Planning Commission wants to put across the message that it is time that women have the numbers in all legislative bodies. Is this message getting through to the Members sitting in this august House in the proper perspective? The Planning Commission sets valuable targets to be achieved only within a certain period. This august House tries to achieve those targets within an optimum timeframe. To prolong and delay the passage of Women's Reservation Bill, which is so intrinsic to the timely development of the country as a whole, is to deny the people the justice that is manifest in the Constitution. To deny the people of this country the enhanced vibrant political system, which would be made possible by the participation of more women in Parliament, is to deny every woman the right to self-dependence.

Therefore, I feel that women representation in Parliament should increase. With these few words, I thank you very much, Madam Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to speak on such a sensitive issue.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Thank you Madam Chairperson. The resolution which was brought by hon. Member Shri C.K. Chandrappan in the last Budget Session for the one third reservation of women in the legislature, I, on behalf of my party support that resolution. A country, a nation can be identified by the status of women. Women are the mirror of the society. If we go through the world history, we will find that in Russian revolution, French revolution and other such struggles, even in the Indian freedom movement, fight against colonialism and imperialism, women have always been in the forefront. But we must say that women are exploited, oppressed in every possible manner despite the important role they play in the society. However our Constitution makers had given enough recognition and rights to the womenfolk to make their position strong. In India, many laws have been enacted to safeguard the interests of women since the time of independence like – Special Marriage Act 1954, The Hindu Marriage Act 1955, The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956, Dowry (Prohibition) Act 1961, Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act 1979, Commission of (Prevention) Sati 1987, also the National Plan for Action for the Girl Child, National Policy for the Empowerment of Women are there. Still incidents of rape, dowry crime, sexual harassment are on the rise.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

Crime against women is increasing day by day. According to 1999, total crime against women about 67% of the incidents comprised of kidnapping and abduction; 54% of the victims were minors. The most alarming thing is that, according to the 2001 census, barring Kerala, in all other States – even in Punjab – which has the highest per capita income, the sex ratio has declined. In 1991 it was 945 per thousand male - in 2001 it has become 927.

In our country, 7.5% of the Central Government employees are women. Here in the remote villages, 80% of the labourers are women. They have no land of their own. The report of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) shows that a pair of bullock work for 1064 hours a year, a man works for 1212 hours whereas a woman works for 3485 hours a year.

We have celebrated decade for women, women year etc. but the condition of women has not changed. We have seen that in 2002 according to Progress of the Women Report of UNIFEM, in the entire world, the percentage of woman representatives in Parliament is 14 and in our country it is less than 9%. But in Scandinavian countries the number is higher. In Morocco, Syria, etc., women are more than 10%. In sub-Saharan region, the percentage is at least 13%, which is more than developed countries. In Rwanda 25.8% are women, in Uganda 24.7% are women.

In India, for the last two decades we are fighting for women reservation, both inside and outside Parliament. All the political parties had assured before election that if they come to power, they will consider the reservation issue but no one kept promise. During the NDA regime, we had met our ex-Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee Ji. He had said that the Bill would be introduced if all the parties agree, if there is consensus. We have experienced that a monstrous Bill like POTA has been passed in this Parliament.

Madam, we want this Bill to be introduced in its present form and voting should also take place on this issue. The true faces of the parties will be exposed only then. In India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Great Britain - we have seen women premiers. In our country, we have women Chief Ministers also who are running the States pretty successfully. Since 1955 to 1997 in 6 countries – Ethiopia, Latvia, Peru, Jamaica, Malta and Poland, women Speaker was there in the Parliament. In India, lakhs of women are representing themselves after the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments Acts. We believe that if they come to the legislatures, they will be able to take part in the decision making process as a result of which exploitation of women will come down.

The introduction of the Bill depends on the political

[Shrimati Minati Sen]

will of the parties. Before I end, I have one more request to make. The amended Domestic Violence Against Women Bill should also be introduced in this august House.

With these words, I on behalf of my party, thank you a lot for giving me the opportunity to speak on the subject.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Madam Chairperson, I rise today to discuss a very important bill. I would like to thank Shri C.K. Chandrappan who has moved this Bill in the House and provided us an opportunity to express ourselves. Women have been subjected to social cruelty, injustice and criminal incidents in the country since long. Society as a whole and the entire country should be united against the atrocities and injustice being committed against women and we are ardent supporters of it and as on today I agree with that condition of women as has been said about them as under:

'Abla jeevan hai tumhari yahi kahani,
Anchal mein hai doodh aur ankhon mein paani'

This poem of a poetess exactly expresses the women and women's society. I think that there is no such prominent group or organization in this country with political and social values, there is no intellectual class which wants to fight against the atrocities being committed on women, no such organization can exist. If it is in existence, very few percentage of that comes in front of us, they have double faces. Who are these people with double faces? They are the same fellows who believe in Tulsidas, kind of poetry in which it has been said:

'Dhol, Ganwar, Shudra, Pashu, Nari.
Ye Sab tadan ke adhikari.'

I am bewildered to hear these lines. People of such frame of mind are talking about revolution today; if these things are evolving from them then I appreciate it. But simultaneously I would like to add that the discrimination being committed against women at every level needs to be scrutinized at all those levels one by one. Before decision making before taking any decision, every point needs to be scrutinized and checked. Homogeneity is a word which has very important place in this decision making. If we talk about women's reservation then this reservation is provided to any section, class or community on the basis that even after opportunities being provided to them that particular class or section feels insecure, is unable to lift themselves and can not equate with others so they are provided reservation. I think that same kind of review needs to be prescribed for women's reservation. I would like to say to you in this House that women sitting at the last bench of the society needs to

be awakened. This work can not be done in a hurry because since long this country has been suffering from orthodoxy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please conclude within one minute.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: My time should be decided as per the time slot allotted to RJD, this is very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is no party consideration in these matters.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: There is a category of women that resides at the extreme end of village in the last row of society. They lack in awareness and have nil awareness. They too need to be brought in the main stream of the society. For security reasons or with a view to provide mental security we provide reservations, we try to secure them, we try to uplift them in the society. We would like to tell that the Hon'ble women Member of Parliament in the House are not the only women, there are women in the last row of the society and even at the remote end of the village. There are women in the most backward classes also.

The women belonging to backward castes, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and deprived class share a major part of the society. Approximately 90 percent women come from this class only. The provision of reservation exists since the constitution came into being but there has been a lot of difference in the intention and policy of its implementation. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar made the provision for reservation but when it came to implementation, you just go through the History, there are many institutions when decision is made for implementation then differences arise and with the help of many mischievous designs deprived class is prevented from upcoming. They are confined only to 50 percent. It seems that the remaining fellows have got 50 percent reservation and those who were able to come up independently they are checked for incoming. So before reservation is implemented all these things should be taken into consideration. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumar jee. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: There are no two opinions about it that women are forces of motivation but at the same time it merits consideration that the benefit of Reservation must not be restricted to those belonging to the creamy layer. They are required to be treated uniformly. If we wish to provide reservation, all the women of society should feel that they have got reservation. The people

placing nationality in their drawing rooms and in show-cases as memento tend to interpret the instances of Gandhiji in their own way. They tend to compare the concept of Gandhiji's Ramraj to that of Tulsidasji. Mahatma Gandhi's Ramraj was based on the socialistic principles, on the contrary, Ramraj conceptualized by Tulsidasji was meant to trigger dangerous feelings. Our colleagues ought to draw a line of demarcation between the two. It's not fair to paint everything in saffron colour. Be it the issue of reservation. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): Madam, one had better go through the philosophy of Tulsidasji before offering any comments. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing, except the speech of Shri Shailendra Kumar, will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Madam, I will conclude shortly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have warned you several times but you are not yielding. The other members have also to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: The way Sita was subjected to acid test is a conservatism today. People with the same conservative mindset set their daughter-in-laws on fire and talk of social reforms outside. I would like to apprise all our colleagues to first consider such factors and then take a decision on the reservation issue.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumarji. Please be mindful of time.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): I am very grateful to you for allotting me time to speak on the resolution of providing one third reservation to women in the State Legislatures and in Parliament as well. Honourable Members of the treasury bench and the opposition has defamed the Samajwadi party a lot, while the fact remains that the Samajwadi Party has always been in favour of Reservations for Women. But its form is very perilous. It appears that it's a big conspiracy to check those who have been in active politics for years together.

We want the Women Reservation Bill to be introduced

*Not recorded.

in the House. But the women belonging to the scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, backward class and the minority community should be included in them. Only then the constitutional issue of reservation conceptualized by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar or our motto will see the light of the day. We are the representatives elected by the people. We come to see that even today women are suppressed and in very rare cases, they have excelled. They should at least be provided with appropriate status.

Taking the statistics into consideration, we come to see that the number of women in the Cabinet has never ever been more than 10 percent of the strength. Many of our honourable sisters have discussed the issue at length. I do not like to go in detail. I would like to produce a few portions of the reports of Commission presented by Dr. Girija Vyas, Chairperson of National Commission for Women. The National Commission for women has been in receipt of the complaints of sexual harassment relating to IAS Women officials and other lower officials. This apart, women in the age bracket of 7 to 70 years are still being raped, which is a familiar fact. On many occasions we have debated the issue in the House from time to time that laws have been put in place to check female foeticide. However, these laws have not been enforced stringently. On one hand we are raising the demand of reservation, on the other hand, the laws meant for putting a check on female foeticide are very flexible. We will have to make it stringent. ...*(Interruptions)* Anti-dowry acts are there but too many complaints are forwarded to us on that count also. We have observed that we go on lodging our complaints in the women police stations however, sadly, women are neither facilitated nor their grievances are redressed. Given the report presented by Dr. Girija Vyas, out of ten complaints, seven pertain to dowry related issue. We will have to bring about a change in our outlook socially. Until and unless, our mental outlook toward women get changed, nothing substantial can be achieved. Unless, there is a consensus among all the parties on the issue of reservation, we cannot afford to get the Women Reservation Bill passed. We discuss the matter with all our colleagues. They all have different opinions. There is a saying — if the sky falls, we shall gather larks. I would like to say that in 1992 the Panchayati Raj Act was enacted on the same lines. In Uttar Pradesh, our Chief Minister got the elections conducted under the Panchayati Raj. In the election of District Panchayats, Block Head, Chairman of Town Area, Member or Head of BDC women were elected. But a few women are active who attend meetings on their own, otherwise their husbands take charge of all the works. We will have to think, after getting the right how far we can implement it. We have to see that our law should not get ineffectual and the issue we are fighting for get weak.

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

I would like to say that if the Reservation Bill is brought in the House, there should be a free voting arrangement and not by issuing a whip. Only then the real position will be known whether the Women Reservation Bill is passed or not. We have some doubts in it. I know that pressure is still there to get this Bill passed. But a consensus is not being formed in every party. Therefore, I would like to say that whatever Bill is brought, there should be a consensus on that and all should accept it willingly.

As regards males, I would like to say that our country is supposed to be a male dominated society, and without their support, women cannot make progress. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: All right, you have expressed consensus, now please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Males participation should specially be there. Our sisters had been demanding 50 percent representation in politics. I think it will take one hundred years to get 50 percent representation. ...*(Interruptions)* Krishnaji, you are creating disturbance. I am talking about feelings of your party only. You try to find out then you will get the real picture. We already know it. We do not oppose it. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not against it. I have already mentioned it. I have expressed the views of my party. The Deputy leader of our Party Ramji Lal Suman have also expressed his opinion. We have no fear. You allowed me to speak. I still wanted to say more. Particularly, Krishnaji interrupted a lot. With these words I conclude and support this Resolution.

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Madam Chairman, I am a Minister and a woman as well. We women folk are not demanding reservation to get rid of oppression. I have to say only this. We are demanding the right of our existence. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Respected Chairperson, I rise to support the Resolution moved by the hon. Member, Shri C.K. Chandrappan. I am deeply delighted to participate in this discussion, especially when a woman hon. Member is occupying the Chair. The Resolution of Shri Chandrappan reflects the desires and the aspirations of the entire women population of this country and also the right-thinking social reformers of this country who have been wanting this legislation for a very long time to undo the social

injustice that we have done to women folk. Our Party PMK and the Founder President of our Party are committed to the cause of women. We have been pleading for equal rights, equal share in property, and equal justice to women. No wonder that we have introduced or endorsed the move for reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures as part of our manifesto. Naturally, therefore, we would support this Resolution. We urge the Government of India to bring forth the legislation at the earliest.

Now, I would like to ask a question. Why has reservation been demanded for so long in Parliament and in various other forums? The reason is very obvious. Women, as a component of Indian population, is not adequately represented. If they had been represented adequately, in proportion to their population, the question of reservation would not have arisen. Why do we ask for reservation for OBCs? It is because they are not adequately represented. Why did Dr. Ambedkar want reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? It is because they were not adequately represented. Likewise, in the case of women also who form half of the total population, they are not represented in the political decision-making bodies of the country. As a result, they have not been able to aspire or express their concerns in the respective bodies.

For instance, let me give you the statistics. In the First Lok Sabha, out of 499 Members, only 22 were women; in the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, out of 543 Members, only 45 are women, which constitutes only 8.3 per cent of the total membership.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, you have only one minute left. These statistics have already been given.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: But in other countries we have this representation. Therefore, we need to give this reservation.

The second reason why we are asking for it is in spite of all that we have done to promote or enhance the status of women in this country, their status leaves much to be desired. Socially, economically and educationally, their status is far behind that of men. Therefore, they need to be empowered politically. We have tried to empower them economically and socially in the last one decade or so. But unless we give them political empowerment, their economic status cannot be improved. Therefore, we have to redress this injustice. The principle of 'unequal treatment to unequals' is the only answer to this and reservation is the only solution. Direct access to political power would enhance the economic and social status of women. As women tend to be less corrupt and as they have more administrative acumen, they will be able to take us to greater heights.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi shown to the world how capable she was, and how she was able to take India to faster progress. The Panchayati Raj Act has shown to the world and to India that it can revolutionise the participation of women at the grass-roots' level. When we have permitted at the grass-roots' level this reservation principle for women, they are doing more, they have become more active, more involved in the developmental activities and the status has been improved. Then, why should it not be at the higher bodies, at the Parliament and at the State Legislature? Therefore, we have to come forward with a concrete proposal.

Four proposals have been placed before this nation. One is the proposal given by the Election Commission, that the political parties will give 1/3rd of the seats to women. The second is that within the existing 543, you reserve 1/3rd seats for women. The third is that we have dual member constituencies out of these 543 seats. The latest proposal of the Government is to increase the number of seats by 1/3rd, that is, 544 plus 181 leading to 725. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

I have to allow two other hon. Members to speak.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS: So, the Government will have to take anyone of these proposals, study the merits and demerits of them and come out with a proper proposal. In our view, increasing the number of seats has got certain practical logistic difficulties and the Government should really look into the case. In a vast country like this, increasing the number of seats would mean further delimitation of constituencies, which would delay the process and, at least for the next two parliamentary elections, we will not be able to reserve seats to women. Secondly, it would lead to additional expenditure on the part of the Government. This has to be kept in mind and see whether we will be able to afford to do this and whether we will have the other logistic support for this. Whatever it is, it is not that we are opposing the move of the Government if there is a consensus, but consensus should not elude a decision this time. The ensuing Parliament Session must come out with a concrete Bill we should remember that in all the cases, we are not going to get the consensus if the majority will prevail. ...*(Interruptions)* We should pass the Bill.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: The Government should take

the majority will and do justice to the women of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have already called Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat. So, please conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: That would be the greatest tribute that we will be doing to them, and we will be fulfilling the commitment under the Common Minimum Programme which the Government has given to the people of this country.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Rasa Singh Rawat ji, please conclude within two minutes.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Madam Chairman, I rise to support the women reservation Bill moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan. Women should necessarily be conferred their rights. Since 1996 we have been in a catch 22 situation about the form of this Bill to be introduced. On that front I hold that the bill should be introduced in the same form in which it had been presented for the first time. Later on, 33 percent reservation for women comes into currency, the concerns of the SC, ST, OBC as well as the minority community may also be addressed. We should at least make a beginning, we should make further strides. It's not fair to stand still by attaching so many ifs and buts for its conception. I recall an Urdu verse in this regard:

*"Pata nahin ham kahan se chalkar,
kahan pahunchkar thahar gaye,*

*hamare sine par laal rakhkar,
kaal ke lashkar gujar gaye.*

*Hamari tutan, tumhare kayade,
fana ho gaye kahan tere vayade,*

*Jin cheharo par hein nigahein dali,
kai labade utar gaye hain."*

It means there is difference between words and deeds of the people. We all belong to that category. We ought to ask ourselves why is it that women are being deprived of this right in a country where the saying goes – "Vedo ka Hai Aylan, Nar Nari Hai Ek Saman" Right Now, one of our colleagues was talking about "Conservatism" but I would like to tell that women have been held in high esteem in our country from time immemorial. Maharaj Manu has said, "Yatrya Naryastu Puyante tatra ramante devata" meaning God resides where women are held in high esteem. On the contrary, the household family or society is bound to be doomed soon where the status of women is miserable. If we take a look on the mythology. We find that Laxmi is pronounced before Narayan in Laxmi Narayan, and Sita precedes Ram in Sitaram.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

18.00 hrs.

In Gaurishankar, Gauri precedes Shankar. Similarly, as Tridev has been conceptualised, we do also have the concept of "Tridev". We have Saraswati as a goddess of learning, Laxmi as a goddess of wealth and Durga as goddess of power. Thus, we come to see that women are not inferior to anyone. There is saying in our country — Mata Nirmata Bhavati. The power of mother is constructive. With reservations provided to women under the Panchayati Raj or in the autonomous bodies, municipal corporations; Municipal Committees, you will come to see how skillfully women are engaged in executing their duties. Be it as a sarpanch or a member of Panchayat committee or of Zila parishad, women are relatively untouched with corruption. Though, it's a different aspect that they are not very much familiar with the laws and rules due to illiteracy, as a result, they have to stay dependent on their husbands or brothers. There is a saying — "Dhire- Dhire-Re-Mana, Dhire Sab hoye, Maali seenche saughara ritu aaye fal hoe." I would like to request the government to introduce the Reservation Bill as soon as there is nothing wrong in it. To conclude, I would say. "Na Sirat Budi hai, na Surat budi hai, buda wahi hai jiski niyat budi hai". It's not fair to employ ifs and buts in this context.

"Tu agar magar ki baat na kar, yeh bata ki kaphila kyun luta.

Mujha Rahjani se gila nahi, teri rahbari ka sawal hai.

We just want to be in the role of protector and the watchman of society and wish to put society in the forward motion. We talk of awareness among women then why this hitch in introducing women Reservation Bill. This Bill must be introduced immediately.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rasa Singhji, please wait for a minute.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Rasa Singh ji, Urdu is a very delicate language. The verse cited by you is incorrect. The correct one is read this way —

Idhar udhar kin a baat kar

Bata ki kaphila kyun luta;

Mujhe Rahjanon se gila nahi,

Sawal to tere Rahbari ka hai.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I apologise. The time was running out, therefore a line was missed.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is Six of the Clock. Six more speakers are there to speak on this Resolution. So, if the House agrees. I would extend the time of this Resolution by one hour. Next time, it can be taken up.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Rasa Singh ji, you may continue with your speech. When this resolution is taken up next.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: It's okay.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Private Members' Business is over. We will take up Special Mentions. The time of the House is extended till these Special Mentions are over. I think the House is agreeable to it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Madam Chairman, with your kind permission, I would like to make a mention about the situation prevailing in my constituency. This year, on the one hand, there is unprecedented heavy rains in many parts of Gujarat. On the other hand, in my constituency, Kutch, half of the Kutch District is facing drought situation. There is acute shortage of drinking water and fodder particularly in five taluks like Bhuj, Nakhtrana, Lakhpat, Abadasa and Mandvi. In these areas, people's main livelihood is cattle breeding. They are residing at a far off place. They are on the border area. They are not having any fodder and drinking water. Last year also, we had faced the same situation.

So, I urge upon the Central Government to give a special package for this. Secondly, in one sentence, I would like to submit that due to heavy rains in many parts of Maharashtra, particularly in Mumbai, lakhs and lakhs of people have been affected. They are from my constituency and they are settled there. They are all dealing in grain, pepper and miscellaneous business. Due to heavy rains, they have lost their things in the godowns. They have been ruined. So, I earnestly urge upon the Government of India to kindly give a special package for the drought-stricken area. The Railway authorities in the past were making arrangements in the transportation of fodder from Madhya Pradesh and other parts. Similarly, this year also, it can be made. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Madam Chairman, the Government of India provides fund to the State Governments for development of education under "Sarv-Shiksha Abhiyan". In the State of Chhattisgarh, the books worth Rs. 2 crores 75 lakh have been distributed to the students. The Government of Chhattisgarh stated that the books were distributed in order to encourage the

students. However, the worrying factor is that these books contain the picture of Shri Raman Singhji who is the Chief Minister of that State instead of the picture of Mahatma Gandhi. Madam Chairman, this is a serious matter.

Gandhiji has a very prominent place in our country and he cannot be kept within the borders of India only. Gandhiji was one of the greatest personalities of the world. When Gandhiji died, every country of the world except the Soviet Russia kept their flags half-mast in his respect. Madam Chairman, it is a matter of concern that the money released from here, is being misused and at the same time this money is being diverted for publicity of party and some individuals. This is like playing with emotions of crores of people. The people will not endure that the picture of Mahatma Gandhi is replaced by those of a Chief Minister. Those who are involved in the murder of Mahatma Gandhi or who are having their governments in some States, cannot know about the importance of Mahatma Gandhi. The country can not endure that the picture of Mahatma Gandhi is replaced by the picture of a Chief Minister. I, through you, Madam, urge upon the Government that the picture of Mahatma Gandhi should be put on the same place immediately and it should also be ensured that nothing goes against the emotions of crores of people in the country.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Madam, it is a serious matter. I thank Shri Ramji Lal Suman for raising this issue.

[English]

Please permit us to associate with this.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is okay.

SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE (Wardha): Madam Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Hindi. Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha is the only such centre of education which promotes Hindi education. However, this is required to be seen as to what facilities have been provided by the Government to the University for propagation of Rashtrabhasha Hindi and, what scheme the Government has for Hindi Vishwavidyalaya. I know that the allocation made for Hindi Vishwavidyalaya and the work done in this regard during the last three years has been very disappointing. This is obvious from the policy which has been adopted by the Government so far.

Madam Chairman, I would request the Government, through you, Madam, that liberal attitude should be adopted towards our Rashtrabhasha Hindi. The Government is

required to make efforts to make Hindi, a language of the world. Wardha has been a place of work for respected Mahatma Gandhi and Vinobaji. Both of them gave priority to Hindi throughout their lifetime. I would like to urge upon the Government to give some priorities there through Hindi Vishwavidyalaya in Wardha so that Hindi can be recognized as a world language.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Madam, I extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to express my views on an urgent matter, which is a matter of concern for my constituency particularly, Jammu & Kashmir and the entire country. Sometime back, the Government had formulated a surrender policy which was meant for the militancy to surrender.

Due to that reason many militants were made to surrender with great pomp and show in the presence of DGP and many high officials. In our district there is an area called Bani which is in Lohal Malhar. Once upon a time militancy was rampant in that area. Farukh Elias Imran was a launching Commander there. He was made to surrender alongwith 10 (ten) other men with arms and ammunitions. After that he was used and he got many others militants to surrender and got few of them killed. The job was done enthusiastically. After some time the officers there underwent some changes. Few days back six militants came to Bihar, a place near Koti and killed the surrendered militant in the night, who was set free earlier.

Madam I would like to tell you that last time when I toured that area which is my constituency, then the S P concerned there told me that it was his moral duty to inform me not to visit there. He wanted to inform me. Here we talk philosophically. Let us talk about ground reality now. He suggested me not to go there as there was lurking danger because that area is infested with militancy. Madam, the district Kathua had got rid off militancy. Now the situation in hilly areas is that today 50 hard core militants have outfits there. This is a matter of concern.

Madam, I want to say and warn government that either of the governments should do something regarding this militancy. You see people use big aircrafts to land on hills and MP like me had to walk down upto 70 km or 20-20 kilometer to reach there. I would like to say that problem of militancy should be solved. If anyone is unaware of the problem he should consult me and I will tell him how to eradicate this. It can be solved by suppressing them. If it continues to rise day by day then people like me and general public will find it hard to survive. This is a big problem.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Thank you Madam.

Kerala, as a whole, has attained majority of the targeted health goals to be achieved in 2000 as set by 'Health for All 2000'. Many of the health indices are at par with the developed countries. But, Madam, there are regional variations in Kerala. The literacy as well as health status along the coastal area of Kerala where the majority of fisher-folk are still lagging behind. The coastal area does not have enough health facilities as compared to other parts of the State. Most of the health programmes are poorly implemented along the coastal area. Infectious diseases like tuberculosis, malnutrition and other deficiency diseases are still common in this area. Provision of sanitation and safe drinking water is not adequate. Maternity as well as child healthcare has to be improved. Infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate are still high as compared to other parts of the State. So, the coastal area needs special consideration. Considering all these things, the Government of Kerala has submitted a Coastal Health Project which is pending for sanction before the Government of India.

Since Kerala stands high in health status chart, there is every chance that the State of Kerala may not get the proportionate share when the National Rural Health Mission is implemented. So, my humble submission is, either the Coastal Health Project submitted by the Government of Kerala should be sanctioned or it should be included under the National Rural Health Mission when it is implemented.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Hon'ble Madam Chairman, I would like to draw your kind attention to the irrigation scheme of Chhattisgarh State. The irrigation capacity of Khudia reservoir of Bilaspur district, which can irrigate 1 lakh acre of land at one go in the interest of farmers, has gone down and the dam is in dilapidated condition. River Narmada flows in Amarkantak. If the water of river Narmada is diverted to Khudia reservoir via the dam of river Maiari, then people will get the irrigation facility. There is a mountain also that stretches 15 kilometer. If a canal is constructed after digging the mountain then water of river Narmada will flow to Khudia dam and Takhtapur legislative area of Khudia, Lomi constituency and Mungeri Tehsil will get water for full 12 months which will enhance the irrigation capacity by lakhs of acres and the area covered under irrigation will increase from thousands of acres to 5 lakh hectare. I request to the administration to link the river Narmada of Amarkantak with Khudia reservoir by digging the mountains of Narmada river and let canal be constructed there. Thus farmers of that area will get the irrigation facility for entire twelve months.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Madam

Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me opportunity to speak on the special mention. The employees of CGHS always go on indefinite strike in respect of their demands throughout the country. They have been putting forth their demands in a very peaceful manner. Yesterday, they had staged a protest by sitting at Jantar Mantar for some time after duly marking their attendance at their work places. Their demands are justifiable. They have demanded that all posts lying vacant should be filled up immediately. The quota of 5 per cent prescribed for appointment under compassionate ground should be discontinued and it should be made hundred per cent immediately. Recruitment within 5 per cent quotas could not be made. Recruitment is not being made at all. They are given two sets of uniforms. They have demanded that keeping in view the changing reason of present time, when sometime the weather is quite hot and all of a sudden there comes heavy rain, they should be given atleast four sets of uniform. One of the demand is that they are given very low rates of stitching. They should atleast be given stitching rates at par with the market rates. They should be given salary under new scales of pay after removing the discrepancies of fifth pay commission. Privatization and contract system should be abolished. Minimum three promotions for every employee should be ensured. ACP scheme should be implemented in a proper manner. The pay scales of the posts in respect of which recruitment rules are same, should be equal. All the health workers should be given patient care allowance immediately. The deducted casual leaves of health workers should be restored. Their demands are justifiable. If their justifiable demands are not agreed to, they will not work at all. If the employees work with disposition, they render better services to the patients. Hon'ble Minister is sitting here. If he accepts their just demand, it will be the service of patients in real terms.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Madam Chairman, Cantonment hospitals in the army centers of the Cantt. areas of the country are being run by respective Cantonment councils of those areas in order to ensure better medical facilities for the people of those areas. In Madhya Pradesh, Cantt. hospitals are being run at Sagar, Mahu and Jabalpur also. In my parliamentary constituency also, there is a Cantonment hospital at Sadar Jhansi Road but in this hospital patients are not getting treatment in a satisfactory manner as a result of which they are not getting the benefit of treatment to such extent which they should have been availed. As a result, those patients prefer to get treatment in private nursing homes or visit the government hospitals instead of availing the facility of treatment in these hospitals.

I would like to request you that a number of patients live in these areas, labourers and poor people doing petty

jobs also live there. They do not have a sound financial position. This hospital is situated in cantt. area and they live far way from government hospitals. Therefore, efforts should be made by the administration to enhance the medical facilities of these hospitals but the administration has shown an indifferent attitude towards this issue. The population of these cantt. areas is increasing day-by-day. The population of Sagar cantt. area is approximately 30,000 but the facilities available there are same that were available fifteen to twenty years back. The Defence ministry of Central Government provide lacs of rupees every year for the maintenance of medical facilities, purchase of equipments, extension of medical facilities, but that amount is not being utilized properly. Work is done only on papers just to complete the formality. Special facilities should be made available in cantonment area, experts should be appointed there, night services should be started there as night services are not available there for the patients. Efforts should be made to increase these services.

Madam, I through you, would like to urge upon the government to make efforts to increase the better facilities in the hospitals of all the cantt. areas where cantt. hospitals are being run.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam Chairman, I have a point of order. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Point of order is not taken up during Zero hour. You have already put forth your views. I'll think about it at the end. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, it is a very important issue and related to everybody. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is not permissible.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, Chairman, we get list of Business by 8 o'clock in the morning and we are not able to go through it at that time. As a result, what are not in a position to give the notice in time. Through you, I would like to request the Parliamentary Affairs Minister who is present here, that some arrangements should be made so that the hon. Members get list of Business at least by 7 o'clock. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We will not discuss this issue at this point of time.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No one is allowed to speak anything at any time.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jaalpaiguri): Madam Chairman, I stand here to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Commerce to the fact that a section of unscrupulous merchants and traders are importing sub-standard and cheaper varieties of tea and selling it in the global market after blending it with low quality of Indian tea. This not only goes against the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, but it is also harming the tea industry as a whole since Indian tea has a wide market abroad for export.

I would request the hon. Minister to kindly enlighten this august House whether the Government is aware of the mal-practices by certain tea merchants who are harming the reputation of Indian tea in the world market. I would also request the hon. Minister to please clarify what action is being taken by the Government against these unscrupulous merchants and traders.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Hon. Madam Chairman, my question is very important. In Jaipur city, there is a Ramgarh reservoir for drinking water and water is supplied from here only. Ramgarh reservoir gets water from Banganga river. In Banganga 52 anicuts have been made resulting intermittent water supply to the reservoir. There is no other arrangements for supply of water to Jaipur city. So far as Banas Scheme, which has been talked about for a number of years is concerned, I think it will take two to three years more to complete it. Since the water level of wells, handpumps and tubewells has gone down, they are no more useful now. I mean to say that there remain no water in the Talkatora situated in the heart of Jaipur city. The pipeline in Jaipur city is also outlived. This pipeline is very old and small. Water is wasted due to leakage in the pipelines. As it is mixed with sewage, contaminated water is being supplied for drinking purpose.

There is no drinking water in villages. Livestock also does not get water for drinking. I think everyone is grieved. In the city, the people have made their own arrangements for getting water through a pipeline by digging the ground. I request the Central Government to lay a new pipeline for supply of drinking water in Jaipur. The former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the present Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh have given priority to drinking water. A special economic package should be given for Jaipur. There has been no rain during this season resulting in crisis of drinking water. I pray to God to have mercy so that the drinking water problem of the people of Jaipur is resolved.

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

I request the Central Government to grant a special economic package for drinking water to the Govt. of Rajasthan so that the drinking water problem is resolved. This is a human related issue. I hope the Government will pay attention to it.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Madam, Chairman, it seems that the Central Government is set to destroy the existence of post offices. The post offices running for the last 40-50 years in rural as well as urban areas are either being degraded or merged with others by closing them. More than 3 Lakh extra departmental employees in Postal Department, make painstaking efforts to deliver the message of Govt. of India to people through mail. Talwar Committee was constituted for such people and it was promised that the recommendation of that committee would, be implemented. But they have not been implemented so far. Thousands of employees of Postal Department are agitated. Their union had also given a notice. But even after

a sit strike of 21 days, their justified demands have not been fulfilled. I would like to request the Government through you that the recommendation made by the Fifth Pay Commission be implemented and the recommendations made by the Talwar Committee may also be implemented for E.D. employees. The ban with regard to recruitment in postal services imposed since 1984 be removed. Today, the postal area has expanded. In view of this, the posts lying vacant in the postal department be filled up so that the public may get more and more benefits of postal services.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 8th August, 2005 at 11 a.m.

18.28 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 8, 2005/Śravana 17, 1927 (Saka).

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Ocean Development		1954, 1998, 2053, 2072, 2091, 2093
Power		1906, 1909, 1920, 1925, 1926, 1932, 1934, 1942, 1959, 1960, 1964, 1968, 1972, 1978, 1981, 1996, 2020, 2037, 2045, 2048, 2057, 2064, 2066, 2078, 2080, 2084, 2086, 2088

Rural Development	:	1898, 1901, 1912, 1918, 1923, 1929, 1943, 1946, 1950, 1952, 1958, 1965, 1971, 1993, 1994, 2006, 2009, 2015, 2016, 2028, 2030, 2033, 2034, 2036, 2040, 2044, 2047, 2049, 2051, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2063, 2083, 2090
Science and Technology		1900, 1916, 1930, 1939, 1940, 1957, 1962, 1963, 1976, 1983, 2007, 2010, 2017, 2024, 2032, 2042, 2046, 2072
Textiles		1911, 1919, 1931, 1973, 1991, 1995, 2005, 2013, 2027, 2052, 2068, 2070, 2075.

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