

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Friday, August 11, 2006/Sravana 20, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, I have not admitted it. Q. 261.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat are in the grip of floods. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have seen that.

[English]

Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I have not admitted your notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, it cannot be taken up.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 261. Please sit down. Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, no please.

[Translation]

What is going on?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I would request Shri Acharia to please take his seat.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

Please take your seat.

[English]

I am not allowing it. I have rejected it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It will be convenient to all if you sit down. All of you may please take your seats.

[English]

Now, we will take up Q. 261.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded. Shri Acharia, I have disallowed that suspension notice. I am requesting all sections of the House to cooperate.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is being recorded. What can I do? Please sit down.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I can only say that this is another very sad day in the history of this Parliament.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Micro Finance Institutions

*261. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

*Not recorded.

(a) whether the Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) which directly work with the poorer sections of population charge abnormally high rates of interest;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India has made any study in this regard;

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

(d) the steps being taken to ensure that the poor people get loans at lower rates?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are some reports that a few Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) operating in Andhra Pradesh are charging high rates of interest.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India has constituted a Coordination Forum under their Convenorship with representatives of Government of Andhra Pradesh NABARD, Banks, State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) and MFIs as members to discuss and sort out the issues relating to micro finance sector. The Reserve Bank of India, through the College of Agricultural Banking (CAB), Pune, conducted a study on "Costs and Margins of Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) in select States of the Country. The broad conclusions from the study were as under :—

- (i) The costs charged by the MFIs vary widely depending upon the loan products offered, total number of clients, loan size, cost of borrowings, etc.
- (ii) The staff costs of MFIs are significantly high.
- (iii) The interest rates charged by MFIs lack transparency.
- (iv) The spreads available to MFIs vary considerably depending upon the cost of funding, operational efficiencies, organisational revamping, etc.

Another study, conducted by the Bhubaneswar Regional Office of the RBI, revealed that in preponderant number of cases (88%), the interest rate charged by the MFIs was below 30% p.a. However levying of additional charges such as upfront administrative/processing charges, non-interest bearing cash security, compulsory recurring

deposits, etc. alongwith flat rate of interest render the real cost of borrowing non-transparent.

(d) More than 22 lakhs SHGs have been, credit linked by March 2006, with a cumulative bank credit of Rs. 11,397.55 crores. To enhance financial inclusion banks have been permitted to use the services of intermediaries in providing financial and banking services through the use of Business Facilitator and Business Correspondent models.

Government has decided to provide interest subvention of 20% to public sector banks and regional rural banks and concessional refinance by NABARD to RRBs and Cooperative Banks for ensuring Short Term Production Credit to farmers @ 7% per annum upto a principal of Rs. 3 lakhs during 2006-07.

[Translation]

Indian Banks Abroad

*262. SHRI SITARAM SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the broad parameters regarding granting of permission for Indian banks to open overseas branches;
- (b) whether certain countries are not permitting some Indian banks to set up their branches there;
- (c) if so, the names of such countries;
- (d) whether such countries have branches of their banks in India;
- (e) if so, the reasons for permitting these countries to set up their branches in India; and
- (f) the steps proposed to be taken to facilitate setting up of branches of Indian banks in these countries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Indian banks are allowed to open branches and set up subsidiaries/joint ventures abroad based on certain prudential parameters such as Capital to Risk Weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR), Net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) etc. and also their overall ability to withstand international competition.

(b) to (f) Some Indian Banks have reported difficulties in opening their offices abroad because of certain regulatory requirements of the host regulators. As and when the Indian banks report difficulties faced by them in opening their branches/offices abroad, efforts are made to resolve the issues through bilateral consultations. The Reserve Bank of India also examines applications of foreign banks opening branches/offices in India in accordance with its policy guidelines and regulatory requirements and authorizations are issued in consultation with the Government.

[English]

Model for Solar and Wind Energy

*263. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop a model to undertake joint projects with private sector to accelerate research and development activities on solar and wind energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the countries and private agencies with whom negotiations are going on for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) A mechanism is already in place to support research and development in new and renewable energy, including solar and wind energy in institutions/organizations apart from private sector across the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Modernization of Power Projects

*264. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Power Projects have been identified for renovation/modernization during the 10th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the thermal power projects with a total capacity where this work has been completed so far, State-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon, till date;

(d) the time by which the work on the remaining projects is likely to be completed;

(e) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(f) the extent to which the power generation capacity of these projects is likely to be increased after completion of their renovation/modernization work;

(g) whether any financial/technical assistance has been sought by the Government from Japan and Germany for the purpose; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. At the beginning of the 10th Plan, the Government of India in consultation with the SEBs/Utilities had identified 106 old thermal units having capacity of 10,413 MW for Life Extension (LE) works during the 10th Plan, at an estimated cost of Rs. 9200 crores.

In addition, 57 thermal units having capacity of 14,270 MW which were comparatively new units and performing well, were also identified for Renovation and Modernization (R and M) works at an estimated cost of Rs. 977 crores to sustain their performance.

The Government of India had also identified 62 hydroelectric schemes having installed capacity of 9,977.5 MW for RM and U during 10th Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 2227.062 crores. After implementation of these schemes a benefit in the form of additional capacity of 1516.31 MW is expected to be achieved.

(b) and (c) Life extension works on 9 thermal units with a total capacity of 815 MW have been completed. An amount of Rs. 740.16 crores have been incurred. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) to (f) Out of 106 thermal units, life extension works on 9 units have been completed. The works on 8 units are in execution and likely to be completed by the end of 10th Plan period. Orders for LE works on another 13 units have been placed. Revival/LE works on 14 units have not found to be economically viable. There are 32 units which were earlier included for LE works are now included in the 'Partnership in Excellence (PIE)' programme. The LE works on these units is likely to be taken up after attaining the desired improvement through 'PIE' programme, if found economically viable. On the balance 30 units, the orders are likely to be placed in near future for possible completion of works during 11th Plan. The works on all the units (except the 14 units not being found economically viable) is likely to be completed by 11th Plan. The estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on remaining units is Rs. 80.15 Crores.

The Renovation and Modernization works on all the 57 thermal units are in progress and the works on these units would get completed during 10th Plan. An expenditure of Rs. 429 crores have already incurred on R and M of these units.

After completion of LE works, the life of the units will get extended by another 15 years and an additional capacity of 213 MW will be achieved through up-rating of some of the units. In case LE works are not carried out, these units would have to be retired in the near future.

In addition the R and M will result in sustaining the present performance level of 57 units.

(g) and (h) Loan assistance has been sought from Germany for R and M of Satpura Thermal Power Project in Madhya Pradesh.

Statement

Thermal Units where Life Extension Works have been completed during 10th plan

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of Station	Unit No.	Present Rated Capacity (MW)	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in Crores)
1.	Chhattisgarh	Korba (East)	1	40	249.66
2.			4	40	
3.			5	120	
4.			6	120	
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Kothagudem	6	105	315.5
6.			7	110	
7.			8	110	
8.	Punjab	Bathinda	2	110	115
9.	Tamil Nadu	Ennore	2	60	60
Total				815	740.16

[English]

National Investment Fund

*265. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to place the sale proceeds arising out of the sale of equity in various Government undertakings with the National Investment Fund (NIF);

(b) if so, the total amount of fund available in the NIF;

(c) whether the Government has spent the money from the Fund; and

(d) if so, the details of funds spent sector-wise since inception?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Government has constituted a "National Investment Fund" (NIF) in 2005-06, into which the proceeds from disinvestment of equity in Central Public Sector Enterprises would be channelised.

(b) Till date, no funds have accrued to NIF.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

[Translation]

Fiscal Deficit Question

*266. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the failure to check fiscal deficit despite the concerted efforts made in this direction;

(b) the details of fiscal deficit during the last two years alongwith the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the fiscal deficit by the Government;

(c) whether the Government has received any suggestions from the international financial agencies to check the fiscal deficit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The fiscal deficit as per cent of Gross Domestic Product, of the Centre has been contained in recent years and shows a declining trend. Fiscal deficit for the Centre as also fiscal deficit as per cent of Gross Domestic Product is as follows :—

Year	Fiscal Deficit (Rs crore)		Fiscal Deficit as per cent of Gross Domestic Product at current market prices	
	BE	Actual	BE	Actual
1	2	3	4	5
2003-04	153637	123272	5.6	4.5

1	2	3	4	5
2004-05	137407	125202	4.4	4.0
2005-06	151144	146348	4.3	4.1
2006-07	148686		3.8	N.A.

Provisional and unaudited . As indicated in the Budget document and using the GDP projection as at Budget time.

The decline in fiscal deficit as per cent of Gross Domestic Product, has been the result of a series of initiatives taken by the Centre in pursuance of fiscal consolidation. Initiatives taken by the Centre, inter alia, include: enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management

(FRBM) legislation; widening the tax base through phased removal of exemptions and increased coverage under service tax; special drive to realise tax arrears; a soft interest rate regime; pension reforms and efforts at targeting subsidies to the poor and truly needy sections of the society.

(c) Various international financial institutions bring out country-specific macroeconomic reports periodically, which are advisory in nature. Such reports, inter alia, indicate that India could sustain the present high growth rate through adherence to the fiscal adjustment objectives and targets enunciated under the FRBM Act and Rules made thereunder.

(d) The conduct of the fiscal policy is shaped by the FRBM Act, 2003 and FRBM Rules 2004. In keeping with the fiscal consolidation process under the FRBM Rules, the revenue deficit and gross fiscal deficit have been budgeted at 2.1 per cent and 3.8 per cent of Gross Domestic Product in 2006-07.

[Translation]

Policy of Bio-Technology

*267. SHRI HANSRAJ G AHIR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has finalised the National policy for the development of biotechnology sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the likely impact of the proposed policy particularly on trade and employment?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) A Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy has been prepared by Department of Biotechnology which aims at creating such tools and technologies that address the problems of the largest section of the society, provide products and services at affordable prices and make India globally competitive in the emerging bio-economy. The basic goal of the Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy is to enable emergence of an ecosystem that promotes innovation. The Strategy provides for producing more world class researchers, establishing centres of excellence and interdisciplinary networks in the university system, strengthening technology transfer and patenting skills, promoting biotech clusters and parks, building a strong regulatory system, improving transnational movement of biologicals, building new institutes in a few key areas where there is deficiency and link international partnerships to national goals.

In the Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy special incentives have been provided for, to promote the biotechnology industry, which would help increase the trade in the biotechnology sector and also create new avenues of employment. It is expected that the annual turnover of the biotech industry would cross US\$ 9.00 billion by 2010, with employment opportunities for at least 1 million. The enabling factors to facilitate this growth relate to simplification and streamlining of procedures for import, clearance and storage of biologicals, harmonization of the regulatory approvals for biotech products; promoting international trade opportunities to guide R and D investments and fostering research, trade and industrial partnerships. Incentives have also been provided for promoting industrial growth such as exemption of biotech sector from compulsory licensing; permitting 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the sector, reducing the qualifying area criteria of Special Economic Zones to bring it at par with Information Technology sector; providing fiscal incentives to in-house R and D units in terms of exemption of custom duty on capital goods and 150% weighted

deduction against expenditure incurred on in-house R and D.

Private Power Projects

*268. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Power Projects likely to become operational in the private sector during the next three years;

(b) the additional power in megawatt likely to be generated there from, project-wise;

(c) whether the work relating to these projects are progressing as per schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether assessment has been made on the contribution of the private sector in increasing generation of power; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) As per information available with Central Electricity Authority, eleven power projects comprising of seven thermal and four hydro electric power projects are likely to be commissioned during the next three years. Project-wise details of these projects with capacity addition in MW from them are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) As per information available, the construction work of these projects are progressing as per schedule. Details are in the enclosed Statement.

(e) and (f) In the beginning of 10th Plan, the all-India installed capacity in private sector was 9,232 MW, i.e. 8,651 MW thermal and 581 MW hydro, out of a total installed capacity of 1,05,046 MW in the country (8.7% of the installed capacity in the private sector). It has been assessed that 4,898 MW of capacity addition i.e. 4,198 MW thermal and 700 MW hydro is anticipated from the private sector, out of a total anticipated 34,024 MW capacity addition in the Tenth Plan (14% of capacity addition in private sector).

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the projects, State, executing agency	Capacity (MW)	Broad status of the works
1	2	3	4

Thermal

1	OP Jindal TPP Ph-I and II, Chhattisgarh, M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.	1000 (4 × 250)	<p>Unit-1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boiler erection started on 15.7.05. - Boiler drum lifted on 27.2.2006. - Boiler HT is scheduled in 08/06. - TG erection commenced in 04/06. <p>Unit-2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boiler erection commenced. - Boiler drum lifted on 20.3.06. - TG erection commenced in 05/06. <p>Unit-3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boiler erection commenced. - Boiler drum lifted on 30.4.06. <p>Unit-4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boiler erection yet to start.
2	Sugen Gas based CCPP (Akhakhol), Gujarat, M/s. Torrent Power Generation Ltd.	1128 (3 × 376)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil foundation for HRSG, GT and ST module, cooling tower and switchyard are completed. - HRSG modules supplies started reaching at site in June 2006. - Cooling tower (3 nos) are progressing as per schedule. - Construction intake well and non-EPC works in the main site have been completed. 2 nos. reservoirs (2 × 60 M Cusec) already completed.
3	Gautami CCPP, Andhra Pradesh, M/s. Gautami Power Ltd.	464	The project is ready for commissioning but held up due to non-availability of natural gas by GAIL.
4	Konaseema CCPP, Andhra Pradesh, M/s. EPS Oakwell Power Ltd.	445	The project is ready for commissioning but held up due to non-availability of natural gas by GAIL Back charging of switchyard by APTRANSCO.

1	2	3	4
5	Lanco Amarkantak (Pathadi) Mega TPS Ph-I, Chhattisgarh, M/s. Lanco Amarkantak Power Pvt. Ltd.	300	All statutory clearances are available. Levelling and grading work is in progress.
6	WHR Power plant, Goa, M/s. Goa Energy Pvt. Ltd	30	The zero date of the project is 1.4.04. Orders for all the BOPs already placed. Boiler erection started. TG erection start is expected by the end of July, 2006.
7	Trombay Extn. Maharashtra, M/s. Tata Power Company	250	EPC awarded in 7/06. Design and Engg. Work started.
Total		3617	

Hydro

1.	Vishnuprayag HEP, Uttaranchal, M/s. JP Power Venture Ltd.	400 (4x100)	All civil and hydro mechanical works completed. Unit-1 and Unit-2 has since been synchronized on 3.6.2006 and 23.6.2006 respectively. Erection of Unit-3 and Unit-4 are in progress.
2.	Chujachen HEP, Sikkim, M/s. GATI	99 (2 × 49.5)	Civil and hydro-mechanical works awarded. Infrastructure works are in progress.
3.	Budhil HEP, Himachal Pradesh, LANCO	70 (2 × 35)	Environment and forest clearance obtained. Civil and H and M works awarded.
4.	Malana-II HEP, Himachal Pradesh, EVEREST PC	100 (2 × 50)	EPC contract for civil and hydro-mechanical works awarded to M/s. L and T. Infrastructure works are in progress. Construction of tail race tunnel is in progress.
Total		669	
Grand Total		4286	

*[English]***Defunct Co-operative Banks**

*269. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Co-operative Banks in the country have become unviable and defunct;

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

(c) the reasons for the closure of these banks;

(d) whether Reserve Bank of India through the Depositors Credit Insurance and Guarantee Corporation compensates the clients of defaulting Co-operative Banks;

(e) if so, the amount disbursed on this account during the last three years, year-wise, bank-wise and State-wise with special reference to Gujarat;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of depositors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Since September 2001, Reserve Bank of India has rejected the applications for issue of licences of 8 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) under Section 22 read with Section 56(o) of the Banking Regulation Act (BR Act), 1949. Out of these, 3 DCCBs are from Bihar and one each from Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. Similarly, in the last three years, licences of 90 Urban Cooperative Banks were cancelled/rejected as per the details given below :—

Name of State	UCBs
Assam	1
Andhra Pradesh	15
Gujarat	40
Karnataka	5
Madhya Pradesh/Chhatisgarh	9
Maharashtra	12
Rajasthan	2
Tamil Nadu	2
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	3
Delhi	1

(c) The reasons for cancellation of the licences are : precarious financial position of the Banks with no tangible improvement; negative net worth and not complying with Section 11(1) read with Section 56(h), 22(3)(a) and 22(3)(b) of the B.R. Act, 1949; the affairs of the bank being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interest of its present and future depositors.

(d) Yes, Sir. In the event of liquidation, reconstruction/amalgamation of an insured bank, every depositor of the bank is entitled to repayment of deposit held by him in the same right and same capacity in all branches of the bank upto a monetary ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh under the

deposit insurance cover provided by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

(e) and (f) An amount of Rs. 1212.75 crores has been disbursed on this account in the last three years. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(g) For improving the financial health of the SCBs and DCCBs, RBI periodically takes up the matter with State Government, requesting them to recapitalise these banks to the desired extent. As regards Urban Cooperative Banks, RBI has evolved a "Vision Document" to ensure that UCBS emerge as a sound and healthy network of jointly owned, democratically controlled and ethically managed banking institutions. RBI has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with five State Governments, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttaranchal. Consequently, State level task force for UCBS (TAFUCB) have been set up in all these states. Efforts are on to enter into MoU with a few more states. Further, RBI has issued guidelines for merger/amalgamation of UCBs, and has conveyed its no objection in respect of 17 merger proposals out of which 12 have been effected.

Statement

DICGC Claims settled (Year-wise/State-wise/ Bank-wise)

(Rupees In Lakh)

Year	State	No of Banks	Amount
1	2	3	4
2003-04	Andhra Pradesh	14	16996.74
	Gujarat	7	3196.26
	Haryana	1	300.47
	Karnataka	1	30.38
	Madhya Pradesh	2	2128.82
	Maharashtra	5	2081.67
	Tamil Nadu	1	331.68
	Total		25066.02

1	2	3	4
2004-06	Andhra Pradesh	2	119.64
	Gujarat	4	61038.51
	Maharashtra	2	683.97
	Orissa	1	98.00
Total			61940.12

2005-06	Andhra Pradesh	8	989.73
	Bihar	1	190.00
	Gujarat	19	29894.65
	Karnataka	1	233.77
	Madhya Pradesh	2	112.17
	Maharashtra	6	2655.20
	Rajasthan	1	47.88
	Uttaranchal	1	145.65
Total			34269.05
Grand Total			121275.19

DICGC Claims Settled In Gujarat—

2003-04		Amount
1		2
1	Shree Bhagyalaxmi Co-op. Bank Ltd., Gujarat	340.33
2	Ahmedabad Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd., Gujarat	331.09
3	Ahmedabad Urban Co-op. Bank Ltd., Gujarat	373.44
4	The Janata Commercial Co-op. Urban Bank Ltd. Ahmedabad Gujarat	411.26
5	Bhavnagar Welfare Co-op. Bank Ltd., Gujarat	355.08
6	Santram Co-op. Bank Ltd., Gujarat	1155.54
7	Palana Co-op. Urban Bank Ltd., Gujarat	229.52
Total		3196.26

1	2
2004-05	
1	Nayaka Mercantile Coop. Bank Ltd., Gujarat 255.31
2	General Coop. Bank Ltd Gujarat 7025.57
3	Charotar Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd. Gujarat 20039.27
4	Visnagar Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd. Gujarat 33718.36
Total 61038.61	

2005-06	
1	Baroda Peoples Coop. Bank, Baroda Gujarat 5619.85
2	The Coop. Bank of Umreth Gujarat 480.14
3	Shree Patni Coop. Jrbn Bank Ltd., Gujarat 839.26
4	The Classic Co-op. Bank Ltd., Surat Gujarat 57.26
5	Sabarmati CUBL, Gujarat 2345.63
6	Matar Nagrik Sah. Bank Ltd., Gujarat 145.33
7	Diamond Jubilee CBL, Gujarat 6063.44
8	Petlad Commercia CBL, Gujarat 676.24
9	Nadiad Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd. 2598.41
10	Shree Vikas Co-operative Bank Ltd., Gujarat 2129.12
11	Textile Processors CBL, Gujarat 535.56
12	Pragati Co-op Bank Ltd., Gujarat 1277.29
13	Ujavar Co-operative Bank Ltd., Gujarat 157.06
14	Sunav Nagrik Sahkari Bank Ltd., Gujarat 171.70
15	Shree Vithal CBL Gujarat 797.30
16	Suryapur CBL Surat Gujarat 5471.14
17.	Shri Sarvodaya CBL Ahmedabad 10.43

1	2
18. Petlad Nagrik Sahakari BL Gujarat	162.60
19. Shreenathji Co-operative Bank Ltd., Gujarat	356.89
Total	29894.65

[Translation]

Better Customer Services

*270. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the services offered to the customers by public sector-banks are deteriorating day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Indian Banks' Association have favoured a compensation policy to customers for deficiency of services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of such policy and efforts made by the Government to improve the working of these banks to ensure better customer services?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) Measures are taken on an ongoing basis for protection of customers rights, enhancing the quality of customer service and strengthening grievance redressal mechanism in banks. With effect from 1st January, 2006, a revised Banking Ombudsman Scheme for redressal of grievances of banking customers has been put in place. The scope of the scheme has been enlarged to cover customer complaints in areas such as levying service charges without prior notice to the customer and non-adherence to the fair practices code as adopted by individual banks, credit card complaints, deficiencies in providing the services assured by banks and banks' sales agents, etc.

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has formulated a Fair Practice Code for member banks to follow while dealing with individual customers which came into effect on 1st June 2004. Further, an independent Banking Codes and Standard Board of India has also been set up by the RBI in February, 2006 as an independent watchdog to ensure that banks deliver services in accordance with the Codes and Standards to which they have agreed.

[English]

National Nano-technology Development

*271. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scientists have demanded establishment of National nanotechnology development fund and biotechnology development fund under the control of autonomous management for development of these two hi-tech areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any suggestion has been received to set up a National Institute of Nanotechnology and Biotechnology on the pattern of IITs; and;

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) The scientists who attended the Knowledge Summit 2006 organized by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India at New Delhi in March 2006 recommended that a National Nanotechnology Development Fund and a National Biotechnology Development Fund be created under the control of an autonomous management for development of these two hi-tech areas. The recommendations of the summit were all encompassing and emphasized educational and HRD programmes, basic research, institution building, infrastructural support, industry-institution synergies, etc. in addition to emphasizing the funding aspects. They also suggested that new Indian Institutes of Nano Technology and Bio Technology (IINBTs) be created along the lines of Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) or the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

(d) In the area of Nano Science and Technology, the Government has major plans to launch a variety of educational and HRD programmes, R and D programmes, establish centres of excellence, promote institution-industry linked projects through increased public private partnerships, promoting entrepreneurship through establishment of business incubators, etc. as part of its Nano Science and Technology Mission. In the area of Biotechnology, the Government has already been running very successful PG programmes in a large number of institutions setting a benchmark for higher education in biotechnology in the country. The Government has also established a number of R and D institutions in biotechnology and, among other things, given a boost to public private partnerships in innovation through its Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI). A number of projects in Nanobiotechnology have also been funded for the development of novel platforms for diagnostic kits and delivery of biomolecules. The Government is committed to the development of Nano Technology and Bio Technology in a comprehensive fashion in the country and the novel suggestions made during the said Knowledge Summit would be useful while planning and implementing new programmes.

[Translation]

Power Grid Corporation

*272. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to sanction two projects of Power Grid Corporation as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated July 14, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed location of the projects;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Investment approvals have been issued for 'Western Region System Strengthening

Scheme-II' and the scheme for 'Transmission System associated with Parbati-III HEP' of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited in July, 2006.

The transmission lines under Western Region System Strengthening Scheme-II would traverse through the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. The project will facilitate drawal of power imported from other regions and its dispersal to various load centres of Western Region. It will also improve the reliability of the Western Region Grid. A part of the transmission system under this scheme is envisaged to be implemented through private sector participation. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 5221.23 Crore. The Scheme is scheduled to be implemented within 48 months from the date of investment approval.

The 'Transmission System associated with Parbati-III HEP' will facilitate evacuation of power from Parbati-III HEP of National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and its further dispersal to the beneficiaries of Northern Region. The transmission lines under this project will traverse through the States of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 557.24 Crore. The scheme is scheduled to be implemented within 42 months from the date of investment approval matching with the commissioning of generation project.

Interest Rates

*273. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI B. MAHTAB :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has increased the rate of interest on housing and consumer loans;

(b) if so, the extent to which the interest rate has been increased;

(c) the reasons which led to the increase of interest rate;

(d) whether the increase has adversely affected the Housing sector; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) The interest rates on loans given by banks have been deregulated vide RBI circular dated 17th October, 1994. The banks are free to determine the rate of interest. However, RBI has stipulated that interests on loans by Commercial Banks upto Rs. 2/- Lacs should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate.

Interest rates are market driven and before bringing any change, the following facts are generally kept in view by Banks :—

- (a) General credit off-take in banks
- (b) Bank's experience in managing loans
- (c) Bank's liquidity position
- (d) RBI policy
- (e) Prevailing interest rates within the banking system
- (f) Prevailing rate of inflation
- (g) Cost of funds

Some of the Public Sector Banks have reported that they have recently increased rates on home loans and consumer loans. The Banks are of the view that the increase in interest rates is marginal and no adverse effect on housing sector is foreseen.

[English]

Power Theft

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of pilferage of power by domestic/ industrial consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether efforts are being made by the Government to check this pilferage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (d) Government is aware of incidence of

theft and pilferages in the electricity distribution. However, since it is not possible to exactly assess the amount of theft in the system, the concept of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT and C) losses was introduced by the Ministry in 2001-02 to capture total losses, not only technical but also commercial including those on account of theft and pilferage, poor metering and billing and non-realization of dues.

AT and C loss for 2001-02 of the state power distribution utilities at national level was 38.18%, which came down to 33.82% during 2004-05.

Government has already started taking measures to reduce the AT and C losses including pilferage/theft. These are :—

(a) Technical Measures

- Installation of Efficient meters;
- Up gradation and strengthening of the weak distribution system;
- Increase in HT:LT Ratio;
- Relocation of distribution sub-stations and/or provision of additional distribution substations;
- Installation of lower capacity distribution transformers to serve a smaller number/ cluster of consumers and substitution of distribution transformers with those having lower non-load losses;

Installations of shunt capacitors;

Adoption of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS);

- Regular maintenance of distribution network;
- GIS mapping of sub-transmission and distribution network including compilation of data; and
- IT intervention.

(b) Commercial Measures

- Improvement in metering and billing;
- Improvement in revenue collection; and
- Energy accounting and auditing.

(c) Management Measures

- Adoption of energy accounting and auditing;
- Proper network planning for future expansion;
- Preparation of long-term plans on regular basis for phased strengthening and improvement of the distribution systems along with associated transmission system; and
- Training of employees.

(d) Policy Measures

- Setting up of vigilance and legal measures in accordance with Electricity Act 2003, setting up of special courts, police stations, etc.; and
- Implementation of the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for up-gradation and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system and providing incentive for reducing cash losses by SEBs/Utilities.

Under APDRP, 583 projects have been sanctioned with total cost of Rs. 19180.46 Crore, against which

Rs. 6306.86 Crore have been released by the Government.

11kV feeder metering has been completed to the extent of 96 per cent while consumer metering has been completed to the extent of 93 per cent.

Gas/Naphtha Based Power Projects

*275. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether electricity is being generated in several projects by using gas and Naphtha as fuel by the NTPC;

(b) if so, the names thereof alongwith the power generating capacity of each of them;

(c) the average installed capacity being utilized for generation of power in these projects annually;

(d) the annual average cost of generation of power in each of these projects;

(e) whether no permanent arrangements have been made for uninterrupted supply of gas/Naphtha as a fuel to these projects; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has seven combined cycle power plants using gas and/or Naphtha as fuel. The details are as under :—

Sl. No.	Power Plant	Fuel (Primary/ Secondary)	Installed Capacity (MW)	Average Capacity Utilization/Plant Load Factor(%) in 2005-06	Cost of Energy to beneficiaries in 2005-06 (Rs./Kwh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Anta Gas Power Project (GPP)	Gas/Naphtha	413	76.5	2.41
2.	Auraiya GPP	Gas/Naphtha	652	73.7	2.74
3.	Dadri GPP	Gas/HSD*	817	74.2	2.81
4.	Kawas GPP	Gas/Naphtha	645	50.2	4.31

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Jhanor Gandhar GPP	Gas	648	77.8	2.25
6.	Faridabad GPP	Gas/Naphtha	430	78.1	2.28
7.	Rajiv Gandhi (Kayamkulam) Combined Cycle Power Project (RGCCPP)	Naphtha	350	11.4	9.41#

The high cost of RGCCPP is on account of low schedule and generation.

* High Speed Diesel.

(e) and (f) NTPC Ltd. has been given a gas linkage (under Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) for 13.74 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres per Day (MMSCMD) and out of this, contracted quantity with Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is 12.93 MMSCMD. However, against this, actual gas supplies to NTPC's gas projects is as under :—

Period	2005-06	April, 06 to July, 06
Gas supply in MMSCMD	9.61	10.24

To partly mitigate shortage of gas supplies to its gas power projects, NTPC Ltd. made additional gas tie ups [Panna-Mukta-Tapti (PMT)] Gas and Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) from GAIL, gas from Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) and RLNG from Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). Out of these additional gas tie-ups of 4.2 MMSCMD, the additional quantity of gas received during 2005-06 is 1.3 MMSCMD and during April, 2006 to July, 2006 is 0.74 MMSCMD.

Further, NTPC Ltd. has recently entered into short duration contracts for procurement of spot RLNG from GAIL, BPCL, IOCL and Hazira LNG Pvt. Ltd. The current tied up quantities of spot RLNG on different suppliers is given below :—

Supplier	Quantity (MMSCM) (approx.)
1	2
GAIL	100
IOCL	18

1	2
BPCL	25
Hazira LNG	280

Against these short-term tie-ups from June, 2006 onwards, NTPC has received 2.90 MMSCMD during June, 2006 and 3.33 MMSCMD during July, 2006.

Global Positioning System

*276 SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country has developed the Global Positioning System for application in the Surface Transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it helps the drivers in avoiding accidents especially on the National Highways and the State Highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is working on National Spatial Data Infrastructure, alongwith the GPS; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The Global Positioning System (GPS) is an equipment which is now freely available in the market. In conjunction with digital maps, GPS can be put to various uses in surface transport. The Survey of India, under this Ministry has prepared Large Scale Digital Maps for 7

metros with this end in view and same are awaiting the clearance by the Ministry of Defence.

(b) The primary function of a GPS is to determine the position (Latitude and Longitude) of any place by linking with artificial satellites. This is very useful for ships and boats in oceans and also for vehicles on roads. Once the position of a place is known accurately, it will help people to know shortest routes or alternate routes for destinations or public utilities by using digital maps.

(c) No, Sir, use of GPS by itself can't help drivers in avoiding accidents.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir, the Government have recently approved constitution of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and the Government of India Resolution to this effect will be gazetted shortly. The NSDI in as much as it is based on widely accepted standards, shall be compatible with GPS.

Houses to Landless Families

*277. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has identified or proposes to identify the landless rural families who are living below the poverty line for allotment of houses under various housing schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of such families as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether the number of such families has increased during the last three years and the current year;

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

(e) the number of houses allotted/to be allotted to them under various housing schemes during the said period alongwith funds allocated for the purpose, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the pace of construction of houses and their immediate allotment to such families?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (f) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) Scheme under which financial assistance is provided to the shelterless rural BPL households for construction of a dwelling unit. The houses are constructed by the beneficiaries normally on their own plot. However, in case the selected beneficiary does not have a plot of land, it is for the State Government/Gram Panchayat concerned to provide a plot to such beneficiary selected under IAY.

The funds under IAY, are allocated to the States/UTs based on the poverty ratio and the housing shortage. At present, the housing shortage figures provided by the Registrar General of India based on 2001 Census, is being used for the purpose. State-wise rural housing shortage as per this information, is given in Statement-I enclosed. State-wise Central funds allocated and the houses constructed during the last three years and the current year, are given in Statement-II enclosed.

Under Indira Aawas Yojana Scheme, the houses are constructed by the beneficiaries themselves with the financial assistance provided by the Government and no Government Department or outside agency is involved in construction work. Funds are released to the beneficiaries in two or three instalments depending upon the progress of construction.

Statement-I

*Statewise Housing Shortage in Rural Areas provided
by the Registrar General of India based
on 2001 Census*

(Unit in Nos.)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/ UTs	Housing Shortage in Rural Areas
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	1350282

1	2	3	1	2	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	105728	20.	Mizoram	30250
3.	Assam	2241230	21.	Nagaland	97157
4.	Bihar	4210293	22.	Orissa	655617
5.	Chandigarh	1232	23.	Punjab	75374
6.	Chhattisgarh	115528	24.	Rajasthan	258634
7.	Delhi	7200	25.	Sikkim	11944
8.	Goa	6422	26.	Tamil Nadu	431010
9.	Gujarat	674354	27.	Tripura	174835
10.	Haryana	55572	28.	Uttar Pradesh	1324028
11.	Himachal Pradesh	15928	29.	Uttaranchal	53521
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	92923	30.	West Bengal	974479
13.	Jharkhand	105867	31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	17890
14.	Karnataka	436638	32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1926
15.	Kerala	261347	33.	Daman and Diu	787
16.	Madhya Pradesh	207744	34.	Lakshadweep	190
17.	Maharashtra	612441	35.	Pondicherry	7778
18.	Manipur	69062			
19.	Meghalaya	148657			
			Total		14833868

Statement-II

Statement showing state-wise funds allocated and number of houses constructed/upgraded under the Indira Aawas Yojana during last three years and current year i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

(Rs in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Funds allocated				No. of Houses constructed/upgraded			
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07#
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13669.37	17981.83	24399.42	25939.14	105295	126039	132521	5191
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	627.75	825.98	949.43	1018.68	6646	4162	5327	202
3.	Assam	14124.59	18584.99	20994.23	22525.46	78752	129495	104353	11353
4.	Bihar	37131.83	48846.34	72020.72	76565.57	183792	252026	331651	22923

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	2337.51	3074.96	3773.17	4011.28	18302	20134	26578	572
6.	Goa	88.32	116.18	150.28	159.77	233	428	615	20
7.	Gujarat	3928.46	5167.82	11966.03	12721.14	31189	33654	65602	6116
8.	Haryana	1328.34	1747.40	1680.04	1786.06	9175	8845	9743	700
9.	Himachal Pradesh	587.66	773.06	592.56	629.95	3841	4749	3031	54
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	702.96	924.74	1840.52	1956.67	8412	7252	8231	249
11.	Jharkhand	10909.67	14351.50	6423.93	6829.31	60290	66081	75403	NR
12.	Karnataka	7070.71	9301.41	9400.43	9993.64	49833	50707	56944	9494
13.	Kerala	4381.56	5763.87	5227.51	5557.39	39825	39831	36413	2848
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8157.24	10730.71	7504.14	7977.69	65768	75365	59420	7036
15.	Maharashtra	12545.56	16503.47	14714.56	15643.12	103135	105449	94054	5277
16.	Manipur	748.47	984.83	824.15	884.26	1666	5820	4962	NR
17.	Meghalaya	994.44	1308.47	1435.38	1540.07	6465	4665	6678	213
18.	Mizoram	238.73	314.12	305.89	328.20	2202	2052	2182	NR
19.	Nagaland	641.95	844.67	949.84	1019.11	5966	5099	7949	1454
20.	Orissa	11004.35	14476.04	14149.75	15042.66	154205	89891	87070	4617
21.	Punjab	879.95	1157.56	2077.71	2208.83	6050	4460	7868	554
22.	Rajasthan	3706.70	4876.10	6013.11	6392.56	41888	31070	38471	2269
23.	Sikkim	172.10	226.45	181.66	194.91	2041	1584	1296	389
24.	Tamil Nadu	6864.39	9030.00	9768.97	10385.44	57069	58687	66434	183
25.	Tripura	1451.97	1910.49	1849.42	1984.31	15003	12132	11902	593
26.	Uttar Pradesh	25028.00	32923.88	32348.75	34390.12	190950	199096	185541	7407
27.	Uttaranchal	2599.55	3419.68	1621.77	1724.11	21666	26376	21722	580
28.	West Bengal	14752.84	19407.12	19518.40	20750.10	90601	155598	99259	6849
29.	Anadaman and Nicobar Islands	166.27	218.73	309.46	328.99	671	337	90	NR
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	87.26	114.78	51.56	54.82	14	108	101	13
31.	Daman and Diu	36.12	47.51	23.07	24.52	7	9	6	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
32. Lakhshadweep		283	3.72	20.00	21.26	14	16	48	33
33. Pondicherry		82.55	108.59	154.14	163.86	264	88	238	NR
Total		187050.00	246067.00	273240.00	290753.00	1361230	1521305	1551703	97190

Position as on 7-8-2006

NR – Not Reported

[Translation]

Companies Raided by DGCEI

*278. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of raids were conducted by the Director General of Customs and Excise Intelligence (DGCEI) in various States during the last two years;

(b) the revenue collected therefrom; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make revenue intelligence more effective?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The total number of searches conducted by Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence in various states in the last two financial years is as follows :-

Year	No. of searches
2004-05	317
2005-06	327

The state-wise and year-wise break up of the number of searches conducted by Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The revenue collected there from is as follows :

Year	Revenue collected from cases at 'a' above (Rs. in Crores)
2004-05	82.47
2005-06	85.46

(c) Steps are continuously being taken to strengthen and enhance the anti-evasion efforts of the Department. Steps taken include :-

- Developing strategic intelligence regarding evasion prone commodities and units.
- Dissemination of intelligence by issue of Modus Operandi circulars.
- Strengthening the informer network.
- Booking of cases involving similar modus operandi of evasion in other units.
- Concentrating on cases having large revenue stakes and/or those having recurring effect.

Statement

2004-05

State	No. of Companies Searched
1	2
Karnataka	20
Kerala	2
Goa	5
Delhi	11
Uttar Pradesh	8
Punjab	17
Haryana	4
Rajasthan	4
Jammu and Kashmir	2

1	2
Tamil Nadu	26
Andhra Pradesh	13
Gujarat	87
Madhya Pradesh	17
Maharashtra	30
Chhattisgarh	8
U.T. of Daman and Silvassa	3
Meghalaya	2
West Bengal	37
Orissa	14
Jharkhand	3
Assam	2
U.T. of Dadra Nagar and Haveli	1
Himachal Pradesh	1
Total	317

2005-06

State	No. of Companies Searched
1	2
Karnataka	27
Kerala	2
Haryana	6
Delhi	26
Uttar Pradesh	4
Punjab	18
Rajasthan	5
Tamil Nadu	30
Andhra Pradesh	13

1	2
Gujarat	40
Madhya Pradesh	13
Maharashtra	43
Chhattisgarh	5
Goa	2
U.T. of Daman and Silvassa	5
West Bengal	73
Orissa	10
Jharkhand	1
Tripura	1
Assam	2
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Total	327

Investment by Financial Institutions

*279. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether crores of rupees have been invested in various companies owned by major industrial houses of the country by the financial institutions, particularly Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and the same has been shown as non-performing assets;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of all Scheduled Commercial Banks as on March 31, 2005 stood at Rs. 58,901 crore of which the top ten defaulter companies owed Rs. 3,908 crore to Banks/FIs. As on March 31, 2006 in case of IDBI Ltd., the four major industrial houses accounted for Rs. 405

crore of NPAs out of total NPAs of Rs. 1,116 crore. In the banks as a whole, however, NPAs as ratio of total advances has declined consistently as shown in the Table below :—

Year	Gross NPA/Advances	Net NPA/Advances
2001-02	10.4	5.5
2002-03	8.8	4.4
2003-04	7.2	2.9
2004-05	5.2	2

In 2005-06 the provisional figures of Gross NPAs to Gross Advances in the Public Sector Banks is 3.85% and net NPAs to net Advances is 1.44%.

(c) Corrective measures taken in this regard, inter-alia, include :—

1. Banks have strengthened risk management systems by putting in place institutional framework for identifying, monitoring and management of credit risk.
2. The Management Committee and the Board of Directors of banks are periodically reviewing the top 300 NPA accounts and NPA accounts of Rs. 1 crore and above respectively.
3. A scheme of Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) for restructuring of corporate debts has been put in place.
4. Public Sector Banks are expected to have a plan of action for expeditious recovery of NPAs.
5. Banks are effecting larger number of compromise settlements through the forum of Lok Adalats.
6. The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002" has been enacted empowering Banks for speedy recovery of overdue loans.

7. Public Sector Banks have been advised to give due attention to write off smaller NPA accounts, and indicated a time bound plan of action to clean up at least those NPA accounts where the borrowing is less than Rs. 50,000/-.

[English]

Compensation for Oustees of Thermal Power Projects

*280. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large number of cases of rehabilitation and compensation claims are pending for disposal in different projects of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof, projects-wise and State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (c) Land required for setting up of the NTPC projects is acquired by the respective State Governments as per the Land Acquisition Act (LA Act) and the compensation decided by the respective State Governments is deposited by NTPC with the State Governments for further disbursement to entitled individuals. In exceptional cases where the individuals do not turn up for collection of their compensation money or else there is some dispute with respect to legal heir etc., the compensation amount is deposited with the Treasury by the State Government, pending resolution. In cases where the affected person(s) approaches the courts claiming for enhancement of compensation amounts as decided by the State Government, the compensation amount is released by the State Government as per the Court's verdict and the additional amount, if any, requisitioned by the State Government is deposited by NTPC with the State Government. As and when the State Governments have requisitioned NTPC for the compensation money, the same has been deposited with them.

As regards the Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R and R) of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) is concerned, NTPC formulates Rehabilitation Action Plans (RAPs) as per provisions of its R and R policy since 1993 in consultation with and participation of the all stakeholders viz. representatives of PAPs, Gram Panchayat, State Government etc. for each of its plants. The RAPs not only consist of individual resettlement and rehabilitation benefits, if any, but also community development

activities, welfare activities etc. proposed for the PAPs. These RAPs have a specified budget for various activities and are implemented in a time bound manner with the active participation of all the stakeholders including the State Government and the representatives of PAPs.

The status of implementation of RAPs formulated for various projects since 1993 is given below:—

Sl. No	Project	State	RAP Status
1.	Kayamkulam	Kerala	Completed and closed
2.	Rihand II (Ash Dyke area)	Uttar Pradesh	Completed and closed
3.	Unchahar II (Ash Dyke area)	Uttar Pradesh	Completed and closed
4.	Auraiya II	Uttar Pradesh	Completed and closed
5.	Vindhyachal II (Ash Dyke area)	Madhya Pradesh	Completed and closed
6.	Faridabad	Haryana	Completed and closed
7.	Simhadri	Andhra Pradesh	Completed and closed
8.	Korba (Ash Dyke area)	Chhattisgarh	Completed and closed
9.	Sipat	Chhattisgarh	Under implementation
10.	Barh	Bihar	Under implementation
11.	Anta II	Rajasthan	Under implementation
12.	Kol Dam	Himachal Pradesh	Under implementation
13.	Talcher Kaniha	Orissa	Under implementation
14.	Talcher Thermal (Ash Dyke area)	Orissa	Under formulation
15.	Loharinag Pala	Uttaranchal	Under implementation
16.	Tapovan Vishnugad	Uttaranchal	Under implementation
17.	North Karanpura	Jharkhand	Under formulation

Notwithstanding the rehabilitation and compensation being provided, being a socially committed organization and a socially responsible corporate citizen, NTPC attaches great importance not only to Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R and R) of the

Project Affected Persons (PAPs) but also to the community and the society at large where its projects and stations are located. The details of land oustees project-wise/State-wise are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of Land Oustees as per R and R Policy of NTPC

Sl. No.	Project	State	Target persons (Land oustees)	Homestead (Houses affected)	R and R Expenditure/ RAP Budget (Rs in lacs)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Kayamkulam	Kerala	2244	62	710	R and R closed in March 2001.
2.	Rihand II (Ash dyke area)	Uttar Pradesh	182	118	369	R and R closed in Dec. 2001.
3.	Unchahar II (Ash dyke area)	Uttar Pradesh	480	NIL	326	R and R closed in March 2004.
4.	Auraiya II	Uttar Pradesh	102	NIL	81	R and R closed in March 2005. No individual R and R benefits. Only community development activities (CD).
5.	Vindhyachal II (Ash dyke area)	Madhya Pradesh	1152	384	1994	R and R closed in Dec. 2001.
6.	Faridabad	Haryana	97	07	192	R and R closed in Sept. 2002. No individual R and R benefits. Only community development activities (CD).
7.	Simhadri	Andhra Pradesh	2577	71	Negotiated settlement at the time of release of compensation money @ Rs 2.25 lac per acre inclusive of R and R benefits	R and R closed in June 2005. In addition, Rs. 574 lacs spent on CD activities.
8.	Korba (Ash dyke area)	Chhattisgarh	490	NIL	327	R and R closed in July 2002.
9.	Sipat	Chhattisgarh	2197	31	RAP approved for Rs. 3525 lac	Under implementation since August 2000.
10.	Barh	Bihar	List being finalized	NIL	RAP approved for Rs. 3600 lac for plant and ash dyke area	Under implementation since March 2005.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. Anta II	Rajasthan	331	26	RAP approved for Rs. 230 lac	Under implementation since March 2000 No individual R and R benefits. Only community development activities (CD).	
12. Kol Dam	Himachal Pradesh	1085	448	RAP approved for Rs. 2896 lac	Under implementation since June 2003.	
13. Talcher Kaniha	Orissa	1593	144	2073	All activities completed except provision of jobs to some balance persons.	
14. Talcher Thermal (Ash dyke area)	Orissa	List being finalized	NIL	—	Under formulation.	
15. Tapovan Vishnugad	Uttaranchal	List being finalized	List being finalized	Negotiated settlement at the time of release of compensation money @ Rs. 20 lac per acre inclusive of R and R benefits	As desired by villagers, the State Government has agreed for negotiated settlement. Under implementation. However CD plan under formulation.	
16. Loharinag Pala	Uttaranchal	List being finalized	List being finalized	Negotiated settlement at the time of release of compensation money @ Rs. 20 lac per acre inclusive of R and R benefits	As desired by villagers, the State Government has agreed for negotiated settlement. Under implementation. However CD plan under formulation.	
17. North Karanpura	Bihar	List being finalized	List being finalized	—	Under formulation.	

Eligibility for Subsidy

2051. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up any criterion and institutional mechanism to identify the priority sections eligible for subsidies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the benefits of subsidies have gone to non-priority sections;

(d) if so, the extra expenditure incurred on that account;

(e) whether Government proposes to rationalise the subsidy regime to reduce the subsidy bill; and

(f) if so, the main elements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) mandates the Government to target all subsidies to the poor and truly needy sections of the society. In pursuance of this mandate, Government has submitted a report on subsidies to the Parliament. This Report was discussed in a meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance on February 8, 2005. Based on wider discussions with stakeholders and after due consultations, a policy on targeting subsidies, mainly explicit subsidies on food, fertiliser and petroleum, would be evolved.

(c) and (d) While food subsidies are designed to be targeted to people below the poverty line, the other two subsidies, namely, fertiliser and petroleum are universal subsidies available to all consumers. Many reviews and evaluation studies have pointed out that even in the case of food subsidies, benefits have accrued to the non-needy sections as well, apart from illegal diversion of foodgrains to the market. Government has not quantified the extra expenditure on account of such diversion as much of these are clandestine activities and any estimate would be somewhat subjective.

(e) and (f) Providing minimum consumption entitlements to the poor by subsidizing the essential items consumed by them is an extremely important welfare dimension. Subsidies can correct the underconsumption of goods with positive externalities. While the Government is committed to fulfilling its welfare obligation, the present efforts are directed at ensuring that the benefits of subsidies are maximized by making them transparent, well-designed and targeted.

Revision of Vulnerability Map

2052. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in Tamil Nadu which are classified as more serious vulnerability zones and milder zones as per Seismic Hazard Map;

(b) whether the union government proposes to revise the vulnerability Map; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Bureau of Indian Standards [IS 1893 (Part I):2002], based on various scientific inputs, from India Meteorological Department, Geological Survey of India etc., has grouped the country into four seismic zones (Zone II to IV) depending upon the seismic vulnerability viz. low moderate, severe and very severe. As per the seismic zoning map, areas of Tamil Nadu fall under Zone II and III. Name of the important places of Tamil Nadu falling in Zone III and II are as flows :—

Sl. No.	Zone III (Moderate)	Zone II (Low)
1.	Chennai	Erode
2.	Coimbatore	Dindigul
3.	Cuddalore	Madurai
4.	Kanchipuram	Virudunagar
5.	Kalapakkam	Tuticorin
6.	Tiruvanammalai	Thiruchirappali
7.	Salem	Ariyalur
8.		Thiruvaeur
9.		Thanjavur
10.		Perambalur

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) standard has constituted a committee to revise the Zonation map and the committee is deliberating on the subject.

Committee on Service Tax Norms

2053. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up any Committee to suggest norms for simplification of Service Tax Procedure;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report and its major recommendations thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement its recommendations in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) It has been decided by the Government to appoint circulars, instructions, clarifications issued in recommendations on specific issues in service tax requiring clarification.

(b) He has been asked to submit his Report by 15.09.2006.

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

District Poverty Initiatives Programme

2054. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has inspected and assessed the ongoing projects to uplift the standard of living of the villagers of backward districts of Karnataka under District Poverty Initiatives Programme (DPIP);

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the Government are considering to seek more assistance from the World Bank for extending the projects in Karnataka and in other States; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is currently no World Bank assisted project on District Poverty Initiatives Programme (DPIP) in Karnataka.

(c) and (d) A Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project with World Bank assistance is currently under implementation and two projects for improving Rural Livelihoods are under preparation, one each in the States of Bihar and Orissa. Other States will be taken up as and when they send their proposals.

Expert Committee on PSBs

2055. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an "Expert Committee" under the Chairmanship of Shri M. Narasimham has been set up in 1992 to suggest improvement in the working of public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith main recommendations;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up another Expert Committee to examine the drawbacks of Government Micro-Management of public sector banks and for giving them autonomy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) A Committee on the Financial System under the Chairmanship of Shri M. Narasimham was constituted in August, 1991 which submitted its report to the Government in November, 1991. Reform initiatives taken pursuant to the Committee's recommendations include reduction in Statutory Liquidity Ratio and Cash Reserve Ratio, simplification of interest rate structure, positioning of norms in respect of capital adequacy, income recognition and provisioning requirements, revision of balance sheet and profit and loss formats for ensuring greater transparency, revision of Reserve Bank of India guidelines for branch licencing, measures aimed at liberalization of the capital market, vesting of Securities Exchange Board of India with statutory powers, equal treatment of various Mutual Funds in the area of tax concessions etc.

(c) and (d) At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Permission for Multistorey Flats

2056. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has any such scheme to construct multistorey apartment in order to make available housing facilities at cheaper rates to poor people in new Master Plan-2021; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The draft Master Plan for Delhi 2021 envisages resettlement of slum and JJ dwellers in built-up accommodation, adopting, to the extent possible, the concept of land as a resource, to develop such accommodation with private sector participation.

Government has accorded in principle approval to DDA to take up a pilot project with private sector participation at Tehkhand for construction of multi-storeyed tenements for slum dwellers. An area of about 16 hectares of land has been identified for the purpose, for providing about 3200 EWS tenements for relocation of slum dwellers.

[English]

Computerisation of Land Records

2057.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any requests from certain States particularly Karnataka for release of second instalment of funds pertaining to computerisation of land records during the last three years and current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas for which the assistance had been sought, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the funds are likely to be released to the affected States?

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 Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) is a demand-driven scheme in which funds are not released in instalments. The proposals received from the State Governments are examined and funds released, keeping in view the budget provision under the scheme, physical progress and utilisation of funds released earlier. As per guidelines of the scheme, funds are provided for undertaking data entry work, setting up of computer centres at tehsil/taluk and sub-divisional levels, monitoring cell at the State level and imparting training to revenue officials. As the States take up these activities in phases, funds are provided on year-to-year basis as per the proposals received. The position of funds released to the States and Union Territories under the scheme during the last three years and current year is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Release of funds under the Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Funds Released (Rs. in lakh)			
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh		531.50	506.45	
2.	Assam			542.50	
3.	Bihar		100.00	264.46	
4.	Gujarat	372.50	495.00		
5.	Haryana			843.76	
6.	Himachal Pradesh	81.40	438.00	326.00	
7.	Karnataka	389.50	497.40		
8.	Kerala			305.90	

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Madhya Pradesh	542.50	286.30	388.00	
10.	Maharashtra	826.54	296.00	787.60	
11.	Manipur			88.35	
12.	Mizoram	20.00		127.00	
13.	Nagaland		15.00	20.00	
14.	Orissa	277.00	230.00	599.40	93.22
15.	Rajasthan			1332.20	
16.	Sikkim	82.70		10.00	
17.	Tamil Nadu	406.50	605.20	200.21	666.65
18.	Tripura		148.00		
19.	Uttar Pradesh			1561.99	
20.	West Bengal		355.00	870.20	
21.	Chhattisgarh		164.00	459.60	
22.	Jharkhand	547.20			
23.	Uttaranchal		400.60	653.44	820.51
24.	Pondicherry	31.35		37.00	
Total		3577.19	4562.00	9924.06	1580.38

*(upto 30.6.2006)

Bio-fuel from Herbs

2058.SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether researchers in the country have invented alternative source of automotive bio-fuel extracted from herbs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the trials up-to-date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) to (c) The process of producing bio-diesel from vegetable oils extracted from the seeds of

herbs, shrubs and trees through the process of transesterification, is well established. Bio-diesel can be used as blends upto 20% with petroleum diesel fuel in the automotive sector without any significant modification in the existing engines. However, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have sponsored R and D projects to some leading R and D institutions to optimize process parameters for production of bio-diesel from non-edible vegetable oils such as *Jatropha curcas* and *Pongamia pinnata*, and conduct trials for their use in the automotive sector.

Indo Mauritius DTAT

2059.SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of terms and conditions of the existing Indo-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty (DTAT) agreement;

(b) whether the Government plans to review the Treaty with Mauritius;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) aims at eliminating double taxation of the same income in both Mauritius and India. The salient provisions of the DTAC are :-

(i) Article, 7 – The business profits of an enterprise of one state are taxable in the other state only if it has a Permanent Establishment in the other state.

(ii) Article 10 and Article 12 – The withholding tax rates in the state of source for Dividends and Royalties are as follows :-

(a) 5 % of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company which holds directly at least 10% of the capital of the company paying the dividends, and 15% of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

(b) 15 % of the gross amount of the royalties.

(iii) Article 13 – Capital Gains on alienation of immovable property are taxable where the property is situated. Capital Gains on sale of shares of a company are taxable in the country of residence of the investor.

(iv) Article 8 – Profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic are taxable only in the state in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is located.

(v) Article 23 – Elimination of Double Taxation is through the credit method. Credit for the tax paid

on income in the state of source is to be given against the tax payable on such income in the state of residence.

(b) Various options are being considered and are under discussion with the Government of Mauritius.

(c) The Central Board of Direct Taxes in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance has made consistent efforts over a period of time to revisit the India – Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC). Government is discussing with the Government of Mauritius the possibilities of strengthening the mechanism for Exchange of Information on tax matters between India and Mauritius and also incorporate appropriate provisions in the DTAC for prevention of 'treaty shopping'.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply at (c).

Standards for Safe Drinking Water

2060. SHRI NAVIN JINDAL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT please to state :

(a) whether the World Health Organization has laid down standards for safe drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these standards are followed by the Government to provide safe drinking water to the people; and

(d) if so, the extent to which success achieved in applying these standards?

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) The World Health Organization has provided guidelines primarily addressed to water and health regulators, policy makers and their advisors, to assist in the development of national standards. As per the guidelines of National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme, all the States and UTs were asked to follow the IS-10500 Standard laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

[Translation]

One Time Settlement Scheme

2061. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases disposed of by co-operative banks under the OTS scheme, bank-wise; and

(b) the total amount of loss incurred by co-operative 'nationalized' banks as a result of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) 98151 accounts have been settled under One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme amounting to Rs. 298.94 crores by Cooperative Banks other than Urban Cooperative Banks, in the country. In case of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs), the present system of reporting to Reserve Bank of India, does not capture data on settlement of OTS cases. By the mechanism of OTS, banks have been able to recover large sums of money.

[English]

Pending Cases with New India Assurance Company

2062. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some claims of stolen shares are pending with the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai during the year 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for their pendency;

(c) whether the securities companies have submitted the findings of FIR to the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai;

(d) if so, whether the said securities companies have; also taken action against the employees found guilty;

(e) whether the New India Assurance Company Limited has refused to give claim in spite of their employees were not found guilty by the Mumbai police;

(f) if so, the reason for denying such claims by Assurance Companies; and

(g) the corrective measures taken by the Government and the New India Assurance Company Limited to clear the said pending claims without further delay to give the relief to the claimants?

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

Fine on Bank of Baroda

2063. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has imposed a fine of rupees five lakh on the Bank of Baroda;

(b) if so, the reasons for imposing the fine;

(c) whether any official of the Bank held responsible for this act; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the official found responsible for this act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs. 5 lacs on Bank of Baroda for not computing its Demand and Time Liabilities (DTL)/Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) properly for the purpose of maintaining Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)/Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) during the period April, 1999 to March, 2002.

(c) The calculation/re-calculation of NDTL for the captioned period was done four times by different teams by adopting different approaches but the results obtained were inconsistent and inconclusive in view of the inadequacy of previous accounting system to capture and segregate such data. Further, the Bank has represented to the Reserve Bank of India in this matter as the error was unintentional and the Bank has an unblemished record of compliance with the regulator. Hence, no official of the Bank has been held responsible in this matter.

(d) Does not arise.

Khanna Committee Report on Housing

2064. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) may be stripped off its powers to provide housing for the poor as well as lower and middle income groups as per Khanna Committee Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has selected any new agency to provide houses to lower and middle income group people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) In its Report submitted to Government on 13.5.2006, the Tejendra Khanna Committee has made certain recommendations in respect of a change in the role of Delhi Development Authority, including aspects relating to its planning functions, housing activities, monitoring mechanism and regulatory role. It has been decided to take a view on the matter in consultation with the authorities concerned.

(c) and (d) In view of reply to (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Disinvestment of NTPC

2065. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of shares owned by the Government in the various Government undertakings, PSU-wise;

(b) the percentage of shares given to public in the IPO, PSU-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to further disinvest NTPC through public offer, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The information on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is compiled every year in the Public Enterprises Survey by the Department of Public Enterprises. As per available information in the Public Enterprises Survey 2004-05, which was laid in the Parliament in March, 2006 and is a published document, the total equity in 237 CPSEs was Rs. 1,17,787 crore. Out of this, the share of Central Government was Rs. 98,312 crore which is 83.47%. The enterprise-wise details of equity held by Central Government and other parties are given in Statement 17 of Vol. 1 of the Public Enterprises Survey 2004-05.

(b) Information relating to the percentage of shares given to the public in the Initial Public Offerings (IPO), PSU-wise is not maintained in the Department of Public Enterprises, which is the nodal Department.

(c) No decision has been taken by the Government to further disinvest in NTPC through a public offer.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Realization of Export Value

2066. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether every exporter is required to realize and repatriate full export value of goods within six months from the date of export;

(b) whether substantial amount of export proceeds are pending realization beyond permissible period of 180 days; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) measures taken for realization of the outstanding export proceeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, followings units are permitted to realize and repatriate the value of export proceeds within 12 months from the date of export.

(i) 'Status Holder' as defined in the Foreign Trade Policy; and

- (ii) 100% EOUs set up under Electronic Hardware Technology parks, Software Technology Parks and Biotechnology parks.

No period of realization of export proceeds is prescribed for units located in Special Economic Zones.

(b) and (c) Based on the data as reported by authorized dealers, RBI has informed that for half year ending December 31, 2005, the amount of export outstanding beyond 6 months is Rs. 20,866.47 crores. This constitutes 4.1% of total exports valued at Rs. 4,98,124 crores as per Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI and S) data for the corresponding period.

(d) In the Case of non-realization of export proceeds for the exports effected by availing export promotion schemes administered by the DGFT, the offices of the DGFT initiate necessary proceedings against the exporters for recovery of duty exemption/neutralization benefit availed and imposition of penalty, if any, in terms of the provisions of FT(D and R) Act, 1992 and the Policy and procedures laid thereunder. If the defaulting firm does not pay the same, the Adjudicating Authority declares the firm defaulter, thereby suspending all export benefits to the firm and the Importer-Exporter Code Number of the applicant is suspended/cancelled by the DGFT. In addition, steps are taken for its recovery as an arrear of Land Revenue through the State government machinery.

The RBI has also directed Authorized dealers/Banks to monitor realization of export bills and take up systematically and vigorously with the concerned exporter where bills remain outstanding beyond the due date. The matter is also required to be reported to the concerned regional offices of the RBI.

Quality of Medical Devices

2067. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a regulatory authority to ensure manufacturing and maintenance of medical equipments and devices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for setting-up of an exclusive regulatory authority to monitor or ensure manufacture and maintenance of medical equipments and devices in the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Capital Gains Bonds Window for NABARD

2068. DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to consider to reopen the 'Capital Gains Bonds Window for NABARD';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to consider to exempt NABARD from Corporate Income Tax; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Hydro Power Projects

2069. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Nepal are jointly working on some of the Hydro Power Projects on the rivers flowing from Nepal to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the said projects; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India and Nepal are jointly working on some of the Hydro Power Projects on the rivers flowing from Nepal to India. Five major projects having hydro electric component namely, Karnali Multi-purpose Project, Pancheshwar Multi-purpose Project, Sapta Kosi High Dam Multi-purpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme, Burhi Gandaki Hydroelectric project and Upper Karnali Hydroelectric project are under discussion at various levels. The details of these projects are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) These projects can be taken up for implementation only after preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), if these are found techno-economically viable and after mutual agreements are signed between the two countries.

Statement

Details of Hydro Power Projects in Nepal

(i) Karnali Multi-Purpose Project :

This project is proposed on Karnali river in Nepal known as the Ghaghra in India. Feasibility report of Karnali Multi-Purpose project was got prepared by Government of Nepal from foreign consultants, M/s. Himalayan Power Consultants (HPC) in 1989. Discussions have been held between two Governments and various key parameters are yet to be mutually agreed.

(ii) Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project :

Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is proposed on river Mahakali known as Sarda in India and is covered under integrated Mahakali Treaty signed between Government of Nepal and India in February, 1996. The draft Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared by Central Water Commission (CWC) which is yet to be agreed to by the Government of Nepal.

(iii) Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project (3300 MW) and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme :

Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme is proposed to be located on the Kosi river near Kurule in Nepal. The

project would provide irrigation and flood control benefits in Bihar and also power generation of which major portion would be available to India. Feasibility report on the project was prepared by CWC in 1981. Joint Project Office has been established at Birat Nagar on 17.8.2004 for survey and investigation and preparation of DPR.

(iv) Burhi Gandaki Hydroelectric Project (600 MW) :

Burhi Gandaki H.E. Project is proposed to be located in mid-western Nepal near Benighat on Burhi Gandak river, a tributary of Gandak. The work of field investigations/preparation of DPR is proposed to be entrusted to WAPCOS.

(v) Upper Karnali HE Project (300 MW) :

The Upper Karnali HE project is a run of the river project proposed to be located on river Karnali in Western part of Nepal. Feasibility Study Report for Upper Karnali Hydroelectric Project was prepared by Canadian International Water and Energy Consultants (CIWEC). Possibility of development of Upper Karnali Project by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) as an Independent Power Producer (IPP) is under discussion.

World Bank Survey

2070.SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recent survey conducted by the World Bank revealed wide spread irregularities in the public services in our country;

(b) if so, the facts given in survey of World Bank;

(c) the response of the Government on survey of World Bank; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken on the basis of survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) The World Bank's recent publication "India-Inclusive Growth and Service Delivery: Building on India's Success",

while commending India for being increasingly successful in electoral democracy and becoming the fourth largest economy in the world in purchasing power parity terms, also, inter alia, dwells upon the challenges of improving service delivery and expanding the benefits of rapid growth across sectors, regions and people.

(c) and (d) Improvement of service delivery is a continuous process. Government of India consistently draws upon past experience and available knowledge to improve service delivery of its development schemes, so as to achieve maximum impact on the poor through strengthened mechanisms, like Outcome Budget, for enhancing performance, accountability and monitoring.

[English]

Loan from PFC/REC

2071. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Maharashtra has sought loans from the Power Finance Corporation and the Rural Electrifica-

tion Corporation to finance the power projects in the State;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the loans sought have been granted;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (e) The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has sanctioned loans to various Organizations in Maharashtra for a number of projects as mentioned in the Statement during 1.1.2006 to 1.8.2006.

The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has also sanctioned a loan of Rs. 3693 crores to Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Limited (MSPGCL) for Bhusawal Extension Thermal Power Project (2 x 500 MW) on 27.7.2006.

Due to non-completion of the appraisals and non-tying of necessary inputs, loan have not been sanctioned in respect of 5 generation projects, 16 transmission projects and two distribution projects by PFC and REC.

Statement

Loans sanctioned by PFC since January 1, 2006

(Rs. in crore)

Utility	Description/Power Projects	Loan Sanction Date	Loan Amount Sanctioned by PFC
1	2	3	4
Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Ltd.	(1) Khaperkheda Thermal Power Station Expansion (1 x 500 MW)	26-May-2006	1753.00
	(2) New Paras TPS Extension Unit-2	07-Feb-2006	888.00
	(3) New Parli TPS Unit 2 (1 x 250 MW)	03-Jan-2006	830.00
	(4) Parli TPS Extension (1 x 250 MW)	16-Jun-2003	171.00
	(5) R and M of Chandraeur TPS Unit-5 (500 MW)	30-Jun-2006	128.00
Total			3770

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd.	(1) Installation of 50MVA 220/132 KV TRF at Bhiwandi-II S/S	21-Apr-2006	2.40
	(2) Inst. of Addl. Transf. at Khaperkheda S/S	19-Jun-2006	2.10
	(3) Replacement of 10 MVA, 110/33KV T/F at 110 KV Kale S/S, Dist.	07-Jun-2006	1.37
	(4) Inst. of Addl. 1 x 25 MVA, 110/11 KV power T/F at 110 KV Ichalk	21-Apr-2006	0.88
	(5) Implementation of ABT Metering System	21-Apr-2006	3.97
	(6) R and M of 400 KV receiving S/S at Babhaleshwar	18-May-2006	4.90
	(7) EHV Network around Pune	22-Jun-2006	93.00
	(8) Proc. 2 No. 298. 6 MVA Single PH Convertor Transf-Cand. and Padghe	22-Jun-2006	60.00
	(9) R and M of EHV Line under Kalwa Circle	18-May-2006	19.00
	(10) Establishment of 220/110 KV Sub-station at Vasai, Dist. Thane	18-May-2006	14.90
	(11) Establishment of 220/22 KV S/S in Priyad Ind. Thane	19-Jun-2006	14.14
	(12) Establishment of 220/33 KV S/S Attalandage for 5 Star Midc.	30-Jun-2006	8.15
	(13) Fire Stop Mortar Seal and Fire Retardent Cable Coating Comp.	21-Apr-2006	7.83
	(14) Aug of Transf Cap at 220KV S/S at Colchem and Kolshet	18-May-2006	7.38
	(15) Spare Interconnecting Transformer for 400 KV S/S at Kalwa	30-Jun-2006	4.20
	(16) Instl. of 1 x 50 MVA, 220/22 KV Addl. 3rd T/F at 220 KV Wada S/S	18-May-2006	3.56
	(17) Proc. of 1 No. 400/220/20 KV 100 MVA Spare Transf. Koradi S/S	18-May-2006	3.20
	(18) Augmentation of 132/22 KV Power Transformer at Kharadi Dist. P	19-Jun-2006	3.17
	(19) Addl. Tarnsformer at 110 KV Jayrigpur S/S, Kohlapur	30-Jun-2006	2.46

1	2	3	4
	(20) Procurement of one 400/200/20 KV 200 MVA Single Phase Spare Transformer for Kalwa S/S	30-Jun-2006	4.2
	(21) Replacement of AAAC Earth Wire by GI Wire for Chandrapur Padghe Bipole	01-Aug-2006	2.28
	Total		263.09
Maharashtra State Distribution Company Ltd.	(1) Scheme for (AMR) for all HT Cons. and LT (C and I) Cons. in Mid	25-May-2006	38.02
	(2) Repl of 11 KV Old Indoor S. Gear by Outdoor in Sangli and Solapur	21-May-2006	5.48
	(3) Creation of Centre of Excellence in Aurangabad Urban 1 Divn	30-Jun-2006	131.70
	(4) Usaid Grant for Aurangabad Urban 1 Divn	30-Jun-2006	3.80
	Total		179
Irigation Department Government of Maharashtra	(1) Kal – Kumbhe Hep (1 × 15 + 1 × 10 MW)	05-Jan-2006	154.00
	Grand Total		4366.09

Policy for Displaced Persons**Constitution of the 6th CPC**

2072. SHRI SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of HOUSING URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has formulated a national policy on rehabilitation and resettlement for the displaced persons due to major development projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Under this Ministry there are no major development projects which have displaced persons.

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

2073. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY :
SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN :
SHRI RAKESH SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has constituted the Sixth Central Pay Commission;
- (b) if so, the composition of the Commission;
- (c) the time by which the report is likely to be presented to the Government;
- (d) whether adequate representation is given/being given to the Armed Forces and other services in the Commission;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;

- (f) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether the Government intends to give interim relief to the Central Government employees;
- (h) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be announced; and
- (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Government has approved constitution of a 3-Member Commission comprising of a Chairman, a part-time Member and a Member Secretary.

(c) Constitution of the Pay Commission has been proposed for a period of 18 months and the Commission may be able to submit its report during its course of operation.

(d) to (f) This aspect will be kept in view while appointing members and other staff in the Commission.

(g) to (i) The Pay Commission will also look into the issue of grant of interim relief to the Central Government employees.

[Translation]

Employment by Private Sector under NREGA

2074. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private sector industries have assured to provide employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps and follow up action 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 (c) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a Central legislation under which

State Governments are required to formulate schemes and identify works for providing employment to the job card holder wage seekers. The funds are shared by the Central Government and the State Governments as per the provisions of the Act. Private sector industries are not involved in the process of providing employment under the Act.

Schemes for Handicapped

2075. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN :
SHRI SURAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had implemented any scheme for allotment of flats on priority basis in order to promote welfare and rehabilitation scheme for the disabled;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the circumstances and the reasons for discontinuation of this scheme suddenly in the year 2000;

(d) whether the Government intend to implement this scheme again;

(e) the current status of the applicants who had applied before discontinuation of the scheme alongwith the basis on which the applications of past applicants were rejected; and

(f) whether the Government proposes to launch any scheme or to provide any other relief to the physically and mentally disabled in the housing sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) (a) to (d) The Government had issued revised guidelines on 17th January, 1997 for earmarking out of turn allotment of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) flats. The eligible categories for such discretionary allotment included inter alia physically handicapped persons. After taking into consideration the fact that these guidelines were not keeping with the spirit behind the Scheme for large scale acquisition and disposal of land and Scheme for construction of flats

for low income and middle income groups, Government decided on 19th June 2000, to restrict the out of turn allotment of DDA flats, subject to certain terms and conditions, only to widows of Government servants who died in harness or widows of those killed by terrorists. This policy is in implementation.

(e) Decision was taken on the basis of the policy existing as on that date. The applicants falling within the physically disabled category are eligible to apply for allotment of flats under the 1% reservation made by DBA for this category.

(f) The DDA has informed that they have been keeping 1% reservation for physically disabled persons in all their housing schemes and this reservation still continues to be in force. The flats to disabled persons are allotted invariably at ground floor and on hire purchase basis with 25% of the total cost as the initial amount and the remaining amount is charged in instalments.

[English]

Development of Bangalore

2076. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Karnataka has recently urged the Union Government to provide substantial funds for the immediate development of urban infrastructure in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Misuse of Funds for NE

2077. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds allotted to the North-East during each of the last five years. State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has reports of misuse of Central funds in North-East;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop the leakage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) State-wise releases made under the 10th Plan from 2002-03 to 2005-06 under NLCPR and NEC Schemes is placed at Statement enclosed.

(b) No specific complaint in regard to misuse of funds received in the Administrative Ministry.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	NLCPR				NEC			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	52.65	61.19	39.43	83.96	36.53	41.16	33.31	48.92
2.	Assam	140.07	113.94	249.07	219.11	83.31	154.63	122.92	84.33
3.	Manipur	74.93	18.05	58.98	44.85	10.23	11.35	20.10	19.27
4.	Meghalaya	23.77	49.99	21.71	27.50	19.98	16.07	21.94	27.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Mizoram	83.43	99.55	42.38	41.04	16.49	24.15	50.62	42.21
6.	Nagaland	70.85	84.17	73.06	97.95	28.55	32.45	20.92	25.18
7.	Sikkim	44.19	53.24	59.75	53.21	0.00	13.66	23.98	15.86
8.	Tripura	60.11	69.87	105.62	111.55	60.57	28.81	30.58	25.93
Total		550.00	550.00	650.00	679.17	255.66	322.28	324.37	289.65

National Rural Credit Fund

2078. SHRI K. FRANCIS GOERGE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is planning to constitute a dedicated "National Rural Credit Fund" under NABARD to institute a sustainable, long term arrangement for concessional crop loans to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken in this regard so far;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take necessary steps to strengthen NABARD to expand its activities in agriculture and rural development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) With the establishment of NABARD in 1982, two funds viz. National Agricultural Credit (Long Term Operations) [NRC(LTO)] and National Agricultural Credit (Stabilisation) Fund which were maintained with RBI, were transferred to NABARD and renamed as National Rural Credit (Long Term Operation) and National Rural Credit (Stabilisation) Fund. As on 31st March, 2006, the amount outstanding under NRC (LTO) Fund and NRC (Stabilisation) Fund was Rs. 13,183 crore and Rs. 1522 crore respectively. RBI is not in favour of creating a National Rural Credit (Short Term Operation) Fund with NABARD.

(c) and (d) NABARD is an apex financial institution mandated for agricultural and rural development in the country with Government of India and RBI having a share

holding of 27.5% and 72.5% respectively. NABARD is presently adequately capitalized with a Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 38.78% as on 31st March, 2005.

[Translation]

Cement Companies in MRTP Commission

2079. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restricted Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission has registered cases against some cement companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of companies;

(c) the irregularities detected by MRTP Commission; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of these cases are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The MRTP Commission is a quasi-judicial body. The enquiries are sub-judice before the Commission. Since the cases referred to above are pending before the Commission at various stages of enquiry, findings of irregularities or action ordered therein, if any, can be known only on the conclusion of the proceedings.

Statement

The details of the cases and the names of companies against whom the cases have been registered by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission are given below

Sl. No.	Enquiry No./ File No.	Title of Enquiry with Respondent	Details of the case
1	2	3	4
1.	RTPE 99/1990	Director General (Investigation and Registration) {DG (I and R)} Versus CEMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS	DG (I and R) filed an application under section 10(a)(iii) of the MRTP Act against Cement Manufacturers, Bombay and 44 others cement manufacturers. It was alleged that the prices of cement had been fixed arbitrarily and in an unjustified manner by the Respondents. It was further alleged that there was little variation in the prices of several cement manufacturers in the same region inspite of the fact that the cost of production was not identical. The matter is listed on 28.11.2006 for cross-examination of respondents witnesses.
2.	MTPE 2/1992	DG (I and R) Versus ASSOCIATED CEMENT CO. LTD. MUMBAI	The DG (I and R) had filed an application under section 10 of the MRTP Act, 1969 against Associated Cement Companies Limited, Bombay. It was alleged that the Respondents increased the prices from time to time without any increase in the cost of production and this had led to an unreasonable increase in the profit of the Respondent. The matter is listed for final arguments on 21.8.2006.
3.	RTPE 83/2000	DG (I and R) M/S. GAYATRI AGENCIES, KANCHIPURAM Versus CEMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, CHENNAI AND OTHERS	A complaint filed by M/s. Gayatri Agencies against Cement Manufacturers Association, Chennai under section 10(a)(i) alleging, interalia, that the Respondent did not give free hand to the applicant in the matter of prices, sale and distribution of cement by imposing various restrictions. The matter was referred to D.G. (I and R) for investigation. The D.G. (I and R) filed Preliminary Investigation Report stating that the respondents are indulging in Restrictive Trade Practices under sections 33(1)(d) and Section 2 (o) of the MRTP Act. The matter is listed on 21.8.2006 for consideration.
4.	RTPE 21/2001	SHRI SERVEJIT S. MOKHA AND ANOTHER Versus CEMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS	Shri Servejit Mokha and Another have filed a complaint against Cement Manufacturers Association and 10 others under section 10(a)(i) and 36 B(a) alleging, interalia, that the said cement manufacturers had formed a cartel and had increased the prices. Notice of Enquiry against 11

1	2	3	4
			Respondents was issued. The proceedings before the Commission have been stayed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on 10.5.2005. The matter is adjourned to 13.10.2006 for further consideration.
5.	RTPE 32/2006	D.G. (I and R) Versus GUJARAT AMBUJA CEMENTS LTD. AND OTHERS	D.G. (I and R) filed an application under section 10(a)(iii), read with section 37 of the MRTP Act, 1969 against Gujarat Ambuja Cements Limited and two others alleging that the respondents in collusion have created an artificial scarcity of cement resulting in increase in prices, which constitutes a Restrictive Trade Practice as defined under section 2(o) read with section 33(1)(d) of the MRTP Act, 1969. The matter is listed before the Commission on 31.8.2006 for consideration.
6.	File No. 30(79) 2006		The MRTP Commission has directed the D.G. (I and R) to investigate into the sudden and steep increases in prices of cement reported in the print media during May-2006. It was reported that the prices of cement rose from Rs. 140 to Rs. 220-240/- per bag with in a period of two months. It was also reported that the cement manufacturers have entered into a cartel. The Preliminary Investigation Report is awaited.

[English]

Education Loan

2080. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commercial banks have started any insurance and loan schemes for students pursuing higher studies;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for the same and the amount of loan sanctioned during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the amount earmarked for disbursement of education loans for 2006-07; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to facilitate hassle free loans for higher education to the students in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Some banks have offered different insurance coverage with the education loans in association with Insurance Companies. As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), total State-wise outstanding education loans given by Commercial Banks for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (as available) are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Banks have been advised to advance 40% of Net Bank Credit to the Priority Sector which, inter-alia, consists of education loans to individuals upto the ceiling of Rs. 7.5 lakhs for studies in India and Rs. 15 lakhs for studies abroad.

(d) The banks have discretion to sanction higher amounts for studies in India and abroad based on commercial judgment and as approved by their respective Boards, and support highly meritorious/deserving students without security to delegate such powers to a fairly higher authority. Indian Banks Association has advised the banks to give adequate publicity to the Education Loans Scheme.

Statement

State-wise total outstanding Education Loan given by Commercial Banks during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05

(Rs. in thousands)

Sl.No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Haryana	460736	784523	1205843
2.	Himachal Pradesh	186344	146612	254752
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	87291	36090	224534
4.	Punjab	690609	998808	1699436
5.	Rajasthan	505168	885601	1279185
6.	Chandigarh	136193	221264	436805
7.	Delhi	1584052	1969593	3382972
8.	Assam	71496	166404	243790
9.	Manipur	7241	9307	23690
10.	Meghalaya	9926	25500	36065
11.	Nagaland	3121	491	5930
12.	Tripura	4451	10726	37707
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	4953	10157	2618
14.	Mizoram	3584	8606	10659
15.	Sikkim	3749	4628	39441
16.	Bihar	515425	694661	931302
17.	Jharkhand	226054	397803	735264
18.	Orissa	602089	644531	1180071

1	2	3	4	5
19.	West Bengal	790640	1325077	2081355
20.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2013	4084	6476
21.	Madhya Pradesh	836851	1585373	2385941
22.	Chhatisgarh	151885	298162	365084
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1514345	2612588	3326970
24.	Uttaranchal	174040	312323	535292
25.	Gujarat	1072487	1384317	3696349
26.	Maharashtra	3026960	4111706	5763658
27.	Daman and Diu	578	677	2364
28.	Goa	67365	104444	189445
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	1478
30.	Andhra Pradesh	7053530	8406356	13523213
31.	Karnataka	2913671	3889486	5518371
32.	Kerala	3008301	4246469	7570622
33.	Tamil Nadu	4737508	6391014	10014120
34.	Pondicherry	75148	107141	232358
35.	Lakshadweep	42	0	163
Total		30527846	41794522	66943323

Medical Insurance for Senior Citizens

2081. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA" :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Public Sector Insurance Companies propose to exclude persons above 55 years of age from

the purview of mediclaim Insurance cover as reported in the Times of India dated the July 19, 2006;

- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to issue suitable directions to Insurance; Regulatory and Development Authority and Insurance Companies in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the existing norms for medical insurance for senior citizens;
- (f) whether agent commission on policy sales to senior citizen has been reduced by public sector insurance companies, and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) There is no move by the Public Sector General Insurance Companies to exclude persons above 55 years of age from mediclaim insurance.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) Mediclaim proposals from persons above the age of 45 years are accepted subject to satisfactory medical examination. The mediclaim policy can be taken by individuals upto the age of 80 years. However, if the policy is renewed without any break, the same can be continued upto the age of 90 years.

(f) and (g) Keeping in view the high insurance claim experience in respect of the senior citizens, the Oriental Insurance Company Limited has issued guidelines removing the incentive of agency commission to agents canvassing mediclaim proposals from persons above 55 years of age. However, persons above the age of 55 years can get insurance policy directly from the underwriting offices of the company without the involvement of agents.

[Translation]

Technology for Rural Industrialisation

2082. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the measures being taken by the Government for providing technology to rural industry for rural development;
- (b) whether technology is being applied to provide information to the rural industries also;
- (c) if so, the manner in which it is being applied; and
- (d) the number of beneficiaries by application of such technology?

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 of Rural Development is implementing Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) as a major Self Employment Programme in rural India w.e.f. April, 1999. The SGSY is a holistic programme. The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line by organizing them into Self Help Groups through the process of social mobilization, their training and capacity building and provision of income-generating assets through a mix of Bank Credit and government subsidy. The effort under SGSY is to ensure the development of sustainable micro-enterprises. The technology identified for each key activity should be such that it can be managed comfortably by the swarozgari and at the same time leads to development of a quality product, either in terms of goods/services. For each key activity it is necessary to have an institution capable of transmitting technology ensuring skill upgradation and monitoring the performance in terms of the quality of output as well as the recovery. The choice of such agency can vary depending on local situation. They can be the line departments themselves or any of the technical institutions such as Engineering Colleges, Research Institutes, Polytechnics, ITIs, having competence in the relevant field or an NGO having the necessary competence. In addition, Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries is also implementing various schemes which provide technology to rural industries for rural development.

- (d) The details of number of beneficiaries trained/ skill-upgraded scheme-wise is given below :

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Beneficiaries during 2005-06 (Nos.)
1.	Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)	1820551
2.	Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana	46,566
3.	Integrated Handloom Training Project	13,000
4.	Handloom Export Scheme	480
5.	Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme	40,274*
6.	Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana	14,000 (Provisional)

*During the last three years.

[English]

Revival of IFCI

2083. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Industrial Finance Corporation of India has recovered its Non Performing Assets fully and is now financially sound;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to support this financial institution and restore its lost glory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR KANSAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) As on 31st March, 2006, the gross NPAs stood at Rs. 7,735 crore. The net NPAs (Gross NPAs minus provisions) as on 31st March, 2006 stood at Rs. 667 crore.

(c) Government of India (GoI) has approved a financial package amounting to Rs. 5,220 crore for IFCI to meet the liabilities of IFCI on account of small and retail investors, foreign lenders and SLR bonds. GoI has disbursed Rs. 2,922 crore upto 31st March, 2006. However, Government of India does not hold any shares in IFCI and

accordingly it is for the Board of Directors to take further steps to improve IFCI's financial position.

[Translation]

On-going Power Projects

2084. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK :
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Hydro Power Projects are scheduled to be completed during 2005-06 and 2006-07 in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether these projects have been completed as per schedule and become operative;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of projects which are lagging behind the schedule, State-wise;

(d) whether the work on projects scheduled to be completed by 2010-11 are going as per schedule;

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

(f) the total escalated cost of these projects; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that these projects are completed as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (c) A capacity of 2886 MW from hydro power projects was scheduled for commissioning during the year 2005-06 out of which 1340 MW capacity was commissioned during the year. A capacity of 3884 MW from hydro power projects has been scheduled for commissioning during the year 2006-07 out of which 665 MW capacity has been commissioned till date. These commissioned projects have already started power generation. The details of the projects which have been commissioned during 2005-06 and 2006-07 and lagging behind the schedule, State-wise are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(d) and (e) The details of the 40 hydro electric projects with installed capacity of 13210 MW scheduled to be completed by 2010-11 are given in Statement-II. The works on these projects are in progress.

(f) The details of the hydro electric projects under construction and having cost overruns are given in Statement-III.

(g) The steps taken by Government to ensure that these projects are completed as per schedule are as under :—

- Targets were fixed in consultation with the States and they are involved in monitoring of the projects right from the beginning.
- Monitoring mechanism has been strengthened. Project specific coordinators identified in Central Electricity Authority for expediting the project works and for providing assistance to project authorities.
- Comprehensive quarterly reviews are conducted regularly by Secretary (Power).
- Periodic Inter-Ministerial coordination meetings are held with Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Water Resources etc.
- Periodic reviews with private project developers are held together with State Governments.
- The project authorities are encouraged to incorporate incentive clause in the contract documents for early completion of projects.
- Award schemes have been formulated for giving awards to the project authorities for early completion of the projects.

Statement-I

Hydro Generation Capacity Addition During 2005-06 and 2006-07 (Programme Vs Achievement)

Sl. No.	Project Name I.C.	State	Company	Capacity (MW)	
				Tar.	Ach.
1	2	3	4	5	6
2005-06					
Central Sector					
1.	Dhauliganga 4x70 MW	Uttaranchal	NHPC	70	70
		Uttaranchal	NHPC	70	70
		Uttaranchal	NHPC	70	70
		Uttaranchal	NHPC	70	70
2.	Dulhasti 3x6130 MW	Jammu and Kashmir	NHPC	130	
		Jammu and Kashmir	NHPC	130	
		Jammu and Kashmir	NHPC	130	
3.	Tehri St. I 4x250 MW	Uttaranchal	THDC	250	
		Uttaranchal	THDC	250	
		Uttaranchal	THDC	250	
		Uttaranchal	THDC	250	
Sub Total (Central Sector)				1670	280

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Sardar Sarovar RBPH 6x200 MW	Gujarat	SSNNL	200	200
		Gujarat	SSNNL	200	200
		Gujarat	SSNNL	200	200
		Gujarat	SSNNL	200	200
5.	Pykara Ultimate 3x50 MW	Tamil Nadu	TNEB	50	50
		Tamil Nadu	TNEB	50	50
		Tamil Nadu	TNEB	50	50
6.	Larji 3x42 MW	Himachal Pradesh	HPSEB	42	
		Himachal Pradesh	HPSEB	42	
		Himachal Pradesh	HPSEB	42	
7.	Bhawani Barrage-I 2x15 MW	Tamil Nadu	TNEB	15	
		Tamil Nadu	TNEB	15	
8.	Almatti Dam 1x15 + 5x55 MW	Karnataka	KPCL	55	55
		Karnataka	KPCL	55	55
Sub Total (State Sector)				1216	1080
Total				2886	1340

2006-07

Central Sector

1.	Tehri St-I 4x250 MW	Uttaranchal	THDC	250	250
		Uttaranchal	THDC	250	
		Uttaranchal	THDC	250	
		Uttaranchal	THDC	250	
2.	Dulhasti 3x130 MW	Jammu and Kashmir	NHPC	130	
		Jammu and Kashmir	NHPC	130	
		Jammu and Kashmir	NHPC	130	
3.	Teesta-V 3x170 MW	Sikkim	NHPC	170	
		Sikkim	NHPC	170	
		Sikkim	NHPC	170	
Sub Total (Central Sector)				1900	250

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Larji 3x42 MW	Himachal Pradesh	HPSEB	42	
		Himachal Pradesh	HPSEB	42	
		Himachal Pradesh	HPSEB	42	
5.	Maneri Bhali 4x76 MW	Uttaranchal	UJVNL	76	
		Uttaranchal	UJVNL	76	
		Uttaranchal	UJVNL	76	
		Uttaranchal	UJVNL	76	
6.	Ghatghar 2x125 MW	Maharashtra	GOMID	125	
		Maharashtra	GOMID	125	
7.	Sardar Sarovar RBPH 6x200 MW	Gujarat	SSNNL	200	200
8.	Madbikheda 2x20 MW	Madhya Pradesh	MPGCL	20	
		Madhya Pradesh	MPGCL	20	
9.	Bansagar Tons PH-IV	Madhya Pradesh	MPGCL	10	
		Madhya Pradesh	MPGCL	10	
10.	Bhawani Barrage-I 2x15 MW	Tamil Nadu	TNEB	15	15
		Tamil Nadu	TNEB	15	
11.	Priyadarshini Jurala 6x39.1 MW	Andhra Pradesh	APGENCO	39	
12.	Kuttiyadi Addl. 2x50 MW	Kerala	KSEB	50	
		Kerala	KSEB	50	
13.	Balimela Extn. 2x75 MW	Orissa	OHPC	75	
		Orissa	OHPC	75	
14.	Purlia PSS 6x225 MW	West Bengal	WBSEB	225	
15.	Karbi Langpi 2x50 MW	Assam	ASEB	50	
		Assam	ASEB	50	
Sub Total (State Sector)				1584	215

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Vishnu Praayag 4x100 MW	Uttaranchal	JPPVL	100	100
		Uttaranchal	JPPVL	100	100
		Uttaranchal	JPPVL	100	
		Uttaranchal	JPPVL	100	
Sub Total (Private Sector)				400	200
Total 'A+B' (2006-07)				3884	665

(Source: CEA)

Statement-II**List of Hydro Projects under Construction (Excluding Renewables under MNES)**

As on 6.8.2006

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Unit No.	State/Implem. Agency	Capacity (MW)	Likely Commissioning*
1	2	3	4	5	6
Central Sector					
1.	Parbati St. II 4x200 = 800 MW	U-I to U-4	Himachal Pradesh./NHPC	800	June – September, 2009
2.	Chamera-III 3x77 = 231 MW	U-I to U-3	Himachal Pradesh./NHPC	231	April – August, 2010
3.	Parbati-III 4x1 30 = 520 MW	U-I to U-4	Himachal Pradesh/NHPC	520	August – November, 2010
4.	Kol Dam 4x200 = 800 MW	U-I to U-4	Himachal Pradesh/NTPC	800	November, 2008 – April, 2009
5.	Dulhasti 3x1 30 = 390 MW	U-I to U-3	Jammu and Kashmir/NHPC	130 130 130	December, 2006 January, 2007 February, 2007
6.	Uri-II 4x60 + 240 MW	U-I to U-4	Jammu and Kashmir/NHPC	240	August – November, 2009
7.	Sewa-II 3x40 = 1 20 MW	U-I to U-3	Jammu and Kashmir/NHPC	120	July – September, 2007
8.	Tehri St.I 4x250=1000 MW (Unit# 4 Comnd.)	U-3 U-2 U-1	Uttaranchal/THDC	250 250 250	August, 2006 September, 2006 October, 2006

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Koteshwar 4x100 = 400 MW	U-I to U-4	Uttaranchal/THDC	400	December, 2008 – March, 2009
10.	Omkareshwar 8x65 = 520 MW	U-I to U-8	Madhya Pradesh/NHDC	520	July – October, 2007
11.	Teesta Low Dam-III 4x33 = 132 MW	U-I to U-4	West Bengal/NHPC	132	January – March, 2008
12.	Teesta Low Dam-IV 4x40 = 160 MW	U-I to U-4	West Bengal/NHPC	160	June – September, 2009
13.	Teesta St. V 3x170 = 510 MW	U-I U-2 U-3	Sikkim/NHPC	170 170 170	February, 2007 March, 2007 March, 2007
14.	Subansiri Lower 8x250 = 2000 MW	U-I to U-8	Arunachal Pradesh/NHPC	2000	April – September, 2010
15.	Kameng 4x150 = 600 MW	U-I to U-4	Arunachal Pradesh/NEEPCO	600	July – October, 2010
Sub-total (Central)				8173	
State Sector					
16.	Larji 3x42 = 126 MW	U-I U-2 U-3	Himachal Pradesh/HPSEB	42 42 42	August, 2006 September, 2006 October, 2006
17.	Uhl-III 3x33.33 = 100 MW	U-I to U-3	Himachal Pradesh/HPSEB	100	May – September, 2008
18.	Baglihar-I 3x150 = 450 MW	U-I to U-3	Jammu and Kashmir/JKPDC	450	October – December, 2007
19.	Maneri Bhali-II 4x76 = 304 MW	U-I U-2 U-3 U-4	Uttaranchal/UJVNL	76 76 76 76	December, 2006 January, 2007 February, 2007 March, 2007
20.	Madhikheda 2x20 = 40 MW	U-1 U-2	Madhya Pradesh/MPGCL	20 20	August, 2006 September, 2006
21.	Bansagar Tons PH IV 2x10 = 20 MW	U-1 U-2	Madhya Pradesh/MPGCL	10 10	August, 2006 September, 2006
22.	Ghatghar PSS 2x215 = 20 MW	U-1 U-2	Maharashtra/GOMID	125 125	January, 2007 March, 2007

1	2	3	4	5	6
23. Priyadarshini Jurala 6x39 = 50 MW	U-1 U-2 to U-6	Andhra Pradesh/APGENCO	39 195	March, 2007 July, 2007 – November, 2008	
24. Nagarujana Sagar TR 2x25 = 50 MW	U-1 and U-2	Andhra Pradesh/APGENCO	50	July – November, 2008	
25. Kuttiyadi Addl. Ext. 2x25 = 50 MW	U-1 U-2	Kerala/KSEB	50 50	February, 2007 March, 2007	
26. Athirapalli* 2x80 + 2x1.5 = 163 MW (*Under litigation)	U-1 to U-4	Kerala/KSEB	163	PH-I: January – March, 2010 PH-II: January – March, 2010	
27. Varahi Extn. 2x115 + 230 MW	U-1 and U-2	Karnataka/KPCL	230	January – March, 2009	
28. Bhawani Barrage I 2x15 = 30 MW	U-2	Tamil Nadu/TNEB	15	September, 2006	
29. Bhawani Barrage II 2x15 = 30 MW	U-1 and U-2	Tamil Nadu/TNEB	30	February – March, 2010	
30. Bhawani Barrage III 2x15 = 30 MW	U-1 and U-2	Tamil Nadu/TNEB	30	February – March, 2010	
31. Balimela Extn. 2x75 = 150 MW	U-1 U-2	Orissa/OHPC	75 75	February, 2007 March, 2007	
32. Purulia PSS 4x225 = 900 MW	U-1 to U-4	West Bengal/WBSEB	222 675	February – May, 2007 August – November, 2007	
33. Karbi Langpi 2x50 = 84 MW	U-1 U-2	Assam/ASEB	50 50	December, 2006 February, 2007	
34. Myntdu 2x42 = 84 MW	U-1 and U-2	Meghalaya/MeSEB	84	April – June, 2008	
Sub-total (State) :			3391		
Private Sector					
35. Allain Duhangan 2x96 = 192 MW	U-1 and U4	Himachal Pradesh/ADHPL	96 96	May, 2008 June, 2008	
36. Karcham Wangtoo 4x250 = 1000 MW	U-1 to U-4	Himachal Pradesh/JPKPL	250 250 250 250	June, 2010, September, 2010 December, 2010 March, 2011	

1	2	3	4	5	6
37.	Budhil 2x35 = 70 MW		Himachal Pradesh/LANCO	70.00	November – December, 2008
38.	Malana-II 2x50 = 100 MW		Himachal/Pradesh/Everest PC	100.00	June – August, 2008
39.	Vishnu Prayag 4x100 = 400 MW	U-3 U-4	Uttaranchal/JPVL	100 100	August, 2006 October, 2006
40	Chujachen 2x49.5 = 99 MW		Sikkim/Gati	99.00	February – March, 2009
Sub-total (Private) :				1661	
Sub-total (Hydro) :				13210	

(Source : CEA)

*This is based upon the assessment of project authorities/Central Electricity Authority.

Statement-III*Hydro Electric Projects having Cost Over Run*As on 6.08.2006
(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Project Capacity/Agency/State	*Approved Cost (Price level)	**Latest Cost	Cost increase %age	Increase Rs. Crores (4-3)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Dulhasti (3x130 MW) NHPC, Jammu and Kashmir	3559.77 (11/96)	4924.56 (anticipated)	38.33	1364.79
2.	Teesta-V (3x170 MW) NHPC, Sikkim	2198.04 (4/99)	2430.5 (anticipated)	10.57	232.46
3	Sewa-II (3x40 MW) NHPC, Jammu and Kashmir	665.46 (9/02)	770.70 (anticipated)	15.81	105.24
4	Teesta Low Dam-III (4x33 MW) NHPC, West Bengal	768.92 (12/02)	845.46 (anticipated)	9.95	76.54
5.	Parbati - II (4x200 MW) NHPC, Himachal Pradesh	3919.59 (12/01)	4219.94 (anticipated)	7.66	300.35

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Tehri-I (4x250 MW) THDC, Uttaranchal	6621.32 (03/04)	8000.00	20.8	1378.68
7.	Larji (3x42 MW) HPSEB, Himachal Pradesh	875.70 (8/01)	1221.42 (03/004) (estimated)	39.47	345.72
8.	Saglihar-I (3x150 MW) JKPDC, Jammu and Kashmir	4000.00	4300.00	7.5	300.00
9.	Maneri Bhali-II (4x76 MW) JVNL, Uttaranchal	1249.18 (2/99)	1714.41 (estimated)	37.24	465.31
10.	Bansagar Tons PK-IV (2x10 MW) MPEB, Madhya Pradesh	84.97 (97-98)	133.10 (3/2002)	159.66	82.04
11.	Varahi (2x115 MW) KPCL, Karnataka	280.55	307.00	9.43	26.45
12.	Bhavani Kattalai Barrage-I (2x15 MW) TNEB, Tamil Nadu	90.62	194.53 (03-04)	114.67	103.91
13.	Bhavani Kattalai Barrage-II (2x15 MW) TNEB, Tamil Nadu	99.50	165.21	66.05	65.71
14.	Bhavani Kattalai Barrage-III (2x15 MW) TNEB, Tamil Nadu	97.14	166.92	71.83	69.78
15.	Balimela Extn. (2x75 MW) OHPC, Orissa	211.00	212.40 (04/00)	0.6	1.4
16.	Karbi Langpi (2x50 MW) ASEB, Assam	36.36 (09/76)	557.42 (12/04)	1434	521.06
17.	Myntdu (2x42 MW) MeSEB, Meghalaya	285.36 (01/99) Excluding IDC	358.38 (01/03) Excluding IDC	25.58	73.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
18. Vishnu Prayag (4x100 MW) M/s. JPVL, Uttaranchal		1614.66	1717.00	6.34	102.34

(Source : CEA)

* The figures in column 3 indicate the estimated cost as approved by the Competent Authority. The figure in brackets indicate the price level at which the estimate was prepared.

**This is an estimate based upon the costs already incurred and likely expenditure yet to be made for completion.

Promotion of Solar Energy

2085.SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the building bye-laws to install solar energy panels in all the Government buildings in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any policy has been formulated for promoting solar energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Urban Development have requested the State/Union Territory Governments to consider issuing suitable directives to the local bodies under their control for modifying the building bye-laws with a view to make the installation of solar water heating systems mandatory in certain categories of buildings. In order to assist the local bodies in this respect, a model regulation/bye-laws has also been circulated to all State and Union Territory Governments. The model regulation/bye-laws, when incorporated by the local bodies in their existing building bye-laws, will make it mandatory for those categories of buildings to have solar assisted water heating systems.

The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar

Haveli and Chandigarh have so far issued necessary orders to urban local bodies to make solar water heaters mandatory in functional buildings in their States.

(c) and (d) Deployment of solar energy devices and systems is being encouraged by providing financial assistance under various schemes besides other promotional measures and incentives. The schemes provide support for solar thermal systems and devices such as solar water heaters, solar cookers, solar dryers, solar air heating/steam generating systems, solar stills, etc. and solar photovoltaic systems and devices for lighting, water pumping, power generation, etc. Energy efficient solar buildings are also being promoted. Akshay Urja Shops are being established for sale and service of renewable energy products, including solar energy equipment. Training and awareness creation activities are also being supported.

[English]

Defaulters of DDA Flats

2086.SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the persons who were allotted flats on hire purchase basis by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) defaulted in making payments of due instalments;

(b) if so, the number of allottees defaulted in making payment of due instalments;

(c) whether DDA has issued notices to all such allottees directing them to make payment of the outstanding dues of the flats occupied by them;

(d) if so, the number of allottees deposited due payments upto 31.7.2006;

(e) whether Government has taken action to cancel the allotment of the flats against whom payments are still due; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that while a number of allottees who were allotted flats on hire purchase basis have defaulted in making payments of due instalments, a centralised record indicating total number of defaulters at a particular time has not been maintained.

(c) DDA has reported that based on the individual accounts of allottees, notices are issued to defaulters from time to time to make the payment of the outstanding dues of the flats occupied by them.

(d) The DDA has further informed that 13,338 allottees have paid their dues in penalty Relief Scheme 2001, which was closed on 31.3.2006.

(e) and (f) DDA has reported that allotment of flat is cancelled, after completion of codal formalities as per rules/policies, if defaulter fails to make the due payments.

World Bank Loans for Water Supply and Environment

2087.SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has provided any loan for the project related to water supply and environmental cleanliness during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

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

(c) the details of the projects sanctioned and the allocations made out of the funds provided by the World Bank to various States, project-wise; and

(d) the details of implementing agencies and status report of each of such projects after the end of financial year 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 2004-05 and 2005-06, the World Bank has provided assistance for only one project, namely, Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement project (LN 4730) to the State Government of Karnataka for an amount of US\$ 39.5 million. The project was signed on 18.2.05 and became effective on 18.5.05. The objectives of the project are to assist the participating Urban Local Bodies and to demonstrate the sustainability of efficient and commercially-oriented provision of water supply services. The State Government of Karnataka is implementing the project. Out of total loan amount of US\$ 39.5 million for the project, a total of US\$ 11 million has been disbursed upto 30.6.2006.

(c) and (d) The details of the on-going projects in which World Bank has provided funds to various States as on 30.06.06 are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

On-going World Bank Assisted Projects (as on 30.06.2006)

(US\$ million)

Sl. No.	Project Name	Approval Date	Total Amount	Disb. as on 30.6.06
1	2	3	4	5

State Sector Projects

1.	Andhra Pradesh Community Forest Management Project	16-Jul-02	108	69.8
2.	Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project	11-Apr-00	111	103.56

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project	20-Feb-03	150.03	120.00
4.	Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project	14-Dec-04	154	13.37
5.	Chhattisgarh District Rural Poverty Reduction Project	24-Apr-03	92.56	11.53
6.	Gujarat Emergency Earthquake Reconstruction Project	2-May-02	442.8	290
7.	Gujarat State Highway Project	5-Sep-00	381	241.24
8.	Himachal Pradesh Mid-Himalayan Watershed Development Project	13-Dec-05	60	5.24
9.	Karnataka Community-Based Tank Management Project	25-Apr-02	98.9	31.46
10.	Karnataka Municipal Reform Project	14-Mar-06	216	0
11.	Karnataka Panchayats Strengthening Project	29-Jun-06	120	0
12.	Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project	24-May-01	360	270.68
13.	Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project	8-Apr-04	39.5	11
14.	Karnataka Watershed Development Project	21-Jun-01	100.4	43.5
15.	Second Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	18-Dec-01	151.6	74.09
16.	Kerala Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	7-Nov-00	65.5	42.49
17.	Kerala State Transport Project	14-Mar-02	255	116.218
18.	Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project	7-Nov-00	110.1	87.04
19.	Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	7-Sep-04	394.02	22
20.	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanitation "Jalswarajya" Project	26-Aug-03	181	46.02
21.	Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project	23-Jun-05	325	32
22.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project	18-Jun-02	542	176.02
23.	Mizoram State Roads Project	14-Mar-02	60	34
24.	Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives Project	25-Apr-00	100.48	68.72
25.	Rajasthan Health Systems Development Project	11-Mar-04	89	12.73
26.	Rajasthan Second District Primary Education Project	21-Jun-01	74.4	57.46
27.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	19-Feb-02	140	60.23
28.	Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project	12-Jul-05	120	6.85
29.	Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project	16-Dec-04	110.83	13.37

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project	17-Jun-03	348	78.24
31.	Third Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project	5-Jul-05	300	17
32.	Uttar Pradesh Health Systems Development Project	25-Apr-00	110	52.2
33.	Uttar Pradesh Sodic Lands Reclamation Project	15-Dec-98	194.1	196.62
34.	Uttar Pradesh State Roads Project	19-Dec-02	488	139.5
35.	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	19-Feb-02	149.2	30.47
36.	Allahabad Bypass Project	14-Oct-03	240	71.47
37.	Uttaranchal Decentralized Watershed Development Project	20-May-04	69.62	6.62
Multi-states/Central Sector projects				
38.	Elementary Education Project	20-Apr-04	500	385.88
39.	Food and Drugs Capacity Building Project	5-Jun-03	54.03	13.5
40.	Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project	21-Jun-01	589	352.487
41.	Hydrology Project Phase II	24-Aug-04	104.98	0.53
42.	India: Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project	3-May-05	465	52
43.	Integrated Disease Surveillance Project	8-Jul-04	68	7.28
44.	Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway Project	21-Dec-04	620	96
45.	National Agricultural Innovation Project	18-Apr-06	200	0
46.	Power System Development Project-III	19-Jan-06	400	0
47.	Rural Roads Project	23-Sep-04	399.5	128.39
48.	Second Powergrid System Development Project	3-May-01	450	396
49.	Second Renewable Energy	27-Jun-00	130	75
50.	SME Financing and Development	30-Nov-00	120	100
51.	Technical Assistance for Economic Reform Project	12-May-00	45	18
52.	Technical/Engineering Education Quality Improvement Project	14-Nov-02	250	72.4
53.	Third National Highways Project	8-Jun-00	516	350.55
54.	Third Technician Education Project	7-Sep-00	64.9	57.1
Total			12028.45	4757.855

Development of Coastal Area

2088. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the length of coastal area in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the measures the Government is taking to develop the coastal area of Andhra Pradesh for population residing near seaside;
- (c) whether there are any guidelines for development of coastal areas; and
- (d) if so, the details of the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The length of coastal area in the State of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) is about 973 km.

(b) For helping people residing in sea-side coastal area of A.P., Government are taking steps such as improving and developing mangrove plantations, construction of shelters, strengthening and establishing fishing harbours and establishing related industries including tourist resorts along the entire coastal area of A.P.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of guidelines for development of coastal areas are given in Statement-I and Statement-II.

Statement-I

*Guidelines for Development of Beach Resorts/
Hotels in the Designed Areas of CRZ-III for
Temporary Occupation of Tourist/Visitors,
with prior approval of the Ministry of
Environment and Forests*

Construction of beach resorts/hotels with prior approval of MEF in the designated areas of CRZ-III for temporary occupation of tourists/visitors shall be subject to the following conditions :—

The project proponents shall not undertake any construction (including temporary constructions and

fencing or such other barriers) within 200 metres (in the landward wide) from the High Tide Line and within the area between the Low Tide and High Tide Line;

Live fencing and barbed wire fencing with vegetative cover may be allowed around private properties subject to the condition that such fencing shall in no way hamper public access to the beach;

- (ib) no flattening of sand dunes shall be carried out.
- (ic) no permanent structures for sports facilities shall be permitted except construction of goal posts, net posts and lamp posts.
- (id) construction of basements may be allowed subject to the condition that no objection certificate is obtained from the State Ground Water Authority to the effect that such construction will not adversely affect free flow of ground water in that area. The State Ground Water Authority shall take into consideration the guidelines issued by the Central Government before granting such no objection certificate.

Explanation :

Though no construction is allowed in the NO development zone for the purposes of calculation of FSI, the area of entire plot including 50% of the portion which falls within the no development zone shall be taken into account.

- (i) The total plot size shall not be less than 0.4 hectares and the total covered area on all floors shall not exceed 33 per cent of the plot size i.e. the FSI shall not exceed 0.33. The open area shall be suitably landscaped with appropriate vegetal cover;
- (ii) The construction shall be consistent with the surrounding landscape and local architectural style;
- (iii) The overall height of construction upto highest ridge of the roof, shall not exceed 9 metres and the construction shall not be more than 2 floors (ground floor plus one upper floor);

- (iv) Ground water shall not be tapped within 200m of the HTL; within the 200 metre – 500 metre zone, it can be tapped only with the concurrence of the Central/State Ground Water Board;
- (v) Extraction of sand, levelling or digging of sandy stretches except for structural foundation of building, swimming pool shall not be permitted within 500 metres of the High Tide Line;
- (vi) The quality of treated effluents, solid wastes, emissions and noise levels, etc. from the project area must conform to the standards laid down by the competent authorities including the Central/State Pollution Control Board and under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- (vii) Necessary arrangements for the treatment of the effluents and solid wastes must be made. It must be ensured that the untreated effluents and solid wastes are not discharged into the water or on the beach; and no effluent/solid waste shall be discharged on the beach;
- (viii) To allow public access to the beach, at least a gap of 20 metres width shall be provided between any two hotels/beach resorts; and in no case shall gaps be less than 500 metres apart;
- (ix) If the project involves diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes, clearance as required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be obtained. The requirements of other Central and State laws as applicable to the project shall be met with; and
- (x) Approval of the State/Union Territory Tourism Department shall be obtained.

In ecologically sensitive areas (such as marine parks, mangroves, coral reefs, breeding and spawning grounds of fish, wildlife habitats and such other areas as may notified by the Central/State Government/Union Territories) construction of beach resorts/hotels shall not be permitted.

Statement-II

Classification of Coastal Regulation Zone

For regulating development activities, the coastal stretches within 500 metres of High Tide Line on the landward side are classified into four categories, namely :

Category I (CRZ-I) :

- (i) Areas that are ecologically sensitive and important, such as national parks/marine parks, sanctuaries, reserve forests, wildlife habitats, mangroves, corals/coral reefs, areas close to breeding and spawning grounds of fish and other marine life, areas of outstanding natural beauty/historically/heritage areas, areas rich in genetic diversity, areas likely to be inundated due to rise in sea level consequent upon global warming and such other areas as may be declared by the Central Government or the concerned authorities at the State/Union Territory level from time to time.
- (ii) Area between Low Tide Line and the High Tide Line.

Category-II (CRZ-II) :

The areas that have already been developed upto or close to the shoreline. For this purpose, "developed area" is referred to as that area within the municipal limits or in other legally designated urban areas which is already substantially built up and which has been provided with drainage and approach roads and other infrastructural facilities, such as water supply and sewerage mains.

Category-III (CRZ-III) :

Areas that are relatively undisturbed and those which do not belong to either Category-I or II. These will include coastal zone in the rural areas (developed and undeveloped) and also areas within Municipal limits or in other legally designated urban areas which are not substantially built up.

Category-IV (CRZ-IV) :

Coastal stretches in the Andaman and Nicobar,

Lakshadweep and small islands, except those designated as CRZ-I, CRZ-II or CRZ-III.

Norms for Regulation of Activities

The development or construction activities in different categories of CRZ area shall be regulated by the concerned authorities at the State/Union Territory level, in accordance with the following norms :

CRZ-I

No new construction shall be permitted in CRZ-I except (a) Projects relating to Department of Atomic Energy and (b) Pipelines, conveying systems including transmission lines and (c) facilities that are essential for activities permissible under CRZ-I. Between the Low Tide Level (LTL) and the High Tide Level (HTL), activities as specified under paragraph 2 (xii) may be permitted. In addition, between LTL and HTL in areas which are not ecologically sensitive and important, the following may be permitted: (a) Exploration and extraction of Oil and Natural Gas, (b) activities as specified under proviso of sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph 2, and (c) Construction of dispensaries, schools, public rain shelters, community toilets, bridges, roads, jetties, water supply, drainage, sewerage which are required for traditional inhabitants of State Coastal Zone Management Authority

CRZ-II

Buildings shall be permitted only on the landward side of the existing road (or roads approved in the Coastal Zone Management Plan of the area) or on the landward side of existing authorised structures. Buildings permitted on the landward side of the existing and proposed roads/existing authorised structures shall be subject to the existing local Town and Country Planning Regulations including the existing norms of Floor Space Index/Floor Area Ratio:

Provided that no permission for construction of buildings shall be given on landward side of any new roads (except roads approved in the Coastal Zone Management Plan) which are constructed on the seaward side of an existing road.

Reconstruction of the authorised buildings to be permitted subject to the existing FSI/FAR norms and

without change in the existing use.

The design and construction of buildings shall be consistent with the surrounding landscape and local architectural style.

CRZ-III

The area upto 200 metres from the High Tide Line is to be earmarked as 'No Development Zone'. No construction shall be permitted within this zone except for repairs of existing authorised structures not exceeding existing FSI, existing plinth area and existing density, and for permissible activities under the notification including facilities essential for such activities. An authority designated by the State Government/Union Territory Administration may permit construction of facilities for water supply, drainage and sewerage for requirements of local inhabitants. However, the following uses may be permissible in this zone – agriculture, horticulture, gardens; pastures, parks, play fields, forestry and salt manufacture from sea water.

Development of vacant plots between 200 and 500 metres of High Tide Line in designated areas of CRZ-III with prior approval of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MEF) permitted for construction of hotels/beach resorts for temporary occupation of tourists/visitors subject to the conditions as stipulated in the guidelines at Annexure-II.

Construction/reconstruction of dwelling units between 200 and 500 metres of the High Tide Line permitted so long it is within the ambit of traditional rights and customary uses such as existing fishing villages and gaothans. Building permission for such construction/reconstruction will be subject to the conditions that the total number of dwelling units shall not be more than twice the number of existing units; total covered area on all floors shall not exceed 33 per cent of the plot size; the overall height of construction shall not exceed 9 metres and construction shall not be more than 2 floors ground floor plus one floor. Construction is allowed for permissible activities under the notification including facilities essential for such activities. An authority designated by State Government/Union Territory Administration may permit construction of public rain shelters, community toilets, water supply, drainage, sewerage, roads and bridges. The said authority may also

permit construction of schools and dispensaries, for local inhabitants of the area, for those panchayats the major part of which falls within CRZ if no other area is available for construction of such facilities.

Reconstruction/alterations of an existing authorised building permitted subject to (i) to (iii) above.

CRZ-IV

Andaman and Nicobar Islands :

No new construction of buildings shall be permitted within 200 metres of the HTL;

The buildings between 200 and 500 metres from the High Tide Line shall not have more than 2 floors (ground floor and first floor), the total covered area on all floors shall not be more than 50 per cent of the plot size and the total height of construction shall not exceed 9 metres;

The design and construction of buildings shall be consistent with the surrounding landscape and local architectural style.

Corals from the beaches and coastal waters shall not be used for construction and other purposes.

Sand may be used from the beaches and coastal waters, only for construction purpose upto the 30th day of September 2002 and thereafter it shall not be used for construction and other purposes.

Dredging and underwater blasting in and around coral formations shall not be permitted; and

However, in some of the islands, coastal stretches may also be classified into categories CRZ-I or II or III with the prior approval of Ministry of Environment and Forests and in such designated stretches, the appropriate regulations given for respective Categories shall apply.

Lakshadweep and small islands :

For permitting construction of buildings, the distance from the High Tide Line shall be decided depending on the size of the islands. This shall be laid down for each island, in consultation with the experts and with approval of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, keeping in view

the land use requirements for specific purposes vis-a-vis local conditions including hydrological aspects erosion and ecological sensitivity;

The buildings within 500 metres from the HTL shall not have more than 2 floors (ground floor and 1st floor), the total covered area on all floors shall not be more than 50 per cent of the plot size and the total height of construction shall not exceed 9 metres;

The design and construction of buildings shall be consistent with the surrounding landscape and local architectural style;

Corals and sand from the beaches and coastal waters shall not be used for construction and other purposes;

Dredging and underwater blasting in and around coral formations shall not be permitted; and

However, in some of the islands, coastal stretches may also be classified into categories CRZ-I or II or III, with the prior approval of Ministry of Environment and Forests and in such designated stretches, the appropriate regulations given for respective Categories shall apply.

Insurance Scheme for Workers under NREGA

2089. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the proposed insurance scheme meant to be introduced among NREGA workers; and

(b) the time by which it is expected to be introduced for work force participating in NREGA?

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) There is no proposed insurance scheme in NREGA. Preliminary discussions with Insurance Companies have, however, been initiated for formulation of a scheme and one meeting has also been held with them. Insurance Companies were asked to provide frame-work of their schemes.

[Translation]

Appointments of JEs for Implementing NREGA

2090. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has issued any instructions to all the States to appoint a Junior Engineer (JE) on every five Panchayats under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act; and

(b) if so, the effective steps taken by the concerned States particularly Jharkhand 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) Central Government has advised the State Governments to provide adequate technical staff for NREGA. Central Government has also permitted the States to pay wages of one technical assistant for every 10 Panchayats at the rate of Rs. 4,000 per month within the over-all ceiling of 2% administrative expenditure.

(b) States are taking necessary steps to deploy additional technical manpower for NREGA within the available manpower and additional recruitments possible within the over-all ceiling of expenditure. In Jharkhand, proposal for appointment of Technical Assistants on contract basis is under process. Gujarat Government has appointed 6 Deputy Engineers, 471 assistant Engineers/ additional assistant. Engineers at district and Taluk level. Rajasthan has deployed 140 Assistant/junior Engineers in NREGA districts. Kerala has appointed some Engineers for NREGA. In Madhya Pradesh, process of recruitment of 700 Junior Engineers is underway. In Andhra Pradesh, one Technical Assistant has been permitted by the State Government for 10 Panchayats. Some States have redeployed existing staff. Uttar Pradesh has issued orders for empanelment of engineers.

[English]

Outsourcing of RBI Jobs

2091. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank Workers Union, Reserve Bank Employees Association and AIRB Officer Association have strongly objected the outsourcing of RBI jobs viz. transfer of clearing operation to private parties etc.; and

(b) if so, facts in details and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The four recognised unions of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), namely, Reserve Bank of India Officers Association, All India Reserve Bank Officers Association, All India Reserve Bank Employees Association and All India Reserve Bank Workers Federation have come together and formed a United Forum of Reserve Bank Officers and Employees, to take a common stand/action on certain issues including setting up the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and outsourcing of clearing house/National Clearing Cell (NCC) activities.

(b) The NPCI is being set up by a group of public/private sector banks under auspices of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) so as to have a strong and viable mechanism of payment and settlement system, which would also create a proper infrastructure and facilitate technological standardization. Even after setting up of NPCI, the settlement of transactions would remain with Reserve Bank and the Bank would continue to regulate and supervise the payment and settlement system. There is no proposal to outsource or transfer the work of NCCs, as the same will be carried on by the staff of RBI, as hitherto, who will be on deputation with NPCI.

Power Grid Corporation

2092. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has given a go-ahead to the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. to set up East-West Power Transmission Corporation with an investment of Rs. 803 crores in the next three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Investment approval for East-

West Transmission Corridor Strengthening Scheme has been issued on 23rd June, 2006. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 803.70 crore. The scheme is scheduled to be implemented in 36 months from the date of investment approval. High capacity interconnection between Eastern Region and Western Region will be provided under the scheme which will help in transferring additional power from Eastern Region to Western Region and maintaining security and stability of the interconnected grid.

Rural Development through NGOs

2093. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has allocated funds to various NGOs for rural development during the last three years and current year;

(b) if so, the details of funds provided to each NGO during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has asked the World Bank to become a partner in enabling NGOs and Corporate Sector to undertake development of viable cluster of villages in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the World Bank thereto, and

(e) the achievements made in the field of rural development 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) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Issue of New Capital Bonds

2094. MS. INGRID MCLEOD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to issue new capital gains bonds for the benefit of senior citizens in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assured rate of return in the bonds;

(d) whether the interest liability will be nil in respect of senior citizens who invest in the bonds;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Special Package to North-Eastern States

2095. SHRI KIREN RIJJU : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to give special package to North Eastern States under the Ministry of Rural Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the criteria adopted to release fund is going to be relaxed for the North-Eastern States particularly Arunachal Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the cost component of various schemes is to be enhanced for Arunachal Pradesh due to difficult geographical location; and

(f) if so, the details 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) The Ministry of Rural Development is not considering any special package to North Eastern States presently.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal.

- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) There is no such proposal.
- (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Hawala Related Arrests by DRI

2096. SHRI DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state :

(a) whether Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have caught many people involved in Hawala Transaction of money;

(b) if so, the details of people arrested and money confiscated during each of the last three years till date;

(c) the action taken against those found responsible for the same; and

(d) the specific steps Government proposes to take to stop this trade?

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

(c) Nil in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have been sensitized to remain alert and thwart the attempts of Hawala transactions of money. Actions for preventing Hawala Transactions is also being taken under Foreign Exchange Management Act.

List of beneficiaries under IAY

2097. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the list of beneficiaries under the various centrally sponsored schemes like Indira Aawas Yojana was not properly prepared in many States;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has issued instructions to review the list of beneficiaries who came under below poverty line category which is the main yardstick for implementing many social welfare and development schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the further corrective measures 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) to (e) The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to the States and UTs to conduct a BPL Census in the beginning of every Five Year Plan to identify the rural poor households who could be provided assistance under various programmes of this Ministry including Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY). The 1st BPL Census was conducted for the 8th Five Year Plan in 1992 and in 1997 the Survey was conducted for the 9th Five Year Plan. For the 10th Five Year Plan also, the Ministry had issued guidelines to the States and UTs to conduct the BPL Census 2002 based on Score Based Ranking of the rural households for which 13 socio-economic parameters were prescribed on the recommendation of the Expert Group. This methodology was adopted with a view to ensure more transparency in determining the status of rural households.

[Translation]

Outsourcing IT Collection to Post Office

2098. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATEL :
SHRI K.C. PALLANISHAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by the assesseees in filing their Income Tax Returns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to allow post offices in the country to accept Income Tax Returns;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the proposal would come into effect?

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

(b) to (e) Traditionally, the Income Tax Department has been making comprehensive arrangements in every city for receiving returns centrally in the local income-tax offices or some other suitable place. This centralised receipt of returns was causing inconvenience to large number of taxpayers, particularly senior citizens since they had to travel a large distance to reach the centralised receipt points. Further, they also had to wait in long queue. Therefore, the Government considered it appropriate to decentralise receipt of returns by allowing about 1900 post offices across the country to receive the returns from 26th July, 2006. The list of such post offices is available on websites www.incometaxindia.gov.in and www.indiapost.gov.in.

Nathpa Jhakri Hydel Power Project

2099. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times power generation in the Nathpa Jhakri hydel power project was halted during June, and July, 2006; -

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss suffered by the stake holders exchequer as a result thereof;

(d) whether the silt limit in the reservoir has crossed the permissible limit;

(e) if so, the permissible limit of silt;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the silt so as the power generation would not be affected;

(g) whether the project has been operational; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) As per information available, the power generation from Nathpa Jhakri Hydel Project was halted twice during June, 2006 and 9 times during July, 2006 as detailed below :-

(i) June, 2006 - 2 times for routine reservoir flushing.

(ii) July, 2006 - 2 times for routine reservoir flushing and 7 times due to high silt contents in river Satluj.

The plant was shut down for 311 hours during June and July, 2006 which includes 34 hours outage due to silt flushing and 277 hours outage on account of high silt content in river water.

(c) There is no loss to the stake holders on account of reservoir flushing as it is a technical requirement for sediment management and is accounted for which arriving at the design energy.

The total loss suffered by the stake holder exchequer as a result of plant closure on account of high silt content in river water during June and July, 2006 comes to Rs. 61.58 crores for the outage of 277 hours (equivalent to 11.57 days).

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) For the safety of the plant and to avoid erosion of under water parts of turbine, the plant is shut-down whenever the silt concentration in river water exceeds the permissible limit of 4000 parts per million (PPM).

(f) The following steps have been taken to deal with the heavy silt content in river Satluj:-

(i) Units are closed when the silt level exceed specified/permissible limits as prescribed in the operation manual of the power station;

(ii) The underwater parts have been coated with Tungsten Carbide Coating by High Velocity

Oxygen Fuel (HVOF) improve abrasion resistance to silt;

- (iii) Strict implementation of Catchment Area Treatment Plan amounting to Rs. 29.75 crores through Himachal Pradesh State Forest Department;
- (iv) The treatment of identified Nallahs contributing high content of silt with quartz in the river water upstream of dam axis;
- (v) Prevention of dumping of muck in the Satluj river; and
- (vi) Weekly flushing of reservoir at Nathpa Dam to reduce the silt load.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. In June and July the plant has generated about 1,598 MU worth about Rs. 375 crores. However, since 24.7.2006 owing to the high silt content in the river Satluj, the plant has not been in-operation since 24.7.2006 and would start generation once the silt level reaches the permissible limits.

Import Duty on Vanaspati

2100.SHRI M.P. VEERENDARA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether vanaspati is allowed to be imported from Srilanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh without paying any customs duty;

(b) if so, quantity of vanaspati imported from each of these countries during each of the last three years;

(c) whether duty free import of vanaspati is severely hitting the indigenous industry as the palm oil imported from Srilanka and Nepal attracts customs duty;

(d) if so, steps proposed to be taken to save vanaspati industry in the country; and

(e) the justification for imposing 89 per cent customs duty on import of palm oil when vanaspati is allowed to be imported at zero customs duty from Srilanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Import of

Vanaspati from Nepal (upto one lakh MT in a year), Bhutan and Srilanka is allowed at nil basic customs duty.

(b) As per information available from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the quantity of Vanaspati imported from Srilanka, Nepal and Bhutan during last three financial years was as under :—

	(Quantity in Metric Tonnes)		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (Apr-Dec)
Srilanka	NIL	22151	138096
Nepal	45015	18658	60411
Bhutan	NIL	NIL	2733

(c) Domestic Vanaspati industry has complained about the adverse impact of duty free imports of Vanaspati from Srilanka and Nepal.

(d) Duty free imports of vanaspati from Nepal, have been restricted to a quota of 1 lakh Metric tone in a Financial year. As regards Srilanka, steps taken by the Government include (i) canalizing imports of Vanaspati from Srilanka and (ii) making adherence of guidelines prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act for such imports, mandatory.

(e) Imports of Vanaspati at nil rate from Srilanka are as per India's commitment under Indo-Srilanka Free Trade Agreement. Palm oil is not covered under any such agreement. Import duty on edible oils including palm oils are fixed taking into consideration various factors including the need to protect domestic edible oil industry.

Registration Fee for Fils

2101.SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SEBI has revised the registration fee for Fils; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. SEBI has raised the registration/renewal fees for Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) from US\$ 5,000 to US\$ 10,000 and for sub accounts from US\$ 10,000 to US\$ 2,000 with effect from 26th June, 2006. The validity of registration/renewal of FIIs has been reduced from 5 years to 3 years.

[Translation]

Loan to BPL

2102.DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for providing loan to people living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country;

(b) if so, the details of loan given by banks during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the progress achieved as a result of the steps so taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) The Government of India has formulated schemes for providing loans to sections of the society living Below Poverty Line (BPL) such as Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).

The State-wise details of the total loan disbursed by banks under SGSY and SJSRY during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise details of total loans disbursed by banks under SGSY and SJSRY for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	SGSY		SJSRY	
		2004-05	2005-06	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13791.44	11879.34	1762.10	2200.81
2.	Assam	5058.59	4768.83	231.99	105.52
3.	Bihar	20586.7	21305.71	462.54	495.58
4.	Gujarat	4216.82	6486.50	892.95	863.47
5.	Haryana	2044.67	2691.97	519.10	708.10
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1499.81	1612.19	205.68	107.89
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	1529.22	1345.78	437.39	797.71
8.	Karnataka	4495.02	4881.17	712.14	878.48
9.	Kerala	4138.56	4210.89	904.89	1003.41
10.	Madhya Pradesh	11055.17	9105.40	1821.25	1745.51

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Maharashtra	6589.17	10706.00	1346.48	1642.02
12.	Manipur	117.11	161.28	1.75	1.25
13.	Meghalaya	416.79	136.40	73.98	12.12
14.	Nagaland	426.52	256.59	175.24	22.81
15.	Orissa	8701.47	7841.50	779.20	592.06
16.	Punjab	1835.25	1611.46	233.31	78.23
17.	Rajasthan	5901.18	5520.01	1011.65	1518.79
18.	Sikkim	150.47	103.15	13.35	12.84
19.	Tamil Nadu	8293.52	13181.41	374.93	429.39
20.	Tripura	930.03	515.90	110.51	92.17
21.	Uttar Pradesh	14316.5	17599.51	1803.15	3700.94
22.	West Bengal	6886.78	8952.90	237.26	445.68
23.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	7.68	14.41	1.09	2.40
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	240.69	144.00	1.30	0.00
25.	Chandigarh	6.26	0.57	15.05	12.79
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.05	26.00	0.00	5.00
27.	Goa	102.11	191.46	7.11	9.19
28.	Mizoram	123.08	54.00	0.96	2.60
29.	Pondicherry	99.45	309.39	38.13	71.82
30.	Lakshadweep	2	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Daman and Diu	0	6.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Delhi	6.16	34.86	41.48	82.87
33.	Jharkhand	5632.73	8302.22	98.92	140.15
34.	Chhattisgarh	2838.5	3409.63	419.51	316.22
35.	Uttaranchal	1871.92	2329.62	332.69	261.36
Total		133914.42	149696.05	15067.08	16359.18

Note: Figures are provisional.

*[English]***Global Expansion of Insurance Companies**

2103 SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM :

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government owned insurance companies have made any plan for global expansion;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith names of the countries company-wise; and

(c) the benefits likely to be achieved on expansion and the revenue expected to be generated through it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b)
The presence of the Government owned insurance companies outside India existing as on date and their future expansion plan are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that its global expansion proposals will benefit it in terms of growth in business as well as in gaining experience in international best practices. In addition, there will be revenue earnings by way of valuation surplus and technical fees. New India Assurance Co. Ltd. expects to increase its foreign business to Rs. 1025 crores in 2006-07 as against Rs. 877 crores in 2005-06. The General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC), however, expects US\$ 205 million as premium income from its foreign offices in the year 2006-07.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Co.	Countries where operations already existing	Countries where operations are being proposed
1.	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	Gulf States, Sri Lanka, Nepal, U.K., Fiji and Mauritius.	Saudi Arabia, Bhutan, Nigeria and New Zealand.
2.	National Insurance Co. Ltd. (NICTL)	Nepal and Hong Kong.	No proposal for further expansion.
3.	New India Assurance Co. Ltd. (NIACL)	19 Branches, two associate companies and 3 subsidiaries companies in 24 countries viz. Japan, Hong Kong, Philippines, Thailand, Australia, Fiji, Mauritius, U.K., New Zealand, Abu Dhabi (U.A.E.), Dubai (U.A.E.) Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Dutch Caribbean, Netherlands Antilles, France, Canada, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Trinidad and Tobago St. Lucia Dominica St. Maarten.	Saudi Arabia and Qatar.
4.	Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. (OICL)	Nepal, Dubai and Kuwait.	Syria.
5.	United India Insurance Co. Ltd. (UIICL)	-	-
6.	General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)	Representative Offices-one each in Dubai, London and Moscow.	Proposes to upgrade representative offices in Dubai and London into full-fledged Branch Offices. It is also proposed to set up a liaison and contact office in Kenya.

[Translation]

Technique for Unauthorized Construction

2104.SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to develop a new technique to prevent illegal encroachments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said technique will be developed indigenously;

(d) if so, the places where the new technique is proposed to be introduced; and

(e) the time by which the said technique is likely to be operated?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir. However, under Department of Science and Technology, a research project was initiated in collaboration with the Russian Academy of Science for creating 3-D GIS databases;

(b) This is being done on a pilot scale for a small area of Ward-1 in Chandni Chowk. All contemporary technologies are being utilized and the data is being integrated to form a 3-Dimensional Geographical Information System. This database has got innumerable applications including change detection. It is being done in a small area measuring 20 sq.km. in Chandni Chowk (Ward-1).

(c) to (e) The Technology is still at the stage of testing and validation.

[English]

Renovation of Government Quarters

2105.SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to redevelop the dilapidated old areas and its exteriors and to give a face-lift to Government quarters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to adopt superior specifications for finishing of the outer walls of residential quarters to give the exteriors a face-lift. Initially quarters of all types facing main road shall be taken up. Subsequently all the quarters will be given a face-lift. An amount of Rs. 20.90 crore has been sanctioned for these works in the year 2006-07.

Setting up of Thermal Power Project in Gujarat

2106.SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to set up a thermal power project in Gujarat;

(b) the present status of the power project and the details of amount sanctioned for the said project; and

(c) the time by which the above project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (c) In order to meet the growing demand of power, power projects are set up in the State in collaboration with the stakeholders. Presently, four numbers of thermal power projects of total capacity 1565.45 MW are under construction in Gujarat. The present status of these thermal power projects is at Statement-I.

In addition, five numbers of thermal power projects of total capacity 3950 MW are proposed for benefits in Gujarat during 11th Plan Period. The present status of these thermal power projects is at Statement-II.

Statement-I*Present Status of Thermal Power Projects under construction in the state of Gujarat*

Sl. No	Name of Project/ Executing Agency	Fuel	Capacity (MW)	Estimated Project Cost	Remarks/Status
1.	Kutch Lignite Extn. Unit-4 Distt. – Kutch By M/s. GSECL (State Sector)	Lignite	75	Rs. 30469 Lakhs (incl. IDC of Rs. 3548 Lakhs)	– Order for Main Plant placed on M/s. BHEL on 15.01.04. – Project is expected to be Commissioned in April, 2007.
2.	Dhuvarari CCPP Extn. Distt. – Anand By M/s. GSECL (State Sector)	Natural Gas	112.45	Rs. 35600 Lakhs	– Order for Main Plant placed on M/s. BHEL on 24.03.04. – Project is expected to be Commissioned in Sept., 2007.
3.	Surat Lignite TPP Expn. Phase-II, Unit-3 and 4 Distt-Surat By M/s. GIPCL (State Sector)	Lignite	250 (2 × 125)	Rs. 119950 Lakhs	– Order for Main Plant placed on M/s. BHEL on 31.03.06. – Unit-3 is expected to be Commissioned in Novem- ber, 2008 and Unit-4 in March, 2009.
4.	Sugen CCPP (Akhakhol) Distt. – Surat By M/s. TPGL (Private Sector)	Gas	1128 (3 Blocks of 376 MW each)	Rs. 309600 Lakhs	– EPC Contract awarded to Consortium led by M/s. Si- emens AG, Germany on 17.06.2005. – Block-I is expected to be Commissioned in March, 2007, Block-II in December, 2007 and Block-III in Febru- ary, 2008. – Mega Project status awarded to the Project.

Statement-II*List of New Thermal Power Projects Proposed for benefits in the state of Gujarat during 11th Plan*

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/Capacity/ Executing Agency	Fuel	Benefits in 11th Plan (MW)	Remarks/Status
1.	Sikka TPP Extn. (2 x 250 MW) M/s. GSECL	Coal	500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – LOA expected by March, 2007. – Expected to be commissioned in 2009-10.
2.	Kawas-II (1300 MW) M/s. NTPC	Gas	1300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – LOA expected in the initial two years of 11th plan. – Expected to be commissioned in 2009-10.
3.	Gandhar-II (1300 MW) M/s. NTPC	Gas	1300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – LOA expected in the initial two years of 11th plan. – Expected to be commissioned in 2009-10.
4.	Utran CCPP (350 MW) M/s. GSECL	Gas	350	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – All clearances received. – LOA expected in the initial two years of 11th plan.
5.	Ukai TPS Unit-6 (500 MW) M/s. GEB	Coal	500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Proposed to be commissioned in 11th Plan period subject to tie up of coal linkage.
Total			3950	

Changes in Land use Policy

2107. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether change of land use is permissible in Delhi;

(b) if so, the detailed procedure involved therein; and

(c) the number and details of cases in which change of land use was permitted during the last three years in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) Yes,

Sir. Modification of the Master Plan for the purpose of change of land use can be carried out after following the procedure laid down in the Delhi Development Act 1957 and rules made thereunder.

(b) The procedure involves issue of public notice, calling for objections/Suggestions, consideration of the same as may be received by a Board of Enquiry, recommendation by the Authority and approval by the Central Government before final notification.

(c) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that during the period from 1st January 2003 to 31st July 2006, change of land use has been permitted on 19 occasions for various purposes such as resettlement of Jhuggi Jhopri clusters, setting up of Metro Stations.

carrying out development for providing residential, commercial and other public and semi public facilities; relocation of industries etc.

Unclaimed Deposits in Banks

2108.SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given a ruling recently that the unclaimed money lying in banks should be pooled in a fund and the fund should be utilized for the welfare of the physically challenged people in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Delay in Release of Funds to States

2109.PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not releasing several instalments of the funds allocated to various states particularly Rajasthan during the last one year under various schemes like the Accelerated Rural Water Supply project, Drought Prone Areas Project (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP);

(b) whether the concerned states have requested the Union Government in this regard;

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

(d) the total amount allocated so far to each state on various rural development heads and the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be released with particular reference to Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) to (c)

During 2005-06 both the instalments of allocated funds were released to Rajasthan in respect of Normal as well as Desert Development Programme (DDP) components of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). In respect of Jammu and Kashmir, 2nd instalment of DDP component of ARWSP was not released as no proposal was received from the State Government. In respect of Union Territories, no instalment of Normal component of ARWSP was released for want of Utilisation Certificates and Audit Reports. So far as Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) are concerned, these are demand driven programmes and no inter-State allocation is made. The sanctions are done keeping in view total degraded area in a State, demands for ongoing works as well as new project proposals received from the States.

(d) Allocation made during 2006-07 under Normal and DDP components of ARWSP is given in Statement-I enclosed. Releases made to the DPAP/DDP States during 2006-07 are given in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Allocation made during 2006-07 under Normal and DDP components of ARWSP

State	Amount allocated during 2006-07 (Rs. in Lakh)		
	Normal	DDP	Total
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	32.73	Not applicable	32.73
Andhra Pradesh	19548.00	536.08	20084.08
Arunachal Pradesh	9843.00	Not applicable	9843.00
Assam	16601.00	Not applicable	16601.00
Bihar	16557.00	Not applicable	16557.00
Chandigarh	5.46	Not applicable	5.46
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5.92	Not applicable	5.92
Daman and Diu	13.53	Not applicable	13.53

1	2	3	4
Delhi	0.00	Not applicable	0.00
Goa	226.00	Not applicable	226.00
Gujarat	12503.00	658.56	13161.56
Haryana	4053.00	1499.63	5552.63
Himachal Pradesh	9663.00	43.86	9706.86
Jammu and Kashmir	23326.00	161.79	23487.79
Karnataka	17467.00	2035.40	19502.40
Kerala	6216.00	Not applicable	6216.00
Madhya Pradesh	16759.00	Not applicable	16759.00
Maharashtra	32232.00	Not applicable	32232.00
Lakshadweep	3.64	Not applicable	3.64
Manipur	3379.00	Not applicable	3379.00
Meghalaya	3893.00	Not applicable	3893.00
Mizoram	2791.00	Not applicable	2791.00
Nagaland	2865.00	Not applicable	2865.00
Orissa	9212.00	Not applicable	9212.00
Pondicherry	38.72	Not applicable	38.72
Punjab	3654.00	Not applicable	3654.00
Rajasthan	26425.00	15064.68	41489.68
Sikkim	1175.00	Not applicable	1175.00
Tamil Nadu	12057.00	Not applicable	12057.00
Tripura	3453.00	Not applicable	3453.00
Uttar Pradesh	27990.00	Not applicable	27990.00
West Bengal	14092.00	Not applicable	14092.00
Chhattisgarh	5839.00	Not applicable	5839.00
Jharkhand	6474.00	Not applicable	6474.00
Uttaranchal	6707.00	Not applicable	6707.00
Total	315100.00	20000.00	335100.00

Statement-II

*Releases made under DPAP and DDP during
2006-07 (as on 8.8.061)*

State	Releases made during 2006-07 as on 8.8.06 (Rs. in Lakh)	
	DPAP	DDP
Andhra Pradesh	1282.275	733.900
Bihar	0.000	Not applicable
Chhattisgarh	0.000	Not applicable
Gujarat	738.680	1120.780
Haryana	Not applicable	0.000
Himachal Pradesh	0.000	524.720
Jammu and Kashmir	0.000	0.000
Jharkhand	0.000	Not applicable
Karnataka	709.600	712.980
Madhya Pradesh	811.025	Not applicable
Maharashtra	214.870	Not applicable
Orissa	182.825	Not applicable
Rajasthan	581.195	6723.057
Tamil Nadu	820.395	Not applicable
Uttaranchal	0.000	Not applicable
Uttar Pradesh	158.260	Not applicable
West Bengal	0.000	Not applicable
Total	5499.125	9815.437

BPL Norms for Indian Farmers

2110. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be
pleased to state :

(a) whether the average family expense of the
Indian farmers is just above the amount fixed by the
Government for poverty line;

(b) if so, whether the Government has been in the process of hiding the megacity of poor people of India by taking excuse of BPL for a quite long time;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective steps 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) The Planning Commission had defined poverty in terms of the per capita monthly expenditure corresponding to per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban area. The incidence of poverty at national and State level is estimated by the Planning Commission from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the Expert Group Methodology (Lakdawala Committee on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor). The rural poverty line, which was estimated at national level during 1999-2000 is Rs. 327.56. However, the Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers during 2003 was taken up by NSSO, in the rural areas, as part of the NSS 59th Round, on the request of the Union Ministry of Agriculture. According to the results of that Survey, the average monthly per capita expenditure of farmers at National level is Rs. 502.83 during 2003. If this average monthly per capita expenditure of Rs. 502.83 is deflated at 1999-2000 prices it works out to be Rs. 487.97 which is about 49% higher than the poverty line.

[English]

Promotion of R and D

2111. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote Research and Development in the Drugs and Pharmaceutical sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the investments made for R and D during the last three years;

(c) the details of R and D programmes drawn up for 2006-07; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost R and D sector?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is taking several steps and measures from time to time to promote Research and Development in the Drugs and Pharmaceutical sector in the country. During the last three years (2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06), it has invested Rs. 232.90 crores for promotion of R and D in Drugs and Pharmaceutical sector.

(c) and (d) Some of the R and D programmes implemented by the Government to boost R and D in Drugs and Pharmaceutical sector are Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme of Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Technology Promotion, Development and Utilization (TPDU) programme of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Offering Research Fellowships for human resource development and Weighted tax deduction under Income Tax Act for drug research and development.

Shortage of Manpower

2112. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the shortage of manpower in the Income Tax Department has affected the budgetary target fixed for tax collections during the current year;

(b) if so, the target fixed for various tax collections during the current year and the actual collections so far; and

(c) the steps being taken to appoint sufficient manpower in the Tax Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PLANIMANICKAM) : (a) Sir, the shortage of manpower has affected tax collections in the last financial year. However though the collections are much higher during the current financial year, with adequate manpower it would have been much better when compared to corresponding period of last year. The

collection under Corporate Income Tax and Personal Income Tax (including Fringe Benefit Tax, Securities Transaction Tax and Banking Cash Transaction Tax) upto 31st July, 2006 of the current financial year are 61.35% higher as compared to the collections under these Heads during the corresponding period of preceding year.

(b) The target fixed for various tax collections during the current financial year are as under :—

Rs. (in crore)		
Taxes	Target fixed	Actual collection (upto 31.07.06)
Corporate Income Tax	1,33,010	19,553
Personal Income Tax (Including Fringe Benefit Tax, Securities Transaction Tax and Banking Cash Transaction Tax)	77,409	16,528
Total	2,10,419	36,081

(c) The shortage of manpower in the Income Tax Department is being addressed by starting the process of recruitment for 3,300 posts sanctioned some time ago.

Further, an exercise was undertaken to assess the comprehensive requirement of manpower on account of new areas of work arising out of enactment of new laws and information generated through computerization. The Department is in the process of augmenting manpower resources and has initiated steps in this direction. Formal sanction of new posts proposed will take some time.

Industrial Investment Bank

2113. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
SHRIMATI NIVENDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI) is being wound up;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to sell this Bank to private ownership;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the interest of workers and staff of the Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI) has accumulated losses which have eroded the capital and resources of the company. Reserve Bank of India has advised that the only option for IIBI appears to be winding up. As a result, it is not possible for IIBI to continue its operations which may necessitate eventual closure of IIBI.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) All employees of IIBI are to be offered an option to be absorbed in nationalized banks with full protection of their pay. In the alternative, the employees would have the option for retirement under Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

Common Format for Life Insurance

2114. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether different Insurance Companies have different policy documentation and languages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has directed the life insurance companies to work out a common format and language for life insurance policies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of insurance companies thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that the terms and conditions outlined in a policy document depend upon the benefits offered under the policy. The features offered which vary from one company to other, determine the contents of the policy documents. With regard to the language, it also varies across the companies with some companies adopting bilingual formats (English and Hindi) while majority of them communicate in English. However, in case of micro insurance products, IRDA has stipulated that vernacular language has to be used in the policy document.

(c) and (d) The IRDA has informed that identifying the need to work out a common format across the industry, it has entrusted the National Insurance Academy, Pune for the work of drafting standard policy bonds for all products with suitable wordings. These standard policy bonds are intended to be adopted by all the life insurance companies.

Metro Rails for Commonwealth Games

2115. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has started the work of the Metro Rails to the proposed venues of 2010 Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the routes undertaken to meet the needs of the Games;

(c) the present status thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (d) It may not be necessary to connect all the proposed venues of 2010 Commonwealth Games with metro rail. An overall transport plan, to provide connectivity using the most optimal mode, is under finalization. All the necessary works are proposed to be completed in time for the Games.

Release of funds to Karnataka under SGSY

2116. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has urged the Union Government to release the 1st installment in respect of Special Project proposal under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for Employment Generation for Rural Folk through Agri-Enterprises in Mysore district;

(b) if so, whether this demand has been pending with the Union Government for the last two years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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 Special Project under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana for Employment Generation for the Rural Folk through Agri-Enterprises in Mysore, Karnataka was sanctioned by Ministry of Rural Development in March, 2005 and 1st installment of the Central Share to the tune of Rs. 97.59 lakh and Rs. 163.04 lakh was released vide sanction order(s) No. 24015/2/2005-SGSY II (SP) dated 31st March, 2005 and 14th June, 2005 respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Surplus Staff in Banks

2117. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expenditure of some of the banks has increased after the introduction of ATMs which resulted in increase in the number of surplus staff and officers;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government by taking such steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) No substantial increase has been reported in the expenditure of the Banks after introduction of ATMs. There has also been no increase in the number of surplus staff and officers as the staff has been reallocated keeping in view the operational requirement of the Bank concerned.

[English]

Shortage of Water

2118. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the population of India is likely to cross population of China and thus resulting in shortage of power, drinking water, accommodation in major metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tackle such situation;

(c) whether the Government propose to depute team of experts to study the manner in which China is coping with the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) As per projections of United Nations total population of India in 2045 will be 1.501 billion and that of China will be 1.496 billion. It is also estimated that 48% of the total population will reside in urban settlements which will certainly strain the existing infrastructure of the metropolitan cities.

(b) "Urban Development" being a State subject, urban infrastructure development and provision of civic amenities to the major metropolitan cities rest with the concerned State Governments. Such projects are formulated, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves. Central assistance is given to the State Governments to supplement their efforts. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been launched by the Central Government on 3.12.2005 for providing reforms linked Central assistance to 'selected 63 cities including all major metropolitan cities in the country.

(c) There has been no such proposal so far.

(d) Does not arise.

Autonomy to S and T Institutes

2119. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has any proposal to grant more autonomy to institutions of Science and Technology with a view to providing better opportunities to the scientific community; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Committee comprising of five members, representing the Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Scientific Advisory Committee to the Prime Minister, Department of Personnel and Secretary, Department of Science and Technology as the Convener, has been constituted to look into the issues involved. The Committee will recommend measures for liberalising the (i) Planning and Administration (ii) Project Administration (iii) Scientists' matters and (iv) Audit and Accountability.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

2120.SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

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

(a) whether the number of persons availing voluntary retirement in the Supreme Court of India has increased of late;

(b) if so, the details regarding the number of persons who have taken Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) during each of the last three years, and current year;

(c) whether the officers/employees of Supreme Court serving in particular streams are more inclined to avail the VRS;

(d) if so, the details of those streams alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to check VRS from the particular stream?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the Supreme Court of India and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Customer Services in Insurance Companies

2121.SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the consumers in the country are dissatisfied with the way their claims are serviced by the public sector insurance companies;

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

(c) whether the faith of consumers towards public sector insurance companies have totally eroded and there is a decline in consumer rating;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to tone up the functioning of the various public sector insurance companies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) In respect of servicing of claims by public sector general insurance companies, the General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association of India (GIPSA) has reported that during the year 2004-05, claims settlement ratio of non-suit claims was at 90.29%. In respect of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the claim settlement ratio was at 99.86% in 2004-05. It is the endeavour of all the public sector insurance companies to increase the claim settlement ratio and reduce delays in claim settlement so as to provide maximum satisfaction to its customers.

(c) and (d) The consumer faith in the GIPSA Companies is manifested by the fact that the gross direct premium income has grown by 7.01% in 2005-06. National Insurance Company Limited (NICL) and New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL) have been jointly awarded 'CNBC Aawaz award' for most preferred non-life insurance companies. LIC has also been awarded as the 'No. 1 Service Brand' consecutively for the last three years and considered as 'preferred insurance company' in India. LIC has also won the NDTV Profit 'Business Leader in Insurance' Award in 2006.

(e) The Government has taken steps to monitor performance of the companies by way of Letter of Intent (LOI) that has been signed with all public sector insurance companies, which inter-alia includes compliance of targets in settlement of claims and a great emphasis on Customer Relations Management (CRM).

Loan under SJSRY

2122.SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banks are not co-operating in the matter of sanctioning and disbursement of loan to the beneficiaries under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY);

(b) the number of complaints received during the last three years in this regard;

(c) the measures taken to redress the grievances of the beneficiaries under SJSRY; and

(d) the quantum of loan sanctioned and disbursed (during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued specific instructions/guidelines to the banks thereby advising them to extend necessary co-operation in the matter of sanctioning and disbursement of loan to the beneficiaries under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). RBI monitors the performance of domestic scheduled commercial banks under SJSRY through the receipt of monthly/quarterly progress reports.

(b) RBI does not collate any data on the number of complaints received. However, any complaint received by the Bank, is quickly redressed.

(c) The following steps have been taken by RBI for proper implementation of the SJSRY :-

- RBI has advised banks that loans sanctioned under SJSRY should be treated as advances under priority sector.
- RBI has also advised banks that the field level functionaries should ensure that there is no inordinate gap/delay between the sanction of applications and disbursement of loans under the scheme, which causes unnecessary hardship to the eligible beneficiaries.

- Branch managers should be vested with adequate discretionary powers to sanction proposals under the SJSRY.
- Steps should be initiated to ensure that documentation process is kept simple to avoid hardship to the beneficiaries and consequent delay in disposal of applications under the SJSRY.
- Loan applications for loans upto Rs. 25000/- should be disposed of within a fortnight and above Rs. 25000/- within 8 to 9 weeks.
- For individual loans upto Rs. 50000/- and group loans upto Rs. 3 lakhs, no collateral/guarantee is required.
- RBI monitors the performance of domestic scheduled commercial banks under SJSRY through the receipt of monthly/quarterly progress reports.

(d) Loans sanctioned and disbursed by scheduled commercial banks to the beneficiaries under SJSRY for the last 3 years are as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Year ending March 31	Sanctioned	Disbursed
2004	25051	19278
2005	21492	16368
2006 (Provisional)	24501	21299

[Translation]

Sewage Disposal System

2123.SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received from State Governments for improvement of sewage disposal system in different cities and towns during the last three years;

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

(c) the State-wise details of approved/rejected/pending proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

ADB and World Bank

2124. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has approached the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank seeking changes in the loan sanctioning and disbursal mechanism;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Asian Development Bank and World Bank thereon;

(c) whether the Asian Development Bank and World Bank have stop funding to those projects where the instances of corruption found;

(d) if so, the names of the projects to which the Asian Development Bank and World Bank have stopped funding;

(e) whether the Asian Development Bank and World Bank have found India laws on anti-corruptions and the central vigilance commission mechanism insufficient to deal with the situation;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(g) the steps taken by Government to deal with the situation?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

National Rehabilitation Policy

2125. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to introduce a legislation for settlement of displaced people particularly those affected by development projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had already formulated a national policy on rehabilitation and resettlement for the displaced persons during 2004;

(d) if so, whether the Government has also taken the views of States before introducing legislation;

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

(f) the time by which it is likely to be introduced indicating the number of displaced person to be resettled thereby?

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 (f) Government of India have formulated a National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation for Project Affected Families-2003, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary on 17th February 2004. The National Policy is in the form of broad guidelines and executive instructions for guidance of all concerned and is applicable to projects displacing 500 families or more *en masse* in plain areas, and 250 families *en masse* in hilly areas, Desert Development Programme (DDP) blocks, areas mentioned in Schedule V and Schedule VI of the Constitution of India. Many State Governments have their own policies on resettlement and rehabilitation. Maharashtra Government has passed an Act on the subject, namely Maharashtra Project Affected Persons Rehabilitation Act, 1999 (Maharashtra Act No. XI of 2001).

The policy evaluation and formulation is an ongoing process. No decision has been taken so far by the Central Government to introduce a legislation on the subject.

**Investment from NRIs and Foreign
Companies**

2126. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Non Resident Indians (NRIs) and foreign companies have submitted proposal before the Government to start their business in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of investment proposed to be made by them alongwith investment actually taking place sector-wise during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The sector-wise details of proposals from NRIs and foreign companies approved and actual investment in last 3 years (April 2003 to May 2006) are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) The Government has put in place a liberal, transparent and investor-friendly FDI policy to encourage investments from NRIs and foreign companies. It is also continuously rationalized to make it more investor-friendly.

Statement

Financial Year-wise break-up for FDI inflows received from April 2003 to May 2006

(Amount in crore)

Sl. No	Sector	2003-04 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2004-05 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2005-06 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2006-07 Apr-May FDI in Rs.	Total FDI in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Metallurgical Industries	146.06	880.95	680.84	160.09	1,867.94
2.	Fuels (Power and Oil Refinery)	520.94	759.00	415.71	387.84	2,083.49
3.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	0.20	2.34	0.00	0.00	2.54
4.	Prime Movers other than Electrical	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.25
5.	Electrical Equipment (Incl S/W and Elec)	2,449.32	3,280.58	6,449.06	358.36	12,587.33
6.	Telecommunications	531.95	558.41	3,023.46	1,383.83	5,527.65
7.	Transportation Industry	1,417.13	815.10	982.99	318.09	3,533.31
8.	Industrial Machinery	13.93	40.74	187.52	20.11	262.29
9.	Machine Tools	250.75	50.73	100.25	3.43	405.16
10.	Agricultural Machinery	0.11	0.01	415.97	0.00	416.09
11.	Earth-Moving Machinery	0.05	0.47	231.30	0.00	231.82
12.	Miscellaneous Mechanical and Engineering	100.07	56.73	226.21	3.37	386.37
13.	Commercial, Office and Household Equipment	40.96	62.46	111.41	4.50	219.33
14.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	9.26	24.05	6.72	0.00	40.03
15.	Industrial Instruments	4.16	4.95	1.69	0.00	10.80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16. Scientific Instruments		0.07	0.14	0.45	0.00	0.66
17. Fertilizers		99.29	61.90	19.31	0.00	180.50
18. Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)		93.69	908.68	1,979.06	81.93	3,063.36
19. Photographic Raw Film and Paper		1.35	27.62	0.00	0.00	28.97
20. Dye-Stuffs		2.00	5.42	0.00	0.00	7.42
21. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals		501.67	1,342.91	759.70	10.32	2,614.60
22. Textiles (Included Dyed, Printed)		42.84	196.84	414.67	26.21	680.56
23. Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product		31.68	12.41	122.90	1.80	168.80
24. Sugar		0.25	13.51	13.10	0.00	26.86
25. Fermentation Industries		7.85	41.64	28.57	0.00	78.03
26. Food Processing Industries		510.85	174.08	182.94	3.75	871.63
27. Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati		7.79	41.03	54.00	0.74	103.56
28. Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations		0.00	4.09	388.49	1.74	394.32
29. Rubber Goods		29.31	184.18	150.77	0.70	364.96
30. Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers		32.18	2.03	4.89	0.34	39.44
31. Glass		24.11	38.47	3.54	1.37	67.50
32. Ceramics		6.78	123.09	25.02	4.40	159.29
33. Cement and Gypsum Product		44.04	0.73	1,969.82	1.99	2,016.58
34. Timber Products		0.50	0.31	465.64	0.00	466.45
35. Defence Industries		0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.24
36. Consultancy Services		257.13	1,166.83	206.44	13.61	1,644.02
37. Service Sector		1,235.27	2,105.53	2,565.04	1,089.25	6,995.11
38. Hotel and Tourism		226.80	168.85	315.59	22.33	733.58
39. Trading		104.66	65.72	123.43	108.95	402.77
40. Miscellaneous Industries		1,319.11	1,399.71	1,907.83	1,406.75	6,033.39
41. Advance of Inflow*		1,880.76	2,485.15	0.00	0.00	4,365.90
42. Stock Swapped*		172.50	0.00	28.37	0.00	200.87
Grand Total		12,117.36	17,137.87	24,612.74	5,415.81	59,283.78

Note: 1. Amount includes the Inflows Received through SIA/FIPB route, acquisition of existing shares and RBI's automatic route only.

2. The above includes inflow received from NRIs.

3. *Mark Sector-wise information has not been provided by RBI, Mumbai.

Financial year-wise break-up for FDI inflows received from April 2003 to May 2006

(Amount in crore)

Sl. No	Sector	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		Total	
		FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Metallurgical Industries	29	46.95	28	444.76	6	52.22	0	0.00	63	543.93
2	Fuels (Power and Oil Refinery)	40	320.23	27	495.45	13	304.38	0	0.00	80	1,120.96
3	Electrical Equipment (Incl SW and Elec)	534	840.87	369	761.87	44	129.22	2	0.11	949	1,732.07
4.	Telecommunications	57	381.72	51	451.21	21	709.94	3	0.09	132	1,542.96
5.	Transportation Industry	95	845.39	53	571.18	20	337.92	2	0.00	170	1,754.50
6.	Industrial Machinery	27	12.06	25	78.73	6	94.58	0	0.00	58	185.36
7.	Machine Tools	11	12.74	5	2.86	4	1.17	0	0.00	20	16.77
8.	Agricultural Machinery	0	0.00	1	2.33	1	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.33
9.	Earth-Moving Machinery	3	3.77	4	2.07	0	0.00	0	0.00	7	5.84
10.	Miscellaneous Mechanical and Engineering	44	53.27	20	41.38	10	22.89	0	0.00	74	117.54
11.	Commercial, Office and Household Equipment	10	3.21	5	1.82	4	2.19	0	0.00	19	7.22
12.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	11	4.18	10	29.30	11	17.75	0	0.00	32	51.23
13.	Industrial Instruments	12	15.57	7	21.07	2	0.01	0	0.00	21	36.65
14.	Scientific Instruments	1	0.07	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.07
15.	Fertilizers	3	31.78	1	0.20	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	31.98
16.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	62	97.38	38	986.78	9	29.92	1	0.00	110	1,114.08
17.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	0	0.00	3	0.37	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	0.37
18.	Dye-Stuffs	1	0.03	1	5.42	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	5.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
19. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals		55	395.87	33	544.55	9	27.17	0	0.00	97	967.59
20. Textiles (Included Dyed, Printed)		32	24.43	19	374.34	7	87.71	1	1.98	59	488.45
21. Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product		8	24.36	2	3.20	2	0.99	0	0.00	12	28.55
22. Sugar		2	5.25	0	0.00	1	1.99	0	0.00	3	7.24
23. Fermentation Industries		3	0.12	3	7.89	3	786.24	0	0.00	9	794.25
24. Food Processing Industries		35	142.42	18	100.25	6	184.87	0	0.00	60	427.54
25. Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati		7	15.66	11	39.37	2	0.90	0	0.00	20	55.94
26. Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations		1	0.50	3	3.37	1	17.00	0	0.00	5	20.87
27. Rubber Goods		9	1.42	4	3.05	1	0.54	0	0.00	14	5.02
28. Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers		8	1.27	6	0.43	2	1.80	0	0.00	16	3.50
29. Glue and Gelatin		0	0.00	1	4.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	4.00
30. Glass		9	21.19	6	226.88	2	58.00	0	0.00	17	306.07
31. Ceramics		6	14.32	4	0.27	1	29.70	0	0.00	11	44.29
32. Cement and Gypsum Product		2	0.98	3	31.58	2	2,937.54	0	0.00	7	2,970.0
33. Timber Products		2	0.50	4	2.02	1	3.00	0	0.00	7	5.52
34. Defence Industries		0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.24	0	0.00	1	0.24
35. Consultancy Services		85	120.11	44	69.64	7	20.06	1	0.00	137	209.80
36. Service Sector		121	882.54	118	1,714.97	55	1,258.42	4	3,377.00	298	7,232.93
37. Hotel and Tourism		57	238.63	40	57.49	4	64.59	0	0.00	101	360.71
38. Trading		106	843.29	108	287.94	144	688.06	2	2.85	360	1,822.14
39. Miscellaneous Industries		139	821.44	84	1,359.69	23	720.00	1	0.48	247	2,901.60
Grand Total		1,628	6,223.52	1,159	8,727.71	425	8,591.00	17	3,382.51	3,229	26,924.74

Note: The above FDI approval includes NRI proposals.

[Translation]

Concession to Students/Senior Citizens

2127. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue concessional monthly passes in metro rail for senior citizens and students studying in various colleges in Delhi particularly the students belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. No concession has been envisaged for any class of travellers, except an inbuilt discount of 10% on use of smart cards, in order to ensure long-term financial sustainability of the Delhi Metro.

[English]

Energy Through Bamboo and Grass

2128. SHRI B. MAHATAB : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to generate power from Bamboo and Grass in Mizoram;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether possibility has been explored in any other State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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 has not supported bamboo based power generation projects in Mizoram.

(c) and (d) The National Mission on Bamboo Applications, Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIPAC), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India promotes induction of gasifiers using bamboo and bamboo waste to generate electricity and thermal energy, especially in off-grid mode at remote locations in order to meet captive needs of the industry and utility in North Eastern States. Two projects of one MW (Thermal) based on bamboo dust fed gasifiers are being installed at Nagaon Paper Mill, Jagi Road and Cachar Paper Mill, Pachgram of Hindustan Paper Corporation in Assam. Besides, a project on bamboo based gasifier system coupled with 100% producer gas engine of 25 kWe capacity is being installed at Forest Complex, Bashistha, Guwahati, Assam for meeting power requirement of office and residential complex.

Commonwealth Games

2129. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "2010 Games faced funds crunch again" appearing Hindustan Times dated July 30, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to release sufficient funds to various projects for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (d) The Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has informed that Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Planning Commission of Government of India had requested the GNCTD to restructure the earlier outlay of Rs. 1314.40 crore for only those schemes which are solely related to the Commonwealth Games, 2010. GNCTD has reported that accordingly, the expenditure from the Central budget has been proposed to be at Rs. 770 crore, and an additional amount of Rs. 582.20 crore is proposed to be provided from GNCTD plan funds for various schemes

which are also to facilitate the Commonwealth Games, 2010.

Delhi Master Plan

2130.SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Master Plan is behind the schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of suggestions/objections received and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether any target has been fixed for the execution of the Master Plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (f) The Delhi Development Act, 1957, does not stipulate time frame for the notification of Master Plan. The first Master Plan of Delhi was notified on 1.9.1962. This was extensively modified vide notification dated 1.8.1990 and was called Master Plan of Delhi (MPD), 2001. Again extensive modification has been proposed to MPD 2001 with the perspective for the year 2021. A public notice was issued on 8th April 2005, for inviting objections/suggestions in respect of the draft Master Plan for Delhi – 2021.

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that in response to the public notice about 7,000 objections/suggestions have been received and a Board of Enquiry and Hearing has been constituted by it to consider these objections/suggestions. The Board of Enquiry and Hearing has till date held 14 meetings including four exclusive public hearings. The Delhi Development Act provides for final notification of the Master Plan on the basis of the recommendations of the Board of Enquiry and Hearing; approval of the Authority and Central Government.

Nano-technology for Pure Drinking Water

2131.SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Scientists from the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, developed a filter with the help of Nano-technology which helps in providing pure drinking water and also helps in purifying polluted water from industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether only 3 paise is needed to purify one litre of water and 5 paise for purifying industrial water;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is considering to commercially exploit this technology for purifying water; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Scientists of Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad developed nano-filtration (NF) technique for purifying water. A plant of 4000 l/day capacity based on this technique was commissioned in West Bengal in January 2006, for recovery of a water-based chemical from an industrial effluent. It uses an indigenously manufactured commercial membrane. NF technique is found to be useful for purifying raw water containing total dissolved solids (TDS) in the range 700-1200 ppm. It allows sufficient permeation of essential salts while keeping TDS below 500 ppm in accordance with BIS drinking water standards and can be operated at low pressure; Studies carried out of pilot plant with 1 m² membrane area, 700 ppm feed TDS and an operating pressure of 100 psi (7.0Kg/cm²), showed that NF gave a flow of 40 l/h of purified water free of virus/bacteria with 50% reduction in TDS.

(c) and (d) It is estimated that NF operation and maintenance cost is Paise 3.3 per liter for a plant capacity of 1000 l/h and Paise 1.5 per litre for a plant capacity of 5000 l/h. The estimates exclude capital investment, which would approximately be Rs. 1.5 Lakh for a plant of capacity 200 l/h, Rs. 3.75 Lakh for 1000 l/h and Rs. 8.0 Lakh for 5000 l/h.

(e) and (f) The technology will be commercially exploited under the XI five year plan by transferring the NF technique to the industrial firms.

[Translation]

Housing Society Scam In Dwarka

2132. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
 SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :
 DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
 SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands of allottees are facing problems due to Cooperative Housing Society Scam in Dwarka;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to exempt these Housing Societies from investigations and carry on investigation against main culprits;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the members of these societies are facing problems such as living in rented accommodation, paying the Housing loan alongwith interest despite completion and allotment of their flats for the last many years;

(e) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to resolve this issue permanently; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (d) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that flats to the members of Cooperative Group Housing Societies are allotted after the clearance of membership by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS), Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD). RCS, GNCTD has informed that proposals for clearance of draw of lots of flats in respect of total membership of 43 Cooperative Group Housing Societies and of partial membership in respect of 58 Cooperative Group Housing Societies, which include societies in Dwarka, can be taken up for approval only after the concerned societies submit complete set of requisite information/documents as per the provisions of the DCS Act, Rules and Directives issued thereunder. Further, RCS

has informed that the Delhi High Court in CWP No. 10066/2004 - The Yogiraj Krishna Group Housing Society Vs. DDA and Anr. has entrusted the investigation of 97 Cooperative Group Housing Societies, which have been allotted land by DDA and of 151 other Cooperative Group Housing Societies, to the CBI.

(e) and (f) RCS has further informed that various measures have been initiated to ensure transparency in the process of enrolment of members and clearance of proposals for draw of lots. These include provision for filling vacancies by advertisements, submission of affidavits by members to the Society and verification certificate in respect of members.

[English]

Merger of Banks

2133. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :
 SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU :
 SHRI P. RAJENDRAN :
 SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
 SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to merge one nationalised bank with the other nationalised bank and a private bank with nationalised bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared a draft merger plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the interest of the staff and depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (c) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government. Further, the Government is of the view that such a proposal needs to emanate from the concerned banks, themselves.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) The Government has advised the banks that before considering any merger proposal, the Unions (of Banks) may be suitably sensitised on the need and advantages of consolidation and their apprehensions may be allayed. Further, while supporting any merger proposal, Government will ensure that the interests of the stakeholders and employees of merging banks are adequately protected.

Mutilated Currency NOTES

2134. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several nationalised banks refuse to change the mutilated currency notes under Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Rules, 1975 compelling the public to approach touts for exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any investigation into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the banks/officials violating RBI (Note Refund) Rules, 1973?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d)

Nationalised Banks have been providing the facility of exchange of soiled as well as mutilated currency notes under Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Rules, 1975. Whenever any specific complaint is received by the Reserve Bank in this regard, the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned bank (including Nationalised Banks) for resolution.

(e) RBI has advised the banks to take disciplinary action against the erring officials for any violation of Reserve Bank of India (Not; Refund) Rules, 1975.

Cases Filed by CBEC

2135. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4630 on December 23, 2005 and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be laid on the table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) The information has since been collected and the assurance given to the Lok Sabha has been fulfilled. A copy of the Implementation Report is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Vith Session of the XIVth Lok Sabha, 2005

Date of Fulfillment: 20th June, 2006

Ministry of Finance

Department of Revenue

Question No. and Date	Subject	Promise Made	When and how fulfilled	Reasons for delay
1	2	3	4	5
USQ No. 4630 dated 23.12.2005 by Shri S. K.	CUSTOMS AND EXCISE CASES Asking for :— (a) the number of cases	(a) to (c) The information is being collected and	(a), (b) and (c) The number of show cause notices issued by the Customs and Central Excise during the last three years is indicated below :	The collection of information from field forma-

1	2	3	4	5																
Kharventhan, Member of Parliament	booked by the Customs and Central Excise Department during the last three years;	will be laid on the Table of the House.	<table><tr><td></td><td>2002-03</td><td>2003-04</td><td>2004-05</td></tr><tr><td>Central Excise</td><td>20072</td><td>25909</td><td>25917</td></tr><tr><td>Customs</td><td>2670</td><td>3800</td><td>3976</td></tr><tr><td>Service Tax</td><td>8751</td><td>16643</td><td>20054</td></tr></table>		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Central Excise	20072	25909	25917	Customs	2670	3800	3976	Service Tax	8751	16643	20054	tions across the country and its compilation took time.
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05																	
Central Excise	20072	25909	25917																	
Customs	2670	3800	3976																	
Service Tax	8751	16643	20054																	
	(b) the number of cases ended in favour of the Department and the number of cases ended in favour of the opposite party; and		<p>The percentage of cases decided in favour of the Department for the indirect tax as a whole during the last three years at the first adjudication level is as follows :</p> <table><tr><td>Year</td><td>In favour of the Department (Appx.)</td></tr><tr><td>2002-03</td><td>63%</td></tr><tr><td>2003-04</td><td>65%</td></tr><tr><td>2003-05</td><td>65%</td></tr></table>	Year	In favour of the Department (Appx.)	2002-03	63%	2003-04	65%	2003-05	65%									
Year	In favour of the Department (Appx.)																			
2002-03	63%																			
2003-04	65%																			
2003-05	65%																			
	(c) the amount of fees paid by the Department to the counsels for the above period?																			

Credit Policy and Economic Development

2136. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is taking steps to double the farm credit from 10 per cent at present to 20 per cent, as well as creating and nurturing five rural development projects, adopting and innovatively funding at least one lakh sick SSI units and participating in infrastructure development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government was committed to economic development by ensuring a growth rate of eight per cent to ten per cent annually and maintaining it for a decade, for enhancing the welfare of farmers and workers by unleashing the creativity of the entrepreneurs, youth and other productive forces of the society; and

(d) if so, the progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) With a view to increasing the credit flow to agriculture, Government of India had announced on 18 June, 2004, a comprehensive Farm Credit Package, to double the credit flow to agriculture in three years, from 2004-05 to 2006-07, with an annual growth rate of 30%. The flow of credit to agriculture and allied sector has grown from Rs. 86,981 crore from 2003-04 to Rs. 1,67,775 crore by 2005-06. Similarly, in August 2005, the Government of India announced a Policy Package for stepping up credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) envisaging a year on year growth of 20%. As at end of March, 2006 the outstanding credit to SME Sector by Public Sector Banks showed a growth of 28.15% over the figure of March, 2005.

(c) and (d) The Tenth Five Year Plan envisaged an annual growth rate of 8%. The actual growth in the economy during the Tenth Five Year Plan period is indicated below :—

Year	Growth in overall GDP (%)
2002-03	4.0%
2003-04	8.5%
2004-05	7.5%
2005-06	8.4%

GDP – Gross Domestic Product.

[Translation]

Scientists of Indian Origin

2137.SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Association of Software and Science Companies (NASSCOM) has conducted a study on the I.T. professionals returning to the country in large numbers during last three years;

(b) if so, the finding of the study;

(c) whether several scientists of Indian origin are also returning to the country from U.S.A., Germany, U.K., etc.;

(d) if so, the number of such scientists who have returned during each of the last three years; ;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that scientists are given all the incentives to pursue their research in the country; and

(f) the amount provided for this purpose during the last three years and in this financial year?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) National Association of Software and Science Companies (NASSCOM) has not conducted any specific study on the IT professionals returning to the country in large numbers during last three years. However NASSCOM has estimated that approximately 20,000 Information Technology (IT) professionals working overseas on short-term/long-term assignments have taken up employment with IT firms in India.

(b) Considering that NASSCOM has not undertaken any study, the information for part (b) is nil.

(c) and (d) No comprehensive database (including year-wise breakdown) is being maintained by Government of India on Scientists of Indian Origin returning to the country.

(e) and (f) Efforts are on for connecting Scientists of Indian Origin to home country is scientific institutions and/ or to research and teaching programs by way of :—

- (i) Fellowship (Ramanujan Fellowship for upto 5 years carrying a stipend and contingency grant);
- (ii) Collaborative project based visits into India (CP-STIO Program for upto 3 years with one visit/year for period of 2-12 week carrying funding for return travel and honorarium by Government and accommodation and local travel by Indian beneficiary host institution);
- (iii) Temporary placements in India at universities, institutes of higher learning, national labs, R and D organizations, central and state government, public sector undertaking and state council of science and technology (SRA ship-Scientists Pool Scheme) – (for upto 3 years only with funding towards basic pay and other allowances except local transport in line with admissibility of local employees); and
- (iv) Empanelment for utilizing their services.

Official Language in Court

2138.SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

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

(a) whether litigation proceedings of the cases relating to Hindi knowing persons are conducted in English in High Courts and the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, whether Government is aware about the difficulty being faced by the common man of the Hindi Speaking States;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the Article 348(1) (2) of the Constitution in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : (a) to (e) Article 348(1) of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be in English language until Parliament by law otherwise provides.

Under Article 348(2) the Governor of the State may with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgments or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English.

Under Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963, the use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorized, with the consent of the President of India, by the Governor of the State for the purpose of judgments etc. made by the High Court for that State.

In so far as the Hindi speaking States are concerned the Governors of four States namely; Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have authorized the use of Hindi in addition to English language in the proceedings as well as the judgments, decrees etc. of the High Courts in their States.

At present no proposal is under consideration of the Government to amend the aforesaid Article of the Constitution. However, the Registries of the Supreme Court of India and the Delhi High Court have been requested from time to time to encourage use of Hindi for administrative purposes.

Import Duty on Cotton

2139. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers has recommended an increase in import duty on cotton;

(b) if so, the increase in the import duty on imports of cotton; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

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

(b) Import duty on cotton has been retained at 10% ad valorem.

(c) While fixing the import duty rate on cotton, Government takes into account factors such as the need to protect the domestic producers, and also the need to make available - raw materials to user industry at reasonable prices. For the present, an import duty of 10% is considered adequate for this purpose.

[English]

Research in Science and Technology

2140. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

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

(a) whether Government has conducted any in-depth study to know as to whether the importance given to the research and development in the fields of science and technology is enough;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the science and technology in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government regularly monitors the impact of research and development through various measures involving policy makers, scientists, researchers, academicians, industry fraternity, etc. Annual and Five Year Plan proposals of the Science and Technology Departments are formulated after extensive study and discussions. Midterm reviews of the Plan programmes are conducted to ensure implementation and set priorities for research and development in the field of science and technology in the country. However, the Government needs to do much more to improve the availability of resources and the absorption capacity for research and development in the fields of science and technology.

(c) The Government in order to give a boost to Indian Science has taken significant measures by introducing a set of new initiatives in the recent past. These include: setting up of three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER); rejuvenating basic research and higher education in university sector; establishment of new research centres of excellence; strengthening of Research and Development infrastructure in academic institutions and research laboratories; institution of prestigious fellowships like Swamajayanti Fellowships for outstanding Young Scientists; Ramanna Fellowship for performing scientists; Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowships for Young Scientists; Ramanujan Fellowships to attract outstanding scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research in our country; J.C. Bose Fellowships to recognize and support active, performing Indian scientists and engineers; Women Scientists and Young Scientists Scheme to provide opportunities to them; Postdoctoral fellowship in Biotechnology, Bioscience Awards for career development, etc. The Government also has doubled the funding for Science and Technology in Tenth Plan and is planning to increase it further in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Seven Point Mission

2141. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has proposed a seven point mission for banks including doubling of farm credit from 10 per cent to 20 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the guidelines issued to banks in this regard;

(c) whether the banks have implemented this mission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, with a view to increase the credit flow to agriculture, Government of India had announced on 18 June, 2004, a comprehensive Farm Credit Package, to

double the credit flow to agriculture in three years, from 2004-05 to 2006-07, with an annual growth rate of 30%. The flow of credit to agriculture and allied sectors has grown from Rs. 86,981 crore in 2003-04 to Rs. 1,67,775 crore in 2005-06.

Further, guidelines have been issued to banks to provide Short Term Production Credit @ 7% per annum upto a principal of Rs. 3 lakhs during 2006-07. It has been decided to provide interest subvention of 2% to public sector banks and regional rural banks and concessional refinance by NABARD to RRBs and Cooperative Banks for this purpose.

[Translation]

Interlinking of Panchayat Headquarters under PMGSY

2142. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme to interlink the Panchayat Headquarters by roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Panchayat Headquarters in the country interlinked by roads under the said scheme till date, State-wise; and

(d) the amount of funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and current year. 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) The PMGSY Guidelines state that the District Panchayat, while drawing up the annual list of the road works, shall ensure that the Order of Priority for New Connectivity/Upgradation is strictly followed. The only exception (in new connectivity links) from the order of priority is in respect of those routes of the Core Network that include the Village Panchayat Headquarters or Market Centers or other educational or medical essential services or those which stand notified by the State Government as places of tourist interest. In such cases, new connectivity may be taken up irrespective of the population size.

(c) The provision for connecting Village Panchayat Headquarters is by way of exception. Any such proposal would form integral part of the annual proposal of the respective States. The Ministry of Rural Development does not monitor connectivity to Panchayat Headquarters.

(d) PMGSY is a demand driven programme. The normative allocation of funds during the years 2003-04 to 2006-07, State-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Allocation of funds for the years 2003-04 to 2006-07 under PMGSY

Sl. No.	State	Total Allocation (Rs. Crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	380
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	174
3.	Assam	502
4.	Bihar	964
5.	Chhattisgarh	644
6.	Goa	20
7.	Gujarat	220
8.	Haryana	90
9.	Himachal Pradesh	284
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	160
11.	Jharkhand	560
12.	Karnataka	400
13.	Kerala	90
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1296
15.	Maharashtra	540
16.	Manipur	96
17.	Meghalaya	150
18.	Mizoram	94
19.	Nagaland	90
20.	Orissa	886
21.	Punjab	110

1	2	3
22.	Rajasthan	718
23.	Sikkim	90
24.	Tamil Nadu	330
25.	Tripura	120
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1370
27.	Uttaranchal	310
28.	West Bengal	712
Total		11400

Non-Banking Financial Companies

2143. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several non-banking financial companies in metropolitan cities are collecting money from common man and are disappearing quiet frequently;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported from each State during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring suitable legislation to check mushrooming of non-banking financial companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there are no instances of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) collecting money from common man and disappearing quite frequently in metropolitan cities of Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai. However, four companies are reported to have vanished in New Delhi during the period 2003-06.

(b) The details of NBFCs which have collected deposits and vanished during the last three years in different States are in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised that internationally acceptance of public deposits is restricted to banks only and non-banks, including non banking financial companies (NBFCs) raise resources from institutional

sources or by accessing capital market. In the Mid-Term Review of the Annual Monetary Policy for the year 2004-05 RBI announced that in line with the international practices, NBFCs are being encouraged to move in this direction. Therefore, it is felt that a separate legislation for Financial Companies is not necessary at this stage.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Deposit taking NBFCs which have been treated as Vanishing Companies

Name of State	Year				Total
	2003	2004	2005	2006	
Delhi/Haryana	2	—	2	—	4
Karnataka	—	10	10	—	20
Orissa	—	1	—	—	1
Punjab/H.P.	17	—	—	—	17
Rajasthan	1	—	—	3	4
Tamil Nadu	—	—	1	—	1
West Bengal	13	—	23	—	36
Total	33	11	36	3	83

[English]

Incentives for NCES Programmes

2144. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL :

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE :

SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of non-conventional energy schemes/programmes implemented for the development of non-conventional energy in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the incentives given/proposed to be given by the Union Government to each State to encourage investment in the non-conventional energy sources, particularly to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether some States have been identified for Grid Interactive Renewable Power State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of District Level Advisory Committee in each State and the manner in which they facilitate co-ordination in renewable energy schemes/programmes in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) State-wise details of deployment of various renewable energy systems/devices under major renewable energy schemes/programmes of the Ministry during last three years, i.e., 2003-04 to 2005-06 are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) To encourage investment in the renewable sector in the country, including Andhra Pradesh, financial and fiscal incentives are being provided that include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, concessional duties and relief from taxes.

(c) and (d) Grid interactive renewable power projects can be set up in each state wherever grid exists, subject to techno-economic viability. Grid-interactive renewable power generation capacity of 8088 MW has already been set up in the country, as on 31.03.2006, the state-wise details of which are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(e) So far, 545 District-level Advisory Committees (DACs) have been constituted as per state-wise break-up given in Statement-III. Each DAC is headed by the District Collector/Deputy Commissioner, with the Project Director, DRDA or CEO, Zila Parishad as member-secretary and district officials dealing with Forests, Industries, Agriculture, IT, Education, Health, etc., representatives from the District Bar Council (or Government Pleader), Lead Bank, Lions/Rotary Clubs, Local Industry Associations, Non-Government Organizations and Scientists, etc. as members, of which at least six are to be women. Commencing 2005-06, there is a provision for central financial assistance upto Rs. 1.5 lakh/annum to each DAC towards its functional expenses.

DACs facilitate coordination of various renewable energy schemes/programmes of this Ministry with those of other Government Departments/Agencies mainly through planning and periodic reviews.

Statement-I

State-wise details of deployment of various renewable energy systems/devices during the last 3 years, i.e., 2003-04 to 2005-06

Sl. No.	State/UT	Biogas Plants	SPV Pumps	Aero-generators	Wind Pumps	RVE	Grid-interactive Power			Solar Photovoltaic Systems/Devices*				
							Small Hydro Power	Wind Power	Biomass Power/ Cogeneration	Waste to Energy	SLS	HLS	SL	PP
		Nos.	Nos.	KW	Nos.	Nos.	MW	MW	MW	MW	Nos.	Nos.	Nos.	kwp
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44523	16		1		23.20	28.50	119.20	19.75	85	85	6000	3000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	457				73	11.93				133	520		
3.	Assam	3298				3	0.11							
4.	Bihar	396	11		4		5.50				200	990	5490	
5.	Chhattisgarh	9312	9			205	10.00		16.50		172	3222		
6.	Goa	254		25							105	116		
7.	Gujarat	19289	42		209	2		165.06			240	2400		5
8.	Haryana	3461	201				14.40		2.00		240	3600		
9.	Himachal Pradesh	647					38.84				300	1000		
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	33	21				7.50							
11.	Jharkhand	558				53					248			
12.	Karnataka	30577	117	2	5		140.75	460.18	115.10		210	2786		
13.	Kerala	14120	73				12.60						3000	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23568	9				2.20	17.65	1.00		132	765		
15.	Maharashtra	26177	39	217				588.50	11.50		103	104		
16.	Manipur	102				106						1000		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17. Meghalaya		755	14			25						1000		
18. Mizoram		455				7						600		
19. Nagaland		475					0.20							
20. Orissa		25731	1								104	850	1087	
21. Punjab		6384	392				15.15		6.00	1.00	371	310		25
22. Rajasthan		195	20				0.00	278.84	15.30		100	10466		
23. Sikkim		1024					3.00				20	9750		15
24. Tamil Nadu		5232	69				1.30	1904.28	67.00	1.75			8000	
25. Tripura		325	15			16								
26. Uttar Pradesh		21195	308				3.60		75.00	5.00	400			
27. Uttranchal		2279	16			216	10.85					4776		
28. West Bengal		40218		18		451	6.02				150			
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands													11000	
30. Chandigarh														
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli														
32. Daman and Diu														
33. Delhi			3											10
34. Lakshadweep														
35. Pondicherry													2000	
36. Others		27851										2374		25
Total		308891	1376	262	221	1157	307.15	3443.00	428.60	27.50	3313	46714	36577	3080

SPV = Solar Photo-Voltaic; SLS = Street Lighting Systems; HLS = Home Lighting Systems; SL = Solar Lanterns; PP = Power Plants
 RVE = Remote Village Electrification; kW = kilo-Watt; kWp = kilo-Watt peak; MW = Mega Watt.

Statement-II

State-wise details of cumulative grid-interactive renewable power generation capacity set up in the country as on 31.03.2006

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Small Hydro Power (MW)	Wind Power (MW)	Bio Power		Solar Power (kWp)	Total Capacity (MW)
				Biomass Power (MW)	Waste to Energy (MW)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	178.81	121.00	279.25	22.50	0.28	601.84
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	44.30
3.	Assam	2.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.11
4.	Bihar	50.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.40
5.	Chhatisgarh	11.00	0.00	27.50	0.00	0.00	38.50
6.	Goa	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
7.	Gujarat	7.00	338.10	0.50	0.00	0.00	345.60
8.	Haryana	62.70	0.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	68.70
9.	Himachal Pradesh	132.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	132.08
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	109.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	109.74
11.	Jharkhand	4.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.05
12.	Karnataka	329.63	584.60	224.48	1.00	0.03	1139.74
13.	Kerala	84.62	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	86.65
14.	Madhya Pradesh	41.16	40.30	1.00	2.70	0.34	85.50
15.	Maharashtra	207.08	989.60	36.00	1.00	0.19	1233.87
16.	Manipur	5.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.45
17.	Meghalaya	30.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.71
18.	Mizoram	14.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.76
19.	Nagaland	20.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.67
20.	Orissa	7.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.30
21.	Punjab	122.55	0.00	28.00	1.00	0.33	151.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22. Rajasthan		23.85	339.60	15.30	0.00	0.15	378.90
23. Sikkim		38.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.60
24. Tamil Nadu		77.70	2892.50	174.00	1.75	0.21	3148.16
25. Tripura		16.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.01
26. Uttar Pradesh		25.10	0.00	121.50	5.00	0.33	151.93
27. Uttaranchal		75.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	75.50
28. West Bengal		98.30	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.05	99.45
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		5.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	5.35
30. Chandigarh		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		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
33. Delhi		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34. Lakshadweep		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.65
35. Pondicherry		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03
Others		0.00	1.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.60
Total (MW)		1826.43	5310.40	913.53	34.95	2.75	8088.06

MW = megawatt, kWp = kilo Watt peak.

Statement-III

State-wise break-up of District-level Advisory Committees constituted in different States

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of DACs set up
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14
3.	Assam	23

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	27
5.	Chhattisgarh	16
6.	Goa	2
7.	Gujarat	15
8.	Haryana	19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14

1	2	3
11.	Jharkhand	14
12.	Karnataka	22
13.	Kerala	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	48
15.	Maharashtra	34
16.	Manipur	9
17.	Meghalaya	7
18.	Mizoram	8
19.	Nagaland	11
20.	Orissa	30
21.	Punjab	17
22.	Rajasthan	32
23.	Sikkim	3
24.	Tamil Nadu	30
25.	Tripura	4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	70
27.	Uttaranchal	13
28.	West Bengal	12
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2
30.	Chandigarh	1
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
32.	Daman and Diu	—
33.	Delhi	1
34.	Lakshadweep	1
35.	Pondicherry	1
Total		545

Interest Rates on Education Loan

2145. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of interest rates that are being charged by various Banks and financial institutions for education purposes;

(b) whether the Planning Commission expressed its opinion to slash the interest rates on educational loans to make them more affordable;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Planning Commission has also proposed to give Income Tax relief on such borrowings; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) As per the revised Model Education Loan Scheme circulated by Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to Scheduled Commercial Banks in the year 2004, the interest rates to be charged by banks on Education loans are as under :—

(i) Upto Rs. 4 lacs — Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR)

(ii) Above Rs. 4 lacs — BPLR + 1 per cent.

(d) to (e) In a meeting held in December 2003 in the Planning Commission, the prevailing Education Loan Scheme was discussed. Issues discussed, inter-alia, included, review of the interest rates for education loans. So far as income tax rebate is concerned, Section 80E of the Income Tax Act provides for a deduction in respect of repayment of loan taken for higher education for genuine and recognized courses.

[Translation]

**Investment in State Sector Power
Projects**

2146. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any investment in power projects of State Government;

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

(c) the total amount invested during the last two years till date, project-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the share of the Union Government from the power generated from the State Sector Power Projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (d) Under the existing provisions, Ministry of Power does not invest in State generation projects in form of grant/equity.

Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation provide loans to State Utilities for their various generation projects.

As per information made available by Central Electricity Authority, grant of Rs. 32 crore has been provided by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for the ongoing project of Dimapur DGPP, Nagaland.

Foreign Direct Investment Inflow

2147. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :

SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR :

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposal approved by Foreign Investment Promotion

Board (FIPB) and investment actually taking place in the country during each of the last 5(five) years, sector-wise, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government takes/is taking steps to do away with administrative hurdles so that actual investment takes place immediately after proposals for FDI get the approval of competent authority;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any opposition on FDI is encountered by the Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise;

(g) action taken by the Government thereon; and

(h) the target set forth by the Government for FDI absorption during the 11th Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) The details of FDI proposals approved and actual FDI inflows in the country during the last five years (April 2001-March, 2006), sector-wise and State-wise is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (g) The Government has put in place a liberal transparent and investor-friendly FDI policy under which FDI in most sectors is allowed upto 100% under the automatic route. The FDI policy, including the sectoral equity caps and associated procedures, is reviewed on a continuous basis. Major rationalization has been effected recently by issuing Press Note 3 and 4 of 2006 series by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

(h) For the present, the target for FDI absorption during the 11th Five Year Plan has not been set forth.

Statement

Financial Year-wise break-up for FDI Approved from April 2001 to May 2006

(Amount in crore)

Sl. No	Sector	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		Total	
		Apr-Mar		Apr-Mar		Apr-Mar		Apr-Mar		Apr-Mar			
		FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Metallurgical Industries	32	942.20	40	83.91	29	46.95	28	444.76	6	52.22	135	1,570.03
2.	Fuels (Power and Oil Refinery)	60	1,688.25	46	422.65	40	320.23	27	495.45	13	304.38	186	3,230.97
3.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	1	0.50	3	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	0.50
4.	Electrical Equipment (Incl SW and Elec)	721	1,983.03	524	767.52	534	840.87	369	761.87	44	129.22	2192	4,482.51
5.	Telecommunications	68	2,602.61	68	1,057.01	57	381.72	51	451.21	21	709.94	265	5,202.49
6.	Transportation Industry	119	1,852.32	118	571.80	95	845.39	53	571.18	20	337.92	405	4,178.62
7.	Industrial Machinery	42	151.17	50	182.13	27	12.06	25	78.73	6	94.58	150	518.66
8.	Machine Tools	9	7.61	8	3.35	11	12.74	5	2.86	4	1.17	37	27.73
9.	Agricultural Machinery	0	0.00	2	4.30	0	0.00	1	2.33	1	0.00	4	6.63
10.	Earth-Moving Machinery	1	2.25	0	0.00	3	3.77	4	2.07	0	0.00	8	8.09
11.	Miscellaneous Mechanical and Engineering	59	99.30	45	168.96	44	53.27	20	41.38	10	22.89	178	385.80
12.	Commercial, Office and Household Equipment	1	0.13	7	0.26	10	3.21	5	1.82	4	2.19	27	7.60
13.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	12	26.17	14	19.12	11	4.18	10	29.30	11	17.75	58	96.51
14.	Industrial Instruments	6	4.66	10	15.29	12	15.57	7	21.07	2	0.01	37	56.80
15.	Scientific Instruments	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.07	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.07
16.	Fertilizers	1	0.16	2	78.63	3	31.78	1	0.20	0	0.00	7	110.77
17.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	83	322.04	77	248.92	62	97.38	38	986.78	9	29.92	269	1,685.03

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18. Photographic Raw Film and Paper		0	0.00	3	1.19	0	0.00	3	0.37	0	0.00	6	1.58
19. Dye-Stuffs		0	0.00	2	8.88	1	0.03	1	5.42	0	0.00	4	14.33
20. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals		34	274.99	41	287.56	55	395.87	33	544.55	9	27.17	172	1,530.14
21. Textiles (Included Dyed, Printed)		21	4.48	33	85.65	32	24.43	19	374.34	7	87.71	112	576.80
22. Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product		12	343.73	7	24.86	8	24.36	2	3.20	2	0.99	31	397.14
23. Sugar		4	53.50	2	3.93	2	5.25	0	0.00	1	1.99	9	64.67
24. Fermentation Industries		2	7.12	7	791.73	3	0.12	3	7.89	3	786.24	18	1,593.10
25. Food Processing Industries		45	507.17	34	158.66	36	142.42	18	100.25	6	184.87	139	1,093.37
26. Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati		6	6.84	5	22.93	7	15.66	11	39.37	2	0.90	31	85.70
27. Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations		4	24.93	3	18.29	1	0.50	3	3.37	1	17.00	12	64.09
28. Rubber Goods		5	158.96	12	59.63	9	1.42	4	3.05	1	0.54	31	223.61
29. Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers		10	237.38	8	11.81	8	1.27	6	0.43	2	1.80	34	252.69
30. Glue and Gelatin		0	0.00	1	0.51	0	0.00	1	4.00	0	0.00	2	4.51
31. Glass		11	256.44	12	232.39	9	21.19	6	226.88	2	58.00	40	794.91
32. Ceramics		6	2.24	8	14.67	6	14.32	4	0.27	1	29.70	25	61.19
33. Cement and Gypsum Product		8	319.46	7	6.96	2	0.98	3	31.58	2	2,937.54	22	3,296.52
34. Timber Products		0	0.00	3	2.08	2	0.50	4	2.02	1	3.00	10	7.60
35. Defence Industries		0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.24	1	0.24
36. Consultancy Services		119	241.90	91	138.03	85	120.11	44	69.64	7	20.06	346	589.74
37. Service Sector		134	1,272.69	102	1,196.53	121	882.54	118	1,714.97	55	1,258.42	530	6,325.15
38. Hotel and Tourism		62	139.82	76	119.26	57	238.63	40	57.49	4	64.59	239	619.79
39. Trading		80	201.59	101	284.04	106	843.29	108	287.94	144	688.06	539	2,305.01
40. Miscellaneous Industries		281	729.46	184	810.82	139	821.44	84	1,359.69	23	720.00	711	4,441.40
Grand Total		2059	14,465.18	1756	7,904.25	1628	6,223.52	1159	8,727.71	425	8,591.00	7027	45,911.66

Financial Year-wise break-up for FDI Inflows from April 2001 to March 2006

(Amount in crore)

Sl. No	Sector	2001-02 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2002-03 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2003-04 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2004-05 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2005-06 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	Total FDI in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Metallurgical Industries	95.28	221.85	146.06	880.95	680.84	2,024.98
2.	Fuels (Power and Oil Refinery)	4,504.73	551.19	520.94	759.00	415.71	6,751.57
3.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	0.00	0.00	0.20	2.34	0.00	2.54
4.	Prime Movers other than Electrical	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.25
5.	Electrical Equipment (Incl S/W and Elec)	2,270.88	3,075.23	2,449.32	3,280.58	6,499.06	17,575.07
6.	Telecommunications	3,959.00	1,058.41	531.95	588.41	3,023.46	9,161.23
7.	Transportation Industry	1,230.63	2,172.55	1,417.13	815.10	982.99	6,618.47
8.	Industrial Machinery	147.95	91.44	13.93	40.74	187.52	481.57
9.	Machine Tools	19.46	67.88	250.75	50.73	100.25	489.06
10.	Agricultural Machinery	5.00	64.68	0.11	0.01	415.97	485.77
11.	Earth-Moving Machinery	0.48	66.12	0.05	0.47	231.30	298.42
12.	Miscellaneous Mechanical and Engineering	278.05	211.69	100.07	56.73	226.21	872.74
13.	Commercial, Office and Household Equipment	22.56	10.81	40.96	62.46	111.41	248.20
14.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	191.54	103.77	9.26	24.05	6.72	335.34
15.	Industrial Instruments	22.83	6.21	4.16	4.95	1.69	39.84
16.	Scientific Instruments	10.47	0.92	0.07	0.14	0.45	12.04
17.	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
18.	Fertilizers	0.00	78.63	99.29	61.90	19.31	259.13
19.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	433.24	611.27	93.69	908.68	1,979.06	4,025.39
20.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	0.00	2.83	1.35	27.62	0.00	31.80
21.	Dye-Stuffs	0.87	0.00	2.00	5.42	0.00	8.29
22.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	355.56	191.58	501.67	1,342.91	759.70	3,151.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23. Textiles (Included Dyed, Printed)		24.07	258.19	42.84	196.84	414.67	936.62
24. Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product		76.84	34.99	31.68	12.41	122.90	278.83
25. Sugar		0.00	19.08	0.25	13.51	13.10	45.94
26. Fermentation Industries		49.70	38.68	7.82	41.64	28.57	166.42
27. Food Processing Industries		1,036.12	176.53	510.85	174.08	182.94	2,080.53
28. Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati		0.00	0.00	7.79	41.03	54.00	102.82
29. Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations		0.00	0.00	0.00	4.09	388.49	392.58
30. Rubber Goods		222.48	75.62	29.31	184.18	150.77	662.36
31. Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers		0.92	0.05	32.18	2.03	4.89	40.07
32. Glue and Gelatin		4.50	25.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.58
33. Glass		37.68	215.88	24.11	38.47	3.54	319.69
34. Ceramics		3.53	1.01	6.78	123.09	25.02	159.44
35. Cement and Gypsum Product		630.13	101.17	44.04	0.73	1,969.82	2,745.89
36. Timber Products		0.22	0.20	0.50	0.31	465.64	466.88
37. Defence Industries		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.24
38. Consultancy Services		298.67	121.94	257.13	1,166.83	206.44	2,051.01
39. Service Sector		895.26	1,551.00	1,235.27	2,105.53	2,565.04	8,352.11
40. Hotel and Tourism		151.33	160.14	226.80	168.85	315.59	1,022.71
41. Trading		194.99	182.76	104.66	65.72	123.43	671.57
42. Miscellaneous Industries		1,311.28	1,321.30	1,319.11	1,399.71	1,907.83	7,259.22
43. Advance of Inflow*		706.61	1,977.12	1,880.76	2,485.15	0.00	7,049.64
44. Stock Swapped*		0.00	84.00	172.50	0.00	28.37	284.87
45. NRI-RBI Schemes*		167.94	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	168.43
Grand Total		19,360.82	14,932.29	12,117.36	17,137.87	24,612.74	88,161.07

Note: 1. Amount includes the Inflows Received through SIA/FIPB route, acquisition of existing shares and RBI's automatic route only.

2. *Mark Sector-wise Information has not been provided by RBI, Mumbai.

Financial Year-wise break-up for FDI Approved from April 2001 to March 2006

(Amount in crore)

Sl. No.	Sector	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		Total	
		FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.	FIN	FDI in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	104	358.54	114	465.57	107	526.66	78	689.10	25	371.82	428	2,411.70
2.	Assam	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.40	1	0.51	2	0.91
3.	Bihar	1	0.00	1	0.18	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	0.18
4.	Gujarat	64	2,042.35	64	414.53	52	148.04	35	1,711.81	9	153.05	224	4,469.77
5.	Haryana	42	491.35	35	103.54	26	248.29	16	34.07	12	57.54	131	934.80
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	0.54	1	810.38	1	0.10	2	52.63	1	9.00	7	872.65
7.	Karnataka	296	799.31	269	2,260.54	257	449.41	191	1,099.44	39	917.02	1052	5,525.72
8.	Kerala	44	178.06	27	5.99	31	21.22	11	230.43	6	76.77	119	512.47
9.	Madhya Pradesh	14	85.64	7	43.55	7	0.44	1	0.05	2	6.00	31	135.69
10.	Maharashtra	560	3,818.00	429	1,178.65	361	1,527.34	302	1,579.60	111	3,961.85	1763	12,065.44
11.	Manipur	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00
12.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00
13.	Orissa	3	4.01	1	0.21	2	0.10	2	6.14	1	0.35	9	10.81
14.	Punjab	7	16.46	2	0.03	9	465.50	10	690.49	3	19.11	31	1,191.58
15.	Rajasthan	14	413.05	4	0.51	15	28.03	4	4.14	2	0.20	39	445.94
16.	Tamil Nadu	289	1,123.55	194	446.55	223	815.18	109	348.17	39	261.63	854	2,995.08
17.	Tripura	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.41	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.41

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18.	Uttar Pradesh	38	659.62	29	24.45	25	102.32	15	18.44	9	82.48	116	887.32
19.	West Bengal	49	314.37	42	283.01	36	303.45	29	278.23	9	113.66	165	1,292.73
20.	Chhattisgarh	2	16.05	1	0.03	0	0.00	3	200.16	0	0.00	6	216.24
21.	Jharkhand	0	0.00	1	0.50	1	0.20	1	2.00	0	0.00	3	2.70
22.	Uttaranchal	2	0.00	1	0.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	3	28.63	7	28.63
23.	Chandigarh	7	4.22	20	43.13	10	5.75	9	127.99	0	0.00	46	181.09
24.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0.04	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.04
25.	Delhi	352	1,115.26	358	617.73	328	1,163.36	213	1,063.52	71	740.99	1322	4,700.86
26.	Goa	18	317.02	26	90.80	39	19.13	39	9.07	3	39.41	125	475.43
27.	Pondicherry	13	845.21	8	2.52	8	42.61	2	0.12	0	0.00	31	890.46
28.	Daman and Diu	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	0.24	2	5.43	0	0.00	5	5.67
29.	State Not Indicated	137	1,862.54	121	1,111.85	82	353.73	84	576.27	79	1,750.98	503	5,655.37
Grand Total		2059	14,465.18	1756	7,904.25	1628	6,223.52	1159	8,727.71	425	8,591.00	7027	45,911.66

Financial Year-wise break-up of FDI Inflows from April 2001 to March 2006

(Amount in Crore)

SI No	Regional Offices of RBI	States Covered	2001-02 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2002-03 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2003-04 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2004-05 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	2005-06 Apr-Mar FDI in Rs.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	338.09	242.65	353.49	747.85	1,056.78	2,738.86
2.	Guwahati	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura	5.58	2.59	19.48	13.39	0.00	41.03
3.	Patna	Bihar, Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	1.13	0.00	0.00	1.13
4.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	108.66	550.71	917.12	610.53	666.36	2,853.37
5.	Bangalore	Karnataka	1,348.36	975.24	926.53	1,131.34	1,818.05	6,199.51
6.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	661.8	67.45	44.53	33.77	57.90	269.83
7.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	12.87	5.83	34.85	69.25	42.55	165.35
8.	Mumabi	Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	5,137.34	2,366.40	1,355.31	3,183.13	4,290.17	16,332.36
9.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	315.88	315.88
10.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	5.23	1.22	1.89	4.58	3.32	16.23
11.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	1,659.60	990.17	603.80	358.47	1,190.10	4,802.14
12.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.03
13.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	87.24	177.96	84.50	467.37	407.82	1,224.89
14.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh	5.93	843.89	76.71	13.49	378.16	1,318.18
15.	New Delhi	Delhi, Part of UP and Haryana	5,460.17	3,062.22	2,123.46	3,717.53	4,564.93	18,928.31
16.	Panaji	Goa	15.71	139.09	160.59	100.66	33.73	449.78
17.	State not indicated	—	4,235.32	3,445.25	3,360.72	4,201.34	9,758.63	25,001.26
18.	Advance of Inflow*	—	706.61	1,977.12	1,880.76	2,485.15	0.00	7,049.64

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19. Stock Swapped*		—	0.00	84.00	172.50	0.00	28.37	284.87
20. NRI-RBI Schemes*		—	167.94	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	168.43
Grand Total			19,360.82	14,932.29	12,117.36	17,137.87	24,612.74	88,161.07

Foot-Note

1. Includes 'equity capital component' only.
2. The above State-wise inflows are classified as per RBI's Region-wise inflows furnished by RBI, Mumbai.
3. *Marked are not classified State-wise as per inflow received from RBI, Mumbai.

[English]

National Biodiversity Development Policy

2148.SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to announce National Biodiversity Development Policy to chalk out a road map for the future growth of biotechnology industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any target to achieve US\$ 5 billion revenue by 2010 in the biotechnology sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to announce a National Biodiversity Development Policy. A Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy has been formulated to chalk out a road map for the future growth of biotechnology industry in the country.

(c) and (d) Under the Draft National Biotechnology Development Strategy proposed by the Government, special measures have been taken to promote the Biotechnology industry and to facilitate increase in turnover of biotech sector. The turnover of biotech sector in India is expected to exceed US\$ 5 billion by 2010. Initiatives have been taken to provide an enabling environment for industrial growth such as exemption of biotech sector from

compulsory licensing; permitting 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the sector; reducing the area of Special Economic Zones to bring it at par with Information Technology sector; providing fiscal incentives to in-house R and D recognized industries in terms of exemption of custom duty on capital goods, reduction in import duty and 150% weighted deduction against expenditure incurred on in-house R and D.

[Translation]

Evaluation of Power Projects

2149.SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government evaluate and monitors the power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the evaluation of various projects completed during the last two years, till date;

(c) the outcomes thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. An effective monitoring mechanism has been put in place to see that the cleared power projects are executed in time. The CEA has a nodal officer to each project, both at the conception stage as well as during the execution. In addition, regular review meetings are being organized in the Ministry of Power.

New benchmarks for setting up of power projects have been achieved as under :

- (i) **Coal based** : The average lead time for the 500 MW unit reduced from 49 months to 38 months. The average lead time for the 210/250 MW units reduced from 32 months to 28 months. Ramagundam STPS-III of NTPC commissioned in 37 months. The Raichur TPS unit of Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. commissioned in 26 months.
- (ii) **Gas based** : Average lead time for gas based projects has come from 24 months to 20 months. Ramgarh CCPP open cycle commissioned in 15 months.
- (iii) **Hydro based** : Average lead time of new hydro project is likely to be 60 months. Chamera II (3 × 100 MW) of NHPC commissioned in 49 months.

[English]

Quoting Pan Cards

2150. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Permanent Account Number (PAN) is not quoted by a large number of assesseees in their Annual Information Report (AIR);

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

(c) whether absence of PAN in high value transaction cause difficulties;

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

(e) steps taken/being taken by the Government to intensify the veracity of data about high value transaction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) PAN has not been quoted by the AIR filers in respect of a large number of transactions relating to financial year 2004-05.

(b) Out of 17,52,653 transactions reported in the AIR for the financial year 2004-05, in respect of 10,70,392 transactions, PAN has not been quoted by the AIR filers. Reasons for the same include the fact that (i) financial year 2004-05, being the first year for which transactions were reported under the AIR scheme, banks had a legacy data relating to bank accounts, credit cards etc., where PAN of the respective parties may not have been captured; (ii) in respect of certain transactions under AIR, quoting of PAN was made obligatory only on 1st December, 2004; (iii) any person who does not have a PAN can enter into the specified transactions after making a declaration in Form 60/61 giving the particulars of such transaction.

(c) Absence of PAN in high value transactions creates difficulties in collation of the AIR data.

(d) In order to deal with this problem, workshops have been organized to educate the AIR filers about the requirement to obtain and quote PAN of the transacting parties. Letters have also been written to various bodies, including Mutual Fund authorities, Banks, Sub-Registrars etc., requesting them to quote PAN of the transacting parties.

(e) The Government has issued detailed instructions to the Income-tax authorities for verification of the ADRI data and for selecting cases for scrutiny.

New Series of Currency Notes

2151. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has released new series of currency notes of all denominations with all security features to stamp out fake currency notes circulation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government to prevent the circulation of fake currency notes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The new updated security features include colour

shift machine readable security thread, electrolyte watermark, omron anti photocopying features, optically variable ink, see-through effect, intaglio printing and identification mark.

(c) The other steps taken by the Government to curb circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes in the country include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force and Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes; dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media and formation of Forged Note Vigilance Cells in all the Head Offices of the banks. CBI is the nodal agency to monitor investigation of fake currency notes cases.

Construction of Multi-Storeyed Units

2152.SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct multi-storeyed units for the rehabilitation of slum dwellers in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas identified and the amount allocated for the same; and

(c) the time by which the dwelling units are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) For integrated development of slums through projects for providing shelter, basic services and other related civic amenities with a view to provide utilities to the urban poor in select 63 cities a Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) has been launched as part of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005. In the remaining cities/towns an Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) has also been launched alongwith JNNURM. BSUP and IHSDP have subsumed Valmiki Ambedkar Aawas Yojana (VAMBAY) and the National Slum Development Programme (NSDP). Both BSUP and IHSDP are demand driven programme for which States/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have to submit Detailed Project

Reports (DPRs) and sign Memorandum of Agreements (MoAs) committing to implement urban reforms. Construction of multi-storeyed flats for rehabilitation of slum dwellers in various parts of the country is an option for the States/Urban Local Bodies while submitting their DPRs.

Lifting of Additional Duty on Imports

2153.SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has agreed to lift 4% additional duty on primary products coming though Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any safe guard on the possible adverse effects on the domestic industries is in place;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) With effect from 07.06.06, the Government has exempted specified primary products, imported from Nepal from 4% additional duty of customs.

(b) The details of such primary products are :- (1) Agriculture, horticulture and forest produce and minerals which have not undergone any processing, (2) Rice, pulses and flours, (3) Timber, (4) Jaggery (gur and shakar), (5) Animals, birds and fish, (6) Bees, bee-wax and honey, (7) Raw wool, goat hair, and bones as are used in the manufacture of bone-meal, (8) Milk, home made products of milk and eggs, (9) Ghani-produced oil and oil cakes, (10) Ayurvedic and herbal medicines, (11) Articles produced by village artisans for use primarily in villages, (12) Akara, and (13) Yak Tail.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) No specific issues relating to adverse impact of such exemption has been brought to the notice of this Ministry so far.

Excise Duty on Pharmaceutical Products

2154. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the existing rate of duty on cancer and AIDS related drugs;

(b) whether any request/recommendations for elimination of duty on such drugs are received by the Government; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) In general, basic excise duty on drugs and medicine including cancer and AIDS related drugs is 16%. Similarly, general rate of basic customs duty on such drugs is 12.5% on imports. Countervailing duty equal to excise duty is leviable on such drugs and 4% additional duty of customs in lieu of state/local taxes are also applicable.

(b) Proposals for exempting such drugs from customs and excise duty have been received by the Government.

(c) Having regard to the recommendations, the Government has reduced basic customs duty to 5% on following Cancer and Anti-AIDS drugs and bulk drugs for their manufacture. Such drugs have also been exempted from excise duty.

Anti-Cancer medicines	Anti-AIDS drugs
1	2
(i) Azathioprine	(i) Didanosine
(ii) Antinomycin D	(ii) Efavirenz
(iii) Cisplatin	(iii) Indinavir
(iv) Cytosine Arabinoside (Cytarabine)	(iv) Nelfinavir
(v) Danazol	(v) Nevirapine

1	2
(vi) Doxorubicin	(vi) Stavudine
(vii) Etoposide	(vii) Abacavir Sulphate
(viii) Flutamide	(viii) Lopinavir
(ix) Ondansetron	(ix) Tenofovir Disoproxil
(x) Paclitaxel	(x) Emtricitabine
(xi) Tamoxifen Citrate	(xi) Lamivudine and
(xii) Vinblastine Sulphate	(xii) Zidovudine
(xiii) Vincristine	—

Petroleum Products

2155. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the revenue earned by the Government from various duties on petroleum products during each of the last three years, item-wise;

(b) whether efforts at rationalising duty structures on such products have been made by the Government from time to time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Provisional revenue collection figures from customs and excise duties during the last three financial years are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) In 2005 budget, the Government had reduced customs duty on crude from 10% to 5% on petrol and diesel from 15% to 10% and converted major portion of excise duty on petrol and diesel from advalorem to specific rates. Similarly, Kerosene for Public Distribution System and Liquefied Petroleum Gases for domestic household use were exempted both from customs and excise duties. In June 2006, the Government has further reduced customs duty on petrol and diesel from 10% to 7.5%.

Statement

The revenue earned by the Government of India from customs and excise duties during each of the last three financial years was as under

Excise : Commodity-wise provisional revenue collection from petroleum products

(In Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Description	03-04	04-05	05-06
1.	Motor Spirit	12575	13792	17554
2.	Kerosene	1700	1273	212
3.	R.D. Oil	13470	14455	21773
4.	Diesel Oil, N.E.S.	992	1246	505
5.	Furnace Oil	822	996	1756
6.	Petroleum Gases and other gaseous Hydrocarbons	2552	2424	319
7.	All other falling under Chapter 27	2906	3711	4623
8.	Cess on Indigenous crude oil	5134	5248	5007
Total		40151	43145	51750

Customs : Commodity-wise provisional revenue collection from petroleum products

(In Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Description	03-04	04-05	05-06
1.	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	7491	9761	7158
2.	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals other than crude	2134	2466	2927
3.	Other mineral fuels, oils, waxes and bituminous substances	958	1023	1309
Total		10582	13250	11394

Wind Energy

2156. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many of the southern States particularly Tamil Nadu is having huge potential of wind energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the annual average output of wind energy in the country;

(c) whether the Government is getting any external assistance to augment wind energy in these States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to expand the sources of wind energy in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) and (b) The gross wind power potential in the southern States viz. Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka has been estimated at over 18,500 MW which includes wind power potential of 3050 MW in Tamil Nadu. The wind power capacity addition has been increasing over the years and it was 1110 MW in 2004-05 and 1745 MW in 2005-06.

(c) No, Sir. Commercial wind power projects are set up in the country with private sector investment without any capital subsidy from the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Steps taken by the Government to encourage setting up of wind power projects in the country including the Southern States are concessional import duty on certain components of wind electric generator, excise duty exemption, ten years' tax holiday on income generated from wind power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation, loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and other financial institutions, policies in the States for grid connection and sale of electricity generated, technical support by the Centre for Wind

Energy Technology (C-WET) and detailed wind resource assessment to identify further potential sites.

Setting up of Judicial Academy

2157. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Judicial Academy in the States to provide necessary training to the Judicial officers;

(b) if so, the States where such Academies proposed to be set up; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : (a) to (c) The State Judicial Academies are set up by State Government. The Judicial Academies have been set up by Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Assam (for entire North Eastern Region) and Union Territory of Delhi. The Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries held in Shimla in June, 2005, resolved that all remaining State Governments and Union Territories to set up Judicial Academies for training of judicial officers and staff. The remaining State Governments have been advised by the Department of Justice to set up the State Judicial Academies.

Imports of TVs from Thailand

2158. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether imports of TVs from Thailand will carry Zero basic import duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any safeguard against possible adverse effect on domestic TV manufactures is being put in place;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) With effect from 1st September, 2006, import of colour TV sets from Thailand will carry zero basic import duty. This is in accordance with the Framework Agreement for Establishing Free Trade between India and Thailand.

(c) to (e) In this years' budget, a 4% special additional duty of customs has been levied on most imports so as to compensate for State level taxes. This should give some protection to domestic manufacturers of TV sets. Further, to look into the problems of inverted duty structure arising out of various FTAs/RTAs, Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri A. Hoda, Commission. The Committee will review the problems of inverted Duty Structure arising out of the various trading arrangements in place and under consideration and suggest ways and means of addressing the problems. The Committee is expected to complete its work by 07.09.2006.

MR. SPEAKER : I adjourn the House till 12 Noon.

11.03. hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
twelve of the clock.*

12.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at 12.01 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re : Question of privilege consequent upon alleged leakage of Report of Justice Pathak Inquiry Authority

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, on 7 August, 2006. I received several notices raising, what has been described as, question of privilege from Prof. V.K. Malhotra, Sarvashri Braja Kishore Tripathy, Prabhunath Singh, George Fernandes, Santosh Gangwar, Sukhdev Singh Libra, Major Gen. B.C. Khanduri and Mohan Singh against

the hon. Prime Minister regarding alleged leakage of the report of the Justice Pathak Inquiry Authority on the Volcker Committee Disclosures before it was laid on the Table of the House. Shri Mohan Singh's notice is also directed against Editor of the newspaper *Rashtriya Sahara* which has, it is stated, carried a news report in this regard. I have also received a notice of question of privilege from Dr. M. Jagannath on 8 August, 2006 in the matter. It is the contention of the hon. Members that leakage of the contents of the Report before it was laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament amounts to a breach of privilege and contempt of the House. Though Justice Pathak Inquiry Authority was not constituted under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, the Government subsequently issued a notification declaring that certain specific provisions of the Act would be applicable to the said Authority. Hence the report of the Authority which was presented to the hon. Prime Minister by Justice Pathak on 3 August, 2006 was to be treated as confidential and not to be published before it was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament.

On 4 August, 2006, when some hon. Members raised the matter about the leakage in the media of the report of the Pathak Inquiry Authority, from the Chair, I expressed my resentment on such publication and also desired that the Government should enquire into the matter.

The question that has arisen is whether such prior publication, what is described as the leakage of a portion of the report in the media, amounts to breach of privilege of the House. The question which has, been raised is not *res Integra* and there are ample authorities to hold that giving premature publicity to any matter connected with the business of the House is not a breach of privilege and contempt of the House, though in some cases it may amount to an act of impropriety. It has been held that no privilege of Parliament is involved if statement on any matter of public interest is not first made in the House and is made outside. Such actions are against conventions and propriety but do not constitute any basis on which breach of privilege can be founded. It has been held that it is not a breach of privilege if documents intended for Members are circulated to the Press and to non-Members first, though such acts are deprecated.

It may be mentioned and as has been stated that after the submission of the report to the Government in the evening of 3 August, 2006, it was placed before the House on Monday, 7 August, 2006 alongwith Action Taken Report thereon and I expect the Government will duly investigate as to how the leakage took place. Of course, it is for the Government to take action but I expect that such steps will be taken.

Late Shri G.V. Mavalankar, hon. Speaker of first Lok Sabha in his ruling in the House on 22 August, 1955 on the issue of leakage of the Report of the Bank Award Commission before it was laid on the Table of the House, was pleased to hold that leakage of the Report did not constitute any breach of privilege. Similarly, on a number of occasions in the past, question of breach of privilege was raised in the context of leakage of the Budget. On 19 March, 1956, a question of breach of privilege was raised in the Lok Sabha on the leakage of budget proposals. The then hon. Speaker while giving his ruling on the issue referred to two well-known cases of the House of Commons, namely, Thomas Case and Dalton Case, in which the leakage of budget was treated as not constituting a breach of privilege, and held accordingly. Again, on 25 February, 1982, on a question of privilege in the context of the leakage of Railway Budget, the hon. Speaker ruled that leakage of budget did not constitute a breach of privilege. It has been consistently held in a catena of cases in India as well as in the House of Commons that a document which is in the custody of the Government before it is presented to the House is treated as an official secret and, therefore, the leakage of the same does not constitute a breach of privilege of the House.

In view of the rulings of my very distinguished predecessors and the well-established position, I hold that no breach of privilege or contempt of the House has been occasioned by the leakage of the contents of the Report. I, therefore, disallow the notices of question of privilege.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, you have said the other day that the Government should inquire into it. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Today also I have mentioned it. You need not reiterate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have again mentioned it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is very unfortunate.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : But Sir, you have said so. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I have said so.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : But the Government says that they will not inquire into the leakage(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have said that, but. . . .(Interruptions) the Government are saying that no enquiry will be conducted. It should be conducted. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have also said that it is entirely for the Government to take action.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : But there should be some direction from you on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : No direction. I am sorry.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, It should be made clear by them as to why enquiry will not be conducted?(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing else will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

12.08 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the NTPC Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4633/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : On behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Statement (Hindi and English versions) of allotments made under 5% discretionary quota in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Directorate of Estates for the year ending the 31st December, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4634/2006]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Bank Term Deposit Scheme, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1220(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2006, under of section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (2) A copy of the Notification No. F.No. 142/09/2006-TR (Hindi and English versions) containing Order extending the limitation of six months for making the investment under section 54EC of the Income Tax Act, 1961, capital gains arising from transfer of long term capital asset issued under clause (c) of sub-section (2) of section 119 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4635/2006]

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Company Secretaries (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No.710/1/(M)/1 in Gazette of India dated 26th June, 2006 under sub-section (4) of section 39 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980.
- (2) A copy of the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 1-CA (7)/84/2005 in Gazette of India dated 17th June, 2006 under section 30B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4636/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for the year 2006-2007.

(Interruptions)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4637/2006]

MR. SPEAKER : I am in the midst of the business. Please do not shout.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. Ref. DEBC No. 1 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2006 amending the Reserve Bank of India Employees' Provident Regulation, 1935, issued under sub-section (4) of section 58 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 4638/2006]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 39 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981:—

- (i) The Export-Import Bank Officers' Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. F.No. F-11/3/2005-IR/No. Exim/Service/2004 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2006.
- (ii) The Export-Import Bank Officers' Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. F.No. 4/1/1/2003/IR/No. Exim/Service/2004 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2006.
- (iii) The Export-Import Bank of India (Employee's) Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. EXIM/Pension/2006/F.No. 11/3/2003-IR(Vol.II) in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4639/2006]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:—

- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transaction) (Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 412(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2006.
- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident outside India) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 413(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4640/2006]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:—

- (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 783(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2006.
- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Take-overs) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 807(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2006.
- (iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Merchant Bankers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 560(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2006.
- (iv) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Foreign Institutional Investors) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 948(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2006.
- (v) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Portfolio Managers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 997(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2006.
- (vi) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Merchant Bankers) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 640(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2006.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4641/2006]
- (5) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2006, together with Auditor's Report thereon:—
- (i) Chandrapur-Gadchiroli Gramin Bank, Chandrapur
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4642/2006]
- (ii) Avadh Gramin Bank, Lucknow.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4643/2006]
- (iii) Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bikaner.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4644/2006]
- (iv) Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ambikapur.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4645/2006]
- (v) Shivpuri-Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shivpuri.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4646/2006]
- (vi) Chhindwara Seoni Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chhindwara.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4647/2006]
- (vii) Farrukhabad Gramin Bank, Farrukhabad.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4648/2006]
- (viii) Jamuna Gramin Bank, Agra.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4649/2006]
- (ix) Solapur Gramin Bank, Solapur.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4650/2006]
- (x) Barabanki Gramin Bank, Barabanki.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4651/2006]
- (xi) Hadoti Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kota.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4652/2006]
- (xii) Nanital-Almora Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Haldwani.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4653/2006]
- (xiii) Etah Gramin Bank, Etah.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4654/2006]
- (xiv) Hazaribagh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hazaribagh.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4655/2006]

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- (xv) Rani Lakshmi Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhansi.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4656/2006]

- (xvi) Damoh-Panna-Sagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Damoh.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4657/2006]

- (xvii) Vidisha Bhopal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Vidisha.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4658/2006]

- (xviii) Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank, Ratnagiri.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4659/2006]

- (xix) Kshetriya Gramin Bank Hoshangabad, Hoshangabad.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4660/2006]

- (xx) Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ranchi.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4661/2006]

- (xxi) Himachal Gramin Bank, Mandi.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4662/2006]

- (xxii) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank, Dharwad.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4663/2006]

- (xxiii) Rewa Sidhi Gramin Bank, Rewa.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4664/2006]

- (xxiv) Sriganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sriganganagar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4665/2006]

- (xxv) Rushikulya Gramya Bank, Berhampur.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4666/2006]

- (xxvi) Singhbhum Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Singhbhum (west).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4667/2006]

- (xxvii) Madhya Bihar Gramin Bank, Patna.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4668/2006]

- (xxviii) Dhenkanal Gramya Bank, Dhenkanal.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4669/2006]

- (xxix) Dena Gujarat Gramin Bank, Gandhinagar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4670/2006]

- (xxx) Kisan Gramin Bank, Badaun.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4671/2006]

- (xxxi) Kosi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Purnia.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4672/2006]

- (xxxii) Kashi Gomti Samyut Gramin Bank, Varanasi.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4673/2006]

- (xxxiii) Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4674/2006]

- (xxxiv) Shahdol Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shahdol.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4675/2006]

- (xxxv) Rajasthan Gramin Bank, Alwar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4676/2006]

- (xxxvi) Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank, Diphu.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4677/2006]

- (xxxvii) Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank, Mainpuri.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4678/2006]

- (xxxviii) Purvanchal Gramin Bank, Gorakhpur.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4679/2006]

- (xxxix) Prathama Bank, Moradabad.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4680/2006]

- (xl) South Malabar Gramin Bank, Malappuram.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4681/2006]

- (xli) Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Pithoragarh.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4682/2006]

- (xlii) Baitarani Gramya Bank, Mayurbhanj.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4683/2006]

- (xliii) Gurgaon Gramin Bank, Gurgaon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4684/2006]

- (xliv) Mandla Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Mandla.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4685/2006]

- (xlv) Pinakini Grameena Bank, Nellore.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4686/2006]

- (xlvi) Aligarh Gramin Bank, Aligarh.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4687/2006]

- (xlvii) Haryana Gramin Bank, Rohtak.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4688/2006]

- (xlviii) Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Jabalpur.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4689/2006]

- (xlix) Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Bilaspur.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4690/2006]

- (l) Kalpatharu Grameena Bank, Tumkur.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4691/2006]

- (li) Bhandara Gramin Bank, Bhandara.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4692/2006]

- (lii) Kalahandi Anchalika Gramya Bank,
Bhawanipatna.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4693/2006]

- (liii) Puri Gramya Bank, Puri.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4694/2006]

- (liv) Punjab Gramin Bank, Kapurthala.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4695/2006]

- (lv) Marathwada Gramin Bank, Nanded.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4696/2006]

- (lvi) Thane Gramin Bank, Thane.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4697/2006]

- (lvii) Aurangabad-Jalna Gramin Bank,
Aurangabad.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4698/2006]

- (lviii) Baroda Rajasthan Gramin Bank, Ajmer.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4699/2006]

- (lix) Pandyan Grama Bank, Virudhunagar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4700/2006]

- (lx) Pragathi Gramin Bank, Bellary.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4701/2006]

- (lxi) Jhabua Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Jhabua.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4702/2006]

- (lxii) Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Gonda.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4703/2006]

- (lxiii) Ballia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ballia.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4704/2006]

- (lxiv) Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Raigarh.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4705/2006]

- (lxv) Mizoram Rural Bank, Aizawl.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4706/2006]

- (lxvi) Baroda Western Uttar Pradesh Gramin
Bank, Bareilly.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4707/2006]

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(Ixxvii) Dewas-Shajapur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Dewas.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4708/2006]

(Ixxviii) Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank, Bharuch.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4709/2006]

(Ixxix) Vidharbha Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Akola.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4710/2006]

(Ixx) Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Cooch Behar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4711/2006]

(Ixxi) Marwar Gramin Bank, Pali-Marwar.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4712/2006]

(Ixxii) Nadia Gramin Bank, Nadia.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4713/2006]

(Ixxiii) Visveshvaraya Grameena Bank, Mandya.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4714/2006]

(Ixxiv) Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank, Meerut.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4715/2006]

(Ixxv) Parvatiya Gramin Bank, Chamba.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4716/2006]

(Ixxvi) Giridih Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Giridih.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4717/2006]

(Ixxvii) Rajgarh-Sehore Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sehore.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4718/2006]

(Ixxviii) Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Khargone.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4719/2006]

(Ixxix) Indore-Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ujjain.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4720/2006]

(Ixx) Etawah Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Etawah.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4721/2006]

(Ixxi) Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Murshidabad.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4722/2006]

(Ixxii) Gaur Gramin Bank, Malda.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4723/2006]

(Ixxiii) Deccan Grameena Bank, Hyderabad.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4724/2006]

(Ixxiv) Triveni Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Orai.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4725/2006]

(6) A copy each of the following notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:—

(i) S.O. 2102 published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2006 regarding exemption to the "Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Dakshneshwar, Kolkata" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2005-2006 to 2007-2008, subject to certain conditions.

(ii) S.O. 2103 published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2006 regarding exemption to the "Navajivan Trust, Ahmedabad" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001, subject to certain conditions.

(iii) S.O. 2104 published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2006 regarding exemption to the "Sree Ramakrishna Satyananda Ashram, Village Jirakpur, P.O. Bashirhat Railway Station, District North 24 Parganas (N), West Bengal" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act.

- 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, subject to certain conditions.
- (iv) S.O. 2106 published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2006 regarding exemption to the "Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2006-2007 to 2008-2009, subject to certain conditions.
- (v) S.O. 2292 published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2006 regarding exemption to the "Uttaranchal State Seed and Organic Production Certification Agency, M-4 Chandralok colony, 101, Rajpur Road, Dehradun" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (vi) S.O. 2293 published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2006 regarding exemption to the "Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Room No. 645, Shastri Bhawan, Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.
- (vii) S.O. 2294 published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2006 regarding exemption to the "Chief Minister's Earthquake Relief Fund, Maharashtra Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.
- (viii) S.O. 2295 published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 2006 regarding exemption to the "The Hindu Women's Welfare Society, Sharddhanand Marg, Maheshwari Udyan, Matunga (East), Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (ix) S.O. 2549 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2006 regarding exemption to the "Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, 2nd Floor, Core-8, Scope Complex, 7 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.
- (x) S.O. 2550 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2006 regarding exemption to the "Arya Vaidya Sala, Kattakkal" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, subject to certain conditions.
- (xi) S.O. 2552 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2006 regarding exemption to the "India International Rural Cultural Centre, 7, Nelson Mandela Road, Institutional Area, Sector C-I, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2005-2006 to 2007-2008, subject to certain conditions.
- (xii) S.O. 2553 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 2006 regarding exemption to the "National Council of Applied Economic Research, Parissla Bhawan, 11, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi-110002" under section 10(23C) of the Income-Tax

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Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2005-2006 to 2007-2008, subject to certain conditions.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4726/2006]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4727/2006]

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—
- (i) S.O. 985(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide for Rules of Origin for imports of goods on preferential rate of duty under agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), between the Governments of SAARC (South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation) Members States comprising the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Republic of India, the Republic of Maldives, the Kingdom of Nepal, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
- (ii) S.O. 1094(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus., (N.T.) dated the 3rd August, 2001.

- (iii) S.O. 1185(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency of *vice-versa* for purpose of assessment of import.
- (iv) S.O. 1186(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency of *vice-versa* for purpose of assessment of export.
- (v) S.O. 399(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 38/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (vi) S.O. 260(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to operationalise a new export promotion scheme namely Duty Free Import Authorisation Scheme introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy announced on 7.4.2006.
- (vii) S.O. 275(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (viii) S.O. 276(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the SIX Notifications mentioned therein.
- (ix) S.O. 408(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to

operationalise the Target Plus Scheme for the year 2005-2006.

- (x) The Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback (Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 64(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xi) G.S.R. 414(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2005-Cus., (N.T.) dated the 2nd May, 2005.
- (xii) The Customs, Central Excise Duties and Service Tax Drawback (Amendment) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 419(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 436(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 420(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum determining the rates of drawback, mentioned therein, subject to certain conditions.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4728/2006]

- (9) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, for the year ended the 31st March, 2006 under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4729/2006]

- (10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

- (i) G.S.R. 430(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on ethylene-propylene-non-conjugated diene rubber, originating in, or exported from the European Union, the United States of America, People's Republic of China and Brazil and imported into India., on the basis of final findings of the designated authority.
- (ii) G.S.R. 458(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on partially oriented yarn, originating in or exported from People's Republic of China for a period of six months.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4730/2006]

- (11) 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. 429(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 5/2006-CE dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (ii) G.S.R. 437(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th July, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 4/2006-CE dated the 1st March, 2006.
- (iii) G.S.R. 365(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum facilitating domestic procurement of goods against

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

Served from India Scheme Certificate without payment of Central Excise duty.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4731/2006]

- (12) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. 14(2)2001-Ins.V in Gazette of India dated 26th May, 2006 under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4732/2006]

12.08½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Twenty-Ninth Report

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2006-2007) on "Status of improvement of efficiency through the 'Restructuring' of the Income Tax Department".

12.09 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Eighth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh) : I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2005-06) on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Scheme for Rehabilitating Women in Difficult Circumstances - SWADHAR'.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I appeal to all sides of the House to please cooperate.

12.09 ½ hrs.

REPORT ON INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION AT 18TH COMMONWEALTH SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I beg to present The Report (Hindi and English versions) on Indian Parliamentary Participation in the 18th Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers Conference held at Nairobi from 3rd to 5th January, 2006.

12.10 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re: Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 149th Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to the Department of Science and Technology

[English]

"THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : On behalf of my colleague, Shri Kapil Sibal, I beg to lay the Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Fortyninth (149th) Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Department of Science and Technology, on the direction of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated September 1, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests laid their One Hundred-fortyninth

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 4734/2006.

(149th) Report on 22nd December, 2005 in the Lok Sabha. In all, there were 19 (nineteen) recommendations in the 149th Report of the Committee. Action taken on these recommendations was reported to the Committee. The present status of implementation is detailed in the appended Annexure.

12.11 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 14th of August, 2006 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha:—
 - (a) The Cantonments Bill, 2006; and
 - (b) The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2006.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:—
 - (a) The Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2005;
 - (b) The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2006; and
 - (c) The Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's List of Business:—

1. Need to increase allocation for Rajasthan for earlier constructed and under construction units of R.A.S.P. to overcome power crisis in the state in view of lack of resources for power generation such as water, coal etc. in the state and no possibility of establishing any major power generating projects in the state by Central Power Undertaking.
2. Need to expedite the implementation of project for interlinking of major rivers of the country to reduce the loss of lives and properties caused by floods due to heavy rain in some parts of the country on the one hand and to solve the problems of drought, starvation and famine due to below average rain in other parts of the country as a result of which sowing of crops could not be done.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's List of Business:—

1. Need to accord status of Central University to the University of Rajasthan in view of its status as the only big university that has sufficient infrastructure like land, buildings and qualified and experienced teachers to teach all subjects.
2. Need to accord status of All India Institute of Medical Sciences to Sawai Mansingh Hospital, Jaipur in view of its sprawling building and its expansion and facilities for treatment of all kinds of diseases and qualified and experienced doctors in this Hospital.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's List of Business:—

1. Need to ban all the teleserials aired on Doordarshan influenced by western culture and affecting the traditions of Indian families and as a result of which our young generation is becoming directionless.
2. Need to accord status of Central University to Dr. Sir Harising Gour University keeping in view

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

its historical importance, glory and utility. The University has also observed its platinum jubilee this year.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's List of Business:-

- (i) Need to Expedite the construction of Alappuzha By-pass.
- (ii) Need to expedite the action plan for conservation of Vembanad Lake which was declared as a "Ramsar Site".

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anwar Hussain – not present.
Shri Girdhari Yadav – not present.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's List of Business:-

1. Need to expedite the construction of an overbridge, in public interest, in southern part of the railway station situated in my parliamentary constituency Salempur city so that routine traffic problem on this gate may be solved.
2. Need to introduce a new intercity train between Chhapra and Gorakhpur so the demand of the people living there may be fulfilled.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

Need to make provision for voting allowance to all the voters of India keeping in view the indispensable participation of all sections of the society in democracy and to save them from any kind of allurements.

[English]

*SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) Definition of APL and BPL families should be altered especially for the purpose of Public Distribution of Essential Commodities. In consumer States like Kerala, each family requires foodgrains from other States and statutory rationing is prevalent. Lower middle class families are also to be included in BPL and they are to be given foodgrains lest many will not get reach to essential foodgrains, kerosene, sugar, etc.

- (2) Need to give necessary clearances including security clearance to Vizhinjam Port Container Terminal and Vallarpadam Terminal in Kerala, where also environmental clearance is necessary, which can fetch thousands of crores of income for the nation.

The Kerala Members of Parliament were on agitation today on these matters and for some other matters of development.

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Need to undertake works to make up the losses caused by heavy rain in Gujarat recently.
2. Need to accord priority to conversion of meter gauge into broad gauge in Saurashtra keeping in view the neglect of this work for years.

12.17 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY LEADER OF THE HOUSE AND LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Re: A letter from Chairman, NDA about the functioning of the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I come to Urgent Matters of Public Importance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I have not yet permitted you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I submit that the hon. Leader of the House desires to make a statement and possibly the Leader of the Opposition may also respond. I appeal to the House, through you, Sir, that to get rid of the impasse, if both of them are heard patiently by the House it will be in the fitness of the House to run the Business of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : It is entirely for you. I am not asking anybody to make any statement.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Sir, with your permission, I would like to make the following statement:-

The leaders of various parties and groups in the Lok Sabha express their deep anguish at the tone and the contents of the letter of 8th August, 2006, written by a veteran Parliamentarian and former Prime Minister to the hon. Speaker of this august House. By casting aspersions on the impartiality in the official conduct of the hon. Speaker, it casts a deep, dark shadow on the entire House and the democratic values that it cherishes and has nourished over decades.

The letter is more painful because it emanates from the pen of a person who has himself struggled to uphold the dignity of the House over several decades and is known for his commitment to parliamentary values. The Speaker is more of an institution rather than a person and any aspersions on the keystone of parliamentary democracy is an indictment upon all its constituents, who have faithfully served the people of India for five decades and more. Large numbers of leaders, including Parties belonging to UPA and outside, feel very strongly that under

no circumstances and provocation should there be any reflection on the conduct of the Chair in any form or manner.

Sir, as I mentioned the other day, we have full confidence and trust in you, in which you are conducting the business of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded except the observation of the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

(Interruptions).*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to record my strong disagreement with the statement just made by the Leader of the House. In deference to the wishes expressed by you. . . *(Interruptions)* Because a comment has been made on the letter written by my leader, the Leader of NDA, it would have been appropriate if the letter had been placed on record.

But I was told just now by Prof. Malhotra that you desired that the letter should not be quoted here, and therefore, I am not quoting it. But I can say that every Party in the National Democratic Alliance, every Member of the National Democratic Alliance strongly endorses every word in that letter. . . *(Interruptions)*

I hold that there are no aspersions cast in that letter. There are no reflections in that letter at all. In fact, I really wonder how anyone can construe that letter as being disrespectful to the Chair. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I request you to please do not disturb.

(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regard that letter as the sage advice of a senior statesman to the Presiding Officers of the House, and it is not clearly to you, Sir. . . *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing would go on record except what Shri Advani says.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : It is not being recorded. Why do you stand up?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. What is this? I am saying that even one word of his speech is not being recorded.

[English]

Your leader is speaking and you are disturbing. Please do not prolong this painful episode. I have not made one comment about that letter.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : More than once I was asked. I have the highest respect, as much as you have, if not more, for him. I have seen him in this House; I have had the great fortune of working together with him from 1971, and that is my great privilege. Therefore, you do not think that only you have greater respect for him. Please do not prolong this episode.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this morning, the Leader of the House met me and said: "We would like the House to be conducted smoothly as there are several businesses to be transacted, there are several issues still pending relating to the welfare of the people, which should be taken up." Therefore, he said: "To us, it seems that this letter is an impasse." I said: "I am surprised that this letter should be regarded as an impasse. But if you propose to say something about that letter, then I would also like to say something about that letter."

Therefore, it is that I have expressed my disagreement with what the Leader of the House has said. I am firm again that this letter is a guidance for all of us, all parliamentarians, not merely the Speaker but everyone. That is all, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we would take up Special Mentions.

Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not recording it.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

[English]

Hon. Members, please sit down. I am earnestly requesting you to take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly listen to me. I am telling you.

[English]

I am again and again stating that let this episode be over, at least, so far as the House is concerned. You can do whatever you like, outside. I do not want to say; there are different interpretations. So far as my feelings are concerned, I need not express. But whatever has come to me has come to me. I request you all to please cooperate. There are so many other important issues to be taken up.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia and Mr. Yadav, I would request you to please cooperate. That will add to the dignity of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let Mr. Madhusudan Mistry make his submission. His is a very serious matter concerning floods in Gujarat.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record one word except what Mr. Mistry speaks.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am thankful. This slanging match will not help. Only Mr. Madhusudan Mistry's observations will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am trying to control. I have asked them not to speak. I have not recorded their speech. Not one word is recorded. I am admonishing them.

[Translation]

What more can I do. I cannot stop him by catching hold of his collar.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What more do you want? You do not want to listen. If you are so respectful to the Speaker, please keep quiet. By that you will show more respect to the Chair than trying to enter into this controversy. I think studied silence is more eloquent than anything else.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of this House and the Government to the fact that the people of Gujarat are reeling under severe flood, especially in Surat where the water level has gone up.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what happened to that letter? ... *(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : What are you saying?

[English]

You go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Just wait.

[Translation]

He is speaking about Gujarat. The members who have given notices would be called to speak and, who have not given notices would not be called to speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : In Surat, people are reeling under severe flood, and the water released from Ukai dam. People are suffering due to sheer negligence and criminal act of the Government of Gujarat. In fact, it has been told that instead of providing relief to the people in Surat, the Government of Gujarat was much more involved in accusing the Government of Maharashtra. They had said that they were releasing water from a dam on Tapti river whereas the Maharashtra Government has very clearly said that there is no dam on the Tapti river. Even now people are demanding food and water. The worst thing is that alongwith medicine, food and water, the people are also asking

[Translation]

With these things supply shrouds (Kafans) also, since dead bodies are being found due to release of heavy water. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you. You reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : It is a media report. I would like to say that the Government of Gujarat have failed to extend relief in Surat and all other parts of Gujarat. Whereas Rs. 200 crore are already available with the state Government under calamity relief fund. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? There is no prestige of the House.

[English]

The Members have no prestige. The House has no prestige.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I urge upon you to direct them so that they extend relief in Surat. Rs. 500 crores were given to the Government of Gujarat under calamity fund last time. Besides this, our leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the leader of the House, Shri Pranav Mukherji had visited there and they had given Rs. 150 crore to the Government of Gujarat. I hope this money would be used judiciously. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We all share the concern and the plight of the people.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the worst part is this that the help being given by the Government, is being considered as the help given by the Bhartiya Janta Party. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

It is a newspaper report. I am quoting from the newspaper report. I am ready to substantiate it if you want. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are becoming too touchy of others. We are not prepared to listen to each other. We only want to hear our own voice. Nobody can speak. Only I can speak. If this attitude is there, then this House be wound up.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I am ready to substantiate that it is a newspaper report and so on. It is indeed a pity that they are denying. It is a newspaper report which states with facts and figures. If you are not ready to listen, it is very unfortunate.

[Translation]

It is very unfortunate that Gujarat Government is not able to send relief to people of Gujarat, even after so many days. I demand the Union Government to instruct the Gujarat Government to send relief to people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you for your co-operation.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you, very much. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I want that everybody should speak. You also please help us a bit so that everybody could get an opportunity to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, I have given you many-many thanks. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is the use of giving thanks? You please express your views.

[English]

There are very important issues. People are suffering in our country. This is the place where those issues should be raised so that some solution can be found.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Athawale, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please express your views, nothing else will go on record. . . .*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last 15-20 days various states of the country like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and especially Gujarat have witnessed devastation due to unprecedented rainfall and floods. It is very unfortunate that as a member of Parliament from Gujarat, when my friend Madhusudan Bhai stood upto speak, it appeared to me

*Not recorded.

he will speak about the situation that has emerged in Gujarat due to the natural calamity of excessive rain which have rendered lakhs of families homeless but there is nothing except politics. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Leave it, you express your views.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Sir, he said I should have talked about the floods. . . .(Interruptions) I did speak about the floods and nothing more. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You talk about the people.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down, why do you involve politics in this?

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I want to repudiate you. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Manvendra Singh, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I did not disturb him. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not disturb him. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You address the Chair. Why do you exchange your views like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, he is telling me. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You ignore him.

[Translation]

Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : In the previous days. Surat city has been worst affected. . . .(Interruptions). You are doing politics here. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You express your views and just leave him.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Every T.V. Channel has telecast the news item, every newspaper has reported that in the last 6-7 days, Central Gujarat, Baroda and especially Surat have witnessed such a flood and rainfall that was never seen there in the last 200 years. Surat city has been worst affected. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is happening now?

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : The entire Surat city has witnessed devastation. Government is giving full attention towards Surat. Voluntary organizations have reached there from everywhere. The whole city is submerged. Those who have knowledge of geography, they know that Surat city is situated along the banks of River Tapti and Tapti flows into ocean. Now it is time of Purnia. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is happening in this House? Everybody is speaking.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : River water is not going into the ocean but dam water is coming into the city. In such a situation. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli) : Then why the chief Minister of Gujarat has released the dam water?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will have to now take some action against some Members.

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Sir, he is misleading the House. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : If you will mislead, then people will try, why do you speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : There has been unprecedented damage in Surat. In this situation, I would like to seek the sympathy of the House. Please listen to me and cooperate with me.

More than 12 lakh people in Surat are from other states. Many among them are from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar and U.P. All of them have suffered losses due to this heavy rainfall and floods. We have urged the Union Government to give us more help because such a flood has never been seen and such a destruction due to rainfall has never taken place since 200 years. Yesterday, the leader of the House Shri Pranab Mukherjee went there. He announced relief to the tune of Rs. 150 crore, but the city has suffered loss amounting to thousands of crore rupees. There is 40 thousand crore rupees diamond trade in Surat. It is the main centre of textile mills. Chemical industries are there; big private sector projects of the country are also there in Hajira. I would like the House not to play politics in this matter and extend maximum help to Gujarat Government. Losses to the tune of more than Rs. 20 thousand crore has been incurred there. Just now, we have requested to the Union Government. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I am speaking about the interests of Gujarat. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It's enough now. Now you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I know as to how much concerned you are about Gujarat. I would also like to urge the Union Government to provide an assistance of Rs. two thousand crore immediately because a loss of more than Rs. twenty thousand crore can be seen prima facie. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is happening here?

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : This loss is estimated to be of more than 50 thousand to one lakh crore rupees. So, I request you, the Government and Shri Pranab Mukherjeeji that yesterday when the Members of Parliament from Gujarat met the Prime Minister under the leadership of honourable Mr. Advaniji, the Prime Minister assured that next day morning he will visit Surat.

Sir, through you, I request the Government and Chidambaramji to provide us Rs. two thousand crores so that we can start relief work there. Thereafter you may provide us funds for rehabilitation work and assist the State of Gujarat. . . . (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You may continue but not even a single line will go on record. If you will speak with my permission, there will be recording and for this you have to sit quietly.

[English]

Please behave decently.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria associates himself with the matter raised by Shri Harin Pathak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN (Ladakh) : Mr. Speaker,

*Not recorded.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this House and the Government of India. None of us have made any mention about Ladakh. There is flood in many parts of the country and all of us know about this and media focus is also there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It senior leaders behave like this, what can I do? Both of you cannot speak together.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN : When floods hit even in small places in big cities then media focus reaches there and the Government and the House also pay their attention. This time round very unusual incident took place in Ladakh. Normally there is no rainfall in Ladakh. This is a dry area, but this time round, there has been incessant rain for the last ten days, cloud burst is also taking place due to which 11 people have lost their lives. Two National Highways, which connect Ladakh with other parts of the country via Srinagar and Manali have also been affected and hundreds of people have become homeless. I am really very upset that the Chief Minister of the State visited that place with other Government Officials and took stock of the situation and after that announced a relief of only Rs. 50 lakh. Ladakh has suffered huge losses. So many people have lost their lives, residential houses have been ruined. Only one crop is cultivated in that part of the country and that also has been washed away by the rain and a lot of soil erosion has taken place. In view of all these factors there was a need to send a central team there to assess the situation. I have written a letter to the Prime Minister also in this regard requesting him to send a Central team to take stock of the situation and assess the damage there and also suggest temporary and long term measures which need to be taken? But I regret that so far there is no response from the Prime Minister's side. Ladakh is being neglected. Both Central as well the State Government are neglecting Ladakh. Ladakh is being discriminated. We want that proper and adequate attention must be paid towards Ladakh. I would like to appreciate the role of Indian Army.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not inject politics into people's misery. He is espousing the situation there. Let us hear him and show respect to the situation.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : He had named BJP. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody is dictating to the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN : The Officers and Jawans of Army have provided assistance on time. Except for this, no help has reached there. I would request the Prime Minister to provide generous assistance to Ladakh from National Calamity Relief Fund, because Ladakh has got no resources of its own. I request the Government to send a Central team there and provide general financial assistance.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am sure that the Government should look into it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Union Government to unprecedented rains and flash floods in Andhra Pradesh. More than 200 people have died. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has totally and miserably failed to provide relief to the affected people. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is the trouble. You do not mention the situation. You are only inviting trouble.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even the Congress MLAs and Ministers are not being allowed to visit the areas by the affected people. So far, they are not providing them with even drinking water and food. Hundreds of villages are reeling under water till

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

today. This is not nature-made. The Government had not initiated action. If they had protected the river *bunds*, it would not have happened in Andhra Pradesh. Even crops in lakhs of hectares have been spoiled and thousands of cattle have died.

I am demanding from the Government of India that this should be declared as a national calamity and the Government of India should also sanction Rs. 1,000 crore for immediate relief and rehabilitation. Otherwise, the Government of Andhra Pradesh cannot meet the situation. You go through the media reports and you will find that even the Congress MLAs are being attacked by the victims. They are not allowing them to tour. After five or six days, they are touring the affected areas. This is the situation prevailing in Andhra Pradesh. There are no medicines available. There is no drinking water available. People are suffering. So far, the Prime Minister has not visited Andhra Pradesh. For seven days, people have been suffering there. Yesterday, we were appealing to the hon. Prime Minister to see all the affected areas of Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, my demand, through you, to the Government of India is that they should immediately sanction Rs. 1,000 crore to the Government of Andhra Pradesh and it should be declared as a national calamity to save the people of Andhra Pradesh and particularly, the affected people.
... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) :
Sir, I am also associating.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sudhakar Reddy is also associating.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given the notice. Those who are concerned should have given notices.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr Speaker, Sir, flood situation is very serious in many States of the country. There is heavy flood in Marathwada, Vidarbha, Western Maharashtra and Nasik division etc. There is

heavy water logging in the Pandharpur region also. I request that there is need to pay more attention towards this region by the Government of India. Relief work is being carried out properly by the Government of Maharashtra. There is need to provide Rs. 1000-1500 crores immediately to improve the situation there and to assist the people. We want an assurance from the Government for providing a package to Maharashtra.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North) : Sir, floods have created havoc in Karnataka. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is an important matter which is being raised.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : On one side, 127 *talukas* are suffering with drought and on the other, more than six districts are suffering due to floods. More than 100 people are already dead, and 25 bridges have been submerged. Even where there was no rain, there is a flood situation because water from Koyna Dam was released. The same situation was there last year also, and it was demanded that all the 101 nearby villages which are affected every year because of releasing of water from Koyna Dam should be shifted permanently. In this regard, the then Dharam Singh Government urged the Government of India to provide Rs. 300 crore to shift those villages permanently, but that is pending for the last one year before the Government of India. I urge the Government of India to look into the matter very seriously.

Another issue is that more than 100 people and more than 1,000 cattle were already dead. On the one side, we have floods and on the other, we have a drought situation. The situation in Karnataka is entirely different when compared with other States. In such a situation, the Government of Karnataka has already demanded the Government of India to provide Rs. 1,300 crore as immediate relief. It should be released immediately.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him support you. He is one of the leaders of your Party.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar) : Sir, I associate myself with what he has stated.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Most parts of the country, particularly in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Bengal and in various other States of the country, are facing severe flood situation. It is an unprecedented national calamity created by nature. As my dear colleague Shri Pralhad Joshi has said, there is a severe flood situation coupled with drought in Karnataka. Nearly 164 talukas have been affected, 104 people are already dead, thousands of acres of crops have been lost, and 25 bridges have been totally submerged. Actually, on 8th August, our Chief Minister and Deputy Chief-Minister came to Delhi to meet the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Home Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister. They have given a memorandum seeking Rs. 1,406 crore as interim relief.

With great pain, I want to say that there has been no relief announced by the Government of India to the State of Karnataka. When representatives of Andhra Pradesh came here as a delegation, immediately the Union Government has announced a package of Rs. 200 crore as interim grant, and we support that. But there should not be any step-motherly treatment in case of Karnataka.

Therefore, I demand and I want to have the support of the entire House that the States of Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra and various other States should get the interim grant. There should not be any step-motherly treatment in respect of any of the affected States.

Sir, the Union Government is yet to send a study team to Karnataka. A study team must be immediately sent to Karnataka for the assessment of loss of crops, cattle, human lives and infrastructure.

Sir, I take the opportunity of hon. Finance Minister being present here and raise an important issue. We have been pressing the Government in this august House for the last decade for revision of the guidelines of Calamity Relief Fund. The hon. Prime Minister announced earlier that a Group of Ministers would be constituted for this purpose comprising of Home Minister, Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister for the revision of CRF guidelines. What is being given now for dry lands, for wet lands, for horticulture lands and for crop loss, and loss of

human lives is too meagre. It is a pittance. Therefore, we want the Government to revise the CRF guidelines.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a debate. You are raising an important issue.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention and through you the attention of the Government to this. I do not know how many meetings of this Group of Ministers have been convened so far. This callous attitude of Government has not given us any succour to the people of Karnataka.

There is a dam called Koyna dam which has been hanging like a sword on the heads of people of Karnataka. Discharge of water from that reservoir not only affects the southern parts of Maharashtra like Sangli, Satara and Kolhapur, but it also affects the Districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Bidar, Gulbarga, and Raichur in Karnataka. These floods are caused not only because of incessant rains, but also because of the discharge of water from Koyna dam. Therefore, this water discharge from Koyna reservoir has to be monitored closely.

MR. SPEAKER : Immediate need has to be met, that is right. You have rightly raised that issue and I permitted it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, teams have to be sent to Karnataka. Interim relief has to be announced for all the States including the State of Karnataka. We have already placed a demand for Rs. 1,406 crore. We also demand that the CRF guidelines must be revised.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ananth Kumar, please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : The Union Government should immediately come forth with assistance for Karnataka. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, we want to associate with this.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Members who want to associate may send slips, without disturbing the House. Shri Manjunath Kunnur is associated.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday the Supreme Court has given a judgement. *(Interruptions)* I am not casting any aspersions. In that judgement, the Bill which has been passed by Lok Sabha. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Sir, he has come to a different subject.

MR. SPEAKER : Why not?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : We have to say something about Orissa.

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given any notice. I am not going to allow it. Those hon. Members who have taken the trouble of giving notice in time have been called. I am sorry. I have as much concern for Orissa as any other State.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : On your behalf, I would request the Government to look into Orissa also. But show your concern by giving at least one notice.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : We have given notice on other days but the House adjourned on those days.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the judgement has given by the Supreme Court yesterday. I am not casting any aspersion on that but it is true that the Bill passed by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Singh, I am allowing a Call Attention on this subject on Monday. You please take part in that on Monday.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : I will not be here on Monday, Sir.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will conclude within two minutes. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : But I am going to allow this Call Attention.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that the situation have become very serious after the judgement of Supreme Court yesterday. Sir, the Bill which had become a law after it was passed by this House has become invalid after yesterday's judgement of the Supreme Court. I want to say that Bulldozers will again start rolling from 16th September. I was very surprised when I read a statement appearing in some Newspapers which was given by hon. Shri Jaipal Reddy, who is my friend and happened to be a talented man and also the Minister of Urban Development. He said "Government's stand has been vindicated". Sir, 41000 houses would be demolished, bulldozed and still their stand will be vindicated. . . .

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Then, your name will not find a place in the Calling Attention on this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Sir, through this House and through you I would like to say that the Government should take immediate decision in this regard otherwise it will affect approximately more than 45 thousands people and if the member of their family members is taken into consideration the number of such people would be in lakhs. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to make Delhisees aware through this House whether the bulldozers will again be in action from 16th Sept. or the Government will find any solution to this.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.C. Thomas.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, do you want to respond? I am allowing a Calling Attention on this subject next Monday.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : Let Prof. Malhotra speak, I would also say a few words. . . . (Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : We gave a notice on 3rd.

[Translation]

He said that Calling Attention should be taken up after he comes into the House.

[English]

It cannot be taken up in 'Zero Hour'. It is a very important issue. There should be a Calling Attention. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, will Monday suits you?

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Yes. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, please fix all the programme for Monday.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All right, so that Members are present for the inauguration of Museum.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I know that a large number of people are concerned.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat) : Sir, I may also be allowed to express my views.

MR. SPEAKER : If notice is received for the same, time will be given.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, a deadly disease 'Anthrax' has been traced in Kerala recently, especially in some parts of Central Kerala, in Kuttatukulam and some other parts of my constituency also. Many cattles have been dying. It is confirmed that 'Anthrax' has been the cause for the death of many of these cattles. It is a very dangerous disease. It is very dangerous as it is spreading to other areas. It may spread to human beings also. Hence, I would request the Government that a team may be sent from the Centre and immediate action may be taken by the Government. Also, sufficient financial assistance may be extended to the State of Kerala and also to the farmers involved so that this deadly disease can be fought successfully.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government, through you, that the most heart rending episode has taken place in the coal belt area, stretching from Jharkhand to West Bengal. It is continuing to take its toll because a few days earlier, scores of abandoned coal pits have been submerged and the water has been gushing in the abandoned pits. You are well aware that private owners, prior to 1970, have abandoned hundreds of coal mines. But illegal extraction of coal has been continuing. The entire area has been infested with coal mafia and other illegal activities also are taking place. State Government of West Bengal has been looking into this matter. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, MP has been entrusted to coordinate the rescue operations. It is surprising to note that Shri Acharia is sitting in this House. I would request you that you should direct the Union Government to come out with a statement because the entire rescue operation has come to a standstill.

The Army is reluctant to make rescue operations. Naturally, we are all groping in the dark as to what had actually happened, how many have already been died or drowned. Already 150 ft. of pit have been submerged in water, of the total depth of 180 ft. But we do not know how many illegal miners have been trapped there, how many illegal miners have been died and how many illegal miners are waiting to face watery grave. So, I would request the

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

hon. Union Minister, through you, Sir, to come out with a Statement because we are all agitated over that.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you. I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government. Few months ago, the Union Government in collaboration with the State Government has purchased mustard from the farmers of Rajasthan. But even after three-four months no payment for the same has been made to those farmers as yet. The farmers are in great trouble because it is farming season and they are in dire need of money. I request the Union Government to make immediate payment to the farmers whose mustard has been procured. Apart from this, some quantity of mustard still remains to be sold because it is not being procured. I also request the Union Government to purchase the remaining mustard so that such farmers could also be benefited.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Minati Sen, I am allowing a Calling Attention on this subject of 'female foeticide' next week; please take part in it.

Her name may be noted for Calling Attention.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore) : Sir, I am raising a matter of grave concern. The Botanical Survey of India is one of the prestigious institutions of our country, having a very good social background. It is unfortunate that the Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued termination notices against 112 employees of the Botanical Survey of India for reasons best known to them.

Sir, you know that Shibpur Botanical Garden is the most prestigious garden in the country where 60 permanent employees have been served with notices of retrenchment alongwith others throughout the country. May I request the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to look into the matter?

The employees, cutting across political affiliations, have been agitating. They went on strike, lodged their

protest and their legitimate demands should not be curtailed. In consonance with the policy of the UPA Government, they should give a fair deal to the employees. I wonder why these permanent employees have been served with notices of retrenchment. This should not be done.

I appeal, through you, to the hon. Minister who is present here to do something in this matter. I request him to withdraw the order of retrenchment, without which they will continue their agitation; they would do it so long as their demands are met.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma.

Dr. Sarma, this is a matter concerning our neighbouring country. So, you may please use such a language which is good.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, Sir, to the recent attempt of Bangladesh to grab Indian land in the Indo-Bangladesh border in the Cachar and Karimganj districts of Assam and also part of Tripura.

The BSF has foiled several organised attempts of Bangladeshis to cultivate Indian lands in recent times. The hon. Defence Minister has admitted in this House that more than 499 acres of Indian land in this border area are in the occupation of Bangladesh.

13.00 hrs.

The situation has become more tense after the intrusion attempt on last Wednesday, by the Bangladesh Rifles who attacked the outposts of the Border Security Force at Harinagar-Kinnarkal in Cachar district and Tulergram in Karimganj district with mortars. In this incident two women were killed and 3000 villagers fled their homes following exchanges of fire between the border guards of the two countries. The women Sabita Dey and Santa Dey died when their homes at Harinagar Part IV village was hit by mortars fired by the Bangladesh Rifles, which had recently amassed troops along the border. The BSF retaliated and firing between the border guards of the two countries continued in the Cachar-Karimganj sector till yesterday morning. The administrations of Cachar and

Karimangal districts have opened a relief camp for the villagers at Siddheswar High School.

In view of the high-voltage situation, BSF has sounded a red alert in the entire Banga border areas along with Katigorah and Karimangal sectors. A large number of families of Banga border areas have been asked to vacate their houses. This is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I have allowed you to raise it in the House.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Through you, Sir, I demand a statement from the hon. Defence Minister on what has happened and what the Government is planning to do to secure our border, to totally seal the Indo-Bangladesh border which is always being attacked by the Bangladesh for their advantage. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am sorry.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimangal) : Sir, firstly, I associate myself with what Dr. Sarma has said just now. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : From tomorrow onwards Members should tell me what I should do and I will do only that. All of you give me a joint list and I will follow it. I would not have to apply my mind over it.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA : I would request the Government of India to tackle the situation permanently because these are not isolated incidents. BDR is frequently firing on the peace-loving people living in the border areas of my constituency, Barak Valley. These people have been uprooted by the BDR firing. They frequently fire upon our people to protect cultivation of Indian soil by Bangladeshi cultivators. The previous Member has already told about two persons being killed and many other injured in this firing. People have taken refuge in schools. The Government declared to seal the border but progress of barbed wire fencing is very slow. Old fencing are rusted and making way for miscreants.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, delay in granting security clearance to Vizhinjam project

is a matter of grave concern for the people of Kerala. Today there was a *dharna* in which all Members of Parliament belonging to Kerala, including Shri A.K. Anthony, Dr. Kurien and others, sat together in front of the House to demand security clearance being accorded to Vizhinjam Project. Not a single pie is to be spent by the Government of India. The entire project is drawn and executed by the Government of Kerala. They have called for a global tender. At that time, the Chinese company was also one of the participants. Now they have raised a new theory that Chinese participation is a security matter and hence clearance could not be granted. Shri Umman Chandy was the Chief Minister then. The Prime Minister has agreed to lay the foundation. All of a sudden the things turned upside down. The global tender will be defeating the very purpose of the Vizhinjam Project. So, I demand, to exclude the Chinese firm and give clearance to this project. We are not particular about having the Chinese firm included. There are Indian firms. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough now. You have raised the matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I would request the Central Government to do it without any delay. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded except Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I would appeal to the Government to sanction the project as early as possible. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You will get opportunity if you sit here otherwise you will not get the opportunity.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When the Speaker allows you to speak, only then you speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed you to speak even then you are showing your temper to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded. Now Shri Virendra Kumar to speak.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to allow that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Thomas, it is very unfortunate. Nothing is being recorded. Why are you shouting? It will not be recorded. You are only disturbing the House. You send your name, I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is not obliged to respond. You are only spoiling your own name. Dr. K.S. Manoj and Dr. P.P. Koya are allowed to associate with this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to inordinate delay in setting up Bina Refinery near Bina in my parliamentary constituency in Madhya Pradesh the construction cost thereof has increased from Rs. 6,500 crore to Rs. 10,000 crores and the construction work is not progressing as per the desired pace. The construction cost will increase in proportion to the delay in construction work because the prices are skyrocketing. On the other hand, so many irregularities are being committed in the ongoing construction work. The quality of construction work is very poor on account of the indifferent attitude and connivance of the officers. Its evident example is a recently built boundary wall, which was demolished and reconstructed because of poor quality. The wall was reconstructed because proper attention was not paid in this regard earlier.

Therefore, I request the Union Government, through you, to cooperate in proper and timely execution of Bina

*Not recorded.

Refinery works by fixing a time frame for the same and by doing away with the irregularities by directing the concerned officials and by taking action against inexperienced persons responsible for carrying out substandard work.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Sangwanji, I will allow you to raise it but please see that he was a very respected person himself. Personally speaking, all of us have been great admirers of him. We all have respect for Shri Suraj Bhanji. Therefore, please say in a manner so that by trying to espouse that cause, you may not bring him down. He is so high up. Let us not do that. It is a matter of great tragedy and sorrow. I had personal acquaintance and friendship with him.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 7th August, 2006 you and the whole House during the Course of Obituary Reference expressed profound grief at the sad demise of Suraj Bhanji. You gave his full details in the House. At various points of time he was the Deputy Speaker of this House, Governor of the two states, Cabinet Minister in the Government of Haryana and presently he was the Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes. Thousands of people were present at the time of his cremation that took place in Ambala on 7th July, 2006. The leaders of various political parties and officers were also present there. But I am sorry to say that neither State condolence was given to him nor any condolence was expressed by the State.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is misleading the House. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Dalit leaders are in anguish throughout the country due to the same. Their leader has not been given proper respect. He was neither given any Guard of Honour nor any mournful tune was played to express national condolence. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I met Hon'ble Chief Minister in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat and listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[English]

Shri Ashok Pradhan is allowed to associate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I had from the Chair, on the first available day, expressed great sorrow on behalf of the entire House on the passing away of Shri Suraj Bhan. As soon as I got the news I went there in the night itself. The respect we have for him cannot be diminished. What you had said if it had been there, it would have been better. But that does not affect the status, stature and the respect the country has had for the late Suraj Bhan. We are very sorry that he has passed away. He could have contributed much more to the country. Therefore, please do not make it a controversial issue. That was my worry.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the United States of America has imposed sanctions on two Indian firms, namely, M/s. Balaji Amenis Limited and M/s. Prachi Poly Products. . . .*(Interruptions)* on charges of passing technology to Iran that could be used for producing weapons of mass destruction or missile systems. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have received many notices, but that does not mean that I have to call everybody.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : One of the firms, namely, M/s. Balaji Amenis Limited were supplying only three products. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What can the Government of India do about it?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Government of India has not protested against the sanctions, rather the Ministry of External Affairs, in December 2005, had verbally asked M/s. Balaji Amenis Limited to stop exporting to Iran even before the sanctions were imposed by the United States. It is clear that the Government of India is acting at the behest of the United States.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not stretch it too far.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we are opposing these sanctions, which are unjustified, against these two Indian companies. I demand that the Government of India should take up this matter with the United States so that these unjustified sanctions are lifted from these two Indian private firms who are being charged of supplying technology to Iran.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K. Francis George, please be brief. This is a torture hour!

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Human Resources Development to a vexed problem being faced by the students of the CBSE Board. The CBSE textbooks are published by NCERT. In the current academic year, the textbooks for classes I, III, VI, IX and XI have been changed by the authorities. Now, the NCERT had announced that these changed textbooks would be available by March, 15. Five months into this academic year, the textbooks are not available.

MR. SPEAKER : Please learn to be brief also.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : The NCERT has now announced that the students could download their textbooks from the internet. It is very unfortunate. How can every single student in this country download their textbooks from the internet? The textbooks of English for class I, English and Hindi for class III, Maths and English

[Shri K. Francis George]

for class VI, Maths and Social Sciences for IX and Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics for XI are not still available. The problem is very acute. The authorities are taking a very callous approach to this problem. . . .(Interruptions). The Government should look into the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Lunch Hour is dispensed with. We will now take up Item No. 13, namely, Demands for Supplementary Grants (General). Shri Naveen Jindal may speak now. It has to be passed today. Other matters will be taken up at the end of the normal day's business.

(Interruptions)

13.15 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai, South Central) : Sir, Pakistan is running terrorist training camps in its territory. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

13.16 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL), 2006-2007

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish to thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

I rise to support the Supplementary Grants for Grants presented by the hon. Finance Minister. Because of the pragmatic and growth-oriented policies pursued by our hon. Finance Minister, under the able guidance of our acclaimed economist Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the vision of our dynamic Chairperson of UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, our country has achieved a very high growth rate of 7 to 8 per cent. In the years to come, I am sure, we can achieve even 10 per cent growth rate.

*Not recorded.

For that, I would like to suggest that we will have to focus more importantly on manufacturing. To do that, I would like to suggest through you to the Finance Minister and to the Government that we need to curb the export of ore, specially iron-ore. If we compare our ore reserves with other countries rich in iron-ore like Ukraine and Australia, we can find that per capita reserve in Australia is 2000 tonnes per person and in Ukraine, it is 1400 tonnes as per its population. In India, it is only 21 tonnes. At the rate at which we are consuming iron-ore and specially exporting iron-ore with 15 per cent growth rate every year, in 20 to 25 years, our iron-ore reserves would be depleted. Even though we say that we have 23 billion tonnes of iron-ore, nearly 10 billion tonnes out of that is magnetite ore found in the Western Ghats. Environmentally, it is a very sensitive area and this ore cannot be used. That is why. I would really urge the Government that in a phased and planned manner, we have to reduce the export of iron-ore and increase the production of steel in our country so that our country as a whole will benefit much more from that.

My second point and the one which is very close to my heart and the hearts of the people is about sports. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : Sir, he is speaking in English. He should speak in Hindi. I don't understand English.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Alright, I will speak in Hindi. The sports are utterly neglected in our country. It is very unfortunate that no attention is paid to the sports in our country. When we take part in Olympic Games and despite ours being a country with more than a billion people, our winning a bronze or silver medal there, I becomes a front-page news of the magazine. But instead of all that we do nothing. I would like to request that Government should take some concrete steps in this regard. If the Government has any plan for doing something for the sports, it is alright otherwise my very suggestions should necessarily be implemented so that India having the population of hundred crore does not have to cut a sorry figure before

the whole world for not winning a medal. Today, it is the only way through which we can bring honour to the nation. In ancient times, winner country used to pitch up its flag on the land of defeated country. But today it is not so. Now-a-days, when a country wins in games abroad, only then, its flag can be hoisted there. It emboldens the sense of pride among the countrymen and you must have felt the same.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to suggest that the allocation for sports is extremely inadequate. China has won 286 medals after 1984 whereas we have won only three medals. If we talk about ensuing Olympics 2008 or 2012, we have not taken any concrete steps in this regard so that we can perform better in these Olympics. The Government has a provision of about four hundred to five hundred crores of rupees in the budget for sports. I would like to request the Government to raise it at least to two thousand crore rupees. If the Government cannot increase the sports budget then it should at least give 200 per cent exemption to the those companies which are willing to pay for Olympics whether they are in private sector or public sector. I am not talking about cricket because it has already got a plenty of amount. Hundred per cent tax exemption is still being given but no company is coming forward with keen interest. I would like to request the Government for Olympic sports as we are going to organize the commonwealth games in the year 2010 and will invest Rs. 6000 crores for the infrastructure development. But, if we do not invest even Rs. 300 crores on the training of sportspersons but provide Rs. 6000 crores for commonwealth games and if our sportspersons do not perform well in the games, then we will have to cut a sorry figure and also be responsible for the same. I am myself a sportsman. So, I am quite aware of the problems of a sportsperson and despite this if I do not raise their problems in the House I will only be deceiving myself. Therefore, I would like to request the Government particularly the Hon. Finance Minister to give 200 per cent exemption in tax to those companies, which come forward to promote the sports.

Secondly, I would like our sportsmen to bring medals in the shooting event. Commonwealth games were recently

organized in which we won 50 medals in the shooting. Therefore, I am going to give this suggestion and Government will not have to invest money on it. I would like to say that if the Government tackles all the problems of the shooters, I think, the shooters of our country can excel even the shooters of the best countries of the world in the shooting event because on this land of Arjun there is ample potential in our country. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak on supplementary demands and conclude.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Sir, there is 37 per cent duty on airguns including customs and excise duty. In response to my letter, which I had written, it has been stated that this duty has been levied to protect the domestic industry. No airgun is issued to any shooter even at the national level, which is manufactured by domestic industry. The Airgun manufactured in India costs Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000, whereas the cost of the airgun manufactured at International level and used by the shooters is Rupees one lakh. Therefore, we should promote our national shooters. Hundred of shooters like Abhinave Bindra and Anjali Bhagwat can be in our country but we do not provide assistance to them. I am not saying that we should help them. However, we should, at least, withdraw 35 per cent duty charged by the Government so that it could be easily imported and good shooters could be prepared in the schools or colleges by practicing with airguns. This way, I think that we will be proud on the victory of our shooters at the international level. Therefore, I would request the Government to necessarily take some steps in this regard because if we perform badly in sports, only we will be responsible for the same.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. In this Supplementary Demands for Grants, the net cash outgo is going to be Rs. 8,668 crore. An amount of Rs. 1,500 crore has been set aside for additional subsidy on imported urea, while Rs. 600 crore has been allocated towards *ad hoc* concessions on fertilizers, taken out of the Government control.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

The Finance Minister, in his initial speech, has made a comment that this is not going to impact the fiscal and the revenue deficits. How did he say so? Why did he not factor in the net out go of Rs. 8,668 crore in the Budget? Why did he not anticipate it at that time? Now, he says that there is not going to be any fiscal or revenue deficit. How can we believe that? He has said that the fiscal and the revenue deficits will be within the targeted levels. *The Economic Times*, which is the leading financial newspaper of this country, has published a news item. It says that during the first quarter of this fiscal, the projected deficit is now 52 per cent. Out of the projected fiscal deficit, now the fiscal deficit has reached 52 per cent mark within the first three months of this year. Is it not going to impact the inflation? How can the hon. Minister of Finance say that it is not going to impact the price rise and the inflation? I say here is a failure and mostly at the end of this year, we will find that the fiscal deficit target has been exceeded. It is very natural that this is going to happen. Take, for example, the fiscal policy of this Government. All the time the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Finance of this country including the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission say that they are great votaries of reforms. But where is the reform? I mean to say that this Government has been struck by a Left paralytic stroke. This is a lame-duck Government, incapable of taking any decision.

You take the example of disinvestment of ten per cent of the Government shares in NALCO and Neyveli Lignite Corporation. The Cabinet took the decision, but then they had to roll it back. It is a very strange thing that this Government takes a decision in the Cabinet and then it starts negotiations with their allies. It starts private negotiations and ultimately they say that whatever decision we take in the Cabinet, we are going to roll it back. If it is not a paralytic stroke then what is it? This Government is incapable of taking a single decision independently.

I will give you another example. I am a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance. Since one year the Pension Funds Regulatory and Development Authority Bill has been approved by the Standing Committee on

Finance. The Banking Companies Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings and Financial Institutions Laws (Amendment) Bill has already been approved by the Standing Committee on Finance. But this helpless Government is incapable of just piloting these Bills in this House because the Left Parties are opposing them. Now, I will give you a suggestion. There is no need for any Committee. You dissolve all these Committees. Now, you form some Committee and include Members only from the Left Parties because now this entire nation is running on the mercy of the Left Parties. In the Standing Committee of Finance all the Members, excepting only one or two Members, have approved these Bills. But this Government is incapable of piloting these Bills. I am asking what is the meaning of democracy. Democracy is the rule of majority. The vast majority of this House had approved these Bills, but the Government is surely been blackmailed, being blackmailed by their own allies. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : Sir, I am on a point of order. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no point of order. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri M. Kharabela Swain. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Only one or two Members of the Committee had objected to it. The Government has fallen flat and it is incapable of bringing these Bills in this House. Then, what was the need of sending them to the Standing Committee on Finance, if you have no intention of piloting these Bills? You first negotiate with your allies, if they agree, then you send them to the Standing Committee. Why should we spend so much of time on deliberating on this? For one year we deliberated on this and made certain very good proposals. So, I do not think that this Government has got any right to say that they want to rule over this country.

Sir, take the example of rise in prices of petrol and diesel. Out of the total cost of petrol and diesel, 52 per cent is tax of various kinds like customs duty, central excise

*Not recorded.

and sales tax levied by State Governments. The hon. Finance Minister was asked as to why he does not put some *ad valorem* duty on it and he goes on simply increasing the tax proportionately. He was asked as to why he is not reducing those taxes. The answer given by the hon. Finance Minister was that it was factored in the Budget. This means, even when the price was less, he anticipated that one day it will rise and that he will have this much of tax from it. That is why he factored it in the Budget. Why does he do that? It is because he wants to put more money into the populist programmes, the *Aam admi's* programmes of this Government and he wants to put more money into the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme which is being tom-tommed as the only programme for the *Aam admi* of this country.

Sir, let us take the example of the previous NDA Government. The NDA Government initiated the Golden Quadrilateral Project, the four-lane National Highway Development Programme. This has considerably been slowed down now. I was expecting that the Minister of Road Transport and Highways would be present here, he was here sometime before. He gives statistics that 44 per cent of this National Highway Development Programme has been completed during the period of the present UPA Government. You can ask anybody. Who agrees to this claim? The Golden Quadrilateral Programme has been considerably slowed down. Who does not know this? You know it and every Member of this House knows it.

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Swajaldhara, Annapoorna, Antyodaya, all these programmes were initiated by the NDA Government. What has this Government done? Excepting the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, can you tell me a single other programme which this Government introduced or initiated? All these programmes were initiated by the NDA Government and they are simply putting some more money in those programmes.

Sir, even the only programme this Government claim to have initiated is the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is also being implemented successfully only in NDA-ruled States. Their own leader, the great sacrificer is very much perturbed that the Congress-

ruled States are not implementing their own programmes successfully whereas it is the NDA-ruled States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Bihar and Orissa are implementing it. They are all implementing it more successfully than Congress-ruled States. If you go through the media reports, everybody says that and day in, day out this is coming out. The hon. Finance Minister is collecting tax from the cost of petrol and diesel and putting it into the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. It is just like robbing Peter to pay Paul. So, I would like to say that this Government has got no moral authority and capacity to take any independent decision.

Sir, I will refer to two or three points about my State before I conclude. I am not going to make a long speech. Sir, in Orissa, during the time of super-cyclone in 1999, the then Government sanctioned a loan of Rs. 57.83 crore for the revival of the small scale industries because they were devastated by the super-cyclone. But actually what happened was that this loan was provided by the IPICOL and the Orissa State Finance Corporation, which did not pass it on to the small scale industries, but adjusted it against its residual balance. So, actually it did not benefit the small scale industries. I appeal, to the hon. Finance Minister – I will also write him a letter and will also meet him in this regard – that this sum of Rs. 57.83 crore, which is not a very big amount; there is a booming of revenue collection; and the GDP is growing at the rate of eight per cent, be sanctioned not as a loan but as a grant so that the small scale industries are benefited.

Sir, I have one or two more points and then I will conclude. I would like to know from the Government as to what happened to the setting up of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Bhubaneswar. The foundation stone of it was laid by hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Sir, we have raised this two times in the House. Once we have raised it through a Calling Attention Motion and then there was also a question by the former Minister, Shri Arjun Sethi, on this. All the time, the hon. Health Minister was saying: "We are going to initiate; we are going to construct the boundary wall". I would like to know when is this boundary wall going to come up. I do not understand. This is not only a problem of Orissa but it is a problem of six other

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

States. I will appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to see that initiative in this regard is taken up at a very early date.

Sir, Orissa does not have any IIT. So, the Birla Engineering College in Samabalpur, which is a very backward area but it has got all the infrastructure, should be developed as an IIT. I appeal to the hon. Minister to think of it.

My last point is with regard to the National Institute of Science at Bhubaneswar. I would like to know what has happened to that. The hon. Leader of this House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, inside this House, and the hon. Prime Minister outside this House, gave commitments to the MPs of Orissa that Orissa will also have a National Institute of Science at Bhubaneswar because we did not have anything of that sort. During the time of NDA Government it was declared that Bhubaneswar will have one National Institute of Science, but now the Government has declared that they will have it in the Eastern Zone and that they will have it in Kolkata. We have no objection to that. Let Kolkata have it. Kolkata is having so many Central institutes, let them have another one. Sir, Orissa is comparatively a backward State, it is a poor State, and the Prime Minister has also committed about it. Now, what we found is that the Prime Minister went to Kolkata, laid the foundation stone in Kolkata, but there is no news about Bhubaneswar. We want that the Government should stand by its word. This is a commitment inside this House. The Prime Minister of this country has also committed it. So, we want that they should declare, as quickly as possible, a National Institute of Science at Bhubaneswar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Supplementary Budget, 2006 and alongwith this, I wish to say something. The members who have spoken before me have said so many things and certain things are becoming story for the newspapers also. The Government policies are reflected through the budget. It is also being said that the country has achieved 8% GDP growth rate. There are certain things which require attention and when it is being discussed on the occasion

of Supplementary Budget, I also wish to say something. Supplementary budget has its role under which it is ensured whether the delivery system of the Government is performing or not as per the directions of the Planning Commissions, whether the targets will be achieved or not and what will be the impact of the weather? Agriculture contributes a major share in the economy. Besides, whether the balanced growth of manufacturing and service sector will sustain or not? Whether the delivery system will perform in a proper way or not? These things need to be discussed necessarily.

Sir, it was also mentioned that inflation is surging due to the Government policies and the price rise is not under control. We notice that the Government is very much impressed with the open market competition. Recently a discussion was held in the House on the issue of price rise, and at that time it was mentioned that the Government is very impressed with the open market economy and that the Government did not bother to take proper care of other stratas of the society. The prices have gone very high and its impact can be felt everywhere. People have expressed their feelings through newspapers and television. When the discussion was held on this issue, it was felt that though Public Distributions System is the backbone of common man, but sustaining of this system has created many problems, there is not a single state where the complaints have not been received about the pilferage in Public Distribution System.

Sir, through you, I would like to warn the Government that Newspapers and Television are reporting that people are dying due to starvation. On the one hand farmers are committing suicide and on the other hand the health of the common man is deteriorating. I have no hesitation in saying that we have not been able to solve the problem of nutrition through PDS. This still remains unsolved. I have seen in the rural areas that our poor sisters there are suffering from anemia and even today 47 per cent children are suffering from malnutrition. This is happening due to failure of the schemes run by the government. These schemes should be reviewed properly. We can evaluate these schemes during the discussion on supplementary budget whether our delivery system is functioning properly or not?

Sir, I have said this earlier also in this House, when the Government paved the way for economic reforms. We are not against economic reforms but before that we have to implement administrative and judicial reforms on a large scale so that the productivity of common man increases, their contribution in the economy increases.

Sir, the hon. Minister told that in the supplementary Budget, allocation under several heads has been made. I am very much eager about agriculture because 66% of total population of India are engaged in agriculture. Hon. Minister has asked for grants to increase the subsidy on urea. On this occasion, I would like to remind one more thing that there is lot of scope in the growth of agriculture in India but its contribution in GDP is not more than two to three per cent. Whereas it was expected to be 4-6 per cent. I hope you will do something special for agriculture in future. Besides this, the credit to the small farmers should be enhanced three times by the banks and the cooperative banks. But the fact remains that had the functioning of credit lending been proper, our economy could certainly have achieved the desired development. The most important fact is that our agricultural economy needs to be developed as a comprehensive economy. A special model which has been adopted by the other economies of the world is that schemes should be made to convert every village into a unit of production and processing. Special schemes should be chalked out to promote low capital, low cost and labour intensive small industries and the processing and manufacturing industries.

I would like to refer to a speech made by hon. Prime Minister on Dec. 24, 2005 in the annual meeting of FICCI. He himself has stressed the fact that the contribution of manufacturing sector is only 17 per cent to our GDP, but it needs to be increased to 25-35 per cent. I would like to mention here about our agriculture sector. Agro based small industries which are labour intensive should have larger participation in our developing small capital consumer market. If the Government approaches this issue with special schemes then it will be beneficial for economic growth. . . .(Interruptions)

I am concluding soon, my speech is not very long. As per agenda of development, we want to achieve economic

growth and we have to achieve a sustainable economic growth of at least 12-14 per cent in any case in coming years and our whole budgeting system mechanism and our government are working on it. I would also like to mention on this occasion that it is the time when a constitutional responsibility should be fixed on every Government whether it is Government of India or state governments that they have to achieve the fixed economic growth rate say atleast 10 to 12 per cent at any cost. If we fail to do so then definitely our economic growth will not remain sustainable.

I want to say one thing that I have gone through democratic survey as well. When whole world is aging, and is moving towards the pensionable age, India is having young people in large numbers who can come forward to help is boosting the economy. On the occasion of supplementary grants, I would ask to the hon'ble Finance Minister to keep in mind that we have resolved through this House that we will educate every child and will create an efficient manpower for India. But unfortunately, despite making right to education a fundamental right we are unable to enact a legislation through which we can educate every child compulsorily. . . .(Interruptions)

I am concluding, Only few points have been left, please give me time, as these are very important. I just want to say to you that people in India spend more than Rs. 45 thousand crore. Nearly 2-3 lakh children are studying abroad. I have told you that as far as the situation of higher education is concerned it is very serious. Even today, out of 8 crore boys and girls who are passing 10+2 or intermediate examination only 6% students are getting access to higher education. This is a matter of great concern. Out of this 6% students, 72 per cent students are studying arts whereas only 28% students are from medical or technical education and other fields. Now it has become necessary for the Government of India to set up through budget a number of institutes for higher education which are equipped with ultra modern instruments for research and development so that by educating more and more youths of India on large scale, we can make them a capable unit of economy. Employment is a very important responsibility we should provide employment to youths of India on a large scale. I want to say this much only that

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

special attention should be paid to agriculture sector alongwith manufacturing sector. These two are correlated. I want to urge through this supplementary budget that the Government should take steps in coming years so that more and more youths could get education and become self reliant and work for the progress of India.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai-South Central) : Sir, people from Shiv Sena had met with Prime Minister in regard to recent floods in Maharashtra. The package given for it is very inadequate. I want to request the hon'ble Minister to grant atleast one thousand crore rupees to Maharashtra. I do not want to go into the situation prevailing over there. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No running commentary, Please.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Suicides by farmers are taking place in our area even after the visit of Prime Minister to Vidarbha and Marathwada. These suicides are taking place at other places as well. I want to tell to the hon. Minister of Finance that he should look after the welfare of the country. If the people are there in the country then only country's welfare can be ensured but farmers are dying. It will be good if loans of farmers amounting to Rupees 50,000 or one lakh is waived. It could save the farmers from committing suicide. This was announced by the Government when their Government came to power in Maharashtra. At that time the Minister of Power announced that we will waive loans, we will provide free electricity to farmers but after coming to power they forget everything. Congress knows how to make promises but does not know how to keep them. Suicides are taking place there. Therefore, I urge upon the Minister of Finance to waive loans of people.

The RDX used in Mumbai bomb-blast must have come either by air or road or sea. As far as I know, it came through a container. RDX has been found in Delhi even

yesterday. Where from it comes? What the customs people are doing? It must have come through customs. What kind of monitoring is being done by customs people? We should pay special attention towards it otherwise it will cost us in crores. He has mentioned about petrol. There is a principal secretary in Maharashtra. . . . He has done extensive research in the field of bio-diesel. If we use bio-diesel and make farmers aware of it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should avoid taking names.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I am appreciating her.

[English]

She is the Principal Secretary in the Maharashtra State.

[Translation]

I am not accusing anybody. I am telling for your kind information that there are ten crore farmers in our country and if we create awareness among them, they can produce bio-diesel. If we grow Jatropha, it will grow up in three years and we will get so much bio-diesel in the next three years that we would be able to export it in the coming five years. Swainji was saying that diesel has become very costly. I would like to say that the prices of petrol can also be brought under control. Recently, a research has been done in Maharashtra and we got its patent. We can produce petrol from plastic also. If we produce petrol from 1 kg. plastic, we get 80 per cent petrol, 10 per cent coke and 10 per cent gas. We have got its patents. If Government will pay attention towards it we would be able to save our foreign exchange. I am saying this for the farmers of the entire country.

Jatropha can be produced on large scale in coastal areas like Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar, Maharashtra, Konkan and Orissa etc. Bio-diesel can be produced from Jatropha. If the Government set up a corporation for bio-diesel as was done by late Shrimati Indira Gandhi by establishing Caltex of Indian Oil, Burma Shell, and by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru by setting up an independent corporation like ONGC, then awareness will be created

amongst the farmers in this regard. If Rupees 2 to 3 crores are given to every state, I think, we can produce petrol and bio-diesel indigenously.

Everyday 5 to 10 thousand people come to Mumbai from outside. They make the city dirty. The Mumbai has to bear the burden on drainage, water, electricity etc. The Centre get 71,773 crore of rupees as revenue every year from Mumbai but what Mumbai gets in turn? I would like to say that Mumbai should get its ten per cent share i.e. 7 thousand crore of rupees every year. We belong to Mumbai but we are not safe, our health is not safe. Mumbai should not be neglected.

The population of Mumbai city is between 1 crore 25 lakhs to 1 crore 50 lakh out of which 75 lakh people live in slums. Something should be done to rehabilitate them. When the Government of BJP and Shiv Sena was in power, it had planned to provide free houses to slum-dwellers. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please address to the Chair and not to the individual Member.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : All right.

[Translation]

Shri Chandrakant Khaleji is sitting beside me. He was Housing Minister at that time. . . . (Interruptions)

I think, in view of the above, Mumbai should get at least 7 thousand crore of rupees every year.

I would like to express my views about the monopoly of Banks. The Banks provide loan only to the big industrialists of the country and if an unemployed youth goes to bank to get loan, he is denied the same under one pretext or the other. Mr. Verma has said about youths. The unemployed youths should be made aware of the work for which they can get loan.

Besides, I would like to say something about sports. Mr. Jindal has made some good points about sports and I congratulate him for this. I also like to congratulate the sportspersons who got medals in Commonwealth Games.

I was in Australia at that time. The father of Manjunath Farthare of Kumarghat is a farmer.

14.00 hrs.

He got 596 points out of 600 points in shooting. If we aim to win medal in Olympics, we should give financial assistance to talented sportspersons in order to bring them forward. We have to waive custom duty for them. The Government should help them. The population of our country is over 100 crore but we have not got a single Olympic medal. It is very unfortunate as well as shameful. I am also a sportsperson that is why I am saying all this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the views expressed by Jindalji that this Ministry should get more than 2 thousand crore rupees and it should be made available for the sportspersons. I would like to urge upon the Minister to create awareness for bio-diesel among people and farmers should be saved from committing suicide.

I wanted to say a lot but there is paucity of time. Thank you very much for giving me a chance to speak.

*SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to participate in the discussion on the Supplementary Demand for Grants. The aim of our Budget is to fulfill the aspirations of a resurgent, prosperous India. The UPA Government has expressed its commitment to the welfare of the common man through programmes like Bharat Nirman, Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, etc. However, it is most unfortunate that prices of essential commodities have escalated beyond imagination. The common man is finding it very difficult to survive. Hon'ble Finance Minister is here. He should understand that after fifty eight years of Independence, if the common man has no access to basic essentials, it is a very sad commentary on the state of affairs. The plight of the common man is unimaginable.

Sir, I come from Orissa which is frequently ravaged by natural calamities like flood, cyclone or drought. It is, in fact the capital city of India as far as natural disasters

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya

[Shri Brahmananda Panda]

are concerned. Population of Orissa is dominated by Schedule Tribes and Scheduled Castes. About 47.13% of the people live below the poverty line. Our late Chief Minister Biju Patnaik had dreamt of an India where there will be no regional imbalance. Every state of India will be equal partners in prosperity. But, unfortunately, his dreams remain unfulfilled. Orissa remains a backward State. Despite being filled with rich deposits of minerals, forests and beautiful temples, this State languishes in poverty. We have huge deposits of iron ore, coal and manganese and we contribute the nation's wealth substantially. Orissa is a milestone in the nation's road to prosperity. However, we do not get the credit we deserve. We have no share in the coal royalty or the revenue of the Centre. It has been a long pending demand of Orissa to be given a special category status. But that has not happened so far. Eight States of India have been given special financial packages but not Orissa. Orissa continues to be a victim of regional imbalance and Centre's neglect.

Every Budget makes some provision for the betterment of agriculture and agriculturists. But in our country the farming community remain at the receiving end. They do not get loans, have no access to irrigation facilities or agricultural implements. They live in poverty and forced to commit suicide. In Orissa too the farmer's condition is pitiable because of Centre's apathy. However, the present Chief Minister Mr. Naveen Patnaik has understood the problem and is giving adequate thrust to this sector. He has initiated an agro-industrial revolution to bring Orissa at par with other progressive States.

Sir, earlier my esteemed colleague from Baleswar was mentioning about National Science Centre. It is really very unfortunate that the Government is employing delaying tactics about this important issue. When we had met the Hon'ble Prime Minister, he had assured us that he will take initiative to establish National Science Centre at Bhubaneswar. So far we have got only empty assurances. Their translation into reality remains a question mark.

Similarly, we are awaiting justice with regard to the establishment of AIIMS. We have been told that land is

being acquired. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention that a State like Orissa continues to be neglected by the Centre. We are in a debilitating state because of the onslaughts of natural calamities. Hence, the Centre should extend a helping hand. It is most unfortunate that the KBK districts of Orissa have been excluded from the 11th Five Year Plan. The people of these districts continues to languish in abject poverty. Their standard of living is abysmally low. There should be a special scheme for these people. Sir, at present Orissa is inundated by flood in the districts of Malkangiri, Jaipore, etc. Incessant rain has thrown normal life out of gear. In many parts of the State flood has caused serious damage to crops and lives. I have no complain if other States manage to get special financial packages. But Orissa should not be neglected and deprived of its rightful claim. The Centre should announce a special relief package for the flood affected areas.

I have already spoken about the plight of farmers and unemployed several times in the past. We should have a concerted effort and planned approach to solve problems. Otherwise, all these discussions on Demands for Grants will be futile. Every year we will pass them in this august House and crores of rupees will be spent but it will not benefit the poor masses.

I belong to Orissa, the land of Lord Jagannath, who is known for his humanitarianism. I appeal to the Centre to do justice to this holy State.

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda) : Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity given to me to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), in my mother-tongue Punjabi. Sir, every year, we pass the General Budget in the Parliament. It is an annual feature. However, the budget has a tremendous impact on the lives of common man in both, urban and rural areas. The last year's budget has left Punjab high and dry.

The budget had a devastating effect on the industries in Punjab. Our neighbouring states were given special packages. As a result, there was a flight of industries from

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

Punjab to the neighbouring states. No financial assistance was given to Punjab. No relief measures were announced for Punjab. There was no reduction in custom duties or excise duties. So, the industrialists shifted their industries to neighbouring states in search of greener pastures. As a result, the industry sector in Punjab is in shambles today.

In 1999, the NDA Government had announced the setting up of a refinery in Punjab at a cost of Rs. 14,000 crores. However, it has not yet seen the light of the day. No one knows whether this plant will ever materialize.

Sir, the farmers in Punjab are in a miserable condition. Special packages were announced for the farmers of various states. But the Government turned a deaf ear to our demands for bailing out the farmers of Punjab. Over 2000 farmers have committed suicide in Punjab. But the Central Government has meted out step-motherly treatment to Punjab. Its genuine demands have been ignored. No compensation has been granted to the suffering farmers of Punjab. Entire families of farmers have committed suicide due to abject poverty and disillusionment. Recently, the Government increased the MSP for food-grains by just Rs. 10. This was a cruel joke played upon the farmers of not only Punjab, but of the entire country. The farmers provide us food-grains. Punjab contributes in the central pool in a big way. However, the farmers of Punjab are leading a life of misery and they have been left to fend for themselves.

Hence, I appeal to the Hon. Finance Minister to come to the rescue of farmers of Punjab and provide aid and succour to them. The Government needs to rectify its wrong policies to stop the farmers from committing suicide.

Sir, the health facilities in Punjab, both in the urban and rural areas, show a dismal picture. The health infrastructure is also in shambles. Neither doctors, nor medicines are available in Government hospitals. Hundreds of posts of doctors are lying vacant in these hospitals. Generally, the rich and affluent people visit private hospitals for medical treatment. It is only the poor people who visit Government hospitals. The hospitals in rural areas and mofussil towns are bereft of doctors and medicines. The poor people cannot get medical treatment

in these hospitals. The need of the hour is to improve the infrastructure in the health sector in Punjab.

The education sector in Punjab is also in a mess. Crores of rupees are being spent on various schemes like 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan', 'Mid-day meal' and 'Anganwadi' but without any tangible result. 70% schools in Punjab are without teachers or principals. Posts of teachers are lying vacant in these schools. The development of a nation is directly linked to education. It is enshrined in the constitution that the children should be imparted free and compulsory primary education. However, the drop-out rate of children in the schools is over 80%. Potable water is not available in these schools. Many school-buildings are in a dilapidated condition. Basic infrastructure is missing in these schools. This dismal scenario must improve.

Sir, poverty is on the rise throughout the country. The common man is finding it difficult to make both ends meet. Out of abject poverty and sheer disillusionment, entire families are committing suicide. Prices of essential commodities have sky-rocketed. We hold discussion in the House on the subject of poverty. But, the ground-reality remains dismal for the poor man. Pulses are being sold at Rs. 60/- per Kg. As a result, the common man is suffering. So, I appeal to the Hon. Finance Minister to take steps to bring down the prices of essential commodities immediately.

Sir, we talk about a 7% to 8% growth rate which is considered healthy for our economy. However, in reality, this development or growth is nowhere to be seen in our towns and villages. A lot of schemes have been announced by the Government for the welfare of poor people hailing from villages. But, these schemes never reach the needy. The PDS system should be improved so that the poor people may reap its benefit. Schemes for BPL families are floundering. Genuine people have been dropped off the list of BPL families whereas bogus people have managed to get their names included in the BPL list. All these shortcomings should be removed. Corruption has been the bane of these schemes. Corrupt officials must be punished. I urge upon the Hon. Finance Minister to order a fresh survey of BPL families so that the truth comes to light and genuine people get the benefit.

[Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan]

Sir, in the villages, roads are in a bad condition. They are full of potholes. Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojna', funds should be granted to the states so that repair of these roads can be undertaken.

Unemployment is on the rise. In Punjab, 40 lakh youths are unemployed. Only one district of Punjab has been included in the 'Pradhan Mantri Guarantee Rozgar Yojana'. These unemployed youths fall a prey to drugs. Hence, I appeal to the Hon. Finance Ministry to announce schemes that can generate employment. Only then can we save these youths from going astray.

Sir in the villages, clean and safe drinking water is not available. Efforts should be made to install water treatment plants that can provide clean and safe drinking water to the villagers.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude for giving me a chance to participate in the general discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2006-2007. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Finance Minister towards some issues. The UPA Government came into power with the pledge to work for the common man, but after that the prices of items of daily use like pulses, rice, atta, kerosene have increased so much that today everybody is in trouble. I often visit villages. Some people ask me why so much price rise is taking place. I said I do not know, you better tell me. People are of the view that it may be the result of Volker Committee. It was published in the newspaper that the prices of diesel and petrol are less in our neighbourhood countries Pakistan and Bangladesh then why prices are so high in our country and what is the reason for the same? The hon'ble Minister should ponder over it. Hon'ble Swainji was saying that 52 per cent share of it is taken by the Government in the form of different taxes. Why taxes cannot be reduced? Taxes have been imposed because we want to spend the money earned from taxes somewhere but the story is different. You are taking money from the public then how can you invest

somewhere? The hon'ble Finance Minister should think about this.

Possibilities should be explored in the field of bio-diesel. I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Finance Minister towards the fact that a vehicle has been running on bio-diesel for the last one year in the office of the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. I think that out of the total states in India only Chhattisgarh has made great strides in the use of bio-diesel. A news has also come that its research work has been sold to a foreign company or a foreign company is trying to steal the research work. Mohan Rawaleji was also saying that why investment should not be made in bio-diesel. There is a crisis for the oil as people are quarreling over it. It also affects our financial economy, therefore, Jatropha should be planted on a large scale as it is the right alternative for oil. Subsidy should be provided on the plantation of Jatropha and common man should be encouraged to grow it. The hon'ble Finance Minister should encourage the plantation of Jatropha on barren land.

I would like to make a point about my region Orissa. Due to the hike in prices of iron ore, the transportation business has increased to such an extent that today 15000 vehicles ply round the clock in a day as compared to 1000 to 2000 vehicles plying earlier which is a matter of concern for us. I had told the hon. Minister and Shri Baalu is present here, he had promised me that all the National Highways in Orissa will be strengthened, particularly National Highway Nos. 215 and 23, but he has not made enough provision for it. Funds should be allocated particularly for these two projects. We will be benefited from it. The export of a number of items has stopped. We should pay attention towards it. I had advised for completing two or three railway projects on war-footing. Had the 98 Km. long railway project from Kyanjhar to Daitari been completed, the Railways would have earned more profits as against the investment made in it. I think if the government makes efforts it will be completed within two-three months. The government is not paying attention towards it. Enough provision in the budget has not been made by the hon. Minister of Finance.

14.26 hrs.

[SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH *in the Chair*]

I had personally met the hon. Minister of Railways in this regard. He had mentioned in his speech that it will be commissioned by December 2006, but the project is still pending.

There is starvation like situation in the Kalahandi and Bolangeer districts of Orissa. The government had prepared long term action plan for it. Starvation had been reduced to some extent by making extra budgetary provision for it. Special project was prepared for KVK, but now we have come to know that it is being closed, and the same will not be fair. Starvation like situation may arise there again. There are news that even children are sold. I request you to extend the plan.

I would like to give some suggestions to the hon. Minister of Finance regarding suicides being committed by the farmers. During the Karnataka visit by the Standing Committee, I went to review State Bank of Mysore. Their officials made presentation before us. It was stated that the bank has reached to the Panchayat level. But when we made scrutiny of the data in detail, it was found that people do not get loans from that bank easily. Some influential people get loans, but terms and conditions of loan are very rigid for small farmers and people desirous of starting business. The terms and conditions for loans upto rupees one to one and a half lakh should be made easy. It should be monitored and loans should be disbursed promptly.

The hon. Minister of Finance is present here. I would like to tell him that we are very enthused about Orissa getting maximum FDI. I had asked in the House that if FDI comes then how much money they will be investing and how much of it will be raised through the market. When I enquired about it I was told that Rs. 10 to 15 thousand crores will come from outside and the rest of the amount will be raised from the Indian Market.

We have got reserves of Iron, Bauxite and Manganese ores. Australia and Brazil have stopped its export. The Minister of Finance and the Commerce Minister have allowed its export, which should be stopped forthwith. I

have mentioned it in my letter also. I want that proper attention should be paid to it.

The government want to disinvest profitable companies like NALCO. Paradeep Phosphate Limited was a loss making company in Orissa and it was sold off. A private company bought it. After two years, Government is buying it back, there has been a big scam in its sale-purchase. Hon. Minister of Finance should make an inquiry into it as to why all this is happening. One the one hand you want to disinvest, you want to disinvest profit making companies. But a loss making company was sold to a private party and you want to buy it back, what is all this happening?

Madam Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad) : Thank you, Madam. The Indian economy over the last one and a half decades, since the inception of the neo-liberal policies in 1991 has experienced an immense magnitude of inequality. Whether it is the growing disparity in the rural-urban scenario or the increasing inequity in the socio-economic one, the sufferings of the poor in our country seems to escalate at an increasing pace. Since the UPA Government assumed power two years ago, the slogan of growth, stability and equity are the main objectives. Though in our present economic scenario, growth has gained a huge significance, equity has suffered immensely. In this backdrop, I would like to place my views regarding the first proposal of the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

The core philosophy behind placing the Supplementary Demands for Grants is the additional need of expenditure that various Ministries face. Given the immense financial crunch that the social sector allocations faced during the previous NDA Government, the continuous reduction of social sector expenditure till date in the name of fiscal prudence and discipline, in my opinion, is based entirely on wrong assumptions of pre-Keynesian economics. Thus, I heartily support the Demands made by the various Ministries, Departments for additional allocations in those sectors.

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

The Ministry of Agriculture has made an additional Demand of a meagre sum of around Rs. 160 crores. The responsibility of the agricultural sector lies primarily with the State Government. But given the acute agrarian distress that has engulfed the rural India, I believe that the Centre should play an active role in pulling up the agrarian economy. In fact, the recommendations of various Finance Commissions, in particular the Eleventh Finance Commission, have crunched the financial status of the State Governments. So, the additional Demands in the Agricultural sector should definitely be met up with.

Another related sector is the Ministry of Rural Development. The Supplementary Grant required by this Ministry is especially for two reasons. Firstly, the issue of special securities to Food Corporation of India for the settlement of outstanding debts on account of release of foodgrains under SGRY and National Food For Work Programme and secondly, for the pass through of the UNDP assistance for operationalisation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Both these programmes assume huge importance in the context of the present Indian scenario. As I said earlier, there is immense amount of rural distress. From 2004, we are seeing that many Adivasi children have died because of malnutrition and starvation, especially in the Northern and Eastern borders of Maharashtra. My request to the hon. Finance Minister is, to immediately waive all the arbitrary conditions which are in force at present for issuing BPL ration cards and to make these cards available to all those who wish to apply. Universalisation of PDS is the need of the hour.

Hon. Prime Minister went to Vidharbha and announced a package for the farmers of Vidharbha. Despite the announcement of the package, the farmers of Vidharbha are still committing suicides. I would like to know what best the present Government can do because these suicides will have to be stopped. Secondly, my State of Andhra Pradesh has also requested for the same package, on the lines of Vidharbha. It is still pending with the Ministry of Finance. I hope that this package is expedited and is given to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Technically speaking, in strict economic terms, there is no apparent reason why the Central Government should hesitate in increasing expenditures. The immanent logic of liberalisation pushes governments, no matter what their political complexion, into bowing to the caprices of globalised finance and hence necessarily having to sacrifice welfare objectives. Now there is a chance before the UPA Government to dispel, to prove such critics and detractors wrong. Hence, much more needs to be done for the "aam aadm".

My last point is regarding the budget for the minority ministries. When the hon. Finance Minister presented the Budget for this year, at that time the Ministry had requested for an equity support of Rs. 57 crore for National Minority Development Finance Corporation.

The hon. Finance Minister in his Budget had given the equity support of Rs. 18.29 crore to NMDFC. Now in the Supplementary Demands for Grants, he has allocated Rs. 16.47 crore. That comes to Rs. 34.76 crore but the Ministry of Minorities Welfare had asked for Rs. 57 crore. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to increase it to Rs. 57 crore.

I am thankful to the hon. Finance Minister for the increase in the corpus for the Maulana Azad Education Foundation to Rs. 100 crore, but that is not enough. It has to be increased to at least a minimum of Rs. 500 crore. You should increase the corpus fund for Maulana Azad Education Foundation which is doing a significant work by giving scholarship to minority girls. This has to be increased.

Lastly, a sum has been allocated to the Department of Personnel. My point over here is that what steps are the Government taking to ensure that unemployment comes down, especially among the Muslim minorities. In the light of the recent statement of the National Security Adviser saying that the LeT has infected Army and everything, the window of opportunity that was created for the Muslim minorities in the Defence Forces and police force has been shut now for ever because of his one statement. Unfortunately, the previous Government's NSA has never issued such a statement and he has gone to

the extent of saying that the Muslims who go for Haj, their background should be checked. I would like to know whether this is the stand of this Government. How can he say such a thing by writing a letter? Now no State Government is willing to take Muslim minorities in police and other Departments of the Forces. In Intelligence Bureau, there are 200 IPS officers. Out of these 200 officers, there are only two Muslim IPS officers. I do not want to name them. You do not have any Muslim officer in SPG and NSG. I do not want to talk about RAW. It is a different thing. How can a National Security Adviser make such a statement? It has appeared in TV and newspapers. So my request to the Government is that it should be controlled. This is nothing but castigating or putting the whole community in one row. These are important points which have to be discussed because a lot of sum has been given to the Department of Personnel also. I hope that the hon. Finance Minister would reply to it positively. I would also hope that he would increase the allocation for the Ministry of Minorities Welfare which has been created by the UPA Government.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Madam, I rise to support the Demands for Grants, but I have some reservations. The hon. Minister is aware of the whole scenario such as price rise. Prices of all items are increasing in our country, but the main issue is that taxation on petroleum products is over 52 per cent but if a part of it is withdrawn, the rising prices will come down. On this our hon. Minister of Finance will say then from where will he generate revenue. There are so many ways of generating revenue in our country. There is too much black money in our country. Government can generate a little more revenue by taxing companies like Reliance, for they are getting more and more revenue with the help of the government. We can also impose income tax on people having two vehicles, which we are not doing. If we generate some revenue from these, the common man will get some relief.

Public Distribution System for the poor exists in every state. But the system is not functioning properly. We demand that government should run it properly. What can

you do to prevent people from committing suicides? We have implemented Land Reforms in West Bengal. We produced paddy in excess of our requirement and, therefore, we diversified the crop. Swami Nathan Committee Report should be implemented in toto and the rate of interest should be four per cent instead of seven per cent. If we give loan from the Banks, the rate should be four per cent. The farmers will get relief from it. There should be a soil testing centre in every district which after testing should guide the farmers which crop will be more suited to their soil for getting better yield. Our commercial banks do not provide much loan to the farmers. Therefore, it should be determined that how much loan farmers will get from banks.

In the field of seeds, we did not allow multinational company, Monsanto to enter Bengal. Large number of farmers of those states are committing suicides in which this company entered. Therefore, we should stop entry of multinational companies, so that, farmers can purchase seeds from the domestic seed stores.

Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is very good, but only agricultural labourers are getting employment under this scheme, the educated persons are devoid of this benefit. A scheme should be formulated in this regard so that literate persons may get employment under Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is also a good scheme. Recently, Anganwadi workers staged a dharana here for many days. You should provide them relief. Among them 3000 workers and 2000 labourers are working under Anganwadi Scheme. In the next Budget, make them third and fourth grade employees respectively because they nurse kids whom we address as buds of society. If we don't let them blossom how can our society blossom. Special attention should be given on their primary education.

Madam, the Government has promised to set up AIIMS like hospitals in 12 states. It is necessary to fulfil this promise. So, these proposed hospitals may immediately be constructed. Besides, the Government has closed many industries. It has closed BOGL in which 188 workers are employed. The Government has even not implemented the Fifth Pay Commission recommendations there and is saying that retirement age should be 58 years. When the

[Shri Sunil Khan]

retirement age in Public Sector is 60 years, the same facility should be provided to them. There are six-seven persons working in RCI who did not get VRS. Employees working in the units of HSCL throughout the country are not getting their salaries I request the Government to give them their salaries. Please make such schemes for artisans of unorganized sector, kiln workers, bidi workers, rickshaw pullers, potters, masons so that they can get pensions after completing the age of 60 years. Hindustan Cables may be closed or MTNL or BSNL may take over it. By doing this the Government needs not disinvest it. Burns standard is a major company in our country. It will not be right for us if we do not provide revival package to it.

I wanted to submit few more things, but there is lack of time. If we do not check the heavy erosion taking place in Ganga and Damodar rivers, the water holding capacity of these rivers will not enhance. Therefore, we request the hon'ble Minister of Finance to look into these matters. With these words, I thank you and conclude my speech.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Madam, Chairman, I am grateful to you for providing me the opportunity to speak on Demands for Supplementary Grants.

The hon'ble Members both from Treasury Benches and from Opposition have given their advice. The hon'ble Minister has presented demands of Rs. 47,868 crores in this House. The general view on the basic infrastructure reveals that at present, common man needs fresh air, water and health care. If we see transportation sector and evaluate it, we shall find that this sector has remained devoid of development. The hon'ble Members of this House both from treasury benches and opposition show their interest towards creating IT Village and they regularly mention it in the House; but the prices of basic facilities for the common man such as water, road and necessary items of daily use are sky rocketing. All the hon'ble Members of the House have expressed their concern in this regard. Even commodities of daily use are becoming out of reach of the common man.

Madam Chairman, hon'ble Minister had said in his Budget Speech that it was necessary to handle tax evaders strictly, only then revenue earning can be increased. But

we see that so many people purchase costly items, some people have four to seven cars and some people do not have even a single scooter. . . .(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Mr. Shailendra Kumar, this is Supplementary Budget. You are nicely speaking. You please putforth your points on it.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : I mean to say that on the one hand, the Minister has said to spend three lakh twenty thousand crores of rupees on basic infrastructure and on the other hand, he has put a proposal to spend Rs. 40 crores on modernization of airports. It is right but the economic policies of the Government, specially our foodgrain policy have failed. Due to these policies, there is heavy crisis in foodgrain and Agriculture Sector. Many farmers have committed suicides. The heavy increase in the prices of consumer commodities has been noticed which have resulted in major price hike during the last two years. Industrial production in the country has declined. Development has adversely been affected due to our poor production capacity. . . .(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You give your suggestions, what do you want?

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : We need to ensure the development of backward areas and employment guarantee which have been mentioned by the Government. Secondly, in this House, the Members from the Hindi speaking states have regularly demanded a special package for their states so that development may take place there. As Uttar Pradesh is the largest state in the country, we have regularly demanded special package for the state. Our country cannot prosper if development does not take place in Uttar Pradesh.

Madam Chairman, with these words I am concluding my points by saying that I support the Demands for Supplementary Grants presented by the hon. Minister and there is a need to give special attention to the points mentioned by me in the House.

[English]

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East) : Madam Chairman, this country needs good economists. We are having

Shri P. Chidambaram as Finance Minister who is one of the good economists, along with P. Manmohan Singh. But it seems that having too many good economists are not good for a country like India.

I have gone through the Supplementary Demands for Grants thoroughly. I find that even for good economists, the subject of "geography" is very important. In this Supplementary Demands for Grants, geography is missing. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a fact. In this country there is a place called "North-East"! I really appreciate that he has given Rs. 550 crore for Special Accelerated Road Development Project for that area. This is a good gesture. In this Supplementary Demands for Grants, I was looking for Golden Quadrilateral project and the river linking project. But these schemes did not find a place in this Supplementary Demands for Grants. I was looking for correction of tax structures. But it is also not available in the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

Madam, I have got a few points.

The hon. Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram, could look towards the East. The UPA Government has an agenda: "Look East Policy". If the hon. Minister of Finance could have included the Look East Policy in these Supplementary Demands for Grants for border trades from the North-Eastern States towards the South-East Asians and towards the Chinese border, then it could have been a good development source for the North-Eastern States.

I was looking for one important thing. Madam, you are from Delhi. You would not be able to know the only State in this country where there is no railway line and where there is no airport is the Arunachal Pradesh State. . . .
(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : But I go everywhere.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPIR GAO : That is why, in this august House, once I called it as a modern Kalapani. Therefore, I was looking for some schemes for this area in these Supplementary Demands, but it has not been mentioned. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to look into it.

Madam, there is one more very important which I would like to highlight here. Madam, as you know, in the Ministry, the DONER Department is there. But under this DONER Department, there is no budgetary provision. The DONER Department's all budgetary provisions are under national pool and it is under the mercy of the hon. Minister of Finance. But one very surprising thing is going on for the North-East. This year, under national pool, the Minister of Finance had allotted Rs. 700 crore for the North-East. Out of which, Rs. 100 crore is allotted for the Bodo Territorial Council (BTC) for which the fund was supposed to be from the Ministry of Home Affairs. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Madam, I have covered a long way to be here, so please allow me to speak for only two minutes.

[English]

I would like to point out about one more important thing, namely, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). I have seen in the Demands for Grants under the Ministry of HRD, a sum of Rs. 92 crore are deducted from the DONER Ministry's non-lapseable Central Pool. It is an injustice to the people of the North East. Again, on top of that, North East Council is there. Now, the NECs are being directed to spend the money for Indo-Bangla fencing. This is a national project. So, all the national projects should not be deducted from the DONER Department and the NEC. This is a great harm to the people of the North-Eastern Region.

Madam, we have got a major railway-cum-road bridge in Dibrugarh which is known as Bogee Bil Bridge. I was looking the point there, but it is missing here. This project was supposed to be made as a national project of this country, but it has not been mentioned. Therefore, I would like to inform the hon. Minister of Finance that to be a good economist, knowledge of geography of the country is also necessary; otherwise regional imbalance will be generated from such financial arrangement.

So, next time I will support the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General). This time I am opposing it because we have got no funds in these budgetary provisions.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Madam, I want to suggest some points to the hon. Minister of Finance. As far as this price rise in respect of diesel and petrol is concerned, during the last two years, it has been increased six times. It has a cascading effect on other essential commodities and in other areas also. This Government has reduced the excise and customs duties. Even that reduction is also not sufficient. So, you have to think further reduction of these taxes and also to convene the meeting of the Chief Ministers. Even the Chief Ministers also told the media that due to this crude oil barrel hike and the petroleum product hikes, the prices of essential commodities are increasing.

They are talking like this, but they are not reducing sales tax in their own State. That is why, the burden is falling on the common man.

I would like to mention one thing about the National Calamity Contingency Fund. In the Budget Speech, the hon. Finance Minister stated :

"The Planning Commission will draw, up a programme for rebuilding the damaged infrastructure and I wish to assure the House that the Government will provide the money for rehabilitation and reconstruction."

Last year, till 31st March, 2006, the total money released from CRF and NCCF was Rs. 5,145 crore. Even under the NCCF, the amounts released to States are very meagre. That is not sufficient to meet the challenges faced by State Governments because every year, States have to meet challenges like flood, drought etc. So, I would like to suggest to the Government that they should provide more money and give thousands of crores to CRF and NCCF. Then only the Government of India will be able to provide enough assistance to State Governments.

Then, the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme was started when the present Finance Minister was the then Finance Minister in 1996 in the United Front Government, but the guidelines have to be changed now. We have to provide 50 per cent of the money as grant to State Governments. Under the present scheme of things, the Government of India is giving only the minimum amount as grant and they are giving the remaining part

as loan. The Government has to give more freedom to State Governments to choose as to which project will be completed first and which project will be completed later. If you put restriction on them by saying that the second instalment will be released only when they complete the project, it is not correct. Therefore, the guidelines for allocation of money under the AIBP should be changed.

Madam, in the industry, manufacturing and services sectors are doing very well. Ultimately we have to achieve the targeted growth rate of 8 per cent of the GDP. In future we have to achieve 10 per cent growth rate. If the agriculture sector grows by 4 per cent, then only we can achieve 10 per cent growth rate. So, the Government should give priority to agriculture. Many farmers are committing suicides in various parts of our country. The hon. Finance Minister and the Prime Minister have announced a very good relief package for the farmers of Maharashtra in which 6 districts of that State will be fully covered. If this kind of relief package is implemented in Andhra Pradesh, it will cover 16 districts.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Mr. Yerrannaidu, time is very short. You please give only points now.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Madam, I will take only two or three minutes more.

Our State Andhra Pradesh is reeling under floods now. The Government has announced waiver of loan, waiver of penal interest, rescheduling of loan etc. If you sanction the relief package as early as possible, it will be better. Every year we are facing drought and flood situation in our State. If this scheme is implemented it will cover 16 districts of our State, our State will get money under so many heads and the farmers will be very happy.

Then, as far as crop insurance is concerned, last time the Agriculture Minister made an announcement on the floor of the House. At that time, the entire House, cutting across party lines, demanded that the National Agricultural Insurance Policy should be implemented through village panchayats. Then, only the farmers will get the benefit. Even if the mandal is taken as the unit, the affected farmers will not get the benefit under the National Agricultural Insurance Policy. This is under the consideration of the

Government and the Government is thinking of implementing this policy only from this Khariff season.

Finally, I would like to make a very important suggestion. The Government of India should take immediate measures to interlink all major rivers of our country. If this is done, many problems will be solved. The Golden Quadrilateral Highway Project was started by the previous Government. Everybody is happy about it. The present Government is also continuing that project. By interlinking of rivers, we can avoid flood, we can avoid drought, we can provide employment to unemployed people and we can also generate power which we can provide at a cheaper rate to our farmers.

15.00 hrs.

How many benefits accrue out of this? So, the Government will have to think of inter-linking of rivers. That is the most important thing for any Government. Everybody has the planning but it is not being implemented at the ground level. So, if you implement these things with courage then so many problems will be solved in the country. We can provide cheap power, we can provide employment. Lakhs of people will get employment by these schemes as everywhere the works are going on. They need not give more money under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Now, we are providing a sum of Rs. 30,000 crore under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. If you put this money for the inter-linking of rivers, you can excavate canals, you can construct so many things and by that the people will get employment. So, you will have to think of all these things. Before the end of this Financial Year, the hon. Finance Minister has again come for Supplementary Demands for Grants. So with all these suggestions, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG (Koraput) : Madam, I have only two-three points. There is a controversy being raised on the basis of some news in Orissa that the Government of India is winding up the KBK Scheme. That was stated by the hon. Finance Minister. I think, that is not correct.

Madam, the KBK was started with an objective to provide loan with the State Government Fund at the initial

stage. Then, a Special Central Assistance was provided in 1998-99. Now, a Central assistance of Rs. 250 crore is being provided every year. This is a long-term action plan and not a short-term action plan: If it is above five years, it is considered as a long-term plan. I hope the hon. Finance Minister will clarify this position of the Government of India so that it should not give a wrong message to the people.

Madam, the floods which have occurred in KBK as well as hilly areas will have to be assessed scientifically. Unless, a Special Central Assistance, is given to the districts, like Kalahandi, Koraput and all these hilly areas, where they have suffered a heavy loss and damage, it will be very difficult for the people to come out of this. Unless this Rs. 100 crore package is given, how can roads, bridges, culverts, etc. be repaired? Although it is an annual feature for coastal belt, in hilly areas this type of damage has occurred for the first time.

Madam, my friends were raising an issue regarding disinvestment of PPL. The process of disinvestment occurred during the NDA regime. It was done for almost all the projects through strategic sale. But the UPA Government is yet to go for this type of sale of any industry. The disinvestment of NALCO to the extent of ten per cent, which was proposed, has been kept on hold by the UPA Government. I had filed a PIL in the Orissa High Court against this decision of the NDA Government. Now it is *sub judice*. Therefore, the Government of India cannot go for the sale of NALCO. All these things will have to be clarified by the hon. Finance Minister, particularly, on the issue of KBK so that controversial issues like KBK should not be raised.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho) : Madam Chairman, I have risen to speak on Supplementary Demands for Grants. I came from the area where hon. Minister of Rural Development has implemented Grameen Employment Guarantee Scheme. I thank him for this. But, there is a need to train Panches and Sarpanches. Only then it will become more beneficial. Secondly, if there is a need for more work then number of days should be

[Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria]

increased so that more and more people can get employment. . . .(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Dr. Kusmaria, give your suggestions on Supplementary Demands, that you want from the Government.

DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Now, the prices have risen. Farmers are committing suicide. Earlier, the promises made during the session in the General Budget are not being executed. The relief you have given to the people in the Budget is not being understood by the people even today. Development works are also not being stated. No work has been stated according to the MoU signed in Khajuraho to link Ken and Betwa under the project inter-linking of rivers. You are also not paying any attention to the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme. The new chunks of National Highways, like the National Highway from Jhansi to Khajuraho, are being constructed but they are becoming dilapidated at the already constructed chunks. There is a need to pay attention to it. Today, farmers are committing suicide. People have been hit by price-rise.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Your two minutes are over. Please give your suggestions.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Quality should be maintained in the works of National Highways. I want to say that—

Jinhe Roti ki zarurat thi, unhe roti na mili.

Jinhe boti ki zarurat thi, boti na mili.

Tumhari Siyasi tagriron ke chalte nange ko langoti na mili.

Today, this is the state of affairs of price rise. . . .
(Interruptions)

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : Religious people wear it. The hon. Member is not speaking rightly about langoti. Religious people, good people, all the people wear langoti, he is not saying it rightly.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : It is not available.

"Agar yahi haalat aapki chalti rahi,
jo zor aur zulm ke hone se shuru hoti hai,
kisi gharib ke rone se shuru hoti hai,
bhasm hote hain takhte-taaus,
Jab aag kisi kone se shuru hoti hai."

With these words I conclude.

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN (Ladakh) : Madam Chairman, you have given me an opportunity to speak on Supplementary Demands for Grants. I thank you for this. I would like to mention here about the injustice meted in the allocation of funds to remote area like Ladakh and the areas in Trans-Himalayan states.

The Hon. Finance Minister is present here. He knows that if any criterion is to be maintained regarding functioning of all the ministries of Government of India, this should be evaluated in the area like Ladakh so that we can find out as to what extent the schemes and programmes run by the ministries are successful or unsuccessful. I think so. We can to some extent evaluate this in these ideal areas if we go there and look into them. I would like to mention that all our Trans Himalayan states like Ladakh are being meted out injustice with regard to the funds allocated to the state. These states don't get their proper share. Its reason is that population has been made main basis for allocation of funds.

15.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In my view, it is very necessary to pay attention to it because when there is a mention of these areas situated in strategic. Boarder areas we talk about their economic development. From that point of view it is necessary to review norms related to allocation of funds.

The Finance Minister perhaps will agree with me that substantial area of Jammu and Kashmir falls under my Parliamentary Constituency and my Parliamentary Constituency Ladakh will be bigger than that with a margin of two-third area if they both are clubbed together. But at the time of allocation of funds, it is ignored because allocation is made on the basis of population. We are not

able to get the desired allocation. This is the reason that this area is appearing to be more backward.

I would like to give a suggestion to the hon. Finance Minister. So far as Trans Himalayan states or this state are concerned, the remaining hon. Members have also raised this matter that there is a need to bring about changes in the norms of allocation to that area and also need to consider the area alongwith the population otherwise those states won't be able to get justice. Such areas are very difficult climatically. Working season is limited there and it's very difficult to spend allocated funds in a short span of time. All the Ministries, especially Rural Development Ministry set the parameters for the mainland of the country and the same parameters are applied for such regions also. There is need to change this, otherwise whatever funds we get, are not utilised properly because working season there is very short. . . .(Interruptions). All the construction material is transported from here. The regions like Ladakh remain cut off from the road link for seven months, therefore construction material for the next season also has to be deposited in advance. Until we do not think about this region separately, that region would remain deprived of all such facilities.

Hon. Minister of Finance also knows that there is special reason behind exempting Ladakh from Income Tax. When the present Prime Minister was the Minister of Finance at that time, then Ladakh was exempted from Income Tax. When the VAT was implemented in the whole country, then Ladakh had exemption from sales tax also because an effort had been made to bring the remote areas like Ladakh economically at par with other parts of the country. But with regret, I have to say that, Jammu and Kashmir Government have accepted the VAT regime. Other remote areas of the country such as Andaman-Nicobar were not covered under sales tax and these areas were exempted from Income Tax. These areas were kept out of VAT regime, but this exemption was not granted to Ladakh. In this regard, I had written to the Minister of Finance, Government of India. He said that there is an empowered committee of the Ministry of Finance, and this issue can be reviewed after its recommendation, but no step has been taken in this regard yet. I would like to request the

Minister of Finance that the Ladakh region must be exempted from VAT and Sales Tax till this region comes economically at par with other parts of the country. . . .(Interruptions) there are examples before us that many regions have been exempted from this VAT regime. Therefore, I am saying. . . .(Interruptions). Hon. Minister of Finance is present here. It is also in his notice but I want to bring it in his notice again. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your point is there on record, you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN : When Ladakh Autonomous Hill council was established on the demand of the people of Ladakh, they were demanding Union Territory status, but the Government of India, has proposed to establish there a Regional Autonomous Council to make them financially sound. No additional allocation has been made by the Government of India till date, only Rs. 40 crore have been received which were announced by the Prime Minister for infrastructure development. While the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill council receives economic assistance under supplementary plan from the Government of India. But Ladakh have got no such amount .Ladakh is still seen merely as a district of Jammu and Kashmir while making allocation, which is injustice. I request the Minister of Finance to think about it and arrange sufficient funds for Ladakh.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the very large number of hon. Members, who have taken the trouble to participate in this debate on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General). Naturally, the debate has been wide ranging like any debate on Demands for Grants will be.

Many hon. Members, who raised questions pertaining to their States, are not here. So, while I would be quite happy to answer each of their questions, and reply to the points made by them, I think, having regard to the circumstances in which we are concluding this debate, let

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

me be very brief and only touch upon the main points, which are more general in nature.

Sir, yesterday, we announced the fact that the CCEA has approved the Backward Region Grants Fund. Let me make it very clear that 250 districts have been selected. The RSVY has been subsumed under the BRGF. Therefore, Bihar Package will be implemented as part of the BRGF, and all the eight districts of KBK are included under the BRGF. Therefore, there need be no apprehension. If you wish to have the details of the scheme, please write to the Minister for Rural Development; he will be happy to furnish the details of the scheme; or write to the Minister of Panchayati Raj, which is the Ministry now in charge of implementing the BRGF.

Sir, as far as the prices are concerned, we have already had a rather extensive debate on prices. I have tried to explain ICCL headline inflation is under control. In fact, this week, we are reporting that WPI index has come down from 4.67 to 4.61. As I have said, given the current market conditions, given the rather brisk pace at which the economy is growing, it is perhaps optimistic to expect that headline inflation will be about 4.5 per cent. Headline inflation will be about 4.5 per cent. What is causing problems to the common man and woman is the fact that wheat, pulses and to some extent, sugar have shown an increase in prices. I have already shared with the House the steps that we have taken to moderate the prices of wheat, pulse and sugar. In fact, since 13th of June until today, for over eight weeks, these prices have been stable. I am not saying that they have come down, but they have not risen, which means that the steps that had been announced are having an impact, and when the new sugar comes from 1st of October, imported wheat arrives and the new wheat crop comes from the 1st of January, there will be a further moderation in prices.

We have also explained that last year was a bad procurement year. In pulses, there is an overall shortage; there has always been an overall shortage. We import pulses, which are available in Myanmar. Myanmar also has a shortage. But the steps that we have taken so far have contained prices, but for these three commodities, our daily

monitoring reveals that all others are stable or have marginally declined.

Sir, there was some question about funds to the North-East. I have with me figures of release of funds to the North-East since 1998-99.

I have Statewise figures. We have, since 1998-99 under NLCPR, released nearly Rs. 4,000 crore. Money is not a constraint. In fact, monies which are released must be spent in the year in which they are released but if they are not spent in the year in which they are released or spent for the purpose for which they are released, I am afraid the benefits will not flow to the people.

Then issues relating to credit were raised. We have already answered several times through Questions-Answers and through debates. One of the biggest achievements of the UPA Government is that we promised to double agricultural credit in three years, and we have achieved it in two years. Last year we disbursed agricultural credit of Rs. 1,67,000 crore but this year, the target was fixed at Rs. 1,75,000 crore. But let me say with utmost confidence that we will far exceed the target this year also. Therefore, agricultural credit is flowing.

We have brought down the rate of interest on crop loan to seven per cent. I wish we could do more but please remember that under the previous Government, crop loans were available at between nine and nine-and-a-half per cent. It is the UPA Government which brought it down to seven per cent giving a clear advantage to the farmer up to two and two-and-a-half per cent. It is not for this year alone. Last year, if you remember the Budget, I returned two per cent interest to the farmers who had taken the loan at nine per cent to nine-and-a-half per cent. I returned two per cent.

We are aware of agricultural indebtedness. . . . (Interruptions) I am trying to explain. We are running out of time. . . . (Interruptions)

MR.. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, this is not allowed. Please sit down. This is not the time to seek clarification.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The Deputy Speaker is not allowing you. Please sit down. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are you wasting the time of the House?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You will recall that the Prime Minister expressed his concern about agricultural indebtedness. After a gap of many years, he said, "We will appoint an Experts group to look into agricultural indebtedness." With the Prime Minister's approval, I am happy to announce that the following Experts group has been appointed to look into the problem of agricultural indebtedness. The Chairman will be Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai. The other members will be Dr. P.V. Shenoy, former Secretary, Agriculture, Government of India, Dr. Y.S.P. Thorat, Chairman of NABARD and Shri Kanthakumar, retired Chairman and Managing Director, Syndicate Bank. Once this Committee's report comes, we will address the issue of agricultural indebtedness.

Sir, there were some questions about IDPL's revival. The matter is now with the Ministry. It is expected to be submitted to the BRPSE. Once the BRPSE makes its recommendation, it will go to the Cabinet.

There were some questions about Telengana freedom fighters. The Ministry of Home Affairs calls it the Hyderabad Liberation Movement. Sir, 192 State reports are in process. All other cases have been disposed of. Only 192 cases are in process, of this, 174 relate to the Hyderabad Liberation Movement. The Ministry of Home Affairs has indicated that these cases will be processed as quickly as possible.

Since our Government came into office, we have given equity support to the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation. In 2004-05, it was given Rs. 18.72 crore. In 2005-06, we gave another Rs. 12 crore, and in 2006-07, we have given another Rs. 22 crore.

For the National Minority Development Corporation, in 2005-06, we gave Rs. 19.60 crore, and in the current year, we are giving Rs. 16.47 crore. As and when more funds are required, we shall certainly look into the matter and give support.

There were some concern about the import of pepper and the decline in prices of pepper.

India is not a large player in the international pepper market which means India is not a price-setter. India's production, compared to global production, is not very large. International prices virtually dictate prices everywhere in the world, including in India. The quantity of pepper that is coming from Sri Lanka under the bilateral agreement is not very large, nor is the value very large. In fact, the quantity has declined in the last three years. We do not have the full figures for the last year. In 2003-2004 it was about 4,916 tonnes. In 2004-2005 it was 4,865 tonnes. For 2005-2006 we do not have full figures. But for the first nine months or so it was 4,883 tonnes. The value is about Rs. 35 crore to Rs. 40 crore.

So, it is, perhaps, not possible to reach the conclusion that pepper from Sri Lanka is causing the decline in prices. But I have requested the Ministry of Commerce to look into the matter to see what can be done and if any imports are affecting prices in India.

On the Department of Fertilisers, as I said – and I have said it at many fora – if any two things require subsidy, it is food and fertiliser. The commitment of the UPA Government is that food will be subsidised in this country because there are large number of poor people; and fertiliser will also be subsidised in this country. There is no question of whittling down food subsidy or fertiliser subsidy. In 2005-2006 the total subsidy to fertiliser was Rs. 18454 crore. That, of course, includes the initial provision and then the supplementary provisions. In 2006-2007 we have already given Rs. 17,253 crore and today I am asking for another Rs. 1,500 crore. The total comes to Rs. 18,753 crore. If it becomes necessary to further subsidise fertilisers, surely I will come forward to the House and ask for more funds to subsidise fertiliser. Let me repeat. We may want to plug the loopholes in fertiliser subsidy. We may want to have a different system of distributing fertiliser subsidy. But there is no question that in India food and fertiliser have to be subsidised for a long, long time to come.

On the status of Ramagundam unit of Fertiliser Corporation, there is a proposal from a private company for setting up a gas-based urea plant using the existing infrastructure of the Ramagundam unit of FCI. The proposal is under examination.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

On the National Institute of Science in Bhubaneswar, the UGC had proposed setting up of four national institutes of science; one of them is in Bhubaneswar. The proposal has to be pursued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Regarding the setting up of a centre at Kolkata, the Government has now decided to set up two institutes – one at Kolkata and one at Pune – based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. An allocation of Rs. 50 crore has been provided in BE 2006-2007. This is a distinct proposal. This has nothing to do with the UGC's proposal. The UGC's proposal is a separate proposal and that has to be pursued with the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

As far as GQ is concerned, I do not know why this controversy has picked up from time to time. The fact remains that of the 5,846 kilometres of Golden Quadrilateral, when the previous Government demitted office, they had completed 48 per cent. I cannot add a kilometre; I cannot subtract a kilometre nor can I, to please my friend, add a per cent or a subtract a per cent. That is a fact – cold, hard fact. Today we have completed 92 per cent. My arithmetic tells me 92 minus 48 is 44 per cent. So, in two years we have completed 44 per cent. We will complete another 4 per cent by the end of the year. By the end of the year we would have completed 96 per cent. For the remaining 4 per cent advertisements have been taken out in all the newspapers saying where the bottleneck is, what is the bottleneck and which stretch. Those bottlenecks have to be cleared.

I will request my colleague to take Shri Swain to the bottlenecked portions and try to get his help to solve the problem. . . . (Interruptions) You go with him now. He will take you. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Regarding your statistics, I will not ask you anything. It is a very intelligent work. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No. He will take you. . . . (Interruptions) He will take a stand. You please sit. . . . (Interruptions)

Sir, since the AIBP started, 200 projects have been taken up. Unfortunately, AIBP guidelines were diluted from time to time. What is the result? Only 50 projects have been completed, with some delays. Now, the remaining 150 projects are at various stages of implementation with considerable delay running from one to three years. A Group of Ministers has been constituted under the Minister of Agriculture. This Group has already held a meeting. They will finalise the revised AIBP guidelines and recommend them to the Cabinet. The idea is to complete as quickly as possible the 200 projects which have been taken up rather than spread the money even more thinly by taking many more projects. The funding pattern is that 90 per cent is grant by the Central Government and 10 per cent is loan for Special Category States. For others, the grant element ranges from 20 per cent to 30 per cent. For Andhra Pradesh, the grant element ranges from 24 per cent to 30 per cent.

NREGP is, of course, a programme of the UPA Government and there is a budget provision of Rs. 11,300 crore. So far we have released Rs. 4,375 crore. I have got the State-wise amount of funds released to the States. It is not correct to say that some States ruled by some parties are doing well and other States ruled by other parties are not doing well. That is an unnecessary twist you are giving to the controversy. States are implementing it. This is the first year. Many States are implementing it. Large amounts have been released. The States which have received large amounts so far are Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and UP. These are the States, but the release also depends upon how many districts of that State have been taken up. Since only 200 districts have been taken up, if in a particular State, more districts have been taken up, obviously the releases will be more, but in a State like Punjab where only one district has been taken up, the release will obviously be little. So, I do not think, you can compare it that way. In terms of number of districts taken up in a State, I think, the funds are flowing. The budgeted amount is available to the States.

Sir, I think, I have answered most of the main questions. I have made a note of all other issues raised

by the hon. Members. We shall certainly pass them on to the Ministries concerned to look into them and, if possible, reply to the hon. Members.

With these words, I would request that the Supplementary Demands for Grants be passed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2006-2007 to the vote of the House. The question is :

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Accounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the, President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3, 5 to 8, 11, 17 to 19, 30, 31, 33, 35, 41, 44 to 48, 52 to 54, 56, 61, 64, 69, 70, 78, 84, 85, 91, 94, 99, 100 and 102 to 105."

15.35 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 4) BILL*, 2006

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall now take up Item No. 14.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2 dated 11.8.06.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up Item No. 15.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The 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. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

15.38 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS
(RAILWAYS) – 2006-2007**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up Item No. 16.

Motion moved :

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 16."

[Translation]

Laluji, do you want to say something about demands for Supplementary Grants.

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : Sir, I will speak later on. I can speak even now, if you instruct me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to say something, you can speak.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, I have come forward with proposals regarding supplementary Demands for Grants. You know that Indian Railways is receiving appreciation not only in this country but in the whole world because of the help extended by you all people. There is lot of appreciation from every where for Indian Railways. The work relating to Railways is being done in your region and everywhere. People of all classes and community appreciate the Indian Railways. We have summer, winter and rainy season in our country each spanning four months.

It is only the beginning. More progressive days are yet to come. I have presented have the actual expenditure.

Now Hon. House is to consider it. Later on while replying to this debate I will give proper reply in detail stating how the Indian Railway is marching ahead.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Last time I had asked about Anandpur Sahib.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I will take care of your issue and the work will start there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has to connect Guru Govind Singh Circle.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to express my views in regard to the Supplementary Demands for Grants submitted here by the hon. Minister of Railways. It is true that Indian Railways is unique in itself and all are familiar with the way it is being extended and the transportation facilities are being provided. The way the Railways is being extended such as, extension of the destination point of some trains, starting new trains, introduction of some new express trains, all these things have put tremendous impact on the Railways. Due to this, alongwith expansion the need for new terminals was also felt. New terminals were constructed and at places where terminals already exist, they are talking about expansion of the platforms. All this is required. The trains which earlier had 18-20 boggies, now have 23-24 boggies but there is a need for further expansion of the platforms commensurate with the increase in number of boggies. They are currying out expansion work of the platforms as early as possible but still a lot of work remains to be done. Proposals have been made in the supplementary budget regarding expansion of platforms, construction of community buildings, modernisation of the hospitals and electrification of railway lines. Electrification of railway lines is also essentially required. There is a mention of electrification of railway lines at Ujjain, Makshi, Dewas and Bhopal in Western railway in the supplementary budget. The same has also been proposed by the hon. Minister for which I would like to thank him. He must complete the electrification work on this route expeditiously so that the inconvenience being faced by the people of Ujjain and Bhopal could be

mitigated and the passengers could reach their destinations in comparatively less time.

He has classified the express trains as Superfast trains. He must reconsider it as the speed of these trains remains the same, their stoppages have not been reduced, facilities have not been increased, only their status has been upgraded. People have to pay for Superfast trains, which affects the common man. There are a number of such trains, for example, there is a train between Indore and Nizamuddin. For this train neither the stoppages have been reduced nor any extra facilities have been provided. It is running as usual. The speed of this train has not been increased. Only the express trains have now been named as Superfast train which is for extracting money out of people's pocket. He must reconsider it. If he does so, then it would certainly reduce the increased burden on the passengers. Besides this he has provided for construction of some railway level crossings. There is heavy rush of traffic at Vadodhra, Godhra and Surat. Similar kind of rush is also there at other sections of Western Railway and keeping this rush of traffic in view, they have proposed for construction of a road overbridge in the area. Proposals for the same kind of overbridges at other places are also there. They have constructed a railway overbridge near Ratlam. Some of its work is still pending. Construction of the part of Union Government has been completed but the state has yet to complete its part of construction. If that is also completed soon, then it will solve a big problem. Similarly, overbridges are needed at stations near Mandsaur, Jawara and Neemach. It is proposed that the State Government will fund the project. They have agreed to pay the money. I hope that he will consider the proposal for construction of an overbridge wherever it is necessary.

Alongwith this he has talked about expansion of some new hospitals. In the same context he has mentioned about expansion of Jabalpur hospital. I would like to urge that there should be better facilities at Jabalpur hospital because these days many hospitals have the most advanced machinery and equipments. Alongwith this hospital at Ratlam and Kota division are also required to be equipped with modern facilities.

15.46 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

I would like to request him to pay attention towards this so that the common man, besides the Railway officers and employees, could also benefited by this, if he pays attention towards this, then it would benefit a large number of people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a proposal to construct New Community buildings at a number of stations. Out of these, some are proposed to be constructed in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh or Northern railway, western railway and in some other zones. I would like to urge that it is necessary to construct these community buildings wherever they are required, I hope he will pay attention towards this also.

While conveying my thanks to him, I would also like to remind him of one more thing that the gauge conversion work between Neemach-Ratlam has been, going on quiet expeditiously and he had proposed in the budget presented by him that this work would be completed by March 2006-2007. The work over there has been going on very fast. I would like to say that this work should be further expedited because as per the information received by me from that place, I have learnt that after October they propose to lay new broad gauge lines over there. Therefore, if they expedite this work further then it can be completed by the year 2006. I would request him to pay attention towards this. It would definitely prove to be beneficial if he further accelerate the speed of this work. This would increase the revenue of railways and improve the passenger facilities. Similarly, work is in progress on the other section of Chittor-Ajmer. I would request him to pay attention towards that. Please also pay due attention towards gauge-conversion, community buildings, stoppage of trains and overbridges.

Besides this, in view of the rush of traffic between Katani-Singhrauli, expansion of railway line over there has also been mentioned. I would like that railways must complete this work as early as possible.

In the end, while taking the advantage of this opportunity I would like to request that some time back we

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

had made a demand in the General Budget of Railways that an additional train should be introduced between Kota-Ratlam. There is heavy rush of traffic on this route. A train has already been introduced between Kota-Shyamgarh, it would be really very good if the same train is extended upto Ratlam. This would ease the rush of traffic on this route and also benefit the people there. Similarly, there is a need to provide extra stoppages for trains. This includes providing stoppage to the Bhuvaneshwar bound train at Shyamgarh-Suvasara and also of Indore-Jaipur train at Suvasara. On the same lines, Jammu Superfast train should be provided a stoppage at Shyamgarh. It would be really very good if he pays adequate attention towards this. There are many such things, in the Supplementary Budget presented in the House, which would prove to be extremely beneficial for the people from the view of modernisation and expansion of the railways. Talks were held about expansion of platform at Ratlam, which is one of the largest stations of Western railway and construction of a new platform is being carried out over there. I would like to request, that in view of the heavy rush of traffic on that route, construction of the new platform alongwith expansion of the siding should be completed soon. These issues are related to the same things which have been mentioned in the Supplementary Budget. Therefore, I would like to request him to pay attention towards all these points. With these words I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi) : Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on supplementary demands for grants of the Railways.

Sir, ever since the formation of the UPA Government and Shri Lalu Prasad Yadavji assuming the charge of Minister of Railways, not only in this House or in our country but his style of functioning is being praised all over the world and this is the first such example that all the Institutes of Management of various countries are asking their students to conduct a research as to how such an excellent management is being done by the Hon'ble Minister of Railways. They are conducting research on the style of his functioning and it appears to me that it will be

the first such instance of its kind. Secondly, it we talk about the popularity, then I would like to say no one becomes popular by his face but a person becomes popular by his deeds. I would like to give an example in this esteemed House that the festival of Raksha Bandhan was celebrated just two days back and most of the Rakhis which were sold and used in Delhi were those which were having the pictures of Hon'ble Minister of Railways. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh) : What it has to do with the Budget? . . .(Interruptions)

DR. RAJESH MISHRA : Yes it has to do with the Budget. . . .(Interruptions) Jai Prakashji you please sit down. Please let me speak. Any trader will try to adopt only such trade practices which increase the sale of his items. It is true that anybody's picture cannot increase the sale of Rakhi but its popularity can sell the Rakhi and Laluji is more popular because for the first time a Minister of Railways of India has set an example by his action plan and as a result of which the Institutes of Managements are conducting research as to how a proper management is done and the traders are also eager to increase their trade thinking that if they have the pictures of Shri Laluji their items will sell more. It has happened just three days back in Delhi. I want to compliment the Minister of railways of UPA Government.

For the first time the Railways is being compared with the Airlines. Now the people are compelled to think about the difference between an air journey and a train journey. If we can travel by plane then why cannot we travel by train when we are getting the same facilities. Therefore, it is the first time that such a competition has happened in our society that people are comparing the air Journey with the train Journey. Certainly, we are realizing that the entire country is accepting it and the countries of the world are emulating the style of functioning of Minister of Railways. The profit earned by the Railways today has broken all previous records. Employees are the same and the officers are the same but it appears to me that the profits earned by the Railways during the period of last two years and two months under the present Government is five to six times more than the profits earned by the Railways under several Governments during the last ten

to fifteen years. We need to understand the changes made by the Hon'ble Minister of Railways in the functioning of Railways whereby he has given such incentives to the Railway employees that today the same employees are showing more efficiency and they are eager to show such an excellent performance to get the compliments from the Minister of Railways. As a result of which Railways is advancing by leaps and bounds and its profits are increasing constantly. Only due to this reason the Hon'ble Minister said while presenting the Supplementary demands for grants that this is just a start and peak is yet to be achieved. Hon'ble Minister meant to say that this is only a start. We have to look forward and we will give better results in future. I convey my heartfelt compliments and good wishes to Hon'ble Minister of Railways on behalf of millions of people of India and express the confidence that in future the Railways will certainly touch new heights and people will give preference to travel by train over travel by air. Cleanliness being maintained at Platforms and in trains is an example in this regard. Hon'ble Minister has also set an example by introducing 'Garib Rath'. A poor man can also travel a long distance in an Air Conditioned Coach merely on a ticket of Rs. 500. The speed of Rajdhani trains has been increased. Now, no one will prefer to travel by road or by air if he has to go to Jaipur or Agra from Delhi. He would like to travel by train since he will get better facilities and a comfortable journey and will face no hardship.

The manner in which the progress has been made in the field of transportation of goods and the profits being earned by the country is being felt all over the country. The Minister has not increased the passenger fare. Previously when the Government would present the rail budget the media and the common man would easily guess to what extent the fare will be increased. It has been more than two years and two months since the assumption of charge by the Minister of Railways but not a single penny has been increased in the passenger fare of any class. All the facilities have been provided to the passengers without increasing any fare. One of the major advantages of this has been that the transportation of goods by train is being done in lesser time without increasing any freight. The passenger facilities are being improved constantly out of

the profits earned by the Railways. Hon'ble Minister has formulated a separate scheme for the surplus land lying with Railways and the manner in which the surplus land is being utilized is also commendable. Railway employees have been getting constant benefits from the railway cooperative banks. It is also a commendable work.

I want to tell the hon'ble Minister that cooperative bank in Gorakhpur is doing a commendable job. Management is constituted through elections and the elected representatives run the railway cooperative banks. The elections for Gorakhpur railway cooperative bank have not been held for many years. As per my information the bank is on the verge of closure, as elections have not been held. I would request for early elections so that the bank continues to run in profit and the railway employees are benefited.

I would like to give one more suggestion to the hon'ble Minister. Kashi is as important to Hindus as Kaba to Muslims.

16.00 hrs.

Sir it's a coincidence that Hon'ble Minister of Railways, is as attached to Kashi as a religious person could be. A train named Ganga-Kaveri Express used to run earlier and the pilgrims from South Indian States – whether it is Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka or Tamil Nadu—used to take this train to come to Kashi. Most of pilgrims visiting Kashi are normally 70 to 80 years old. Hon'ble Minister of Railways reduced its frequency to two days in a week in the last year's rail budget. There are many associations of South Indians in Varanasi. Every state has its association in Varanasi. The association of South Indians have requested me and the Hon'ble Minister to run the aforesaid train daily from Varanasi. They have requested to run it for two days for Bangalore, Chennai and two days for Rameshvaram. Kerala and Trivendrum. They have also requested to run the trains between Kashi and all the southern states for two days each so that the pilgrims can be benefited. I also request the Hon'ble Minister, who is a religious person to run a Garib Rath via Kashi and Mugalsarai, which normally runs between Bihar and Delhi via Mugalsarai. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister to run two Garib Rath trains, one via Varansi and one via

[Dr. Rajesh Mishra]

Mugalsarai so that pilgrims can have a darshan of Baba Vishwanath. Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, my third suggestion is to run trains from Varansi to Bangalore, Varanasi to Trivendrum and Varanasi to Chennai. . . .(Interruptions) This way Kashi, the Kaba of Hindus would be linked to other state capitals and every one would be able to have a darshan of Baba Vishwanath. This is my request to hon'ble Minister of Railways. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Swain, I am not allowing you. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want the consent of the House because as per the Supplementary List of Business "Papers laid on the table" had to be taken up at 5 PM. But the hon'ble Minister of Finance has requested it to be laid now, if hon'ble Members agree, we would take it up now.

ALL THE HON'BLE MEMBERS : Its okay. Let us do it now.

16.04 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE – *Contd.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. 80/2006-Cus. (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2006, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002, so as to reduce customs duty on crude palm oil, crude palmolein and other fractions of crude palm oil from 80 per cent to 70 per cent and on Refined Bleached Deodorized palm oil, Refined Bleached

*Not recorded.

Deodorized palmolein and other refined palm oils from 90 per cent to 80 per cent, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962. . . .(Interruptions)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4733/2006]

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, I want a clarification from the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should come through proper channel. You should first give a notice for seeking clarification. Only then it can be allowed.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we would take up discussion on supplementary demands for grants for railways.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I am not allowing you.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : If the Chair gives permission, I will answer you. There is a procedure for asking a clarification. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : His speech would not go on record. I would request that if you have any clarification, you may first give a notice through proper channel, only then it would be considered.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take you seat.

[Translation]

Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

16.07 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS) – 2006-2007 – *Contd.*

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri) : Sir, I stand to render support to the proposed Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) on behalf of my Party and myself. But there are certain points to be made which I believe will be attended to by the Government.

Sir, I represent Jalpaiguri constituency of North Bengal which is enriched with flowers, fauna, forest and natural reserves but the people of this area have not ever got any scope to use these natural reserves for their economic upliftment. It is for want of political will. The entire region's economy is mainly dependent on road transport. After Independence, India's trade relations with different countries have gone up. But even after so many assurances from the Ministry of Railways on my proposals during the discussion on the Railway Budget, nothing has been done as yet. For example, I quote from page 21 of the present proposal. "The Government has admitted that Rail foot has become thin and rail fractures are occurring at a higher rate on New Jalpaiguri-Malda line." It has also been admitted that rail renewal is essential to ensure safety of traffic. But for a work of an estimated cost of Rs. 585.11 lakhs, the outlay is only Rs. 1 lakh for 2006-07 and Rs. 0.01 lakh as supplementary grant. Is it not a mockery? When the question of safety is the main concern, we are spreading over the scheme for 585 years allocating Rs. 1 lakh per year.

Sir, the stone for Moyuaguri – Jogikhopa line was laid down by the Railway Ministry. But against an estimated cost of Rs. 733 crore, only a meagre fund is being allocated for this work. I request the hon. Minister for Railways to stop this stepmotherly attitude towards the people of North Bengal including Assam.

On this floor, I raised the demand for declaring Darjeeling Mail as heritage train. Tourists from all over the world come to visit Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Sikkim and Bhutan by this train. But the condition of the coaches are

so dilapidated that one cannot describe them. Can we not spend a share of our foreign exchange that we earn from tourism to give a new look to this Darjeeling Mail?

Sir, during the British regime, people of North Bengal used to reach Sealdah from Haldibari within six hours via present Bangladesh. We have started Kolkata-Dhaka bus service. Why is this railway line not being re-opened?

Now, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to certain burning issues. Recent statistics show that incidents of theft, loot and murder in trains are on the rise. I want to know what precautionary steps are being taken by the Government to stop such crimes.

Another important thing is the need to provide medical assistance to victims of accidents or incidents at the earliest opportunity. I suggest that one doctor with paramedical staff and emergency medicines be provided in long distance important trains.

In my constituency, Railways have surplus land along the railway lines. These lands are being gradually encroached by miscreants. The Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development Authority has sent a proposal to hand over these surplus lands to the State Government or to the autonomous bodies so that they can build up marketing complex on these lands to provide employment. People of my constituency are demanding upgradation of Odlabari and Jalpaiguri road station. They are demanding stoppage of all mail and express trains at Odlabari and Jalpaiguri road stations.

They also demand : (a) a pair of super fast train between Haldibari and Sealdah via Jalpaiguri; (b) rail bridge on Teesta between Haldibari and Mekhligunge; (c) manning of unmanned level crossings; and (d) railway recruitment centres at New Jalpaiguri.

After the presentation of this year's Railway Budget, Railways have renamed 156 trains as superfast trains. In terms of money, it means increase in fare to the range of Rs. 10 to Rs. 50 per passenger. Freight charges in parcel vans have also been increased. So, money is no constraint for development. Only a pinch of political goodwill can meet people's aspirations.

[Shrimati Minati Sen]

The Consultative Committees of Zonal Railways do not function. As such the Ministry does not get important inputs. Licences to Railway hawkers have not yet been provided.

I demand these problems be addressed by the Ministry of Railways on war footing. The time is limited. But there are hundreds of problems. Without taking any further time, I once again support the proposals in the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for this year.

[Translation]

SHRI REVATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad) : Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Lalu Prasad is not present in the House and Minister of State for Railways Shri Veluji is sitting at the moment. It would have been better if Laluji was also here.

Sir, I want to congratulate Shri Lalu Prasadji on two counts. Hon'ble Minister of Railways has transformed the railways for which he should be congratulated. Railway's was in red for many years and it was not able to make up the losses despite increase in freight and passenger fares. Many efforts were made but no Railway Minister could succeed. For the first time after many years railways has been turned around. Its an unprecedented achievement during the last three years. People from France, Japan and US are coming to India to understand the success story of Railways. He transformed the railway not by taking any loan from multinational company, World Bank or IMF but through its own resources and through privatisation. Indian railways is the second largest in the world and it is in profit. People are coming to India from all over the world to know how it all happened. They are also meeting the Hon'ble Minister of Railways and the Members of the Railway board personally.

Rajdhani Express was introduced in 1967 and at that time its speed was 130 km/hour. The speed of a new train introduced for Agra is 150 km/Hour, which is a record because no Minister had increased the speed of any train

since 1967. I also demand that a similar train having a speed of 150 to 160 km/hour should be introduced for Howrah so that the traveling time may be reduced.

I would also like to say that Allahabad is a city of political, cultural and educational importance and it had made tremendous contribution to the freedom struggle. During the last year's Kumbh, a trial train was introduced which took seven hours to reach Allahabad. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to introduce a Shatabadi Express between Delhi and Allahabad which may reach there in 7 hours and come back to Delhi in same time. Apart from this the travelling time between Lucknow and Allahabad is 4-5 hours, whereas it should not be more than 2 to 3 hours. I had requested the Minister of Railways to lay a double railway line between Allahabad and Lucknow so that a large number of trains coming from Howrah to Delhi could be diverted. If these trains are diverted, then they would be in a position to reach Delhi in less time. This would also reduce the traffic jam on this route.

Alongwith this, I have submitted another proposal that Allahabad city is divided into two parts, northern city and Southern City. At present there are two railway lines connecting the city, one of north eastern railway and the other of northern railway. Out of these two lines one passes through the overbridge and the other from the underbridge. The traffic is halted for hours if the underbridge at Rambagh is closed. I had submitted a proposal and the Government of Uttar Pradesh had given its approval to one proposal only that half of the expenditure i.e. Rs. 14 crore, which is required for the construction of railway overbridge, would be borne by the Government of Uttar Pradesh but it was found in the survey conducted by the railway ministry that height of the overbridge would go quite up and that it is not possible. Thereafter, I submitted another proposal to the Minister of Railways that a subway should be constructed so that the vehicles and cars would pass through the subway and that the Government of Uttar Pradesh would also fund half of this project. If this subway is constructed, the hours long traffic jams could be avoided and it would save a lot of time and money also. Alongwith this, most of the toilets at the station remain dirty. When so much improvement is being made, then the condition

of these toilets should also be improved. The toilets should be neat and clean. The Ardhkumbha fair is going to be organized at Allahabad in January 2007. In the last kumbh fair, as many as 60 thousand foreign tourists had visited Allahabad. This year also the same number or even more foreign tourists are likely to visit the fair. Crores of pilgrims from every nook and corner of the country visit the fair. I would like to urge that this year, Shatabdi train should be run prior to January so that the pilgrims coming from outside as well as from Allahabad could avail this facility.

Sir, similarly, there is a train. Mumbai Mail from Allahabad to Mumbai and there is another train which runs thrice a week, I would like to urge that this train should be run on daily basis so that the people visiting Mumbai from Allahabad and from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and elsewhere could avail this facility.

Sir, with these words I would like to urge once again that the suggestions given by me may kindly be translated into action.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants 2006-07 of the Railway. While availing this opportunity, I would like to express my thanks to the hon'ble Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadavji, who by of his concerted efforts, has shown to the country and the world during the last two years that the department of Railways is a profitable department. Laluji has shown improvement and development in the railways with his efficiency, intelligence and understanding and with the support and cooperation of all the employees and officers. Today, it has become a topic of discussion not only in our country but also in the foreign countries.

Hon'ble Minister had visited Europe sometime back and he visited five countries and carried out a study there. I believe that in the time to come we are definitely going to be benefitted by that study. The way the people had thought and the previous Government was thinking that railways is a loss making department and the decision for its privatization had almost been taken. Fortunately, the UPA Government was formed and hon'ble Lalu Prasad

Yadavji, became the Minister of Railways. It is really surprising that when the prices of diesel and of almost every other item are increasing, with its efficient management, the railways has registered profit to the tune of eleven thousand crore rupees during this financial year even without increasing the fares. And this profit can further increase and efforts are being made for the same. People from Howard University, which is located in America and is considered to be one of the best management institute in the world, have come to India to conduct a study here. Teachers and Experts, from IIM Bagalore and Ahmedabad, which are the most famous institutes in finance management, are visiting him for carrying out a study as to how hon'ble Minister of Railways has, with his efficient management, managed to turn railways into a profit earning department. Department of railways was a big problem for the Government of India to which the Government of India always provided a large part of its income because it is a public utility department. This department is meant for the common and poor people of the country and without its existence, one cannot even move an inch forward. Hon'ble Minister of Railways has been making efforts for the development of railways. Indian railways hold the third position in the world. Hon'ble Minister of Railways has resolved and assured hon'ble Prime Minister that with self efforts we will be able to take the Indian railways to the first position in the world and definitely we are going to see that day. Therefore, I would like to say that no amount of thanks can express my gratitude towards the hon'ble Minister of Railways.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways towards one more thing that Bihar state is a really backward state and has been exploited continuously. There has not been any major investment in Bihar. After freedom, many governments have come and gone. I do not want to blame any government. But Bihar has not got its due right and share. The Centre has not invested money in Bihar. There is no factory in Bihar. After Jharkhand was carried out, our position has become worse. Everybody is aware of this fact. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you yourself hail from Bihar. You are aware that there is no big industry in that state. There is nothing like that. We have always been neglected. Our

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

people are migrating from there. Bihar is so rich in human resources that if employment opportunities are created there, Bihar can definitely be self-dependent in agriculture and other matters. Investment was made in Jharkhand after this state was carved out of Bihar. After independence factories kept on opening in Jharkhand region and no investment was made in the remaining area of Bihar where we are living. As a result thereof, there is poverty, unemployment and financial crisis in Bihar.

Hon'ble Railway Minister, Sir, you did make efforts. One or two factories have been decided to be opened. But opening of one or two factories in Bihar is not going to improve the situation. Bihar deserves many more rights and shares. How long will you keep this state deprived of its rights and shares? . . . (Interruptions) Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Dasmunsi, and ministers like Shri Kapil Sibbal and Shri Premchand Gupta are sitting here. . . . (Interruptions) Have you ever pondered, thought or introspected as to why Bihar did not get its rights and shares? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Kindly get a science laboratory opened there. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : It may be that you are making efforts, but they are not bringing any results. Would you not like that attention should be paid towards the most backward state of Bihar. Do you not want that Bihar should get its rights and shares? Shri Dasmunsi is always concerned about all this and we know this fact. . . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : I am a neighbour of Bihar also.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : But this is not yielding any results. Why don't you think of it? I would request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that we should be provided some more factories. Bihar has been grossly neglected. Why don't you want to provide factories to Bihar. Why Centre is not making any investments in Bihar? Whenever

it is the turn of Bihar, whenever the hon'ble Minister wants to give something to Bihar, the entire House starts yelling "Bihar, Bihar"! It seems as if something wrong is being done. I would say that you just have a look as to what is the per capita income of Bihar. What is the quantum of investment being made in that State. After freedom, i.e. right from the first five year plan to eleventh five year plan, what have you provided to Bihar? After all, for how long will you neglect this state? For how long the people of Bihar will be neglected? We do not want you to do us special favours. But if one of the brothers is weak, then it is the duty of the stronger brother to uplift, upgrade and strengthen the weaker brother. Why don't you provide factories to Bihar? Hon'ble Minister, Sir, you have this right, so you should provide factories to the people of Bihar.

Hon'ble Minister of state in the Ministry of Railways is sitting here. I want to ask him as to why he is not providing factories to Bihar? Why do not you give Bihar state its due right. Through you, I would request him to make sincere efforts to open similar factories related to railways in Bihar as early as possible. I do not mean that you set up that factory in my constituency, Patna. You may set up that factory in any corner of Bihar, in north or south Bihar so that problem of unemployment among people could be removed there. In the absence of employment in Bihar, people are forced to serve at other places. Today people are migrating from Bihar in large numbers. I would request hon'ble Minister of Railways that when you respond to the debate on supplementary Budget, please announce to open one more factory over there keeping in view the sentiments of the Hon'ble Members.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say something regarding the railway lines in my constituency and in Bihar. My constituency adjoins the constituency of hon'ble Minister Shrimati Kanti Singhji. There is a Sadasipur station, which is a common station. This station is there since the time of independence but it has not been given the status of a full-fledged station. Through you I would request hon'ble Minister to give Sadasipur station the status of a full fledged station so that people over there may get the facilities which they have not got till now.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have made a request about introducing a train between Bitra-Aurangabad on many occasions. We have been demanding for the last two financial years that there is no train between Bitra and Aurangabad. Lakhs of people will be benefited, if a train is introduced there. It will be a great work for the people living there. Four or five parliamentary constituencies are also connected with this. Last time you had said that you would do this work. I still remember that after the Budget was passed, you had asked a senior officer outside the House to do it. But what we have seen is that it has nowhere been mentioned in the supplementary budget. A survey in this regard has been conducted but the work has not been started as yet. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister by what time laying of railway line between Beeta and Aurangabad is likely to be completed? I request you to complete this work as early as possible so that the people may be benefited there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the office of D.R.M. is at Danapur. It is called division. There you have constructed a community centre for the employees but the condition of the roads of the colony is very bad. I demand that at least these should be got repaired so that the people facing difficulties may get facilities. In the same way Patna City Station, Gugarpur Station, Nyura Station and some other stations need upgradation. At Polyholt, that is a part of my and Madam Kanti Singh's constituency, the stations are not in good condition. We demand the beautification of those stations so that the common men could avail facilities. There is a platform but there are no sheds, no water and no electricity. I think you would certainly, consider these problems.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been a long standing demand that the Tufan Express may be given a stoppage at Nyura Station. We demand that the Tufan Express may be given a stoppage for one or two minutes at this station. Rajdhani Express runs between Patna and Delhi twice or thrice a week. The residents of Patna demand that the Rajdhani Express may be run on daily basis. Through the House, I have attracted the attention of the Government and I hope that the Rajdhani Express would be run between Patna and Delhi on daily basis.

Sir, I would like to submit that you had announced 100 trains as super fast trains in the last railway budget. With this announcement collection of superfast charges has been started. Presently there are so many trains which have been announced as super fast trains but actually they are not running as super fast trains. Still 20 to 30 per cent extra amount is being charged from passengers. At least you run the declared super fast trains as super fast trains and if not then do not charge extra amount in the name of super fast trains, I will conclude after mentioning one or two points and take only a few minutes. There are some schemes for Bihar, for common men and for the poor. For example, the narrow gauge railway line between Jhanjhar to Lokha should be converted into broad gauge. The narrow gauge between Jhanjhar and Nirmli should be converted into broad gauge. A new railway line should be laid between Jainagar to Lakhania and between Likha and Nirmali as it is the Indian territory bordering Nepal. This will be the only railway line that would provide railway connectivity upto this area. For this, recently a survey has been conducted there. The work was to be started but there is uncertainty about the funds for this. Therefore, I would request you to consider it.

Sir, my another request is that the railway workshop at Jamalpur is in a dilapidated condition. It should be renovated. The on going work of bridge construction over the Ganga at Monghyr and Patna should be expedited.
... (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly, conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I would like to express my thanks to the Minister of Railways for his decision that the Union Government would extend its full cooperation for repairing the road bridge at Hazipur which is on the verge of collapse. For this I would like to express my thanks to the Prime Minister also that he is going to construct bridges for the public, in addition to railway bridges. It would be a great achievement. This is an important scheme that you have implemented for the people of North Bihar and South Bihar. With this I request that there is no train from Bhagalpur to New Delhi. So a train should be started from Bhagalpur to New Delhi, this is an important city.

[Shri Ram Kripa Yadav]

Sir, since you have taken the charge of this Ministry there is an increase of 20 percent passengers you have also reduced the fare. The fare in first A.C. upto 18 per cent have been reduced and in second A.C. upto 10 per cent. You are doing all these work but for common people there are many important schemes and works that are to be taken up. Again, I would like to request that the Hon'ble Minister for Railways will announce in the House today that a workshop will be established there during this financial year. And he will do this keeping in view the feelings of the poor, I hope that the Hon'ble Minister will accept the demands raised by me time and again. Kindly establish a workshop in Bihar and do justice with Bihar. Till today Bihar has not been given its share now, you have given it share. You have done many important works and I hope in coming days you will do the remaining in the interest of Bihar. The railway workshop would be established by you. With this I conclude expressing thanks to you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, I have a list of 28 more Members to participate in the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways). Those who want to lay their written speeches, they can do so, and it will be treated as a part of the proceedings.

[Translation]

I would like to ask all hon'ble Members to express their views in brief.

[English]

Now, Shri. A. Krishnaswamy.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my DMK party, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 2006-07. Our hon. Railway Ministers Shri Laluji and Shri Veluji are doing well. They have made the Railway Department a profitable one since last two years. It is a great achievement.

Sir, in our country, the rail is going very fast but the Railway officers are going very slow. Comparatively, I would like to submit to them that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) are very fast. They have made several bridges, several road over-bridges and road under-bridges; they have expanded the roads into four way lane, six way lane and eight way lane. Unimaginatively, India is booming now mainly because of the NHAI.

The Railway Department is doing services to the nation for the last 50 to 60 years but they are not able to progress as like NHAI. It is a pathetic condition. For want of road over-bridges (ROBs) and road under-bridges (RUBs), and unmanned gates, the people of this country are agitated. They are suffering a lot. We, the hon. Members, are also writing to the hon. Ministers but whatever letters we write, we would get the same reply for the past 20 years. They would only give the reply in the Starred Question. But now, we are very much thankful to the Railway officers because as and when we write a letter, they would respond it immediately by replying to us.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, which is one of the profit-making State in regard to railways, a large area is pending without gauge conversion. The people of Tamil Nadu are fighting continuously to get the metre gauge into broad gauge. But till today, hundreds and hundreds of kilometres are pending in Tamil Nadu for gauge conversion.

16.42 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

Even yesterday, there was an agitation in Tiruvarur for doing gauge conversion to broad gauge from Tiruvarur to Thanjavur. Even the sanction of gauge conversion of Myladuthurai to Karikudi Section alongwith Trithuraipoondi, Agasthiarpalli and Madurai-Bodi section are pending projects for making them broad gauge. These projects may be accorded sanction for this year.

Sir, in this regard I would request the hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Laluji. Our Veluji, is assisting him and working hard. He has been giving good reply in this august House, especially during the Question Hour. He has to take

keen interest to get more funds from Shri Lalaji to complete gauge conversions in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, Tamil Nadu is one of the progressing States. Veluji, being a Minister of State of Railways hailing from Tamil Nadu, if you are not able to bring more funds for the State of Tamil Nadu, the people of Tamil Nadu would curse you in the future. . . .*(Interruptions)* You should not take them for granted. Please take up their causes seriously.

While presenting the last Rail Budget, you gave the impression that you were doing so much for Tamil Nadu. We were very much happy. But after reading the papers only we came to know that you have given a few new trains. You had given only four new trains and extended some trains and treated them as new trains. But we thought you have brought so much of funds to Tamil Nadu. But there is no use of new trains without funds.

Not only that, the electrification between Tiruchirapalli and Kanyakumari is to be done. Today, southern part of Tamil Nadu is fast growing; economic zone is coming there. So, there is a need and you should take interest to do the electrification between Tiruchirapalli and Kanyakumari.

Similarly, doubling has to be sanctioned between Chengleput and Tuticorin. Our leader, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has requested you and also written a letter to the hon. Minister of State for Railways for doubling of Chengleput-Tuticorin. Doubling of Chennai-Thiruvallur suburban has been done. But you have not made the doubling from Thiruvallur to Arakkonam. Mr. Vellu, you have been the Minister of State for Railways since two years, and only three more years are remaining. For doing the doubling of Thiruvallur to Arakkonam, you have to take some interest. There is also a need to have a double line from Ennur to Gummudiipoondi.

Sir, I would make a point regarding Madras University. It is one of the famous and oldest universities of India where so many leaders have studied there.

It is celebrating 150 years. In that university, a Railway Research Wing may be created for the benefit of research

scholars of the university. It should be sponsored by the Railway Ministry. Today, we, the old students of Madras University, are contributing fund. We are renovating the Senate Hall. We are making beautification of Madras University. At this juncture, if they have a research centre with the Railway Department's support, it would be most beneficial to the Madras University.

One of the important and long pending demands is connectivity between Central and Egmore. I do not know when you are going to do this. I had read in the newspaper that you had a review meeting. I also read that there is some technical problem. You have to solve those technical problems, whatever may be the cost involved. We have to connect it so that the northern part of the people may easily go towards Rameshwaram and Kanyakumari in a single train. Otherwise, they will have to get down at Central Station, they will have to go to the other side and then go towards Rameshwaram and Kanyakumari.

Day before yesterday, I got a complaint about Tamil Nadu Express train from those people who come to Delhi. After the railway canteen has been taken over by a separate department, the quality and the taste of food are very poor. Before that, the Railway Department provided very good food. But when you started some corporation like that, the quality and the taste of the food have gone bad. So, it should be rectified.

Regarding some of the basic amenities in all the railway stations, I saw the escalator at Egmore and in the Central Stations. You have made it. It is a very good thing. I have seen this in the airport. You have done it here. That is very useful to the old people. Without any struggle, they can climb the foot-over-path and cross the over-bridge. Today, the Railway Police and the Railway Department are very interested in filing cases against those who cross the line. So, if you put escalator in all the railway stations, if not in all the railway stations but in all the crowded railway stations, it will be very useful and it will benefit the people. The passengers will not cross the railway line and accident will not occur. When you do modernisation of the railway station, you can put escalator at all the crowded railway stations.

[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

Raising of platform is pending at so many railway stations. You have to raise all the platforms. In Chennai Division, three or four years back, the Railway had sanctioned about Rs. 125 lakh for platform under the fast track platform. But till today it has not been done.

Also, regarding the lift barrier gate, now the Railway Department is putting lift barrier gate at so many railway stations. It is well and good but in some railway stations, for example, at Minjur and Kadampathur stations of my constituency, it has been sanctioned two years back. The Railway Department also provided money. Only Rs. 5 lakh is required to have a lift barrier gate. This is very useful but it has not been installed till today. Whenever I approach the railway officials, they say there is a contractor's delay. It should be looked into.

As I said earlier, today at Gumudipoondi, a case has been lodged against some of our Party cadres because they crossed the railway line. But there is no foot-over-path. There is a foot-over-path for connecting two railway platforms only, but on the third railway platform, there is no foot-over-path. To cross all the platforms on one side, they have to cross the railway line. Otherwise, how will they come? Six months back, there was a Grievances Day. So many people gave complaints to put one more foot-over-path. But till today, it has not been done but the Railway Police are lodging cases against those who are crossing the railway line.

Today, Chennai city is crowded. So, I request the hon. Minister to provide a halt at Avadi in the Bombay section, and at Gumudipoondi in the Delhi-Chennai section so that you can avoid the traffic in Chennai city. These are sub-urban areas which are growing now. As in Tambaram, you can reduce the crowd here if you provide a stoppage of Express and Mail trains at Avadi in the Bombay section, and at Gumudipoondi in the Delhi section.

Sir, before I conclude, I want to make one request to have railway connectivity to Sriperumbudur where late Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated. For five to six years I am continuously requesting the Government of India to have

railway connectivity to Sriperumbudur because thousands and thousands of people are daily visiting the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Centre at Sriperumbudur. There is a plan to connect Sriperumbudur from St. Thomas Mount via Poonamalli. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and other Ministers are here. . . . (Interruptions) Shri Dasmunsiji, I want to draw your attention regarding connectivity to Sriperumbudur. I am asking about connectivity to Sriperumbudur. You have to support my request. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I fully support you. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Sir, Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Centre is there in Sriperumbudur. Thousands and thousands of people are coming there by road. There is a possibility of connecting this place by rail. A survey has already been done to connect Sriperumbudur from Tiruvallur and on the other side from St. Thomas Mount. This place Sriperumbudur should be linked by railways. It is a very important one. We can have a railway station there in the name of late Rajiv Gandhi. Now Sriperumbudur is one of the booming parts in Tamil Nadu where Santro car is manufactured. Saint Gobian glass factory is there. M/s. Nokia have installed their factory there. M/s. Motorola is going to come up there. So many factories are there. Thousands and thousands of crores of rupees of foreign direct investment is coming there. There will be a feasibility of much income if you have a railway station there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Yes, Sir. I spoke about RGBs and RUBs. Whenever we write letters to the hon. Minister of Railways or to the officials of Railway Department to have these RGBs or RUBs, immediately they are writing a letter that the States should participate in it. You have a fund and you do it on your own. When two persons cannot come to an agreement, how can the State and the Centre come together? It is very difficult. That is why we are having delays. You make a corporation for having ROBs or RUBs and you get funds from private shares and construct the ROBs and RUBs on a speedier basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mohd. Tahir to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Sir, please allow me for a minute.

Regarding commercialisation of railway land, the Railways have plenty of land in the country. You have passed a bill last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. I have called another hon. Member.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Yes, Sir. Last year we passed a Bill about commercialisation of railway land. But till today we do not know as to what is the progress in this regard. Particularly in places like Minjur and Avadi we have not have a place for markets. As I said, we have promised to our local people in my constituency that 'a Bill has been passed and quickly they will commercialise the land so that they will have a market in that area'. But till today there is no progress regarding commercialisation of railway land. This is my request.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing more will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : My last point is that the meetings with MPs have not been conducted. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What you are saying is not going on record. Please resume your seat now. Shri Mohd. Tahir to speak.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already called another hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is too much. You have already taken 15 minutes. It is not going on record. Shri Mohd. Tahir to speak now.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR (Sultanpur) : Sir, on behalf of my party, I support the demands for supplementary grants of the Railways. First of all I would like to thank the Hon'ble Minister of Railways that he made the Railways earn a profit of crores of rupees without any hike in the railway fare. I would like to attract the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards some burning problems of my parliamentary constituency. Through you, I would like to make a demand to Hon'ble Minister that the Saket Express which runs only trice in a week, should be run for four days in a week. In that series Gharib Rath which the Hon'ble Minister is going to introduce, I would like to make a demand that the Gharib Rath should be run via Sultanpur. I have been writing to the minister for the last two years and repeatedly demanded that the Doon Express should have a stoppage at Bilwai station which falls at the border of our district. With this the people of five districts would be benefited. We have demanded several times that the Doon Express be given stoppage only for three months on temporary basis but our repeated demand has not been acceded to. Due to this I cannot visit my constituency. The people of the constituency misbehave with me. I have been demanding for three months that the Doon Express be given stoppage at Bilawai station. This will earn a lot of revenue for the Railways.

There was a locomotive workshop in Sultanpur that has been closed many years back. That workshop should be revived. I greet the employees and officers of railways as with their labour the railways has progressed a lot. Since Laluji has taken the charge of Railways its financial condition has improved. We pray to God that our Railways may progress by leaps and bounds. Hon'ble Minister should also pay attention towards eastern Uttar Pradesh as it is a very poor region. He should introduce some trains from there to Mumbai. It would be his largesse. No one paid any attention towards eastern Uttar Pradesh. It has not at all seen the development. It is my request. With this I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I extend my hearty thanks for giving me an

[Shri Brahmananda Panda]

opportunity to speak on Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways), on behalf of my Party. As we are all well aware, Railways is the lifeline of country's economic prosperity, being the largest public sector of India. So far as Orissa is concerned, which is full of vast natural resources, it is neglected in the railway map of India. In order to connect Madras during the British Rule, the British Government was compelled to install railway lines with a view to connect Madras. Otherwise, it would not yet have been materialised till today. Even after 58 years of Independence, Orissa has not yet achieved its goal in the field of expansion of railways, though all other States are ahead of us.

Recently, hon. Senior Member of this august House, who is also the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, expressed his concern regarding completion of various projects in Orissa. In two Press Conferences, he has also indicated that those projects are lying for about one and a half decades and since no adequate funds have been allocated, completion of those projects have not yet materialised.

Sir, as you know, Orissa has its unique importance in the tourist map of India. Under the dynamic leadership of the present Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, industrial revolution has already been started. So, Orissa needs more infrastructure so far as railway is concerned.

17.00 hrs.

As you know, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes dominate some of the areas in my State. In some of the districts in Orissa, like Phulbani, people have not seen a railway track, and a railway line has become a dream for them. It is the case in respect of other hilly areas in my State. Therefore, we expect more from the Railway Minister, who is also from our neighbouring State, and he knows it very well. He is also a spiritual man and he is an ardent devotee of Lord Jagannath, whose message of peace, brotherhood and tranquillity is being followed for centuries together as it is a unifying force that unites India. It is, therefore, high time that the hon. Railway

Minister should give more emphasis for the development of backward areas and backward States like Orissa because even after 57 years of Independence, the common man has not realised his dream.

The *Garib Rath* which has been introduced for the sake of the common man should have been first introduced in Orissa, but we do not know why the hon. Railway Minister did not choose Orissa.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second bridge over the River *Mahanadi* will bring all-round prosperity for Paradip Port, and it has not yet been completed. The other thing is that work on Kurda-Bolangir via Phulbani and Haridaspur-Paradip railway lines and other railway lines are getting delayed because the Railway Ministry has not yet allotted adequate funds. I urge upon the Railway Minister that these old projects should be completed on a war-footing basis with a view to promote all-round development in the State of Orissa.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you know, Orissa, can be termed as the 'disaster Capital' of India because it is very often affected by floods, cyclones and droughts. Taking into consideration the industrial revolution which has now been ushered into under the leadership of our hon. Chief Minister, it is the moral responsibility of the Railway Ministry to give all the emphasis to the railway infrastructure in the State in order to enable Orissa to compete with other States of India.

My learned friend from Bihar was saying that Bihar was neglected. We should give emphasis on developing railway infrastructure in all States, and they should have all amenities in the railway sector. In this respect, my humble appeal is that Orissa should not be neglected, and that the projects should be implemented on top priority basis and on war-footing.

Here, I would like to quote what the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways has categorically stated. He said that Orissa was a neglected State in the railway sector. The Chairman of the Committee is one of the dynamic Members of this House. Under these circumstances, I hope and trust that the hon. Railway Minister

will look into the matter which has been highlighted by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Sir, I stand to support the Demand for Supplementary Grant of the Railways. In fact, this is not a discussion on the full Railway Budget. Therefore, the scope is very limited. However, I would take this opportunity to raise some important points. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister and the Railway Ministry to these points so that the Ministry can think over it and take proper initiatives to resolve the issues.

At the outset, I must congratulate the very dynamic Minister of Railways. Many good words have been spoken here about him and I associate myself with them. Indian Railways have emerged as a profit-making entity from a loss-making entity. It is notable that Railways have embarked upon a number of initiatives like public-private partnership, Special Purpose Vehicle, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, and so on and so forth. However, even after such remarkable achievements, the Railways could not draw a perspective plan for expansion of railway network in a holistic way.

Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Railway Minister to this but he is very busy with other matters. . . . (Interruptions)

The major challenge facing Indian Railways is to arrange funds for about 60 projects sanctioned on socio-economic considerations. To implement these projects, new scheme called Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana envisaging an investment of about Rs. 20,000 crore in a period of five years was announced by the Minister himself in the Interim Rail Budget 2004-05. But, till date no funding arrangement has been made. These projects are to be taken up especially in hill, tribal and backward areas. This is the major challenge facing the Railways today. But nothing has been done so far. No funding has been made. A meagre amount of Rs. 3 crore has been allocated for four projects that have been declared as national projects.

I come to the growth aspect now. This is already mentioned by hon. Member Shri Brahmananda Panda. A

number of big industrial units are coming up in different sectors like iron and steel, cement, thermal power, etc. To match the growth of these industries, additional wagons are needed. Non-availability of wagons in adequate numbers is causing problems.

MEMU and DMU trains cover long distances. We have raised this matter in this august House several times in the past.

I had a talk with the hon. Minister in this regard. I have even raised this matter in different forums. MEMU and EMU trains which ply for long distance of over three hours should have the provision of toilet facilities. This has not yet been done. This is related to the passenger amenities. . . . (Interruptions) I am not talking about carpets but toilets. Regarding time-table, about the running trains which are rescheduled, passengers are facing inconvenience as the same has been given effect to in the time-tables. . . . (Interruptions) I am only reading the points.

A request has been made about inviting the representations of people and passengers of different Forums to the meeting for giving their suggestions but the same has not been done. The catering policy of IRCTC should be reviewed. Railways have projected the rolling stock to be acquired during the Tenth Plan period as 9,160 coaches and 17,043 EMUs. In the first year, it could acquire only 5,957 coaches and 397 EMUs. . . . (Interruptions) What was the requirement of diesel locomotives and how far it is being met? The lapses are there.

About staff strength, I would say that a large number of vacancies, specially in Group 'C' and 'D' posts is there in the Production Unit and open lines of the Railways. Norms are such that only one out of three is going to be filled up. If that is the case, how is it to be done? The hon. Minister is well known about the recruitment of the Gang man in Kharagpur Division. This problem has not yet been solved till date. I would like to draw his attention to this and I hope the same would be solved as early as possible.

Regarding passenger fare hike, it is true that passenger fare hike has not been done so far but with the upgradation of Express Trains, passengers of the

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

Express Trains have to pay more. Not only that, a new thing has been introduced recently, that is, if any passenger wants to purchase a ticket in a particular station, he has to pay more money. If a passenger wants to purchase ticket from other stations to his destination, he has to pay more money. This new instruction has come from the Railways. If a passenger has to purchase tickets from a nearer station, then, he has to pay more for that. I would urge the hon. Minister to withdraw this instruction.

Some social commitment is required from the Railways. Railways are the largest public utility sector. So far as bus stands, cultural institutions, sports stadiums, schools, etc. are concerned, Railways should provide suitable lands without charging anything to these institutions.

I would like to once again request the hon. Minister as he himself noticed as to what happened in Kharagpur Division. He noticed that Rajdhani and other trains are plying on a single line in Kharagpur Division. Doubling of this Division is required. Particularly, doubling of line from Kharagpur to Midnapur via Giri Maidan is required. A second railway bridge on River Kasai is also very much required.

In the coming Railway Budget, I hope, the Railway Minister would incorporate all the points mentioned by me in my speech. With these words, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants of Railways.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Supplementary Budget presented by Hon. Minister of Railways because he has given top priority to Udhampur, Srinagar, Baramula project. Kashmir is crown on the head of Mother India, hence it is very important to connect it with rest of India. I thank you because you have accorded it top priority, it is very important from the point of view of nationalism. It is true— "Bulbul ki Jindagi hai, Chaman ki bahar par, aur Hindustan ki Jindagi hai Railway ki Raftar par." You are always trying to maintain the speed of Railways; you have done a

commendable job. Railway also connects people. . . . (Interruptions)

17.17 hrs

[SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH in the Chair]

Madam Chairman, through you I would like to draw the attention of Hon. Minister of Railways towards the act of terrorists targetting the Mumbai Suburban railways in the past and you immediately rushed to that place. What steps have been taken to avoid recurrence of such incidence in the railways premises and to ensure the safety of railway passengers? We will be thankful to you if you provide us some information in this regard. While giving reply you had announced to introduce several new trains and to increase the frequency of many trains. But only a few trains have been introduced out of those announced and some are still to be introduced.

Madam Chairman, through you, I would like to remind Hon. Minister to introduce all those trains about which he has made announcement in the last budget and I would like to thank him for introducing some of the trains. Hon. Minister has just visited Ajmer Sharif and introduced many trains for Bihar and he also proposes to introduce trains for Jharkhand. Perhaps he is likely to introduce Kishanganj and Yashwantpur-Bangalore train very soon. Honouring the wishes of lacs of people, you have extended the Ahmedabad-Delhi-mail upto Haridwar, but you have reduced two general coaches, hence general coaches for the poor and common people who used to come for pilgrimage or used to come to Delhi have been reduced. Railways mail van has also been reduced and instead of that SLR has been given. Postmen are facing problem in sorting mails. You know Delhi-Ahmedabad mail connects several states such as Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi and Haridwar, therefore, kindly add both the general coaches and the mail van in Delhi Mail again. Keeping in view the feelings of Public, Hon. Minister has extended the Pooja Express from Jammu Tavi to Jaipur upto Ajmer Sharif. Earlier a link express was running between Ajmer and Jaipur which was linked to Pooja Express, now it is extended upto Ajmer. The people of Ajmer are thankful to you for this. Pushkar is an important pilgrimage of Hindus. . . . (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Are you also going on pilgrimage?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Lacs of people use to go there. Ajmer-Pushkar broadgauge line was sanctioned three years ago. Work is going on there but it is moving on snail's pace. You are a very sensitive person and you are also going on several pilgrimages, therefore, I request you to connect Pushkar with broadgauge line as soon as possible and Pushkar should be connected to Merata so that Western Rajasthan is connected with Ajmer directly. Kindly give top priority to Ajmer-Pushkar. You have converted the Bandikui-Aagar line into broadgauge line but earlier there was a train from Agra Forte to Ahmedabad via Jaipur-Ajmer and that train was very popular and convenient to the public. Now you have connected Jaipur to Agra and a train is being run on this route but Ajmer and Agra both of which are important centres have not been connected so far.

Madam Chairman, through you, I would like to request to Hon. Minister to reintroduce Agra Fort and Ahmedabad via Jaipur-Ajmer train as was being run earlier on the meter gauge line. This train will be very convenient to the public. Conversion of Ajmer, Bhilwara, Chittor meter gauge line into broadgauge is in progress and this work should be completed at the earliest, as it will connect Udaipur directly. At present railway line upto Udaipur is closed, another line also connects Udaipur via Chittor-Kota but at present this line is only upto Chittor via Ajmer. Because beyond that there is broadgauge line. Meter gauge rail line between Chittor and Ajmer should be converted into broadgauge at the earliest. I would also like to request that the remaining stretch of meter gauge line between Neemach and Ratlam should be converted into broadgauge at the earliest so that Ratlam is directly connected to Ajmer. It will help pilgrims coming from Ratlam a lot.

Madam, Kishangarh is the largest market of Marble in Asia. Construction of an overbridge was proposed on Rupangarh Road near Kishangarh station. Rajasthan Government had agreed to share half of its cost and had sent its assent. Marble association has also sanctioned and sent Rs. 2 crores, but Railways have not sanctioned its share of funds. I have gone through this Supplementary

Budget thoroughly, but I didn't find the provision of funding for Kishangarh-Rupangarh road over bridge. There is no mention of such provision in it. . . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : The Work is going on. I had seen during my Ajmer visit that a very important bridge was being built there. We are constructing it there in the depth. Work is going on there. I don't know as to why you have not inspected that work. We did not mention such project in the Supplementary Demand for Grants, on which work is going on because work is going on there.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, it has not been mentioned there. The name of such over bridge should be mentioned in the supplementary Budget. I have apprehensions that it will not be completed. Asia's largest marble market is situated there. So, such over bridge should be completed at the earliest, I will be grateful to you.

I would like to know through you that what is the progress in respect of western corridor from Delhi to Mumbai. Hon'ble Lalu Prasadji has made Railway profitable by Rupees 10 thousand crore and is striving for the profit of Rupees 20 thousand crore by following the mid path and by the rationalization of Railways. But this is also a fact that still Railway is reeling under deficit in respect of passenger fare. There has been increase in freight and Railway is earning profit from it, but passenger fare is being disposed by giving cross-subsidy. You have not increased the passenger fare. You have made the Railway profitable in the name of rationalization. We compliment you for this achievement, but I want to quote what is given in the audit report.

"Railway has been criticized for the reason that various recommendations regarding increase in passenger fare in the year 2001-2002 have not been implemented. Due to this it has suffered a loss of Rs. 2250 crore.

I think that you would pay attention towards this. It is a bitter truth that passenger amenities are being cut. Passenger amenities are being privatized. During the travel we find that now-a-days bedrolls were being supplied by the private people whereas in the past bedrolls

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

were supplied by railway employees. Hence, we find that passenger amenities are being cut. Standing committee on Railways has suggested that expansion, development and modernization of Railways should be done so that Railways may advance with the development of Indian economy. The committee observed that many projects have been started without any logic and those projects have been left in the mid-way after investing few amount. Consequent of that investment is getting wasted. So, I request the Hon'ble Minister through you that old incomplete projects should be completed and they should not be abandoned in the mid-way. These projects should either be fully closed or those should be completed so that money should not be wasted. On one side it will provide the facility to the people and will put check on the wastage of money on the other. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : If you will take your seat, I will try to do your work.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawatji, you please take your seat.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Madam Chairman, I would like to make one or two points before taking my seat. I have to submit that basic railway amenities may be increased. Passenger amenities are not being increased as per the economy and rail traffic. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways through you that basic amenities of railways may be increased.

Madam, Rajasthan is the largest state of the country in terms of area, but it is a backward state in terms of Railways. Shekhawati is still untouched with broad gauge. You have made many Express trains Super fast and their fares have also been increased, but their condition is the same. Please withdraw the increased fare. Again, I request the Minister that sanction may be accorded for the construction of railway over bridge in the marble market at Kishangarh. Apart from this, Byawar is a city having population of more than one lakh. I request the Minister that two minute stoppage of Ashram Express for two months on trial basis may be provided. If the railways earn

profit with the stoppage of this train, then only this should be continued otherwise it may be withdrawn.

Madam, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Thanks.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You, first support the budget.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Madam, I support this budget.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Madam, I rise to support unequivocally the Supplementary Demands for Grants proposed by the hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad. Further, I am goaded to join the praise Shri Lalu, praise Shri Velu "bandwagon" because over the years they have been performing exceedingly well which deserve to be praised lavishly.

The year 2006 has been dedicated by the Railways as a year of the service to the passengers with a smile. But what we have been experiencing in our Railway sector is still haunting our memory. The horrendous episode of Mumbai blasts is still haunting our memory. We are, yet to overcome these horrid situations. Therefore, apart from all this, I must draw the attention of the hon. Minister to prepare a road map so that this kind of terrorist and subversive activities could be averted as it is perceived that Railways are very much vulnerable to any kind of subversion be it propelled by foreign terrorists or by domestic insurgents. The entire Railway are existing on a vast expanse of land where it is really next to impossible to provide security to the entire network. Therefore, for the safety and security of the passengers and not only passengers but our freight movement also, anti-subversion measures must be adopted in consultation with various experts.

The odyssey of Indian Railways set out in the year 1853 from Boribunder to Thane which was merely 34 kilometres. Now, as on 31.3.2005, the Railways network has been expanded to 63,465 kilometres. The Indian Railways are a synopsis of secular fabric of our nation. The panorama of India exists on its track.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You talk about your own constituency.

SHRI ADHIR CHOUDHARY : Yes, I will. Laluji, I would like to appreciate you. It will be very painful for me if I do not appreciate Laluji when discussion is going on regarding railways. As you have said in your speech that Saawan has gone by and Bhaado is approaching and Hathia will follow. We hope that it will not only bring rains, but gold the symbol of prosperity will also pour down. People want that Indian Railways will advance under the railway ministers like Laluji and Veluji. Laluji has proved that Laluji is emerging as an icon from his journey of life from bullock cart to train. This is very encouraging for us.

[English]

I must appreciate the hon. Minister that he has realised the longstanding dream of the people of my district, Murshidabad and the adjoining districts of Nadia and Birbhum by offering a sum which was required to construct a bridge at Mashipur-Azimganj across the river Bhagirathi. However, I would request him to expedite the job as it has been dilly-dallying for various reasons which need to be sorted out as early as possible.

The hon. Minister is well aware that Murshidabad is recognised as a backward district. Lakhs of people from that area used to travel to Southern India for medical treatment. But there is no direct train facility available between that region and Southern India. So, I would request the hon. Minister to consider my proposal by providing a train from Malda to Chennai so that the hapless patients will get an opportunity for being treated there.

Secondly, you are well aware that lakhs of people who are native of Bihar are eking out their livelihood in West Bengal. In my district and also adjoining districts, there is a huge concentration of people native of Bihar. But there is no good train available from Bihar to Murshidabad or Nadia or Birbhum. Therefore, the Bihari people living in those areas are facing severe inconvenience while travelling to their home districts or home State. I would request the hon. Minister to consider this proposal also.

Madam, I would draw the attention of the Railway Ministry to its turnaround which they have demonstrated in recent years. But still over-aged rolling stocks are running on this system. Still, safety measures are to be fulfilled. Special Railway Safety Fund amounting to Rs. 17,000 crore has been proposed to be available for a span of six years since the inception of the Railway Safety Fund so that all outstanding works and arrears in terms of rolling stock, rehabilitation, etc. will be completed.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether the arrears which were promised to be accomplished have been done or not? . . . (Interruptions)

The Hon. Minister is well aware of the problems of my district because he had visited my district already. There is no fast passenger train plying between Kolkata and Murshidabad during the morning hour. I made one proposal to the hon. Minister regarding this. Murshidabad district is situated on the borders of Bangladesh. Everyday thousands of poor people used to travel to Kolkata for their livelihood. But there is no fast passenger train plying between Kolkata and Lalgola in the morning session.

Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister to consider this proposal because hundreds of people are suffering due to the absence of fast passenger train in the morning hour from Kolkata. The hon. Minister is very sensitive to the needs of our State, West Bengal. He has already taken a slew of measures and programmes for development of railway in our State. Therefore, I am going to be a bit indulgent to ask him some more. It is a very small proposal. That is, a fast passenger train be run between Kolkata and Sealdah in the morning time.

[Translation]

*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram) : Sir, I support this supplementary demand for grants. This Railway Budget has conspicuously neglected the southern most state of our country, that is, Kerala. We strongly oppose the non acceptance, of some of our urgent demands, like railway zone, electrification, doubling of

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

[Shri Lonappan Nambadan]

railway tracks, gauge conversion, and also allotting new tracks for Kerala.

We are now in the neglected zone, New trains from metros of Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi to Kerala, need to be allotted. Also additional coaches should be added to the existing trains. Kerala is today known world wide as God's own country. Therefore, to encourage the tourists and also make their journey to Kerala comfortable it is mandatory that tracks from various centers of the country to Kerala are allotted. Kerala is also the land of cultural pageants and water sports and festivals. Thousand of foreign tourists are coming to our state to take part in the Nehru trophy boat race, that will be held shortly.

The Puram festival of Trichur is also know world wide now. The amount earmarked for the project of doubling railway tracks are pitiable insufficient.

Due to this, the work of doubling railway tracks are progressing at snail's pace. Though it is years since the work began, the work remains incomplete.

The work of doubling the track from Emakulam to Kayamkulam via Kottayam remains incomplete till date. If the state of affairs continue as they are, this project will not be completed in another five years. Same is the case with, the doubling of track work in the Emakulam railway route via. Alleppey to Kayamkulam. So, unless the work of doubling the tracks on these two important routes for Kerala are completed we cannot say that the railway ministry has done justice to our state. Adequate funds to complete these two routes should be allocated immediately, Steps should be taken to start the new railway line from Kottayam to Kumuli, Also the new line to Thiruvananthapuram via Chengannur, Punaloor, Nedumangad should be allotted.

A new railway line, via Adoor, Kottarakara to Thiruvananthapuram too should be sanctioned. Work on the new track from Angamali to Sabarimala should start immediately. Railway crossings adversely affect the free movement of vehicles in Kerala. Many national highways, do not have over bridges, and therefore the people

encounter severe traffic jams, sometimes even for hours together.

The construction of these over bridges have also been officially sanctioned, but so far they have not been implemented. So I will urge, the ministry, to give priority and with utmost urgency take steps to complete the construction of over bridges. In my constituency, which is Mukundapuram, the work of ten over bridges were sanctioned. Out of these Chalakudi, Irigalakkuda, over bridges have been completed and is now open for traffic. But the work of Angumali and Koratti over bridges have been left incomplete for years. The work on these bridges should be completed on urgent basis.

Also work on Nandikara, Aloor, Vellanchira, Divine Nagar, Puliyanam and Nedumpasheri over bridges, should start immediately. The work on Chalakudi underpass should begin, immediately. The subway for Kallettumkara should be constructed immediately. There should be ticket reservation facility and computerization in the Eringalakkuda railway station. I would urge the ministry to upgrade the facilities of Koratti and Nellai railway stations. Trains should stop at Koratti and Nellai.

Sir, the situation of railway stations in our state are really poor. In several railway stations, the construction of platforms has not been completed. There are no foot over bridges to link the different platforms. Due to this, instances of accidents are increasing. There are stations which do not have urinals, toilets, and resting room. Drinking water should be made available where even this basic facility is not provide.

Those who are more than 50% physically handicapped and also the blind, the deaf, and dumb should be provided free travel facilities. Those who are 100% physically handicapped should be permitted to take an helper with them free of cost. Senior citizens should get a concession of 75% and those above 70 years should be allowed to take a helper with them free of cost. The concessions for students should be increased.

Facilities to transport dead bodies free of cost should be allowed and two co-passengers should be permitted free travel with dead body. All the 29 Members of

Parliament of Kerala support this UPA Government therefore-the Railway Ministers Shri Laluji, Veinji, and Baluji should sincerely pay attention to development of railway and highways in our state. You should remember all other state except Bihar and Tamil Nadu have opposed the Railway Budget. So such imbalance and discriminatory policies of the UPA Government will encourage the feelings of separatism and secession among the people of India. Ministers should have a nationalistic out look. You should not degenerate as partisan Ministers you have to protect the unity of our country, by being impartial.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on Supplementary Demands for Grants of Railways. Indian Railways ranks third in the world. Hon'ble Minister, Lalu Prasad Yadav, is trying his best to make it No. 1 in the world. I wish him all the success in his efforts and strongly support these Supplementary Demands.

The hon'ble Minister is endeavouring to follow Dynamic Pricing Policy and he is ready to reduce the fare of popular trains. It's a good thing that efforts are being made not to increase the fare. The hon'ble Minister has visited European countries – Britain, France, Italy, Austria and Germany. I think it would help improving facilities in railways and in its development. Railway freight revenue has also increased. Freight revenue has increased sharply in two months of this financial year. Railways earning of Rs. 6687.18 crore is praiseworthy. The Hon'ble Railway Minister is committed to the cause of enabling railway to compete with low cost Airlines. I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister for this. Announcement of 10 to 30 per cent reduction in fare by the hon'ble Minister is also praiseworthy. A reduction of 18 per cent in AC First Class and 10 per cent in AC Second class have also been announced. I think it would be more beneficial to the railways. The scheme of operating electric trains on all routes is also appreciable.

Madam Chairman, you would have noticed that railway fare has not been increased inspite of an increase in the prices of diesel. It is also a commendable task. The

hon'ble Minister has also decided not to privatize railways. He should be appreciated for this also. Secondly, the hon'ble Minister has agreed to provide facilities at par with Five Star Hotels in 41 budget hotels. I would like that Allahabad, a major centre of freedom struggle should be included in the list of 41 budget hotels. Just now, hon'ble Member Shri Rewati Raman Singh has mentioned that Ardh Kumbh is going to be organized there. About 60 to 70 lac foreign tourists are expected there. It would be very beneficial for the railways.

Madam Chairman, railways is trying to reduce passenger fare and freight. I think it's a good thing but the Auditor General, in his Report regarding Railway Freight, has criticized railways for the loss incurred due to not increasing the freight. I think the hon'ble Railway Minister will also pay attention towards it.

I will conclude after raising two-three points about my constituency. There is a proposal to construct a flyover, at the cost of Rs. 12 crore under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna in my area. The amount has been disbursed for this purpose but the Railway Department said that Rs. 25 lacs has to be paid as surcharge. We tried hard to get Rs. 12 crore allocated under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana and if we pay Rs. 25 lacs as surcharge then how the flyover would be constructed? I think the hon'ble Minister is trying for progress and development of railways. I urge the hon'ble Minister, to waive off this surcharge it which will help in the progress of railways.

Thirdly, Head Quarter of NCR is being constructed in my constituency. It's a thing of honour to me but Mundera village is situated in my constituency and if you block the water flow from that village; it will get submerged. We demand that water flow from NCR alongwith that village should be continued.

I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister towards newly created Kaushambi district of my constituency. Selection of main station has not been made there so far. I think a stoppage for main trains should be provided at Bhavari and Sarati. It is important because this district links Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Beside this, Gautam Buddha stayed there for about 12 years. It was

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

the capital of Raja Udyan and penance place for Jain monks. Beside this, there is temple of Goddess Shetala Ma in Kada. Kurai wharf (ghat) famous for Lord Rama is in my district. Sandipan wharf and so many such wharfs are having historical and religious importance. Kada place has its link with Mughal reign. I would like that Main Railway Junction Station should be established there and stoppage of main trains should be made there. With these words, I conclude my speech and support Supplementary Rail Budget.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants sought by the Railway Minister in this House.

Madam, India is a country with the largest railway network in the world. But many of the areas in our large country are yet to be serviced by the Railways. I will restrict myself to problems being faced by my State Kerala and also to problems that are being faced by my constituency due to paucity of time.

In Kerala, as my colleagues here had earlier mentioned, doubling and electrification works, that are on-going, have to be expedited and completed on a war-footing.

Two new lines, that is, Angamaly-Sabari Railway was meant to connect all the pilgrim centres in Kerala State. The main purpose was to cater to the pilgrims, who annually visit the Sabarimala Shrine, which is one of the most important pilgrim centres in our country. The Angamaly-Sabari line, which is supposed to cost about Rs. 650 crore, has really not taken off. All the formalities are over, to the best of my knowledge, but land acquisition work onwards is yet to take off. So, more funds have to be provided for this work. For this particular line to cater to the needs of the passengers throughout the year and also to be economically viable, this line has to be connected to the Trivandrum line via Rammi Pathanamthitta and Punalur.

In Kerala, as we know the coastal belt is the only area where we have railway line. Most of the midland and the hilly areas are still untouched by rail. One of the projects, that is, Madurai-Kottayam 250 kms. broad gauge line, the survey of which was supposed to be over last year, is yet to be started. I do not know what is the state of affairs as far as even the survey is concerned. Now, the engineering survey has to be completed. This particular line will definitely cater to the high ranges of Kerala yet untouched by the Railways. This particular line has got great potential as far as trade and tourism are concerned. I earnestly request the hon. Railway Minister to particularly concentrate, after completing all the on-going works, on Angamaly-Sabari Railway Line and Madurai-Kottayam Railway Line. These two lines, which need a lot of money, can be taken up on the model of Konkan Railway.

In fact, Madam, when we first gave the representation for Angamaly-Sabari line to the then hon. Railway Minister Shri George Fernandes, he had promised to take it up on the model of Konkan Railway, forming a corporation like Konkan Railway Corporation during the time of former Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh. But then that Government fell and afterwards this particular project has been languishing. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to form a separate corporation on the model of Konkan Railway Corporation to take up these two lines.

Madam, we have started Computerised Reservation Centres in all the district Headquarters in the country and I should congratulate the hon. Railway Minister for this. But the state of affairs of these centres is very bad. I can cite the example of my constituency Headquarters of Idukki District of Kerala. The Computerised Reservation Centre does not function properly. I had mentioned it to hon. Railway Minister of State, Shri Velu. I am grateful to him that he immediately contacted Divisional Railway Manager and the centre has opened again. But it should continue functioning. That is what my request is.

Madam, there are several Railway out-agencies. Many of the out-agencies are not allowed with required amount of tickets connected with all the services. What is the point in having a Railway out-agency without allowing them to

issue tickets connecting all the train services in a particular State? Madam, in a district or in a place where there is no Railway station or where it is so far away from a station, these out-agencies' reservation centres serve and help the people. If you do not allow enough quota what is the point in having an out-agency service there?

Take for example Kumali in Idukki district of Kerala. . . . (Interruptions) There is not even an inch of railway line in my constituency. I know that in the foreseeable future it is not going to come also. . . . (Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Mr. George, please conclude your speech.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : I am just concluding. When you introduce new trains in Kerala, please name at least one train after that particular area, either Idukki Express or High Range Express or Thekkady Express or Periyar Express. That area has high potential for tourism. If you name one or two trains after that particular area, that will help the tourism industry not only in Kerala but in the whole country. I would very humbly request the hon. Minister to consider these points and help us.

*SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : I support the Supplementary Demands of the Railway. I congratulate the Railway Minister Shri Lalu Prasadji for running his Ministry effectively.

Madam, Railway is India's life line. Millions of Passengers travel in railway trains every day. However, there are still areas which don't have trains facilities. The tribal areas of the country have least rail connection. Laying of Railway lines in these areas are differed because the is either lower or the minus. I demand that these (tribal) areas should be covered with the rail links.

Secondly, I have been demanding the 14 KM rail track between Modasa and Shamalaji in Sabarkanta district falling in western railway zone. Sir, if Shamalaji - Modasa. Missing link of railway is 'commissioned, then it will open up a completely new routes between Delhi, Chittodgarh.

Udaipur, Shamalji, Modasa, Anand, Vadodara and Mumbai. The laying of this 14 KM missing rail link will bring the prosperity in economic backward tribal regions of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Madam, same way the gauge conversion between Ahmedabad Himmat Nagar-Udaipur need an urgent attention. I hope that you would take the gauge conversion on this route as early as possible.

The Passenger facilities on railway station require an attention. Railway Station. The facilities of drinking water at Himmat Nagar, Idor, Khedbrahma. The lighting and refreshment facilities on the above stations and needed.

There are certain railway gates on Himmat Nagar, Udaipur railway route. The gates near Virawada railway station, one at near Lusadia railway station always remain close. They should keep open during the day.

[Translation]

I would like to submit that a shuttle train runs between Meerut city and Rewari everyday. It has 18 coaches. About 40 per cent people travel without ticket. On the other hand, quite a number of passengers have to travel on the roof of the train due to heavy rush of passengers. As a result, their life and property remain in danger. It is my humbles request to you that the number of coaches should be increased from 18 to 20 keeping in view the rush of passengers.

There is a coach reserved for ladies in this shuttle train but security arrangement is not proper there. It is requested that the coach reserved for ladies should be the next coach attached with the guard coach and women security personnels should also be deployed over there.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna) : Madam Chairman, if you permit may I speak by coming further.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Ok.

SHRI GANESH SINGH : Madam Chairman, today we are discussing the demands for Supplementary Grants (Railways). Indian Railways is definitely considered a very good Railways in the world and it is third in rank. But all

*The speech was laid on the Table

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

these things did not take place in just one day or one year but needed continuous efforts. It is the result of these efforts that we are praising the Indian Railways.

Few days back, the Minister of Railways visited Europe. There he discovered a new technique. He said that he will work for the betterment of the Railways and take the Indian Railways to the first rank. I would like to say one thing to him that streamlining the movement of trains in only the metropolitan cities or running the trains on some important rail lines on time does not mean that Railway has been improved. I don't think so. There are some areas in the country where there is a great need for improvement. I would like to say that Railways should be developed uniformly and priorities should be given to the backward areas, which has not been done yet. I invite the Minister of Railways to my constituency.

While presenting the Railways Budget, the Minister of Railways was told about it. Then also we told that Madhya Pradesh has been deprived. Today when those demands for the Supplementary Grants have been submitted before the House under which the money is to be spent on 83 items, I would like to say that these points are again selected with partiality and our state Madhya Pradesh is ignored. In our state, there is a great need for the development and expansion of Railways which is felt right from the earliest. But that has been ignored deliberately.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Ganesh Singhji, there is a shortage of time, therefore be precise and conclude your speech.

SHRI GANESH SINGH : I will speak in brief. The hon. Minister says that they are giving money for electrification, for doubling of the railway line. I agree with him. But we are continuously demanding for a long time that there is no doubling work from Katni to Manikpur and Allahabad, from Manikpur to Jhansi rail line in our area. While various other small rail lines have been electrified, but these are not. The distance between Allahabad to Satna is nearly 160 K.M. which is covered in 4½ to 5 hours. It is my request that this line should also be included in the work of

doubling and electrification. Similarly, you have declared that 200 passenger trains will be converted into superfast trains and thus you raised the prices of tickets also, but there is lack of facilities which should be provided in a superfast train. The coaches are very old and you can't call them superfast train if you see them.

18.00 hrs.

Superfast means that state of the art facilities should be available in such trains. In the demands for Supplementary Grants, you said that you will construct over bridges and under bridges. We have been demanding for the last two years that the Maihar Station is one of the busiest stations and all the trains from Mumbai to Allahabad pass through that line only and the crossing of the National Highway No. 7 is also there. The crossing remains closed for 18-20 hours. I have been demanding an overbridge there for the last two years. In this regard we received a letter from the Hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways, Mr. R. Veluji, that they did not get support from the State Government. National Highways is yours, Railways is yours, all the travelling passengers are yours. Madhya Pradesh has already recommended then why you have not started the construction work? You want to develop the Railways. We support you for that. You want to make it number one in the world, we support you but if an area is deprived of the development, I don't think that you have made a big achievement.

Similarly, you changed the timings of the trains. But the timings of Mahakoshal Express running from Rewa to New Delhi is very bad and that train does not reach before 2 P.M. though the train has been declared as superfast. So arrangement should be made so that the train can reach Delhi at 9 A.M. . . . (Interruptions). I would like to say in brief that facilities and security is not being provided properly to the passengers in the train. The Newspaper reports these days say that passengers are being looted in the trains, sometimes by poisoning and sometime by the security personnel. I would like to say that security of the passengers should be the very first concern. We want to make our Railways the number one in the world, we can, but the Minister of Railways should pay full attention towards the required improvements in the Railways.

*Madam, the following demands may please be added to my speech:—

1. The rail line from Katni to Satna Manikpur Allahabad should be electrified. Moreover, the doubling work from Manikpur to Allahabad should also be completed.
2. The Rail line from Manikpur to Jhansi should be doubled after electrification.
3. The Rail overbridge in Maihar should be constructed.
4. Railway gates on Govrav turn and Pipara between Lagargawan station Satna and Maihar should be installed.
5. The Rajkot Express should be run from Katni to Satna Rewa according to declaration of former Minister of Railways as washing pit has been erected at Rewa.
6. The work on Lalitpur Singrauli rail line is going on at a snail's pace; it should be accelerated. Moreover, work should be started from both the sides from Satna to Panna and from Rewa to Sidhi.
7. The stoppage for Kamayani express should be provided on Jaitwara Railway Station.
8. The timing from Rewa to New Delhi and of Mahakoshal Express should be changed and these trains must arrive at Delhi Station at 9'O clock in the morning.
9. Very old coaches are attached to Mahakoshal Express, New Delhi, Rewa, Mumbai, Howrah, Samath Express, Janta Express and Pawan Express. There is always a threat of accident. So, the old coaches should be replaced with the new ones.
10. Those train which used to stop at Manikpur Railway Station, should be provided with the stoppage as earlier.

11. A passenger train should be introduced from Maihar to Chitrakoot. It is being demanded for a long time since both of these places are known as the religious towns. Every years more than 50 lakh people visit there.
12. A passenger train between Rewa and Mumbai should be introduced.
13. Jaitwara, Khutaha, Majhgawan, Lagargava, Uchehara, Bhadanpur, Amdara, Mukehi, Khanna Banjari Railway Station should be upgraded so that each and every type of facility can be provided there.
14. The passengers travelling on long distance have to pay Rs. 35/- as surcharge on changing the train. It should be stopped immediately.
15. Satna Railway Station should be upgraded as a Model Station.
16. Doubling and Electrification work should be done on Satna to Rewa Rail Line.
17. Railway Station at Jamuna on Satna Rewa rail line should be established.*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Those members who want to lay their speeches on the table of the House can do so.

[English]

*SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram) : I support the supplementary demands for grants in Railways for 2006-2007.

I would like to record some of the points which are related to my Ramanathapuram Constituency.

Firstly, I express my heartfelt thanks to Hon'ble Laluji and Veluji for having sanctioned the broad gauge upto Rameswaram. I request the Railway Minister that RoB should be constructed in Kilakkarai, Kamudhabuddi and Uchipuli in my Ramanathapuram Constituency. I also like to bring to the notice of Railway Ministry that my

*. . . *This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran]

Ramanathapuram Constituency is a great heritage centre. Pilgrim places like Rameswaram, Thiruppullami, Thiruttarkosamangai, Decripattinan and Erudi are situated around Ramanathapuram. People from all over India are coming daily to these pilgrimage centres. So, I earnestly request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to provide special accommodation facilities in the newly constructed Railway Station in Ramanathapuram which will intern help the travellers visiting these pilgrimage centres. I also request the Minister for Railways that the computerised reservation counter should be created in Thiruppuranam through which people from Ramanathapuram Constituency can reserve tickets in all the major rails start from Madurai to Chennai.

The gauge conversion in my area should be commissioned speedily and it will help the fishermen and other traders to have their trade business without delay. It will also help to improve the state economy in southern part of India.

With these words, I once again thank the Railway Minister Hon'ble Laluji and the State Minister Veluji for their laudable deeds in Railway Ministry.

[Translation]

*SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj) : Madam, I support the supplementary Budget 2006-07 presented by hon. Minister of Railways and would like to say that he has given Railways a new height by bringing about meaningful changes in the Railways. I appreciate him as well as UPA Government on this achievement.

Impressed by this astonishing achievement, there is a sense of competitiveness among the management experts of the country and overseas as to how we find out the secret of this successful management. While pleading for rightful share of backward Bihar, I would like to put certain demands which are related to my Parliamentary Constituency and which follow as thus – to start the gauge conversion work of railway line from Tharve to Gopal Ganj

*The speech was laid on the Table.

via Siddhavalia Baikhanpur and Kaptanganj upto Chhapra in a proper way and I also request that separate trains may be introduced between Delhi to Tharve and Tharve to Kolkata.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak) : Madam, as the Hon. Members have just mentioned that Hon. Prime Minister had a dream to make the Indian Railways the best one in the world.

18.03 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN SETHI in the Chair]

[English]

I must congratulate our hon. Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasadji and the entire Railway Ministry team. They have taken effective steps and moved in the right direction.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : A lot of appreciation of hon'ble Laluji has been made, now it should be made for Veluji.

[English]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA : I said: 'the entire Railway Ministry team'. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please continue your speech.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA : Sir, they have taken steps in the right direction. It is such a big organization, and they have turned it around in a couple of years. This is really commendable. They have done this not by raising fares of the common passengers but by cutting some of the blocking, some of the loopholes, increasing freight traffic, and taking some innovative steps, which are really praiseworthy, and it has come to the attention of the entire world. In fact, recently one of my friends who is living in America read an article about Lalu Prasadji and the Indian Railways. He called me upto inform me the positive reaction that the Indian Railways are drawing across the countries in the world.

Having said that, I would not waste much time before getting into the points.

[Translation]

I have risen to support the Demands for Grants but a gruesome picture has also come to my notice. There are 83 points in this Supplementary Budget but it is sad that not a single point out these 83 points is directly connected with my State Haryana. It is disgusting to note whether Haryana is not a part of this great country.

Sir, has not Haryana fully contributed to the development of India or has not helped the development of India due to which it is constrained to face such situations. Today out of the total 83 points, the point no. 20 talks of infrastructure improvement of certain stations in Haryana for which there is an outlay of Rs. One Lakh for the year 2006-07. It's a matter of concern. While going beyond these points I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Railways as well as the House to the 3-4 points related to the State of Haryana.

[English]

One of the most important issues is electrification of Delhi-Bhatinda line starting from Rohtak. Currently, Rohtak falls within the NCR region, and about one lakh passengers are travelling on daily basis. Therefore, with tremendous difficulties, about 20 pairs of mail trains driven by diesel engines, run day in and day out to cater to this traffic.

[Translation]

I have written many letters and made many demands but despite that this issue has been pending for years. Our UPA Government have been in power for two years but this issue has been an important issue for the last 15 years. It is unfortunate that no attention has been paid to it. I would like to request him to pay attention to the electrification of the said route as soon as possible.

I would like to say one more thing that besides passenger traffic on Delhi-Bhatinda railway section, the freight traffics is also on the rise on this route. I would also like to say about new railway lines. One railway line was sanctioned between Jind and Sonapat. There is no

provision for the said railway line in this plan outlay. I would also like to request him to increase it to the maximum level. One more railway line from Rohtak to Rewari via Jhajhar was sanctioned. As far as this railway line is concerned, a queer thing came to my notice. The State Government have contacted the Ministry of Railways and the Union Government says if 50 per cent of expenditure is borne by the State Government, it will be laid at an early date. The State Government have decided to bear 50 per cent of its cost. I would like to request that the Government may start its work quickly, thereby setting an example before the entire nation as to how a State Government can get the benefit of the policies of the Ministry of Railways so that more and more states get their railway lines sanctioned under the scheme.

I have one more major demand that survey for Rohtak to Hansi railway line via Madina-Mansorki should be conducted afresh. It will be an important line in future. Another important line is from Delhi to Mewat. Mewat is a backward area but it has a vast population. Many preceding Governments have many times announced but no concrete step has been taken in this regard so far. I would like to request him to pay attention immediately to this railway line.

I would like to make one more request that Rohtak Railway Station may be made a model railway station. It is one of the oldest railway stations in India which has been in existence over hundred years. I request him make it a model railway station by paying attention to it.

[English]

Sir, another important point is regarding relocation of Rohtak-Panipat railway line outside the municipal area of Rohtak. Unfortunate is the situation now. This Rohtak-Panipat railway line was laid about 80 years back when the town was in its developing stage and this line was laid outside the *aabadi* area of the then existing town. But over a period of time with the extension of the *aabadi* area, this line now has been sandwiched between thickly populated colonies. Due to non-provision/feasibility of proper walling in railway areas, frequent fatal accidents are occurring.

[Shri Deepender Singh Hooda]

Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to take a look at the possibility of relocation of Rohtak-Panipat railway line outside the municipal areas of Rohtak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA : Sir, lastly I would like to say about me widening of the gates. Earlier, there used to be narrow roads in my parliamentary constituency. There were some two lane roads, some were rural roads and some were single roads. Now, because of our economic development these roads have been made four lane roads and these are proposed to be made six lane roads. Level crossings are proving to be bottleneck. Level crossings have not been widened. It's a small thing but I would like to request that a supporting role may be performed by expediting the works.

In the last I request for a halt station.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are 16 Members from your party.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA : Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. I request for a halt station at Lakhan Majara. Kharati Railway Station was serving a purpose some 60 years ago. A new Railway Station has been constructed there. I once again request that Haryana State has been ignored in this Supplementary Demands. The Supplementary Budget containing 83 points has been presented wherein an outlay is there in every point. But Haryana has been overlooked. While removing this a namely the Minister of Railways, Mr. Lalu Prasadji, may take concrete steps in order to materialise the dream of the Prime Minister. The Railways have been developing for the last two-years and keeping that in view the discrepancy with Haryana may be solved.

[English]

*SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak) : Sir, I on behalf of the Biju Janata Dal of Orissa, thank the Hon'ble Minister

of Railways for having done good services to the Country in having record amounts of revenue during his tenure. Since, the time at my disposal is very limited. I would like to highlight some of the problems of my State as well as my Constituency. The State of Orissa has been neglected for a long period of time. Whatever have been provided in the current budget for the year 2006-2007 is quite insufficient to meet the requirements for the East-Coast-Zone of the State.

The Haridas pur-Paradeep rail link in the State has been entrusted to the RVNL (Rail Vikas Nigam Limited). But no progress has been achieved in comparison to the importance it has for the State and Economic Development. Such is the case of all the rail links under construction in the State, so I demand for more funds for the completion of rail links under construction at the early date.

In my Constituency a Railway over bridge is being constructed between Baudpur-Bhadrak Railway Station of East Coast Railway on 50:50 basis. That the fifty per cent of the cost is being borne by the State Government and fifty per cent is being borne by the Railway Administration. Although the Orissa State Government already provided the required funds and the progress of works is quite compressive but the required funds have not been provided by the Railway Administration yet. As a result, the progress of work in the Railway over bridge has not yet been started on Railway land. So the required 50 per cent of the cost of the over bridge may kindly be provided at the earliest.

*SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod) : Indian Railway has become a profit earning public undertaking now a days. I congratulate our Railway Minister and Ministers of State for Railways and also lakhs of workers and employees who have done a marvellous works in Indian Railway.

We also have to appreciate our people and passengers for their corporation with Indian Railway. I do like to give some suggestions with regard to the benefits and welfare of the passengers. Indian Railway has converted at least 200 Express Trains as Super fast train.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Of course we are in need of Super fast trains especially in long root journey. But, it should not make hard ships to the passengers who enjoy the existing travel facilities.

If Railway introduce new trains in the long root train it can be introduced as Super fast trains, but converting existing express trains a Super fast trains, without making any additional facilities and taking more charges from the passengers cannot be justified. The more important issue is the convenience provided by Railway to the ordinary passengers. The majority of income of the Indian Railway is from the Passenger's services of lower classes and not from the upper classes.

Railway now a days give grater importance to commercialisation than the passengers amenities of the ordinary people. The density of Railway Passengers increased day by day especially due to the big hike of bus fare either public or private. So when we prefer to introduce more Super fast trains equally we should introduce local passengers trains to meet the growing demands of the ordinary passengers.

I request the Government to introduce more local trains in the northern part as well as the southern part of Kerala. We can also experiment Electrical Multiple Units, Diesel Multiple Units.

There are about 85 ROBs in Kerala out of which 10 ROBs work are completed and seven ROBs are in different stages. Even when the state Government has completed their work, the remaining part of ROBs in Railway is not completed. Take for example; ROB in Bekal in Kasaragod district. About one year back the work is fully completed by the Government of Kerala. But the Railway portion is still not completed.

While introducing new trains, important stations are not considered for stoppages. In the newly introduced Chennai Mangalore Express there is not stoppage in Palakkad the divisions Head Quarter and Kasaragod the district Head Quarter. If this is the position what is the use of new trains. Through Kasaragod is the district Head Quarter, but it is not considered for modal station where

as many other lower category stations are converted as model stations.

Due to the Privatisation in Railway porters are loosing their existing jobs. At least handling of luggages should be given to the porters. A large no. of workers of Catering service are denied employment since the IRCT has come in operation. The issue of these workers should be increased. The quality of food in long root trains especially in Mangala Express is not all good. There are number of complains that we the MPs are getting.

The bogies of the long root trains especially sleeper class and General compartment has to be increased. There are no of complains now a days with regard to the robering and attacks against Women in the trains. A safety measure has to be strengthened.

In Kerala the doubling work from Somur to Mangalore is not yet completed. Take necessary action.

Electrification in the northern part of Kerala, not yet started. Immediate actions need. The weekly Kannur Eswandhapury Express should convert as a daily train.

The tri-weekly Mavelly Express should make it as a daily train. Introduce the Mangalore Kannur passenger train which was promised by Railway State Ministry Shri Velu last year. Introduce stoppages at Kasaragod and Palakkad for newly introduced Chennai Mangalore Express. Constructions of roofing facilities are essential to many Railway Stations in Kerala. Please take immediate actions.

According to the present norms of Railway Recruiting Board the information with regard to the employment vacancies has to be published in five newspapers. There was written examination in Calicut weeks ago but no one from Kerala was appeared in this examination it is because the news items of the Vacancies and applications were not published in any Malayalam papers. The five newspapers were all from northern state so they should be a change norms prescriber. Out of five news papers at least two of them should be from the local or the regional languages where the examination is conducted.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Supplementary Demands of Railways for the year 2006-07. I will be brief. I must say that our hon'ble Minister of Railways, Shri Laloo Prasadji has created history on several fronts. It is first profit making railway budget during the past two years. In one swoop, he changed the face of the railways and made it a model public undertaking. The management Institutes and experts of the country and abroad are falling over each other to learn how the Indian Railways was made profitable. It was being estimated that with a running loss of Rs. 60,000 crores, the railways would become bankrupt. The railways is now running into profit since the past two years. Keeping in view the prevailing trend, we hope that the projection of Rs. 20,000 crores, for the next budget is sure to be achieved. We all wish him success in this regard.

The conclusion of the team led by Lalooji, which sometime back toured several countries, and made a thorough study, is that there is a need for technology transfer and betterment. We can foresee that in the coming days the Indian railways will occupy the top Slot from the present third ranking.

I have to say a lot in few words. Diesel prices have been increased. In spite of this, neither rail fares were increased, nor privatization was resorted to. Shri Lalooji needs to be congratulated for not hiking freight rates as this would have had an adverse effect on the prices of essential commodities. By observing the trend of past two-three years, it becomes obvious that income from freight has registered a healthy increase. It is better than the previous year. Fifty five new trains were introduced. The routes of 37 trains were extended. The facilities in the four trains are at par with the best in the world. Number of coaches in 190 trains were increased. I think all these achievements, are worth emulation, by other departments. This can bring a revolutionary change in Indian economy. This should be emulated by other departments also.

Compared to 2001, when NDA was in power the number of train accidents have come down by half. It is to be noted that whenever there is an accident, the House

is thrown into disorder and various remedies are suggested. However, the present figures show that number of accidents have been halved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Ram Kripal Yadav had elucidated at length how neglected Bihar has been and therefore, allocation should be hiked for Bihar. While supporting this, I would like to inform the House about the situation in my Parliamentary constituency and other places in Bihar. I represent Samastipur which is also the birth place of Lok Nayak Karpoori Thakur. I want an Express or a Mail train, named after Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur should be introduced from Samastipur. An ROB should be constructed at Gumti No. 32 Dalsingh Sarai. An ROB should also be constructed near Bhola Talkies in Samastipur. Perhaps the hon'ble Minister of Railways has provided a halt either at Bathua or Basriya railway station. However, it is very essential that a halt be provided at both stations. Patauri, Noinuddin Nagar, Dalsingh Sarai, Ujiarpur, Khudiram Bose Station, Pusa and Scindiahat stations should be upgraded and modernized. A railway crossing should be constructed near Janakpur at Ujiarpur block. There is an urgent need to construct a DMU shed at Samastipur and to start DMU train services from here to Muzaffarpur, Hajipur, Bachvara, Moinuddin Nagar, Darbanga and Madhubani. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, there is an urgent need to construct a foot over bridge at Pusa station. In the absence of this several accidents take place there. Vaishli Express should originate from Samastipur instead of Barauni. This is the demand of the people of Samastipur. Gauge conversion work for Thawe, Gopalganj, Sidhwalia, Bai Kunthpur and Chhapra line is going on at a slow pace. The hon'ble Minister should see to it that the work is completed soon. Patna Rajdhani train should run daily. A rail bridge should be constructed to link Arrah and Chhapra. A halt should be provided at Hahatwania, between Buxar and Arrah. A manned railway crossing should be provided at village Karisath. From Delhi, Rajdhani Express, Hotia Express and Jharkhand Express pass through Dehri-on-sone. One to these trains should have a stoppage at Dehri-on-sone.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister again for constructing a series of community Vikas Bhawans including one at Samastipur.

I again thank the Minister of Railways for this. I am very indebted to him for this. I express my gratitude to him on behalf of the people of Samastipur and the entire railway employees. Apart from this, the hon'ble Minister of Railways has also announced the upgradation and expansion of Samastipur workshop. It was a historical workshop where trailers were constructed for transporting tanks during II World War. But, it was not accorded the status of an industry. The hon'ble Minister of Railways, honouring public sentiments, took a historic decision by according it the status of an industry and announcing its expansion. For this too, we are very grateful to the Minister. The Minister sanctioned the modernization of Samastipur railway station as well as the construction of two foot over bridges. Words fail to express my gratitude on this count. With this, I thank the hon'ble Minister of Railways and support the Supplementary Demands 2006-07 for Railways whole heartedly.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the supplementary demands for grants of the Railways. I have risen to support this budget. I have reasons to support this budget as Hon'ble Minister of Railways has taken pains to set up a community health centre in the central Division of Northern Railways. It will necessarily prove advantageous to the Railway employees. Therefore, I've risen to support this Rail Budget.

Hon'ble Minister, Sir, there is a coach station in Jhansi Division falling within the purview of North Central Railway which is around one hundred and fifty years old. Nearby there is a pilgrim place namely Rawatpura where hundreds of people visit and people are found with lots of inconveniences due to the non-availability of computerized reservation centre. They either rush to Gwalior or Orai to avail reservation facility. Given the existing state-of-affairs I place my demand to provide computerized reservation facility at this coach station.

There is Etah junction between Kanpur and Jhansi. There is no proper power supply system there. The employees like JEs and others deployed there don't do their duties. One day I was travelling by a train. The train

reached a bit late at Chapra station at around eight to nine o'clock. I saw darkness all around. The station master worked in candle light. While the fact remains that the Department has already made allocation of funds for the installation of transformer. However, the employees have no concern whatsoever. Funds have been deposited for the last 3 and a half year yet the power supply at the station is still distant dream thanks to the lack of a daical approach of the Railway personnel. This issue warrants urgent attention. This apart a provision of VIP room is also an urgent necessity for Etah junction. I would also like to submit that steps should be taken to ensure the stoppage of Pushpak Express, Madras-Lucknow, Cochin-Gorakhpur, Indore, Patna and other long distance trains at this junction to facilitate the commuters willing to travel by such trains.

There is movement of shuttle train from the coach station. There is no platform for its stoppage. While the passengers get off the trains, the elderly people are virtually not able to get down. People are subjected to great deal of trouble. Through you, I would like to place my demand to make a platform over there besides getting an overbridge constructed in order that the passengers may come to platform No. One.

I put forward my demand to make provision of reservation of seats from coach station in the Mumbai-bound trains like 1016 Kushinagar Express, 2534 Pushpak Express, 1058 Pathankot Express and 2137 Punjab Mail as the cancer-patients don't get reservation for Mumbai. For the coach I place my demand for the provision of potable water alongwith Motor in the coaches in order that problem of drinking water could be solved.

The Intercity express runs from Jhansi to Kanpur. Government Railway police should be deployed there for the protection of the passengers in order to facilitate the traders and the other passengers to travel from one destination to the other. After getting originated from Kanpur there are numerous incidents of chain-pulling. There should be proper deployment of GRP in order that trains may reach there in time. Apart from this, the provision of AC-II and AC-III and chair car needs to be made in the trains in order that the passengers may travel comfortably.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : For the obvious reasons I would like to demand that out of all the trains originating from Patna, Howrah to Delhi destination, one or two trains should be diverted to Kanpur Delhi and Jhansi from its point of origin viz Patna. Concomitantly a few trains originating from Delhi should be made Jhansi and Kanpur bound to allow the passengers stay connected with Patna and Delhi.

I demand for a stoppage of Mumbai bound train at Urai passing through Urai in order that the industrialists may be able to reach Mumbai. You have made allocation of funds for bringing in Sangharsh Express for North Central Railway. Therefore, I strongly support this budget and on this note I conclude my speech.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the supplementary Demands for grants of Railways presented by the Hon'ble Minister of Railways. Our colleagues sitting in the opposition benches went on record to state that this is the outcome of the efforts made for years in the past that Shri Lalu Prasad has been able to push Indian Railways in the profitable trajectory. I am not ready to accept it. He could have done it much earlier. It is after being given a chance by Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and the Prime Minister of the country to take care of the Railways that Lalu Prasadji pushed the Railways from loss-making to profit earning position. Today every class and community of the country is enologizing Lalu Prasadji be it the farmer, poor labourer, trader or pass-holder employee. I would like to get it across to my colleagues sitting before me in the opposition benches to find faults but at the same time they should also praise noble endeavors. After UPA coming into power, the common man has been very much benefited by the Indian Railways that was never witnessed earlier under any regime.

Sir, I would like to make one request to the hon. Railway Minister. Railway management is very good at present and it is running in profit then Haryana should also get its share from the said profit. Two over bridges are required in my constituency. Lalu Prasadji himself made a statement in this regard and the Chief Minister of Haryana hon. Ch. Bhupendra Singh Hudda is willing to contribute the states share. Rail over bridges are to be built

there over two or three railway lines. One of them is to be built over National Highway No. 65 in Narwana, Jind. This is at Delhi to Bhatinda railway line where the gate remains closed for 12-13 hours during the day. Railway over bridge should be built there urgently. It is a very important railway line. Most of the vehicles of Haryana pass through these since Hisar is an industrial area and Chandigarh is the capital of the state and the gate remains closed on this road for hours. So two overbridges should be built in Narwana. Secondly, there is a grain market and godown of FCI in Narwana. Plenty of grain reaches there. Loading continues through whole day but since the gates remain closed for a long time, the railways, contractors and labourers have to suffer huge losses. So another over bridge should be built in Narwana city near Purani Kachehri in the interest of the labourers. Ochana is very important place there which is a religious place also but the gate remains closed at this point also for a long time. The road to Bhambhauri passes through there. A railway bridge should be build there. It is also on Delhi-Bhatinda railway line.

My colleague, Deependerji said that Delhi to Bhatinda railway line should be electrified, I support this. Money should also be given to Haryana for two or three narrow gauge lines which Lalu Prasadji mentioned. If Jhansi is linked with Rohtak then it will lessen the distance by 200 kilometers for the people of Hisar constituency. Similarly, Jind to Sonipat railway line has also been sanctioned. The Railways have earned a profit of Rs. 11,000 crore, the hon. Minister should provide some money for it. The day hon. Minister sanctions money for Haryana this message will be conveyed to the entire country that Haryana gets it's share from the profit of railways. It will also increase the profit of railways.

Sir, Jind is the political capital of Haryana. There should be a train from Jind to Haryana. There is a track from Jind to Narwana-Junction-Kurukshetra and Chandigarh. So no new railway lines have to be laid down there. One more train may run there easily. A train from Jind should depart in the morning and arrive at Delhi. Thousand of passengers come from Jind to Delhi everyday. There is a train upto Rohtak This should be extended from

Rohtak to Jind in the morning which will benefit the daily passengers. Jind and Amritsar both are historic places. One train should be run from Jind to Amritsar. These three to four trains should be started and three-four bridges should be constructed. Railways would earn more profit if Haryana is given some share from the revenue which it has earned for the railways.

Once again I would like to request my hon. colleagues sitting in front of me to debate in the House and give suggestions and not to waste time in splitting hair.

In the end, through you, Sir, I would like to give a suggestion to the hon'ble Minister regarding the debate on Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola which took place in the House. I would suggest to the hon'ble Railway Minister to impose ban on Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola and encourage Mattha and Milk so that benefits might reach the poor farmer of the country, who work hard in rearing the, animals and not the capitalists.

[English]

*SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani) : Sir, I am thanking the Hon'ble Speaker for giving me this opportunity to support the supplementary demands for Grants for Expenditure for the Central Government on Railways.

The supplementary Demands for Grants mainly thrust upon the Budget proposals 2006-07. During submission of budget proposals, Hon'ble Railway Minister announced to construct 100 community halls throughout the country. In this supplementary demands allocation is sought for the construction of above community halls. During Budget discussion I had requested to sanction one such community hall in Palani which is abode of Lord Karthik and it is a famous pilgrim centre but it is not included. In this juncture I request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to sanction one such community hall to Palani.

Sir, Indian Railway is one of the largest railway networks in the world with 63,122 kms. of track, 7681 locos, 4476 coaches 2,14,760 wagons (unit) having 14 million passengers, 1.5 MT freight, crossing, 1 lack signals, 8081

stations, 40,000 level crossing and involving 6 lack front line operating and maintenance staffs by running 14761 trains daily. Even though Government has to spend more money for the improvement of the system particularly safety. The number of accidents had reduced drastically from 2131 in 1960-61 to 325 in 2003-2004. Safety index also reduced from 5.50 in 1960-61 to 0.39.

Construction of Road over/under bridges is a joint venture of State Governments and Railways. Railways construct Bridges proper over the tracks and approaches are constructed by the State Government. In some of the cases even though State Government completed approach road works Railways failed to complete the bridge work. For example Ondipudur Railway over bridge work in Coimbatore and Engiyoor Railway over Bridge in Erode are long pending works. I urge upon the Railway Ministry to complete the above ROB works as early as possible.

Sir in my Palani Parliamentary Constituency in Vedachenthoor Taluk Nallamanaickenpatty village is situated near Dindigul-Karur BG Line. East of the above railway line Dindigul-Karur road is available. The people of that region have to go to Eriodu to purchase domestic goods, medicine and other things. Since there is no level crossing is available, people are going Thottanampatty and reaching Erode. It causes unnecessary hardships to public. Large number of Bakeries are also available. Transporting made goods also crossing long distance. Hence a level crossing is necessary near Nallamanaickenpatty.

Sir in Gddanchatram Gandhipuram is a part of the town. It is Ward Nos 5, 6, 7. Nearly 10000 public are residing in that area. They are not having any approach road from NH 209 since north of Gandhipuranmis totally railway land. A subway is necessary for Gandhipuram.

Sir, Erode is one of the famous junction connecting North and South. No facilities are available in that station. All the necessary facilities should be given to Erode Railway Station.

I am thanking the Hon'ble Railway Minister Shri Laluji, Shri Veluji and Shri Rathwaji for sanctioning new BG Line between Erode and Palani via Chennimalai, Karagayam.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

Dharapuram during budget 2005-2006. Now the survey is going to be completed. I request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to speed up the work and sanction necessary fund for further work in this new proposal.

Whole Tamil Nadu is thanking our Hon'ble Railway Minister Veluji to sanction the Salem Railway Division but it is not yet started. I request the Hon'ble Minister to allocate sufficient fund to speed up the work to from Salem Division.

Sir, in my constituency Gddanchatram, Palani are oldest railway stations. No facilities are available in those stations. Gddanchatram is famous for vegetables. There is big market in Gddanchatram. Large quantity of vegetables are transported to Northern Indian and other parts. Hence I request the Railway Minister to allocate necessary fund to improve the railway station. The town Palani is a pilgrim centre. Large number of devotees are coming to Palani railway station is having very vast land. But those are lying vacant. Everywhere we can see only thorny bushes. People can't go in night time. I seek the intervention of railway ministry and allocate sufficient fund to develop the Palani Railway Station.

During the last budget conversion of Dindigeal-Coimbatore BG Line was announced but necessary fund was not allocated.

I request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to allocate necessary fund for the conversion BG Line within short period.

Once again I am thanking the Railway Minister for taking effective steps to improve the Indian Rails.

I am supporting the demand and thanking the chair once again.

[Translation]

KM: SUSMITA BAURI (Vishnupur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you, for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the supplementary demands for Grants of the Railways and support the demands on behalf of my party. Whenever the subject of Railways comes up in the Parliament, be it budget or supplementary demands,

all members request to participate in the discussion since all the hon'ble members can put forth the concerns of their constituencies or the entire country in the course of this discussion.

Sir, I want to thank the hon'ble Minister for start's Bankura, Ranchi and Hathia express in our area due to which travelling to and from Bankura and capital of Jharkhand, Ranchi has become easier. Now people will be able to travel on this route in less time and at less expense. I would like to inform the hon'ble Minister that my constituency has not yet been linked with railways. The people have to come to Bankura to catch trains even today. People have to rely on road transport. The area is backward since it has not yet been linked with railways. It is a very beautiful forest area and it seems like nature has strewn it with beauty. It has many tourist spots. Many tourists come here from my state and other states. It contributes towards the economic development of the villagers, so it will be really good if this area is linked with trains and it will also solve the problem of unemployment to an extent. The work on Bankura, Mukutmanipur railway line which is in progress should be completed as soon as possible, since its survey has also been completed. More and more funds should be provided for it and should be linked with Tata. There should be a Railway Guest House in Mukutmanipur. The work on Vishnupur-Tarakeswar line which was initiated earlier at Tarakeswar has now started at Vishnupur also. I would like to thank you that the work is in progress from both the sides, it should be completed quickly and there should be a railway station namely Jaipur on the Tarakeswar Vishnupur line. The station which has been called Gokulnagar should be named Jaipur. B.D.R. train which is from Bankura to Sonamukhi should be extended to Rainagar and its work should also be completed as soon as possible.

Sir, there are a few more demands of my area which I would like to place before you.

[English]

Construction of a third platform at Bankura and Bishnupur railway stations to cope with the increasing burden.

Construction of a rail over bridge at Bhadul More-Bankura-Bishnupur railway crossing on NH-60 to avoid heavy traffic jams.

To approve manned-level crossing at vital crossings in the B.D.R. Railway.

To approve and sanction a new project of railway link from Bankura to Raniganj which will be commercially viable.

To develop new spacious waiting halls at Bankura Railway station and extend the present booking offices at Bankura and Bishnupur.

To develop a market complex at vacant land near Bankura railway station and a railway park at old B.D.R. railway station area.

To exempt Purulia Express, Rupasi Bangla Express and Aranyak Express from super-fast category in view of backwardness of the area.

To make Howrah L.T.T. Samarasta Express twice a week, and Cochin-Patna Express and New Delhi-Puri Express daily in view of passenger traffic viability.

[Translation]

Our Howrah and Sialdah station is a crowded station. A number of local trains start from there. A large number of people living at nearby places of Kolkata commute by local trains but you have not increased the number of local trains, you should increase it. Instead of converting trains into super fast ones, they should be converted into passenger trains so that common people may be benefited with the increased number of trains.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had urged upon the Minister to extend the existing freight corridor from Son Nagar to Haldia. I hope that it would be extended upto Haldia. Through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the passengers should be given due protection in the trains. If some passenger falls ill in the train, a doctor should be present there to provide him immediate medical facility. The facility of drinking water should be available at each station irrespective of its size and importance. Each

station should be provided with ladies and gents toilets. Proper cleanliness should be maintained in the trains and at the platforms. Old coaches should be replaced by the new ones. I had submitted to the hon'ble Minister that several coaches of Howrah-Chakradharpur train are very old, so they should be replaced. I hope that these should be replaced soon. Stoppage of Purulia Express and Rupasi Bangla Express should be provided at Peer Doha Station.

Sir, Bishnupur Railway Station is a historical tourist spot. Passengers come there in large numbers. I urge that it would be better if this station is modernized as well as beautified. Kolkata has not got Garib Rath rail service. I hope that Kolkatans would not remain deprived of this service and you will soon start Garib Rath rail service there. India is making rapid progress in economic sector. Railways can provide financial aid to the innumerable poor students of the country. It would be better, if Railways provide financial help to such poor and young students of the country. It would help the youths and students make progress. Saying this, I support the demands for grants of Railways.

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to say that my seat is in rear line. So, I want your permission to speak from here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are permitted to speak from this place.

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants of Railways-2006-2007 and I would also like to submit that Shri Lalu Prasadji has been presenting rail budget for the last two years. He has made budget allocation for several rail schemes on priority basis, but in the case of Madhya Pradesh, he has just completed the formalities by making provision for community hall, expansion of platforms etc. It is true that the number of stoppages have been increased, certain trains have been introduced, efforts have been made to benefit Railways. He has initiated improvements in different fields in the Railways.

[Shri Ashok Argal]

Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of hon'ble Minister of Railways towards the narrow gauge rail line from Gwalior to Sheopurkalan of Northern Central Railways. hon'ble Minister is leaving.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri R. Velu, the hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways is present here. You please continue.

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, for all the letters regarding improvements in trains I have written to hon'ble Minister of Railways/Minister of State, I have got negative answers. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that I have not received a single positive response from the Ministry of railways in the last ten years.

Sir, Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan rail line was laid 100 years ago. It is in a pitiable condition now. There, train runs at a speed of 20-25 km. per hour only. The passengers in that trains get drenched in rains, face heat strokes in summers and shiver in winters. The whole route of the train is via tribal backward area of Chambal. You can get it investigated, if you want so. The tribal backward people of Chambal region are dreaming that gauge conversion would take place. I have gone through the rail budgets of this year and the last year, but there is no mention about gauge conversion of Gwalior-Sheopurkalan and Gwalior-Kota trains. The train takes 10 hours from Gwalior to reach Sheopur Kalan. Sometimes it get derailed. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : First, you change yourself, then we would make change in trains.

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Sir, there is no provision of toilets, water and other facilities as well. The train takes 10 hours to reach its destination, but there is no toilets and other facilities like water. You can get it investigated. How can I make false praise of yours when whole of the country is watching it. You are doing a lot for the railways, but I say it with great pain. If I praise you, it would be falsely construed. I would like to submit that if you get gauge conversion done during your tenure. Truly speaking, I would come to Patna on feet from Morena to garland you.

If you would like to say something in this regard, I thank you very much.

Sir, the Minister must have seen the public toilets in the abroad. The same kind of toilets should be constructed here, of course, charge can be five rupees instead of two rupees, poor may be charged lesser but toilets should be of good quality. Morena is a major station of Northern-Central Railway. A number of trains pass through this station. Morena has been adversely affected with the closure of one railway crossing. One railway over bridge was constructed 25 years ago in place of railway crossing, but that is quite winding. People find it troublesome. If people cross tracks, personnels of RPF harass them. They arrest them, and grab Rs. 500 hundred or so. If not paid, they threaten them to put them behind the bars. Dalits and people of backward class pass through that way. The students of Morena College feel troubled because of the closure of that railway crossing. Cart-pullers, rickshaw pullers and people going to cremation ground find it troublesome. You can get it investigated. Railways should work for the welfare of the public, but closing of that particular crossing has caused hardships for the people of Muraina. I can give telephone numbers of even hundred persons who will tell you about the difficulties being faced by the people of Muraina due to the closing of that crossing. You may get the matter investigated.

Sir, Muraina is the first station en route to Bhopal from Delhi. If provision is made for stoppage of Bhopal Express at this headquarters of Chambal Division, it will be beneficial both for the travellers going to either Delhi or Bhopal and also for travellers who go to Muraina from Bhopal. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your stipulated time is over.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Sir, please extend that time limit by 15 minutes or you may request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to extend time.

Sir, the demand for stoppage of Sachkhand Express and Karnataka Express at Muraina is a long pending one and its fulfillment will be very beneficial for the public.

Vanmor station covers the industrial area of my Parliamentary Constituency, but there is provision of stoppage of only Chhatisgarh Express for the last ten years. If stoppage for one of the express trains like Malwa, Mahakaushal and Utkal Express is provided, it will be beneficial for the people of that area.

Sir, there are many railway crossings in Madhya Pradesh. The hon. Minister has toured through Europe, France and U.S.A. recently. You are increasing the speed of trains but lowered the maximum limit of speed of vehicles on roads. I would request you to make a survey of all the railway crossings. There are some states which are willing to pay half of the cost of ROB. You can afford to pay the entire cost of ROB even if some states are unable to pay their share of the project. What difference does it make to railway? I would like that the Government should get ROB constructed all over the country to provide some comfort to the public.

Sir, over-bridges are needed at Lalor crossing, Shikarpur Chauki, Vanmor-Shanichra near Shanidev temple, Tekri Malanpur crossing in my parliamentary constituency. I would like that attention should be paid towards upliftment of backward area of Chambal.

If you pay attention to my demands for upliftment of Chambal area, I would definitely come to congratulate you at Patna. . . . (Interruptions). I have firm determination and no change of party will be done.

*SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI (Akbarpur) : While thanking the Chair for allowing me to take part in the discussion on Demands for Grants for Railways, I congratulate the Railway Minister for his vision to make the Indian Railway the foremost organization of the world. But, I wish that you can translate your ideas into reality because the railway system is not only the necessity of the common Indian but it is his identity also. So, it is necessary to make the reach railway network accessible for every part the country, because we know that the part of one's body devoid of blood circulation gets affected by paralysis. In that context, Uttar Pradesh needs immediate

attention. No one is unaware of the ignorance of Gorakhpur, the headquarters of North Eastern Railway. One sided approach is reflected in the origin of operation of all the trains coming from North Eastern regions from a particular state.

The state of long pending railway projects in Uttar Pradesh also denotes the ignorance of regional needs. The delay in completion of the most necessary project of doubling of Gorakhpur-Lucknow rail line for the last two five-year plan period tells the entire story of ignorance and delay. The doubling and electrification of Lucknow-Gorakhpur line is very essential because traffic volume on that particular line has increased by 150 per cent and it is causing undue delay in movement of fast trains coming from distant places.

Due to construction of a railway bridge costing crores of rupees at Ayodhya on the river Ghaghra, railway traffic passes through Ayodhya-Manikpur-Basti. For reaching Basti, one has to navigate extra 100 kilometres causing both delay and undue expenses. If a 70 kilometre route is constructed through Katra, Vikramjit, Kalwari, Ghanghata and Maghar, a religious place connected with a world-renowned Sufi Saint, Mahatma Kabir, it will connect more and more public with the railway network and also provide extra revenue for the railways because of its direct link.

The old station platform of newly created Ambedkar Nagar district should be heightened and shaded to accommodate 25 bogies and four air-conditioned chambers should be constructed at Akbarpur station, reputed for its famous powerloom and handloom centre.

The construction of Akbarpur over-bridge, which is under construction for the last two years, should be expedited.

There is only one platform for stoppage of 25 bogies at the newly created district headquarters, Khalilabad. It causes a great deal of hardship to the people at another platform. So, four air-conditioned retiring rooms and shaded platforms should be constructed to alleviate the problems of passengers.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Shankhlal Majhi]

With these words, I conclude my speech by supporting the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Railways.

KUNWAR MANVERDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heartily welcome the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) and simultaneously I myself and on behalf of country's are citizens be they are labourers, farmers, traders or politicians express my heartiest gratitude to Shri Lalu Prasadji, honourable Minister of Railways, the two honourable Ministers of his ministry Shri Veluji and Shri Rathawaji all officers and staff of Railway Board. I think that today only honourable Member of this parliament but entire nation is paying gratitude to him.

I belong to Mathura which is birth place of lord Radha-Krishna about which honourable Minister has said that there is a grudwara and to which his ancestors belong and where he has given message to country and where lord Giriraj resides and all Brijwasi's of Mathura are also thankful to him that being a descendent of lord, he is doing something special for this country. . . .(Interruptions)

Now our respected NDA colleagues were talking about their tenure. I would like to read out a few lines of a report submitted in July, 2001 by an expert team constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohanji on Indian Rail.

"Indian Rail is on the verge of financial crisis; obviously if the current rate of progress is continue, the day will come when Indian railway becomes pauper and the Government of India will have additional liability of sixty one thousand crores of rupees in next sixteen years. If we observe on operation level, Indian Railway has trapped in chronicle debt net".

Not such much time has passed. These lines have been taken from the report submitted in 2001. Earliest, it used to be a matter of concern and today it is a matter of great pride about which entire nation knows that with due passage of only two years of the tenure of honourable minister, Indian Rail has earned profit of Rs. 14 thousand crore. Not only that; it has introduced so many new trains

with high speed. There is surplus of cash of crores of rupees as per the figures available with me. It was Rs. 2350 crore in 2000-2001 which has increased to Rs. 13612 crore in 2005-2006. There was fund balance of Rs. 359 crore during the year of 2000-01 and today it is Rs. 12,654 crore. The operating ratio which was 98 per cent in the year of 2000-01 has declined to 83.8 per cent. The loading of goods which was 473 million tonnes in the year of 2000-01 has increased to 667 million tonnes and it is a matter of happiness. Not only this, the progress achieved in Indian Rail. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is going to be over now. Please conclude.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH : In addition to it, Ministry of Railways has undertaken excess loading of ten tonnes per wagon by increasing load in trains. Timing of wagon turn over round has increased to five days. This department has earned Rs. 6000 crore by undertaking excess loading 11 crores with these two measures. Passenger deficit has been decreased by upgradation and introduction of Garib Rath train with twenty four bogies. Catering expenditure of Rs. 700 crore has been reduced to half. The Railways has been made more competitive by according approval to private parties to run contract trains. In addition to it the amount of Rs. 28,332 crore under internal resources during tenth five year plan 2001-06 has been increased to Rs. one lakh crore from the year of 2007 to 2015. Provision of five hundred eighty crores rupees under people private partnership head has been increased to one lakh fifty thousand crores of rupees. Market borrowings to the tune of seventeen thousand four hundred eight crore rupees has been increased to fifty thousand crores of rupees. For the first time bankers have shown their interest to make investment in railways and today they have inclined towards railway whereas earlier they used to prefer to keep thousands away from railways. The achievement of this department is attributed to the Minister only. The Minister has increased budgetary assistants from Rs. 37,502 crore to Rs. 50 thousand crore for this purpose. With these words entire nation expresses gratitude to the Minister and I congratulate him for the fact that Harvard University has appreciated activities under-

taken and progress made by him during the period of two years. In addition to it Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and other management institutes are appreciating the progress made by him. He had gone to Europe recently. The Universities have also appreciated him there and they are planning to conduct study thereon. Besides all his plans are being included in management courses by taking aspiration from him.

In view of his achievements and I would like to demand from Government that honourable President or Prime Minister should award national award to Shri Lalu Prasadji, honourable Minister of Railways. I would like to make this demand on behalf of entire House and other Ministries should also make progress in every field by taking inspiration from him and officers of his ministry. I would like to say and I have always demanded that the people from every region like Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh come here in due quest of jobs and that's why population pressure is mounting on Delhi. So arrangement for EMU train for one hundred fifty kilometres should be made so that people could commute from here so as to ease out pressure on Delhi. Therefore, I would like to make this demand.

Secondly the Minister has made an announcement for Mathura-Patna train in the budget. Our a demand from Calcutta has also been made in this regard but this train has not been introduced. I demand that it may be introduced. The Department has conducted survey from Khurza. I would demand in forthcoming budget that railway line may be laid there. Besides, arrangements should be made for three flyovers on Machhali Mandi, Khatikara and Chhata on our main highways. As other hon'ble Members also made a demand, I would also request to him that Railway should formulate scheme for construction of flyovers on highways or main routes so that people could get facilities.

Honourable Minister just now was talking about birth place of Radha-Krishna. Lord Krishna had lifted Giriraj Mountain on his finger to help Brijwasi's. A railway line goes from Mathura to Alwar via Govardhan. I demand that Barsana, Nandgaon and Kosi, the three religious places

should be connected by this rail line. Besides there are so many works which I will give him in writing.

Finally, I support budget.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to express my views on Supplementary Demands for Grants of Railways. I would like to congratulate, especially, the hon. Minister, Lalu Prasad Yadavji, his colleagues and employees of his department for their ability and diligence in converting this constantly loss-making enterprise into a profit making one with a twenty-thousand crore rupees profit in the current financial year.

The point which I want to emphasize is that currently the biggest challenge before us is to make ourselves economically sound, to develop railway system and also to take care of the interest of the commonman. I congratulate the hon. Minister for making railway department a profit-making enterprise and also for taking care of the economic needs of the commonman by reducing prices of tickets for several categories.

I convey my special congratulations to the hon. Minister for making budget provision for providing rail connectivity to Kashmir and thereby fulfilling the dream of hon. Prime Minister.

It is very necessary to bring the services provided by the Railway and its work culture at par with international standards. The work-load of railways is increasing constantly and the trends indicate the need for the modernization of the system.

Inland tourism is a very important sector in India and Railway constitute its important hub. Through the Chair, I want to request the hon. Minister to make specialized work plans to promote inland tourism in India as it will be an important step for its economic development.

Terrorism is a colossal problem of our times and this has been amply demonstrated during recent bomb blasts in Mumbai. Unfortunately, most of our stations are very old and we have the same traffic system for a long time. We could not visualize the present scenario. The need of the

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

hour is to design our station in such a manner which could be helpful in tackling the problem of terrorism.

Railway is an important means of conveyance. People have to commute daily upto hundred to hundred and fifty kilometers to attend to their work in metropolitan cities. Railway should work like mass transit rapid transport system. I would like the hon. Minister to make special plans so that commute from hundred to two hundred kilometers can commute to their work-place in big cities. I hope that hon. Minister will expedite this project.

The hon. Minister has proposed to create dedicated railway corridor for freight, I think it will have far-reaching consequences in future. Even during my post budget speeches, I have repeatedly said that railway should develop a concept of creating a land corridor from Western Europe to South East Asia.

19.00 hrs.

During post liberalization era, immense opportunities are being created for India due to globalization. I think we are capable of making India an economic super power through this mega project. Moreover, it will provide us a launching pad for giving a good opportunity to educated our professionals and skilled work-force to be at par with European standards. I hope that the Minister of Railways should have done some concrete work on this project. I would propose that the Government should coordinate with the Railways to remove the diplomatic problems so that India can emerge as a big market in the nascent global economy. I believe that the Department of Railways is capable of taking advance steps in this direction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise some issues concerning our area. I have already requested hon. Minister of Railways to connect Bareilly, Pilibhit, Lakhimpur-Sitapur-Lucknow line into broad gauge. Apart from the efforts made by me in this connection, initiative has also been taken by Shri Santosh Gangwar (M.P.-Bareilly) Mrs. Maneka Gandhi (M.P.-Pilibhit), Shri Ilyas Azmi (M.P. Shahabad), Shri Rajesh Verma (M.P.-Sitapur) and Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat, (M.P.-Misrikh). But we could not

convert this situation into broad-gauge till date, which is hampering the economic development of our entire region. Again I would like to request you to convert this section into broad-gauge so that our area could become economically developed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a survey had been conducted from Farukhabad to Shahjahanpur via Gola Gokannath in our area long time ago. Recently you have conducted survey on it last year also but no work has been undertaken thereon. During the Question Hour on 27th of last month, you have apprised me about 45 such lines on which the work has been undertaken but the standard return from them is below average. Again I would like to request you to take up this important route also. There is an important wild sanctuary namely Dudhawa National Park in my Parliamentary constituency. Mailani-Gonda railway line passes through it. So many times lions and elephants of this forest have been killed on this rail line in hit and run over cases. A lot of animals which have been categorized as endangered species have also met the same fate. There has been a very popular demand for a fresh survey on this line to divert it from Palia Kalan to Belrayan via Majhgai, Nighasan and Singahi so that local public could avail benefits thereof and the route which is passing through the dense forests could be avoided and taken from the outer periphery of the sanctuary. . . .(Interruptions)

There is a very important border road on Pilibhit Basti route in our area which is a very important route from strategic point of view. There Railway over bridges have to be build thereon. One in Onebhaliya, another in Furdhan and third one is proposed in Lakhimpur Sadar near Rajapur. It is a very important highway and very important traffic passes on it and in large quantum. Railway over bridge is needed there. . . .(Interruptions)

One of my point is very important. People of my constituency are watching we. Today I have got an opportunity to raise my points. Our district headquarters is in Lakhimpur. Rail line passes through it. It is necessary to build railway over bridge thereon-I would like to request through you to develop sadar as a model railway station. At last I would like to say one point that you have modernized the railways. A large number of poor people

have been working there as vendors. After the conversion of railway into corporation problem of their livelihood has arisen. You have been a great socialist and we hope that you would look after these poor people and avoid deprive them of their livelihood.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr Chairman, Sir, yesterday I met honourable Minister of Railways he is making reforms, I request him to upgrade passengers amenities and provide adequate security to the passengers. Quality food should be provided there and cleanliness be taken care of at station as well as on board in trains. I wish the work already on its agenda get momentum. Yesterday I requested him for a stoppage of Ratlam-Bhopal Intercity in Khachrod and I have given him a letter in that regard. Simultaneously I requested him for DMU train between Onkareshwar and Mahakaleshwar. Actually some stoppages were given earlier on this route but later some stoppages out of them were withdrawn at Nagda and Khachrod. These should be provided again for the convenience of the passengers. It will be better if he would connect Kota and Mathura because Ujjain is place after education of Lord Krishna and Mathura-Vrindavan is his birth place. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already announced that those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches can lay their speeches on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : I urge the hon. Minister to pay attention on providing facilities and more compartments should be added to passenger trains and it is necessary to arrange water and other facilities in this regard. These are very small things but we always try to remind these things and we accomplish them. As far as lower rank employees are concerned. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Jatiyajji, please speak fast, your time is going to be over.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Sir, it will be better if he makes arrangement for arrival of Bhopal Express here

at seven 'O' clock which originates and terminates here. Indore-Ujjain-Nizamuddin Express reaches Indore very late. It will better if he arranges arrival of this train till eight 'O' Clock-Overbridge has been constructed in Nagda but after 15-20 years of construction, movement of people over new level crossing has increased and school etc. have come up there. People are in favour of keeping it open. I request him to keep the word in this regard. It is necessary to extend the shed to at Unel, Mahipur Road Station to protect people from weather extremities Cementation and beautification of the courtyard in front of Unel, Khachrod, Alot railway stations is needed which gets submerged. Nageshwar is a pilgrimage in Alot which attracts many pilgrims and railway earns huge revenue on that count. Therefore a passenger waiting room is mandatory there and other development works are needed to be undertaken. I think that the Government should make efforts to bring momentum in pace of work being undertaken by it and achieve success therein.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to participate in the discussions on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways). It has been very rightly mentioned by Kunwar Manvendra Singh about the Harvard University's attempt to find out as to how the Indian Railways have made a turn around. Basically, the credit should go to the Indian Railways *per se*.

The hon. Minister, of course, has given the lead, but the Indian Railways, being the first and one of the biggest public sector undertakings, is considered to be the second largest in the world. How it has made a turn around is a subject for study not only by the Harvard University but also for the students from France. They came and met the hon. Minister and also a number of officials. That is really a point which should be studied by persons who are interested in business management.

I should also congratulate the officials of the Railways who have made this turn around. We should not forget the amount of investment that was made during the NDA regime for the Railways and the effort that was put in by subsequent officers and Ministers, which has brought this

[Shri B. Mahtab]

turn around. So, the credit goes to the public sector undertaking of our country.

It has made this turn around possible and individually Laluji and also his junior Ministers are very lucky to head this Ministry today. An attempt should also be made that the turn around which is there should continue for the development of railways because today India is progressing industrially and economically at a fast pace. That is the main reason for this turn around in the Indian Railways. A lot of economic activities are going on in this country. Both passenger traffic as well as freight traffic are growing up considerably and that is the main reason why the Indian Railways has made this turn around. The economic activities have increased and at the same time, the hike in the price of petroleum products has also forced a number of industries and also traffic to come towards the Indian Railways. This is also another reason why the freight traffic and passenger traffic have gone up.

Sir, I will, now, come to specifics. Our State, Orissa, is also making a turn around and industrial progress is taking place there. Already 12 steel plants have started functioning and 8 other steel plants are going to function within the end of this month. About 1.8 million metric tonnes of steel is being produced now and another 1 million metric tonnes of steel is going to be produced additionally now. When more steel is produced, it has to be transported to other parts of the country.

Sir, when production increases, the Railways will definitely play a major role and for that, there is a need to invest more to develop the infrastructure. When we talk of infrastructure, first we have to develop connectivity to our ports. You are very much aware, and the Railway Minister is also aware because of his experience as the Chief Minister of Bihar that Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are our mineral-rich States and they need to be connected with some dedicated ports for easement of their freight. Haldia is choked already, Kolkata port is not in a position to take any more traffic and Visakapatnam is also getting choked. So, when two new ports are coming up in Orissa at Dhamra and Gopalpur, rail connectivity is essential. The

Government can have a joint venture project to develop railways for giving connectivity to Dhamra and Gopalpur ports of Orissa.

Then, a policy has to be framed for development of rail network in our hinterland and especially the mineral-rich States should be connected to ports. By this way, Orissa will develop, Jharkhand will also develop as also Chhattisgarh.

Sir, now I would come to another aspect and that is about the East Coast Zone. Jakhapura-Banaspani rail line is being constructed for more than four decades now, but little work has been done in that route. Repeated assurances have been given in this House and outside that this connectivity will be there, but work is not progressing at desired pace. Keonjhar has already been connected with Banaspani. So, unless Jakhapura-Banaspani line is completed, neither it will help the industries nor will it help the Railways to get more traffic. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government that this connectivity should be provided as quickly as possible.

For proper management and administration, that part should also become a part of the East Coast Zone. That part falls under the South Eastern Railway now. But for better management and for better administrative capability, it is necessary that the zone should also be carved so that you can have better administration and better freight movement.

Similarly, in Jharsuguda-Rourkela-Bandhamunda area also. Because the mines are in Orissa and minerals has to go via Jharkhand and via West Bengal and the rail traffic on that line is very high. That is the main reason why I am insisting on it. The hon. Minister can enquire from the concerned General Managers and Officers of that zone. A resolution also was made to that effect.

I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a point regarding Rajdhani Express. Sir, I think, Bhubaneswar is the only State Capital which is connected by Rajdhani only four times a week. It should be made daily.

Talcher-Paradip second line is still in progress for the last two decades. I was assured in this House that the

second bridge over Mahanadi would be completed by 2007. But I have my doubts because not much work has been done over there. It is going in a very slow pace. Haridaspur-Paradip connecting line, which was also there in the last Budget, has to be developed under a joint venture programme. A number of industries are coming up on that line and the traffic is bound to grow because of Paradip port. Therefore, I would insist that that also should be taken care of.

Sir, I have raised the issue of doubling of Cuttack-Baranga line a number of times. The funds have been allotted but work should progress. The hon. Minister has been kind enough this year because when a sum of Rs. 92 crore was allotted, some people of Orissa felt elated and when a sum of Rs. 130 crore was allotted, some people felt elated. But, we have, all the time, insisted that keeping the industrial climate in view and Railways' interest in view the investment should be made.

19.17 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, I am concluding.

In that respect, this year, a sum of more than Rs. 660 crore was allotted to East-Coast Zone. But I would be happy if they spend all that money within specific time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I call the name of Shri Ramkrishna Kusmaria.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, please allow me to complete it.

Sir, Puri, as you know is a very well known place. The first phase connecting Khurda to Delang has been completed. Second phase, that means the second line from Delang to Puri should be taken up in this Supplementary Demands for Grants.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up now. There are five more speakers to speak on this. We have to finish this within a limited time. Kindly cooperate.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : I am concluding. There is one Raj-Athagarh Station and a number of express trains bye-pass Cuttack city and go to Nargarage through that line. I had earlier mentioned to have halt of Express trains in Narag-Marthapur. Raj-Athagarh also should be taken care of. It is nearer to the National Highway. People travelling to Okha, people travelling to Bangalore, people travelling to Mumbai need this because that is a sub-division in the Western part of Cuttack district and this station can cover that area. That station should be developed into a . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now, otherwise, it will not go into the record.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Please allow me to complete it, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No please.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, give me one minute please.

Sir, I have travelled in Kalka Shatabdi Express. I would request the hon. Minister to ask any of his officers to travel in that train. It is a Shatabdi Express and in the Chair Car if you travel, you will find how bad the conditions of seats are. I have travelled in Puri Express in the First Class. That long distance train needs sanitation facilities.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please. I will not allow any more of your speech to go on record. I have called another hon. Member to speak.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, just half-a-minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken too much time.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, is it all right if I submit the rest part in writing? I need a direction from the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you can do so.

*SHRI B. MAHTAB : Security is a matter which should be looked into. Close circuit TV is necessary in Railway stations and only passengers should be allowed near the trains. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is he doing in this regard.

*. . . *This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

I conclude by saying that the Railways, being the lifeline of the country's economic progress, need to invest more on mineral rich States. The formula which Shri Nitish Kumar, the former Railway Minister, had formulated to clear backlogs need to be visited again.*

*SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura) : Sir, I support the demands for supplementary grants by the Railway Minister. I am proud to speak in support of the UPA's Railway demands headed by one of the best administrator like Shri Laloo Prasad Yadavji who made Indian Railway the profitable one. He introduced the mud glasses to boost the morale of village industry. He provided all the modern facility to not only rich passengers, even to the poor farmers passengers. He is the champion of poor people. In spite of the terrific attack on our Rails, our Ministry and Government is committed to provide fuller security to our passengers. We know that Indian Railway is the life line of common people of India.

Sir, myself as an MP from the farming community. I know the importance of Railways to the farmers, youths and rural folk including women.

In my parliamentary constituency there is a long standing demand from my people to have new Railway line between Capital BANGALORE to METTUPALYAM via KANAKAPURA-SATHNUR-RAMNAGAR-MALAVALLI-KOUBGAL-CHAMRAJ NAGAR which benefits the people of all these talukas.

I personally and humbly request to our most proud Railway Minister Shri Lalooji to conduct an early survey and to gift the new line via Kanakapura. My people will remember this gift as an 'SUVRANA KARNATA' year, means Golden Year Gift.

I request the Railway Ministry to introduce a new Darjeeling model toy train to accommodate the domestic and international tourists who visit to Garden city Bangalore and Mysore. At Ramanagar's hills which consists of world famous Rock Hills shown in Hindi film

Sholey. The rock environments, forest, dams like 'MANCHANABELE' and KANVA DAM and Kengal Anjaneya Temple will be an added tourist attractions. There is a dear part also. If the Ministry introduce toy trains to facilitate 70 lakh population of Bangalore and outside tourists, it will bring lot of revenue to the railways. RAMNAGAR lies between Garden City Bangalore and Royal City Mysore which will attract more tourists. Neighbouring channapatna is also known for its wooden toys industry. It will be a wonderful gift to Karnataka.

I am requesting the Minister to build flyovers near 'Kotthipura' at Ramanagar town which will benefit 10000 minorities, who are indulge in silk pitacher business. This connects 8 wards.

To build flyover at Bidadi in RAMANAGAR to connect residents of Yogeshwarnagar lay out.

To build flyover at 'YELLEKERI' at Channapatna town which benefits 80000 population.

To build flyover at 'HELLALIGE' to reach Ramasagar in Anekal Taluk-Attibele Hobali.

I request the hon'ble Minister to give your kind approval to the doubling of railway line from Bangalore city - Ramanagaram upto Maddur town in MANDHAYA distt. Which falls in my constituency.

With these requests once again I urge upon our Minister to implement all the pending proposals from State of Karnataka.

Respected Lalooji, please don't neglect my request for the new Railway line from Bangalore to Metupalur via my Kanakapur constituency from 2004 continuously I am requesting for this line.

I hope you will gift this new line to my people in this Golden Year 2006 - where Karnataka State is completing its 50 years. With lot of hopes once again I support the demands for supplementary grants for Railways.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho) : Sir, during the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

Grants of the Railways, first of all I would like to thank Shri Laluji for promoting tourism in Orchha and Khajuraho by extending the Taj Express from Gwalior to Jhansi. Besides, he has also approved the Rake point for transportation in Harpalpur. He deserves thanks for this also. Lalitpur, Singrauli railway track has been approved and the work on Lalitpur to Mawai section in Allahabad zone is in progress and going on satisfactorily, but no work on other section i.e. Mawai to Khajuraho section in Jabalpur is going on. I request him to expedite it and provide a special package. If this line is completed, many industries would be set up in Bundelkhand, where there are plentiful reserves of minerals. There are coal reserves, granite reserves and mines of emerald and diamonds. Many related industries would be set up there leading to transformation there and the credit for the same would go to the Minister.

Further, I would like to request the Minister that 14 stoppages of the Bundelkhand Express were cancelled but he has restored some of them. But Orchha and Teharka are two such stations where stoppage of this train is very necessary. So, he is requested to accord approval for the stoppage there. If Bhopal Express is provided a stoppage at Lalitpur, the passengers of many districts of Bundelkhand i.e. Teekamgarh, Datia, Chhattarpur would be benefited and it will also increase revenue. Besides, I would also like to request for developing Orchha station. It is a place of pilgrimage. Many passengers visit here. But neither any shelter nor any modern facilities have been provided at this station. Therefore, Orchha and Harpalpur stations should be developed by providing modern facilities there. Similarly, I request him to provide Railway Reservation facility at Harpalpur in order to benefit the passengers of entire Bundelkhand. Likewise, if he provides the Sampark Kranti a stoppage at Newadi, Teekamgarh and Chhattarpur districts would be facilitated. I tried a lot to find something to criticize him but could hardly get a single point. As Shrikrishna's act of stealing butter is considered to be his 'Leela', likewise, the way he have taken out money from people's pockets by introducing super fast trains shall also be considered a 'Leela' like Shrikrishna's. If he reconsiders this decision, people would get relief. Also, I thank him very much and request him to keep in mind my humble demand

and transform Bundelkhand by providing special package for the Lalitpur, Singrauli railway line.

*Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Railways, through you, I would like to make a request to the hon'ble Minister of Railways. First, I would like to thank Laluji that he has extended the Taj Express to Gwalior. Besides, Harpalpur in my parliamentary constituency has been sanctioned as rake point of the Railways by which special facility of transportation of fertilizer, foodgrains and goods has been provided to all the districts of Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh. Extension of Taj Express from Gwalior to Jhansi would promote tourism in Orchha, a tourist and religious place and in Khajuraho which too is a world famous tourist place.

Sir, we have many expectations from Laluji. I am sure that he would get the Lalitpur-Singrauli Railway line constructed at the earliest by providing a special package and also make arrangements for the funds. Under Allahabad zone, work on Lalitpur-Mawai section is in progress, but there is no progress on Mawai-Khajuraho section under Jabalpur zone. So, it is requested to issue instructions to the G.M. of Jabalpur zone in this regard so that work could be initiated these immediately. Besides, the work of doubling and electrification should be done from Manikpur to Jhansi. Orchha railway station should be extended and shelter and drinking water facility and passenger amenities be provided there. Similarly, Harpalpur Railways station should be made a modern and model station and reservation facility be provided there. Niwadi station should also be equipped with modern facilities.

Besides, I would like to make a request to him with regard to stoppage of some passenger trains. I have requested him many times to provide a stoppage to the Bhopal Express at Lalitpur. I am fully sure that he would provide facilities to the people of Teekamgarh, Chhattarpur and Datia by doing so.

Sir, I have time and again been drawing your attention to it that the Bundelkhand Express has been made

*. . . This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Ramkriehna Kusmaria]

superfast but its 14 stoppages have been cancelled. I request that those may be restored. I specially urge him to restore the stoppage of Bundelkhand Express at Orchha and Tehrka. Similarly, Sampark Kranti (U.P.) may pleased be provided a stoppage at Niwadi and Orchha.

Sir, he has upgraded a number of trains into superfast category, I welcome it, but he should reconsider it in view its likely burden of fare on the poor. Besides, he should create infrastructure and mobilize facilities for the additional burden on rail lines so that accidents could be averted and the lives of the people may remain safe. For instance, Bundelkhand Express has been upgraded into superfast category but many of its stoppages have been cancelled. An accident occurred in Datiya claiming 15 lives and injuring fifty people. There was a loss of life and property and the Railway also suffered a huge loss. I am fully sure that the hon'ble Minister would certainly take action on the points raised by me before the House. Sir, I extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.*

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants of Railways presented by our popular Minister of Railways who has brought radical changes in the Railways with a resolve to place the Indian Railways on top in the world.

When the country was concerned about the future of the Railways troubled over the findings of the Rakesh Mohan Committee, the Prime Minister given the country a gift by way of making Shri Lalujji the Minister of Railways. The Indian Railways which was running in losses earned a profit of Rs. 11000 crores to 13000 crores during the last year and in an effort to make the prospect of earning Rs. 20000 crores in future come true, the Indian Railways under the able leadership has become the most talked about ministry in the country. In the first budget you had announced to introduce 'Kulhar' use of 'Khadi' and open the Curd, Butter Milk outlets and had talked about strengthening the rural economy. When you had talked about strengthening the rural economy, some so called intellectuals had ridiculously remarked about the direction

in which Shri Lalujji is taking the Railways. This miracle has taken place in just two years. The intelligentsia of the Country, Professors of the MM, the people from Harvard University and the students from France come here to know as to what Lalujji has done to metamorphose the Railways which the earlier Rail Ministers could not do and the same Indian Railways which was in debt trap is earning profit today. They are told that the frequency of the trains has been increased through efficient management and robust common sense.

[English]

There are innovative ideas like Dynamic Pricing Policy depending upon demand and supply; rationalization of goods tariff by reducing and classification of items from 4,000 to 80 groups; non-peak season incremental freight discount; empty flow direction incremental freight discount; and terminal tariff discount scheme.

[Translation]

You have taken the Railways forward by formulating such schemes. Whenever Hon'ble Minister of Railways visited Rajasthan, I had an opportunity to accompany him. I observe that he sits in the rear coach of his saloon. He do not take rest. He keeps on watching all the coaches of the train through window. He keeps on instructing the officers that such and such alignment is not proper it may create some problem, rubble stones and soil has not been placed properly at this place, it may be harmful why the train running on the parallel track has not been washed etc. he observes each and every point with precision. There was a small diversion along the bridge near Ajmer about which he said it may be dangerous. The GM of Railways said that they are lowering the railway line under the bridge so that the trains carrying double container can easily pass through. You have dreamt of running a train which may carry double containers. You have introduced a double container train from Jaipur. Presently our fellow countrymen are having a vision of accelerated development of Railways by providing a dedicated freight corridor. The manner in which you have turned around the Railways, the entire country is looking towards you and cherishing a dream of bright future praying that country should develop under the leadership of Lalujji.

Today, as we are having a discussion regarding Demands for Grants of the Railways, I would like to conclude with some minor demands for my Constituency. There is a container depot in Bhiwadi area of my Constituency and it is a very big industrialized town. It is just 25 kilometers away from Rewari. I have been requesting constantly that if the town is connected to Rewari then some new dimensions can be added in the development of Rajasthan. There are no ordinary trains between Jaipur and Delhi. I demand that a passenger train to be introduced on this route. My own Alwar region is very important from tourism point of view. It is forest area. Fairy queen runs in that area. I shall be grateful to you if that station is modernized and renovated.

I have been demanding for a long time that there is a station called Rajgarh in my area and Ashram Express should have a stoppage there. Last time when you were going to Bandikui, the people came to know just an hour before that Laluji is traveling by this train. A crowd of around five thousand people had assembled at the station to see you. They requested that a stoppage for this train should be made there. I also demand for a stoppage for New Bhuj Bareilly Express at this station. A pit line should be laid for maintenance work in Alwar so that surplus 4RD and 7RD trains stationed at Rewari can be extended upto Alwar.

There is a Khairtal station in my area. The people of entire township have to face inconvenience due to a Railway crossing there. A demand for constructing an under bridge there is being made for a long time. I also demand for opening a Computerised reservation centre at Khairtal. With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

*Sir, I submit the following suggestions related to Railways before you.

1. Bhiwari may be connected with Rewari.
2. There is no train service on Jaipur-Delhi route in the day time.

3. A passenger train may be introduced between Delhi and Jaipur for ordinary passengers so that passengers belonging to poor and middle class may be benefited.
4. The gauge conversion work of second line between Delhi-Rewari has been completed. The line has been doubled. It is my submission that keeping in view the pressure on Rewari-Jaipur route, another track may be laid on that route.
5. Alwar railway station which is very important in my Constituency may be developed as a model Railway station. There is huge tourist potential in the National Capital territory. Even today you are running a train called Fairy Queen keeping in view the religious and historical tourism apart from Sariska Tiger Sanctuary. Hence, the Alwar station should be developed as a model station and more passenger amenities be developed there.
6. During the last two years there was a direct link to Lucknow-Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh through Marudhar Express but the route of Marudhar Express has since been changed and now this train goes to Mathura-Agra via Bandikui-Bharatpur. The passengers of Alwar have been deprived of the service of this train. The Alwar-Mathura line is being utilized to the maximum. Hence, kindly extend the services of any Express super fast train coming to Mathura upto Alwar.
7. A lot of space is available around Alwar railway station. Hence, a maintenance pit line may be laid here so that surplus 4RD and 7RD trains which are stationed idle at Rewari may be extended upto Alwar. Presently, several trains do not stop at very important railway stations in my constituency. The people of around 150 villages are not being benefitted by the services of the Railways. The new Bhuj Bareilly Express stops when it comes but it does not when it returns. Therefore, I request you to ensure the stoppage of Bareilly-Bhuj train both ways.

*... *This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

Right from being elected to this House, I have been demanding the stoppage of Ashram Express at Rajgarh station. Last year when you visited Bandikui, around 5000 passengers were present there with the demand of providing the stoppage of the said train at Rajgarh station.

Computerised reservation center should be opened at Khairtal in my constituency. We have been demanding for an under bridge over the years. People of Khairtal suffer due to railway crossing. So, under bridge should be constructed.

Shahajahanpur-Neemrana and Baharada are developing as Industrial areas under my constituency Alwar. The largest cement factory of Asia is going to be set up in Kotputali which is nearby survey, for a new railway line from Rewari-Shahajahanpur Neemrana via Baharod to Kotputali should be done keeping in view the future requirements.

Tijara is a very important pilgrim center of Jain religion in my Lok Sabha constituency Alwar. Millions of pilgrims from the entire country and abroad visit Tijara. Tijara should also find a place on the railway map in future.

Railway Safety and Security Employees Welfare Fund should be set up Stoppage of Garib Nawaj Express should be provided at Ranchi. Kishan-ganj Baidali and Alwar.

I would like to thank you for the special recruitment drive launched by you for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled tribes. At the international level, by introducing Thar Express, you have connected the people of two countries.

[English]

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (Mizoram) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me a chance to speak about the North Eastern corner of India, Mizoram.

Sir, I am going to raise only one point. We cannot say that Mizoram is out of the coverage of the railway map of India because we have one-and-a-half kilometres railway line upto Bairabi. It is only 1.5 kilometres from Assam.

As we all know that Mizoram is a land-locked State. The only communication we have is road communication from Silchar, Assam. Mizoram is having ¾ of its boundaries on international boundaries, which is 722 kilometres long. Out of which 404 kilometres are with Myanmar and 318 kilometres with Bangladesh. The only connectivity we have is road communication in the northern corner of Mizoram. But we have only a small railway line as is mentioned there.

But fortunately, we are very grateful to have received the Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey Report of March, 2006 for the new BG line project from Bairabi to Sairang, which is only 51.38 kilometres in Mizoram over North-East Frontier railway line. According to that Survey Report, the gross project cost works out to be Rs. 519.34 crore and the rate of return as worked out by the DCF is negative, and the project is financially not remunerative. But I believe that similar negative returns were the cases with most of such projects served by the Northern Frontier Railway over the under-developed areas of North-Eastern region including Mizoram. Nevertheless, such unremunerative projects had been sanctioned and constructed with a solve view to provide rail network as communication infrastructure for speedy socio-economic development of the backward areas to bring them at par with the rest of the country, which is in line with the policy of the Government of India for which a separate Ministry for development of North-Eastern region has been established. In doing such benevolent works, the Railways proved to be the real Public Utility Service Organisation in letter and spirit, thereby, enhancing its image as a pioneer of development in the nation, in general and the under-developed North-Eastern region, in particular. Likewise, it is urged that this project will also be considered and sanctioned early.

My humble request is for early sanction of the BG line from Bairabi to Sairang, which is only 51 kilometres in the North-East Frontier, for which the estimated cost is Rs. 519.35 crore only.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South) : Respected, Chairman, Sir, though my seat is in the back side, with your kind permission, may I speak from here?

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR : Sir, I come from the State of Karnataka and my constituency is Dharwad South. I belong to District Haveri. I may submit that at the Haveri Railway Station, there is no roof; there is no drinking water facility; there is no seating facility; and there is no VIP room.

Sir, I am very much surprised as to how the Railway authorities are neglecting my area as well as our State.

But apart from that I can say that I am very much happy that I am enjoying the travelling in a train. For this I must be thankful to them because for MPs, they have provided this facility. But regarding the problems, which I had just mentioned, they have not tried for any solution. This is the fourth time I am speaking in this august House.

I am raising a very important point and a demand from the Ministry of Railways. It is about the construction of one rail over-bridge (ROB) at Km 393/13-14 in lieu of level crossing No. 237. One rail under-bridge (RUB) No. 43A was constructed in the year 1996, which is not technically feasible. Therefore, lakhs of people of that district are suffering. In this regard, I have given a number of petitions also. Everybody is agitated and I am being forced by the public to sit on *rail roko andolan* at Haveri railway station in protest.

But today I am the most luckiest because our hon. Laluji, the Minister and senior leader of this country is sitting. I hope he will definitely solve this problem. Our hon. Minister Veluji knows this. He had called me once and told me in the last Session that he had already instructed the concerned officer, the General Manager, South Western Railway, Hubli. But the officers have not taken care of this matter.

After two years when I became MP, for the first time I attended a meeting in Mysore, and there also, I had told this to the General Manager, to the Chief Engineer, and to the DRM. All the MPs had gathered there. At that time, I brought it to their notice. In spite of all that, my efforts have gone in vain. Therefore, I earnestly request this time that unless the officers are changed in South Western Railway, no development work will take place in my

constituency. I am saying this for the entire Karnataka. Therefore, when the officers have not listened to the word of our hon. Minister, Veluji, they must be changed immediately. They must listen to your words.

Now, the hon. Minister, Laluji has to say this. It is not the first time I am speaking here. Our predecessor MP had also spoken here and many representations were given from the district. I will definitely worship Laluji like a God if only this ROB, that too, on cost sharing basis, is provided. I do not want to demand that you have to bear the total amount. My only request is that, on cost sharing basis, one ROB may please be provided to my constituency. I will definitely worship you like a God. I will take you to my constituency and a procession will be taken with the presence of lakhs of people in my Haveri town. Therefore, I am again and again appealing to you and to your Ministry to provide this. The officers concerned must, at least, turn to the word of the Minister.

Is this country ruled by the bureaucrats? They are not listening to the words of our Minister. Is this not a democratic country? Therefore, I earnestly request you again and again to have one ROB.

Then there are only small problems. I want one foot-over-bridge in my Haveri district headquarters. I want one foot-over-bridge at Ranebunnur railway station.

Doubling of line between Kolhapur and Bangalore is required, that is, for providing connectivity between South and North India. That is most necessary. . . .(Interruptions) I will conclude within one minute. I am requesting that a new survey should be conducted for a rail line between Gadag and Kumeta, that is, NH-4 and NH-17, which is most essential in that part of my constituency.

With regard to the rest of the matters, I will request you later. Stoppage of trains at Byadagi railway station is also required. With these few words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Member while expressing his views called India a bureaucratic country. It is a democratic country. Get it corrected. It should be recorded in the proceedings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, it is a democratic country.

SHRI LALU PARASD: Hon'ble Member has said that bureaucrats become dominant. Do not say such things about them. He is also an hon'ble Member and he knows what he is saying. He said that bureaucrats become dominant.

[English]

You asked whether this country is ruled by bureaucrats. There is democracy here.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR : I wanted to say that it should be a rule of democracy. If there is anything that I have mentioned, it may be withdrawn. I do not mind it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It stands corrected.

[Translation]

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh) : Mr. Chairman. Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak and congratulate Minister of Railways. The work he has done is being discussed today in the entire country and abroad. It has become a subject of study. I will not take much of your time.

I belong to Gujarat and represent Saurashtra and Surat area of Gujarat. There is Somnath Mahadev Jyotirling Temple, Girinar mountains in my constituency, Lord Krishna left for his heavenly abode from there. Porbander, the birth place of Mahatma Gandhi is also there. Dwarka temple is also in that area. Millions of devotees come there from all over the states, the country and abroad. After laying the broad gauge line From Rajkot to Somnath to Viraval, the trains have started running, but in spite of that the frequency of trains is less on the route as compared to old meter gauge. The area has almost forty lacs of population. Any direct train is not available to them for Mumbai. So, I demand the Government through you, Sir to provide a direct train service for Mumbai. No direct train is available for four 'dhams. Rameshwar, Jagannathpur, Badrinath, Kedamath and Haridwar from Somnath Mahadev. Porbandar and Dwarka temple. It was announced in the past that a direct train will be introduced from Somnath to Four Dhams but no train is available. Only one train is

available for Ahmedabad while two trains were available when it was a meter gauge, but the service of the train to Bhavnagar has been discontinued after its conversion into broad gauge. Now only a single train is available for Ahmedabad. So, I will request that the Girinar Express should be reintroduced and a train for the four dhams should also be introduced Once a week. Almost 1200 students and employees commute from Rajkot to Viraval, there is a train for them to go to their schools and offices on time. So, a morning train should be introduced from Rajkot to Viraval and similarly, from Viraval to Rajkot which will be convenient for students and employees and they will be able to reach their work place on time.

Sir, I have one more demand that a weekly train should be introduced from world famous Jyotirling Temple of Somnath Mahadev and from Dwarka to four 'dhams'. One more train from Viraval to Ahmedabad should be introduced since Girinar Express has been discontinued while 40 lacs of people live there and there is no direct train for Mumbai, so one more train should be introduced for Mumbai. With these words, thanking you, I conclude.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have always been giving my speech on railway Budget and Supplementary Demands for Grants in English, but this time Laluji is sitting here, so I will make my speech in Hindi; so that he understands my point.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I belong to such a state, where no railway line exist. I would therefore, like to take some time. We want to connect Arunachal Pradesh with rest of India, but 59 years have been passed after independence and it seems that Arunachal Pradesh is being kept away from the rest of the country. I always demand during the Railway Budget and Demands for Grants to connect Arunachal Pradesh by railways, but it has not yet been linked. I would like to thank Laluji that he has ordered for a Survey from moorkong Salaik to Pasighat. I was going through the Supplementary Demands for Grants last item as well and there were only two schemes for the North-Eastern States- one was to build a broad gauge and second was to construct a community Hall. Community Hall in North-Eastern States is not so necessary as compared to linking them by railways, so they should be linked by railways.

Sir, it is the need of the day to connect north-eastern states by railways. It is necessary not only from economic point of view but also from national security point of view. In 1962, when we fought a war with China, we saw that soldiers had to face a lot of problems in reaching the areas where train was not available. This danger persists today as well. The similar conditions prevail today. So, the proposals of North Eastern States to link them by railways should be considered not only from the economic point of view but national security point of view as well.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from the China border. I have great respects for Laluj. I went to teach the students of fifth class in a school located at China border after being elected as MP. A student asked me that you are an MP and you must be meeting Lalu Prasad Yadavji – I said – Yes. He is Minister of Railways of the country and I meet him in Parliament. He asked me 'What is rail'? The said school in Indian territory is located at a distance of 23 km. from China border. Name of our Laluj has reached even in remote areas but the people there are still ignorant about rail, because it has not been connected by railways. So, the people in these areas have not seen the Rail.

Mr. Chairman, I again request the hon'ble Minister of Railways through the Chair and demand that Itanagar is our state's capital and it is only 25 km. away from Hermati, so it should be connected to the Railway line. Hon'ble Minister of Railway has given his approval for demand of rail line from Murkong to Pasighat this year but I want the rail line to be extended from Rupai to Parshuram Kund. Every year lakhs of the pilgrims from all over the country visit the fair held at Parshuram Kund during the month of January. There is no arrangement of Taxi and Buses.

Sir, I had written a letter to Mr. Lalu Prasad. I have written reply of the letter with me wherein he has told that Rs. 1900 crore have been provided to construct broad gauge railway line from Rangia to Murkong-Slaik-Pasighat but I want to state that not an inch of work, in terms of laying railway line, has been carried out there. It is not included in the Supplementary demand for grants. Therefore, I request you to pay attention toward it also. We all members of Parliament from North-Eastern States requested to consider the Bogibil-railway-cum-road-

Dibrugarh railway project as a national project but no action has been taken so far and also it has not been mentioned in Supplementary demands for grant.

Sir, I do respect him a lot. He encouraged use of Kulhar and Khadi in Railways. I thank him for these measures but I request him through the Chair that there is not a single plug in the rail bogies of North-Eastern States to charge the mobile phones and it causes a lot of problem to the people of North-Eastern States. We demand to install plugs in the trains bounded for North-Eastern States for charging the mobiles.

Sir, lastly, I want to draw their attention towards the fact that there are two-three states like Arunachal Pradesh where not a single rupee has been spent from the railway budget during the last 59 years. Therefore, I want to request that such regions should be allocated a certain percentage of railway budget so that we could use it to construct hospitals, schools, roads and for other works of community welfare instead of railway line. If it is done, we would feel that we are also a part of Indian railways otherwise every future MP would say as the MP before me have said that connect Arunachal Pradesh to the railways, don't leave that. So, this time I will not support the Motion of Demands for Grants this time but, I will definitely support him next time. If my above stated suggestions are implemented.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the forty Members who have participated in the discussions. I am especially thankful to those members who have put forwarded their views regarding Indian Railways, their region and functioning of railways and praised the efforts of Indian railways and 16 lakh employees and officers of Indian railways rising above party line. This is a good sign for Indian railway and India.

An hon'ble Member have just said that before he used to sit in the opposition and used to criticize. Everyone in this house, in the country and those related to the Indian railways and are operating the railways is discussing how in past Indian railway was considered to be a non-profitable enterprise. I don't want to indulge in any blame game. Different people have different viewpoints, different perspective under different circumstances.

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

Sir, I have been a Member of Parliament since 1977 and have seen in one way or other that there are some people in the country who think themselves as expert and scholars. They are of the opinion that Privatisation is the panacea for Indian railways. Such line of thinking generates apprehension among the people of the country and employees of the railways regarding their future prospects. The different Railway systems all around the world have resorted to retrenchment as a cost cutting measure to overcome the losses being incurred thus resulting in diluting the concept of human face. Indian rail started during the British era and owes its survey and design to them. We have expanded the Railway network further while retaining its human face to the maximum possible extent.

Sir, I have seen in Europe and also the railway network of five European countries. I found their system fully mechanized. We have the maximum human force in comparison to other countries. I have been in the engine there. Driver remains idle. I have not seen human force around the line. In our country Gangman, lineman walks on the railway track holding baggage. There the whole system is mechanized. Every work is carried out through computer. In those countries the engine of trains have engine like fighter plane. We asked about the structure of their coaches as well the manufacturing costs of the coaches. We were informed that the manufacturing cost of a coach is rupees 13 crore. The manufacturing cost of a coach is rupees 13 crores in so called advanced country like France and other European Countries. At the same time coaches manufactured by Indian Labour, Engineers and the railway Employees have a total cost of rupees one crore only. We manufactures the same coach in rupees one crore only. There is a great difference between rupees thirteen crores and one crore. I had gone there in order to reply the queries of people regarding playing bullet train and fast trains. Hon'ble Members hail from all across the country and represent various parts of the country. The structure of Indian Rail is that are of railway lines pass through many a villages and cities and same of cities of our country are very densely populated and most of the people lack civic sense and they pay no heed to the

relevant instruction. They dispose their garbage and litter on the railway tracks. They even tether their animals near track. If an employee restrict them they mind it and do not care about their instruction. We are regularly advertising and requesting not to cross unmanned crossing but no one cares, we call such crossing technically 'Runover'. There are total 18 thousand and two hundred unmanned gates where accidents occurs. Through the number of such accidents have decreased. But the accidents on the unmanned gates happen because of negligency of the people. The train run over such people as such people do not cases about the signals and tries to cross gate unauthorisedly. I have travelled through several railway routes abroad is fencing all around the rail track. Both the sides have been covered by dense forest and trains are mechanized totally. There is no sign of human beings and over bridges at railway line. There are no railway over bridges and rainbow about which we generally talk here. But the citizens of these countries are so aware that if a train is passing by a village and the noise of the train sounds in village, they consider it as pollution and sue railway authorities. The trains are also equipped with sound system because they have enough money.

If we design it in the Indian rail it will be very costly. I have seen platform of Germany, Landon, Italy, France and I travelled in Euro Train, probably you have also travelled. Bhargavaji whether you have travelled or not? It seems like a under tube under sea water, what a technology? While travelling from Landon to Paris I was apprehensive of the seawater sneaking into the train, when we went to travel in London, we found they have different arrangements. They also came to know that we were ministers and the minister of State Shri Veluji was with me. But they searched all of our companion as is done in case of passenger travelling by plane. They permit us to sit in train after due search.

20.00 hrs.

How can we impose it? We are expecting your cooperation and the mandate of the country. Recently our brothers and sisters have been killed in terrorist attacked and 900 people injured in Mumbai. They made Indian rail a soft target. We have a system.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is 8 o'clock now. If the House agrees to extend the time of the House till the Supplementary Demand for Grants (Railways) are passed, we can extend the time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, I want to get your mandate and I have given a thought to it. We have not taken any decision so far. Our platforms of Indian Railway are very crowded. Our population is very high. I have seen all the trains of foreign countries. All are in the private sector. There are being operated on Government subsidy. Thereafter they are in loss all around. It is the condition of the countries whose name I have quoted above we generally debate to privatize railways but five European countries of the world are unable to run without subsidy. In our existing arrangement there are 16 lakh employees in Indian Railways, who have contributed towards best turn around of our Indian rail. I would like to thank those employees, officers and engineers of Indian rail through the House for their contribution and cooperation for shining Indian Railways. Only Minister can do nothing, but it is the message of 16 lakh people with devotion, resolution and consideration that wherever any evasion took place or any anomaly happened, all the people of the world have their sight on Rail Bhavan. National, International as well as all people of the country look towards it. They use to melt all type of material here but now everyone knows what is our message. This year Indian Railways has earned cash surplus of Rs. 13000 crores. At the same time our target for the next year is that the cash surplus should be Rs. 20000 crores. It is just a beginning. The real performance of the Indian Railways is yet to be seen. People say that I did not hike the fare. I want to say that the Indian Railways will not be privatized at any cost. We are going to take further steps for providing excellent services by the Indian Railways and ensure that the Indian Railways are a profit making undertaking. I had said in this very House that Delhi is a metropolitan city and it is our capital. People

from many states come here and see our stations and at the same time saw the Railway stations of Mumbai, Chennai, Howrah, Lucknow and Patna. We had, therefore, decided in this very House that we would improve the Indian Railways in terms of passenger amenities and beautification. We have already told about it. I saw, the world saw and daily we are spending all the funds in this station, therefore in the direction of linkage, in the direction of passenger amenity, in all the metropolitan cities in our country, I have visited and seen, there are no over bridges, then how passengers are going there. As soon as the train reaches at the platform, we see an underground platform, you go on the underground platform. You can go any where on the platform wherever you want to go. The train is passing through the underground or from the platform made above. We saw an underground city where there were motels, hotels, parking and malls. On my asking I was told that one of the sources of our income are malls. We have therefore taken a decision that we should construct stations by inviting global tenders in the important metropolitan cities of the country and it would be done with full transparency. We would like to seek your suggestions for making world class railway stations and junctions at important cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Howrah, Patna, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Secunderabad, Pune, . . . (Interruptions) and Bhopal, which had been left and Shri Pachori reminded me and in addition to this, at Thiruvananthapuram, Bhubaneswar, Amritsar etc. use the land which we have in surplus with us. . . . (Interruptions) O.K. we would add Mathura. . . . (Interruptions) Chandigarh is also there. . . . (Interruptions) O.K. we would keep adding other cities also. We have no objection to it. . . . (Interruptions) By doing so there would be no crowd on the platform. We would consider making underground parking, shops and all that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you might have gone and you might have seen that the runway of our country is going to be of international standard. Our competition is with the aeroplanes. We are going to make such arrangements that people would prefer trains to aeroplanes. The trains belong to all. The economy of India depends on agriculture. The farmers of the country grow tomatoes also in addition to vegetables. The produce being in large quantity, they get

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

rotten due to non-availability of collection centres. There is no arrangement for distribution. . . .(interruptions) Food processing is another problem. I would say about it. . . .(Interruptions) There is no pick and choose facility at all the stations of the States of the country. We have also thought about it. Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation, used to say that the majority of people in India live in the villages. The farmers pluck ripe tomatoes from their fields but they get deshaped when these are brought to the markets in trains. The farmers throw them and they find themselves unable to sell them at proper rate and as a result thereof the farmers commit suicide. They have to sell their tomatoes at the rate of Rs. 4/- per kg. There is no arrangement for it in the country. We ourselves say that there is neither air cargo nor international airport in North India. Where would the farmers take their produce? There should be an arrangement for fruits, vegetable, milk, foodgrains etc. of the farmers living in the villages after sixty years of independence. We purchase a shoe from Bata company which is sold in the airconditioned shop. We spend hours sitting in the airconditioned shop to choose a shoe which we wear in our feet but we purchase the foodgrains from the footpath which creates blood, makes us healthy and makes us wise. The foodgrain is kept on the footpath in the open. This is our thinking. We would select a place for collection of the foodgrains for farmers under joint venture through the country and we would provide container service for marketing and export from one place to another. It cannot be doubled where there is electrification. We are going to make it single container under joint venture. We have thought to do so. I would come before the House. When it comes to me in the final shape. On the one hand the intermediate and matric passed youth would get work and on the other hand farmers will get remunerative prices of their produces. In this way we can export our goods to different parts of the world. We should make our system fully transparent, advertise it and advertise it globally and should provide sides on all the small medium and big stations in the country. On one hand, the farmers will be benefited from it and on the other hand goods will be available for the goods trainus. Besides, we will charge freight from them.

It would increase the income of the farmers. This is the thinking of our Government. Unless the farmers are prosperous, the country will not prosper. The electronic media show glittering advertisements of goods and when a farmer, his son would see them on T.V., they would look to their purse. This way goods would get rusted and the shop would be shut down. We should take the country on the path of progress. I congratulate the Prime Minister of the country for his assertions from the rampart of the Red Fort and what he had also said even in the meeting that unless we create basic infrastructure, our country would not move forward. So neither roads nor Railway can be overlooked. Railways belongs to all. They have contributed to its development. The responsibility of taking this towards development lies with the Railways. I agree with the all hon. Members whether they are from Muraina or somewhere else. People of every area want the stoppage of trains be provided in their area. People of every area want to get good trains but

[English]

there is huge congestion on the existing lines.

[Translation]

Our Railways are earning units. Our goods which we want to transport is put on the loopelines. All kinds of trains viz. express trains, passenger trains are to be run. As a result, the movement of all the trains and goods trains is impeded. That's why we want to reduce the pressure from the existing lines by way of constructing a dedicated freight corridor. We want to transport the goods. I had already said that we would start the first phase of this work shortly. I will inform you when our process gets started. But who is superior to this House? Certainly none. We will cover all the parts from Ludhiana to Howrah including Kolkata under the Dedicated Freight Corridor. The work we are going to execute during second phase to cover the parts from Delhi to Mumbai, Delhi to Chennai and again from Chennai to Howrah is going to turn out to be a miracle.

Sir, today goods are being transported through roads but no one wants this. Today we have developed trade friendly relations and we have taken the traders into

confidence. Moreover, I have reduced the freight and the passengers fares as well. At the same time, I have also announced that I will not increase the fare. In this respect, some people went to the extent to say how the Railways will run. It was my habit to increase the fare while running in the red but today the situation has changed and our income not only from the passenger trains but also from the goods trains has gone up even after reducing the fare. Hence, the announcement of Dedicated Freight Corridor by the Prime Minister from the rampart of the Red Fort is not merely our dream but it is our resolution. By way of making the Indian Railways self-reliant and involving the people in its development we will take it forward. Dedicated Freight Corridor is meant only for the movement of goods trains. This will result in the unburdening of the existing tracks and rail lines which will be utilized for providing you new and popular trains. We are engaged in doubling the rail lines and in repairing the bridges. All the staff and officers of the Indian Railways are sensitive, no one sleeps, and always remains alert in order to avoid any mishap and hence safety has become our priority. The accident that took place in Mumbai hurt not only the media and the Government but also the entire country. I visited there and Soniaji and hon. Home Minister also visited there. What I observed there shows how the heart of our country has been hurt there. Railways, the source of our income was broken, our brothers and sister were killed. I have not forgotten this incident. I will combat it but for this, I don't want to depend only on police and intelligence agency. Through this Supplementary Budget I would like to say that this is the responsibility of the citizens also. Attention diverted, accident invited — is our slogan, our resolution. What is the system here prevailing in our country? Here the system is quite naked. Anybody and go to platform and watch the same. We will do what the House instructs us to do. We don't want to be a party.

I have already said that Pepsi, Cola and other drinks are undoubtedly made as per the prescribed standards but in-between spurious drinks are manufactured and supplied. The entire country criticized me when I said that I would ban these drinks. When I talked about the introduction of Mattha and milk-made products, which are quite hygienic, all the people made comments as to where

Lalu Yadav is leading this country. We will work in accordance with your mandate and whatever is desired here I have not taken any decision so far in this regard. All the state governments are going to ban these things. As far as the railway catering or menu is concerned, I said the new-comers that we eat vegetarian meal in our homes itself. Whenever we are asked by our daughters or cooks in our house as to what meals should be prepared, we simply say green gram pulse and Chokha of Paroda, Chapati and rice. We eat what we want to eat. But here in our Railways we also serve the same pulse made in a proper way. When I visited there, the cooks were found completely drenched with sweats. I said that all the cooking space will be air-conditioned. The passengers should be served different foods at an alternate day. But the old habits die hard. It will take some time. That's why I said that the process to change all these things is going on and we are paying attention to your suggestions.

In addition to it we will need coaches. We are manufacturing them in Kapurthala. Besides, we are contemplating to manufacture engines also as the requirement of engines is not being met. Our vision of Dedicated Freight Corridor will certainly be realized. So, we will step up the manufacturing capacity of our factories and we will leave no stone unturned in this regard. Alongwith this, I would also like to say that we will avoid importing items from foreign countries. We would not let our money to go to foreign nations. There are coach factories at Kapurthala and Chennai and they will make coaches to their maximum capacity. Similarly, we will enhance the capacity at Chittranjan and carry out production on a large scale. Our endeavour is to break the curtail, therefore, it is proposed to set up one more coach and Engine factory. It is proposed to set up a coach factory at Raibareilly, constituency of UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhiji. This factory would cost Rs. 1,000 crore. It is proposed to set up a factory at Saran district for engine manufacturing. Besides this, we will set up such factories in other states also, whenever there would be a need to do so, so as to become independent and, thereby, improve our expertise and talent. We are also formulating a similar plan for the North-East.

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

Hon'ble Members from Kerala have presented views regarding their state. Kerala is our pride and we have programmes for that state also. Just now an hon'ble Member had mentioned that meetings are not held, in this regard I would like to issue a strict warning to the officials through this House and I have also iterated that meetings with Members should regularly take place and the suggestions received from them should be paid due attention. It hardly matters whether Members are from opposition Party or the ruling party. Just now, Krishnaswamyji from Tamil Nadu was saying that meetings are not being held, in this regard, I would like to say that if the General Manager has not organized a meeting then I am going to seek an explanation from him for the same.

We have also formulated a plan regarding loading. It has also been observed that overloading is done for some small and minor interests. I am trying to ensure that this does not happen. There has been an increase in the revenue of railways and loading is also taking place, we are also keeping an eye on that if somebody does overloading by 5-6 tonnes for his personal interest and railway line is damaged due to the same then the matter will be looked into. I do not want to hide this thing. Malpractices have been noticed regarding loading in a number of railway zones and we have taken action against the officials responsible for this. We have also issued letters stating that the guidelines of loading should be adhered to. If any malpractice is noticed then there would not be any place for such people in railways. Therefore, it needs constant monitoring. This will also directly generate work for other people. A detailed report should be prepared to take action with regard to the two units we propose to set up. We are exporting diesel engines. Today, nearly 16 lakh people are employed in the railways. Our engineers and colleagues are working really hard. The UPA Government would not let the railway loose its front at any cost. Indian Railway is a matter of pride for all of us. I am told that, IAS officials being trained at Mussoorie or students at IIM Ahmedabad are going to be lectured by Shri Lalu Yadav. What are we going to teach them? I can just honestly tell them all the things. Therefore, if

there is complete dedication, honestly, transparency and resolution then India will march ahead while competing with the entire world. Everyone is aware of the fact that these people are not allowing the UPA Government, hon'ble Sonia Gandhiji and hon'ble Manmohan Singhji to work. The opposition people do not let them work. . . .(Interruptions) Whereas we say that they should also do good work. . . .(Interruptions) they keep arguing here. Some hon'ble colleague was referring to Narendra Modiji that floods have hit his state. I would like to ask that. . . * and we will help as much as we can. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : He is playing politics in this, please speak what you want to.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : . . .

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please remove these words from the proceedings.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not to go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Baramula has received a grant of Rs. 150 crore for national project with which we want to connect the country. Idol of Brahmaji at Pushkar Temple is a blend of art and culture.

20.28 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair]

There is Khwaja Saheb on one side and Brahma Temple on the other, I would personally look into it that the railway line is completed timely. Hon'ble Yadavji was making a speech just now. We have observed really strange pattern of railway lines after Rewari, which was really zigzag. That can prove to be dangerous. I have issued instructions to set the alignment right. I would provide as much assistance as required for Orissa. We would help not just Bihar infact, all the other States also. Bihar falls under the central sector but proper attention had

*Not recorded.

never been paid to it, similar is the case with Orissa. We have been reiterating the same for Orissa also. Therefore, it is the policy of our country that being in central sector, Bihar cannot be ignored. If Bihar and Orissa are left out then how can we talk about equality. Therefore, I would like to request the House that all those hon'ble Members present here. . . .*(Interruptions)* There is place in Muraina after providing stoppage of train over there. Ashokji, I would like to call you separately after fixing up time. Railway line in your area is being surveyed properly. We would not leave even an inch of metergauge line. We are conducting a 200 km. survey in your area. You please come there, we will take action. . . .*(Interruptions)* No changes are being made. Party remains on its stand. I would like to request you to kindly support the Bill regarding Supplementary Demands for Grants (2006-07).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2006-07 to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 16."

20.32 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 4 BILL*, 2006

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :
Sir, I beg to move the Bill to authorise payment and

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 11.8.2006.

appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Funds of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07 for the purpose of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07 be taken into consideration."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2006-07 for the purposes of Railways be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

[English]

The question is :

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, 14th August, 2006 at 1100 hours.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

20.33 hrs.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 14, 2006/
Sravana 23, 1928 (Saka).*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

ANNEXURE-I

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