

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday February 21, 2006/Phalgun 02, 1927 (Saka)

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

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Dronam Raju Satyanarayana.

Shri Satyanarayana was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979, representing Visakhapatnam Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Satyanarayana was a Member of Rajya Sabha for two consecutive terms from 1988 to 2000, representing the State of Andhra Pradesh. He was elected as Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1980 and 2004 and remained a Member of that Assembly till his sad demise.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Satyanarayana was an active trade union leader. He was associated with various welfare organisations. He was President of the Visakhapatnam Port and Dock Workers' Union; Dock Labour Board National Employees' Union; Hindustan Polymers Employees' Union, Visakhapatnam and Hindustan Petroleum Employees' Union, Visakhapatnam.

As a social activist, Shri Satyanarayana was associated with several institutions in different capacities. He served as a member, District Defence Committee during Indo-China and Indo-Pakistan wars; as the President, Large Sized Co-operative Society, Pendurti from 1967 to 1974 and as Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat, Chinamushidivada from 1970 to 1977. He also served as the Chairman of the Visakhapatnam Urban Development Authority from 1978 to 1980 and Visakhapatnam Zilla Parishad from 1981 to 1984.

Shri Satyanarayana edited 'Gramudyog' a monthly journal.

Shri Dronam Raju Satyanarayana passed away on 28 December, 2005 at the age of 73.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolence to the bereaved family.

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

11.01 hrs.

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

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 42. Shri Sajjan Kumar – Not present.

Shri Sugrib Singh – Not present.

Now Q. No. 43. Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul.

WTO Conference

+
*43. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation Ministerial meet was held in December 2005 at Hong Kong;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of WTO on India's trade, agriculture and service sectors during the last ten years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the farmers and exporters in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference was held from 13 to 18 December, 2005 at Hong Kong.

(b) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(b) The main issues discussed included reduction of domestic support and elimination of export subsidies by developed countries, development package for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Cotton Initiative by some African cotton producing countries, Agricultural and non-agricultural market access, Services and development issues under the Doha Work Programme.

A Ministerial Declaration was adopted at the conclusion of Hong Kong Ministerial Conference, copy of which has been provided to the Library of both the Houses of Parliament - Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha for reference by Hon'ble Members. The key outcome and timelines on important issues are as follows:

- Resolved to complete the Doha Work Programme fully and conclude negotiations in 2006.
- Amendment to WTO TRIPS Agreement reaffirmed to address public health concerns of developing countries.
- Duty-Free, Quota-Free market access on a lasting basis by all developed countries for all products originating from all LDCs by 2008 or no later than the start of the implementation period; Members facing difficulties at this time to provide market access as set out above shall provide duty free, quota free market access for at least 97% of products (defined at the tariff line level) originating from LDCs by the above period. Developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so should also provide such market access to LDCs; however, they have been provided appropriate flexibility in coverage and permitted to phase in their commitments.
- In Cotton, export subsidies to be eliminated by developed countries in 2006; trade distorting domestic subsidies to be reduced more ambitiously and over a shorter period of time.
- To establish modalities in agriculture and non-

agricultural market access (NAMA) by 30 April 2006; draft schedules to be submitted by July 31, 2006.

- In Agriculture, to eliminate export subsidies by 2013, with substantial part in the first half of implementation period; elimination of cotton export subsidies by developed countries by 2006.
- On trade distorting domestic support, the three heaviest subsidizers to attract steepest cuts; developing countries like India, with no AMS, will be exempt from any cuts on *de minimis* and on overall levels.
- Developing countries to have the flexibility to self-designate Special Products; price and quantity triggers agreed for the Special Safeguard Mechanism.
- In NAMA, special and differential treatment elements, such as on flexibilities and less than full reciprocity in reduction commitments for developing countries re-affirmed.
- No sub-categorization of developing countries when addressing concerns of small, vulnerable economies.
- To advance development objectives, balance in ambition in market access between Agriculture and NAMA required.
- In Services, Members to submit a second round of revised offers by July 31, 2006; Final Draft Schedules to be submitted by October 31, 2006.
- To intensify consultation on implementation issues; progress to be reviewed and appropriate action taken by July 31, 2006, including on the issue of relationship between TRIPS Agreement and the CBD.
- Clear recommendations for decision to be submitted to the General Council by December 2006 on special and differential treatment issues.
- Clear political guidance given on Services, Rules, Trade and Environment, TRIPS, Trade Facilitation, for concluding negotiations in 2006; rapid conclusion of DSU negotiations.

(c) and (d) The impact of various agreements/commitments undertaken in the WTO by India on its trade is continuously factored in by the Government in adapting its trade policy regime. Since the establishment of the WTO on January 1, 1995, India's trade has been growing

continuously, both in the merchandise goods category as well as commercial services. Total merchandise goods exports of India have increased from US \$ 26.33 billion in 1994-95 to US \$ 80.54 billion in 2004-2005. While total merchandise imports (excluding petroleum products) of India have increased from US \$ 22.72 billion in 1994-95 to US \$ 77.04 billion (Provisional) in 2004-2005. Similarly, India's total commercial services trade increased from US \$ 14.06 billion in 1994 to US \$ 80.58 billion in 2004.

(e) India has engaged in these negotiations to ensure that its core concerns and interests continue to be adequately addressed. As required by the exigencies of the on-going negotiations, India has been submitting proposals in the various negotiating bodies of the WTO with a view to pursuing its national interests and to protect the interests of farmers and exporters. Our negotiating objectives have been developed based on analytical work and an intensive process of dialogue with relevant stakeholders. At Hong Kong, India was proactive in articulating its position on issues of concern to it and other developing countries and played an important role in further strengthening the developing country coalitions by bringing together G-20, G-33 and G-90 groups of countries in a broad alliance to reinforce each others' position on issues of mutual interest. India has been working closely with other like-minded countries and groupings such as G-20 in agriculture, G-33 on Special Products and Special Safeguard Mechanism, group of developing countries in NAMA (called NAMA-11) with a view to pursue its national interests and to achieve pro-development outcomes in line with the Doha mandate and subsequent decisions contained in the General Council Decision of August 1, 2004 and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration.

The Hong Kong Ministerial Conference calls for conclusion of negotiations launched at Doha in 2006 and establishes time-frames and targets in specific areas. Crucial issues are to be negotiated in the coming weeks in the work leading up to finalization of modalities in agriculture and NAMA, submission of revised offers in services and progress in other areas of negotiations under the Doha Work Programme. In accordance with its ongoing policy, the Government has been holding stakeholder consultations to protect and pursue our national interest, interests of the farmers and exporters.

Separately, on the domestic front, the Government is continuously monitoring the surge in imports of sensitive

items. Government is committed to intervene in a WTO-compatible manner to protect the interests of all domestic stakeholders, especially, farmers and exporters.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, as per my knowledge, the Government failed to protect the interest of our farmers in the Hong Kong meet of the WTO Ministers in the month of December 2005. In this respect, I would like to cite one example. Recently, the Government has decided to import five lakh metric tonnes of wheat at the rate of Rs. 900 per metric tonne as against Rs.600 per metric tonne which are being paid to our farmers as a Minimum Support Price.

I would like to know from the Minister as to how he is going to protect the interest of our farmers.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, with regard to the current import of wheat, I would say that this is a question for the Agriculture Ministry to answer.

MR. SPEAKER: He answered that yesterday also.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Insofar as the question of protecting the interest of farmers is concerned, I had, on the discussion held in Parliament on the conclusion on the WTO Ministerial, made a statement where I had categorically stated that where the agricultural sector is concerned, there is no question at all of any compromise in the existing regime.

Today our duties and our tariffs are high and we have now, in the process of tariff reduction, been able to secure a special provision for special products which will be self-designated based on food and livelihood security and rural development needs as well as a special safeguard mechanism. These negotiations are on-going. So, where amongst the large number of products which are sensitive to India and to India's agricultural sector, it shall be our endeavour to put them in the category of special products and to safeguard the farmers against import surges and declines in import prices.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, I have already mentioned here that our farmers are getting a margin of Rs. 300 per metric tonnes.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you talking of import of wheat?

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, yes. Wheat

is imported at Rs. 900 per Metric Tonnes and here the Minimum Support Price is Rs. 600 per Metric Tonnes.

MR. SPEAKER: Has it got anything to do with WTO?

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, definitely it has got to do with WTO. On the question of import of wheat we are paying Rs. 900/- per Metric Tonnes.

MR. SPEAKER: You please put your question.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: That is the question I asked. I am not satisfied with the reply given.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: He will be satisfied if he asked this question to the right Minister. He should ask this question to the Agriculture Minister. This relates to the current import of wheat and where the tariff of wheat and other agricultural products are concerned, they are already there. The WTO has not compelled us at the moment to reduce any of our tariffs.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are small-scale industries in our country and the goods manufactured in small scale industries in other countries are coming to our country and hand-made goods like earthen toys and wooden toys and cloth woven in our handlooms are finding it very difficult to compete in the market with those imported items and the result is that consumption of our goods is lesser as compared to imported goods which are available at cheaper rates. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the government has formulated any scheme so that our small scale industries could compete and the people engaged in our small scale industries could survive.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, this question is related to WTO and we have demanded flexibility for our industrial goods. This is something for the time to come but so far present day scenario is concerned all sorts of duties are applicable. If any goods coming from any part of the world which is available at cheaper rate or foreign goods are being dumped, there is anti-dumping procedure for it. We take action under anti-dumping and extra duty is levied on these goods.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: But handicrafts needs special protection.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, elimination of export subsidy by 2013 is projected as a major victory for our country and also for developing countries. In fact, this subsidy should have been eliminated long ago. But the fact is that the export subsidy is a minuscule of the various subsidies provided by developed countries to their farmers.

I would like to know, what assurance we got regarding elimination of all sorts of subsidies on agricultural products.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The hon. Member is right that subsidy is trade distorting. Out of the most trade distorting subsidies given by developing countries are export subsidies and they represent about ten billion dollars provided in the form of export credits, food aid and exporting state trading enterprises. In Hong Kong, we were able to secure the most distorting subsidies that are directly linked to export subsidies, which will be eliminated by 2013, that is, seven years from now, and starting from now, a substantial part of these export subsidies will be eliminated by the year 2010. Where domestic subsidies are concerned, the Doha Round, which is on now, mandates substantial reduction. It does not mandate full and total elimination. That is the mandate of the Round arrived four or five years ago. So, substantial and effective reduction is what is being negotiated right now like what is substantial reduction, when will it apply and so on. But it is recognised that the most distorting of the domestic subsidies will be eliminated in the first instance.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, WTO meeting was held in Hong Kong recently. Farmers in other countries get huge subsidy from their Governments whereas our farmers get meagre subsidy in comparison to the farmers in other countries of the world. Is the Government going to consider to give more subsidy to the farmers in our country also?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He said that just now.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the Government wants to make the farmers of the country financially sound. This is the objective and target of our Government. This can be done up to some extent only and that too within our financial capacity. In this regard whatever scheme is

formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and approved by the Ministry of Finance will be possible. There is no restriction or obstacle from WTO on India on giving subsidy because still there is a lot of scope in our limit.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country a person with a holding of 1 Bigha and a person with a holding of 100 Bigha both are called the farmer. We farmer talk more about helping the poorest of the poor farmer. In his reply the hon. Minister has also mentioned about substantial elimination but that is not enough. The farmers face difficulty in getting seeds. What benefits the farmers are going to have from substantial elimination in regard to seeds?

[English]

What are the plans to give the projects to support the poorer of the poor farmers?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Where seeds and support to the farmers are concerned, as I said, WTO does not place any restriction or limitations in our country out of any of the current WTO rules and the ones which will be there in future also. It is the Ministry for Agriculture which continues, to work with innovative ideas in this regard. I agree with the hon. Member that seed is one of our issues and I am confident that the Ministry for Agriculture is addressing this issue in consultation with experts, technicians, scientists and farmers also.

MR. SPEAKER: With MPs also.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, are they going to give industrial status to the farmers?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The hon. Member mentioned that farmers with 1 acre or 100 acres of land are treated as the same. Unfortunately, in India, land holding patterns are of an average of one and a half to two acres and these are really subsistence farming. It is because in India agriculture is not commerce. That is one of the big problems we are facing.

As far as giving the status of industry is concerned, this again is with the Ministry of Agriculture. I am afraid that this does not come under the Department of Commerce. The Ministry of Agriculture could perhaps look at it.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary on a supplementary will not be permitted. This will not be a precedent.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: This is an important subject.

MR. SPEAKER: You are very articulate.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I think it is an achievement that the developing countries can now self-designate some items as special products. What are the parameters? Can we give a number of them or are they limited to any number or quantity? With regard to import and import tariffs, some kind of regulation should be made. Some of our producers are facing threat due to heavy imports and reduction in import duty. How is it going to be implemented? Are there any parameters? If not, how can we take advantage of that?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, designation of special products is only for agriculture. We have got another safeguard mechanism, which is called the SSM, the Special Safeguard Mechanism, which will trigger on both import price and volume. As far as the Special Products is concerned, in negotiations we make sure that there are no limitations. In fact, this became a very contentious issue and lasted for a long time. We know that in India most of our agriculture is based on rural development and food and livelihood security. So, our argument was that if it is based on livelihood security, it possibly can not have a limitation. It is because some countries may have lesser security issues and some other countries may have large. You can not then make a discrimination. So, we used the word "appropriate". We said: "Appropriate number of products to be self-designated". That is the language used. I will be happy to send it to the hon. Member. We crafted the language very carefully so that we have flexibility in this. At the moment, there is no limit and there is no bar. We are negotiating this word "appropriate" based on livelihood security, food security and rural development needs. Obviously, since it is confined only to agriculture, we believe that it will take care of sensitivities which we have in the Indian agriculture.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a very small question. The hon. Minister had said that there is no restriction from WTO in regard to support price. There is an approach paper in regard to WTO discussion and in that paper it has been said that MSP i.e. Minimum Support Price, which India provides to its farmers which is known as trade distorting domestic support price, should be reduced gradually by India. This is an approach paper with regard to WTO meetings held

in Doha and Hong Kong. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether we will reduce our support price gradually in the situation when the farmers are committing suicide due to not getting remunerative price of the produces? We ourselves are witnessing that such a situation has arisen before a number of farmers in the country in which they are compelled to commit suicide. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government would put its stand strongly in WTO on MSP and whether it do intend to give subsidy on support price in proportion to subsidy being given to the farmers in European countries?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I want to assure the hon. Member that in our negotiation we have decided that there will be no need of ten percent reduction in Minimum Support Price in our country. There will be no need of reduction in support prices in India. There is no hindrance in the way of assistance the Government can give to the farmers of the country, be it in the matter of minimum support price or in any other way.

Infiltration through Indo-Pak Border

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*44. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of terrorists infiltrated into the country during 2005-06;

(b) whether infiltration of terrorists has considerably increased, particularly after the earthquake in Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) if so, whether the Government has made arrangements for deployment of additional security forces in these areas;

(d) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the steps taken by the Government to check infiltration of terrorists;

(e) whether the Government received any intelligence report with regard to infiltration plans of the terrorists to enter into Indian territory in the recent past; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As reported by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the estimated number of terrorists who infiltrated through Indo-Pak Border/Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir is 231 in the year 2005 and 11 in 2006 till February 15. No increase in infiltration has been noticed after the earthquake in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) to (f) The Government in tandem with the State Government, have adopted a multi-pronged approach, to contain cross-border infiltration particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, which includes, inter-alia, strengthening of border management and multi-tiered and multi-modal deployment along International Border/Line of Control and near the ever changing infiltration routes, construction of border fencing, improved technology, weapons and equipment for security forces, improved intelligence and operational coordination and synergising intelligence flow to check infiltration and pro-active action against the terrorists within the State. The counter infiltration efforts are reviewed periodically at various levels in the State Government (including the two Unified Headquarters headed by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir) and in the Central Government.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked a question which was about the number of terrorists infiltrated into the country during 2005-2006. The reply given by the hon. Minister is only about line of control in Jammu and Kashmir. Sir, before asking my supplementary question I want to request that the actual number of terrorists infiltrated into our country should be told.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, his question is

[English]

whether infiltration of terrorists has considerably increased. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking about part (a) of the

Question – the number of terrorists infiltrated in the country during 2005-06.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The number of terrorists infiltrated in the country has come down. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know the number.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am intervening.

He wants to know the number, not 'increase'. Mr. Minister, he wants to know the number of terrorists infiltrated into the country during that year.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is a question which relates to the entire country as such – one part of the Question.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the question.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The second part of the Question is related to Jammu and Kashmir. I have a statistics with me. I can give those statistics to him. But the entire question is concentrating on Jammu and Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen.

Let us find a way out. He has said he has got the figures. He will send them to you and let you know.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Flavour of the Question is Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Sir, I had read the statement of DGP Punjab in the "Tribune" three days back that the terrorists infiltrating into India had been once declared dead but they are alive and 300 such terrorists are there. I would like to ask the Government as to what is the factual position in this regard and if the dead declared terrorists are alive then what action is being taken by the Government to nab them.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The intruders trying to infiltrate into India are checked at the border and encounter also takes place with the armed forces, those who survive are arrested and put into jails. If the other Government is not prepared to take them back then we can not deport

them. That's why they are kept in jails. The figures available with us in this regard are furnished by the state governments. Infiltration is taking place in Jammu & Kashmir and not in Uttar Pradesh and elsewhere. Infiltration is not occurring in the northeast but militancy and terrorism is there. As per the figures available with us infiltration has come down by 54 per cent and killings of security forces and civilians has declined by 12 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You first listen to him.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Hon'ble Member is referring to a newspaper report wherein it has been reported that the terrorists declared dead are alive. I would like to tell him that we do not give reply here on the basis of newspaper reports but on the basis of information furnished by the state government. My reply, therefore, is that we have not received any such information from the state government.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I feel that hon. Minister is giving vague reply. Sir, I need your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When you needed Chair's protection I provided you that.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: If the hon. Minister does not have the information then he should get the question postponed to reply it tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Have you any other question?

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Yes Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Sir, I am repeating my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Which question?

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I am repeating my question.

[Translation]

My question was that it appeared in Tribune three days back. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He said about it. He has answered.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: He has not said either "yes" of "no".

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask him to give the same reply. He has replied. He said: "I cannot work on the basis of newspaper reports." He has said that.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I know that he would not give the reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would like to tell the hon. Member that it has been given in the Rules that the question should be asked on the basis of personal information that hon. Members have and not on the basis of what appear in the newspapers. Something has appeared in a newspaper and he is insisting me to tell whether it is true or false. I have given the reply on the basis of the information available with the Government. If the hon. member still wants to ask the question, he should refer to the Rule book. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down. Please sit down. You are very old person.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are a very respected Member. I meant respected and not old!

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he should tell what is right and what is wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

He should tell whether this is correct or not. ...*(Interruptions)* How can he say that?

MR. SPEAKER: Your statement is not recorded. It

makes a difference. Therefore, it cannot be that you must have an answer to your full satisfaction. The hon. Minister is giving the Government's view, the information what they have. He has already said clearly: "I cannot here respond to the newspaper reports unless I have authentic reports."

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The questions have been asked on the basis of newspaper and he says that he does not know about the newspaper. He should tell that this is right or wrong.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him ask the question. He is a Professor. He does not need the help of another Professor who has given up teaching long time back. He is a good professor.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I would like to tell this much only before I ask another question that it is not the issue of "Tribune". It has been stated by the DGP, therefore, first you get it examined then give the reply.

My main question is whether we can deem that the recent atmosphere that has been built up there has reduced the number of terrorists? Or is it due to the measures like border fencing, increasing the strength of the forces, etc. taken by the previous government that the number of terrorists has come down and what is the hard evidence of reduction in their number?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have given reply to the previous question with facts and figures. I have told that the infiltration has been reduced by 54 percent and killings have come down by 22 per cent. If you want to take credit for something and with that purpose you are raising this question then it is altogether different issue. But I would like to tell you that our jawans of army and police force deployed there are fighting the pitched battle endangering their lives. What they are doing there is showing its result here. I do not deny that fencing is not the factor for reduction in the number of terrorists and killings there. The fencing is there and we also have completed the fencing work and

have given its credit to everyone. You are asking only for credit and I have no objection if you want to take credit.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shishupal Patle — not here? Shri Pathak, you have to wait for your turn. Let me find out whether he is there or not. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: In his reply, the hon. Minister has stated about several measures that have been taken for checking infiltration. The hon. Minister has stated about construction of border fences, providing higher techniques, weapons and equipments etc. to the security forces. I want to know as to how much work has been executed of all the arrangement made by the Government to check infiltration. Whatever work you have done — whether it is fencing of the border or providing weapons to the security forces or whatever measures have been taken — you have said that infiltration has stopped.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are putting similar question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I want to know as to what equipments you have provided to the forces in the last 2 years of your term and in addition to that what other efforts have been made by the Government as a result of which 54% infiltration, as stated, has been checked.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No repetition.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The hon. Member wants to know the steps taken by us to check all this. I am telling that we have completed the fencing work.

Secondly, I want to tell that earlier we had single line defence of police and army there and now we are putting up a second line defence also.

Thirdly, I want to tell that the security personnel there have been provided different kinds of weapons including electronic and night vision equipments. Besides, light and electronic surveillance systems have been installed on

the fencing there. In addition, we have our united command and headquarters where officials of Kashmir police, para-military forces and army sit together and formulate policies as to how all this should be done. The peace talk that has started there has also made people realize that nothing is going to be achieved by the people of Kashmir and India by fighting with arms but we can solve it through the path of peace. The Government has given Rs.24,000 crore for the development of Kashmir. This too has made an impact. Thus, this work is being done by this kind of mentality, military assistance, having talks with other countries, preparing people of our forces and providing them new weapons and equipments.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us have brief supplementaries with brief replies.

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is difficult to get the official figures of the infiltrators as they come through clandestine operations. A lot of politics takes place regarding them and it has significant impact on the peace process in the sub-continent. Do you keep the figures of the infiltrators and terrorists killed in the encounters or their attempts foiled by the security forces? Infiltrators do not report at the police station by themselves. So, do you get information from intelligence sources that so many people have infiltrated? From where do you get these figures? When opposition members tell some figures, I think that there must be some embedded journalist with the infiltrators who use to give the report which gets published in the newspapers thereafter. But, the Government has no embedded machinery so from where do you get these figures?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I have already told that there is a fence on the border and it is very difficult to cross it. Secondly, there is a line of police which is always patrolling the roads and thirdly we have provided another defence line there. Besides, work is also done in the police stations, which arrest the infiltrators or persons involved in such activities. Thus, it is checked at 4-5 points. It does not mean that the last year's figures are being compared with this year's figures. It does not mean that not even a single terrorist entered and is not hiding somewhere. That is not the case. But, we are telling you through the indication arrived at by us on comparing the figures of last year with this year's figure.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Obviously, it will be on some case. You cannot make a law that they should report to them.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned various kinds of measures for checking infiltration. He has presented the figures of the infiltration-taking place from the Jammu Kashmir side till February, 2006. One thing is clear from these figures that whatever concrete measures they may have taken to check infiltration, even after that some loopholes are there due to which infiltrators are entering India. They have entered through Jammu-Kashmir and are executing terrorist incidents in different parts of the country. As the police has identified them in Delhi and killed them. I mean to say that there must be some loophole there. On the other side we have border with Nepal where terrorist activities are going on in different forms. The hon. Minister has given the figures of the infiltration carried out by the identified terrorists.

Many a times, news is published in the newspapers that many terrorists are entering who are not identified. This is the reason why DGP has given a statement that they are alive even after death. That is why they remained unidentified. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what action is being taken by the Government in the other parts of the country from where infiltration is possible such as Nepal border. Secondly, what kind of intelligence agencies the Government is using to search those persons after the DGP's statement that they are alive even after death? Thirdly, ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Too many issues. No third please.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is related to the security of the country and can endanger the country. Even Lok Sabha was also attacked. That is why we are cautioning the Government. It should tell in detail as to what steps it is going to take to plug such loopholes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are on the second Question so far.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though it is true that border has been sealed but we do not claim that no person can come through it. We are saying that people used to enter earlier but their number has decreased now. The hon. Member has rightly asked as to how we will stop the terrorist entering from the other side. How we will stop the infiltrators through Nepal border? How we will stop them from the sea route in Gujarat or from the Bangladesh side? We thought about it and we have made all the preparations, which we could have made. As far as the Nepal border is concerned, we have SSB force there. We are going to increase their number by atleast 20 battalions and we are deploying them there. Surveillance is also carried out there by motors by constructing roads there. Same is being done in Uttaranchal. As far as Gujarat is concerned, the infiltrators used the sea-route. There we have deployed coastal police on coastal line. They have been provided with boats and a police station has been set up. As far as the question of infiltrators coming through other states is concerned, we have also taken certain steps for that. I am not claiming that infiltrators are not coming but I am saying that their number has decreased due to our preparedness. This race is going on. If we do something they also do something to counter that. We are using electronic surveillance there and to counter it they are also installing other electronic equipments. If we make arrangements of flood lights there, they try to break down them. We are also looking into such matters. If we have blocked the land route they are coming through sea route. If we have prevented them from entering from the side of Jammu and Kashmir. They are coming through other States. We would also solve that problem. Our country has its own strength and our army has its own strength to tackle such problems and that is what I would like to convey to the hon. Members.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you yourself can see that the original question relates to the problem of infiltration on Indo-Pak border. Indo-Pak border runs through four States — Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. It seems that hon. Minister has defaulted in answering the main question. The question was about the number of infiltrators who have entered. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is already over. Why are you going to that?

[Translation]

Hon. Minister has already answered that.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you allow me I would like to ask another question. Part 'C' of the question is related to the deployment of additional force but that has also not been answered. I, through you, would like to know two specific things. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not two, ask only one question.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has said that fencing work is going on at the border because infiltrators come from all sides from Pakistan. I would like to know the progress of the on going fencing work in Gujarat and the time by which it is likely to be completed. Secondly, so far as the deployment of additional force on the border is concerned, we have come to know that the government is going to withdraw the forces. So I would like to know whether the additional forces or security forces deployed at Indo-Pak border are being withdrawn by the Government or will it be increased?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This habit of 'a', 'b', 'c', will not do in future. You have to frame your question in a manner that you are entitled to. It will hold good for all. No 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd'.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as infiltration is concerned, that problem exists in Jammu and Kashmir and not in North-East states or in the south. Even infiltration takes place there, it is at a small scale only. But this question is limited to Jammu and Kashmir. So far as fencing is concerned, we have completed this work in Jammu and Kashmir.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is talking about Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: In Gujarat, we have completed the fencing of about 100 kilometers. We have

started this work from Jammu and Kashmir to Punjab, and also reaching Gujarat and this work is to be completed in 2006. We are facing difficulties in Gujarat because of marshy land there. We have asked Gujarat Government and also the people of the State to help us in this regard. Our people are also trying to find a solution to it.

Attack on Scientific Institutes

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*45. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recent terrorist attack on the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore;

(b) whether the Government has made any investigation of the said incident;

(c) If so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the names of the terrorist outfits involved and the number of militants involved in the said incident arrested so far;

(e) whether the Government has tightened the security arrangements in the scientific/research and other vital establishments in the country; and

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

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) On 28.12.2005, there was a terrorist shootout in the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in which Prof. M.C. Puri from Delhi was killed and four others sustained injuries. Search of the complex by the Police led to recovery of 1 AK-56 rifle, 4 grenades and some ammunition.

(b) to (d) The Bangalore Police has registered a case relating to this incident. The investigation carried out so far has revealed the involvement of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a terrorist organisation, in this attack. So far, one LeT activist has been arrested in connection with this incident.

(e) and (f) Necessary steps have been taken to step up surveillance and strengthen security, wherever required, of scientific/research and other vital establishments.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, answering the previous question hon. Minister of Home Affairs said that the incidence of infiltration had decreased substantially. But it appears that infiltrators are quite trained and they infiltrate into the country and reach various places of strategic importance and important places of intellectual property. I cannot say in which category Government takes it. So far as I know that the institute, which was attacked, was visited by Chinese Prime Minister sometime ago. Pamphlets were also thrown there by one person. This place was in the category of high alert area and about two hundred fifty national and international scientists had gathered there. If the killing of people by persons in army uniform and armed with state of the art weapons is a normal incident then we have to think as to which incident is a serious one. In the context of the reply given I would like to say that it has been given casually. It has been stated that Prof. Puri was killed and four others were injured. Perhaps it was not known that Dr. Vijay Chandra was also one of them who was the pioneer of small computer or simputer. A matter of international importance is also involved in it. The sister of Shri Vijay Chandra is High Commissioner in Portugal and she played an important role in repatriation of Abu Salem to India. At that time Abu Salem was taken to Bangalore for investigation. Through you, I would like to ask whether the hon. Minister or Home Ministry was aware that scientists in such a large number were gathering there and had any inkling that such an incident could have been taken place there? If so, what steps were taken to prevent that? Who would be held responsible for the incident in which a person entered such a highly sensitive area with a vehicle?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is true that such incidents are taking place not only on the border but also in different places in the country, in big cities and also at public places. After receiving such information, the Government had transmitted it to the concerned authority whether it is irrigation dam or scientific institutions or big electronic industry or railways, informations were passed on to all these places. The Institute in question where foreign scientists gathered, looks after its own security. They are not keen to involve police in it. They have 56 people and with their help they manage their security arrangements. When Government offered help, they replied

that they did not need it. They take help from private security. This information was also passed on to the state government also. This information had been given to the newspapers too. But perhaps the educational institutions do not want to let policemen enter into their campus which is why they do not want them to come. Even so, we have assured them that we, as well as the state government, is prepared to give them all the assistance they need but the institutes would have to bear the responsibility. Otherwise they should let the police do its work.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: I am not putting the second question. The hon. Minister may first clarify the number of institutions in the country having their own security arrangements and the institutions where the security arrangements by Government of India are not needed. It is a very strange statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This happens.

[English]

All educational institutions are very clear on this. Please put your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are no such arrangements anywhere. What do you mean? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are many such universities in the country,

[English]

they would not allow the police to come in.

...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: The threat perception is decided not by the individuals but it is decided by the Government. He is incorrect. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it to your notice that 10 ISI agents were apprehended in Kanpur during the period from 1999 to 2003. They had satellite telephones with them which they used for communicating across the borders. In such a scenario how is it proposed to safeguard such institutions in the country which are needed to be kept absolutely safe

as also the places mentioned by our Hon. Minister such as CAT Nuclear Plant and the Alamatti Dam. I would like to know, through you, that if terrorists attack institutions like IIT, IISC etc. would we just sit quietly. If not, what are the steps being taken by the Government in this regard? As I said earlier, there is no need to clarify that information regarding an imminent attack had been received. If the Chinese Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* It was not a wrong thing to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No repetition please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I insist that this should not be taken lightly. The Hon. Minister should try to give a serious answer to the question.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, if he has asked the right question then the answer given by me is also correct. If the Hon. Member insists on saying that I am not giving a correct answer to the question he has put I am ready to submit before him. But I would like to tell you how the security arrangements are put into place. All the important installations and all the important establishments have been asked that in case they need any protection of the state police, the same would be provided to them by the state police. We provide them security with the help of CISF. CISF provides security cover for all of our airports. All the atomic installations which have put forward a request for security have been provided with a security force. Wherever security for national laboratories or irrigation dams has been demanded, forces have been provided for the purpose. For all this we have taken the assistance of CISF. This force provides help to the private industry as well.

Sir, the people of various departments have been told that it becomes necessary to provide a security cover for their important installations during this period. Therefore, they have to inform us about the nature of protection required by them, the number of security-men needed, their own preparedness etc. All these issues are discussed. I do not want to disclose the details of such discussions as otherwise the wrong sort of people might use them to further their own ends. What he is saying is

the fact and we are alert in this regard. We have given consideration to this issue and have talked to those people. Sir, if you wish, I can disclose the details of the discussion but other people would make wrong use of such details. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is why I do not want to reply it openly. I only want to tell that we are alert on the issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has accepted the fact that Dr. Puri was killed in the terrorist attack on the All India Science Research Institute in Bangalore in December 2005 and till date only one person has been arrested in this connection. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the scientific research institutes or other such institutes which are proposed to be provided security, have been identified and whether the nature of security requirements been assessed? Have the chiefs and officers in charge of such institutes been consulted with from time to time and has any specific action plan for ensuring the safety of the scientists working in such institutes and of their families been worked out?

MR. SPEAKER: He has just given his reply.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just now given a detailed reply in this regard. Nevertheless, I would like to tell you that although we do not provide security to all the scientists, however, wherever needed, certain eminent scientists have been provided security. Similarly, where the need was felt we have held talks with the institutes.

Expenditure on S.S.A.

46. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of expenditure incurred on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) during the last three years and thereafter till date;

(b) the targets set for during the last three years

in regard thereto alongwith the details of the achievements made thereon, State-wise;

(c) whether Government is aware that despite the huge expenditure incurred on SSA, no perceptible progress has been made in creation of infrastructure and provision of basic amenities in several schools;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) the number of proposals received from the State Governments for grant of financial assistance for implementation of said scheme, State-wise;

(f) the details of financial assistance granted to various State Governments during the said period, State-wise;

(g) whether instances of diversion of funds allocated under the SSA and/or under-utilisation of the allocated funds have been noticed during the last three years; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (h) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Expenditure on SSA

The releases made to the State/UT Governments on account of the share of Central Government under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) amounted to Rs. 1558.28 crores during the year 2002-03, Rs.2698.38 crores during the year 2003-04, Rs.5113.14 crores during the year 2004-05 and Rs. 7434.15 crores during the year 2005-06 till 31.1.2006.

In respect of recruitment of additional teachers under SSA the target up to 2005-06 is 772345 against which 492261 (64%) have been appointed. Against a target of 120629 school buildings, 105951 (87%) have been constructed or are nearing completion. Against 329690 additional classrooms sanctioned, 298455 (90%) have been constructed or are nearing completion. The progress reported is upto December 2005. The progress against key targets can therefore be regarded as satisfactory. State wise details are at Annex-I.

Based on the Annual Work Plan & Budgets presented by the State/UT Governments and an assessment of their progress under SSA, the Central share of funds released to the States/UTs during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 and till 31st January 2006 for the year 2005-06, are indicated in Annex-II. The unspent amount available with the State/UT Governments is rolled over to the next financial year as a part of the next year's Annual Work Plan & Budget.

Annex-I

Progress Against Key Targets (2005-06) as on 31.12.2005

Sl. No.	State	School Target	Buildings Completed + In Progress	Addn. Target	Rooms Completed + In progress	Teacher's Target	A
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	6468	6729	12908	12838	34676	3
2	Assam	427	401	461	461	1951	1
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6928	6119	5542	4715	5410	7
4	Bihar	2466	1550	27556	21565	103559	6
5	Chhattisgarh	6807	6209	6089	5716	44499	2
6	Goa	0	0	41	0	79	0
7	Gujarat	735	697	7125	6989	1848	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	Haryana	1218	1118	5369	5335	4629	4
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	6163	5251	2730	1
10	Jammu & Kashmir	248	1754	2236	2081	16532	1
11	Jharkhand	2151	1413	18705	17036	56140	3
12	Karnataka	1576	1556	14763	14819	11604	1
13	Kerala	365	457	4389	2309	0	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	24846	25582	21493	20918	89072	4
15	Maharashtra	10311	8195	20992	17965	1236	1
16	Manipur	685	130	332	40	23	0
17	Meghalaya	270	54	39	0	4043	4
18	Mizoram	460	210	274	145	781	1
19	Nagaland	105	77	733	562	0	0
20	Orissa	5430	4018	8641	8385	50082	3
21	Punjab	417	230	9140	7001	2660	1
22	Rajasthan	7523	7176	11943	12007	40910	3
23	Sikkim	48	126	273	104	406	1
24	Tamil Nadu	4744	5030	9458	7995	8686	8
25	Tripura	694	680	950	950	2504	1
26	Uttaranchal	27381	24079	93781	86798	209926	1
27	Uttar Pradesh	2429	1574	2093	1854	3374	3
28	West Bengal	3836	788	36945	34274	73536	1
29	A & N Islands	2	0	93	34	53	5
30	Chandigarh	24	2	94	14	580	2
31	Dadra & N. Haveli	34	0	243	128	517	1
32	Daman & Diu	12	0	9	0	66	0
33	Delhi	0	0	553	0	0	0
34	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	0	3	3
35	Pondicherry	28	0	264	166	30	0
Total		120629	105951	329690	298455	772345	4

Annex-II**Grants released during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan****(Rupees in lakhs)**

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2002-2003 Grants released during 2002-03	2003-2004 Release during 2003-04	2004-2005 Release during 2004-05	2 R D 0 3
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	8226.1	9884.41	28000	3
2	Assam	10175.92	12190.43	20654	1
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1412	675.35	3009	4
4	Bihar	7914.97	19515.75	31970.56	3
5	Chhattisgarh	3639.73	6589.02	20786.76	2
6	Goa	0	0	0	4
7	Gujarat	14004.3	11660.13	14072	1
8	Haryana	2735.87	6895.55	12881.55	1
9	Himachal Pradesh	1717.62	5482.17	6144	7
10	Jammu & Kashmir	1948.85	5326.62	7747.18	1
11	Jharkhand	3244.32	11474.31	16568.5	2
12	Karnataka	8270.46	10426.67	26280.7	2
13	Kerala	2250.78	4966	8939	5
14	Madhya Pradesh	11017.1	35237.91	44608.919	7
15	Maharashtra	11000	20526.67	35489.79	5
16	Manipur	0	500	1225	1
17	Meghalaya	711.37	825.77	2930.81	1
18	Mizoram	903.29	1182.37	3300.24	1
19	Nagaland	973.28	0	2088.49	2
20	Orissa	2214.15	13453.27	21807.27	3
21	Punjab	4868	6492.49	3040	1
22	Rajasthan	9995.58	15627	23549.397	6

progress made in states like Manipur, Orissa, West Bengal and Union territories like Dadra, Nagar Haveli?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got any special programme?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: The figures have reflected there the under-utilization of funds. It is not that the funds are lapsing. The funds, which are under-utilized, roll over to the next year and there are so many infrastructural programmes which are in the pipeline. So, the funds that roll over to the next year actually meet the infrastructural necessities. So, there is nothing like an under-utilization or a misuse of the fund.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

Mr. Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, have you given notice?

SHRI K.S. RAO: The Minister can understand and reply in Telugu.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Today is the International Day of Mother Tongue.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is an internal matter. This is not your State matter only.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, I will speak in Telugu.*

SHRI K.S. RAO: The Minister can understand Telugu.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: I would request the hon. Minister to give the reply also in Telugu. Please tell me why the people of Andhra Pradesh are suffering.

MR. SPEAKER: Please give a summary in English if you can.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: She can understand Telugu.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry it cannot be done. I am entitled to know what question you have put.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Do I answer him in Telugu?

MR. SPEAKER: You give him a separate reply.

*Hon'ble Member spoke in Telugu but he did not furnish English or Hindi translation of his speech.

She will send you a reply in Telugu. But your invaluable contribution is not recorded. What can be done?

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: She wants to reply in Telugu.

MR. SPEAKER: Now we will do that in Bengali.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Sir, Parliament has not appointed any Translator for Bodo language whereas the Bodo language has been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: You give me a notice. I will get an Interpreter. Then you can do it. You follow some rules and norms.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Sir, the question was whether the money released under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is being diverted. Has she received any complaint in this regard? What is the name of the agency which monitors it and keeps vigil on whether the money released is being spent on the same work for which it has been allotted?

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: As I have mentioned earlier, under-utilisation of funds has not been there. As I just said, the funds roll over. But, yes, there have been some cases reported wherein the funds have been utilised for something else, but then they are reimbursed because they have to reflect in the accounts again which are very closely monitored and which are also audited not only by the State but also by the C&AG. So, as such, I would not say that there is any misutilisation or rather diversion of funds.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Thank you Sir for permitting me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Forget those things, utilise the time. Please put your question.

[English]

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Thank you, Sir. I appreciate the Government's endeavour in increasing the grants considerably which have been released under SSA, especially in the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 up to 31st January, 2006. However, I would like to state that Annexure-II should have indicated the State-wise budget provisions.

1	2	3	4	5	6
23	Sikkim	425.14	269.73	1000.25	6
24	Tamil Nadu	13526.9	10505.84	26517	3
25	Tripura	1162.18	2752.39	4703.96	7
26	Uttaranchal	2067.69	3522.02	9144.705	1
27	Uttar Pradesh	20245.4	34043.3	87761	1
28	West Bengal	10867.61	16748.23	46024.36	3
29	A & N Islands	0	283.96	272.58	6
30	Chandigarh	0	224.54	447.95	4
31	Dadra & N. Haveli	0	447.42	111.91	0
32	Daman & Diu	12	0	0	1
33	Delhi	161.27	1959.62	0	1
34	Lakshadweep	19.98	28.31	12.03	0
35	Pondicherry	116.46	141.06	225.53	5
Total		155828.32	269838.31	511314.441	7

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply tabled by the Hon. Minister to my question in the House reveals that she is doing a good job in Sarva Siksha Abhiyan since the UPA Government came into power. I thank the Government for this. The work of teaching children going on in small villages under this scheme is a good one. The work is expanding more and more now. The Government has spent Rs.7434 crores in 2005-2006. I would also like to know the reason for the little progress, little achievement made thereunder in union territories and West Bengal. What does the Government want to do for the union territories?

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, as rightly observed by my colleague here, the utilization of funds has been showing a good upward trend. This clearly reflects the feeling of ownership with which the State Governments are coming forward to implement the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan scheme. When we look at the trend of the fund utilization, the fund has been utilized for the year

2003-04 at about 62 per cent. When you look at 2004-05, the utilization is about 85.34 per cent. Up to December, 2005, the utilization is around 65 per cent. So, this clearly indicates a very healthy upward trend in the utilization.

Not only so, it also indicates the gross enrolment ratio of the children. In the year 2001-02, the gross enrolment ratio for elementary education is around 82.35 per cent. For the year 2003-04, it is around 84.91 per cent which is again very encouraging. Based on the enrolment ratio also, we need to build up our infrastructure. Based on this, the States have been sending in their recommendations. Based on the recommendations of the States, we have been sending forward or rather releasing the fund.

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you.

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am fully satisfied with the reply given by the Minister. We also hope that the UPA Government will do the work completely. But, I do want to know whether the Government propose to formulate any special programme in regard to the little

It is because release of grants against the budget provisions would have given a more relevant picture.

Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister just one clarification that is, about the timings of the release of these grants. As we know and as per the statement which has been given by the hon. Minister, any unspent amount available with the State Government or Union Territory is rolled over to the next financial year as a part of the next year's annual work plan and budget, thereby reducing the commitment of the Union Government for a particular year.

My question is specific that in which months of the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05 the first instalments of the grants have been released and in which month the last instalments were released. For the year 2005-06 in which month the first instalment was released and whether the last instalment has already been released or is yet to be released.

MR. SPEAKER: She cannot give that elaborate answer. The only thing is whether the releases are made towards the end of the year. That is the point.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Yes, Sir. The first instalment is also important. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All are important, receiving money is always important.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Usually the first instalment is released in the months of April to September and the second instalment is released by December.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Barman, if there are specific cases, please send them to her.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Thank you, Sir.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: The first installment release should be in the month of April. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The point is that your chance is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, Hon. Minister

has stated that the performance of all the states is not universal, some of them have bad performance while the others have good performance, that indeed is a matter of concern. It appears primary education is being imparted through para-teachers in many states which is not a right thing. It was a commitment of UPA Government that 6% of GDP would be spent on education and half of that amount would be spent on primary education. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Vermaji, ask your question quickly as time is short.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: I want to know from the Hon. Minister through you whether the Government propose to make any provision for social audit of the money being spent under this item?

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: As per the National Common Minimum Programme, our Government stands committed that six per cent of the GDP would be directed for education. So, this is for education on the whole.

Sir, coming to the audit aspect of it, we do have very stringent measures to audit the accounts of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. As I said, it is done at the State level and the C&AG looks into it also.

MR. SPEAKER: Congratulating the hon. Minister. I declare the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Foreign Direct Investment

*42. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail sector as well as small and medium industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the percentage of FDI permitted in these sectors;

(c) whether the Government has framed any guidelines in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received representations from the traders against allowing FDI in retail sector;

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the domestic retail market;

(g) whether the Government proposes to increase the percentage of FDI in small and medium industries; and

(h) if so, the details thereof alongwith other sectors in which the Government is considering to permit FDI?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Government has permitted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 51%, with prior Government approval, only in retail trade of 'Single Brand' products. This is, inter-alia, aimed at attracting investments in production, marketing and the supply chain; encouraging sourcing of goods from India; and enhancing competitiveness of Indian enterprises through access to modern designs, technologies and management practices. No change has been made in respect of FDI in the small-scale sector.

(c) and (d) Guidelines for FDI in retail trade of 'Single Brand' products have been notified, vide Press Note 3 (2006 Series), which, inter alia, provide that:

- (i) Products to be sold should be of 'Single Brand' only;
- (ii) Products should be sold under the same brand internationally; and
- (iii) 'Single Brand' product-retailing would cover only products which are branded during manufacturing.

(e) and (f) While some representations against allowing FDI in the entire retail sector were received, no representation against the recent Government decision to allow FDI in retail trade of only 'Single Brand' products has been received. Such products usually have a limited demand, require a higher investment and target a specific clientele. Permitting FDI in this specific aspect of retail trade is not likely to have adverse effect on local kirana

shops, which have a more general merchandise and cater to a different clientele.

(g) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to increase the FDI limit in the small-scale industries. There is, at present, no separate category of industries classified as medium industry.

(h) The FDI policy is reviewed on a continuous basis to improve the investment-climate in India.

[Translation]

Terrorist Activities in South India

*47. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news item captioned "Nalgonda a hub of terrorist activities" appearing in "The Hindu" dated January 06, 2006;

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

(c) whether a large number of youth have been found involved in terrorist activities in South India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such persons were found to have been trained abroad, particularly in Pakistan and Bangladesh; and

(f) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per available information, cases have been registered in 2005 against three suspected activists of terrorist organizations from Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh.

(c) to (e) As per available information, in 2005, the Andhra Pradesh police has initiated action against 17 persons and the Karnataka police against 7 persons suspected to have been involved in terrorist activities. Two

of them are reported to have undergone training in Pakistan and one in Bangladesh.

(f) The Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach for tackling the activities of ISI and terrorist organizations by strengthening the border management to check illegal cross border activities, gearing up the intelligence machinery, closed interaction between different agencies of the Centre and the state governments, neutralizing plans of militants and anti-national elements by coordinated action, modernization and upgradation of police and security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system etc. The Central Government has been sensitizing the state governments about the threat perception and activities of ISI and terrorist organizations from time to time. Besides, bilateral and multilateral steps are taken to counter such activities.

**Creation of Extra Employment
Opportunities under PMRY**

*48. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to create extra job opportunities in non-farm sector under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY);

(b) the targets set and the achievements made in

this regard in various States, particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years till date, year-wise; and

(c) the number of persons benefited under PMRY during the last three years, State-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Central Government has been implementing the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) since October 1993, a credit-linked subsidy scheme for creation of additional employment opportunities for the educated unemployed youth in the non-farm sector. Under the PMRY, the Central Government allocates funds for subsidy, entrepreneurial development training (EDT), contingencies, etc., based on the targets of generation of employment opportunities allocated to the individual States/ Union Territories (UTs). The Central funds for subsidy are routed through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which, in turn, passes them on to the implementing banks for crediting the amounts to the loan accounts of individual beneficiaries. The funds for EDT, contingencies, etc., are released by the Central Government directly to the States/ UTs.

(b) The State/UT-wise targets and achievements, including those for Maharashtra, during the last three years till date, viz., 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (up to November 2005) are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The State/UT-wise and category-wise details of beneficiaries under PMRY during the last three years, viz., 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

**State/UT-wise targets and achievements (self-employment units
sanctioned loans) under PMRY**

(as reported by the Reserve Bank of India)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06 (Upto Nov. 2005)	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Haryana	4050	8387	5100	9176	5303	4594
2	Himachal Pradesh	3200	3028	3000	2977	3557	1612
3	Jammu & Kashmir	1150	792	2000	747	1588	228
4	Punjab	4100	8405	4600	9199	4083	2942

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5	Rajasthan	8100	15654	9100	16424	9328	7822
6	Chandigarh	300	99	300	288	351	84
7	Delhi	4400	1108	4500	937	5179	374
8	Assam	6600	7501	7500	10300	7387	3807
9	Manipur	1200	595	1500	440	1418	12
10	Meghalaya	350	453	400	597	361	69
11	Nagaland	300	68	400	897	363	114
12	Tripura	800	2494	1000	2126	1193	1430
13	Arunachal Pradesh	200	685	200	443	173	23
14	Mizoram	200	788	200	144	188	0
15	Sikkim	100	31	100	37	66	6
16	Bihar	14400	11370	16000	11437	16003	3780
17	Jharkhand	5350	5498	6500	5491	6978	1954
18	Orissa	6600	11652	7100	15554	6923	1721
19	West Bengal	20000	3562	24000	4595	24574	2488
20	Andaman & Nicobar	100	189	150	150	123	24
21	Madhya Pradesh	11750	26031	14000	27604	13507	6993
22	Chhattisgarh	4600	3919	6000	4333	5429	1231
23	Uttar Pradesh	22950	44842	26000	45985	26248	17944
24	Uttaranchal	1800	5636	2500	7208	2119	3017
25	Gujarat	8650	7249	10000	6975	9579	3537
26	Maharashtra	22800	21116	26000	26720	24614	7545
27	Daman & Diu	50	3	50	4	19	3
28	Goa	400	125	500	78	486	20
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	50	0	50	23	7	7
30	Andhra Pradesh	18400	23291	21500	24758	20767	5199
31	Karnataka	10800	15317	12000	16836	11046	5528

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32	Kerala	16250	17991	17000	22517	18685	6630
33	Tamil Nadu	19350	14538	20000	20566	21565	7843
34	Lakshadweep	50	17	50	12	48	3
35	Pondicherry	600	362	700	363	722	191
36	Unspecified		1216		1246		629
Total		220000	264012	250000	297187	250000	99204

Statement-II

State/UT-wise and category wise details of beneficiaries (self-employment units sanctioned loans) under PMRY for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (as reported by the Reserve Bank of India)

(beneficiaries in numbers)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total	SC/ST	OBC	Women
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Haryana	25937	3530	3250	2472
2	Himachal Pradesh	8594	1766	774	946
3	Jammu & Kashmir	2302	326	236	257
4	Punjab	26393	5005	2862	3039
5	Rajasthan	47186	8588	8656	3696
6	Chandigarh	430	148	78	146
7	Delhi	2638	398	255	317
8	Assam	23612	4471	3205	1606
9	Manipur	1705	877	169	334
10	Meghalaya	1384	900	56	243
11	Nagaland	1074	361	145	58
12	Tripura	6086	2140	802	836
13	Arunachal Pradesh	1473	1094	87	242
14	Mizoram	1260	1069	48	190
15	Sikkim	89	27	0	22
16	Bihar	32105	5661	8075	2542

1	2	3	4	5	6
17	Jhrakhand	16145	3438	3815	1569
18	Orissa	35954	7576	9525	4833
19	West Bengal	11131	1915	1005	1088
20	Andaman & Nicobar	497	90	63	60
21	Madhya Pradesh	75974	12864	14077	7436
22	Chhattisgarh	12653	2496	2549	1008
23	Uttar Pradesh	135652	22402	26406	11545
24	Uttaranchal	16948	3042	1530	1805
25	Gujarat	21952	4544	3268	3382
26	Maharashtra	68466	11630	13568	9862
27	Daman & Diu	27	0	1	3
28	Goa	503	32	29	82
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15	2	0	0
30	Andhra Pradesh	57197	11686	14742	12072
31	Karnataka	45315	7779	11350	8196
32	Kerala	53192	7553	16532	14091
33	Tamil Nadu	47190	10644	24616	14955
34	Lakshadweep	39	39	0	3
35	Pondicherry	1046	197	599	310
Total		782164	144290	172373	109246

[English]

**Surrender Rehabilitation Policy
for Naxalites**

*49. DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Naxalites have expressed their desire to surrender;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has

asked the Naxal affected States to work out a surrender and rehabilitation policy for Naxalites on the lines of the scheme for surrendered militants in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated January 14, 2006;

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

(d) whether the Government has allocated funds for the development of naxal affected areas to all the concerned States;

(e) if so, the details of the funds allocated during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise;

(f) whether all the States have spent the said allocation on development schemes; and

(g) if not, the steps taken by the Government for timely implementation of various developmental schemes in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The naxalites continue to surrender in some of the naxal affected States.

(b) and (c) During the meeting of the Coordination Centre on 13.1.2006 taken by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and DsGP, the naxal affected States were inter-alia asked to formulate an effective surrender and rehabilitation policy for the naxalites. However, major naxal affected States already have Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation Schemes for naxalites who want to shun violence and join the mainstream. While the incentive package varies from State to State, the Central Government reimburses under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme to the naxalite affected States expenditure upto Rs. 20,000 per surrenderee depending upon whether the naxalite has surrendered with arms or without arms.

(d) and (e) The Govt. has adopted a multi-pronged approach to combat the naxal problem which inter-alia includes focused attention on integrated socio-economic development in the naxal affected areas. Besides various Centrally sponsored schemes meant to provide funds to the States for socio-economic development the Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 2475 crores under the Backward Districts Initiative (BDI) component of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) to fill in the critical gaps in social and physical infrastructure in the naxal affected districts. Details of the funds released to the naxal affected States under this scheme during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

States	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	62.50	7.50
Bihar	60.00	30.00
Jharkhand	97.50	105.00
Madhya Pradesh	22.50	22.50

1	2	3
Chhattisgarh	50.00	67.50
Maharashtra	30.00	22.50
Orissa	27.50	30.00
Uttar Pradesh	25.00	22.50
West Bengal	20.00	15.00

(f) and (g) The level of utilization of the funds by the States has not been satisfactory. The Central Government regularly monitors the progress of utilization of funds by the States and has asked them to improve delivery mechanisms to speed up the pace of development and ensure full utilization of the assistance being provided by the Central Government.

Higher Education

*50 SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problems prevalent in higher education came up for discussion with State Governments for possible solutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has expressed the need to bring the country's higher education up to the international standards; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be adopted for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Consultation with State Governments in regard to various aspects of higher education, including on issues of quality, is an ongoing process. University Grants Commission and other regulatory bodies are empowered to oversee standards of higher education.

Quality of Education for Emerging Sectors

*51. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality and the skills of the graduate work force need to be improved to cater to the needs of the emerging employment in the BPO and IT industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A number of steps have been taken to improve the quality of education at undergraduate level in the country and this is an on-going process. The success of BPO and IT industry in the country is an indication of quality of graduate work force available in the country.

Further, to improve the quality and skills of graduates to meet the demand of the industry including BPO and IT sector, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has initiated effective Industry-Institute interactions through collaborative projects with the Industry Associations. The steps taken also include revision of curriculum so as to meet necessary requirements of the Industry, and Faculty Development Activities to ensure quality and Industry relevance. A Quality Assessment System has been put in place by the National Board of Accreditation so as to put focus on the quality of graduates that an institution produces. AICTE approved institutions are provided facility to access international on-line journals through INDEST-AICTE Consortium. Annual Technical Manpower Review reports are generated through National Technical Manpower Information System for use in planned and co-ordinated development of Technical Education. In order to improve the communication skill of graduates, all technical institutions are advised to establish English Language Laboratory.

The initiatives taken by the University Grants Commission (UGC) include Digital Repository of Research & Training Material, Internet Connectivity for Universities, Information Communication and Computer Education, Teaching Innovations in various disciplines and Career Oriented education programmes.

Institutes of Information Technology have been set up by the Government of India, by the State Governments and also in the Private Sector to provide qualified IT-related manpower to the Industry.

Based on the recommendations of the Task Force on "Human Resource Development in IT" set up by the Government of India, a number of initiatives have been taken. This includes series of measures by the Department of IT to generate manpower in key areas like bio-informatics, VLSI Design and Information Security, NASSCOM's Assessment of Competence Programme to help ITeS/BPO industry, and BPO-ITeS courses by DOEACC Society in North-East and Srinagar/Jammu to enhance skills of youth for employment in BPO/ITeS Sector.

Peace Talks on J&K

*52. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had recently invited separatist leaders for peace negotiations on Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details of the leaders who participated in the peace negotiations alongwith the details of issues discussed with each of them; and

(c) the details of the decisions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Yes sir. The Prime Minister met a delegation of All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on September 5, 2005. During the talks, the Prime Minister reaffirmed his faith in a peaceful resolution of all issues pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated the Government's stance that violence has no role in a democracy. The APHC delegation stressed that an honourable and durable solution should be found through dialogue. It was agreed that the only way forward is to ensure that all forms of violence at all levels should come to an end. It was also agreed to carry forward the dialogue process so that all regions and all shades of political opinion in Jammu and Kashmir are involved.

In pursuance of the talks held by the Hon'ble Prime Minister with the APHC, a meeting of the Joint Screening Committee was held in Srinagar on 3-10-2005 and the cases of persons under detention under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978 were reviewed. The Committee recommended the release of forty four (44) detainees. The State Government accepted the recommen-

dition and issued orders for the release of these persons.

The Prime Minister had a meeting with a six-member delegation led by People Conference Chairman Shri Sajjad Lone on January 14, 2006. The Prime Minister also had a meeting with a delegation led by Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front leader Shri Yasin Malik on February 17, 2006.

The Government considers this as a good beginning and hopes that the dialogue with all the groups in the State will lead to an honourable solution to all issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir.

Relief to Tsunami Victims

*53. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:

SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds released so far by Union Government to the State Governments to carry out the relief measures in the Tsunami affected States, State-wise;

(b) whether the State Governments' concerned

have disbursed the relief amount to all the Tsunami victims and legal heirs of those who were killed in Tsunami, particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details in this regard, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government has appointed officials to supervise such relief operations in affected State/Union territories, particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) The Government of India approved a special package named as 'Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami Affected Areas' to provide assistance for immediate relief and response, revival of fishery and agriculture sectors, construction of temporary shelters and repair/restoration of infrastructure, and special relief for orphans, unmarried girls, widows and disabled persons. The sector-wise and State/Union Territories-wise allocation of funds of Rs.3644.05 crore under the Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package is given in the statement enclosed.

2. The States/UT Governments are implementing the Rajiv Gandhi Package. The details of funds allocated, released and utilized by the Tsunami affected States/Union Territories are as under:

(Rupees in crore) (as on 31.12.2005)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Amount allocated under Rajiv Gandhi Package	Amount released under Rajiv Gandhi Package	Amount spent by the State/ Union Territories
1.	Tamil Nadu	2347.19	811.52	713.52
2.	Andhra Pradesh	70.00	70.00	37.65
3.	Kerala	249.36	100.00	103.19
4.	Pondicherry	155.62	70.83	69.14
5.	A & N Islands	821.88	697.91	377.79
Total		3644.05	1750.26	1301.29

3. The details of relief amount/ex-gratia paid to Tsunami victims by the State/Union Territory Governments are as under:

(Rupees in crore) (as on 31.12.2005)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of Persons died	Number of Persons missing	Amount released by State/ Union Territory Governments as ex-gratia
1.	Tamil Nadu	7995	945	67.65
2.	Andhra Pradesh	107	4	1.07
3.	Kerala	176	-	2.02
4.	Pondicherry	601	36	5.17
5.	A& N Islands	436	3077	29.13

4. The relief and rehabilitation work has been undertaken in the field by the respective States/UTs with logistic support from various Ministries/Departments/ organizations of the Government of India. The States/UT Governments have implemented various relief and

rehabilitation measures through State Relief Commissioners and designated officers in the Collectorates. To ensure speedy implementation of the package, the affected States/UTs have put in place appropriate implementation, monitoring and review mechanisms.

Statement

Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for the Tsunami affected States/Union Territories

A. Main land:

(Rs. in crore)

State	From CRF/ NCCF	Other Ministries	Fishing Sector		Fishing Harbour Grant	Housing	Total
Andhra Pradesh	19.53	13.00	27.66	7.51	-	2.30	70.00
Kerala	84.10	23.21	44.85	34.13	13.07	50.00	249.36
Tamil Nadu	617.20	62.50	441.08	566.47	9.94	650.00	2347.19
Sub Total	720.83	98.71	513.59	608.11	23.01	702.30	2666.55
Pondicherry	39.78	2.5	32.01	31.13	0.20	50.00	155.62
Grand Total	760.61	101.21	545.60	639.24	23.21	752.30	2822.17

Note: Includes additional Rs.91.13 crore has been approved under fishery sector. (Rs 84.54 crore - Tamil Nadu, Rs.3.42 crore - Kerala, Rs.1.9 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Rs.2.16 crore to Pondicherry)

CRF = Calamity Relief Fund

NCCF = National Calamity Contingency Fund

B. Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

	Assistance covered	Amount	Remarks
(A)	Assistance as per CRF/NCCF norms	313.19	This includes Rs.15.37 crore from ARWSP out of the budget of Department of Drinking Water Supply
(B)	Assistance covered under norms with relaxation of scale	215.65	This includes 7,500 MT food - grains (rice) under SGRY, valued at Rs. 7.50 crore.
I	Assistance covered under norms with a special package		
(i)	Revival of economic activity		
(a)	Fishermen	15.01	
(b)	Agriculture	239.54	
(ii)	Rehabilitation of orphans, widows, disabled, unmarried girls	8.60	
(iii)	Immediate restoration of administration and infrastructure activity	29.89	
	Grand Total	821.88	

ARWSP = Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

SGRY = Sampoorn Grameen Rozgar Yojana

C. Total Package (A+B): Rs. 3644.05 crore

**Private Sector Infrastructure
Development**

*54. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is encouraging private sector participation for the infrastructure development in the country to meet the expenditure and also to improve the quality of services and the delivery system;

(b) if so, the details with regard to the private investment received by the Government during last three years along with the progress achieved by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of the consumers in the process?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Gross Capital Formation by the public and the private sector, as estimated by the Central Statistical Organization, in the last 3 years in industries relating to infrastructure sector, is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Private participation in the infrastructure sector is being encouraged by having a policy and regulatory framework which, inter-alia, encourages competition and transparency. It seeks to provide an appropriate balance between protecting consumer interest and the need to attract greater investment.

Statement

Estimated Gross Capital Formation by the public and the private sector in industries relating to infrastructure sector in the last 3 years

(Rs. Crores)

		At Constant (1999-00) Prices		
Sl.No.	Industry	2002-03	2003-04*	2004-05**
1	2	3	4	5
1	Electricity, gas and water supply			
	Public Sector	30276	39565	39497
	Private Sector	10422	12532	14921
2	Construction			
	Public Sector	5828	7135	5059
	Private Sector	10387	9247	8116

1	2	3	4	5
3	Railways			
	Public Sector	7960	9443	10609
	Private Sector	-	-	-
4	Transport by other means			
	Public Sector	3137	2814	2334
	Private Sector	41872	43525	57427
5	Storage			
	Public Sector	1210	877	723
	Private Sector	151	323	268
6	Communication			
	Public Sector	11276	5407	8420
	Private Sector	4259	3004	5108

* Provisional estimates

** Quick estimates

Protection of the Right of Working Women

*55. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the National Commission for Women to draft a Bill on protecting the rights of working women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Commission on Women has recently held meetings with Business Process Outsourcing heads over the issue of safety of women working in such organizations;

(d) if so, the outcome of the discussions; and

(e) the details of laws proposed to be enacted for safety of women at their work place including BPOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) During 2004, the Government had requested the National Commission for Women (NCW) to draft a law to ensure the rights of women for protection against sexual harassment at workplace with a view to replace the guidelines and norms laid down by the Supreme Court during August, 1997 in the Vishaka case. NCW submitted to the Government a draft Bill on the subject in August, 2004. Subsequently, some women's rights organisations submitted to the Government in March, 2005 another draft Bill, which was forwarded by the Government to NCW with the request to finalise the same. The Commission has recently finalised the draft Bill and submitted the same to the Government.

(c) and (d) NCW has informed that the Commission had convened an inter-active meeting with the representatives of the BPO companies, call centres and concerned police authorities of Delhi/Gurgaon/Noida on 17-1-2006 to discuss the various issues related to problems of women working in BPOs/call centres. Based on the discussions, the Commission has formulated guidelines ensuring safety of women employees in BPO companies/call centres and the same is being sent to the associations of BPO companies, all BPO companies in and around Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Pune, Mumbai and Chennai, for compliance.

(e) The National Commission for Women (NCW) has recently sent to the Government a draft Bill titled 'the Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Places (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2006' to confer upon women the right to protection against sexual harassment and to provide for prevention and redressal of sexual harassment.

[Translation]

Production of Aluminium

*56. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of aluminium produced by the aluminium producing units during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the production of aluminium is sufficient to meet its demand in the country; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to increase its production?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The total quantum of aluminium produced by the primary aluminium producing units during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Production (in Metric tonnes)
2002-03	6,89,168
2003-04	8,16,110
2004-05	8,83,472

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Enlisting of Tribes in ST List

*57. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any requests have been pending with the Government from various State Governments particularly Assam to enlist some tribes in the ST list;

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

(c) whether any decision has been taken in respect of the tribes fulfilling the criteria for getting enlisted in the ST list; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) This Ministry has received requests from various State Governments including Assam and from other sources for enlisting of certain communities in the Scheduled Tribes list, the number of which is given in the Statement enclosed. Communities are not considered as scheduled tribes until they are included in the schedule.

(c) and (d) In order to ensure that only genuine cases are taken up for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes, the modalities approved for inclusion require reports from three independent agencies namely, the concerned State Government/UT Administration, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, about the fulfilment of the stipulated criteria by the community concerned. Only those proposals which have

been agreed to by all the above three agencies are taken up for inclusion through amending legislation. Following this procedure in the latest amendment, viz Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002, 142 modifications in the list of Scheduled Tribes of 20 States has been carried out and the remaining proposals have been processed as per the modalities approved for deciding such claims.

Statement

State-wise Number of Proposals

S.No.	State/UT	No. of Proposals
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	24
3.	Assam	113
4.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2
5.	Bihar	35
6.	Jharkhand	43
7.	Chandigarh	17
8.	Delhi	1
9.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3
10.	Daman & Diu	2
11.	Goa	13
12.	Gujarat	14
13.	Haryana	4
14.	Himachal Pradesh	14
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	11
16.	Karnataka	54
17.	Kerala	59
18.	Lakshadweep	1
19.	Madhya Pradesh	35
20.	Chhattisgarh	11
21.	Manipur	28

1	2	3
22.	Meghalaya	17
23.	Maharashtra	90
24.	Mizoram	7
25.	Nagaland	24
26.	Orissa	88
27.	Pondicherry	11
28.	Punjab	13
29.	Rajasthan	18
30.	Sikkim	8
31.	Tamil Nadu	70
32.	Tripura	12
33.	Uttar Pradesh	37
34.	Uttaranchal	22
35.	West Bengal	20
Total		1016

*Caste/Community wise data on representation was not maintained.

Atrocities Against Women

*58. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women (NCW) has received complaints from various States regarding various crimes/atrocities against women during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government/National Commission for Women against the accused persons; and

(d) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of cases received by the National Commission for Women (NCW) during each of the last three years, till date, state-wise are given enclosed Statement. The Commission has been recommending to the State Governments suitable action against accused persons wherever there is evidence of atrocities against women.

(c) and (d) Law and order and other criminal matter is a State subject under the Constitution and therefore, the direct responsibility for dealing with enforcement of the concerned Acts is that of the State Governments and the mechanisms under them. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of the crimes against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Government of India has initiated a number of measures to check such crimes, such as:

- Enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 which provides for more effective protection of the Constitutional rights of women, who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family
- setting up of helplines for women in distress under the Swadhar Scheme
- support services to victims of violence through schemes such as Short Stay Homes and Swadhar under which shelter, maintenance, counseling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services are provided
- grant-in-aid schemes providing assistance for rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims as well as prevention through special schemes in source areas of trafficking
- redressal of grievances through interventions of National and State Commissions for Women
- organizing legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Camps
- implementation of schemes for (i) awareness generation and advocacy and (ii) economic empowerment of women through the programmes of Rashtriya

Mahila Kosh, Swashakti project. Swayamsidha Project, Swawlamban programme and Support to Training & Employment Programme (STEP)

- review of laws with a view to remove provisions which may be discriminatory to women and to enhance punishments for crimes against women
- sensitisation of judiciary and police and civil administration on gender issues
- Follow up of reports of cases of atrocities against women received from various sources, including NCW, with concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments.

Apart from legislative changes in the relevant Acts, instructions/guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women and monitor the enforcement and to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crime against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include:

- sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women
- vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry violence
- set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations
- provide institutional support to the victims of violence
- provide counseling to victims of rape
- take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise on trafficking matters.
- ensure wider recruitment of women police officers
- train police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women.
- setting up of Fast Track Courts
- setting up of Family Courts
- appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

Statement

Details of complaints received by the National Commission for Women during each of the last three years

S.No.	State	No. of complaints received during			
		2003	2004	2005	2006*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	30	32	94	14
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	-	-
3	Assam	12	5	24	6
4	Bihar	443	369	618	64
5	Chhattisgarh	37	34	86	13
6	Goa	4	3	7	-
7	Gujarat	20	20	53	6
8	Haryana	274	198	560	63
9	Himachal Pradesh	16	17	70	5
10	Jammu & Kashmir	12	7	12	-
11	Jharkhand	81	64	160	20
12	Karnataka	20	6	47	2
13	Kerala	23	0	20	-
14	Madhya Pradesh	340	346	683	60
15	Maharashtra	138	102	255	36
16	Manipur	-	-	3	-
17	Meghalaya	1	-	2	-
18	Mizoram	-	-	1	-
19	Nagaland	1	1	-	-
20	Orissa	46	13	81	9
21	Punjab	52	32	141	14
22	Rajasthan	288	327	1044	116
23	Sikkim	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
24	Tamil Nadu	42	35	88	9
25	Tripura	-	-	2	-
26	Uttar Pradesh	2801	3236	5587	693
27	Uttaranchal	243	196	274	59
28	West Bengal	52	24	100	12
29	A&N Islands	1	2	3	-
30	Chandigarh	8	6	8	-
31	D&N Haveli	-	2	2	2
32	Daman & Diu	-	1	2	2
33	Delhi	713	673	1578	172
34	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-
35	Pondicherry	1	1	5	-
Total		5700	5753	11610	1375

* Till February, 2006

**Intake of Students in IIMs
and IITs**

*59. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently increased the intake of students for the various courses in Indian Institutes of Technology as well as Indian Institutes of Management in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the available infrastructure and facilities are sufficient to cater to the increase in intake to these institutes; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D.

PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The decision regarding increase in intake of students in IIMs and IITs is taken by the Governing Bodies of these Institutes. Intake in Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes of the 7 IITs, taken together, has shown an upward trend during last three years. Similarly, intake in Postgraduate Programme in Management of the 6 IIMs, taken together, has also shown an upward trend during the same period.

(c) and (d) Upgradation of infrastructure in these Institutes is a continuous process. They endeavour to ensure that no student suffers for lack of infrastructure.

[Translation]

**PM Special Economic Package
to NER**

*60. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has announced any special economic package for the development of North Eastern Region, particularly Assam, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any timeframe has been fixed for the release of funds under the package and to achieve the underlying objectives;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to make the North Eastern States a centre for electricity generation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Statement-I is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) A Statement-II based on information as received from Ministry of power is enclosed.

Statement-I

The Prime Minister visited the North Eastern States and announced socio economic packages for three States namely Assam and Manipur in November, 2004 and Tripura in October, 2005. The details of the announcements are as under:

Sl. No.	Announcements
1	2

Assam

- 1 Special Plan Assistance of Rs. 240 crore for flood damage repair and infrastructure development during the current financial year.
- 2 Conversion to broad gauge of the Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam railway line by 2009-10.
- 3 Four-laning NH-37 over the Nagaon-Jorhat-Dibrugarh stretch on a priority basis.
- 4 Double-laning of 9 National Highways (NH-36, 51, 52, 53, 54, 61, 152, 153 and 154) on a priority basis.
- 5 Resumption of biweekly flights between Guwahati and Bangkok by the end of the year.
- 6 Gas Authority of India (GAIL) will prepare and submit a project report for the Assam Gas Cracker Project so that a final decision may be taken soon. Government of India will expedite the process.
- 7 Financial assistance and other support will be provided for National Games 2005.
- 8 Assam will be covered under a new Central initiative on the anvil for improving rural health care
- 9 Modernization of Guwahati Medical College, Assam Medical College and Silchar Medical College.
- 10 The project approval process and fund release processes for Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) and North Eastern Council (NEC) Projects will be revamped to reduce delays.

1	2
11	The North Eastern Council will be revamped for serving as an effective regional planning body and to make more representative of regional needs.
12	Enhanced support for rural electrification to achieve 100% village electrification by 2009.
13	State Government will be supported for setting up micro-hydel projects.
14	A blueprint for employment will be prepared by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Government and other bodies.
15	The Government will consider establishing a cohesive, autonomous, self-contained entity called the Brahmaputra Valley Authority or the North-East Water Resources Authority to provide effective flood control, generate electricity, provide irrigation facilities and develop infrastructure. Given managerial and financial autonomy, equipped with top class manpower, and backed by Parliamentary sanction, such a body could be the instrument for transforming the region. It could be the instrument for providing a "New Deal" for Assam.
16	Rs. 45 crore is being sanctioned for flood relief and drinking water supply.
17	For protection of Majuli Island from floods and erosion, Rs. 41 crore has been sanctioned in first phase, to be followed by additional funds for subsequent works.
18	Guwahati Trade Center to be set up by ITPO and then handed over to Government of Assam.
19	Package of assistance for tea industry to be announced soon.
20	NABARD to provide bank credit for 20,500 Self Help Groups within a year.
21	External Aid for improving roads and bridges will be favourably considered.
22	Restructuring of the State's finances will be considered after the report of the Twelfth Finance Commission is received

Sl.No.	Announcements
1	2
	Manipur
1	Double-laning of Maram-Paren Road for upgrading road infrastructure.
2	Development of mini-secretariats, residential quarters, internal roads and other amenities at seven district headquarters (all districts other than Imphal) and the three headquarters of ADCs at Kongpokpi, Moreh and Jiribam.
3	Construction of a New State Capital Complex.
4	Widening and improving of 16 roads.
5	Jiribam-Tupul (near Imphal) railway line.
6	Manipur University to be a Central University.
7	College of Technology, Imphal to be a constituent College of the new Central University.
8	Infrastructure development for Government College of Technology.
9	Establishing a sports academy at Khuman Lampak including one time maintenance and repairs of existing facilities
10	Opening LPG outlets in all sub-divisional headquarters.
11	All tribal villages in the State will be electrified during the next four years. This programme will be implemented on priority basis.
12	Manipur to be included in the States to be covered under new Central initiative for improving rural health care.
13	Construction of Dolaithabi Barrage under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme with external assistance for expanding irrigation.
14	Speedy completion of Khuga & Thoubal irrigation projects under Accelerated Irrigation Programme with external assistance for expanding irrigation.

1	2
15	Special Employment Generation Programme for concessionary loans to fifteen thousand persons for agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries etc.
16	Loktak Downstream hydroelectric power project (90 MW)
	Tripura
1.	NH-44 will be 4-laned and will have a straighter alignment along the Railway line.
2.	All districts will be connected to the National Highway.
3.	Agartala will be connected to East West corridor at Jorabad near Guawahati on NH-37.
4.	Kumarghat-Agartala line will be completed by March 2007.
5.	Planning Commission will be asked to look into the issue of Conversion of Meter Gauge into Broad Gauge.
6.	States' share in SSA will now be 10% instead of 25%.
7.	Upgradation of Tripura Engineering College to an NIT.
8.	Restoration of Rail and Road transit through Bangladesh.
9.	All villages will be covered in 3 years under BHARAT NIRMAL.
10.	Funding for construction of the State Capital Complex will be expedited by DONER.

Statement-II

North Eastern Region has huge reserves of hydro-electric power potential of 33,140 MW (at 80% LF). At present, 20 Hydro Electric Schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of 1178.7 MW (with station capacity over 3 MW) are in operation in N.E. Region. In addition, 89 small hydro schemes with total installed capacity of 152 MW are in operation.

There are 7 nos. sanctioned on-going hydro electric projects with a total installed capacity of 3444 MW. Out of

the capacity addition programme of 1155.84 MW, the likely achievement during the Xth Plan is 125 MW. 21 hydro with a total capacity of 6741 MW and 7 Thermal Projects with a total capacity of 1351.92 MW have been identified for commissioning in the XIth Plan. In addition, there are 46 potential hydro projects of an aggregate installed capacity of 30,959 MW which are being considered for yielding full/partial benefits during XIIth Plan in N.E. Region and Sikkim.

As the growth in demand in the North Eastern Region is not substantial, it is expected that most of the power from the future projects in NER shall be transferred to other deficit regions of the country like NE & WR through chicken neck area having length of 18 Kms and width of 22 Kms, where there are severe right of way constraints. Looking into large generation potential in North Eastern Region and limited availability of transmission corridor, the transmission system may require upgradation as more and more generation resources are harnessed in the Region. The master plan for development of transmission system for the projects coming up in North Eastern Region is being developed by CEA.

Vocational Education

61. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the vocational courses introduced at Secondary and University levels;

(b) if so, the details of courses alongwith the time by which these are likely to be introduced;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start vocational training in schools and to recruit teachers having experience in imparting vocational training to children in different fields, like dress designing, tailoring, etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of vocational institutions proposed to be opened during 2005-06, State-wise;

(f) the details of States which have been granted funds for vocational courses during the last three years and thereafter till date, State-wise; and

(g) the amount proposed to be allocated for the purpose for 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Vocational Courses at Secondary and University levels are prescribed and revised by Boards of Secondary Education and Universities respectively.

(c) and (d) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education has already been in operation since 1987-88.

(e) Under the above Scheme, approval has been given for starting vocational courses in only 2 new schools (located in the UT of Chandigarh) during 2005-06.

(f) A Statement showing State-wise release of grants under the above scheme from 2002-03 to 2005-06 is enclosed.

(g) Financial allocation for the above scheme for 2006-07 would be known only after presentation of Central Budget for the year 2006-07.

Statement

Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education at +2 Level

(Rupees in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	Grants released to States/ UTs during 2002-2003 to 2005-2006			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	500.55	-
2	Gujarat	467.58	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Haryana	329.00	27.90	67.23	-
4	J & K	-	-	599.69	-
5	Kerala	-	247.20	1425.00	-
6	Manipur	-	47.65	-	-
7	Mizoram	-	8.79	150.00	538.00
8	Sikkim	291.48	-	-	118.05
9	Tripura	-	-	66.68	-
10	Uttar Pradesh	375.00	375.00	-	-
11	Chandigarh	-	-	-	7.00
Total		1463.06	706.54	2809.15	663.05

Rehabilitation of Tribals

234. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for sanctioning of amount to rehabilitate the tribals residing in the forests there and to expedite the poverty alleviation programme of the State;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals received and the amount sought by them separately; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to sanction these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No proposal has been received from the Tribal Area Development Department, Government of Rajasthan by the Government of India for sanction of any amount for rehabilitation of the tribals residing in forests.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Earthquake in J&K

235. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central team has made any assessment of the loss of lives and properties suffered due to earthquake in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) details of assistance sanctioned/released to the affected people;

(d) whether Government has accepted foreign aid to the earthquake affected people of Jammu & Kashmir;

(e) if so, the names of foreign NGO's helped and worked in earthquake affected areas in Jammu & Kashmir, District-wise;

(f) whether there had been a large number of cases of mis-utilisation of assistance given in earthquake affected areas;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken to check such mis-utilisation of assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) An Inter Ministerial Central Team was deputed to Jammu & Kashmir to assess the situation and requirement of funds for relief operations in the earthquake affected areas. According to the report of the Central Team, 1216 persons lost their lives, 28,281 houses were fully damaged and 71,810 houses partially damaged.

(c) The Government of India has so far made an 'on account' release of Rs. 300.28 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) besides providing an advance release of Rs. 32.42 crore as second installment of Central Share from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Further assistance, if any from NCCF, will be considered by the High Level Committee based on the approved items and norms of assistance of CRF/NCCF. The requirement of the State Government for long term rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure is being considered by the Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) constituted under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairperson, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

(d) and (e) Information is being collected from the Government of J&K and the concerned Central Ministries/Departments.

(f) to (h) No report of mis-utilisation of assistance given in earthquake affected areas has been received by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Status of Export Promotion Council to KVIC

236. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a strong need for granting the status of an export promotion council to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any step in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (d) A proposal in this regard has been received by the government and is under examination.

Upgradation of Science Laboratories

237. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the total amount of assistance provided

by Government for the upgradation of science laboratories in schools to various States and Union territories in Government and Government aided secondary/higher secondary schools, particularly in Maharashtra, during the last three years till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): The details of funds released to various States/UTs for setting up of new science laboratories and upgradation of science laboratories in schools from 2002-03 to 2005-06 are given below:-

Year	State/UT	Fund released (Rs. in lakhs)
2002-03	Chhattisgarh	108.60
	Karnataka	432.00
	Assam	584.59
	D&N Haveli	4.90
2003-04	Kerala	171.00
	Meghalaya	172.50
2004-05	Mizoram	54.00
2005-06	-	Nil

Reopening of Border

238. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of borders with the neighbouring countries lying closed and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to reopen such borders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Entry/exit through our international borders with neighbouring countries is permitted through designated immigration check posts/land custom stations.

(b) and (c) It has been decided to reopen the India-Pakistan border at Munabao (Rajasthan) from 18th February, 2006. After signing a Memorandum of Expanding

Border Trade with China, Nathula Pass in Sikkim has been added as a border trade point.

Quality of Elementary Education

239. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) released by Planning Commission, the quality of elementary education is far behind the satisfactory level in rural India as reported in Times of India dated January 19, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of elementary education in rural India;

(d) whether the Government has recently conducted survey of the Sarva Shiksha schools and found students facing several problems in these schools as reported in the Times of India dated January 26, 2006;

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

(f) whether the Government has decided to monitor the problems of Sarva Shiksha schools itself; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (g) The findings of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) are not much at variance with the Government's own data-base and information on the quality of education. The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) undertakes countrywide sample surveys on student achievement levels for particular classes regularly. The recently completed achievement survey for Class-V has indicated mean achievement levels of 46.7% in Mathematics and 58.3% in Language.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, to overcome the

barriers hindering learning achievement levels of students, several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes recruitment of 4.92 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in service training of about 30 lakh teachers for a period of 20 days each year, free distribution of text books for primary and upper primary classes to about 5.02 crore SC, ST and girl students, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 7422 Block Resource Centres and 70735 Cluster Resource Centres, regular evaluation of students and monitoring of school performance.

In addition, the Government of India with the help of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, has recently operationalised a quarterly quality monitoring system to monitor, inter-alia, student attendance, teacher availability in schools, classroom practices and academic supervision provided by Cluster and Block Resource Centres to schools and teachers.

Urdu DTP Centres

240. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for running Urdu DTP Centres of Minority Institutions was submitted by the Government of Maharashtra to National Commission for Promotion of Urdu Language;

(b) if so, the details of such proposal;

(c) the details of decisions taken by the Government in respect of the proposal; and

(d) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language has not received any such proposal.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Export of Marine Products

241. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the marine products exported from various

ports especially from the ports of Gujarat during 2005-06;

(b) the additional steps the Govt. proposes to take to increase exports of marine products from Gujrat by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA); and

(c) the details of steps being taken to enhance the storage capacity by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per the export figures compiled by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), on the basis of shipping bills and invoices, the export of marine products from various ports amounted to US \$ 1190.44 million during 2005-06 (upto Dec. '2005). During this period, the export of marine products through the ports of Gujarat amounted to US \$ 79.35 million.

(b) Steps taken to increase the export of marine products include the schemes for extending financial assistance for upgrading processing facilities, expansion of aquaculture, imparting of training to aquaculture farmers, assistance for production of value-added products and marketing support.

(c) MPEDA extend financial assistance for setting up of cold storages.

Expansion and Promotion of Small Scale Industries

242. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy for expansion and promotion of small scale industries in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the funds sanctioned and proposed to be sanctioned/released by the Government to the various State during this Plan period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Though the development and promotion of small scale industries is primarily the

responsibility of the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Governments/Administrations, the Central Government supports and supplements the efforts of the State Governments/UT Administrations through various schemes/programmes relating to credit, infrastructural development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurial development, etc.

(b) and (c) The schemes/programmes are implemented across the country for which the allocation of funds is made scheme/programme-wise and not State-wise. The Government allotted an amount of Rs. 1478.26 crore for the first four years of the 10th Plan to the Ministry of Small Scale Industries for implementation of schemes/programmes relating to the development of small scale industries in the country.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Madarsa Education

243. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government particularly of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Union Government for providing funds for the modernisation and improvement of madarsa education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal for financial assistance of Rs.2.87 crores under the scheme of Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernisation Programme (AIMMP). The assistance is for salaries of 712 primary teachers for 2005-06 in 443 fresh Madarsas and additional teachers for 14 old Madarsas. This proposal is in addition to the proposal for 624 primary teachers already being assisted. The consideration of the proposal is pending for want of additional information from the State Government.

[English]

Technical Education in Rural Areas

244. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether colleges catering specially to mechanical technology used in agriculture are likely to be opened in rural parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to impart technical education in rural parts of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), opening of Agricultural Engineering College is a State subject. However, there are already 22 Agricultural Engineering Colleges providing education on use of mechanical technology in agriculture in the country.

(c) Under the Scheme of Community Polytechnics, non-formal skill training is imparted by the approved Diploma level institutions through their extension centres located also in rural areas.

[Translation]

Trade with Neighbouring Countries

245. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to prepare a new plan to promote trade of bamboo, wood and foodgrain with the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proposal of removing trade barriers with these countries especially with Myanmar have also been considered; and

(d) If so, the total quantum of goods imported and exported in terms of value during each of the last three years and thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration to prepare a new plan for promoting trade of bamboo, wood and food grain with neighbouring countries. However, India is making efforts to secure market access for Indian Basmati and non-Basmati Rice in the Chinese market.

(c) Trade promotion is a continuous and ongoing effort of the Government. All trade issues including the issues of non-tariff barrier are regularly being discussed with neighbouring countries including Myanmar.

(d) The trade statistics of the last three years volume-wise, value-wise is available on Department of Commerce's website http://commerce.nic.in/india_trade.htm.

[English]

Art Education in School Curriculum

246. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCERT has established a new department to promote arts education in the school curriculum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to integrate arts education with other academic curriculum; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has created a new department known as the Department of Art and Aesthetics, to perform following activities:

(i) Prepare and review the curriculum and syllabus of visual and performing arts including crafts periodically;

(ii) Develop teaching and learning materials on different art forms of visual and performing arts for all stages of school education;

(iii) Conduct research in the areas of arts education;

(iv) Design pre-service and in-service teacher training courses;

(v) Establish a networking of different regional, national and international institutions working for arts education;

(vi) Help the states in capacity building for their development work regarding all the above activities.

(c) and (d) The Art Education and School Curriculum has always been visualized as an area to be integrated with all subjects and also as separate subject. The National Curriculum Framework-2005 re-emphasizes on the Arts Education as a compulsory subject from class VI to X and as an integrated area across the curriculum.

Activities of Militant Outfits

247. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether terror strikes continue in different parts of the country, including North East despite several steps taken by the Union Government and the concerned State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of the incidents alongwith loss of life and property lost including oil installations during 2005 and 2006, till date;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the issues likely to be discussed by the Union Government with the banned outfits particularly ULFA alongwith the response of such militant outfits thereto;

(e) whether a joint task force has been constituted to deal with the menace; and

(f) if so, the composition and the objective of the task force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As per available information, terrorist violence has been continuing in different parts of the country including North Eastern States. The details of violent incidents, Security Forces/civilians and terrorists killed during 2005 and uptill 31.1.2006 are given in the Statement enclosed. In Assam, during 2005-06 (upto 31.1.2006), there have been 14 attacks on oil/gas installations.

(c) The strategy of the Government is to deal with the menace of terrorism in a holistic manner. The Government policy is to hold dialogue, pursue socio-economic development, modernization/strengthening of Police/Security Forces to tackle activities of militants and to protect properties, & lives of innocent people.

(d) During Second round of talks with People's Consultative Group (PCG) on 7.2.2006, it was agreed to examine and initiate a series of confidence building measures with regard to human right violations, issue of release of certain detainees in consultation with the State Government and maintenance of peaceful atmosphere in State.

(e) and (f) A task Force with the nodal officers of the naxal affected states has been constituted to deliberate upon the entire gamut of steps needed to deal with the Naxalite situation. The Task Force is headed by the Special Secretary (Internal Security), in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Statement

Head	Jammu & Kashmir		North Eastern Region		Naxal Affected Areas	
	2005	2006 (upto 31.1.06)	2005	2006 (upto 31.1.06)	2005	2006 (upto 31.1.06)
Incidents	1990	91	1332	125	1594	115
Civilians Killed	557	14	393	16	516	24
Security Forces' personnel killed	189	7	70	7	153	4
Terrorists/Extremists killed	917	47	406	39	223	7

Pak-PoK Infiltrators

248. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani and PoK infiltrators sneaked into the country during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of Arms & Ammunitions seized from such infiltrators during the above period; and

(c) the status of the legal proceedings against these infiltrators in various courts and the details of diplomatic steps taken with the concerned countries to which these infiltrators belong?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per the report of the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, the estimated figures of overall infiltration comprising largely Pak/PoK nationals from across through Line of control (LoC)/International Border (IB) for the last three years are given below:

Year	No. of estimated infiltrators
2003	1313
2004	507
2005	231

(b) The total number of assorted sophisticated Arms/Ammunitions seized in various administrative actions in the State of Jammu and Kashmir during each of the last three years is shown below:

Description	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005
AK 47	1440	962	950
Grenade/ Hand Grenade	3733	2222	2879
Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)	229	260	203

(c) Data pertaining to the status of legal proceedings against infiltrators are not maintained at Central Level. However, as reported by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, 69 cases have been registered against border crossers.

At diplomatic level, India has conveyed to Pakistan, at the highest level, that the current dialogue process between the two countries would be undermined unless Pakistan takes effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, including training camps, launch pads and communication links between terrorist groups on the Indian side and their handlers on the Pakistan side. Pakistan needs to take these steps in fulfilment of the commitment given by it in the Joint Statement of January 6, 2004 that it would not permit any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

Modernisation of Polytechnics

249. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government Polytechnics functioning in the country particularly in West Bengal have been modernised/upgraded with the assistance of World Bank, State-wise, location-wise;

(b) the amount of assistance provided by the World Bank and the expenditure incurred therefrom; and

(c) the number of Educational Research Centres; set up in each State with the assistance from the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The Technician Education Project I, II, III and Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India (TEQIP), has been implemented with the assistance of World Bank, covering 573 Polytechnics in various States/UT including that in the State West Bengal. The State wise break-up of Polytechnics including that in the State of West Bengal is given in the Statement enclosed.

An amount of Rs. 1868 crore has been provided by the World Bank and the expenditure incurred till date is Rs. 2284 crore, however, no educational research centre has been set up.

Statement

State/UT wise information regarding number of Polytechnics modernised/upgraded with the assistance of World Bank.

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of Polytechnics
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	60
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4	Assam	9
5	Bihar	25

1	2	3
6	Goa	4
7	Gujarat	24
8	Haryana	17
9	Himachal Pradesh	8
10	Jammu & Kashmir	6
11	Jharkhand	2
12	Karnataka	39
13	Kerala	30
14	Madhya Pradesh	42
15	Maharashtra	53
16	Meghalaya	3
17	Mizoram	2
18	Nagaland	3
19	NCT of Delhi	9
20	Orissa	13
21	Pondicherry	3
22	Punjab	17
23	Rajasthan	21
24	Sikkim	2
25	Tamil Nadu	55
26	Tripura	2
27	Uttaranchal	1
28	Uttar Pradesh	88
29	West Bengal	32
Total		573

**Proposals for Industrialisation
in West Bengal**

250. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals for industrialisation, trade promotion and setting up of industries for the over all economic development of West Bengal are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) Under the liberalized Industrial Policy, investment decisions are based on the commercial judgement of entrepreneurs, keeping in view the initiatives taken by the State Governments/UTs in creating conducive environment by way of providing basic infrastructural facilities and other incentives. Central Government supplements these efforts to the extent possible by providing support/incentives under its various Schemes.

During the period August, 1991 to December, 2005, 3592 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda were filed and 100 Letters of Intent and Direct Industrial Licences were issued, with proposed investments of Rs. 77,069 crore, in the State of West Bengal.

**Amendment in Criminal
Law Bill, 2003**

251. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to bring an amendment in Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 in view of the protest by lawyers across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Both the Houses of Parliament have already passed the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 during the winter session of Parliament, 2005, after the Government moved official amendments, based on the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs and taking into account views of others.

Exemption of Import Certificate

252. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has exempted India from mandatory condition of import Certificate to enhance business in high technology areas;

(b) if so, the benefits likely to be accrued to India after this exemption; and

(c) the other steps taken or likely to be taken by both the countries to improve the economic relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir. Through a Federal Register Notification of December 1, 2005, the Bureau of Industry and Security, US Department of Commerce announced the removal of requirement for Import Certificates in various countries, including India. These Import Certificates were required earlier in support of any request for export or re-export license from the US, in case of India and some other countries.

(b) This exemption will facilitate and expedite the processing of requests for import of dual use and controlled high technology items from the US for Government entities such as those under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and others.

(c) India and US have a High Technology Cooperation Group that had its fourth meeting in November-December, 2005 to further high technology cooperation and strategic trade in such areas as biotechnology, nanotechnology, defence technology and Information Technology. During the visit of the Prime Minister to Washington D.C. in July, 2005, the two countries agreed to revitalize the India-US Economic Dialogue to focus on specific issues to advance bilateral economic cooperation. The two sides also launched a CEO's Forum comprising business leaders of the two countries to benefit from their inputs on taking our relationship forward. The Trade Policy

Dialogue was upgraded into a Trade Policy Forum and had its first meeting in New Delhi in November 2005. The India-US Finance and Economic Forum also met in November 2005. A new Information and Communications Technology Working Group was set up during the visit of the Prime Minister and had a meeting in Washington DC in December 2005. India and US have also launched a Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture that is currently evolving a detailed workplan for implementation in the coming years.

Fees Hike in Universities

253. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently instructed all the Universities to hike fees;

(b) if so, the reasons and the details of the directives given to Universities;

(c) the response of the Universities; and

(d) the final decision taken by the Govt. thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Rice

254. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

DR. K. DHANARAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is heavy demand of Indian rice in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the quantity of rice exported during each of the last three years and foreign exchange earned therefrom, country-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to explore new markets for rice in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT

OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity of rice exported during the last three years and foreign exchange earned there from are as under:

(Quantity (Qty.) in tonnes/

Value in US\$ million

Year	Basmati Rice		Non-Basmati Rice	
	QTY.	Value.	Qty.	Value
2002-03	708793	424.78	4259077	778.53
2003-04	771491	433.74	2640572	473.33
2004-05	1126125	610.27	3645873	867.96

Source: DGCI&S

Country-wise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata.

(c) The steps being taken by the Government to explore new markets for export of rice include providing assistance to Indian exporters for undertaking publicity campaigns, mounting trade delegations abroad, participation in International fairs, buyer-seller meets and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and reimbursement of certain WTO admissible costs on account of marketing and transportation.

Terrorist Activities

255. SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether terrorist activities in the country have increased during the year 2005 and 2006 so far;

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

(c) the number of civilians, security personnel and terrorists killed/injured in terrorist incidents since January, 2005;

(d) the number of guilty persons against whom action has been taken;

(e) whether the Government has taken necessary action to destroy the terrorist camps being run in the Kashmir Valley;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the increasing terrorist incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) While the incidents of terrorist violence in J&K have gone down in 2005 over 2004, terrorist activities in the North-Eastern States and naxal affected States have increased slightly during this period. Besides, there have been some incidents of terrorist violence in Delhi, UP (Ayodhya & Jaunpur) and Karnataka (Bangalore) in 2005.

(b) and (c) A Statement showing state-wise number of incidents, civilians, security personnel and terrorists killed in 2005 and in 2006 upto 31.1.2006 is enclosed.

(d) As per available reports, 2135 naxalites, 1588 insurgents in the North-Eastern States and 726 terrorists in J&K were arrested in 2005 and in 2006 upto 31.01.2006. Besides, 16 persons have been arrested so far in connection with terrorist activities in Delhi, UP and Karnataka by the State Governments concerned.

(e) There has been no input to suggest existence of terrorist camps in the Kashmir Valley.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The Government pursues a multi-dimensional approach to deal with terrorist activities and extends support to the States in neutralizing such terrorist activities. In order to curb terrorist activities, the Government has taken measures which include strengthening of border management to check infiltration, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, ensuring improved technology, weaponry and equipment of security forces both at the Centre and in the States, neutralizing plans of terrorist/anti-national elements by well coordinated intelligence based operations. Besides, the steps have also been taken to achieve bilateral/multi-lateral cooperation to deal with the menace of terrorism, given its global dimensions.

Statement

State-wise number of terrorist incidents, civilians, security personnel and terrorists killed in 2005 and in 2006 (upto 31.1.2006)

States	2005				2006 (upto 31.1.2006)			
	Incidents	Civilians killed	SFs killed	Terrorists/ extremists killed	Incidents	Civilians killed	SFs killed	Terrorists/ extremists killed
Andhra Pradesh	533	185	22	161	10	5	-	1
Arunachal Pradesh	41	3	1	16	6	-	-	2
Assam	398	173	7	74	51	13	-	3
Bihar	183	70	24	10	15	3	-	-
Chhattisgarh	380	118	47	32	44	12	3	3
Delhi	5	67	-	5	-	-	-	-
Haryana	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
J&K	1990	557	189	917	91	14	7	47
Jharkhand	308	91	27	7	24	1	1	-
Karnataka	9	3	6	4	-	-	-	-
Kerala	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Maharashtra	95	29	24	8	15	3	-	3
Madhya Pradesh	20	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
Manipur	554	158	50	202	47	3	7	29
Mizoram	4	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
Meghalaya	37	1	-	23	3	-	-	-
Nagaland	195	26	1	70	12	-	-	4
Orissa	42	13	1	3	4	-	-	-
Punjab	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripura	115	28	11	21	4	-	-	1
U.P.	12	15	-	9	-	-	-	-
West Bengal	14	6	1	-	-	-	-	-

[English]

**Land for Maritime Complex
In Chennai**

256. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allocate land for maritime complexes and I.T. Parks in Chennai as reported in Business Line dated January 22, 2006; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government has decided to transfer about 400 acres of salt land located in Tambaram Taluka of Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu as under:

(i) about 300 acres to Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways for Maritime Complex; and

(ii) about 100 acres to Ministry of Information Technology and Communications for setting up Fab city.

Threat to National Security

257. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of police and security officials was held in New Delhi from October 6-8, 2005 for evolving a strategy to deal with the threat to National Security;

(b) if so, the main issues discussed and the decisions taken therein; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to augment National Security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Annual Conference of Directors General of Police/ Inspectors General of Police of different States/Union Territories, as well as Heads of Central Police Organisations was held from October 5, 2005 to October 7, 2005 in New Delhi to discuss issues relating to threats to national security and several other related matters. The Conference mainly discussed issues regarding internal security and the various challenges faced by the security forces and

certain decisions/recommendations were arrived at to secure a safe environment and ensure efficient and effective policing in the country.

(c) The Central Government has taken various measures to deal with various facets of terrorism such as amendment of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, enactment of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 proposed review of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976, provision of funds under Police Modernization Scheme for modernizing State police forces, strengthening and modernization of Central Para Military Forces, raising of India Reserve battalions by the States, strengthening of intelligence set up in the States, strengthening of border management, strengthening coastal security, exchange of information and intelligence in the field of counter terrorism in various bilateral/ multilateral fora.

[Translation]

**Children keeping away
from Schools**

258. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the survey conducted by the Government seven per cent children between the age group of 6-13 years do not go to schools;

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

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Sava Karor Bachche Ab Tak School Se Door" appeared in Dainik Jagran dated January 29, 2006;

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

(e) the names of the States where the said children are not going to schools;

(f) the percentage of children in the States who are not going to schools; and

(g) the amount allocated to these States under

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan by the Union Government during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (g) According to an independent survey commissioned by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in July-October, 2005, 6.94% children in the age group of 6-13 years were estimated to be out of

school. State-wise details are given at column 3 and 4 in the enclosed Statement.

Government of India has shared the details of the report with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take cognisance of the findings of the report while drawing up their Annual Work Plan & Budget for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the year 2006-07. The funds made available to State/Union Territory in 2004-05 and in 2005-06 upto 10.2.2006, are given at columns 5 and 6 of the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Out of School children as per national survey, 2005 and funds released by Central Government under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of out of school children (6-13 years) as per the survey	Percentage of out of school children in the States and UTs (6-13 years) as per the survey	Grant released under SSA	
				2004-05	2005-06 (till 10.2.06)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andaman & Nicobar	165	0.32	272.58	63.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	542,665	4.29	28000.00	38599.66
3	Arunachal Pradesh	23,036	7.68	3009.00	4100.51
4	Assam	536,220	8.91	20654.00	13857.33
5	Bihar	3,176,624	17.00	31970.56	31970.56
6	Chandigarh	3,086	2.20	20786.76	29184.39
7	Chhattisgarh	254,736	6.05	447.95	450.00
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0.00*	452.42
9	Daman & Diu	6,134	28.75	14072.00	15084.84
10	Delhi	84,424	2.98	111.91	111.91
11	Goa	1,155	0.72	0.00*	0.00*
12	Gujarat	380,444	3.96	0.00*	1000.00
13	Haryana	174,040	4.51	12881.55	10196.55
14	Himachal Pradesh	4,942	0.54	6144.00	7614.66
15	Jammu & Kashmir	4,777	0.29	7747.18	18530.66

1	2	3	4	5	6
16	Jharkhand	620,945	10.88	16568.50	27997.50
17	Karnataka	119,517	1.42	26280.70	28303.78
18	Kerala	23,242	0.55	8939.00	5939.00
19	Lakshadweep	1,104	8.33	12.03	0.00*
20	Madhya Pradesh	1,085,096	8.63	44608.92	77267.49
21	Maharashtra	529,295	3.17	35489.79	50235.31
22	Manipur	67,515	14.74	1225.00	1327.44
23	Meghalaya	22,132	3.74	2930.81	1925.81
24	Mizoram	1,558	0.73	3300.24	1653.74
25	Nagaland	32,406	8.38	2088.49	2323.01
26	Orissa	332,616	5.97	21807.27	32809.11
27	Pondicherry	583	0.36	3040.00	14683.89
28	Punjab	108,754	2.87	225.53	529.40
29	Rajasthan	795,089	6.90	23549.40	60313.43
30	Sikkim	3,803	2.94	1000.25	600.25
31	Tamil Nadu	193,418	2.14	26517.00	35329.53
32	Tripura	5,121	1.24	4703.96	7070.19
33	Uttar Pradesh	2,995,206	8.15	87761.00	182799.00
34	Uttaranchal	116,680	7.47	9144.71	10066.46
35	West Bengal	1,213,205	8.67	46024.36	31024.00
All India		13,459,734	6.94	511041.86	743351.82

* Unspent funds of previous years available

[English]

Foreign Nationals Absconding

259. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign nationals absconding even after the expiry of visa permit and not yet returned to their country of origin, nationality-wise;

(b) the State-wise break-up of the visa permits issued to them; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to trace illegal immigrants and deport them back to their country of origin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) A Statement giving nationality-wise break up of such foreigners who were found to be overstaying after expiry of their visas as on 31st December 2004 is enclosed.

(b) Visas are given by Indian Missions/Posts abroad for entry into the country and there is no provision to grant such visa State-wise.

(c) The powers under Section 3 (2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in India illegally has been delegated to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Besides, instructions are issued to States/UTs from time to time to launch special drives to detect and deport foreigners staying illegally in the country.

Statement

Country	2004
1	2
Afghanistan	12592
Algeria	02
Antigua & Barbuda	00
Argentina	07
Armenia	01
Australia	142
Austria	09
Azerbaijan	02
Bahrain	07
Bangladesh	35718
Belarus	04
Belgium	06
Bolivia	02
Bosnia & Herzegovina	00
Brazil	15
British Overseas Citizen	01
British Protectorate	01
British Solomon Island	00
Brunei	01

1	2
Bulgaria	04
Cambodia	09
Cameroon	05
Canada	204
Central African Rep.	00
Chad	00
Chile	02
China	106
China (Taiwan)	12
Colombia	06
Costa Rica	01
Croatia	09
Cuba	03
Czech	04
Denmark	12
Djibouti	17
Dominican Rep.	01
Ecuador	01
Egypt	11
Eritrea	09
Estonia	02
Ethiopia	36
Fiji	10
Finland	25
France	79
Georgia	01
Germany	269
Ghana	07

1	2	1	2
Greece	01	Lithuania	00
Grenada	01	Luxemburg	03
Guatemala	01	Madagascar	02
Guinea	01	Malawi	02
Guyana	01	Malaysia	281
Haiti	00	Maldives	47
Hong Kong	00	Mali	00
Hungary	11	Malta	06
Indonesia	62	Mauritius	86
Iran	203	Mexico	05
Iraq	16	Moldova	00
Ireland	15	Mongolia	19
Israel	22	Morocco	10
Italy	29	Mozambique	02
Ivory Coast	03	Myanmar	113
Jamaica	00	Namibia	13
Japan	381	Netherlands	18
Jordan	65	New Zealand	59
Kazakhstan	21	Nigeria	74
Kenya	152	Norway	80
Korea South	513	Oman	62
Kuwait	07	Pakistan	8287
Kyrgyzstan	01	Palestine	08
Laos	05	Panama	00
Latvia	02	Papua New Guinea	00
Lebanon	14	Paraguay	00
Lesotho	02	Peru	00
Liberia	07		
Libya	00		

1	2
Philippines	119
Poland	15
Portugal	07
Qatar	05
Romania	05
Russia	118
Rwanda	27
Saudi Arabia	19
Senegal	02
Seychelles	08
Sierra Leone	00
Singapore	122
Slovak Rep.	03
Slovenia	02
Somalia	97
South Africa	68
Spain	35
Sri Lanka	321
St. Lucia	02
Stateless	21
Stateless-Malaysia	06
Stateless-Singapore	03
Stateless-Tibet	78
Sudan	105
Swaziland	00
Sweden	113
Switzerland	50
Syria	24

1	2
Tajikistan	12
Tanzania	43
Thailand	95
Tonga	01
Trinidad & Tobago	06
Tunisia	01
Turkey	06
Turkmenistan	01
U.A.E.	09
U.K.	390
U.S.A.	716
Uganda	52
Ukraine	28
Uruguay	00
Uzbekistan	16
Venezuela	05
Vietnam	41
Yemen	109
Yugoslavia	07
Zaire	07
Zambia	05
Zimbabwe	04
Others	02
Total	62998

Privatisation of Mining Activities

260. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the major on-going projects in the mining sector and the order of investment proposed thereon, project-wise;

(b) whether the Government has made any plan to privatise the mining activities and to open up mining sector for private investment including foreign investors;

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

(d) the reasons and objectives for privatisation of mining activities;

(e) the percentage of unfreezing these sectors to provide investors and the modalities of foreign investment;

(f) the details of private and foreign direct investment proposals received and cleared during the recent past and the estimates of fresh investment committed; and

(g) the details of fresh FDI proposals received and under consideration, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Mineral concessions including reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence and mining lease are granted by the State Governments. Prior approval of the Central Government is mandatory for grant of mineral concessions by the State Government in case of the minerals specified in the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957. Government has accorded approval to National Aluminium Company, a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines, for 2nd Phase Expansion of Mines, Alumina Refinery, Aluminium Smelter and Captive Power Plant at an outlay of Rs. 4091.51 crores.

(b) As per the National Mineral Policy 1993, the exploration and exploitation of all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals have been thrown open to private investment.

(c) Since the State Governments grant mineral concessions, details of investments are not centrally maintained.

(d) In order to attract larger investment and state-

of-the-art technology in the mining sector, private investment, has been allowed in the mining sector.

(e) The mining sector in India for non-fuel minerals is now fully open for private investment. Foreign investment up to 100% is allowed on the automatic route for all non-fuel minerals.

(f) and (g) As per available information a total foreign direct investment of Rs.173.79 crore has been approved in the mining sector during the period January, 2005 to December, 2005.

[Translation]

Disturbed Areas

261. **SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas identified as disturbed by the Government in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to bring peace in these disturbed areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The States of Assam and Nagaland, Tirap & Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh and 20 Kms belt in the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya bordering Assam have been declared as "Disturbed Area" by the Central Government under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 as amended in 1972. Under this Act, the State of Manipur excluding Imphal Municipal Area is declared "Disturbed Area" by Governor of Manipur. In Tripura, areas under 34 Police Stations (28 Police Stations in full and 6 Police Stations in part) have been declared "Disturbed Area" by Governor of Tripura under the above mentioned Act. In Jammu & Kashmir, the Governor of the State has declared the districts of Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Pulwama, Baramulla and Kupwara as "Disturbed Area" under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Jammu & Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990.

(b) Government has taken various steps to counter the threat posed by insurgent militant groups in the North Eastern Region and in Jammu & Kashmir which, inter alia, include enhancing the capabilities of the State Police Forces, reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure, deployment of Army and Central Para Military Forces,

coordinated action by the security forces for counter insurgency operations and development of socio-economic infrastructure. Government has also extended an invitation to all militant outfits to give up the path of violence and to come forward for talks.

Tsunami/Earthquake Victims

262. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken initiatives to boost the morale of the Tsunami and Earthquake victims which occurred during the year 2004-2005;

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

(c) whether any employment and rehabilitation has been provided to those who are the only surviving members of their family;

(d) if so, the nature of assistance provided to such families;

(e) the number of persons who became handicapped in these natural disasters; and

(f) the details of the efforts made for the welfare of such people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (f) The Tsunami of December 2004, which was triggered due to an earthquake of intensity 8.6 on the Richter scale, was of unprecedented nature. A total of 9315 lives were lost and 4062 persons have been reported to be missing. Besides, more than 6000 persons suffered injuries. Massive relief, rescue and rehabilitation measures were launched by the Central and State Governments in order to normalize the situation at the earliest as majority of the people affected by Tsunami belonged to weaker sections of society.

A comprehensive package with a provision of Rs. 3844.05 crore titled as 'Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package' was announced mainly for the revival of livelihoods and to provide immediate relief and response, revival of fisheries and agriculture sector, construction of temporary/intermediate shelters and special relief to

orphans, unmarried girls, widows and disabled. In addition, Govt. of India financed the cost of sustenance and ex-gratia was also paid from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

After the completion of phase of rescue and immediate relief, Government has approved a long term Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme (TRP) at an estimated cost of Rs. 9870.25 crore over a period of four years. The TRP includes different sectors such as housing, fisheries, agriculture and livelihoods, ports and jetties, roads and bridges, power, water and sewerage, social infrastructure and welfare, environmental and coastal protection and tourism etc.

The State Governments on their part have also launched new initiatives to take care of the vulnerabilities of the affected persons. Among others these include:

- (i) Educational packages;
- (ii) Psychosocial care;
- (iii) Package for orphan adolescent girls;
- (iv) Self Help Groups of destitute women
- (v) Child Helpline
- (vi) Short Stay Home for women, etc.

[English]

Admission in Colleges

263. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that due to high cut off mark for admission in colleges, 50% students who pass 12th Exam every year do not get admission in the colleges;

(b) whether Government propose to formulate any plan so that all students who pass 12th examination can get admission in colleges without any difficulty;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI) : (a) to (d) Raising the enrollment of the population

in the 18-23 age group from 6 percent at the start of Tenth Plan to 10 percent by the end of 2007 was a key objective of the 10th Plan. Support to set up new colleges, strengthening of existing institutions and expanding the open and distance education system is part of policy to achieve the target.

National Mining Policy

264. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized the National Mining Policy;

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

(c) the steps contemplated by the Government to remove difficulties being faced to set-up industries in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) The Government had announced its National Mineral Policy for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals in 1993 and it is still in operation. However, a High Level Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Shri Anwar-ul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission to review the National Mineral Policy, 1993 and recommend possible amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to give a fillip to private investment in the sector. The Committee is yet to submit its report. One of the Terms of Reference of the Committee is to examine the implications of the policy of mineral rich States to make value addition within the State a condition for grant of mineral concession and make appropriate recommendations in this regard.

Trade between India and China

265. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China has decided to discuss Bilateral Regional Trade Agreement;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Nathula Pass would be opened for Indo-China Trade by March 2006;

(d) whether the modalities for mutual trade have been worked out;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the items which have been selected for export to China and vice-versa;

(f) whether this trade is likely to affect our domestic market adversely; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to save the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indo-China Joint Study Group (JSG) in its Report has recommended evolving a China-India Regional Trading Arrangement comprising trade in goods and services, investments, trade and investment promotion, and facilitation and measures for promotion of economic cooperation.

(c) to (e) It may not be possible to operationalise border trade through Nathula Pass by March 2006 in view of the climatic conditions in the region. The modalities for border trade through Nathula Pass are being worked out in consultation with the Chinese side.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Infiltration via Indo-Bangladesh Border

266. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Home Minister had visited Indo-Bangladesh border in the month of January, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the progress of Indo-Bangladesh fencing project;

(c) whether the Government has pledged to implement historical Assam accord in its totality;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government of Assam has been urging the Government to seal borders so that infiltration from Bangladesh is stopped; and

(f) If so, the extent to which the Government has helped Assam in implementing projects of border ceiling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2129 Kms of fence along Indo-Bangladesh border out of 3286 Kms. sanctioned has been completed till 31st January, 2006.

(c) and (d) The Government is committed to implement the Assam Accord. The progress of implementation of the Accord has been reviewed at the level of the Prime Minister on 5.5.2005 and the Union Home Minister on 2.1.2006.

(e) and (f) To check infiltration from across the border, the Government of India has decided to erect fencing along Indo-Bangladesh border including Assam. So far, 165 Kms. of fence out of 223 Kms. sanctioned in Assam Sector, has been completed till 31st January, 2006.

[Translation]

Import of Marble

267. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2451 dated August 9, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Assurance to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2451 dated 9.8.2005 has already been fulfilled on 8.12.2005, a copy of which is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Ministry of Commerce & Industry
VI Session of 14th Lok Sabha

Date of fulfilment 8.12.2005

Question No. & Date Subject	Promise made	When & how fulfilled	Reasons for Delay
USQ No. 2451 dated 9.8.2005 by Shri Srichand Kriplani.	Import of Marble	(a) to (f) Two instances of import of unpolished marble slabs have been noticed in violation of EXIM Policy resulting in confiscation and redemption on payment of adjudication levies of Rs. 11.49 lakhs. Finished Marble blocks/tiles, as covered under Chapter 68 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export & Import Items, 2004-2009, are freely importable subject to floor price mechanism and do not require any licence from DGFT. Further, India is maintaining import restrictions on rough and crude marble. Both the floor price mechanism and import licensing regime has protected the interest of the domestic industry.	Information was being collected by the Deptt. of Revenue from their field formations.
Asking for:-	The information		
(a) whether a large-scale: unpolished marble slabs is being imported by misusing export-import policy and by misleading customers;	is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.		
(b) if so, whether it has resulted in slowing down the production of Indian marble by 50%;			
(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check it;			
(d) whether the Government propose to constitute a task force for it;			
(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be constituted; and			
(f) if not, the reasons therefore?			

[English]

Physical Punishment to Children

268. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the children in schools are still being physically punished despite directions from the Government against physical punishment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases reported during the last three years in this regard;

(d) the action taken against the responsible persons; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent or check the physical punishment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) Most schools come under the purview of State Governments and such information is not maintained centrally. So far as the schools under the control of Central Government are concerned, 23 cases in Kendriya Vidyalayas and 9 cases in Navodaya Vidyalayas had come to the notice in the last three years. In every such case, action has been initiated against the persons responsible. Guidelines have been issued to the schools under the purview of the Central Government not to inflict physical punishment on students under any circumstances.

Proposal from Karnataka regarding Article 371

269. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for amendment of Article 371 of the Constitution is pending with Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of the said proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal was received from Government of Karnataka to amend Article 371 of the Constitution of India to provide for region-wise reservation in employment and admission to educational institutions in Karnataka on the lines of provisions in Article 371 D of the Constitution of India with respect to Andhra Pradesh. It was communicated to the Government of Karnataka that the proposal was not found feasible. Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to review its stand in the matter. As of now, no decision has been taken in this respect.

(c) Since the matter involves complex issues which are of constitutional nature, no definite timeframe can be specified in this regard.

Jan Shikshan Sansthan

270. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from Non-Government Organization and State Governments for setting up of Jan Shikshan Sansthan and Shramik Vidyapeeths in the country during the last three years and till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals cleared/sanctioned so far and number of proposals pending till date;

(c) the time by which pending proposals are likely to be cleared;

(d) whether the Government has set up any guidelines to the sanctioning of the said proposals/grants;

(e) if so, the details thereof and grant sanctioned during last three years along with the name of the NGOs and amount sanctioned to each NGO, State-wise; and

(f) the total number of persons imparted training so far for self employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A Statement showing the number of proposals received from NGOs and the number of Jan Shikshan Sansthan sanctioned, State-wise, during the last three years is enclosed. In the current financial year, 1260 proposals have been received.

(c) The proposals are scrutinized and finalized on year to year basis depending upon the availability of slots for that year.

(d) and (e) In order to be eligible, for sanction of a Jan Shikshan Sansthan, the concerned NGO should be registered for more than three years, be financially sound and have experience in education, adult/vocational

education or related fields. A feasibility study is also conducted to assess the suitability of the NGO. The grants sanctioned to the JSSs set up during the last three years, State-wise, is enclosed at Statement-II.

(f) The number of persons imparted training so far under the scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan during the last three years is given below:-

Year	No. of persons
2002-03	2,85,979
2003-04	3,16,653
2004-05	3,55,493

Statement-I

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Proposals received			No. JSS Sanctioned		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17	15	17	-	-	-
2.	Assam	05	01	07	01	01	-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	-	02	01	-	-
4.	Bihar	17	13	19	01	-	01
5.	Chhattisgarh	02	03	06	-	-	-
6.	Delhi	02	-	01	-	-	-
7.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Gujarat	04	-	02	01	-	-
9.	Haryana	03	04	04	-	01	01
10.	Himachal Pradesh	01	01	01	-	-	-
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	03	03	04	-	-	-
12.	Jharkhand	05	02	04	01	01	-
13.	Karnataka	13	13	09	-	01	01
14.	Kerala	11	05	07	01	01	01
15.	Madhya Pradesh	13	19	37	-	-	04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Maharashtra	25	34	26	01	02	02
17.	Manipur	06	06	39	01	-	01
18.	Meghalaya	-	-	01	-	-	-
19.	Mizoram	-	-	01	-	-	-
20.	Nagaland	03	03	03	-	01	-
21.	Orissa	35	13	32	01	01	01
22.	Punjab	01	01	02	-	01	-
23.	Rajasthan	03	07	13	-	-	-
24.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	11	07	18	01	01	-
26.	Tripura	-	02	02	-	01	-
27.	Uttar Pradesh	65	57	103	03	04	04
28.	Uttaranchal	03	08	12	-	01	01
29.	West Bengal	08	04	07	01	-	-
Total		257	221	379	14	18	18

Statement-II

Grants Sanctioned to the JSSs set up during 2002-03

S. No.	Name of JSS	Name of NGO	Grants 2002-03	Grants 2003-04	Grants 2004-05	Grants 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Naharlagun (Arunachal Pradesh)	Oju Welfare Association	1525000	1000000	2488720	1024303
2	Kamrup (Assam)	Gyan Vigyan Samiti	1300000	1000000	2076036	1000000
3	Nalanda (Bihar)	Shantidoot	1525000	1000000	1951475	1669973
4	Kutch (Gujarat)	Gramin Swabhiman	1300000	1000000	1902354	1500000
5	Ranchi (Jharkhand)	Vikas Bharati	1525000	1000000	1000000	1419118
6	Idukki (Kerala)	Mata Amritanandamayi Math	1525000	1000000	1429675	2094755
7	Washim (Maharashtra)	Mahila Utkarsha Pratisthan	1525000	1000000	1000000	3500000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	Thoubal (Manipur)	WWAGS (Rural Development Services)	1525000	1000000	2540700	2000000
9	Dhenkanal (Orissa)	National Institute for Social Research for Utkal Rural Tribals (NISRUT)	1525000	1000000	2000000	1851532
10	Sivakasi (Tamil Nadu)	Mata Amritanandamayi Math	1300000	1000000	1233449	1619411
11	Bahraich (UP)	Gramodaya Sansthan	1300000	1000000	2000000	2286750
12	Chitrakoot (UP)	Deendayal Research Institute	-	2000000	1000000	2057995
13	Amethi (U.P.)	Atal Gramodyog Sewa Samiti	-	2186553	1000000	3229055
14	Howrah (West Bengal)	Ananda Niketan	1525000	1000000	1871263	1500000

Grants Sanctioned to the JSSs set up during 2003-04

S.No.	Name of JSS	Name of NGO	Grants 2003-04	Grants 2004-05	Grants 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Jorhat (Assam)	Majuli Island Protection & Development Council	1500000	1200000	1000000
2	Arwal(Bihar)	Vanchit Kalyan Parishad	1500000	1200000	1783773
3	Rohtak (Haryana)	Haryana Nav Yuvak Kala Sangam	1500000	1200000	1000000
4	Bokaro (Jharkhand)	Randhir Verma Memorial Society	1500000	1200000	1000000
5	Bagalkot (Karnataka)	Shri Basaveshwar Vidya Vardhak Sangha	1500000	1200000	1000000
6	Allapuzha (Kerala)	Science & Technology Educational Council	1500000	1200000	1000000
7	Raigarh (Maharashtra)	Yuvak Pratisthan	1500000	1200000	1164898
8	Beed (Maharashtra)	Deendayal Research Institute	1500000	1200000	1000000
9	Dimapur (Nagaland)	Tribal Women Welfare Society	1500000	1200000	1997036
10	Koraput (Orissa)	Women's Organisation for Rural Development (WORD)	1500000	1200000	1373699
11	Ludhiana (Punjab)	Guru Angad Dev Sewa Society	1500000	1200000	1723127

1	2	3	4	5	6
12	Thiruvarur (Tamil Nadu)	Society for Community Organisation & Rural Development(SCORD)	1500000	1200000	1888409
13	Agartala (Tripura)	Tripura Adibashi Mahila Samiti (TAMS)	1500000	1200000	1113605
14	Deoria (UP)	Jagriti Seva Samiti	1500000	1200000	1000000
15	Mau Nath Bhanjan (UP)	Shiksha Prasariini Samiti, Madan Mohan Malviya Vidya Mandir	1500000	1200000	1863333
16	Gautambudh Nagar (UP)	Pandit Deendyal Vasudev Kutumbakam Sansthan	1500000	1200000	1000000
17	Mirzapur (UP)	Shiksha Prasariini Samiti	1400000	1200000	1952201
18	Dehradun, (Uttaranchal)	India Literacy Board	1500000	1200000	1367269

Grants Sanctioned to the JSSs set up during 2004-05

S.No.	Name of JSS	Parent Organisation	Grants 2004-05	Grants 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1	Saran (Bihar)	Scientific Educational Promotion & Medical Aid Foundation	1500000	-
2	Panipat (Haryana)	Ramjas Shiksha Samiti	1500000	1800000
3	Devangere (Karnataka)	Sri Sakthi Association	1500000	1800000
4	Ernakulam (Kerala)	Rajiv Gandhi Education Foundation	1500000	1800000
5	Gondia (Maharashtra)	Lok Kalyan Shiksha Sansthan	1500000	1800000
6	Ahmednagar (Maharashtra)	Maharashtra Homeopathic Foundation	1500000	1800000
7	Sehore (MP)	Kebiz Shiksha Samiti	1500000	1800000
8	Sidhi (MP)	SAVYASANCHI Centre for Urban & Rural Development	1500000	1800000
9	Dhar (MP)	Gomukh Waterplus	1500000	1800000
10	Hoshangabad (MP)	Jawaharlal Youth Welfare & Social Research Centre	1500000	1800000
11	Senapati (Manipur)	Chil Chil Asian Mission Society	1500000	1800000
12	Bhadrak (Orissa)	Animal Welfare Society of Orissa	1500000	1800000
13	Bhadohi (UP)	Late Badrinarayan Dhanraji Devi Gramothan Evam Shikshan Sansthan	1500000	1800000
14	Hardoi (UP)	Manav Vikas Evam Sewa Sansthan	1500000	1800000
15	Rai Bareilly (UP)	Rajeev Manav Vikas Sansthan	1500000	1800000

1	2	3	4	5
16	Fatehpur (UP)	Shri Vihgneshwar Nawgrah Paryavaran Sansthan	-	2500000
17	Bageshwar (Uttaranchal)	Rural Litigation & Entitlement Kendra (RLEK)	1500000	1800000
18	West Midnapore (West Bengal)	West Bengal Scheduled Castes, Tribes & Minority Welfare Association	-	1500000

Setting up of IED Schools

271. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of 115 IED schools in the State under Integrated Education for Disabled Children;

(b) If so, the details and status thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh involves establishment of 115 IED Centres in 23 districts in the State under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for the Disabled Children. As the proposal did not contain the list of schools proposed to be covered and other particulars about teachers and the students, the required information has been sought from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Consideration of the proposal is subject to receipt of the required information.

[Translation]

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

272. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications received from Chhattisgarh by the Union Government under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during the last three years;

(b) the details of the targets fixed and achieved in Chhattisgarh under the said scheme during the said period;

(c) whether the targets achieved thereunder are not satisfactory;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Applications for the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) are received by the District Industries Centres (DIC) in the States/UTs and banks. The details of year wise targets, applications sponsored and number of beneficiaries (number of self-employment units) who have been sanctioned and disbursed loans by banks during the last three years, i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 in Chhattisgarh under PMRY are as follows:

Number of Self-Employment Units				
Years	Target	Applications sponsored	Sanctioned loans	Disbursed loans
2002-03	2250	8591	4401	3006
2003-04	4600	7926	3993	3275
2004-05	6000	8209	4333	2863

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The reasons for non-achievement of targets including non-completion of pre-disbursement formalities by the applications, change of proposed activity by the applicant after recommendation by the Task Force, delay in the applicants obtaining necessary approvals from State Government, lack of infrastructure facilities like workshop, power, etc.

(e) The remedial steps taken include restructuring the training curricula under the PMRY with emphasis on setting up viable units, reiteration of instructions of the

Reserve Bank of India not to under finance projects and to dispose of applications within the stipulated time limits.

Import/Export of Agricultural Products

273. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether increase in export of agricultural products is not as per the target fixed by the Government;

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

(c) the imports of agricultural products during the last three years and thereafter;

(d) the areas need to be targeted to reduce India's agri-imports; and

(e) the amounts of FOREX India has lost on account of agri-imports during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Since exports are dependent on a host of factors, including external factors, no targets are fixed for agricultural exports. However, our agricultural exports have steadily increased over the last few years.

(c) to (e) The value of imports of agricultural products during the last three years is given below:

Year	Value (US \$ Million)
2002-03	2990
2003-04	3694
2004-05*	3777
2005-06* (April-Oct.)	2191

* Provisional (Source: DGCI&S)

The major agricultural items imported into the country are vegetable oils (edible), pulses, nuts & seeds including raw cashew nuts, etc. While the edible oils and pulses are imported to increase the domestic availability of these

commodities, raw cashew nuts are imported for processing and re-export. Increased domestic production of these commodities could reduce the need to import these commodities.

[English]

AFSP (ACT)

274. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee headed by Justice (Retd.) B.P. Jeevan Reddy to look into the demand for repealing the Armed Forces Special Powers Act has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details and the main recommendations of the said Committee; and

(c) the details of the action so far taken on such recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Committee constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs to review the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 as amended in 1972 has submitted its report to Ministry of Home Affairs on 6.6.05. The recommendations of the Committee contained in its report are being examined and a decision in the matter is yet to be taken.

[Translation]

Contribution of Agro Products based Industries

275. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the contribution made by agro products and agro products based industries including small/very small and cottage industries to the National Income alongwith total industrial production during each of the last three years till date; and

(b) the details of the incentives given and measures taken to encourage these industries and to provide remunerative price to the farmers during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The details of the contribution made by village and small industries (VSI) including small/very small and cottage industries to the total industrial production and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the last three years for which data are available, i.e., 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, are given below:

Year	Contribution of VSI to total industrial production	Contribution of VSI to the GDP
2001-02	46.84 per cent	7.89 per cent
2002-03	46.88 per cent	8.04 per cent
2003-04	46.54 per cent	7.92 per cent

(b) The primary responsibility of promoting small scale industries (SSI), including agro and rural industries, rests with the State/UT Governments. The Central Government, however, supports and supplements the efforts of the State/UT Governments by implementing various schemes and programmes throughout the country. Some of the important schemes are:

- (i) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for assisting eligible applicants in setting up village industry units. Under this programme, loans are provided to eligible applicants by banks and subsidy by the Government;
- (ii) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for assisting eligible applicants in setting up tiny units. Under this programme, loans are provided to eligible applicants by banks and subsidy by the Government;
- (iii) Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) for technology upgradation and modernisation of production techniques;
- (iv) Small Industry Cluster Development Programme (SICDP) for holistic development of SSI clusters;
- (v) Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Industries for providing guarantee cover to banks for collateral-free loans upto Rs. 25 lakh, sanctioned to SSI;
- (vi) Rural Industries Service Centres (RISC) Scheme for

setting up of common facility centers (CFCs) to provide infrastructural support and services to such industries;

- (vii) Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved design and packaging of village industry products.
- (viii) Financial assistance to village industry units for participation in national and international level exhibitions for market development; and
- (ix) Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme for providing bank loans to khadi and polyvstra units at subsidised rates of interest.

The mandate of the Government in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries is to facilitate creation of additional employment opportunities by providing support to entrepreneurs in setting up labour-intensive agro and rural industries in the non-farm sector. This does not include measures to provide remunerative prices to farmers for agricultural produce.

Setting up of Shelter Home/ Widow Homes

276. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set-up shelter home/widow homes in various parts of the country particularly in Jharkhand;

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

(c) the funds likely to be allocated for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details as per list given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Swadhar is a Central Sector Scheme with Budget Estimate of Rs.6 crores during 2005-06. Funds are released directly to implementing agencies based on the recommendations of State Governments. There is no specific State-wise allocation of funds.

Statement**State-wise List**

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of Swadhar Shelter Homes sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3.	Assam	5
4.	Bihar	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	1
6.	Delhi	1
7.	Goa	-
8.	Gujarat	3
9.	Haryana	1
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1
11.	Jharkhand	-
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	4
13.	Karnataka	17
14.	Kerala	-
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2
16.	Maharashtra	7
17.	Mizoram	2
18.	Meghalaya	-
19.	Manipur	11
20.	Nagaland	1
21.	Orissa	11
22.	Punjab	-
23.	Rajasthan	2
24.	Sikkim	-

1	2	3
25.	Tripura	-
26.	Tamil Nadu	14
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2
28.	Uttaranchal	-
29.	West Bengal	9
30.	Andaman & Nicobar	-
31.	Chandigarh	-
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-
33.	Diu & Daman	-
34.	Lakshadweep	-
35.	Pondicherry	-
36.	CSWB	-
Total		131

Legislation for Refugees

277. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has recommended the Government to enact a legislation in respect of refugees;

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

(c) the action so far taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be enacted;

(e) whether India has not signed the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees or its 1976 protocol; and

(f) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has not made any recommendation to the

Government for enacting a legislation in respect of refugees.

(e) India is not a Party to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.

(f) The main reasons, inter-alia, why India has not signed the above Convention on the Status of Refugees and its Protocol are as follows:

- (i) The Protocol is only a partial regime for refugee-protection.
- (ii) The Convention and Protocol are designed primarily to deal with individual cases and not with situations of mass influx.
- (iii) They do not address adequately situations faced by the developing countries.
- (iv) The situations of mixed flows have not been adequately addressed as in many cases, refugees are, in fact, economic migrants.
- (v) There is no balance between rights and obligations of receiving and source States.
- (vi) The concept of international burden-sharing has not been developed adequately in the Convention.
- (vii) The Convention and the Protocol do not address the question of minimum responsibility of States not to create refugee flows.
- (viii) Cooperation with other States in the resolution of refugee problems has not been addressed in the Convention and its Protocol.

[English]

Helicopter to Naxalite Affected States

278. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for providing helicopter to Police Department of Andhra Pradesh to ensure quick deployment of forces to meet Naxalite menace;

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

(c) the action so far taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has agreed to provide helicopter support to the State Government for logistic and evacuation of casualties purposes and the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Defence.

Investment in Coir Industry

279. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

DR. K.S. MANOJ:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop coir industry;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan indicating the amount that would be invested in the sector;

(c) the measures taken by the Government for the revival of sick units in Coir Sector; and

(d) the number of jobs that would be generated as a result thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Coir Board, a statutory organisation set up under the Coir Industry Act, 1953, has been implementing various developmental projects aimed at modernisation, research and development, technology upgradation, market promotion, skill development, infrastructure upgradation, etc., for development of the coir industry. The budget estimate of funds for 2005-06 for development of the coir sector is 23.00 crore. Pending presentation of the budget estimates for 2006-07, it is not possible to state the amount that would be invested.

Besides, the Government has approved a project titled Alappuzha Coir Cluster Development project (ACCDP) with an outlay of Rs. 56.8 crore, under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of IP&P), with Central grant of 75 per cent of the total outlay of Rs.

56.8 crore. The project aims at creation of infrastructure facilities to modernise the spinning sector by introducing motorized traditional ratts, setting up of Common Facility Centres for the benefit of small scale manufacturers, etc.

(c) As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, small scale industries, including coir industries, which were set up with bank credit and have subsequently become sick, are eligible for rehabilitation assistance available to sick units. Further, with a view to making the traditional industries more productive and competitive and to facilitate their sustainable development, the Government has approved a Central Sector Scheme, titled Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of traditional industries (SFURTI), for khadi, coir and village industries. The programme, inter alia, envisages holistic development in 25 clusters of coir industries.

(d) The estimated potential of additional employment generation of the new schemes like SFURTI, ACCDP

and Production Enhancement Linked Coir Workers Welfare Scheme and the ongoing schemes of the Coir Board is 11,200 per annum.

Expenditure of IIT and IIM Students

280. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the cumulative amount the Government spend on each IIT and IIM student; and

(b) the percentage of students from these institutions that have taken up jobs abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The cumulative amount the Government spend on each IIT and IIM during the year 2004-05 is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Indian institutes of Technology	2004-2005		Indian Institutes of Management	2004-2005	
	Plan	Non - Plan		Plan	Non - Plan
IIT Bombay	30.00	72.00	IIM Ahmedabad	-	-
IIT Delhi	30.00	70.00	IIM Bangalore	-	-
IIT Kanpur	30.00	68.00	IIM Calcutta	-	4.00
IIT Kharagpur	35.00	70.00	IIM Lucknow	4.00	7.15
IIT Madras	35.00	68.25	IIM Indore	10.21	0.25
IIT Guwahati	20.00	16.54	IIM Kozhikode	10.00	1.50
IIT Roorkee	20.00	52.00			

(b) No data is maintained centrally regarding the number and percentage of IITians and IIM students leaving the country.

[Translation]

Narco Test Facility

281. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where Narco Tests are conducted in the country particularly in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up this facility at Nanded in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Narco tests are conducted in State Forensic Science laboratories of Gujarat and Karnataka only. At present, no such facility is available in Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) It is for the Government of Maharashtra to take a view on the need to expand their forensic facility.

[English]

Road Accidents in Delhi

282. SHRI ARUN SETHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Traffic Police has failed to check the effective implementation of the traffic rules;

(b) if so, whether due to violation of traffic rules there is increase in road accidents in Delhi;

(c) if so, the total number of persons killed in accidents in Delhi by light and heavy vehicles during each of the last three years, till date separately;

(d) the total number of persons arrested in this regard;

(e) the action taken by the Government against them; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken to check road accidents and also to fix responsibilities of traffic police?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Delhi Traffic Police has been making efforts for effective enforcement of traffic rules and regulations. The total number of road accidents reported in 2005 was 9351 as compared to 9087 in 2004 which shows an increase in the number of accidents. However, the number of fatal road accidents decreased from 1846 in 2004 to 1771 in 2005.

(c) and (d) The requisite information is given below:

Year	Persons killed by		Persons arrested
	Light vehicle	Heavy vehicle	
1	2	3	4
2003	524	696	1116
2004	548	695	1130

1	2	3	4
2005	554	636	1121
2006 (Upto 31st January)	42	42	73

(e) Action taken in case of such accidents include prosecution of persons/drivers responsible for accidents, seizure/cancellation of driving licences of drivers and suspension/cancellation of permits of vehicles involved in accidents.

(f) Steps taken by Delhi Police in this regard include distribution of Road Safety Literature among various categories of road users with the aim of inculcating better road discipline amongst them; training of drivers of buses and commercial vehicles; use of Mobile Exhibition Van for Road Safety Training activities; enforcement of traffic rules vigorously; special drives against DTC, private buses and heavy commercial vehicles; concerted action against drunken driving, reckless driving, minor's driving, red light jumping, over speeding etc.; cancellation of permits of commercial vehicles involved in accidents; computer based road accidents analysis and identification of Black Spots; segregation of fast moving traffic from slow moving traffic; closure of gaps in the central verges on accident-prone roads; provision of bus bays, yellow boxes etc. on city roads; introduction of traffic signals/blinkers in accidents-prone areas; deployment of additional police personnel in accident-prone areas; mobile patrolling and group checking at vulnerable locations; synchronization of traffic signals at important corridors; expansion of Area Traffic Control System; prosecution of traffic violators through Inceptors and Speed Check Cameras.

[Translation]

Natural Disasters

283. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to constitute an expert committee to suggest concrete measures to check the loss of lives, crops and property due to recurring flood, cyclones and other natural disasters every year in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has, however, constituted an Expert Group to review the existing items and norms of assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), which inter alia includes the norms for providing assistance for loss of lives, damage to crops and property, due to natural calamities. This Expert Group comprises of representatives from some State Governments and concerned Central Ministries/Departments.

[English]

Export of Garments

284. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal was the top exporter of garments to India during the last year as per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics data;

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

(c) whether Chinese garments are being smuggled into the country through Nepal by taking advantage of duty free access under the India-Nepal Trade Treaty; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent inflow of third country products through Nepal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, sir; the Imports of readymade garments from Nepal were Rs. 29.13 crores during 2004-05 as per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics Data.

(c) As reported by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, no seizure case of smuggling of Chinese origin garments through Nepal by taking advantage of duty free access under Indo-Nepal Trade of Treaty has been effected. However as per this report, outright smuggling cases have been booked, where readymade garments have been seized which were being smuggled through Indo-Nepal border.

(d) Government of India makes all efforts to prevent and control smuggling across India-Nepal Border. In addition, under the India-Nepal Agreement to Control

Unauthorized Trade, Governments of the two countries cooperate with each other to prevent unauthorized trade across their border. The India-Nepal Treaty of Trade also prohibits export of third country goods from Nepal into India without the fulfilment of value addition and processing conditions prescribed under the Treaty. Field formations of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have also been sensitized to prevent smuggling of third country products through Nepal.

Protection of Mahal Language

285. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the language (Mother tongue) commonly spoken by the people of Minicoy Island in the UT of Lakshadweep;

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the protection and growth of Mahal language which is a minority language in this country;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to establish a center for research and development of this language;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The language commonly spoken by the people of Minicoy Island in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep is Mahal.

(b) The steps taken/being taken by the Government for protection and growth of Mahal language are as under:

- (i) It is taught as first language upto standard IV in Government schools of Minicoy;
- (ii) Mahal Translators are appointed under the Lakshadweep Administration;
- (iii) Mahal Programmes are relayed through All India Radio at Kavaratti and Calicut;
- (iv) Lakshadweep Times, the Official Newspaper of Lakshadweep, is printed in Mahal for Minicoy;
- (v) A book on Mahal language throwing light on history, language and literature has been planned;

- (vi) Mahal television channel from Maldives is made available in Minicoy; and
- (vii) Mahal cultural dance forms like Bandhiya and Lava are taught to school children and are also encouraged in other Islands.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to establish a center for research and development of this language. The above mentioned steps to protect and promote the language are considered adequate for the present.

Incentive schemes for Agro and Rural Industries

286. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been implementing any incentive scheme to help Agro and Rural Industries; and

(b) if so, the amount spent in this regard during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) has been implementing two credit-linked subsidy schemes of employment generation, namely, (i) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) by assisting entrepreneurs in setting up village industries in rural areas and small towns, and (ii) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for

creating employment opportunities for the educated unemployed youth in the rural as well as urban areas (approximately fifty per cent of the PMRY units established are estimated to be in rural areas). Subsidy admissible to the beneficiaries of both these schemes is released through banks in combination with the loan provided by the banks.

The State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of margin money assistance provided under the REGP during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (upto December 2005) is given in the Statement-I enclosed. Under the PMRY, allocation and release of the funds for subsidy are related to the targets for States/UTs. The subsidy amount is released directly to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which in turn releases the necessary amounts to the implementing banks. The amounts of subsidy released to the RBI during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (upto December 2005) are given below:

Year	Subsidy released under PMRY (Rs. crore)
2002-03	152.55
2003-04	147.63
2004-05	190.48
2005-06 (up to December 2005)	194.20

The amounts of grant released to the States/UTs for entrepreneurial development and contingencies under the PMRY during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (upto December 2005) are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of margin money assistance provided under the REGP during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (Upto December 2005)

(Rs. lakh)

S.No.	States/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06*
1	2	3	4	5	6
I	North Zone				
1	Chandigarh	0.40	10.24	21.45	0.00
2	Delhi	16.16	12.31	8.09	13.24

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Haryana	884.91	1938.96	2142.25	1325.53
4	Himachal Pradesh	643.78	757.11	657.72	467.02
5	Jammu and Kashmir	179.00	363.45	584.55	755.90
6	Punjab	1744.62	819.03	1834.63	599.18
7	Rajasthan	2189.08	2890.28	2064.33	1198.55
II	East Zone				
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	78.24	28.44	4.16	214.36
2	Bihar	108.13	186.03	281.69	281.63
3	Jharkhand	421.01	198.08	320.60	185.11
4	Orissa	156.78	784.11	863.05	100.95
5	West Bengal	1202.17	1593.51	1999.62	1476.92
III	North East Zone				
1	Arunachal Pradesh	45.36	52.77	66.03	49.13
2	Assam	375.68	806.83	1277.42	997.15
3	Manipur	110.53	41.19	73.66	7.94
4	Meghalaya	135.94	121.79	196.03	112.30
5	Mizoram	224.40	61.10	257.48	115.31
6	Nagaland	50.15	117.20	204.46	78.57
7	Tripura	106.23	224.02	214.14	84.74
8	Sikkim	6.70	127.67	165.78	58.48
IV	South Zone				
1	Andhra Pradesh	1775.01	1675.40	3394.19	2112.80
2	Karnataka	1560.05	1692.17	1063.83	486.83
3	Kerala	1196.03	2753.15	1027.95	665.75
4	Lakshadweep	-	7.42	0.00	0.00
5	Pondicherry	0.29	11.38	9.05	4.38
6	Tamil Nadu	604.08	1362.17	1147.28	252.72

1	2	3	4	5	6
V	West Zone				
1	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9.49	4.13	0.00	0.00
2	Daman and Diu	-	-	0.00	0.00
3	Goa	198.06	82.98	88.90	17.24
4	Gujarat	102.23	130.34	530.55	453.06
5	Maharashtra	1541.92	873.25	1439.17	1457.06
VI	Central Zone				
1	Chhattishgarh	427.33	1098.00	1000.91	657.50
2	Madhya Pradesh	605.97	1355.07	2125.71	511.72
3	Uttaranchal	378.01	979.70	578.63	237.80
4	Uttar Pradesh	2293.52	3415.18	3596.64	1470.82
Grand Total		19371.26	26574.46	29239.95	16449.69

*Upto December 2005

Statement-II

States/UTs-wise details of grants released for entrepreneurial development and contingencies under the PMRY during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (Upto December 2005)

(Rs. lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06**
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	63.92	191.44	293.34	176.72
2	Assam	110.73	58.97	100.71	77.80
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3.81	3.47	5.39	4.54
4	Bihar	0.00	101.54	19.87	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	0.00	36.08	50.84	41.02
6	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Gujarat	666.94	20.27	53.07	13.38
9	Haryana	38.86	68.99	74.20	45.64

1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Himachal Pradesh	16.96	19.48	5.12	15.03
11	Jammu and Kashmir	2.49	13.16	0.00	11.71
12	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	34.56	0.06
13	Karnataka	49.76	148.93	173.19	124.08
14	Kerala	55.26	112.21	175.75	176.63
15	Madhya Pradesh	120.21	149.32	265.38	226.32
16	Maharashtra	29.15	191.31	173.92	128.04
17	Manipur	0.00	5.57	4.55	0.13
18	Meghalaya	1.86	7.10	8.29	8.22
19	Mizoram	4.71	3.61	3.24	8.22
20	Nagaland	6.84	1.00	17.12	16.80
21	Orissa	20.50	91.34	147.50	135.46
22	Punjab	30.22	78.18	81.45	55.67
23	Rajasthan	57.83	106.01	104.30	109.97
24	Tamil Nadu	40.29	147.94	136.75	155.27
25	Tripura	17.35	18.23	21.24	22.70
26	Uttar Pradesh	204.37	402.53	644.91	422.85
27	Uttaranchal	0.00	25.83	92.76	6.40
28	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	19.12	29.10
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.59	1.06	2.51	0.55
30	Chandigarh	0.37	0.47	1.02	3.98
31	Daman & Diu	0.07	0.04	0.03	0.03
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.11	0.15	0.20	0.19
33	Lakshadweep	0.08	0.12	0.14	0.05
34	Pondicherry	1.02	5.37	4.74	0.57
35	Sikkim	0.10	0.48	0.25	0.89
Total		1544.38	2010.20	2715.43	2018.02

* Approximately fifty per cent of the units established are estimated to be in rural areas.

**Upto December 2005

Introduction of Computerised Books

287. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to introduce computerized version of books of some classes in the next few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the decision would deprive students belonging to weaker sections of the community as they do not have computers at home; and

(d) if so, steps proposed to help such students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) had placed the content of several textbooks for classes IX to XII on the web-site during the academic session 2005-06. It also plans to put the reprint editions of textbooks of classes II, IV, V, VII and VIII and also new textbooks of classes I, III, VI, IX and XI during the academic session 2006-07.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. NCERT textbooks in printed form will still be available in the market as before. Availability of textbooks on the web-site is an additional facility which can be made use of, depending on needs.

National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad

288. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the strength of students at the National Institute of Design (N.I.D.), Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be announced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) National Institute of Design (NID) has considerably enhanced the intake of students by

introducing 14 PG Programmes in the last 3 years and has completed arrangements to introduce one more PG Programme from academic year 2006-07. The annual intake of students has increased from 139 in 2001-2002 to 225 in 2005-06.

Funds for Educational Libraries

289. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 5 crores for the new scheme for educational libraries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of libraries identified in the Country especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the funds earmarked for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) An allocation of Rs. 5.00 crore was made by the Planning Commission for a proposed new scheme of Educational Libraries in the 10th Five Year Plan. It has since been decided that this amount may be utilized for science education under the scheme of 'Improvement of Science Education in Schools', which is a component of the composite scheme called "Quality Improvement in Schools". It has also been decided to transfer the component 'Improvement of Science Education in Schools' to the State Governments/UT Administrations as a State Sector Scheme.

Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme

290. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Creches in the country including Andaman and Nicobar Islands under Rajiv Gandhi National Crech Scheme for the Children of working mothers;

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

(c) the funds likely to be allocated for this purpose during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently launched the Central Sector Scheme known as Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers. Under the scheme it is proposed to set up new creches throughout the country. The scheme will be implemented through the Central Social Welfare Board and two national level organizations namely Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh and Indian Council for Child Welfare, New Delhi. Under the scheme the financial norms have been enhanced from Rs.18,480/- to Rs.42,384/- per creche per annum.

(c) Funds to the above implementing organizations will be allocated for setting up creches @ Rs.10,000/- Non-recurring and Rs.42,384/- recurring per creche, per annum.

Three Language Formula

291. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBSE & ICSE students have to study only two languages and the State Board School students have to study three languages under the three language formula;

(b) if so, the State Governments particularly Government of Maharashtra have requested the Union Government to revise the curriculum to bring about a uniformity requiring the State Board students also to study only two languages on the pattern of CBSE & ICSE;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal made by the State Governments and when it was made; and

(d) the decision taken by the Union Government in the matter alongwith reason for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) In schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Council of Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE), students compulsorily study three languages at the Upper Primary stage.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Foreign Tours

292. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries visited by the officers of India Trade Promotion Organisation during the last three years and thereafter along with expenditure incurred on each visit; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to restrict the foreign tours of these officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) One of the main corporate objectives of ITPO is to organise and participate in international trade fairs abroad for promotion of India's trade. Officers of ITPO are deputed to foreign countries for this purpose.

Statement

Year 2002-03

S. No.	Name of the Country	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Nepal	1663302
2.	Sudan	1022798
3.	Libya	595283
4.	Algeria	527964
5.	USA	3114259
6.	Iran	313488
7.	Brazil	253405
8.	Zambia	231148
9.	Uganda	672970
10.	Iraq	1111203
11.	Mexico	252539

1	2	3
12.	Russia	3846460
13.	Panama	906997
14.	Germany	3579350
15.	Switzerland	1561016
16.	Romania	557183
17.	Hungary	474678
18.	Taiwan	89789
19.	Ethiopia	392700
20.	UK	440976
21.	Italy	1297555
22.	Hong Kong	764471
23.	Japan	1253497
24.	France	1465458
25.	Spain	719167
26.	Belgium	191859
27.	UAE	146349
28.	South Africa	1012285
29.	China	1361427
30.	Poland	232521
31.	Canada	259865
32.	Australia	220138
33.	Jordan	278504
34.	Bangladesh	169809
35.	Sri Lanka	70962
36.	Peru	274391
Total		31325766

Year 2003-04		
S. No.	Name of the Country	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	France	1370184
2.	Germany	2730374
3.	Libya	557411
4.	Algeria	645014
5.	USA	1956283
6.	Malaysia	2763549
7.	Tanzania	573560
8.	Italy	1521670
9.	Mexico	670922
10.	Portugal	607303
11.	Canada	980624
12.	Poland	356222
13.	Mozambique	510391
14.	Switzerland	416467
15.	South Africa	1149675
16.	Zambia	446844
17.	Hungary	689195
18.	Spain	392442
19.	UAE	159958
20.	Turkey	530752
21.	Uganda	448004
22.	Japan	1868388
23.	Iran	345789
24.	China	152226
25.	Panama	447503

1	2	3
26.	Hong Kong	849616
27.	Uzbekistan	165185
28.	Egypt	394671
29.	Bangladesh	781915
30.	UK	169757
31.	Sudan	477762
32.	Ethiopia	186621
33.	Netherland	234811
34.	Peru	246612
35.	Australia	322089
36.	Sweden	201778
Total		26323567

Year 2004-05

S. No.	Name of the Country	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Algeria	423418
2.	Australia	226802
3.	Libya	416697
4.	France	1583573
5.	China	564593
6.	USA	1571317
7.	Portugal	455623
8.	Syria	195386
9.	Italy	1467558
10.	Vietnam	296323
11.	Mongolia	1415115
12.	South Korea	118971

1	2	3
13.	New-Zealand	173311
14.	Tanzania	317190
15.	Japan	1128634
16.	Poland	223164
17.	Germany	1149425
18.	South Africa	588334
19.	Columbia	549232
20.	Greece	412307
21.	Croatia	347759
22.	Czech Republic	607658
23.	Spain	156259
24.	Bahrain	97896
25.	UK	182632
26.	Switzerland	209917
27.	Ethiopia	138252
28.	Sudan	154417
29.	Egypt	377968
30.	Hong Kong	183614
31.	Panama	384499
32.	Singapore	73057
33.	Thailand	54684
34.	UAE	61434
Total		16307019

Year 2005-06 (Apr-Dec, 2005)

S. No.	Name of the Country	Expenditure (in Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Australia	271335

1	2	3
2.	Brazil	135855
3.	China	307800
4.	Croatia	207550
5.	Cyprus	235607
6.	France	944534
7.	Gautmala	233500
8.	Germany	751050
9.	Greece	154600
10	Hong Kong	501975
11.	Italy	891050
12.	Japan	15870000
13.	Kenya	673995
14.	Libya	264450
15.	Malaysia	593165
16.	Mexico	350156
17.	New Zealand	99680
18.	Poland	159400
19.	Romania	178092
20.	Saudi Arabia	463063
21.	South Africa	904909
22.	South Korea	4291194
23.	Spain	190800
24.	Syria	343627
25.	Tanzania	351468
26.	Uganda	282946
27.	United Kingdom	167360
28.	USA	345964
Total		30165125

Deadline Fixed for Admission

293. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has fixed any deadline to all the State Governments to declare the 10+2 results by a particular date to facilitate the students for further admissions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any effort in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes sir, The Supreme Court of India has fixed the deadline for all State Boards to declare the 10+2 results by 10th of June every year from the academic year 2005 except for West Bengal, for which the deadline would apply from the academic year 2006.

(c) to (e) The State Boards are bound to implement the order of the Supreme Court in this regard.

Awarding of Bharat Ratna

294. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the persons who have been awarded Bharat Ratna during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the names of the persons who have surrendered or declined to accept the award;

(c) the criteria adopted by Government to award Bharat Ratna to any person;

(d) whether the Government has constituted any committee to scrutinise the names of the people for the award of Bharat Ratna;

(e) the terms of reference given to the committee; and

(f) the details of members of the committee which scrutinises the name for this honour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Bharat Ratna award has not been conferred on any person during the last three years.

(b) As per available records, the posthumous award of Bharat Ratna on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was declined by his family.

(c) Bharat Ratna is awarded for exceptional service towards the advancement of Art, Literature and Science, and in recognition of public service of the highest order.

(d) to (f) No Committee has been constituted to scrutinise names of people for the award of Bharat Ratna. Recommendations for the award of Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister himself to the President. The Prime Minister may consult one he chooses.

Setting up of Child Commission

295. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Child Commissions on the pattern of National Child Commission both at the Central and at the State Levels;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently notified the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 in the Gazette of India on 20th January, 2006 as Act No.4 of 2006. The Act envisages setting up a National Commission at the National level and the State Commissions at the State level for Protection of Child Rights, which will be a statutory body with similar provisions for State Commissions in respect of their constitution, reporting, functions and powers as that of the National Commission. States have already been requested for setting up the Commissions at the State level. The salient features of the proposed Child Commissions are available in the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005, which is available in the Ministry's website <http://www.wcd..nic.in>.

(c) The various actions with reference to setting up of the Commissions for the Protection of Child Rights, namely, creation of posts, framing of rules, etc. are now under way.

Introduction of Right to Education Bill

296. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal of the Government for ensuring that every child upto age of 14 goes to school has been considered by the Committee set up by Prime Minister of India to examine financial implications of Right to Education Bill;

(b) if so, whether Planning Commission raised fundamental questions on provisions of the Bill;

(c) if so, whether Planning Commission has indicated that the Bill needs further deliberation on assumptions and financial implications;

(d) if so, the main points that have been recommended by the Committee;

(e) whether Planning Commission's objections have been considered by Government; and

(f) if so, the changes that have been considered in proposed Bill and time by when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) to (f) The recommendations made by a small group constituted to examine, inter alia, the legal and constitutional aspects of Right to Education and the concomitant, financial requirements, have been forwarded to the Prime Minister for further directions.

Joint Study Group on Trade between India and Russia

297. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have agreed to set up a joint study group to examine the possibility to increase trade;

(b) If so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Russia has also joined the World Trade Organisation; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it is likely to boost the Indian trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation was signed on 6th February 2006 by Shri Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Mr. G.O. Gref, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation during the latter's visit to India. This provides for establishing a Joint Study Group (JSG) under the Co-Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary or his representative from the Indian side and the authorized expert from the Russian side. The JSG has been mandated to formulate a program to suggest steps for enhancing bilateral trade between India and Russia with an overall objective of diversifying and strengthening the bilateral relations in a wide range of areas, particularly with regard to trade in goods and services, investment and economic cooperation and study the feasibility to consider the possibility of signing Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and the Government of the Russian Federation.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Disbursement of Loan by Banks

298. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan disbursed by the banks under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana in the country particularly in West Bengal during each of the last three years, State-wise and bank-wise;

(b) the number of beneficiaries under the scheme during the same period, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to make public awareness of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), State-wise and bank-wise details of loans disbursed under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) are not maintained centrally. However, the bank-wise details of loans disbursed under the PMRY in the country as a whole, during each of the last three years, i.e., 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, are given in the Statement-I enclosed. The State-wise details of number of beneficiaries under PMRY in the country, including West Bengal, and the amount of loan disbursed during the same period 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(c) The district industries centres (DICs) of the State/Union Territories (UTs) implementing the PMRY undertake motivational camps and pre-selection training, besides publicity of the scheme through the print and audio-visual media, hoardings, etc. Banks implementing the PMRY also undertake publicity of the scheme on their part for popularization of the scheme.

Statement-I

Bank-wise details of loans disbursed under PMRY for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (as reported by the Reserve Bank of India)

(Amount Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of Banks	Amount of loan disbursed		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1	State Bank of India	33952.00	36281.00	32335.00
2	State Bank of B & J	2198.77	2415.91	2763.23

1	2	3	4	5
3	State Bank of Hyd.	3010.29	2832.10	4420.77
4	State Bank of Indore	2641.55	2430.96	1246.77
5	State Bank of Mysore	1543.28	1589.94	1309.19
6	State Bank of Patiala	1938.39	2070.07	1991.29
7	State Bank of Saurashtra	0.00	356.65	277.07
8	State Bank of Travancore	1369.27	1999.25	1477.48
9	Allahabad Bank	5581.69	6601.03	7022.34
10	Andhra Bank	0.00	2131.97	5472.24
11	Bank of Baroda	9192.82	8658.39	8421.49
12	Bank of India	7214.54	6854.36	8149.60
13	Bank of Maharashtra	2667.31	2951.12	3431.83
14	Canara Bank	4179.93	4308.41	7630.36
15	Central Bank of India	0.00	6998.52	11064.12
16	Corporation Bank	955.96	1005.44	1254.29
17	Dena Bank	1818.18	1408.87	1704.13
18	Indian Bank	2284.41	2308.76	2723.71
19	Indian Overseas Bank	0.00	0.00	2187.43
20	Oriental Bank of Commerce	3064.81	3080.73	3169.58
21	Punjab National Bank	11696.99	12747.17	13423.58
22	Punjab & Sind Bank	1342.94	1396.82	1281.96
23	Syndicate Bank	4111.21	4541.97	4451.10
24	Union Bank of India	6618.60	6686.90	6926.91
25	United Bank of India	1473.79	1749.69	2797.87
26	UCO Bank	4425.34	5419.92	2093.45
27	Vijaya Bank	1762.41	1898.34	2085.76
28	ICICI Bank Ltd	24.76	58.59	31.42
29	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	271.73	358.70	232.61
30	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	50.94	47.90	84.57

1	2	3	4	5
31	Catholic Syr. Bank Ltd.	269.48	398.34	433.70
32	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	107.73	264.52	359.42
33	Federal Bank Ltd.	837.78	814.24	720.42
34	J&K Bank Ltd.	826.10	796.29	888.84
35	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	446.97	393.43	209.40
36	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	0.00	294.59	312.07
37	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	135.86	209.80	140.23
38	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	50.30	0.00	0.00
39	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	125.82	115.62	139.35
40	Sangli Bank Ltd.	0.00	47.35	29.35
41	South Indian Bank Ltd.	0.00	412.28	562.02
42	Tamilnadu Mer Bank Ltd.	304.98	302.25	302.75
43	United Western Bank Ltd.	394.79	394.43	332.04
44	ING Vysya Bank Ltd.	476.58	552.69	647.27
45	Nainital Bank Ltd.	222.18	265.67	248.24
46	City Union Bank Ltd.	188.16	182.82	195.07
47	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	68.73	120.70	80.75
Total of all Banks		119847.37	136754.50	147062.07

Statement-II

*State/UT-wise details of number of beneficiaries and loans disbursed under PMRY for the years
2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (as reported by the Reserve Bank of India)*

(Amount Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
		No. of beneficiaries	Amt.	No. of beneficiaries	Amt.	No. of beneficiaries	Amt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Haryana	7008	4229.89	7277	4258.84	7588	4209.92
2	Himachal Pradesh	2209	1505.46	2862	2232.75	2850	2271.89
7	Jammu & Kashmir	605	517.15	656	621.27	649	671.47
4	Punjab	7771	4781.13	7558	4728.70	8066	4964.90
5	Rajasthan	12267	6546.55	12769	7078.78	12653	6880.22
6	Chandigarh	47	29.32	68	42.09	202	121.91
7	Delhi	632	453.90	904	624.08	841	585.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	Assam	4149	3332.78	5844	3863.75	4785	3036.71
9	Manipur	549	388.42	520	367.97	270	212.23
10	Meghalaya	256	197.54	403	347.49	555	483.63
11	Nagaland	107	138.36	53	49.36	109	102.45
12	Tripura	1085	677.04	2043	1527.01	1689	1181.77
13	Arunachal Pradesh	294	273.07	668	608.86	133	91.80
14	Mizoram	155	107.87	775	826.50	142	133.50
15	Sikkim	26	13.17	30	22.23	32	22.80
16	Bihar	7939	6626.81	9860	8163.68	10136	8577.37
17	Jharkhand	4354	3543.38	4774	3953.63	4765	3746.03
18	Orissa	6725	4540.69	8779	5739.25	10107	5630.12
19	West Bengal	2528	1627.77	2822	1889.35	3491	2314.67
20	Andaman & Nicobar	142	110.23	182	130.29	120	92.05
21	Madhya Pradesh	16710	10522.26	19748	12127.05	19900	12069.88
22	Chhattisgarh	3006	1886.82	3275	2087.12	2863	1733.56
23	Uttar Pradesh	38016	25583.18	40481	27171.63	42337	28657.03
24	Uttaranchal	4683	2865.50	5361	3648.40	6599	4459.05
25	Gujarat	7184	3720.83	6755	3252.41	6481	3105.98
26	Maharashtra	17631	10425.46	17230	9599.54	21452	11873.41
27	Daman & Diu	2	1.00	3	2.10	4	3.51
28	Goa	274	200.60	116	90.54	62	44.92
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	10	7.00	0	0.00	22	15.00
30	Andhra Pradesh	13632	7934.49	17729	11125.44	22289	14639.11
31	Karnataka	10026	6328.81	11929	7166.13	13597	8758.12
32	Kerala	9853	5414.82	14024	7508.50	16520	8470.62
33	Tamilnadu	9595	4361.54	12738	4914.67	16860	6862.20
34	Lakshadweep	10	7.07	17	11.21	4	2.72
35	Pondicherry	213	101.56	294	130.24	329	138.31
36	Not Specified	828	826.10	897	843.64	897	918.19
All India		190521	119847.37	219444	136754.50	239399	147062.07

*[Translation]***Iron-Ore Mines on Lease**

299. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether iron ore mines have been given on lease to various companies in the country;

(b) if so, the details of iron-ore mines on lease in the country at present, State-wise;

(c) whether the production by these companies is being done as per the target;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard;

(g) whether the mining work is going on in less than about half of the said mines on lease;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor;

(i) the details of those companies which are not undertaking the mining work;

(j) whether the Government is contemplating to cancel the lease of these companies and to put these companies in the black lists of the States; and

(k) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per information available, the state-wise details of iron ore leases/mines, as on 31/03/2005 is as under:

State	No. of leases/mines
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	25
Chhattisgarh	15

1	2
Goa	187
Haryana	01
Jharkhand	25
Karnataka	72
Madhya Pradesh	8
Maharashtra	25
Orissa	102
Rajasthan	14
All India	474

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Total iron ore production for the year 2004-05 is reported at 142711 thousand tonnes.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) 22 companies have not reported production for the year 2004-2005. Details are given below:

State	Number of Companies
Andhra Pradesh	1
Goa	7
Karnataka	8
Madhya Pradesh	1
Maharashtra	2
Orissa	3

(j) and (k) The State Governments are empowered to declare such mining leases as lapsed where the holder of a mining lease fails to undertake mining operations for a period of two years after the date of execution of the lease or after having commenced mining operations has discontinued the same for a period of two years.

[English]

Fencing of Indo-Nepal Border

300. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to fence Indo-Nepal borders keeping in view of Maoists/Naxalite problems;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Government has deployed Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) as a Border Guarding Force on this border. State Governments having border with Nepal have also been advised to strengthen policing infrastructure in the border districts.

[Translation]

Naxalite Attacks

301. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Naxalites and Maoists have increased their activities in various States during 2005 and 2006;

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

(c) the number of civilian, security personnel and Naxalite/Maoist killed/injured and the property damaged in each of such incidents during the said period as compared to corresponding period;

(d) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the security forces dealing with Naxalites/Maoists activities in the country:

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

(f) the action taken by the Government to deal with the Naxal/Maoist activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The quantum of naxal violence has shown a marginal increase of 3.97% in 2005 as compared to 2004. In 2006 (upto 31.1.2006), the naxal violence has come down to 115 incidents in comparison to 196 incidents in the corresponding period of the last year. The details of incidents the number of civilians, security personnel and naxalites killed and property damaged in such incidents in naxal affected States are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) Funds are given to the States under the Police Modernization Scheme to modernize their police forces in terms of modern weaponry, latest communication equipment, mobility and other infrastructure. The naxal affected States have also been asked to identify vulnerable police stations and outposts in naxal areas and take up their fortification under the Scheme. These States are also reimbursed expenditure incurred by them on security related items under the SRE Scheme.

(f) The Central Government views the naxalite menace as a matter of serious concern. The Government has been pursuing a multi-pronged approach to address the problem on political, security and development fronts in a coordinated manner. The Central Government has taken specific measures to coordinate and supplement the efforts and resources of the naxal affected States on both security and development fronts to meet the challenge posed by the naxal problem and has assured these States all possible help in the future also.

Statement

State	Incidents			Civilians killed			Police men killed			Naxalites killed			Property damaged		
	2004	2005	2006 as on 31.1.06 (31.1.05)*	2004	2005	2006 as on 31.1.06 (31.1.05)*	2004	2005	2006 as on 31.1.06 (31.1.05)*	2004	2005	2006 as on 31.1.06 (31.1.05)*	2004	2005	2006 as on 31.1.06 (31.1.05)*
Andhra Pradesh	310	532	10(68)	68	184	5(19)	6	22	-(-)	47	160	1(19)	2,29,92,800	2,82,79,600	-(16,09,600)
Jharkhand	379	308	24(29)	128	91	1(8)	41	27	1(1)	20	7	-(-)	89,20,000	1,15,40,000	-(35,0,0,000)
Chhattisgarh	352	380	44(74)	75	118	12(1)	8	47	3(5)	15	32	3(-)	1,15,84,550	5,64,000	-(45,000)
Bihar	323	183	15(15)	166	70	3(7)	5	24	-(6)	1	10	-(-)	74,05,000	44,35,000	-(-)
Maharashtra	84	95	15(5)	9	29	3(1)	6	24	-(-)	2	3	3(-)	33,92,575	8,61,500	50,41,375 (50,000)
Orissa	35	42	4(3)	4	13	-(-)	4	1	-(-)	-	3	-(-)	2,00,000	1,00,00,000	-(-)
Uttar Pradesh	15	10	-(1)	9	1	-(-)	17	-	-(-)	-	4	-(1)	-	-	-(-)
Madhya Pradesh	13	20	1(-)	4	2	-(-)	-	1	-(-)	1	-	-(-)	1,83,500	14,45,000	-(-)
West Bengal	11	14	1(-)	2	6	-(-)	13	1	-(-)	1	-	-(-)	1,00,00,000	-	-(-)
Karnataka	6	8	-(1)	1	2	-(-)	-	6	-(-)	-	4	-(-)	40,000	-	-(-)
Haryana	-	2	-(-)	-	-	-(-)	-	-	-(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-(-)
Kerala	5	-	1(-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1533	1594	115(196)	466	516	24(36)	100	153	4(12)	87	223	7(20)	6,47,18,425	5,71,25,100	50,41,375 (62,04,600)

* Figures in bracket show details of the corresponding period of 2005.

Interrogation System

302. SHRI V.K.THUMMAR:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has studied the prevailing provisions with regard to the system of interrogation, inquiry and litigation in criminal cases;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Committee which was set up by the Government, under the Chairmanship of Justice V.S. Malimath to consider measures to revamp the Criminal Justice System, was mandated, inter alia, to make specific recommendations on simplifying judicial procedures and practices and for making the delivery of justice to the common man closer, faster, uncomplicated and inexpensive and to suggest ways and means of developing such synergy among the Judiciary, the Prosecution and the Police as to restore the confidence of the common man in the Criminal Justice System by protecting the innocent and the victims and by punishing unsparingly the guilty and the criminal.

The Committee made various recommendations to improve the quality of investigation, like separation of Investigation Wing from Law and Order Wing, strengthening of training infrastructure, audio/video recording of statement of witnesses, mandatory use of forensic science and modern technology right from the commencement of investigation etc.

With regard to interrogation, the Committee recommended that interrogation centers should be setup at the District Headquarters in each District where they do not exist and strengthen where they exist with the facilities like tape-recording, videography or photography etc.

Advisories were issued to State Governments with regard to those recommendations, which were to be implemented through administrative measures.

As regards those recommendations, which require amendment to various laws, views/comments of State

Governments/UT Administrations have been sought as the Criminal Law and the Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Views/Comments from many States/UT Administrations are still awaited.

[English]

F.D.I. in Elementary and Primary Education

303. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to permit Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in education sector, particularly elementary and primary education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the FDI proposals approved and the proposals which are at an advanced stage of approval;

(d) whether any policy guidelines have been formulated in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which FDI is likely to improve the education sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is no separate sectoral policy notified for education sector. By virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series), FDI up to 100% is allowed on automatic route in the Education Sector. In the recent review of policy notified vide Press Note 4 (2006 Series) there is no change in the policy for education sector. In addition, as indicated in the same Press Note No.2 (2000 series), the investor may choose to make an application direct to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) without availing the automatic route.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Experience with FDI in education is recent and no serious analysis has been made of the data available.

Higher Education

304. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has sought additional fund of Rs.3400 crore for remaining period of 10th plan ending on March 31, 2007 to revolutionize higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the detailed plan chalked out by the Government for the sum demanded from the Planning Commission;

(c) the total funds likely to be made available to central universities in different States and setting up of University of Excellence alongwith the response of the Planning Commission;

(d) whether the Government proposes setting up of University in each State apart from the existing University as reported in the Times of India, dated January 7, 2006;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the total expenditure involved therein and how it would be met;

(g) whether Government has plan for achieving goals in higher education; and

(h) if so, the plans, perspective and the allocation of grants for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c), (g) and (h) Allocation of plan resources for higher education by the Planning Commission is subject to availability of financial resources and approval of the Budgetary provisions by Parliament. The approved size of the 10th Plan for higher education was Rs.4176.50 crores. During the years 2002-2003, 2003-04 and 2004-05, an

expenditure of Rs.619.14 crore, Rs.560.44 crore and Rs.789.95 crore have been incurred respectively. During 2005-06, Rs.873.27 crore has been approved at RE stage. Based on the approval of Parliament, the Central Government and the University Grants Commission would allocate resources for various schemes for strengthening higher education including that of assisting universities with potential for excellence.

(d) and (e) No sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Conference of VCs of Central Universities

305. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities was held in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed therein alongwith the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government has asked the Central Universities to generate internal resources to meet their growing need as reported in the Hindu dated January 14, 2006;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi had organized a conference of Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities on January 12-13, 2006. According to the JNU, issues on higher education including funding, recruitment of faculty, University autonomy, among others, were discussed at the conference. Recommendations of the said conference have not been received by the Government.

(c) No such directions have been issued.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Post Godhra Violence

306. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported unearthing of a mass grave at Lunawada in Panchmahals District of Gujarat is believed to be the skeletal remains of the post Godhra violence in 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CBI has investigated into the matter as has been demanded by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC); and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the mass grave unearthing incident at Lunawada in Panchmahals District of Gujarat.

The Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat took cognizance and as per the order of the Court exhumation of skeletons at Lunawada was undertaken by the Gujarat State Police and revenue officials in the presence of Central Bureau of Investigation officers and a team of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi under the guidance of Head of the Department of Forensic and Toxicology, AIIMS, New Delhi. The bones were collected, classified, packed and sealed by the State authorities and were sent to Centre for DNA Finger Printing and Diagnostics, Hyderabad as ordered by the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat. The blood samples were collected from the close relatives by the AIIMS, New Delhi team.

(c) The National Human Rights Commission has intimated that the Commission on 27-12-2005 took suo-motu cognizance of a news story on CNN/IBN News TV and directed the Director, CBI and DGP Gujarat for their comments.

(d) As per the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, CBI has supervised collection of bones and sent them for DNA testing and the order of High Court has been complied with. The Status Report on exhumation has also been sent to NHRC, New Delhi.

PM Visit to Andaman and Nicobar Islands

307. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister recently visited the Tsunami affected Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, whether he expressed his unhappiness on the progress of reconstruction work for the Tsunami victims;

(c) if so, the details of complaints received during his visit;

(d) the action so far taken on such complaints; and

(e) the steps taken to speed up the reconstruction work in Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction that intermediate shelters for the people rendered homeless by the Tsunami were build in time; other relief such as provision of payment of cash ex-gratia, free ration, compensation for losses and grants for repair of boats were provided and that immediate restoration of road and sea communication was also achieved. However, the Prime Minister observed that further action needs to be taken on many fronts so that the people's livelihood is completely restored. He also received representations/memoranda during his visit to Andaman and Nicobar Islands which have been forwarded to the concerned Department/Ministry for taking further appropriate action.

(e) In order to speed up reconstruction work in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tsunami Reconstruction Package (TRP) has been approved by the Government which includes permanent housing, fisheries and

livelihood, agriculture, ports and jetties, power, drinking water supply and sewerage, social infrastructure and welfare, environment and coastal protection and promotion of tourism.

[Translation]

**Terrorist Activities through
Samjautha Express**

308. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some terrorists have recently succeeded in entering the Indian territory through Samjautha Express as reported in Rashtriya Sahara dated January 10, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the intelligence agencies have any information regarding the number of such terrorists;

(c) if so, whether the Government has formulated any action plan to stop such infiltration;

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

(e) the action being taken by the Government to check such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Joint Venture with Czech Republic

309. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any joint venture with Czech Republic;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the sectors identified;

(c) the extent to which both the countries will be benefited by such joint venture; and

(d) the time by which such joint venture is likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) In the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their evaluation of techno-economic feasibility of the projects in question. Under the existing policy, FDI in most sector/activities is allowed under the Automatic route, which does not require prior approval of the Government. 15 proposals of collaboration from the Czech Republic involving Foreign Direct Investment in the form of equity joint ventures have been approved envisaging a total equity investment of Rs. 59.98 crore between the period from August, 1991 to December, 2005. Sector-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sector-wise Joint Venture and FDI Approved for Czech Republic from August 1991 to December, 2005

S. No.	Sector	No. of FDI Approvals	Amount of FDI Approved (In Rs. Crore)
1.	Rubber Goods	1	45.00
2.	Transportation Industry	2	7.00
3.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	2	5.40
4.	Consultancy Services	3	1.67
5.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	2	0.44
6.	Industrial Machinery	3	0.28
7.	Electrical Equipments (including computer software & electronics)	2	0.19
Grand Total		15	59.98

Trade Deficit

310. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's exports have registered a high growth during 2005;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to further increase the exports and control imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) According to the latest export data available from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, India's exports registered a growth of 19 per cent in dollar terms during April-January 2005-06 over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) There are no measures to restrict imports or artificially balance trade that may lead to dampening of the growth of the economy or resurgence of inflationary pressures. However, export promotion is a constant endeavor of the Government and a Foreign Trade Policy was announced on 31st August, 2004 with the objective of doubling India's overall global merchandise trade within the next five years. The Government has recently taken a number of initiatives to promote exports. These include, inter-alia, bringing into force the SEZ Act 2005 to trigger a larger flow of foreign and domestic investment in infrastructure and productive capacity; setting up Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs); giving a major thrust to procedural simplification to reduce transaction cost of exporters; and signing regional trade agreements to leverage exports in line with India's comparative advantage.

Splitting of MCD in to Smaller Agencies

311. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to split the MCD into smaller agencies;

(b) If so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which such decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister of Delhi has brought it to the notice of the

Government that there is need to restructure the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, as recommended by Balakrishnan Committee and Virendra Prakash Committee, by splitting it into smaller bodies to ensure efficiency, accountability and better interface with the people. Since the matter involves extensive consultations on various legislative, administrative and financial issues, it is difficult to fix a definite time-frame for taking a decision in the matter.

Pesticide in Exported Spices

312. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticide residues in consignment of spices exported from India were found in excess of the norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for providing testing and inspection facilities before exporting spices to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There were no reports of excess pesticides residues in Indian spices exported in the years 2005 and the current year so far. However, four cases were reported in the year 2003 and one in the year 2004.

(c) The Government of India is providing budgetary support to implement a programme to assist exporters in setting up/ upgrading quality control laboratories in their premises during the 10th Five Year Plan. In addition, the Spices Board maintains a well equipped, NABL accredited and ISO certified Quality Evaluation Laboratory at Cochin which provides analytical services to the exporters.

[Translation]

Formulation of New Education Policy

313. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a new education policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal to formulate a new Education Policy.

[English]

Proposals from WCD

314. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals sanctioned by the Government in 2004-05, district-wise;

(b) the total number of proposals received for the year 2005-06 for grant-in-aid to carry out various programmes in various States particularly from Assam; and

(c) the criteria fixed for the NGOs to submit a proposal in (SWADHAR) and Support for Training and Employment Programme for Women programmes (STEP) specially for NER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The number of proposals sanctioned by the Ministry of Women and Child Development during 2004-05 and proposals received during 2005-06 in each State including Assam are given in the Statement-I enclosed. There is no system in the Ministry to maintain the information districts wise.

The details of the NGOs to whom funds were released State-wise and Scheme-wise for the year 2004-05 are available in the Annual Report of the Ministry and Ministry's website <http://www.wcd.nic.in>

(c) As per the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

S.No.	Name of the States/UT	Total No. of Proposals Sanctioned by the Govt. in the year 2004-05	Total No. of Proposals Received in the year 2005-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47	348
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	59

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	36	190
4.	Bihar	21	366
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	284
6.	Delhi	6	50
7.	Goa	1	5
8.	Gujarat	13	92
9.	Haryana	43	21
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	49
11.	Jharkhand	7	120
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	16	44
13.	Karnataka	56	152
14.	Kerala	22	60
15.	Madhya Pradesh	49	361
16.	Maharashtra	80	687
17.	Mizoram	3	78
18.	Meghalaya	3	25
19.	Manipur	89	104
20.	Nagaland	17	70
21.	Orissa	111	152
22.	Punjab	6	66
23.	Rajasthan	12	211
24.	Sikkim	1	16
25.	Tripura	5	52
26.	Tamil Nadu	68	174
27.	Uttar Pradesh	159	327
28.	Uttaranchal	19	197
29.	West Bengal	89	303
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	3

1	2	3	4
31.	Chandigarh	1	12
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1	1
33.	Diu and Daman	-	-
34.	Lakshadweep	-	-
35.	Pondicherry	2	53

Statement-II

(c) the criteria fixed for the NGOs to submission of proposals under SWADHAR & STEP scheme are as under:-

I. SWADHAR SCHEME

- i. Recommendation of District Level Committee
- ii. Recommendation of State Level Empowered Committee
- iii. Copy of Registration Certificate (three years experience)
- iv. Rent Agreement Certificate
- v. Rent Assessment Certificate duly attested by PWD/ DM
- vi. Site Plan of the Building indicating No. of rooms, toilets, bathroom etc.
- vii. Copy of memorandum of Association/Byelaws
- viii. List of the member of the current Managing Committee with brief particulars of each member
- ix. Write up regarding Swadhar project
- x. Audited Accounts of last three years
- xi. Annual Reports for last three years
- xii. Details of women/girls proposed to be accommodated in the shelter including their names and addresses, age and case history in not less than one paragraph for each person.

II. Support for Training Employment and Programme (STEP)

- i. Be registered at least for 3 years

- ii. Have experience in the sector concerned
- iii. Be capable of identifying and setting up link agencies which would facilitate the implementation of the project
- iv. Have sound financial position
- v. Have adequate infrastructure and technical expertise in the sector

Leather Park

315. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of International Leather Park in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Union Government is implementing a plan Scheme, namely, the "Infrastructure Strengthening of Leather Sector" (ISLS). One of the initiatives under the Scheme is the establishment of a Leather Complex at Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. The total cost of the Project is approximately Rs.144 crores. Since the Project involves a cost of over Rs. 100 crores it would require the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

[Translation]

Opening of IITs at Singapore

316. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has given its permission to open a branch of the Indian Institute of Technology at Singapore;

(b) if so, the time by time by which the said branch is likely to be opened;

(c) whether the students of the Indian origin only will be given admission in the said IIT, Singapore or the admission will be given on the basis of International competition;

(d) the amount the Government will have to incur on the opening of the said branches;

(e) whether India based IIT will also be given financial assistance equivalent to the said expenditure being incurred on setting up of IIT at Singapore; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Commonwealth Meet

317. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Commonwealth Countries under the WTO regime held meeting at Valetta in Malta recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the agenda discussed in the meeting;

(c) the strategy adopted by the developed countries in this regard; and

(d) the step taken or being taken by the Government in the light of this strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was held in Valetta, Malta on 25-27 November 2005. A Statement on Multilateral Trade 'Valetta Statement on Multilateral Trade' issued at the conclusion of the Summit, inter-alia, reaffirmed the member States' abiding commitment to the objectives of the Doha Development Agenda of the World Trade Organization and is enclosed.

Statement

Commonwealth Secretariat



**Commonwealth
Heads of Government Meeting**
Malta, 25-27 November 2005

Valletta Statement on Multilateral Trade

1. We, the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth represent one quarter of the world's governments, one-third of the world's population and one-fifth of global trade. Our membership is diverse: our 53 members include some of the poorest and wealthiest as well as some of the smallest and largest states in

the world, and we represent every continent and ocean on the globe.

2. We recognise the fundamental contribution of international trade to global prosperity, poverty elimination and sustainable development.
3. We also recognise that in today's world, characterised by the accelerating influence of globalisation, trade issues can no longer be negotiated in isolation and that human security in its totality must be reflected in the outcomes of multilateral trade negotiations. We firmly believe that the legitimacy of the multilateral trade negotiating system should not be called into question, and that the weak and vulnerable must benefit from an equitable share in the universally available opportunities provided through international trade.
4. We reaffirm our abiding commitment to the objectives of the Doha Development Agenda of the World Trade Organisation, which provides an unprecedented opportunity to cement in place a rules-based and equitable international trading system.
5. Our collective agenda in the WTO is premised upon the essential need that the Doha Round is brought to a successful conclusion by the end of 2006 at the latest. We define success in the Doha Round to be the extent to which there are early and substantial dividends for all developing countries, and the extent to which the development dimension permeates all aspects of the negotiated outcomes.
6. We recall our Aso Rock Statement on Multilateral Trade of December 2003, and welcome the progress achieved in the Doha Round over the last two years. However, we are deeply concerned about the pace of the negotiations. We also believe that the outcome of the Doha Round must be based on higher ambitions than are currently evident, and the Commonwealth collectively pledges its global influence to correct this.
7. We therefore commit ourselves to inject urgency into the work of our negotiators at the WTO. In particular, we are instructing our delegations to the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong to be flexible and to place priority on a genuinely development-oriented Round for the collective good.
8. We call on all developed countries to demonstrate

the political courage and will to give more than they receive in this Round, particularly in the negotiations on agriculture and market access, as their own longer term prosperity and security depend on such an approach. We recognise that developing countries must also demonstrate flexibility and commitment to ensure a successful outcome to the Round.

9. We are mindful of the critical importance of agriculture to developing economies for subsistence, as a reservoir of future economic growth, and as a sector where many of our members have a potential comparative advantage. Agriculture is the most distorted sector of world trade and we are determined to pursue significant progress towards fuller and more meaningful subjection of agricultural production and trade to multilateral disciplines. We note the offer on agriculture made by the United States of America and express the hope that the European Union and others who maintain high levels of agricultural protection respond in the same spirit.
10. We recognise that agriculture cannot be seen in isolation but believe that significant progress in the negotiations on agriculture at this stage will provide impetus to progress in other negotiating areas of the Round. We are resolved to pursue actively a strongly development-oriented Round, including balanced agreements on non-agricultural market access, services, rules, trade facilitation, and implementation issues.
11. The WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong should therefore reach agreement on the elimination of all forms of export subsidies by 2010, and also time-bound commitments for substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and significant improvements in market access.
12. We are concerned about the consequences of the development and trade challenges being faced by vulnerable states, including small states, especially those traditionally dependent on preferential market access arrangements. We call for urgent and concerted action to provide phased adjustment and other transitional measures to safeguard their interests, and also financial support to assist them in repositioning their economies to take advantage of new growth opportunities.
13. We recognise the adverse implications of the

European Union's recent announcement of reform to its sugar regime for a number of vulnerable small Commonwealth countries in terms of its impact on employment, incomes, and export earnings. We urge the European Union to provide transitional financial arrangements in which there is symmetry between compensation provided to these Commonwealth sugar producers on one hand and EU producers on the other. We also urge the European Union to take into account that vulnerable small states are less capable of adjustment in the envisaged reform timetable, and that compensation should be delivered in an efficient and timely fashion.

14. We reaffirm our determination to work towards duty-free and quota-free access for Least Developed Countries to the markets of developed countries and, where possible, to the markets of developing countries.
15. At the core of the Doha Round is the imperative of delivering development dividends. Therefore, we highlight the importance of appropriate Special and Differential Treatment for developing countries and small states in particular. These countries have neither benefited fully from past multilateral trade negotiations nor have the capacity to adjust or benefit immediately from the outcomes envisaged in the Doha Development Agenda.
16. We also applaud the "Aid for Trade" initiative endorsed by the G8 as a vehicle for meaningful market access. We call for adequately funded and structured assistance to developing countries in this area to enable them to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system.
17. We renew our commitment to the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat's technical assistance and analysis programmes aimed at diversifying the economies of small states, improving their export competitiveness and strengthening the capacity of all our developing member countries to participate in global trade. The Secretariat has also worked to define and articulate our distinct Commonwealth voice of fairness and equity on multilateral trade issues, and that should continue at all levels be they national, regional or international. Finally, we call on the Secretary-General to explore innovative approaches to strengthen intra-Commonwealth dialogue, networking, and collaboration on trade and economic issues.

[Translation]

FICCI Sponsored Farming

318. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to increase income from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) sponsored farming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal to increase income through FICCI sponsored agro farming will adversely affect farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) jointly with the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India organized the "Agriculture Summit 2005-Reforms for Raising Farm Income" on April 9-10, 2005 at New Delhi. The objective of the Summit was to create public-private partnership towards developing a new policy and regulatory framework for raising farm sector growth & productivity, income levels of farmers, employment and reducing poverty.

Infiltrations of Terrorists through Bangladesh

319. PROF VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ISI sponsored militants have increased their infiltration activities through the Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the infiltrators arrested during 2005 and 2006 till date;

(c) whether module planning to strike in the

capital around Republic Day have been arrested by Delhi Police;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the militancy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) During investigation of a few cases, it was revealed that ISI sponsored militant's infiltration along India-Bangladesh border is taking place.

(b) 32 militants in 2005 and 01 militant in 2006 (upto 15.2.2006) were apprehended by Border Security Force while crossing the Indo-Bangladesh border.

(c) and (d) Two terrorists belonging to Harkat-ul-Jehad Islam (HUJI), a militant organization active in Bangladesh have been arrested by Delhi Police on 24.01.06.

(e) The Government has pursued a coordinated multi-pronged approach which includes strengthening the border management to check infiltration, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, improved technology, weaponry and equipments for security forces both at the Centre and in the States and neutralizing plans of terrorist groups/anti-national elements/ISI agents by well coordinate intelligence based operations. As a number of Pak backed terrorist/espionage modules have been detected/neutralized in various parts of the country.

Female Literacy

320. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI D.P. SAROJ:

SHRI RAM KRIPALYADAV:

SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the girls getting education under

National Literacy Mission are being discriminated in the country as per survey report of Non-Government Organization and reported in Dainik Jagran dated the January 18, 2006;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the reactions of the Government thereto;

(c) the number and names of the States where this survey has been conducted;

(d) the highest and lowest number of children getting education under the mission respectively, State-wise;

(e) the number of States where adequate number of teachers are not available;

(f) the names of the States where the percentage of school going girls is low;

(g) the total amount spent under National Literacy Mission during the last three years, till date; and

(h) the action and strategy being taken by the Government for improvement of our education in the country to achieve 100% literacy rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir. Under the National Literacy Mission (NLM) both male and female illiterates in 15 to 35 age group are being covered without any discrimination. The survey report of NGO as reported in the Dainik Jagran dated 18.1.2006 does not mention any figure regarding target age group of NLM.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Statement indicating the number and names of States where survey was conducted by NGO is enclosed.

(d) Children up to the age group of 14 year are not covered under NLM.

(e) Under the NLM, there is no provision of engaging teachers.

(f) Does not arise. Under the NLM, school going girls are not the target group.

(g) The total amount spent under NLM during the last three years, till date, is as follows:

2002-03	Rs.216.29 crore
2003-04	Rs.232.50 crore
2004-05	Rs.236.47 crore
2005-06	Rs.203.08 crore (till date)

(h) The Universalization of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality Elementary Education by 2010.

The NLM is entrusted with the target of achieving a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007. The thrust areas of NLM are improving female literacy in low female literacy areas, organizing projects for residual illiteracy in districts which have substantial number of illiterates, setting up of continuing education centers for providing opportunities for life-long learning to the neo-literates and imparting vocational training to neo-literates through Jan Shikshan Sansthan. Special programmes of residual illiteracy have been taken up in low female literacy districts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand. In addition, the launching of special literacy drive for eradication of residual illiteracy in 150 districts, which have the lowest literacy rates, has been approved.

Statement

Total number of States where survey has been conducted by NGO - 28

S.No.	Name of the State
1	2
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Assam
4.	Bihar
5.	Chhattisgarh
6.	Goa
7.	Gujarat
8.	Haryana

1	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh
10.	Jammu and Kashmir
11.	Jharkhand
12.	Karnataka
13.	Kerala
14.	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Maharashtra
16.	Manipur
17.	Meghalaya
18.	Nagaland
19.	Orissa
20.	Punjab
21.	Rajasthan
22.	Tamil Nadu
23.	Tripura
24.	Uttaranchal
25.	Uttar Pradesh
26.	West Bengal
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli
28.	Daman and Diu

*[English]***IIMs**

321. **SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:**
SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation from Singapore visited India recently and inter-alia discussed to tie up with IIMs for benefit of students of both the countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the IIM, Bangalore had already started opening of a centre in Singapore;

(d) if so, whether the Government has denied permission to Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore for setting-up of campus in Singapore;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether in view of the greater demand the Government has decided to reconsider its decision;

(g) if so, whether Union Government had called a meeting of experts in January, 2006 to discuss the issue; and

(h) if so, the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) A delegation from Singapore comprising of former Prime Minister of Singapore, two member of Singapore Parliament, High Commissioner of Singapore in India, Council of the Republic of Singapore in Mumbai and other senior officials visited IIM, Ahmedabad on 15th January, 2006 and suggested the Institute to broaden the scope of its existing collaborative arrangements with the Business School of the National University of Singapore to encompass various areas such as faculty exchange, joint research projects and executive education etc. Similarly, faculty members from universities in Singapore have visited IIM, Calcutta to explore possibilities of working together. However, no programmes have been finalized as yet.

(c) to (h) Only IIM, Bangalore is examining the feasibility of having its Campus in Singapore and all other details in this connection are yet to be worked out. However, the Memorandum of Association of IIM, Bangalore does not allow for opening campuses abroad. In the meeting of Directors of IIMs held in the Ministry on 01.02.2006 the IIM, Bangalore was advised to suitably amend its Memorandum of Association if it wishes to open its campus abroad.

Funds for Infrastructural Facilities

322. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal for sanction and release of funds under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India for creation of Infrastructure facilities, Irrigation facilities, Land buildings, Land purchase, Land development and for Educational programmes for the Development of Scheduled Tribes under Central Sector Scheme for 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the grants are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka has submitted proposals in 2005-06 for sanction and release of funds under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for infrastructure facilities viz. departmental institutions, additional infrastructure for existing Ashram schools, infrastructure facilities in ST habitats, providing drinking water, up-gradation of approach roads, drainage & sanitation, community halls, irrigation facilities, solar fencing to ST lands, solar street lights in ST habitats and for establishment of Eklavya Model Residential Schools for ST students.

(c) The Ministry has already released an amount of Rs. 1379.22 lakhs to the Government of Karnataka as grant under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution during 2005-06.

Redressal Cell for Sex Workers

323. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set-up an authority in the form of Government redressal cells for sex workers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter was also considered by group of Ministers; and

(d) If so, the details of their recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir. Government, however, is open to listen to the grievances of sex workers through their representatives in the meetings of Central Advisory Committee on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Rampage by BSF Jawans

324. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSF Jawans went on rampage inside Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati on January 29, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) On 29-01-2006, 35 BSF personnel of BSF went to visit Kamahya Temple in an organized manner. Reportedly, a scuffle took place between BSF personnel and Pandas (employees of temple)/civilians which resulted into injury to two BSF persons and four civilians.

(c) Inquiry ordered by BSF authorities. The High Court of Guwahati has also taken suo-moto cognizance of the incident and the matter is sub-judice before a Division Bench headed by Chief Justice of that High Court.

Donations for Tsunami Victims

325. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of donations/contributions received from foreign countries for the Tsunami victims;

(b) the details of such assistance disbursed to the Tsunami victims, State-wise, UT-wise;

(c) whether such funds are being fully utilised for the said purpose;

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

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Home Ministry vide order No.II/21022/11(19)/2004-FCRA-I dated 30/12/2004 made special dispensation for receipt of foreign contribution, in cash and kind, for providing relief to the Tsunami victims without obtaining prior permission of the Central Government. Such associations were required to intimate the Central Government regarding receipt of foreign contribution in the prescribed FC-3 and FC-6 forms duly certified by a Chartered Accountant, within 4 months of the closure of the year. As per information made available, the amount of foreign contribution received from foreign sources for the Tsunami victims is Rs.10,88,21,090/-.

(b) Out of 121 associations which had intimated their desire to accept foreign funds for the above mentioned purpose till 31/3/2005, only 36 associations have reported receipt and utilization of foreign contribution in prescribed FC-3 form. State-wise receipt of foreign contribution/donation is as under:

(i)	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 8,04,51,157.22
(ii)	New Delhi	Rs. 2,80,29,827.00
(iii)	West Bengal	Rs. 2,81,745.95
Total		Rs.10,88,21,090.17

(c) and (d) No instances for diversion of funds received for Tsunami victims have come to the notice of the Government.

- (e) Question does not arise.

Coffee

326. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export quality coffee is produced in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the action plan formulated by the Government with the collaboration of the State Government to enhance the production of coffee in the State;

(c) whether any target has been set for the production of export quality coffee in Karnataka by the end of Five Year Plan;

(d) If so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance provided by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the quantity of coffee exported from Karnataka during the last three years and thereafter, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Karnataka is the largest coffee producing state in the country. About 75% of the coffee produced in the country is exported.

(b) No specific action plan has been formulated for Karnataka State.

(c) and (d) State-wise target for production of export quality coffee is not set. The Coffee Board has been implementing a number of schemes for enhancing production & productivity of coffee under the Xth Plan.

(e) State-wise details of coffee exported are not compiled. During the years 2002-03, 2003-04 & 2004-05, a quantity of 2,07,333 MT, 2,32,684 MT and 2,11,765 MT (including re-exports) of coffee respectively, was exported from India. Most of this is from Karnataka.

Funds for Integrated Education Scheme

327. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the allocation and utilisation of the amount allocated by Government under the Integrated Education Scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether whole amount was not utilised by the States during the said period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) Funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for the Disabled Children (I.E.D.C) are not allocated State-wise, but are released based on viable proposals received from the States/UTs. State-wise position regarding grants released during the last 3 years is given in the Statement enclosed. Unspent

balance, if any, of a particular year is adjusted against grant released for the next year. The second instalment of grant is released on receipt of utilisation certificate to the extent of at least 75% of the first instalment.

Statement

State wise details of expenditure for the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
		State	NGO	Total	State	NGO	Total	State	NGO	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	63.32	26.66	89.98	13.05	61.42	74.47	-	113.33	113.33
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Assam	-	23.08	23.08	-	20.78	20.78	-	39.13	39.13
4	Bihar	-	12.54	12.54	-	-	-	-	2.22	2.22
5	Chhattisgarh	-	10.58	10.58	-	21.24	21.24	-	19.81	19.81
6	Gujarat	798.15	-	798.15	930.9	-	930.9	765.87	-	765.87
7	Goa	-	1.37	1.37	-	3.91	3.91	-	-	-
8	Haryana	30.33	37.99	68.32	180.67	22.8	203.47	-	81.75	81.75
9	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	3.33	3.33	-	-	-
11	Karnataka	517.02	-	517.02	541.48	-	541.48	772.91	-	772.91
12	Kerala	376.73	3.05	379.78	311.59	5.22	316.81	337.38	11.95	349.33
13	Madhya Pradesh	571.12	12.52	583.64	803.41	11.88	815.21	118.57	31.74	150.31
14	Maharashtra	140.5	20.16	160.66	83.44	14.6	98.04	123.02	61.73	184.75
15	Manipur	129.15	3.72	132.87	67.45	4.52	71.97	116.34	14.35	130.69
16	Meghalaya	1.73	-	1.73	-	-	-	1.64	-	1.64
17	Mizoram	33.58	-	33.58	19.4	-	19.4	61.46	-	61.46
18	Nagaland	-	22.61	22.61	18.41	9.13	27.54	-	18.54	18.54
19	Orissa	51.56	98.77	150.33	87.5	97.32	184.82	-	215.2	215.2
20	Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Rajasthan	33.66	-	33.66	39.4	-	39.4	67.55	1.21	68.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
22	Sikkim	12.35	-	12.35	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Tamil Nadu		139.6	139.6	1.85	169.24	171.09	-	320.42	320.42
24	Tripura	8.2	-	8.2	29.9	-	29.9	-	-	-
25	Uttar Pradesh	-	16.94	16.94	-	19.53	19.53	-	50.38	50.38
26	West Bengal	47.61	55.63	103.24	33.47	4.19	37.66	164.64	4.29	168.93
27	A and N Islands	16.49		16.49	-	-	14.01	14.01	7.85	7.85
28	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.34	-	3.34	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Daman and Diu	0.17	-	0.17	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Chandigarh	3.34	-	3.34	3.34	-	3.34	-	-	-
31	Delhi	-	57.77	57.77	18	177.27	195.27	5.26	99.55	104.81
32	Pondichery	-	6.41	6.41	-	3.4	3.4		11.72	11.72
Total		2835	549.4	3384.41	3197.27	649.78	3846.97	2550.47	1107.04	3657.51

**Introduction of Vedic Texts as
Optional Subject**

328. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to introduce Vedic Study as optional subject in Indian schools and colleges;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Relief Package to 1984 Riots Victims

329. SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced any rehabilitation and compensation package for the families affected in the 1984 riots as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated December 30, 2005;

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

(c) if so, whether list of affected families in various States has been prepared; and

(d) If so, the time by which the affected families are likely to be given the compensation from the said package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government has on 16th January, 2006 sanctioned a 'Rehabilitation Package' to provide relief to the victims of 1984 riots. The details of the package are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The concerned State Governments have been advised to invite claims from the victims/families of victims of 1984 riots, conduct necessary verification/scrutiny and make disbursement of the amount of ex-gratia by 31st March, 2006.

Statement

The details of ex-gratia amount and other assistance sanctioned under the for the victims of 1984 riots are as mentioned below:

- (i) Ex-gratia amount @ Rs.3.5 Lakh would be paid in each case of death during the riots. This will be in addition to the amount already paid by the respective State Governments;
- (ii) Ex-gratia amount in case of injuries will be paid @ Rs.1.25 lakh minus the amount already paid by the State Governments;
- (iii) All death cases which took place in trains during the 1984 riots would also be considered for payment of ex-gratia after due verification;
- (iv) No new claims for grant of ex-gratia for death or injury would be entertained. Only those who received ex-gratia earlier should be eligible for the enhanced additional ex-gratia amount. However, if there are any pending or disputed cases which are awaiting decision for want of the necessary proof/evidence, such cases can be considered if they are finally accepted as genuine claims;
- (v) Ex-gratia for damaged residential properties would be paid @ 10 times the amount originally paid after deducting the amount already paid;
- (vi) Ex-gratia for damaged uninsured commercial/ industrial properties would be paid @ 10 times the amount minus the amount already paid;
- (vii) Children/family members of those who died in the riots of 1984 will be given preference in recruitment in para-military forces, IR Battalions, State Police Forces, Public Sector Undertakings and other State and Central Government Departments by giving necessary age relaxation;
- (viii) The Central Government/State Governments may launch a special recruitment drive to accommodate eligible members from riot affected families.
- (ix) Those who had lost their jobs in other States would be allowed to rejoin by treating the period of absence as 'dies-non';
- (x) Those who had to leave their jobs due to riots and have already crossed the age of superannuation

may be given necessary pensionary benefits by relaxing the normal rules to the extent possible;

- (xi) The State Governments may grant pension to all the widows and old aged parents of those who were killed in the 1984 riots at the uniform rate of Rs.2500/- per month for the whole life from a prospective date. Wives of those who have suffered disability of 70% or more and those who are missing since 1984 may also be provided pension at the same rate;
- (xii) Approximately 22,000 families of victims of the riots, which migrated to Punjab from other riot affected States and are still living there, would be paid Rehabilitation Grant @ Rs. 2 Lakh per family. Similarly placed families of victims of the riots living in other States may also be given Rehabilitation Grant at the rate of Rs. 2 Lakh per family.

2. The entire expenditure on payment of ex-gratia in case of death and injury and ex-gratia for damaged residential properties and damaged uninsured commercial/ industrial properties and rehabilitation grant for the families of riot victims who have shifted to Punjab and other States would be borne by the Central Government. The expenditure on payment of pension to the widows and old aged parents of those who were killed in 1984 riots, wives of those who have suffered disability of 70% or more and those who are missing since 1984 would be borne by the respective State Government.

[English]

Industry

330. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to deal with the adverse effect on Indian industries as a result of selling goods at cheaper rates manufactured in other countries including China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Anti-dumping investigations are initiated by the Directorate

General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) on receiving a fully documented petition from the domestic industry with prima-facie evidence of dumping, injury and causal link between the dumped goods and injury to the domestic industry. The DGAD, investigates the existence and degree of dumping, identifies the dumped article and submits provisional and/or final findings to the Ministry of Finance recommending, where appropriate, the amount of anti-dumping duty to be levied. The purpose of Anti-dumping duties is to counteract trade distortion caused by dumping and the consequential injury to the domestic industry.

From 1992 till date, the DGAD has initiated anti-dumping investigations in 189 cases involving 35 countries/territories (considering 25 EC countries as a single territory) including China PR. Out of 189 cases, final findings have been issued in 177 cases and in 101 cases anti-dumping duty is currently in force.

[Translation]

Spreading of Fundamentalism and Casteism

331. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps against the agencies involved in publicly spreading fundamentalism and casteism due to which the attention of the people is diverted from the issues relating to development, social justice, empowerment and the progress of the nation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The activities of the organizations who are inciting the communal feeling, fundamentalism and casteism are under constant watch by the law enforcing agencies and requisite legal actions are taken including imposition of ban wherever necessary. The Government is committed to uphold the secular principles enshrined in the Constitution and to maintain peace and communal harmony at all costs.

'Public Order' and 'Police' are state subjects and, as such, detection, registration, investigation and prevention of crime are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments. Accordingly, State Governments and Union

Territory Administrations take deterrent action as per law against the persons and agencies found guilty of crimes relating to spreading fundamentalism, casteism etc. The Government of India has from time to time been issuing advisories to State Governments and Union Territories, requesting them to give more focused attention on improving the administration of Criminal Justice System, with a view to ensure peace and harmony and prevention of atrocities against all vulnerable sections of the society, including minorities.

[English]

Utilization of Coconut Husk

332. DR. P. P. KOYA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of coconut produced in the U.T. of Lakshadweep;

(b) whether the existing fibre factories and de-fibring units in public as well as private sector are able to utilize the entire husk of the above coconut produced in the territory;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has schemes/proposals to diversify the production, for value addition and export of the finished product to the market outside the territory;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is any proposal by the Coir Board to implement certain schemes related to the coir and coir productions in the UT of Lakshadweep; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) According to information available with the Coconut Development Board, 53 million coconuts were produced during 2003-04 in the Union Territory (UT) of Lakshadweep.

(b) and (c) The seven existing fibre extraction units in the UT of Lakshadweep are able to utilise 30 per cent of the available husk.

(d) and (e) The Lakshadweep Administration provides

assistance for schemes/proposals for diversification of production, value addition, spinning of coir yarn on motorised ratts/motorised traditional ratts and export of finished goods outside the UT. The Coir Board also provides assistance to the UT for development of the coir industry. During 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 10.90 lakh has been earmarked by the Coir Board for this purpose.

(f) and (g) The Coir Board has prepared an action plan for implementation of schemes in the UT of Lakshadweep for training and providing equipment such as motorised ratts/traditional ratts under the Mahila Coir Yojana. One coir cluster in the UT has been earmarked for development under the Scheme for Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI). Steps are also taken to train eligible artisans under the Artisans Training Course and the Advanced Training Course for periods of six months and one year respectively.

Withdrawal of Subsidy from Higher Education

333. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has withdrawn subsidy for higher education; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the withdrawal of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No Sir, grants allocated to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for disbursement to eligible Universities and colleges have been steadily increasing over the years.

History Text Books

334. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the adverse rating from Indian History Congress and Indian Council of Historical Research regarding National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) prepared history textbook recently; and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Government have received a copy of the Resolution on New NCERT Curriculum Framework and history textbooks, passed by the Indian History Congress at its 66th annual session at Visva Bharati, Santiniketan. The Resolution is being examined.

Review of Area Reserved for Public Sector Exploitation

335. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral Advisory Council has directed the State Governments to review the area reserved for public sector exploitation and de-notify the surplus area for possible exploitation by the private sector;

(b) if so, whether the area in excess of 50 hectares under mining lease with the public sector undertakings of State Governments would be reviewed by the State Governments, on an urgent basis; and

(c) if so, the other decisions in details were taken by the Mineral Advisory Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Mineral Advisory Council recommended that in order to curb the tendency to hold on to large areas unproductively by keeping these areas idle for future use, or using areas held under mining lease for purpose other than mining, the Indian Bureau of Mines and the State Government would jointly review the status of such mining areas and if areas are found to be held idly/put to non-mining use, such excess mining lease areas should be got surrendered expeditiously.

Declining Sex Ratio

336. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the declining sex ratio in the country particularly Gujarat and other Western States as female foetus is being removed on sex determination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Commission for Women has highlighted this problem to Government;

(d) If so, whether the Commission has made any recommendation in this regard; and

(e) If so, the action taken by the Government on such recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the declining sex ratio primarily due to sex determination and elimination of female foetus. Census 2001 figures reveal that the situation is alarming in respect of girl child population in the age group of 0-6 in the country particularly Gujarat and other Western States.

(c) and (d) National Commission for Women had convened a National Conference of State Secretaries of Health, WCD, DGPs and NGOs on the implementation of the PC & PNDT Act. The report has been recently received by the Government. The report contains the recommendation of the Commission on various issues such as advocacy, awareness, monitoring, implementation, and modification of the PC & PNDT Act and Rules.

(e) A number of steps have been taken by the Government like:- (i) Setting up of National Inspection and Monitoring Committee, (ii) Setting up of National Support and Monitoring Cell, (iii) Sensitization of the Appropriate Authorities, (iv) Sensitization of the Medical Community, (v) Instructions on sale of Ultrasound Machines, (vi) Awareness Generation against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Print and Electronic media, (vii) Training of Judiciary, (viii) Involvement of District Magistrates to review the implementation of the PC & PNDT Act.

Seafood Processing Units

337. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government monitor the seafood processing/manufacturing units to ensure compliance of prescribed standards for quality manufacturing of the products;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has introduced quality logo for export of products similar to that of ISI particularly for the marine products;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Export Inspection Agencies and the Export Inspection Council of India monitor to ensure the effective compliance of quality standards and laid down specification for fresh, frozen and processed fish & fishery products as per the requirements of importing countries.

(c) and (d) A 'Q' mark introduced by the EIC has to be compulsorily printed on the master cartons of export packages of fish and fishery products.

(e) Not applicable.

Women and Girls Hostels in Delhi

338. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up Women and Girls hostels in Delhi and its satellite towns in view of attacks on girls from Assam and other NE States especially students and working women living alone in the capital;

(b) If so, the total number of Women and Girls Hostels in Delhi exclusively for North-Eastern States; and

(c) the accommodation capacity, location and estimated cost of such hostels?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Government has decided to set up Hostels for Girls and Working Women from North East States at Delhi.

(b) Estimates for one 500 seat capacity hostel for Working Women from North Eastern States are under preparation. One hostel for post graduate girls from North East States has already been constructed and one more is under construction. The foundation stone for the Rajiv Gandhi Girls' Hostel with a capacity of 500 seats for scheduled tribe and other girl students from North Eastern States has been laid on 6 January 2006.

(c) Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Location of Girl Students/ Working Women's Hostels	Capacity	Estimated cost (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Post Graduate Girls' Hostel, Dhaka Campus, University of Delhi	100	Rs. 313.00 lakhs
2.	Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi	200	Rs. 545.00 lakhs
3.	Rajiv Gandhi Girls Hostel for Scheduled Tribes & North East Students at Delhi University Campus	500	Estimate has not been finalized.
4.	Working Women's Hostel for Women from North Eastern States, Delhi	500	Estimate has not been finalized.

Restaurants on Land of ITPO

339. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the restaurants located on the land of International Trade Promotion Organisation have build unauthorised structures;

(b) If so, the details in this regard;

(c) the action so far taken by ITPO to pull down the illegal structures; and

(d) the time by when such illegal structures are likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There are 10 long-term licensees of Food & Beverages units in Pragati Maidan. Seven of them have made unauthorised structures.

(c) and (d) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) issued notices to all the said seven units to remove the unauthorised structures but only one has so far removed the unauthorised structure. One case is pending before an Arbitrator. ITPO is examining legal options for removal of the unauthorised structures. It is not possible at this stage to lay down a time frame for removal of the unauthorised structures.

Implementation of S.S.A. and M.D.M. Scheme

340. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal Scheme were primarily meant to be implemented at the village levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to implement these schemes through Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(d) If so, the time by which these schemes are likely to be handed over to Panchayati Raj; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Framework for Implementation stipulates decentralization and delegation to the grass-root level in order to ensure community based implementation and ownership of schools. States/UTs have taken steps to decentralize powers to Village Education Committees/Panchayats/ Urban local bodies through legislation or through Government Orders.

Guidelines of National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NPSE), 2004 [popularly known as Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM)] envisage that the responsibility for implementation and supervision of the programme may be assigned by the States/UTs to Gram Panchayat, Municipality and Village Education Committee (VEC) etc. Members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) are also represented on the Steering-cum-Monitoring Committees at Block and District levels.

[Translation]

Telephone Tapping Cases

341. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the instances of telephone tapping of leaders of various political parties including other important public figure as widely reported in media;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the persons involved in telephone tapping have been identified and arrested;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has ordered a CBI enquiry into the incidents to unearth the truth;

(f) if so, the details of the tenn of reference;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government is contemplating to bring a legislation to stop such instances in future; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Only one instance of unauthorized telephone tapping of Shri Amar Singh, Hon'ble M.P. Rajya Sabha has come to the notice of the Government. The Delhi Police has already arrested the persons involved in this case and a charge sheet has also been filed against the accused persons on 15.2.2006 in the Tis Hazari Court.

(e) to (g) Since the Delhi Police has already taken action in the matter, it is not necessary to have a CBI enquiry in this regard.

(h) and (i) Fresh guidelines for strict compliance by the central security and law enforcement agencies and the service providers have been issued essentially to enable cross verification of interception orders by the security and the law enforcement agencies and the service providers so as to prevent any unauthorized interception of messages. The necessary action has also been initiated to look at the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act with a view to making them more stringent.

Report of NHRC Regarding Trafficking of Children

342. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases brought to the notice of the Government with regard to abuse of children by tourists in India during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(b) whether any study has been conducted by National Human Rights Commission as reported in Hindustan Times dated January 16, 2006; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Information regarding sexual abuse of children by tourists in India is not maintained centrally.

(b) National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for women (UNIFEM) and the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi conducted an Action Research on Trafficking in Women and Children in India.

(c) As per the seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are state subjects and, as such, detection, registration, investigation and prevention of crime are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has from time to time been issuing advisories to State Governments and Union Territories to make concerted efforts to improve the administration of Criminal Justice System and to take effective measures to control crimes against all vulnerable sections of the society, including children. Further on the NHRC's findings of the Action Research on Trafficking in Women & Children being made available, the Union Government advised Governments of concerned States to evolve a holistic approach encompassing prevention, rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking and also evolve a comprehensive strategy for effectively dealing with the problem. The need to sensitize and train police officials at all levels was emphasized and the State Governments advised that the police be asked to immediately carry out special drives in the most vulnerable areas.

Schemes for Rural Poor

343. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme exist for the benefit of the rural poor so that they do not take a bank loan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to launch any scheme to encourage entrepreneurs to set up rural industries, solely from the grants from the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) There is no such scheme operated by the Government in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Commercialisation of Education

344. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether education is being commercialised as allocation of funds to the educational sector is poor;

(b) if so, the details of additional funds proposed to be allocated for technical education alongwith the funds provided during 2005-06; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve quality of technical education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Education sector is accorded high priority. There was about 75% increase in outlay for Tenth Plan over Ninth Plan period and funds amounting to Rs. 806 crore were earmarked for Technical Education in BE 2005-06. There is no proposal at present for providing additional funds for Technical Education during 2005-06.

(c) The Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched in December, 2002 the "Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India (TEQIP) on a massive scale in the country which aims to upscale and support ongoing efforts of Government of India in improving quality of technical education and enhancing, existing capacities of the institutions to become dynamic demand-driven, quality conscious, efficient and forward looking, responsive to rapid economic and technological developments occurring both at national and international levels.

Security Arrangements in Institutions

345. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether private security agencies presently guarding various institutions have failed to check terrorist attacks on the institutions such as Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this; regard;

(c) whether the govt. proposes to provide CISF cover to various institutions like IIM, IIS, IIT and various other research institutions;

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

(e) if not, the measures taken/likely to be taken by the govt. to provide security in such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) In the wake of the terrorist attack on Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, the Institutes have been advised to review their security arrangements in the institute and take necessary action wherever required. The institutes have also been advised to get in touch with the District Administration including Police authorities and seek their advice. Institutes are accordingly reviewing the security arrangements. Institutes have intensified patrolling. Entry to campus are being strictly and continuously monitored. To further strengthen the security, institutes are also taking various other measures.

Assam Accord

346. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress achieved in the tripartite meeting held on implementation of Assam Accord;

(b) whether the process of updating of NRC has started as agreed upon in the tripartite meeting held last year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has complied with the directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court along with the judgement in the matter of repeal of Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act, 1983;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Action has been taken to implement various clauses of the Assam Accord. Certain clauses of the Accord are of continuing nature i.e. speedy all-round economic development of Assam, measures to prevent infiltration, crossing/attempting to cross the border, etc. and, therefore, need to be continuously monitored. The Government is committed to implement Assam Accord in letter and spirit. Prime Minister and Union Home Minister had chaired tripartite meetings to review implementation of the Assam Accord on 5.5.2005 and 2.1.2006 respectively.

(b) and (c) The Government of Assam is in the process of updating of National Register of Citizens (NRC). The Central Government had released an amount of Rs.1.02 crore for this purpose to the State Government.

(d) and (e) In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order passed on 12.7.2005 on Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 (IMDT), the Tribunals and Appellate Tribunal constituted under the IMDT Act, 1983 have ceased to function w.e.f. 12th July 2005. The Central Government has also issued sanction for establishment of additional 21 Foreigners' Tribunals in the State.

- (f) In view of (d) and (e) above, does not arise.

[Translation]

**Grant-in-aid for Propagation
of Hindi**

347. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL. Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of institutions in South India which are being provided annual grant-in-aid for the propagation of Hindi;
- (b) the total amount released by the Government for this purpose to these States during each of the last three years; State-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the grant-in-aid keeping in view the positive contribution made by Southern States for the propagation of Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) During the year 2004-05, 93 institutions in Southern States have been given grants by various bodies under Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Secondary and Higher Education) for the propagation of Hindi language.

(b) The following amounts have been released to institutions in Southern States by various bodies under the Ministry of Human Resource Development for propagation of Hindi language during the past 3 years:

Institutions in the States of	Grants released during the last three years (in Rs.)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Andhra Pradesh	11,304,790	1,21,55,458	1,12,73,473
Kerala	32,94,349	38,72,925	39,71,911
Lakshadweep	46,875	78,375	78,375
Tamilnadu	1,01,45,998	88,89,023	94,35,513
Pondicherry	1,43,850	1,43,850	1,68,350
Karnataka	1,33,23,689	1,68,92,972	1,77,49,034

- (c) The grants to the institutions are sanctioned on merit keeping in view the contribution in the field of promotion and propagation of Hindi language.

[English]

**Grants for Construction
of Hostels**

348. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to release grants for Construction of hostel buildings for pre-matric boys/girls in 2005-06;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the grants are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The State Government of Karnataka had submitted a proposal dated 09.11.05 for releasing of an amount of Rs. 58.335 lakhs towards 1st instalment for construction of 4 new pre-matric boys and one new pre-matric girls hostel in different districts of the State, and also Rs. 27.665 lakhs towards additional works to be carried out in the 3 hostels sanctioned during 2001-02. Thus the total demand made by the State Government was to the tune of Rs. 86.00 lakhs. This amount has already been released to the State Government.

Refugees

349. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of refugees who came to India from various countries particularly from Sri Lanka during each of the last three years;
- (b) the number of refugees of various countries living in the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether all such refugees are provided basic facilities and amenities to meet their livelihood;
- (d) whether any State Government has requested for assistance from the Union Government to cope up with the refugees problems in their State;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) The number of refugees who came to India during the last three years is as under:

Sri Lankan Refugees	
Year	No. of refugees
2003	13
2004	Nil
2005	Nil

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) to (f) Sri Lankan refugees residing in camps are provided relief assistance on humanitarian grounds, pending their rehabilitation back to Sri Lanka. Relief and/or rehabilitation assistance is provided to refugees by State Governments, and expenditure incurred thereon by State Governments is reimbursed to them by the Central Government.

Statement

For the purpose of relief and/or rehabilitation, the country-wise number of refugees in India as on 30.6.2005 is as under:

State	Country	No. of refugees
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Stateless	01
Arunachal Pradesh	Stateless	7,415
Bihar	Stateless	05
Chhattisgarh	Stateless	1,533
Delhi	Stateless	738
Goa	Stateless	02
Haryana	Stateless	81
Himachal Pradesh	Stateless	23,484

1	2	3
Jammu and Kashmir	Stateless	6,783
Jharkhand	Stateless	58
Karnataka	Sri Lanka	461
	Stateless	35,886
Kerala	Sri Lanka	01
Madhya Pradesh	Stateless	05
Maharashtra	Stateless	1,155
Meghalaya	Stateless	512
Orissa	Sri Lanka	36
	Stateless	2,428
Pondicherry	Sri Lanka	24
	Stateless	04
Sikkim	Stateless	2,688
Tamil Nadu	Sri Lanka	67,906
	Stateless	236
Uttar Pradesh	Stateless	149
Uttaranchal	Stateless	9,535
West Bengal	Stateless	3,288

Punishment to Men in Uniform

350. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating any legal formulations to stringently punish men in uniform sexually attacking women; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a), and (b) Section 376(2) IPC, inter alia, provides stringent punishment to police officials who commit rape. The punishment is rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less

than ten years but which may be for life and the accused shall also be liable to fine. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005 amended section 176 Cr. P.C. to provide, among other things, that in case of an allegation of rape while in the custody of the police or in any other custody authorized by the Magistrate or the Court, there shall be a mandatory judicial inquiry, in addition to the inquiry or investigation held by the police.

Trade between India and Belarus

351. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Belarus have entered into an agreement to double their trade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise; and
- (c) the present status of trade between the two countries alongwith the items of trade during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present status of India-Belarus trade is as under:-

Year	Exports	Imports	Total
2003-2004*	29.82	30.98	60.80
2004-2005*	45.07	53.41	98.48
2004-2005 (April-November)	25.51	40.88	66.39
2005-2006* (April-November)	26.53	85.90	112.43

Source: DGCI&S

* (Provisional)

The main items of export from India to Belarus are Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & Fine Chemicals, Machinery and Instruments, Tobacco unmanufactured, Electronic goods, Tea etc.

The main items of import from Belarus to India are Synthetic & Regenerated Fibres, Iron and Steel, Inorganic Chemicals etc.

Educational Institutions

352. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of educational institutions like degree colleges, senior secondary schools, secondary schools, senior basic schools, junior basic schools and nursery schools are functioning under Lakshadweep Administration;
- (b) the number of posts of Principals, Post Graduate Teachers, Trained Graduate Teachers, Primary School Teachers, Nursery School Teachers, Physical Education Teachers, Craft Teachers and other allied posts are available under Lakshadweep Administration;
- (c) whether there is any proposal from the Lakshadweep Administration for the creation of teaching posts is pending with the Government;
- (d) If so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by when these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT: (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The following Educational Institutions are functioning in Lakshadweep:

(i)	Calicut University Centres	02 (two)
(ii)	Senior Secondary Schools	08 (eight)
(iii)	High Schools	04 (four)
(iv)	Senior Basic Schools	06 (six)
(v)	Junior Basic Schools	21 (twenty one)
(vi)	Nursery Schools	10 (ten)

(b) The following posts are available under Lakshadweep Administration

(i)	Principal	04 (four)
(ii)	Post Graduate Teacher	16 (sixteen)

(iii)	Trained Graduate Teacher	206 (two hundred six)
(iv)	Primary School Teacher	388 (three hundred eighty eight)
(v)	Nursery School Teacher	52 (fifty two)
(vi)	Physical Education Teacher	23 (twenty three)
(vii)	Coir Craft Teacher	24 (twenty four)
(viii)	Needle Craft Teacher	13 (thirteen)
(ix)	Craft Instructor (papier mache)	01 (one)
(x)	Mechanical Instructor	12 (twelve)
(xi)	Fisheries Instructor	09 (nine)
(xii)	Fisheries Teacher	07 (seven)
(xiii)	Music Teacher	01 (one)
(xiv)	Dance Teacher (Classical)	02 (two)
(xv)	Junior Librarian	09(nine)
(xvi)	Librarian	02 (two)
(xvii)	Drawing Teacher	10 (ten)
(xviii)	Dance-cum-Music Teacher (folk)	09 (nine)
(xix)	Lab. Assistant	16 (sixteen)
(xx)	Lab. Attendant	09 (nine)
(xxi)	Ship Modeling Instructor	01 (one)
(xxii)	Matron	02 (two)
(xxiii)	Library attendant	02 (two)

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. This Ministry has received a proposal from Lakshadweep Administration for creation of 56 posts of Post Graduate Teachers and the proposal is under process.

Introduction of Human Rights and Duties as Compulsory Subject

353. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Justice Verma Committee has recommended to make the human rights and duties a compulsory subject in school curriculum and at the higher educational level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far in the implementation of these recommendations; and

(d) the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Justice Verma Committee constituted by the Government of India to operationalise the suggestions to teach Fundamental Duties to the Citizens of the Country, made the following recommendations, among others:

(i) There is a need for a fundamental transformation in the direction and approach to curricula for teaching Fundamental Duties in school and teacher education institutions. Citizenship values should be understood by all concerned as a combination of rights and duties. Appropriate steps in this regard need to be initiated through the educational process to achieve the desired result in the long run.

(ii) Preamble of the Constitution of India and the Article 51 A of the Constitution on Fundamental Duties to be printed in all school textbooks, supplementary materials and general publications brought out by the NCERT and the School textbook Bureaus in the States/Union Territory Administrations.

(c) and (d) The NCERT has already included the component of Fundamental Duties in the textbooks of Environmental Studies and Social Sciences at different stages. The chart of Fundamental Duties has been given in the preliminary pages of textbooks of different stages to sensitize the students.

ULFA Extortion Notice

354. SHRI M. K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Liberation Front of Assam has recently issued an extortion notice of Rs.500 crore to ONGC and Government of Assam;

(b) if so, the details of the ransom note reportedly received through post;

- (c) the reaction of Union Government thereto; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) It has been reported that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Nazira, Assam had received a communication on the letter head of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) dated 1.1.2006 demanding Rs. 500 crore within 15 days.

(c) and (d) On receipt of the information, the Central Government had taken up the matter with the Government of Assam advising them to take all appropriate steps to ensure safety and security of the ONGC installations and personnel in Assam. The Government of Assam has informed that the Police has registered a case and has started investigation. Security to ONGC installations and personnel have been strengthened.

Education for Poor and Marginalised Sections

355. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC has any plan for spreading of education among the poor and marginalized sections and also to cater to the growing needs of economy and foster human rights as reported in Times of India dated the February 8, 2006;

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

(c) the time by when such plans are likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC has been funding universities and colleges to operate relevant schemes for this purpose which inter alia include: i) Establishment of SC/ST cells in Universities, ii) Coaching class for entry in service for SC/ST & Minorities, iii) Financial assistance to teachers who are visually handicapped, iv) Special scheme for Construction of Women's Hostels, vi) Special Development grants to universities and colleges located in Backward areas and vii) Human Rights' and Duties' education.

South Asia Free Trade Area Agreement

356. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI P. C. THOMAS:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entered into South Asian Free Trade Area Agreement (SAFTA) which was scheduled to come into force from January 1, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the concession proposed to be provided to least developed countries in the said agreement;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of domestic traders/farmers;

(e) whether some countries have agreed to provide transit route after the implementation of SAFTA;

(f) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(g) the extent to which SAFTA will boost the regional trade; and

(h) the details of items excluded from the provisions of the SAFTA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Under the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), a phased Trade Liberalization Programme (TLP) is envisaged. In two years, from the date of coming into force of the Agreement, Non-Least Developed Contracting States (non-LDCs) (India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) will bring down tariffs to 20%, while Least Developed Contracting States (LDCs) (Bangladesh,

Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal) will bring them down to 30%. Non-LDCs will then bring down tariffs from 20% to 0-5% in 5 years (Sri Lanka 6 years), while LDCs will be do so in 8 years. This TLP would not be applicable to the items included in the Sensitive List under SAFTA of each Member State.

In view of different budget period of Member States, instead of 1 January, 2006, the first tariff reduction under TLP would be effected on 1st July 2006 by all Member States with the exception of Nepal which would do so on 1st August, 2006.

(c) the agreed concessions to least developed countries of the SAARC are:

- (1) While Non-LDCs are required to complete Trade Liberalization Programme in seven years (Sri Lanka 8 years), the LDCs can do so in ten years.
- (2) Apart from the general provision in the SAFTA Rules of Origin (SAFTA ROO) which prescribes twin criteria of Change of Tariff Heading (CTH) at four-digit Harmonized Coding System (HS) and value content of 40% (30% for LDCs), Products-Specific Rules (PSR) for 191 tariff lines have been prescribed under SAFTA ROO for LDCs given their limited base for natural resources and undiversified industrial structure.
- (3) Mechanism for Compensation of Revenue Loss (MCRL) for the LDCs for four years except to Maldives for which it would be six years.
- (4) Technical Assistance to LDCs in agreed areas.

(d) In order to protect the interest of domestic traders/farmers, India has kept 884 items in the Sensitive List for Non-LDCs and 763 items in the Sensitive List for LDCs; on these items, Trade Liberalization Programme would not be applicable.

(e) and (f) Rule 8 of the Agreement on SAFTA stipulates trade facilitation and other measures to support and complement SAFTA for mutual benefit which includes transit facilities for efficient intra-SAARC trade, especially for the land-locked Contracting States. However, no specific agreement has been signed in this regard.

(g) Implementation of SAFTA from 1st July 2006 is expected to significantly boost intra-SAARC Trade; but the same cannot be quantified at this stage.

(h) Our Sensitive Lists, on which Trade Liberalization Programme under SAFTA would not be applicable, include mainly goods/products from agricultural sector, textile sector, chemicals, leather and sectors reserved for Small Scale Sector.

[Translation]

Security Arrangement at Religious Places

357. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the terrorists had planned an attack on Vaishno Devi shrine in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed the security arrangement of various religious places;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether communication network of security forces deployed for the safety of all the religious places is working satisfactorily;
- (f) if so, the details of religious places on which the security forces received prior information that they might be targeted by terrorists during the last six months; and
- (g) the additional arrangements made by the Government for the safety and security of all the religious places and public places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Certain militant/terrorist groups have designs to attack major temples in the country.

(e) to (g) The security arrangements of various religious places concern law and order which is a State subject. However, the threat inputs being received from Central security agencies are being regularly shared with the State Governments concerned for suitably strengthening the security of the religious complexes.

Special Economic Zones

358. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Government to Special Economic Zones during each of the last three years, zone-wise;

(b) the amount of FDI received so far in Special Economic Zones that are in operation, zone-wise;

(c) the level of employment in these zones;

(d) the number of proposals from various private parties for setting up of Special Economic Zones pending with the Government as on date, zone-wise;

(e) the reasons for the delay for clearing the same;

(f) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared;

(g) whether the Government is contemplating to enforce the Special Economic Zone law; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Central Government provides budgetary support to the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) mainly to meet the expenditure by way of salaries and office expenses. Apart from this, budgetary support under Plan allocation is also provided to the Zones under the Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme mainly for development of infrastructure in the SEZs. The funds released to the SEZs during the last three years under the ASIDE Scheme are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of SEZ	Funds Released			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
1.	Cochin SEZ	2006.96	1121.16	802.38	3930.50
2.	Manikanchan SEZ	0.00	0.00	57.10	57.10
3.	Madras SEZ	1219.70	528.31	201.69	1949.70
4.	Noida SEZ	300.00	623.54	638.79	1562.33
5.	SEEPZ - Special Economic Zone	361.41	500.00	1190.98	2052.39
6.	Visakhapatnam SEZ	842.25	514.85	330.17	1687.27
7.	Kandla SEZ	871.31	298.33	1313.94	2483.58
8.	Falta SEZ	365.63	748.82	1360.64	2475.09
Total		5967.26	3435.01	5859.69	15261.96

No other financial assistance is provided by the Government to Special Economic Zones.

(b) The FDI received for establishment of units in the operational Special Economic Zones during the year 2005-06 (April to November, 2005) (Provisional) was of the order of about Rs. 95 crores. The details are as under:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Visakhapatnam SEZ	48.18
Kandla SEZ	12.96
SEEPZ SEZ	4.05
Madras SEZ	0.87
Cochin SEZ	29.25
Total	95.31

(c) A total number of 1.10 lakhs (approximately) persons are employed in these zones.

(d) to (h) Proposals for setting up of SEZs which were received by the Government till 15.11.2005 have been considered by the Board of Approval and cleared as per norms. Subsequently, 74 proposals have been received for setting up of SEZs. These have not yet been considered as the SEZ, Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006 were being put into force. The SEZ Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006 have been operational on 10.2.06. The Board of Approval has been constituted under the SEZ Act, 2005 and the pending proposals will be placed before the Board of Approval for its consideration in its meeting to be held on 17.3.2006.

[English]

Talks with Naga Leaders

359. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

SHRI M. K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of Ministers had met the Naga leaders in Thailand in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed with the Naga leaders;

(c) the details of decisions taken after such talks;

(d) the steps proposed by the Union Government to remove the apprehensions in the minds of the people of Manipur on the territorial integrity of the State of Manipur;

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to invite the State Governments of Manipur and Nagaland to join and participate in the ongoing government of India and National Socialist Council of Nagaland (IM) peace talks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Shri Oscar Fernandes, Minister of State and Government

of India's Representative for Naga Peace Talks met the leaders of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) in Thailand from 28th to 31st January, 2006. The discussion centred around the question of extension of cease fire, which was expiring on 31st January, 2006. The cease-fire has been extended by another six months.

(d) to (f) The Government's consistent view has been that any redrawing of the boundaries of the States in the North East can only be done if there is a political consensus on the issue.

Operation Blackboard Scheme

360. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No.2987 dated 22.3.2005 and state:

(a) whether the issue regarding release of salary to all the 5900 teachers appointed under OBB Scheme in Assam during 9th Plan is resolved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) total disbursement made by Union Government for the salary of those teachers under such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Central assistance for teachers' posts supported under Operation Blackboard Scheme during 9th Plan period ceased at the end of that period i.e. from 31.3.2002 and has become the responsibility of the State Government. However, Central Government has decided as a special case that for North Eastern States, including Assam, assistance for salaries of teachers supported during 9th Plan under OBB Scheme would continue during the 10th Plan period also. During 2005-06 an amount of Rs.2052.72 Lakhs has been sanctioned to Assam, towards salaries of teachers appointed under the OBB Scheme.

Modernisation of Police Force

361. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the State Governments for increasing the Central funds for modernisation of Police Force; and

(b) If so, the action taken by the Government in this regard along with additional funds released by the Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Requests were received from various State Governments for an increase in the Central funding under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces. Accordingly, the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces has been revised by the Government in 2005-06. Under the revised scheme, the States have been re-categorized into category "A" and category "B" with 100% and 75% Central funding respectively. The consequence of the re-categorization is that the total Central annual allocation has been enhanced to Rs.1645.00 crore from Rs.1400 crore in the previous year. However due to large unspent balance of Central funds from the previous years lying with the States, the budgetary allocation for the Scheme in 2005-06 is Rs.900 crore.

Promotion of the Use of Khadi Products

362. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiatives have been taken by the Government to promote the use of Khadi products amongst the people;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any new steps have been taken to promote Khadi in urban areas of the country;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) To promote the use of khadi products through the country, including urban areas, the Government, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), has taken several initiatives, viz., (i) organizing

exhibitions at national/zonal/district levels, (ii) participation in national and international exhibitions, (iii) providing financial assistance under Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved designs and packaging of khadi products, (iv) launching 'Mission Khadi' to convert the khadi fabric into ready-made garments of latest designs, mainly for use of the youth in urban areas, (v) launching brand name "Khadi India" for khadi products, (vi) launching Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) for developing 25 clusters in the khadi sector over five years beginning 2005-06, etc.

(e) Does not arise.

Disaster Response Force

363. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has advised all the State Governments to set up their own Disaster Response Forces;

(b) If so, the details thereof?

(c) the reaction of the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) the details with regard to the funds to be allocated to each State Government for the setting up of this force along with the share to be contributed by the respective State Government to this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government of India have advised all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to form their own Search & Rescue teams to enable them to respond more effectively to disaster situations. For this purpose the States/Union Territories have been requested to (i) select at least 12 trainers (ii) identify one State level nodal training institute (iii) procure necessary equipment for training of trainers (ToTs) (iv) identify officials/officers for the training in Medical First Responder (MFR) & Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) and (v) procure equipment for State level Search and Rescue Teams.

(c) The advice given by the Government of India to the States/UTs for the setting up their own Search and

Rescue teams is being implemented by the States/UTs. 24 States have already selected trainers as well as identified State/UT level nodal Training Institutes.

(d) At the National level 8 battalions of Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs) have been constituted as National Disaster Response Force by the Government of India for specialist response to any disaster situation, in the country.

No share of Centre and States has been fixed for formation of State level Search and Rescue teams and these Teams are required to be set up by the State/UT Governments from their own budget. However, the Government of India have permitted the State Governments to utilize 10% of the annual allocation of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for procurement of essential search, rescue and evacuation equipment including communication equipment.

North East Centres in States

364. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up North East centres in various major cities of India to guide students coming from the North-Eastern States for education especially girls students; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Field Trial of Rifles

365. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether field trial of Vidhanswak and Ugra rifles have been completed;

(b) If so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has received supply orders for such rifles;

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

(e) the names of the gun factories manufacturing such rifles along with their annual production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) These weapons of Ordnance Factory Board are under proto-type production and have not been offered for trial.

Transparency in Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

366. SHRI ANANDRAC VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to encourage mothers to come forward turn-wise check the preparation and distribution of Mid-Day-Meal;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has issued instructions to the State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to make Mid-Day-Meal Scheme more transparent and effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) As efficient management of the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme hinges to a large extent on effective mobilization of community and active involvement of stakeholders, mothers being prime stakeholders in the Mid-Day Meal Programme, have been exhorted to supervise, in turns, the cooking and serving of the meal to the children in schools. This will heighten their awareness about the programme and the entitlements there under. By this simple intervention, crores of mothers would be empowered to exercise effective vigil besides bringing about transparency in implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

The Chief Secretaries and District Collectors have been requested to take personal interest in mobilizing and facilitating the mothers. Similarly, Minister of HRD has addressed the Chief Ministers of States seeking their personal leadership for this new initiative.

(d) Following steps have been taken to make the programme more transparent & effective:-

- (i) The guidelines of the Scheme have been hosted on the Ministry's Website along with details of Central assistance provided during 2005-06.
- (ii) States have been requested to also place detailed information on their Website.
- (iii) A Media campaign has been started to heighten public awareness about the programme.
- (iv) States have been requested to encourage decentralized implementation of the scheme through involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Village Education Committees, School Management Committees, Women Self-Help Groups, Youth Clubs, etc.
- (v) Guidelines also provide for constitution of Steering-cum-Monitoring Committees at National, State, District and Block level, consisting of representatives, inter-alia, experts/persons with significant contribution in the areas of nutrition, child welfare, community mobilization, school education, etc.

[Translation]

Implementation of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

367. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:

SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRIMATI C. S. SUJATHA:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools in the country have been covered/have not been covered under 'Mid-Day-Meal Scheme' along with the details of children getting benefit of the scheme as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of children fell ill after taking Mid-Day-Meal in their schools in Delhi and other parts of the country during the last three years, thereafter, till date, State-wise;

(c) the action taken against the school authorities for serving poor quality meal to the children;

(d) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from State Governments for providing better quality meal and also to extend the scheme upto the standard of 10th;

(e) If so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to provide better quality meal and also to meet the additional expenses likely to be incurred on the extended scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As per information furnished by State Governments and UT Administration, about 11.94 crore children studying at Primary stage in about 9.53 lakh schools and Education Guarantee Scheme/Alternative & Innovative Education Centres, have been targeted for coverage during 2005-06. State-wise position of children and schools/EGS&AIE Centres is given in the Statement enclosed, programme has not been fully covered in Punjab and Kolkata city.

(b) and (c) State-wise position of number of children who fell ill and action taken by State/UT Governments is given as under:

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Number of Children fell ill	Action taken by State Govt./UT Administration
1.	Delhi (MCD)	711	Preparation of meal is outsourced to NGOs/ service providers. 21 NGOs/service providers were not found satisfactory and therefore they have been discontinued.
2.	Bihar	01	District Magistrate of Banka district has been instructed to take action against school authorities.
3.	Rajasthan	71	Person responsible for the lapse have been charge-sheeted.

Govt. of Maharashtra and Lakshadweep Administration have reported that no such incident took place. Information is being collected from other States/UTs.

(d) to (f) The programme is being implemented through State Governments. Proposals for enhancement in cooking and extension to higher classes has been received from a few State Governments. At the time of revision of the Scheme in September, 2004, the Govt. has decided to consolidate the programme first in Primary classes and only thereafter extend to Upper Primary classes.

Statement

State-wise No. of schools & EGS/AIE Centres & children for 2005-06 under Mid-Day Meal Scheme

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Primary Schools and EGS/AIE Centres	No. of Children (in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
States			
1	Andhra Pradesh	74463	63.62
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2470	2.19
3	Assam	38322	47.96
4	Bihar	65250	126.38
5	Chhattisgarh	31740	28.89
6	Goa	1132	0.67
7	Gujarat	29887	51.33
8	Haryana	9343	16.46
9	Himachal Pradesh	10839	5.78
10	Jammu and Kashmir	20198	10.28
11	Jharkhand	43498	41.02
12	Karnataka	45725	49.63
13	Kerala	10829	19.07
14	Madhya Pradesh	87455	86.65
15	Maharashtra	83377	97.79

1	2	3	4
16	Manipur	2965	2.95
17	Meghalaya	7640	5.98
18	Mizoram	1373	1.04
19	Nagaland	1654	1.74
20	Orissa	69700	51.56
21	Punjab	16151	15.52
22	Rajasthan	74118	102.16
23	Sikkim	871	0.98
24	Tamil Nadu	35599	41.52
25	Tripura	5226	5.26
26	Uttaranchal	93187	7.80
27	Uttar Pradesh	12681	186.44
28	West Bengal	70858	108.86
Union Territories			
29	A and N Islands	361	0.35
30	Chandigarh	344	0.57
31	D and N Haveli	209	0.33
32	Daman and Diu	82	0.15
33	Delhi	4864	12.38
34	Lakshadweep	32	0.00
35	Pondicherry	255	0.51
Total		952698	1193.81
Or say		9.53 lakh	11.94 crores

Note : 1) Proposals for Central Assistance towards Cooking Cost are yet to be received from Punjab and

2) UT of A.N. Islands has stated that they do not require Cooking Assistance

3) Central assistance also include 2nd instalment released to some States.

Migration by Bangladesh Nationals

368. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Bangladeshi infiltrators have been residing in the North-Eastern areas of the country, particularly in Assam and West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether these infiltrators have been found possessing ration-cards;

(c) if so, whether the Supreme Court and the High Court have ordered their eviction several times; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to evict such infiltrators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of illegal immigration/infiltration from Bangladesh into India. However, as this activity takes place clandestinely, no specific details are available about the magnitude of this illegal infiltration into India. Infiltrators/illegal migrants are not eligible to get ration cards in the country.

(c) High Court of Delhi in the case of Chetan Dutt Vs Union of India (Uol) and others directed the Uol to identify and deport illegal Bangladeshi nationals through Border Security Force. In Writ Petition No.131 of 2000, in the matter of Sarbanand Sonowal Vs Uol, Supreme Court has, inter alia directed that cases of foreigners who have illegally come from Bangladesh to Assam must be dealt with effectively.

(d) To check illegal migration from Bangladesh, the Government has regularly taken up the issue with the Government of Bangladesh at various fora. Besides, Government has also taken up various measures to curb illegal influx into the country, which, inter alia, include strengthening of BSF and equipping them with modern and sophisticated equipment/gadgets; raising of additional battalions of BSF; reduction of gaps between border outposts; intensification of patrolling; accelerated programme of construction of border roads and border fencing; provision of surveillance equipment, etc. State Governments and Union Territories have also been

directed to enforce the provisions of Foreigners Act strictly. The powers under Section 3(2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in India unauthorisedly have been entrusted to the State Governments and UT Administrations. Besides administrative instructions are also issued to them from time to time to launch special drives to detect the foreign nationals, including Bangladeshi nationals, staying illegally in the country for their immediate deportation.

[English]

Export Target

369. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the export target for the year 2004-05 alongwith foreign exchange earned during the last three quarters of this financial year;

(b) whether the commodity-wise/service-wise earning are as per the targets;

(c) if not, the areas where targets are lagging behind; and

(d) whether the growth of export for 2005-06 has not been satisfactory;

(e) if so, the export growth targets fixed for 2005-06 alongwith month-wise performance so far;

(f) the reasons for slowdown in the export growth rate during the year;

(g) whether the Export Projection Councils have suggested any new strategies for export during 2005-06; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The export target for the year 2004-05 was US \$ 75 billion. The value of merchandise exports in US \$ during the last three quarters (April-December) of the current financial year 2005-06 was US \$ 66.4 billion.

(b) to (e) There are no service-wise targets fixed by the Government. However, an overall target of US \$ 92

billion has been fixed for merchandise exports during the current financial year with an implicit growth target of around 14%. Against this target the overall cumulative export growth upto January 2006 was 19%. Data on principal commodities of export is available for the period April-November during the current financial year. According to this information, some of the major principal commodities which registered a much lower growth than the overall export target were leather and leather manufactures (2%), marine products (4%) textiles (6%) and electronic goods (7%). The export performance of principal commodities during 2005-06 (upto November 2005) is given in the Statement enclosed.

(f) There has been a slow down in the world economy and world trade. As a result the export growth during 2005-06 (upto January 2006) was somewhat lower than last year, even though it was significant at 19 per cent.

(g) and (h) During a review meeting with Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) in October 2005, one of the main suggestions made by EPCs was neutralization of those taxes which are not being reimbursed/neutralized in any of the existing schemes.

Statement

Commodities		Value in US \$ Millions		
		April- November	%Age Change	
		2004- 05	2005- 06	Apr-Nov 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
I.	Plantation	412	440	6.80
II.	Agri & Allied Prdts	3684	4150	12.65
III.	Marine Products	856	892	4.21
IV.	Ores & Minerals	2391	3146	31.58
V.	Leather & Mfrs.	1511	1546	2.32
VI.	Gems & Jewellery	8422	10121	20.17
VII.	Sports Goods	64	74	15.63
VIII.	Chemicals & Related Products	7729	8622	11.55

1	2	3	4	5
IX.	Engineering Goods	8840	10714	21.20
X.	Electronic Goods	1158	1236	6.74
XI.	Project Goods	28	79	182.14
XII.	Textiles	7905	8398	6.24
XIII.	Handicrafts	257	272	5.84
XIV.	Carpets	391	451	15.35
XV.	Cotton Raw Incl. Waste	50	187	274.00
XVI.	Petroleum Prdts	4387	6643	51.42

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

Source: Calculated by Economic Division, DOC based on DGCI&S, Data

Out Sourcing of Issue of Visa

370. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to ease visa regulations for tourists from abroad by out sourcing the visa issuing process to private agencies;

(b) if so, whether US, UK and Australia have outsourced their visa centres for Indian tourists to private companies in Indian cities;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to appoint private agencies in these cities to dispense with the processing of visas by outsourcing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes Sir, but as a Pilot Project in London only to begin with.

(b) As per Information gathered from local Embassies/High Commissions of US, UK and Australia in Delhi, certain visa related services viz. dissemination of information/appointments/collection of application form have been outsourced by them.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Loss to Industry on Dumping

371. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the loss suffered by the Indian industry on account of dumping of goods during each of the last five years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Anti dumping investigations are initiated on the basis of application filed by the domestic industry alleging dumping, injury and causal link between dumping and injury. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD), investigates the existing and degree of dumping, identifies the dumped article and submits provisional and/or final findings to the Ministry of Finance recommending where appropriate, the amount of anti-dumping duty to be levied. Application alleging dumping and injury submitted by the domestic industry are processed as per the procedure and within the time limits specified under the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995 and the Rules framed there under. DGAD recommends only, where appropriate, the amount of anti-dumping duty to be levied and does not have any information regarding the loss suffered by the domestic industry due to dumping. During the last five years, definite anti-dumping measures were imposed against 87 cases.

[Translation]

Cyber Crimes

372. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cyber crime cases registered during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any action has been taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the hackers in view of the increasing cyber crimes;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposal from Kerala Government for setting up a Cyber Forensic Institute in the State;

(e) If so, action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to establish such Institute in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) The State/UT wise cases relating to cyber crimes registered under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and various sections of the Indian Penal Code during 2002 to 2004 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken several steps to check cyber crimes in the country. Some of the major steps are: Several awareness and training programmes on tackling cyber crimes have been conducted for Law Enforcement Agencies. These include use of Cyber Forensics Software packages and the procedure associated with it to collect digital evidence from the scene of crime. Special training programmes have also been conducted for Judiciary to train them on the Techno-legal aspects of cyber crimes and on the analysis of digital evidence presented to them. Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is functional at Department of Information Technology. CERT-In is involved in developing appropriate security guidelines and other best practices for advising the System Administrators to follow these for securing the IT Infrastructure. CERT-In also helps the IT users by analyzing their incidents and advising them appropriate solution. Information Technology Act, 2000 provides legal framework for handling cyber crimes. Central Bureau of Investigation and other police organizations have setup Cyber Crime Cells.

(d) No, Sir.

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

(f) Set up by the Ministry of Information Technology, C-DAC, Trivandrum is the national resource centre for cyber forensics.

Statement**Number of cases of Cyber Crimes Registered in States/UTs during 2002-2004**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Cases Regd.					
		IT Act			IPC		
		2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	8	3	8	253	218	93
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	2	0	0	0	0	0
4	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Goa	4	2	0	4	0	0
7	Gujarat	1	14	2	249	15	124
8	Haryana	2	0	0	0	1	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	99	87	0
10	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	1	0	0	0
11	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Karnataka	15	7	14	0	1	0
13	Kerala	3	1	2	1	0	0
14	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Maharashtra	12	12	17	1	5	4
16	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Orissa	4	1	1	0	4	0
21	Punjab	3	2	2	28	61	4
22	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24	Tamil Nadu	3	10	14	0	0	36
25	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	5	2	2	81	3	3
27	Uttaranchal	0	1	0	0	0	0
28	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (States)		63	55	63	714	395	264
29	A and N Islands	0	0	0	15	16	5
30	Chandigarh	2	1	1	0	0	0
31	D and N Havell	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Daman and Diu	0	NA	0	7	NA	0
33	Delhi	5	4	4	2	0	10
34	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (UTs)		7	5	5	24	16	15
Total (All India)		70	60	68	738	411	279

Source: Crime in India-NCRB

[English]

Credit to Small Scale Industries

373. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken by the Government to ensure that the Banks credit to Small Scale Industries is hassle-free;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Manufacturing Competitiveness Councils has given recommendation on the provisions of credit to the Small Scale Industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) To facilitate flow of credit to the small scale industries (SSIs), the Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have taken various measures which, inter alia, include enhancement in composite loan limit from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore, raising of project cost limit under National Equity Fund (NEF) Scheme from Rs. 25 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh, enhancement of eligible loan limit under Credit Guarantee Scheme from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh, providing collateral-free loan upto Rs. 25 lakh to SSI units having good track record, setting up of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Fund of Rs. 10,000 crore under Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), enhancement of credit limit under Laghu Udyami Credit Card (LUCC) from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh based on satisfactory track record, etc. Further, the Government has announced a 'Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)', on 10th August 2005. The measures in the Policy Package to increase the quantum of credit to SMEs (including SSIs) include: (i) public sector

banks to fix their own targets for funding SMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20 per cent year-on-year growth in credit to the SME sector, (ii) public sector banks to follow a transparent rating system with cost of credit linked to the credit rating of the enterprise, (iii) commercial banks to make concerted efforts to provide credit cover on an average to at least 5 new tiny, small and medium enterprises at each of their semi-urban/urban branches per year, (iv) special dispensation under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for all (a) loans upto Rs. 2 lakh, (b) eligible women entrepreneurs and (c) eligible borrowers located in the North Eastern region (including Sikkim) and Jammu and Kashmir, (v) adoption of cluster-based approval by banks for SME financing, etc.

(c) and (d) In its draft report on 'National Strategy for Manufacturing', the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council has made several recommendations on provision of credit to the SSI sector, including examination of the methodology for enabling better credit delivery to the SSI sector by the RBI, restructuring/revitalization of State Financial Corporations and giving a larger role to SIDBI in direct lending to the SSI sector.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 3 of the Foreigners Act, 1946:-

- (1) The Foreigners (Tribunal) Amendment Order, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 57 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2006.
- (2) The Foreigners (Tribunals for Assam) Order, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 58 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3688/2005]

12.00½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Thirteenth to Seventeenth Reports

[English]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture:

- (1) Thirteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-06) relating to the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation);
- (2) Fourteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-06) relating to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education);
- (3) Fifteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-06) relating to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries);
- (4) Sixteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-06) relating to Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- (5) Seventeenth Report on 'Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005' of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) (2005-06) relating to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

12.00% hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

Twelfth to Fourteenth Reports

[English]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment:-

- (1) Twelfth Report on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- (2) Thirteenth Report on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (3) Fourteenth Report on 'The Constitution One Hundred and Third (Amendment) Bill, 2004' and 'The National Commission for Minorities (Repeal) Bill, 2004'.

12.01 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Business transacted during the Previous Week

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

After the Joint Session addressed by the Respected Rashtrapatiiji, we had a brief sitting on 16th February and a day's Session on 17th February, 2006.

Out of the 20 Starred Questions admitted, two Questions were answered orally. Replies to the remaining

Starred Questions along with the replies to 95 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

During the period, as many as three matters of urgent public importance were raised after the Question Hour.

As regards the Legislative Business, the House discussed the Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2004 for about 45 minutes. However, the discussion was not concluded.

As regards the Private Members' Business, 12 Bills were introduced and one Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004 (insertion of new article 47A), seeking to amend the Constitution with a view to setting up of one primary health centre in every village with all medical facilities in the country, moved by Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy was taken up for discussion for about one hour and eight minutes. The Bill was withdrawn by the leave of the House.

Another Bill, the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004 (insertion of new article 45A) with a view to providing nutritious food to all children who have been provided free and compulsory education by the States, moved by Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy was also taken up for consideration and discussed for about one hour and 13 minutes. However, the discussion was not concluded.

I would compliment Shri Reddy for raising very important issues.

During this period, one Report of the Departmentally Related Standing Committee on Finance was presented.

During last week, we lost only 31 minutes of time due to interruptions.

I wish to convey my sincere thanks to the hon. Members for their kind cooperation in the conduct of the proceedings.

12.02 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Bomb Blast at Platform No.2 of Ahmedabad
Railway Station on 19.02.2006**

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, with profound grief, I would like to apprise

*[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 3689/2005]

the house of the incident of the Bomb Blast that took place at platform No.2 of Ahmedabad Railway Station of Ahmedabad Division of Western Railway in the State of Gujarat at about 01:43 hrs. on 19.02.2006.

The Bomb Blast took place at platform No.2 near STD/ PCO booth of Ahmedabad Railway station, resulting in injuries to 25 persons. Out of these, 15 were rushed to nearby hospitals immediately and 10 were discharged after first-aid treatment at the station. Out of 15 persons taken to hospital, 12 were discharged after treatment and 3 had to be hospitalized and their treatment is going on. Ex-gratia payment of Rs.500/- each has been made to the passengers having trivial injuries.

The Bomb Blast was so powerful that a huge chunk of the Asbestos roof of the platform was blown off and the nearby STD Booth and the Tea Stall were substantially damaged. It also shattered the Glass panes of the main Entrance and a number of rooms on Platform No.1. The cost of damage to Railway Property is estimated to be approximately Rs.2 Lakhs. I would like to mention that Train No: 4708 Bandra Terminus - Bikaner Ranakpur Express had left the station.

After taking appropriate action for investigation, the train services were restored.

A case has been registered by Police Inspector/Govt. Railway Police/Ahmedabad vide his CR No. 52/06 dt. 19-02-2006 under section 324, 427, 120(b), 307, 326, IPC and Section 3 and 4 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and under section 3 & 7 of Explosive Substances Act 1908 and handed over to City Crime Branch of Ahmedabad for further investigation. No arrest has been made so far. Keeping in view intensity of the blast, it is suspected that explosive used in the blast might have been RDX.

Security arrangements at Ahmedabad Railway Station have been reviewed along with GRP officials. Joint patrolling of the station is being undertaken round the clock by GRP and RPF staff. Additional Sniffer Dogs have been pressed into service. Additional strength of State Reserve Police and RPSF has also been provided at Ahmedabad Railway Station for providing Security to Railway Property, Passengers and Passenger area. State Government has been requested to further strengthen the security measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents

shortly before the blast took place and train No: 9031 Mumbai Central - Bhuj Kutch Express was scheduled to arrive just 15 minutes after the blast. Fortunately no train was standing on any of the platforms at the time of the blast, otherwise a number of Passengers would have lost their precious lives. At the time of the incident of bomb blast, three GRP personnel and 2 RPF staff were deployed at platform number 2.

On receipt of information of the Blast, Security Agencies and the Local Police officials along with other Railway Officials immediately rushed to the site to co-ordinate and oversee the relief and rescue operations. Police Officials and Security agencies had taken over the station for thorough checking and train operation was suspended. The movement of trains at Platform No.2 was completely stopped from 01.45 hours to 04.25 hours. Due to this incidence the following trains suffered detention:

1. 9031 Mumbai Central- Bhuj Kutch Express (Down).
2. 9032 Mumbai Central - Bhuj Kutch Express (UP).
3. 9017 Bandra Terminal- Jamnagar Saurashtra Janata Express.
4. 4847 Jodhpur - Bandra Terminal Express.
5. 9116 Bandra Terminal- Bhuj Sayaji Nagari Express.
6. 2934 Mumbai Central - Ahmedabad Karnawati Express.
7. 239 DN Borivali-Ahmedabad Passenger
8. 716 Ahmedabad-Vadodara MEMU

After appropriate proceedings of investigation, the operation of train was resumed.

Police Inspector/Government Railway Police Ahmedabad has registered a case under Section 324, 427, 120(B) 307 of IPC, Section 3 & 4 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and Section 3 & 7 of Explosive Substances Act vide C.R. No.52/06 dated 19.02.2006 and has handed over the case to city crime branch of Ahmedabad for further investigation. No one has been arrested so far. There is a possibility of use of RDX keeping in view of the awfulness of the explosive.

The security arrangements on Ahmedabad Railway

Station have been reviewed with the officers of Government Railway Police. A joint-patrolling of station by Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force is being carried out round the clock. Additional sniffer dogs have been deployed. Additional companies of State Reserve Police and Railway Protection Special Force have been deployed with immediate effect for the protection and security of Railway property and railway passengers on Ahmedabad Railway Station. The state government has also been requested to strengthen the security arrangements to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Since it was properly raised, a proper response has come.

12.07 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(I) Committee on Official Language

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): Sir, on behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, one member from amongst themselves to be a member of the Committee on Official Language vice Shri Manoj Kumar, who ceased to be a member of the House."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, the members of Lok Sabha do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, one member from amongst

themselves to be a member of the Committee on Official Language vice Shri Manoj Kumar, who ceased to be a member of the House."

The motion was adopted.

12.08 hrs.

(II) Committee on Estimates

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 311 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, thirty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Estimates for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007."

The motion was adopted.

12.09 hrs.

[English]

(III) Committee on Public Accounts

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is: -

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.11 hrs.

(iv) Committee on Public Undertakings

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 11. Shri Rupchand Pal — Absent.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the

30th April, 2007 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 11 has already been taken up?

The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now come to Item No. 10. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[Translation]

Rajya Sabha has been called, nothing was decided regarding us.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, the paper given to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, fifteen members from among themselves

to serve as members of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007."

The motion was adopted.

12.13 hrs.

(v) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 12

Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya – not present.

Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA (Karimganj): I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of Rule 331 B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA: I beg to move:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007 and do

communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2006 and ending on the 30th April, 2007 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

12.14½ hrs.

MOTION RE: JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE SCHEDULED TRIBES (RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS) BILL, 2005

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): I beg to move:

"That this House do appoint Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam, to the Joint Committee on Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Adv. P. Satheedevi."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do appoint Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam, to the Joint Committee on Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Adv. P. Satheedevi."

The motion was adopted.

12.15 hrs.

MOTION RE: REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE SCHEDULED TRIBES (RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS) BILL, 2005 – EXTENSION OF TIME

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do extend the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Scheduled

Tribes (Recognition of Forest rights) Bill, 2005 up to the last day of the Budget Session 2006."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House do extend the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest rights) Bill, 2005 up to the last day of the Budget Session 2006."

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I want to say something on it. He said that

[English]

"Last day of the present Budget Session."

MR. SPEAKER: It should have been the first day of the next Session. This is my mistake and I stand corrected.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I was saying that it is an important bill. The matter relates to crores of tribals. They are being driven out, it is being continuously told for many days now that the bill should be passed immediately. The second part of this session will commence after expiry of 15 days of completion of the first part of this session. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

Why do you become impatient?

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The manner in which there is a danger to tribals is a very serious issue. The manner in which the bill is being delayed shows that it will be passed in the next session only. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

What is he doing? I do not agree with this

[Translation]

Do I have no right even to say so?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mistry, please take your seat. The Chairman is there. If necessary, he will respond and you need not respond.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It was said during the last session that it will be brought in the beginning of the coming session. It was said during the session before the last one that it would be passed during the next session. It is now being said that this bill would be taken up in the next session.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, Prof. Malhotra, you have made your point.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I say that on completion of first part of the current budget session there will be a recess of 15 days' before the beginning of the second part. It be considered by the Committee during those 15 days and the bill be brought and passed during the second part of budget session otherwise there will be injustice to crores of tribals and the injustice will continue. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the report should be presented on the first day of the second part of this Budget Session.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): The Government has no concern for the tribal people.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Considering the importance of the Bill and considering that the tribals are in a very, very bad condition. ...

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is naturally concerned for the tribals as you are. Kindly let me regulate the proceedings of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you take your seat, please?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Time should not be so extended.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please take your seat? This is another difficulty. Even when the Chair wants to say something, you will not allow him. Everybody understands the importance of this Bill. I take it that the hon. Members of the Committee, who are very responsible Members of the House, have looked into this matter. Knowing the importance of the Bill, they have asked for extension for a longer period because many representations are coming or are expected to come. Therefore, they have to do justice. They wanted extension for a longer time. I have made a request that it should be done within time. All of you are concerned and I have no manner of doubt about it. On behalf of the House, may I request them to try to respond to this?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There should not be any further extension.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I most respectfully submit that I would have agreed with Prof. Malhotra readily that in the second leg, it would have come. Unfortunately, Prof. Malhotra will remember that during this period, recess before the second leg is only for two weeks, all the Standing Committees will have to consider the Demands for Grants. Quite a large number of Members would be common in those Committees. Therefore, if we give such a constrained time frame, it may not be possible for them to do justice. Therefore, taking note of the concerns that this is an important piece of legislation, if all of you kindly agree, what has been stated in the original Motion should be accepted. During this period, in some States elections will be held, and many of the Members will be in their respective States. What I want is that the consideration of the Bill should not be the victim of the constraint of time. Keeping this in view, you may kindly reconsider it.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): This problem relates to every state. ...*(Interruptions)* It be passed only in this session.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It be tried like this, if it is done at right sitting for late hours between recess. ...

[English]

Please do not extend it. As early as possible, it be done.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, all parties are represented in this. We have a responsible Chairman. All are responsible.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to state that the concurrence of the Rajya Sabha was actually given on the last day of the Winter Session. Subsequently, during the short period, we have already had three sittings of the Committee. We have examined three Ministries. Hon. Members will appreciate the fact that these concern the tribals all over the country. There are several forest dwellers who are not covered under the ambit of this Bill. Several apprehensions have been expressed by different sections of people. I think, there will be a unanimous view of this House that there should be a detailed investigation and examination of every clause before the Bill is presented in this House. This has been promised to the tribals since 1927. In 1980, the Forest Conservation Act was brought. That also promised settlement of rights to the tribals, to the forest dwellers, which has not been done till today. This Government has taken up this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All parties are there. It is a sensitive matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: I appreciate the fact that all parties are cooperating. ...*(Interruptions)* This is an issue which was mentioned by the President in his Presidential Address. We have been giving priority to this issue. Our leadership has been taking it up. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The problems are of the Chairman. We have to face the problem as you do.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Though we have asked for extension till the end of this Session, yet I assure the House that if it is possible, we shall try our best to give the Report even before that.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do extend the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Scheduled

Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 upto the last day of the Budget Session 2006."

The motion was adopted.

I have no manner of doubt that every section of this House is extremely keen to look after the interests of the tribals. Therefore, I am sure, there will be no deliberate delay in the matter. All the parties are represented in the Committee. I have no doubt about it.

12.23 hrs.

MOTION RE: TWENTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 16. I have not received any notice from the Government. This is not right.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th February, 2006."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th February, 2006."

The motion was adopted.

12.24 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(I) Re: International Day of Mother Tongue

[Translation]

*MR. SPEAKER: 21st February is a very significant date in the history of languages. This day is being celebrated as the International Mother-tongue Day throughout the world. In Bangladesh on 21st February, 1970 thousands of people had gathered to safeguard the

right of their mother-tongue. It happened in the capital city of Dhaka. Those people were brutally attacked and many innocent people died in their attempt to glorify their own language. But they did not bow down to the brutality meted out to them. Due to this reason, UNESCO has declared 21st February as International Mother-tongue Day. Therefore we pay due respect to all the languages and we try to bring about harmony and unity through all these languages. I hope that the entire House will be unanimous in mustering total support from every quarter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, it would be better for the convenience of those hon. Members who do not know Bengali, if you just translate your observations.

MR. SPEAKER: Simultaneous interpretation facility is already going on in Hindi and English.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, there is no Telugu Interpreter available. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat; do not spoil the atmosphere now. You may come to me later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, I would call you on your matter.

[Translation]

*SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Hon. Speaker Sir, in the entire world today. People are celebrating International Mother Tongue Day. This is not a mere Day of the Mother Tongue. On this day many people sacrificed their lives for their own language. A person called Barkat had also died. You must be knowing this, because just a few days ago you had inaugurated a memorial in his name, in the district of Murshidabad other martyrs were Salam Rafiq, Jabbar Saleuddin Safiyur Sahidulla. They all were students and were merely eight or nine years old. When there was attack on Bangla language, attack on the mother language, when Pakistani rulers were trying to suppress Bangla language and impose their language, at

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

that time these people protested and fought for their mother tongue; they died for the language. At a later stage, this movement turned out to be a struggle for freedom. Not only that, Sir, in 1961 on 19th May the persons who died while protesting against brutal police force were Kamala Bhattacharya Sachindra Pal, Chandicharan, Sunil Sarkar, Sukomal Purokayastha, Kanai Lal Neogi. Eleven such people sacrificed their lives for their own language.

Bengali language has become an international language. About 21 crore people speak this language. 3.5 percent of the world population use Bengali as the medium of communication. Today we are remembering those martyrs and we are reminded of the long that was sung in every nook and corner of Bengal villages – 21st of February is the blood of my brothers, how can I forget the day? We too, did not forget our brothers. Therefore we have to resolve today that the languages which have been constitutionally recognized have to be brought to the forefront. Recently on December 22, 2002 the language Santhali which is spoken by about one crore people has been given constitutional recognition. I would like to say that the Central Government should come forward with adequate measures so that Santhali and other such languages get proper recognition and importance. It has been incorporated in the common minimum programme.

The Santhal people who have a history of more than 150 years, who have fought for the country, should be duly recognized. We have always cherished the memories of Sidho-Kanho- who have fought for the freedom of our country. They used to speak in Santhali. Santhal revolt was one of the pioneering event in the history of rebellions. Their language should get priority; everyone should come forward in this regard.

Today we pay our homage to all the languages and we den and that our Government comes forward with measures to develop, all the languages. We are taking a resolution on this auspicious day to glorify our own languages.

*SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panaskura): Hon. Speaker: Sir, I have never spoken in Bengali on the floor of the House. This is the first time I am going to speak in Bengali with your kind permission. 21st February is a very important day for all Bangla speaking people and a day of pride too. There have been so many revolts and

movements in the world but this movement which was undertaken only for Bengali language has no parallel in history. People fought valiantly to safeguard the honour and dignity of their mother tongue. An entire nation rose against the Fascist attempt to crush Bengali language. I am proud to be a Bengali. I am closely attached to the culture of Bengal. Today we are celebrating the day to pay respect to a nation which had fought for its own language and created history.

I would only say a few words. Sir, since 1950 the movement was being crushed by the Fascist powers. For long 20 years, the people of Bangladesh have been waging a war against the brutal force to gain freedom of language, freedom of speech, freedom of writing, freedom of expression and they have been hugely successful in this regard and we are proud of that, we are delighted. This day is not only important for Bangladesh, it is equally important for us because there is no other instance of such a struggle in the history of the world. Thus with great admiration we remember the past and we also remember hon. Smt. Indira Gandhi because she had played an unforgettable role in the freedom struggle of Bangladesh. Today I would like to tell all the people that speaking in mother tongue is our birthright. Be it any language, it is extremely dear to us. The present Government should take initiatives to bring all the languages in the limelight with due respect to the martyrs, I once again remember the great souls and thank you for allowing me to speak in Bengali.

*THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Hon. Speaker Sir, this is a very memorable day for not only Bangladesh but for the entire world. On this very day, one nation rose to revolt for its mother-tongue. Within seven years of gaining independence and of being divided, the people of Bangladesh organized a mass movement and forced the Pakistani rulers to accept the claim of introducing Bengali language. Gradually the linguistic revolt transformed into a national freedom movement.

In India, we have realised the importance of such a movement and through various constitutional and administrative measures, we have tried to promote the regional languages. There are many other languages like Bhojpuri, Malthili etc., which are yet to be promoted. Very

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

recently, some languages like Rajasthani, Dogri etc. are being developed. We pay our respectful homage to the martyrs who wanted to protect their rights to speak in their own language and to restore the honour, prestige and recognition of their mother-tongue. It happened on this particular day. We pay our respectful homage to them.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): The assurance for Bhojpuri has remained a hollow one. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It will continue to be the official language. How could you say that? ...*(Interruptions)* We pay our respectful homage to the martyrs and those who wanted to protect their rights to speak in their own language, and to have honour, prestige and recognition of their mother tongue. This happened on this particular day. We pay our respectful homage to them.

MR. SPEAKER: All mother tongues will have to be respected. English may not be our mother tongue but that is the language used here.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Betiah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the feelings expressed by you and the way the Bangla language has been praised here and the people who sacrificed their lives in the fight for this language, we also bow our heads in deference to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: It's a matter of pleasure that those people sacrificed their lives in the struggle for their mother tongue. It's a matter of happiness that Bangla language has got this honour. Crores of people speak Bhojpuri in Bihar and other parts of the country and Maithali language is also spoken in a large part of the country. The hon. leader of the House had announced in the House that he would take care of it. But what I have been seeing that for the last two years only care has been taken of Bhojpuri language and nothing concrete has been done. We are not being given permission to deliver our speech

in this language here in this House. We represent crores of people in this House but we do not have the freedom to speak in Bhojpuri here. We request you to kindly give us right to speak in Maithali and Bhojpuri here and facility for their translation be provided. Hon. Home Minister is sitting here, we had brought a Calling Attention motion here but he did not give any reply to that and he said that he would get it included in the Eighth Schedule and allow us freedom to speak in this language. I request that an announcement be made in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I went to the UNO with your grace and I was asked to speak on a subject in English. I said that I did not know English so I would speak in Hindi, then I was told that there was no arrangement of translation there.

MR. SPEAKER: Vajpayee ji had spoken there in English.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Our people who were present there, they also told me this. The country's pride and honour should be enhanced in such an august body. Our country's representatives visit the UNO every year so they should get freedom to speak in Hindi there and the Government should take initiative in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: You speak one line in Bhojpuri and translate that into Hindi.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are Bhojpuri speaking people and it's a matter of great pride that so many people sacrificed their lives in Dhaka for the sake of their mother tongue, Bangla. We express our gratitude to all of them and express our sympathies.

MR. SPEAKER: This is Hindi only.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Bhojpuri is such a language understandable by every one.

MR. SPEAKER: Bhojpuri is a good language.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I become very happy when we discuss such important issues with almost total unanimity in the House. That is the greatness of this House.

[Translation]

Azmi ji, please speak quickly as we have so many other items of business.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the issue of our mother tongue.

MR. SPEAKER: In which language you would like to speak.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Sir, I will speak in Urdu, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views. It is true that a war was waged in Dhaka for Bangla language and many innocent people lost their lives therein but it is also true that after the independence the successive congress governments tried to eliminate Urdu under a well thought out scheme.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. Please listen and do not spoil the atmosphere now. If you want to raise any such issue, I will allow you later. We should all be proud of Urdu language and its legacy as well as history.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am speaking in Urdu. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If this happens, then I will have to close this discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised your hand, it will be noted.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Before Independence the entire official work used to be done in Urdu. Comrade Jai Bahadur Singh and Pt. Dev Narain went on a hunger strike in Lucknow before Darul-saffa and the UP Legislative Assembly for the restoration of Urdu in 1964 and sacrificed their lives. I pay my tribute to all those martyrs along with the people who sacrificed their lives for the sake of their mother-tongue. I request that now onwards all the

languages of the nation including Urdu should be given ample opportunity to flourish because Urdu has been neglected until now.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We respect every language.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South-Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today's subject is very important on which the entire House is unanimous. Today we are discussing on the International Day of Mother-Tongue at the international level. I salute to those who sacrificed their lives in Bangladesh for their mother tongue. We want that all the regional languages of the country should get full rights. We want that no language should be imposed on any one, be it English or any other language. Here everybody should have right to use his mother tongue. I agree to your sentiments.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): Sir, today is a very auspicious day.

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak in Tamil.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, the point has to be mentioned. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, otherwise, I would close this discussion. I think the word 'patience' has gone out of dictionary.

SHRI G.K. VASAN: On this special day, on behalf of crores of Tamil speaking people in the world, I would like to thank the UPA Government, the Prime Minister and the UPA Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You mention the language.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, Tamil is a very ancient language. This Government has given classical status to the Tamil language. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, the people of the States should be proud of Tamil language.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yerrannaudu, it is very unfor-

tunate. This is not right. The main thing is the importance of the Tamil language which we all salute. It is a very rich language.

[Translation]

*SHRI G.K. VASAN: On behalf of six crores of Tamil speaking population in Tamil Nadu and on behalf of several lakhs of people speaking Tamil in many parts of the world, I thank the Government of India led by the United Progressive Alliance under the dynamic leadership of our Madam Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to have accorded classical language status to Tamil language. I take this opportunity to convey my gratitude to all the leaders who have taken up this cause in getting the status that is much deserved to our Tamil language which is one among the ancient languages of the world. At this juncture, I heartily thank our UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh to have fulfilled the promise given to accord classical language status to our rich and ancient language.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

Oriya Interpreter is there. so you can speak in Oriya.

[Translation]

*SHRI BRAJAKISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Hon. Speaker Sir, today we are celebrating the 'International Mother-Tongue Day'. The liberation-movement of Bangladesh still reminds the people of India that mother-tongue is so very precious and so dear to all of us. In, this context I thank you Sir, for speaking in your mother-tongue in this August house and celebrating the "International Day of Mother-Tongue" in true spirit.

Sir, when we speak in our Mother-Tongue we feel a spontaneous flow of happiness. Way back in 1936, when the freedom-struggle was still going on, at that time it was decided that states will be organized on linguistic basis. In fact it was also a message of the movement. Even Mahatma Gandhi had recommended the reorganization of states on the basis of regional languages. That's why in 1956, State Reorganization Committee was constituted and it recommended demarcation of state boundaries on the basis of languages. But Sir, I am sorry to say that even

now, several areas where Oriya is largely-spoken, still remain separated from our state. They lie in the bordering areas of West Bengal, Jharkhand. Madhya Pradesh. Chhattishgarh, Andhra Pradesh and some other Southern states. The Committee which is meant to protect the interest of linguistic minorities is not so pro-active. Sir, it should take adequate steps to protect, promote & preserve the vulnerable languages, their culture, literature and tradition. The central Government is quite indifferent to this problem. Sir, through you. I appeal to the Central Government that it should take suitable steps to unite all Oriya-speaking areas and also such other areas where the lingua-franca is the same but the people are separated by artificial borders. They do not get a chance to speak in their Mother-Tongue, get educated or keep their tradition or culture alive. In the end Sir I would like to quote a well-known, great Nature-poet of Orissa Sri Gangadhar Meher.

One who does not have love for the
Motherland or the Mother-Tongue deserves
To be called an 'Ignorant person'.

That's why every citizen in this country should respect and love their Mother-Tongue. They must try their best to promote their language. The Central Government should also try to further this cause and encourage the regional language literature to develop.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are almost a litterateur.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not make it a frivolous thing. I am going one by one. Please hold patience. We also respect Malayalam, but you have no priority.

Today, I am sure, nobody will abuse me.

[Translation]

*SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Mr. Speaker Sir, crores of Kannadigas living in our country and abroad are celebrating the 'Mother Tongue Day'. I wish to congratulate you and all the hon. Members of this August House on behalf of all Kannadigas. Karnataka is

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

celebrating its Golden Jubilee and all Kannadigas in the world are also celebrating this glorious celebration.

As you are well aware, Kannada is a sweet language. I am proud to mention that Kannadiga language has been honoured with seven Jnanapeeth award, the highest in the country.

We are repeatedly requesting the Union Government to give the status of CLASSICAL LANGUAGE to Kannada language. Kannada literature has a history of several thousands of years. Kannada language has its own speciality in its cultural heritage.

Kannada language is the language of Pandarapura, the Holy Land of Lord VITTHALA. The most popular king of Vijayanagara Kingdom, Sree Krishnadevaraya had expanded his empire in Ahdhra Pradesh also and he was hailed as a great ruler of that time.

Karnataka is the Centre of Silk and its language is KANNADA KASTURI. Karnataka is the world famous land of Sreegandha (Sandalwood).

Delhi is the political capital and the Mumbai is the commercial capital of our country. The future city of our country, Bangalore is the capital city of knowledge. It is the centre of Science and Technology and Information Technology.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We respect Bangalore and we love Bangalore. All of us here love their respective *matribasha*. It is not the monopoly of anybody.

[Translation]

* SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Kannada people of India and abroad, especially the writers, poets and Chaluvaligars have sacrificed their precious lives for their language, Kannada. All of them are demanding the Union Government to accord the status of CLASSICAL LANGUAGE to Kannada. I urge upon the Centre through you to do justice to Kannada language by according the status of Classical Language as done in the case of Sanskrit and Tamil.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. You will get many opportunities to speak on Bangalore.

[Translation]

*SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this vital issue and with these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajnagar): Sir, I associate with what Shri Ananth Kumar has said.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I salute the martyrs of Bangladesh who fought for the cause of the Bengali language. I am very unfortunate for I cannot express my views in my mother tongue that is Bhojpuri whereas numerous hon. Members have expressed their views in their respective mother tongues. If I speak in Bhojpuri here, that will not be included in the proceedings of the House because Bhojpuri is not included in the Eighth Schedule. I have taken up the issue several times earlier also including in the Lok Sabha and the hon. Home Minister had assured me that it would be included in the Eighth Schedule. Even today, I have submitted to the Home Minister that the mother tongue is like one's own mother and not having respect to one's mother tongue is like not having respect to one's own mother. I personally urged Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to ask the Home Minister to include Bhojpuri in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. She had said 'yes' with a smile but I am not sure whether the Home Minister took her 'yes' as a 'yes' or as a 'no'.

The Home Minister is present here. Bhojpuri is spoken by twenty crore people of 9 countries across the world. People have been insulting Bhojpuri till now but I am sure that he will give its due respect to the language. I want that the Home Minister should give an assurance to include this language in the Eighth Schedule in the current session. People speaking different languages across the globe have a sense of respect to this language. I feel that he will certainly give us an assurance to include this language in the Eighth Schedule. When the issue of Bhojpuri language had come up, it had the backing of the entire House including Shri Basudeb Acharya, Shri Ram Vilas Ji, the BJP-Members, the Oriya speaking people and the Shiv Sena members. Today also, all of them support the issue.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the number of Bhojpuri speaking people is very large in West Bengal and they play an important role in elections as well. Given the importance of their role, they are concentrating on the ensuing elections in Bengal. So, through you, sir, I would like to urge the Home Minister to include Bhojpuri as a distinct language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Sir, you only keep smiling. That is of no avail. This is a question of honour of Bhojpuri. I want to ask the Home Minister, through you, to say something in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Charanjit Singh Atwal.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, please make him also say something.

MR. SPEAKER: You people also do not listen to me. How can I make him listen to me?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, let the Minister at least say whatever he may be wishing to say.

MR. SPEAKER: He has listened to you attentively. He is a senior Member and the Home Minister also.

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): I am not trying to alter the 'yes' uttered by me.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said 'yes'. Do you want only to have your say and not to listen to others? He has said 'yes'.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, in the current session itself?

MR. SPEAKER: The budget has to be presented in this session.

...(Interruptions)

*SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): Speaker Sir, I am thankful to you that you allowed me the opportunity to speak in Punjabi. I would like to place things in historical perspective. In 1929, the historic session of congress Party took place on the banks of river Ravi. Two resolutions were passed in the session. One resolution demanded complete independence from the British. The British had clubbed together such areas that had no cultural or linguistic affinity. It was their way of punishing the people.

For instance, some areas were clubbed with Lahore, the capital of Punjab. In the 1929 session of congress Party, it was decided that after independence, states will be carved out on linguistic lines. A person can express himself in a better way in his own mother-tongue. He cannot do this with the same flair and expertise in another language. Rabindranath Tagore has very aptly said: "If a lover sends his message to his beloved via a messenger, it may not have the desired impact. But if he meets her personally and expresses his love for her, she will definitely be impressed. Similarly, one can express oneself in a better way in one's mother-tongue. But, in another language, he may not have the same impact. "So, the importance of mother-tongue cannot be negated. So, I pay my homage to those brothers and sisters who have laid down their lives for according due recognition to Bengali language. I salute them. And I can proudly say that Bengali and Punjabi speaking people have made the maximum sacrifices for obtaining independence for our country. I salute all the martyrs. A person who does not love and respect his mother-tongue is not a worthy person. We all should work together for the development of our respective mother-tongues. Speaker Sir, I pay my obeisance to all the martyrs who laid down their lives for according due recognition to Bengali language.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: For the sake of our *matru bhasha*, we will skip lunch today.

Now, let us have Manipuri.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is also an hon. Member of the House. He is representing a language of the minority people.

[Translation]

*DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Hon. Speaker Sir, I will speak in Manipuri. When I first came to this august House as Member I took oath in Manipuri. I am really grateful to you Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak in Manipuri. This is the second time I have got the opportunity to make a speech in Manipuri. Most of the time I speak in English, because hon. Members do not understand Manipuri.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Manipuri.

Perhaps I am the only member who knows Manipuri language in this House. Whenever I wanted to speak in Manipuri I did not get the opportunity due to paucity of time. On this memorable occasion of International Language Day we express our deep sorrow regarding the incident that took place in Bangladesh.

Once again I humbly express my gratitude for allowing me to speak in my mother tongue.

*SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Hon. Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving the Hon. Members of the parliament an opportunity to pay their respect to their mother-tongues, on the occasion of the mother-tongue day, and at the same time I also thank you for giving an opportunity to the Hon. Members of the Lok sabha to express unity and solidarity through their languages. Today at this moment, I pay my homage to those who sacrificed their lives for their language in Dhaka. I am saying this in Bengali because, Bengali, Assamese, Oriya and Bhojpuri languages are very easy to speak as well as to understand. If we observe all these languages, we will find that all the languages are inter-linked. Even though we speak different languages, the basic mooring of these languages is the same. Indianness in all these languages is ingrained. Languages are not meant to divide people but to unite them. India can develop only if we harp on this unity. Assamese is my language and I am proud of being an Assamese. The father of modern Assamese literature Laxminath Bezbaruah, who had married the grand daughter of Kaviguru Ravindranath Tagore, wrote - "O, my sweet voice, my sweet voice of Assam, even if I look for other voices anywhere in the world, I will never find a sweeter voice than my voice, which means....

Oh my voice of sweet Assam, my sweet voice of Assam

Even if I look for my voice anywhere in the world

I will never find a sweeter voice than my voice.

That is the love one has for one's mother tongue. But mother tongue should unite people.

[Translation]

Mother tongues are not meant to divide people but to unite them. Languages unite people not divide them.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Assamese.

Paying homage to and in respectful memory of those martyrs and once again thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and conclude.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with great sense of respect, I remember all those martyrs who made sacrifices and laid down their lives for advancing the cause of their mother tongue. Had Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia been alive to witness today's atmosphere in this House, he would have been very happy. It is he who inspired Shri H.J. Patel to deliver his speech in Kannad for the first time in this august House in the year 1967 when hon. Sanjeeva Reddy was in the Chair. Subsequent to that, arrangement of interpretation in Indian languages was made from the year 1967 onwards.

At the time of the formation of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rehman had placed a six point programme before the Pakistan Government in which according importance to Bangla language was the first and the foremost point. In the year 1947 two months after partition, the greatest Pakistani leader Mohd. Ali Jinnah went to address a convocation programme in Dhaka University and said that national language of Pakistan would be Urdu and Pakistan would be a secular State which was opposed by the entire audience which contended that they spoke Bangla and would accept only Bangla as their national language. In the beginning of the year 1900 at the time of partition of Bengal, the immortal patriots of that state contended that partition of Bengal could not take place on linguistic lines consequent upon which partition of Bengal had to be cancelled.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, mother tongue is learnt with the upbringing of a child by his/her mother and it comes naturally to one's tongue and therefore deserves the same respect from us as our very own mother. So on this auspicious day we have spoken in our mother tongue and it should not remain merely formality rather it should become a part and parcel of our life. We should respect our mother tongue as well as the national language which is closely related to it.

[Translation]

Our mother tongues and our national language should become our official languages all over the country. With this hope I would like to thank all my friends who

expressed their views here in the House in honour of their mother tongues. With the hope that this desire of theirs may take a practical shape I thank you very much.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Anant Gangaram Geete to speak now. Before that, I would like to say that as and when we are getting interpreters, I am allowing it. But I have to allow Prof. Malhotra's very important matter to be raised.

[Translation]

*SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker Sir, on the occasion of International Mother Tongue Day, the clash which took place in Dhaka for Bengali language was aptly placed by you before the House. That clash was not merely for the language and it will not be wrong to say that inspiration was taken from it and the country Bangladesh came into being. Everybody is duly proud of his motherland and mother tongue. It is but natural that one feels that his mother tongue should be enriched and all knowledge should be available in his mother tongue.

I do not want to make a long speech on this occasion. But I would like to point out that 150 years of British rule influenced our languages greatly and we ourselves started giving secondary status to them and gave importance to English. But some countries in the world gave prominence to their own languages and in fact won international competitions through them. Countries like Russia, China, Japan and France gave importance to their own languages. But we took a negative stand in this matter from the beginning. That is why though we got freedom, slavery of language still continued in our country. This is most unfortunate. Only when we are free from slavery of the language, that day we will become free and independent in real sense of the term. Thank you Sir for giving me this opportunity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bir Singh Mahato. Very brief please. Just associate.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

[Translation]

*SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, we are extremely proud today. UNESCO has declared 21st February as International Mother-tongue Day. We take pride in the fact that we speak Bengali, the language which has played a very important role in the national movement. The national anthem Jana Gana Mana and the national song Vande Materam have inspired us to fight for our own language. The song – "My golden Bengal, we love you" has promoted the cause of Bengali language in Bangladesh. On 21st February we are paying tribute to the people who have sacrificed their lives for their mother-tongue. We are proud to remember the martyrs on the floor of this august house.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I also associate.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, unfortunately, and for which I am not happy, there are no interpreters in Gujarati, Telugu and Malayalam at the moment. The steps are being taken to fill up the vacancies.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, let me complete. Why it is so? Now, when we are getting irritated, we are speaking in Hindi.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting you, please. That is why I am informing you. I am requesting everybody to speak in his mother tongue. I am not happy because we cannot provide that arrangement. I started by saying that I am sorry. Therefore, I will request you to speak briefly in English or Hindi so that your views can be recorded as also I shall try to call all Members representing different languages.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate. You have been very helpful and we have all raised our own dignity in the manner in which we have conducted.

Shri Krishnaswamy. The Tamil interpreter has come.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[Translation]

*SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Hon'ble Speaker, let me thank you for the opportunity you have given me to speak on world mother tongue day. At this point of time, I would like to recall and thank our UPA Government to have accorded classic language status to our Tamil language one of the ancient language in the world. When we celebrate this day under the aegis of UNESCO. I would like to appeal to the Government to take further steps to obtain international classic language status to Tamil that is spoken in parts of Tamil Nadu and in many parts of the world. I also take upon myself this opportunity to thank our leader Dr. Kalam Karunanidhi who pioneered this movement to obtain classic language status to Tamil. I also thank Hon'ble Dr. Manmohan Singh, our Prime Minister and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi our UPA Chairperson for fulfilling the promise to accord classic language status to Tamil. I join this House in paying homage to the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives to protect and preserve their languages. I would like to pay my homage to those who sacrificed their lives valiantly to protect Tamil from being relegated to secondary language at the instance of imposition of another language over us. We have a tradition of celebrating the memories of those valiant martyrs who went about with a supreme sacrifices to uphold their mother tongue. On this day it will be appropriate to pay tributes to the memories of those brave martyrs. At this juncture I would like to impress upon the union Government to take suitable steps to ensure that Tamil language gets international classic language status as it is one of the ancient language of the sub-continent and spoken in many continents of the world. With this I conclude.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, for the first time in this House, I will speak in Malayalam today.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no interpretation. You may please speak in English.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: First I will speak in Malayalam and then translate it into English.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:*

MR. SPEAKER: Now translate. But please be brief.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: When you are interfering at every stage, it is very difficult for me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: When you are in the Chair, you interfere much more.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, Kerala is a very beautiful land. It is God's own country. We, Malayalees, are multi-lingual people. Wherever Malayalees go, they learn the language of that place. Malayalees can speak any language in the world. We can learn any language in the world.

MR. SPEAKER: Except Bengali.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You can find Malayalees in any part of the globe.

MR. SPEAKER: That we know.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: If you go to the Moon, you will find a Malayalee there. He will be there receiving you. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are terrorising all the countries.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The Malayalees live in the Southern most part of the country. They are freedom fighters. We give respect to the Martyrs who laid down their lives for the sake of the language.

[Translation]

*DR. RAJESH KUMAR MISHRA (Varanasi): Mr. Speaker Sir, Sanskrit is the most ancient language not only in India but also in the world. On this occasion, I would like to pay my tribute to those heroes who sacrificed their lives for the cause of their respective mother-tongues not only in Bangladesh but also else where in the world. I would also request the Government of India to do all that is necessary for promoting the Sanskrit language as Sanskrit is the conveyer of Indian culture.

* Hon'ble Member spoke in Malayalam but he did not furnish English or Hindi translation of his speech.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Sanskrit.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. M. Jagannath. Please speak one sentence in Telugu and one sentence in English.

[Translation]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): * Telugu is a very ancient and classical language of 3000 years history. Telugu is called as Italian of East because it is one of the sweetest language. The great kind of Hampi Empire - Sri Krishna Devaraya called Telugu as "DESHA BASHAL-ANDU TELUGU LESSA ". Even the Indian national flag is designed by Mr. Pingali Venkayya.*

[English]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Telugu is said to be the sweetest language amongst all the languages spoken in the country. It is an ancient and a classical language derived from Sanskrit. It is spoken in six States, and also all over the globe in many countries Telugu is spoken. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your cooperation. We have other very important businesses. I thank you for your kind cooperation.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: It is an ancient and a classical language. There are many Telugu people who have contributed in the Freedom struggle. Also, the National Flag of the country is designed by one Mr. Pingali Venkayya. ...(Interruptions) a Telugu man.

MR. SPEAKER: We are not on the history of language. We are supporting every mother tongue. That is the main object today. We respect our own mother tongue; we respect every other mother tongue. This is today's mission.

...(Interruptions)

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no interpretation for Telugu for a very long time. ...(Interruptions) it is very sad.

MR. SPEAKER: We shall have it. Do not cast aspersion.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: NTR was the man who has introduced Telugu in the offices for translations. I would

* ...* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

like to request through you the Government of India to treat Telugu language as an ancient and a classical language; the status should be accorded to Telugu language. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: ...*... I am trying that there must be a Gujarati interpreter in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be made available.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: ...*... The post of Gujarati interpreter is there but that is not being filled up. I would also like to say that when Gujarat and Maharashtra were a single entity, a movement was launched for Gujarati language and for separate Gujarat state and subsequently Gujarat came into being. Gujaratis are representing Gujarat all over the world. I want to reiterate that. ...

MR. SPEAKER: Interpreter will be there.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to speak few lines in Gujarati and later on I will also translate them into English.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be a duplication.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now I will not give chance to anyone.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: ...*...

Today on the occasion of mother tongue day while paying my homage to the people who laid down their lives for the cause of their mother tongues, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my feelings in my mother tongue Gujarati here in the House which is the apex institution of our democracy. Mother, motherland and mother tongue are dearer to every one. I salute Gujarat and Gujarati language.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will allow the Members whose languages have not been spoken.

Shri Suresh Prabhu, please speak in Konkani. Please be brief – two sentences in Konkani and two sentences in English.

* Hon'ble Members spoke in Gujarati but they did not furnish English or Hindi translation of their speeches..

[Translation]

*SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am speaking in Marathi. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you speaking in Marathi?

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, Marathi and Konkani are interlinked.

There are many problems in our country and the reason for this is that nobody expresses his views in his mother tongue. We are, therefore, not in a position to express what is in our mind. Whatever we intend to say does not reach the people. That is why the problems have remained unresolved in our country. Therefore, if we express our ideas in our mother tongue, we will progress as countries like China have progressed.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have delivered your speech in Marathi.

[English]

Now, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have allowed me to speak in Hindi or in English, so I will speak in Hindi. I thank you very much for taking up this very important topic for discussion. I am thanking you specially because many issues are raised here for discussion on which Members get agitated during the course of discussion but today you selected nice topic and you were speaking in a very sweet language. I once again thank you for taking up this very important topic for discussion. Rajasthan is the largest state of the country and the language spoken in that state is Rajasthani. Maharana Pratap, a worthy son of the soil, was born in Rajasthan who is known for his bravery in the entire country. The devotional songs of Meera are sung all over the country. Meera and Bhamashah were born in Rajasthan. In this way Rajasthan is the land of Bhakt Shiromani Meera. The Rajasthani people who made great sacrifices, demand from the hon. Home Minister to include

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

Rajasthani in the 8th Schedule the Constitution of the country. I request and demand that it is imperative to include Rajasthani in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. Rajasthan is the largest state. Leave aside the population factor this state has a large area comprising of mountains, rivers, desert etc. Their language should also get due recognition. I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Sir, I also associate myself with the hon. Member Shri Girdharilal Bhargava.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak in Brijhasha. It is a language of literature in which great literary works have been done. This is the land where Urdu came into existence. When Turks came to India they got developed a language which is known today as Hindustani. A good deal of literature has been composed in Brijhasha. I am happy that I was born in the region where Brijhasha is spoken but I could not acquire knowledge in Brijhasha which was my mother tongue and was spoken by my mother throughout her life. The couplet of Brijhasha which is my mother tongue, is also there in Guru Granth Sahib which goes like this "Jyon-Tyon Prem Khilan Ko Chaha, Sir, Dhar Tali Gali Mariyav, Ek Marg pe Dharije, Sat Diye Kan Na Kiche" I bow to this language and also to all those martyrs who struggled for the cause of their own languages.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am extremely grateful to all the hon. Members.

The sentiment that this House has expressed is unique. It shows that India is one. India is one and united although we come from different regions, speak different languages but in maintaining our tradition, maintaining our great heritage and respecting languages, we are all one. That is the great lesson that we have given to the people of this country and to the world. All others are joining.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Please give me a chance.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): I want to speak in the language spoken by the tribals.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no interpreter for the languages spoken by tribals.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Chowdhury in Bengali, Shri Ravinder Naik Dharavath in Telugu, Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli in Telugu, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav in Magahi, Shri Sunil Khan in Bengali and Shri Karunakaran in Malayalam languages also associate with this matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody's name, who wants to associate with this matter, will be recorded. Shri Bikram Keshari Deo in Oriya will also be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Maithili language should also be included in it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Maithili has also been recorded. Maithili language will also be recorded. Gujarati is recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now we are spoiling the atmosphere. No, I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Adivasi is also included.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Adivasi language is a very, very popular language. We will respect Adivasi language. It is also recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Bundelkhandi must also be included therein.

MR. SPEAKER: That too will be included.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I earnestly request your co-operation. You have co-operated in a wonderful manner. This message will go to the country that Indian Parliament is something that people will be proud of.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*...

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Banjara language should also be recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Banjara language too has been recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Banjara language is recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Prabhu has spoken in Konkani.

13.32 hrs.

(ii) **Re: Situation arising out of large scale demolition in Delhi.**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important matter. Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court have issued 15 to 20 orders in the last few days and on every second or third day an order is being issued that 10 lakh houses and 4 lakh shops in Delhi be demolished. Due to this, the threat of bulldozer and hammer is hovering in the minds of the affected

* Not recorded.

people. As per the first order, it was directed that all the eighteen thousand houses built after a certain date be demolished. Second order was that all the construction, which took place in all those villages which are not covered under 'By-Laws', be demolished. Then the third order was issued that all the colonies settled around Yamuna must be demolished because they amount to filthiness of the river Yamuna. The fourth order came that shops built on roads having more than 80 foot width and the shops in houses at other places must also be demolished, be it a small chemist shop or any other shop. These types of orders are continuously being issued each other day. Any one goes to court and such orders are issued. The Supreme Court or High Court is not much responsible for this. Actually, till the time rules are not formulated and the decision is not taken in this regard, this problem will remain unsolved. Even Naadirshah or any other ruler can not demolish 10 lakh houses and 4 lakh shops. Capital of the country can not be built at any other place by demolishing whole of Delhi. People from other states came to Delhi and built colonies here and now there is danger of demolishing those colonies too. There are 1400 unauthorised colonies in Delhi and about 20 lakh people reside in them and it has been ordered to demolish those colonies too. These things are happening since last two to three months. We are unable to understand as to the action likely to be taken by the Government in this regard. This issue neither pertains to the Government of Delhi nor does it pertain to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The High Court has said that only the Union Government can make an amendment in the Master Plan, the Union Government only can enact any law in this regard. Therefore, the Supreme Court repeatedly asks to make laws, to make rules and if there has been any violation of the law, then it is bound to be demolished.

Speaker Sir, shops are being demolished. People remain awoken whole night and in panic they feel bulldozers coming to their areas. I had gone to those areas, women are unable to sleep there, they say that tomorrow will be their turn, these houses will be razed and these shops will be sealed. Now, the Parliament Session is going on and statements are being made outside the Parliament. Sometimes it is said that a committee has been constituted which is to submit its report within three months. At other times, it is said that a committee has been constituted which would submit its report on Lal Dora.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot refer to the state government.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is not a state matter, it is a Central Government matter. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Orders are being issued there. In this way, Delhi will get ruined in three months. By the time the report will come, all things will be demolished. They have given forty days time. ...(Interruptions) I am saying the same thing. If the Government changes the rule and formulates any law then the master plan. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it true, Prof. Malhotra, these are matters pending before the court.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The court only says that change the rule and change the law. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

They might have changed the rules and laws. But when Parliament is in session why has a single action not been taken so far? The hon. Minister has not made any statement regarding the solution to the problem and how it will be set right. Hon'ble Minister of Law and Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs are present here. Will Delhi be allowed to get ruined in this way? I want to say that Mr. Chidambaram brought an amnesty scheme earlier. Under that scheme, a law was formulated that under certain conditions all black money will be regularized. Why do they not bring such amnesty plan through which all earlier constructions except major unauthorized construction and major encroachment will be regularised. The Government may bring such amnesty scheme. If it is not done, so demolition will take place on a large scale causing large scale disturbance among the people and they will be responsible for all this. I am surprised that no minister has so far made any statement as to what is likely to be done in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know whether it is a state matter or not.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not such an issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, Shri Ram Gopal Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Lakhs of Jhuggi-Jhoparis have been demolished. The people living below the poverty line have come on the road. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this happening?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: They are facing lots of difficulties. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This has not been done. Kindly give direction for it. Tomorrow the Minister of Urban Development should tell in the House, if he is not there, the Law Minister should come and tell as to what can be done. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Senior Ministers are sitting here. I need not give direction.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want? Can we have a debate on this?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Hon. Home Minister is sitting here. The House should be taken into confidence for this and should tell as to what they want to do and what not. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people have come here from Purvanchal. About thirty lakh people are here in Delhi who have come from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Orissa and West Bengal. There has been demolition of Jhuggi-Jhoparis on a large scale. A large number of people have been rendered homeless during last four years. Those who were hand to mouth, who are unable to make both ends meet, those who are living below the poverty line, who run around for livelihood, such people have been displaced but this issue was not raised in the House. I want to say that all the unauthorized colonies should be regularized. Simultaneously those displaced from jhuggi-jhoparis should be rehabilitated. The Government has displaced those living in jhuggi-jhopris. And I demand that they should be rehabilitated. The rich take work from those living in jhuggi-jhoparis. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow a general discussion on this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: These people do all sorts of minor and major works like work rebuting to electricity, wires and cleaning. Those living in multi-storeyed buildings take work from them. So they should be rehabilitated there itself. ...(Interruptions) Delhi is shining due to these people only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow further. I cannot allow it. I will not allow anyone.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow it any longer. No, you will have to sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: An important matter has been raised. Without any rule, without any procedure, without any notice you want to make a general discussion here. How can I carry on in this House?

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the Hon. Minister is sitting here. Kindly give him directions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel him. You know it. I do not know if he wants to make it. I also do not want that the Ministers should respond. It gives encouragement to all the hon. Members to insist on statements.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We are giving notice for the last one month. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, we shall have to consider as to how this kind of matter can be considered on the floor of the House. It is to be seen whether it is a *sub judice* matter or whether it can be discussed here.

MR. SPEAKER: The last time he said it is a Central Government matter.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is one thing. Secondly, if there is a proper notice then one can respond to it. On the spur of the moment, on a matter like this, if we are asked to respond, it will not be correct. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is quite good. I also stated it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You made your comment.

13.40 hrs.

(iii) Re - The derogatory display of Hindu deities in Germany and cartoons of 'Prophet Hazrat Mohammed' published in Denmark

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker,

Sir, you have allowed me to raise an issue during the Zero Hour which is associated with the feelings of crores of people of this country. Something has happened in the last few days, be it the matter of display of Hindu-deities in the Western countries or the cartoon of Prophet Hazrat Mohammed in Denmark. A German company, the Isinif tissue paper product printed the photos of Lord Rama and Krishna on the tissue paper and launched them in the market. This has caused widespread resentment among the Hindus. I, therefore, demand from the Government that it should call the Ambassadors of Denmark, Germany and lodge its protest with them in deference of the feelings of the people of the country. And ask their Governments to withdraw all such products from the market and they should be asked to tender an unconditional apology to those whose feelings have been hurt by these acts.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): We agree with you. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Sir, I also want to speak. It's an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name has been associated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whosoever wants to give his name, kindly send a slip. Your name has been associated.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): I associate myself with this subject.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I associate myself with the subject raised by Yadav Saab.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): I also associate myself with it.

SHRI SANDEEP DIXIT (East Delhi): I, too, associate myself with it.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): I associate myself with it.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): I, too, associate myself with it.

MOHD. SHAHID (Meerut): Sir, it is a matter of sentiments of crores of people.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no notice from you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You did not give notice on time but still your name will be associated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You did not give notice, please sit.

MOHD. SHAHID: My notice is there.

MR. SPEAKER: You did not give notice on time.

MOHD. SHAHID: I have to speak on it.

MR. SPEAKER: You did not give notice on time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I told you that your name has been recorded.

MOHD. SHAHID: There is a lot of commotion going around in the world and you are not ready to give me time.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, do you want to respond now?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MOHD. SHAHID: I am only asking you for two minutes time. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will not give you time like this. This is not the way to ask for time.

MOHD. SHAHID: It is a question related to the sentiments of our people. Whether you send me out or do away with my membership. Here, the sentiments of an hon. Member should not be suppressed. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking?

[Translation]

I am telling you that I am only following the procedure in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is a procedure in this regard which I will follow.

MOHD. SHAHID: I have also given a notice in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Showing red eyes to the Chair will not work.

MOHD. SHAHID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am requesting.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not requesting. You are giving threat.

MOHD. SHAHID: Mr. Speaker, sir, try to understand our sentiments.

MR. SPEAKER: You threaten the Chair.

MOHD. SHAHID: Sentiments of a Member should not be suppressed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You should be here as a Member.

[Translation]

MOHD. SHAHID: I am with crores of people.

MR. SPEAKER: You are not the only one who thinks about crores of people, others also think of them. Please, take your seat. This kind of behaviour is not befitting.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: I should be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, speak.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: By publishing the cartoons of Sadre Mohtaram, Hazrat Mohammed Rasullullah Salallah Va Alyeh Vassollam, who is the prophet of the Muslims. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not expect it in future.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ: His honour has been derogated. All the Muslims of the world are very sad and feel agitated over it. Crores of Muslims have held demonstrations at various places in India. A Muslim can bear everything, can even sacrifice his life, property and children but he cannot bear the disrespect shown to the Hazrat Mohammed. I urge upon the Government to take this issue seriously and bring a condemnation motion in the House against Denmark. I also urge that action should be taken on it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You do not give notice in time and show red eyes to the Chair. You are so much concerned that you were not getting time, but you do not give notice in time and were giving lectures.

[Translation]

MOHD. SHAHID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak. I have my own sentiments. Crores of people have taken to streets in the country today. Fifteen crore population of the minorities has its representation in this House. Their sentiments have been hurt too much. I am grateful to you for giving me two minutes time for speaking on it. This is the supreme Panchayat of the land. The Hindus and Muslims of the country have sacrificed themselves. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should tear the rule book and throw it. Do you think you will get the time to speak as you like?

MOHD. SHAHID: This matter is under consideration for a long time and a letter has been written by the UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to Shahi Imam regretting the incident and showing her sympathy. Statements are being made regularly but it is regrettable that ties with Denmark have still not been called off by the Government and also no protest has made lodged here. As Shri Ram Gopal Yadav has said that the sentiments of a community have been hurt in Germany. All this is being done to hurt the sentiments of a particular community of the world. I, through you, urge upon the Government to

lodge a protest in the matter by calling the Danish ambassador for hurting the sentiments of the people of the country and all ties with the Denmark Government should be called off and if not, then the Denmark Government should take action that Danish citizen who has hurt the sentiments of crores of Muslims in the world. I thank you for giving me time.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, here things. ...*(Interruptions)*

MOHD. SHAHID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if your feelings are hurt by me, I apologise for that. I also have my feelings and I am also a Member of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: I have only said that it is not right to speak like this. It is our duty to ensure that this house conduct its business properly.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the cartoons portraying Prophet Mohammed Sahib in Denmark a lot of discussion have been held in and outside of the House on this issue. All of us condemned that. I would like to say that the leader of our party has condemned it in and outside the House. The Government of Denmark has been apprised of this incident by our Government and also registered protest against this and condemned it. Yesterday, it was discussed in Rajya Sabha during which all the political parties condemned it. Today also I can see that leaders of all parties and the hon'ble Members of this House are unanimous in condemning it. If anyone's feelings are hurt. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Hon'ble Member had talked about the pictures of Ram and Krishna in Germany but you did not say anything regarding that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am also saying the same thing that it is not correct to use such expression or in such means to belittle the prestige and honour of a respectable personality of any religion or society or project them in such manner that the feelings of the people having faith in that religion are hurt. Not only in Denmark, wherever such incidents take place, whether against Islam or Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism or Jain religion we condemn it categorically. It has been condemned on behalf of the Government. As soon as the Government came to know it, it condemned the incident. But it was not so much highlighted as it should have been, but it was done on behalf of the Government and the leaders of all parties.

The entire House is unanimous on this issue and there cannot be difference of opinion on it.

I pray to all that such heart breaking issues can vitiate the environment to create disturbances. Keeping that in view we condemn it. But we must see that nobody does any thing which can cause further damage.
...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It has been an Indian who portrayed Bharatmata and Durga nude in his paintings. Please take action against him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have not said this in context of a particular religion, I have said this in respect to all of them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the point being raised by Shri S.S. Dhindsa.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you as you gave me an opportunity to speak. Due to excessive cold in the first week of January potato crop in about 35,000 to 40,000 thousand hectare land got destroyed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is about something else. It is a notice on turban.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: There is also a notice on turban. First of all I will speak on turban issue. As our hon'ble Members have raised certain issues, similarly turban issue is also a very important issue for us. In the previous session also we had raised this issue and the Government had said that it had talked to the French Government and they said that the Pataka has been allowed in the schools. But nothing has been done so far. The assurance was given by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. At present the President of France is touring India. We wrote a letter to the Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs asking for arranging an appointment for ten M.Ps. of Shiromani Akali Dal with the President of France. Prakash Singh Badal and the President of Shiromani Akali Dal and myself had called upon Prime Minister Dr.

**Not recorded.*

Manmohan Singh had requested him to raise this issue and also give us time for meeting. But I am sorry that neither any appointment was arranged for us nor the Prime Minister raised this issue. I am grateful to Advani ji who after calling upon him yesterday requested him to take this issue seriously. I would like to tell the Government that nothing has been done on this issue from the last year to till date. As our Muslim brothers expressed their feelings, we are also with them. Such is our feelings. The Government should take it seriously once again. Along with this I would also like to say that we were not given permission to meet foreign delegation, we were ten parliamentarians. We are the representatives of the people, we should have been allowed to meet them.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not raise this issue. These distinguished Members have come from abroad.

[English]

Who the foreign dignitaries will meet or who he will not meet, that cannot be discussed.

[Translation]

Your first issue is right.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): The price of essential commodities is increasing rapidly. The prices of sugar, onion, potatoes, various vegetables and pulses are increasing rapidly causing suffering to the people of our country, particularly the wage earners are suffering a lot. The wages of those who are maintaining their livelihood by drudgery are not increasing, but the price of essential commodities is increasing rapidly. The Government is totally silent in this respect.

I would request the hon. Home Minister, who is present here, and also the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to take suitable steps to that poor people can have essential commodities at an affordable price. Otherwise, the poor people will be suffering a lot. That is why, I seek your intervention so that the prices of essential commodities can be restricted or contained. Suitable steps should be taken so that the poor people can have essential commodities at an affordable price. Otherwise, mainly the wage earners will suffer a lot. This is a very important

issue. I seek your indulgence and direction in this regard.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): The Food Corporation of India introduced contract payment system to all workers in various FCI Depots in the State of Kerala from 1.5.96, in the first stage of departmentalisation. However, three Depots, namely, Mavelikara, Western Calicut, and Chalakudi, have been excluded from the implementation of DPS. The reason given for the exclusion was that the names of these three Depots were not mentioned in the initial notification. The FCI authorities continued to ignore the implementation of DPS in these three Depots even after the necessary notification by the Ministry of Labour in the year 2001 and a subsequent court verdict on 16.7.2002. It is also to be mentioned here that the hon. Minister for Public Distribution System had stated in his reply to the matter raised under Rule 377 by hon. member, Shri Lonappan Nambadan that action was being taken for the implementation of DPS in the newly notified three Depots. The workers are on agitation over the indifferent and anti-workers attitude of the FCI authorities. The FCI authorities appear to be deliberate in not implementing the DPS and forcing the workers to work as per the contracted rates that existed before the implementation of DPS.

I urge upon the Government to direct the competent authorities to take urgent steps to implement DPS in the newly notified Depots and regularise the workers in the FCI Depots.

13.58 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 may be laid on the Table of the House.

- (I) **Need to release more funds for providing relief to the people affected by recent earthquake in Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, Jammu and Kashmir**

[English]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Recent earthquake has severely hit the Jammu and Kashmir and as a result of this lakhs of people have become homeless.

Thousands of people in the region died due to this natural calamity. I thank the Central Government for taking timely decisions and for providing funds for relief, rescue and rehabilitation of the people of this area. However, I wish to draw the attention of the House towards the plight of the people who have suffered in my Udhampur constituency. They have not yet been provided any relief and they were shelterless during the entire period of severe winter and during heavy snowfall also. Their sufferings cannot be described in words. The Government cannot compensate the irreparable loss caused to them as a result of death in their families. However, the delay in relief and rehabilitation work is really an injustice to them. I understand that as against the Rs. 600 crores announced by the Government only Rs. 300 crores has been released for the purpose.

I urge upon the Government to take necessary action in this regard and direct the concerned authorities to expedite relief and rehabilitation work in my Udhampur Parliamentary constituency urgently.

- (II) **Need to expedite rural electrification in Mathura Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Work under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme announced by the hon. Prime Minister is progressing very slowly in Uttar Pradesh. Electrification of merely 1911 villages has been achieved in the six months since the scheme became effective whereas work under this scheme has not been initiated at all in Mathura Parliamentary Constituency. This, despite the fact that apart from Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation and Power Grid Corporation almost a dozen private companies are also engaged in the said work. Even so, the work of rural electrification is creeping forward at a snail's pace.

Hence, I request the Government to issue directions to the Uttar Pradesh Government to cover the maximum number of villages in Mathura in Uttar Pradesh under the scheme and to expedite the work of electrification therein.

- (III) **Need to clear the pending tourism related projects of Karnataka**

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Guilberga): The State Government of Karnataka had submitted the following four

* Treated as laid on the Table.

proposals to the Government of India (Ministry of Tourism and Culture):-

1. Upgradation of Chickmagalur Golf Club at Chickmagalur in Karnataka.
2. Development and upgradation of Hotel Mayura Bhubaneshwari, Hampi Kamalapur in Karnataka.
3. Central assistance for augmentation of feet strength inside the Eco-friendly National Park, near Bangalore.
4. Development of International standard garden near Linganamakki at an estimated cost of Rs. 820 lakhs.

I urge upon the Central Government to approve the above proposals at an early date.

- (iv) **Need to assess the losses incurred by the farmers due to frost in Haryana and release adequate funds for providing relief to the affected people**

[Translation]

SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI (Bhiwani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Haryana has faced the most severe frost this year as compared to the last fifty years which has resulted in complete destruction of mustard, wheat and vegetable crops in Haryana. The farmers had taken loans from the market to buy seeds and fertilizers for Rabi Crops. They have become debt-ridden due to crop failure and are unlikely to be able to repay their debts. The farmers are ruined. Some farmers are committing suicide to escape the consequences of crop failure and the overwhelming burden of debt. The Haryana Government has not taken any steps to provide relief to the farmers so far.

Hence, I request the Government through this August House that a survey should be conducted under special Girdavari in regard to the damage to the Rabi crop particularly in Haryana and immediate steps be taken to provide compensation to the farmers for the loss of vegetable crops at the rate of Rs.20,000 per acre and for the loss of mustard and wheat crops at the rate of Rs.10,000 per acre so that farmers can be saved from getting ruined and committing suicides.

- (v) **Need to announce pension scheme for the officers and staff of Kurukshetra, Jalandhar and Silchar National Institutes of Technology so as**

to bring them at par with other NITs in the country

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Sir, there are 19 National Institutes of Technology (NITs) in the Country, under the direct control of the Ministry of Human Resources Development. At present staff and officers of 15 NITs are covered under the pension scheme. I do not see any reason for not covering the staff of the remaining 3 NITs at Kurukshetra, Jalundhar and Silchar under the pension scheme. A delegation of faculty and staff of these Institutes has met me and informed that they had taken up this matter various levels but nothing has been done in this regard so far.

Sir, I would request the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development to look into this matter personally and announce pension scheme for the officers and staff of the NITs of Kurukshetra, Jalundhar and Silchar so as to bring parity in the service conditions of all these 18 NITs under direct control of this Ministry.

- (vi) **Need to review drinking water programmes in Mehsana district, Gujarat with a view to check receding ground water level and defluoride potable water in the region**

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the water in my Parliamentary constituency Mehsana district has excessive fluoride content which is having an adverse effect on the health of the people. It has also caused disability in many people. The ground level of even this water has fallen to 1200 to 1500 feet which has resulted in scarcity of drinking water. The ongoing drinking water schemes in the districts are not proving to be very beneficial for the people. Hence, there is an urgent need to review these schemes.

I would request the Government, through the House that a scheme for defluoridation of water in my Parliamentary constituency Mehsana district should be implemented and effort should be made to raise the water level in Mehsana district. The problem of drinking water scarcity in Mehsana district may be resolved soon so that the people of the district could be provided safe drinking water.

**(vii) Need to commission Satellite Phone Service
In Almora Parliamentary Constituency,
Uttaranchal**

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Speaker, a scheme was formulated in the year 2001-2002 to provide telephone services in all revenue villages in the country. Under the scheme those places were identified where no telephone services could be provided through underground cable line or wireless in local loop (WLL) services.

A survey in this regard has brought to light the fact that there are nearly 4000 revenue villages in the entire Uttaranchal region where it would not be possible to provide landline telephone facility or WLL facility. Out of the said 1340 revenue villages are in the 14 districts in Almora Parliamentary Constituency that is, Almora, Bageshwar and Champawat district.

Hence, a decision to provide one satellite phone to each of the said 1340 revenue villages to be used as a local PCO was taken in the year 2002. Tender had also been invited in this regard. However, this service has not been started till date and the people of the said 1340 revenue villages remain deprived of telephone facility.

Hence, keeping in view the geographical constraints and the vulnerability of this far lying mountainous region, immediate action to provide satellite phone service should be taken.

**(viii) Need to Include 'Gorboli' language in the Eighth
Schedule to the Constitution**

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yawatmal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, nomads approximately seven crore in number are spread in the entire country. They speak their own language, which is called 'Gorboli'. This language is understood and spoken by approximately 3 crore people belonging to other society. The language is written in Devnagri script. There is a provision in the Indian Constitution to promote every language. Gorboli be included into the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution as it is spoken by such a large number of people in the country.

It should be considered as a form of integrity, unity and fraternity of India. Such vastness is seen in the Gorboli of Nomadic society. I demand that Gorboli should be

included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. I would like to demand from the Government that Gorboli of nomadic society be recognized and included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution as a language spoken or understood by nearly ten crore people in India.

**(ix) Need for electrification and doubling of Jhansi-
Kanpur section of Railways for the development
of Bundelkhand Region**

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government through you towards the fact that there is single-track railway line in Jhansi-Kanpur section of Uttar Pradesh. The distance of Kanpur from Jhansi is approximately 200 kms. and it takes about 5 hours to traverse distance. There is a great need for doubling and electrification of this section. I informed the hon. Minister of Railways also through a letter in this regard. The matter was also discussed in railway budget, but no action has been taken so far in this matter.

I request the Central Government to consider doubling and electrification of Jhansi-Kanpur Railway line so that a backward area like Bundelkhand may take the direction of progress.

**(x) Need to expedite the work of six-laning of
National Highway No. 8B, East-West corridor
between Porbandar and Rajkot in Gujarat**

[English]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): There is need to speed up the work for East-West Corridor National Highway from Porbandar to Rajkot on NH-8B.

The work has been allotted to certain agencies for constructing East-West Corridor from Porbandar to Rajkot. But the work is going on very slowly with little progress. So, I request the Government to give proper instructions to speed-up the work of NH-8B for six-laning of National Highway East-West Corridor, so that along with the convenience to commuters adequate revenue is also generated.

**(xi) Need to expedite completion of pending power
projects in Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr.

Speaker. Sir, power crisis is deepening in Rajasthan. The State Government is resorting to power cuts in cities and villages. Sufficient water is not available for farming. The summer season is about to begin. More problems are in store for the people due to shortage of power. Proposals for power projects in Rajasthan have been pending with the Central Government which need early disposal. The state government is striving but the Central Government too should pay its due attention to it.

I demand from the Central Government to expedite the completion of pending power projects in Rajasthan to deal with the power crisis.

(xii) Need to take steps to check the evil practice of child sacrifice in Western Uttar Pradesh

[English]

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): It is a matter of grave concern that human sacrifices have become a practice in some districts in Western Uttar Pradesh. It is reported that some criminal tantriks thriving on superstition and ignorance have been committing such crimes where innocent children become their prey. It is a pity that all cases are not registered and investigated.

I would request the Hon'ble Home Minister to take up the matter with the U.P. Government so as to put a stop to such uncivilized practice.

Over and above, it is our duty to raise our voice against this superstition and make the people conscious against this evil practice.

(xiii) Need to settle the outstanding term account loan availed from nationalised commercial banks under the 'NABARD' refinancing scheme for procurement of deep sea fishing trawlers in Kerala

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): In 1990, term loan account were given for procurement of deep sea fishery trawlers from Nationalised commercial bank under NABARD refinancing scheme. From my State of Kerala eight deep sea fishing trawlers were availing this facility. They were financed by Nationalized banks. SDFC (Shipping Development Fund Committee of India) and ICICI. Later on due to decline in the marine fishing industry, they could not remit the dues of the loan regularly and became defaulters. In 1997, based on the recommen-

dations of the Murari Committee, a scheme for rehabilitation of deep sea fishing industry had been accepted by the Government and implemented. A provision of onetime settlement was there for the defaulters of term loan account. This was availed by the deep sea fishing trawler owners of other littoral States. Those who are from State of Kerala were denied of this concession of onetime settlement of defaulted term loan account. Union Bank of India and State Bank of Travancore were very much reluctant for the settlement. On 13th March, 2003 and 3rd April, 2005, Banking Ministry had convened a meeting with all stake holders and directed the Banks to settle the case but in vain. There is also High Court order to settle the case. Hence, the Hon'ble Minister of Finance may kindly expedite the case so that further delay in one-time settlement may be avoided.

(xiv) Need to review the functioning of Indira Awas Yojana in Deoria district with a view to construct more houses for the poor people living in the region

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my parliamentary constituency Salempur, district Deoria is a most backward region, where extremely poor people and agricultural labourers reside. The people here have to face natural calamities in the shape of at times floods and at times droughts in the face of which the people there are unable to construct their own houses for want of money. On account of the local requirements and special circumstances a target of constructing 20 thousand Indira Awas housing units was fixed in this districts during the last year. But the construction work for that could not be completed in consequence whereof the target for construction of Indira Awas was fixed only at 5 thousand, instead of 20 thousand, during the current financial year. When the people of this area came to know about this there was resentment among them because the small figure of five thousand Indira Awas does not take into account the level of poverty in this area and is not in keeping with the demands of the shelterless people there. About 60 percent people still dwell in huts with their family. Therefore, these families have to face difficulty during rainy and winter seasons.

I request the Central Government through the House that the number of Indira Awas to be constructed during

the current year be fixed at 20 thousand as was done during the last year and the functioning of the district authorities be kept under strict monitoring so that the target may be achieved.

(xv) Need to provide stoppage of important trains at Bharwari railway station in Kaushambi Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the newly created district Kaushambi in my Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh is an important district with religious and historical point of view. Lakhs of Indian and foreign tourists visit the place every year. Gautam Budh lived here for 12 years. There is a Jain pilgrimage at this place. Thousands of tourists from Japan, Korea, China, Tibet and Indonesia visit the place every year. The place is connected by G.T. Road and main railway line but there is no facility of transportation and communication. Bharwari railway station is located near this district place. There is a need to beautify the said station. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Railways to provide 2 minutes stoppage of some trains like Mahananda Express (4084 DN/5.20, 4083UP/7.30), Kalka Mail (2312 DN/5.30, 2311 UP/10.30) Delhi-Rewa Express (2428DN/8.45, 2427UP/4.00) at Bharwari railway station which will not only provide facility to traders, government officials and tourists but also increase the railway revenue.

(xvi) Need to provide loans to farmers at lower rate of interest

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite all assurances, the condition of the farmers is worsening day by day as higher rate of interest is charged on agricultural loans. Farmers get loan at 11 to 12 percent of interest whereas big industrial houses and builders get at extremely lower rate of 5 to 6 percent. This discrimination against the farmers in the country is very unfortunate. Farmers are back bone of the county. We cannot even think of country's development without their upliftment.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Finance through this House to provide maximum loan to the farmers of the country at equal rate of interest that is 5 to 6 percent so that they are equally benefited from such lower rate of interest.

(xvii) Need for coordinated efforts of all the Central Ministries with the State Governments in

Implementation of 'Food for work' Programme with a view to alleviate poverty in the country

[English]

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): Food for work Programmes was introduced in backward districts in the country identified as per BPL figures. This is being carried out as a special programme identifying specific number of districts. Hence there is a need to ensure that the food grains are distributed properly as this programme aims at eradicating poverty by way of providing job and food. But unfortunately in Thiruvannamalai district of my Thirupattur constituency non-availability of rice for distribution has hampered the implementation of this programme. This sad state of affairs prevails there for more than four to five months. As this is a national level scheme to overcome starvation death, Central Government must ensure distribution of good grains through Food Corporation of India when State Governments are unable to provide food grain themselves. Hence, I call for a coordinated action in this regard by all the Union Ministries like Rural Development, Panchayat Raj, Food and Agriculture to alleviate poverty and the rural poor.

(xviii) Need to send a central team to Punjab to assess the losses incurred by the potato growers in the state due to severe cold and provide adequate compensation to the affected farmers

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): The severe cold and dipping temperature in January, 2006 has damaged 35000 to 40000 hectares of and potato crop in Punjab. The damage is estimated to 35-45% in Kapurthala and Jalandhar Districts which account for 90% production of potato in Punjab. Delhi gets about 1000 tonnes of potato daily from Punjab. Farmers growing potatoes in Punjab under contract farming from MNCs which manufacture chips, are the worsts effected. Their crops are not covered under Crop Insurance Scheme.

I would request the Central Government to send a central team to Punjab to assess the loss and provide adequate compensation to the affected farmers.

(xix) Need to ensure that Central Coal Fields Limited starts mining operations at Petarwar block in Bokaro district, Jharkand

[Translation]

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Speaker, Sir,

land in Angwali, Chalkari, Chanpi, Khetko, Rohar, Pichhari panchayats in Petarwar block, district Bokaro, Jharkhand has been acquired under Damodar River Diversion where compensation and employment to 80 percent farmers have been given but due to non payment of compensation and not making available employment to the rest of 20 percent people, Central Coalfields Limited is not able to start its coal mining operations from where lakhs of tones of coking coal is likely to be available and the same is required by Bokaro Steel Plant and the said area is adjacent to Bokaro Steel Plant. A lot of money will be saved on account of transportation of coking coal. All developmental works have been stalled due to farmers' land having been acquired under D.R.D.

Therefore, I would urge the House that coal mining operations be started at the earliest in order to benefit lakhs of people of the area.

(xx) Need to conduct a CBI inquiry into the power distribution network in Bijnore Parliamentary Constituency with a view to ensure fair distribution in the region

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, power supply system in my constituency Bijnore has absolutely collapsed owing to which supply to farmers has reduced to 2-3 hours a day and 5-6 hours a day to municipal areas. Even writing of letters to higher officers of Uttar Pradesh electricity department and telephonic talks with them have fetched no results whereas certain areas and big industries are getting power supply for more than 20 hours a day. A CBI inquiry into uneven power supply in various areas by the officers of electricity department be conducted so that farmers and the people of weaker sections of the state get equal power supply instead of certain areas.

I urge the Government to take this issue seriously and conduct CBI inquiry into it.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, I was at number three.

MR. SPEAKER: You speak after 6 O'clock.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Raghunath ji, you know everything.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no practice of laying Zero-Hour speeches.

[English]

I will not start a new bad practice.

...(Interruptions)

14.00 hrs.

CONTEMPT OF COURTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004 – contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We will now take up item No. 18, further discussion on the Bill. Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy to continue his speech.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I was speaking on this Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2004. This is intended to introduce fairness in the procedure and meet the requirement of article 21 of the Constitution. I am just referring to article 21 of the Constitution.

This is for the protection of the life and personal liberty. It says:

"No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law."

14.01 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

The hon. Law Minister is here. He is one of the leading lawyers of our country. I do not understand how this provision of the Constitution was ignored by the Contempt of Courts Act. If somebody is proceeded with contempt of the Court, how does the liberty and life of a person get infringed? How this constitutional provision was not attracted there in the earlier provisions of the Act? How will this amendment help? This is what is mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill. It is mentioned that this provision would introduce fairness in the procedure to meet the requirement of article 21 of the Constitution. When the Executive is not implementing the order of the Court, naturally, the recourse for the Court is to proceed with contempt proceedings. There was no other

recourse available with the Court or the Judiciary. If one encroaches on that thing, there will be no result. The Executive will become powerful. They will not implement the Court order. They can take the plea that they are doing that in fairness and in public interest. They can speak in that language that they are not implementing it just in the public interest. The Executive is powerful. They will say everything and will not implement the Court order. This will open the whole Pandora's box. My request to the Law Minister is that he should not go through this amendment. What are the long consequences of it? What are the far-reaching consequences of this? If the verdict of the Court is not implemented, what is the recourse left to the common man who has gone to the Court to get justice? It will become meaningless if that order is not implemented. This amendment is a very dangerous amendment. Although it is a very small amendment, yet it has its far-reaching consequences. We should consider that aspect.

We are going to open the flood-gates with this. There may be some wrong order passed regarding the contempt of Court. This does not mean that Court's order will not be implemented. This provision will help the Executive not to implement the Court order. In that case, contempt of Court will be infructuous in future. My request to the hon. Minister is to reconsider this. This amendment has a far-reaching consequence. Its impact will be very dangerous and disastrous. I do not see any objection in following the procedure. The Court always follows the procedure. If there is any lacuna in following the procedure, I will support that thing. You may amend it, there is no difficulty. If there is a lacuna in the original Act, that amendment will be a welcome thing. But this is wrong, just to help the Executive and to prohibit, the Court not to proceed with contempt. In that case, the Executive will not do anything. They will say that they are doing it in public interest. Who is there to justify this? How will you make this provision in the law to help the Executive? The Executive will be powerful. Whatever provisions are there in the law, whatever powers are vested with the Judiciary, they will go away. My request to the hon. Law Minister is to reconsider this. This amendment will have far-reaching impact and it should be withdrawn.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, the Vajpayee Government wanted to set up a national judiciary commission. A proposal to this effect was presented in the

House in the year 2003 but unfortunately, as the term of the Rajya Sabha is six years the term of an MLA is five years and the term of a councilor is also five years, whereas the Lok Sabha could last for one day only. Lok Sabha can be dissolved any time. What they have done is done as per the situation prevailing at that time. This Bill was dropped due to the situation prevailing at the time. I request that the air should be cleared as to what amounts to contempt of the court. Anything said just to bring to the fore the truthfulness of a judge or court should not be treated as contempt of court. It is inscribed in our national emblem, "Satyamev Jayte" i.e. only truth prevails. There was a slogan during the time of Gandhiji, "God is Truth", but later Gandhiji said, "Truth is God". The Government had brought in this bill in 2004 to rectify the shortcomings of the law enacted in 1971. As per the existing law, to make or publish a statement belittling Court's rights is tantamount to contempt of the Court. After effecting this amendment, it would be helpful in exposing corruption in the judiciary because before that this law was a hurdle in its way. Now as per this Act not to accept any order or procedure of the court knowingly is a punishable offence and publishing any comment against the court, belittling the court's rights and judicial administration fall under the category of criminal offence and are punishable as well. We welcome your feeling behind bringing in this bill. Our Law Minister knows the law well. You have brought in a very good bill. But I want to bring one thing to your notice today there is severe shortage of judges in the courts and this has resulted in huge pendency of cases. If a person files a case today, it takes years together in getting a final verdict. Therefore, the efforts should be made to remove the shortage of judges and cases should be disposed of within a specific time-frame. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ram Kripal ji, why are you standing, please sit down. Only one member can speak at a time.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Even today it takes more than five years in disposing of an election petition. The person who wins by a margin of two-four votes gets troubled due to court case and similarly the person who loses gets troubled due to delay in the court's judgement. Therefore, the cases should be disposed of within a year, be it in favour or against. Several courts have given ruling against the judgements of judges. Justice B.K. Roy gave such a judgement and he cancelled the allotment of land to the Law Institute. When the land was allotted to the colleagues of ex-judge, he reversed that judgement. This

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

created a furore in the court as to how their judge reversed his own judgement. Such an instance is also found in the Kolkata High Court. Justice Lahoti of the Supreme Court also said something similar about the judges. With due respect, I am a person who literally respect all the Hon. judges and judiciary and my party has also not said anything against the judiciary, we respect them. Earlier there used to be irregularities in the appointment of judges. Now when the supreme Court has said that their opinion will also be obtained, it's a good thing. Those who appoint the judges if they themselves are corrupt, then it's not a good thing. Therefore, with due respect to judges, we hope that you would appoint good judges since you are quite an experienced man and the courts should give their verdict in the stipulated time. Therefore, if something is said with a view to exposing the truthfulness of a court, then that would not come into the category of contempt of the courts. This is a very good amendment. When this bill was brought at the time of the Vajpayee regime, we had supported it then also. Today, I, on behalf of my party also support this bill brought by you. I sincerely agree with you and with due respect to you and Hon. judges, I thank you.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The scope of discussion is very limited because the hon. Law Minister has brought forward an amendment to the Contempt of Courts Act. I rise to support this amendment.

The judicial system of our country is a very age-old system. This system was introduced for adjudication of all litigation and all grievances of different agencies including public. It has adjudicated all the problems very impartially and neutrally. We should give due respect and honour to all the judgements passed by different courts including the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

But now a tendency has grown to flout the orders of the courts, particularly in some sections of Government agencies and police agencies. So many judgements are being passed by the lower courts and the higher courts, but police refuse to obey the order of the learned courts.

I am residing in a place situated near the Bangladesh border. One BSF Officer committed rape on a village girl. A case has been instituted against that BSF personnel, the

court has given orders and issued a warrant. In spite of that, the BSF authorities are very much reluctant to arrest that BSF personnel or direct him to surrender before the appropriate court. Knowing full well, the BSF officer wilfully violating the order of the court.

This tendency has grown in the police force also. Nowadays, police, in every State including my State, has become powerful and they do not want to obey the order or authority of the court. This type of a tendency has grown, to defy the court order, not to carry out the court's order, not to implement the court's direction or verdict. Other problems are there. Our distinguished colleague, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava raised the issues of long pendency, vacancy of judges in different courts and such other problems. The sphere of discussion here is very small. So, I am not going into all those things. I would only like to draw the attention of the Government that the Government agencies meaning the Government of India and the State Governments and particularly the police have a tendency to defy the court orders. I would also like to say that the courts should function impartially and neutrally. Nowadays, there is a growing tendency in both the High Courts and the Supreme Court that all the orders are passed at the sweet will of a particular judge. They can make and un-make the laws. The judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court pass such orders which are derogatory and not in the interest of either the common people or the country as a whole. One fine morning as per the sweet will of a judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court an order is passed to demolish all the houses. One fine morning a Delhi High Court judge or for that matter any other judge passes an order to demolish all the slums and all the jhuggis and jhonparis. Delhi is the Capital city of our country. Thousands and thousands of people from different parts of the country, particularly the people of Eastern regions, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Orissa, Assam, U.P. and Madhya Pradesh come to Delhi for their livelihood. One fine morning as per the sweet will of a judge all those people who came here to earn their bread, their livelihood are evicted from their places. Courts should be practical and they must not limit their jurisdiction. Members of Parliament and the Members of State Legislatures must be loyal and give due respect to the judges and the judges also should be loyal and give due respect to the legislators.

Nowadays, there is a growing conflict in the two systems of our country. Our ten colleagues in this House

have been expelled from the Parliament. Some Members rushed to the Supreme Court and some to the High Court. The Supreme Court has issued a notice to the hon. Speaker of this House. Hon. Speaker has called a meeting of the Leaders of different Parties and Groups in the Parliament. Two distinguished legal personalities also attended that meeting. What is the authority of the Supreme Court to issue notice to the hon. Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the highest panchayat of this country? This practice should be avoided. Judicial system has its own right and it should exercise its power impartially and should maintain neutrality. The common people are blaming the Courts and they doubt the verdict, the judgement and the orders of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. They challenge the neutrality of the judgements passed by the Courts. This is a sorry state of affairs.

I do not want to go into all these things because we should confine ourselves only to the proposed amendment. If we get any further scope, we should discuss all these problems. I support this Amendment and hope that everybody cutting across Party lines should support it.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh – Not present.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Act.

I support this Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Act. The bill by way of fulfilling the need of the hour, has been introduced by hon. Minister to remove its shortcomings. Hence, it is a welcome effort. Several hon. Members expressed their feelings here. Hon. Minister has exercised some control especially over the officers and the order issued directly for arresting or taking any other action. It is certainly a commendable step and we support and welcome it.

The Courts and the Judges have their own identity and dignity. All people respect them but it appears that a question mark is being put on the respect of Courts. As interference is being made by the Courts in small issues it seems that it is functioning like executive body resulting in the decrease of its prestige in the eyes of the people. When the people's respect for courts and Judges falls thus, it does not augur well for a democracy.

Hon'ble Minister of Law is present in the House. He is himself an advocate and enjoys the experience of running Ministry of Law. I would like to request through you that a discussion must be held on this issue. Anger against courts is simmering in the hearts of the people. As one of the hon. Members said that order was issued for demolishing all Jhopadies and houses. Such orders hurt the feelings of the people. There has been respect in the hearts of people for the courts but in practice the respect has declined considerably.

14.24 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

Therefore, I, through you, would like to request that respect for the Courts and Judges must continue to exist in the hearts of the people. It should not appear to the common man that they are acting out of their jurisdiction. It is not correct for the courts to interfere in each work. I think we must pay heed to it if we want to continue with our democratic system in the coming years. We are the largest democracy in the world. Our Constitution is supreme. All have their own limitations. Legislature, Judiciary and Executive, all three have separate functions. But it appears that the judiciary is trying to encroach upon the functions of Legislature and Executive with its activism. It does not augur well. Therefore no one should cross its limits. It has been provided by the law. The crossing of limits generates anger among people. Today common man certainly feels that the Courts and Judges are interfering in our job. Therefore efforts should be made to check this tendency. All should respect each other. Hence there is a need to continue this democratic system of India.

With these words I welcome and support this bill introduced by hon. Minister of Law. Hoping that the Judiciary and the courts shall certainly be able to maintain their dignity in the hearts of the people as per their role.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You noticed that when Ram Kripal ji was speaking none of the members of the opposition interrupted him.

[English]

Shri Prabhu, please finish your speech within two minutes.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, I do not wish to indulge in contempt of the Chair, but if

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

you could give me a little more than two minutes, then that would be better.

Sir, the Constitution of India had very clearly demarcated roles for all the three organs of the State, namely, the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. Over a period of time we are seeing a growing friction between the three arms of the State. Of course, the Executive is supposed to be answerable to the Parliament, the Legislature; and the Legislature in its own wisdom has the inherent right to interpret the Constitution, amend the Constitution and also bring about such changes as would be really required in consonance with the need of that particular time.

We have been seeing that there have been growing attacks on the Judiciary from various quarters resulting into erosion of the authority of the Judiciary as well as not allowing it to function in an independent manner as is really desired and required for smooth functioning of democracy in modern times. The common man has been knocking the doors of Judiciary with the hope that since he is not getting justice from the Executive because of its inability to fulfil the demands that are there on the Executive, therefore, the Judiciary becomes the last resort for many people to get justice. This new phenomenon of Public Interest Litigation is nothing but a failure of the Executive because the answers that the people are searching for is from a system which is not trying to deliver. Therefore, I feel that while we bring about this amendment which is really required, as per the recommendation of the National Commission for Review of the Constitution, we should always be very careful to make sure that what the Judiciary would like to interpret we should not try to force them by codifying a law in a manner that will bind their hands and will not allow them to function independently. This is very much required.

We have seen that even recently some of the decisions of the Executive when were challenged in the courts, the courts had given decisions in favour of the petitioners saying that probably the Executive had exceeded its brief. It is really required that when it comes to interpreting the decisions of the court if we try to interpret it in a manner that we think it is desirable and if it amounts to contempt of court, then we should not again tell the courts that because we are now making an amendment and now we are free to even attack the Judiciary in a manner we think it is required. Therefore, the Executive

has to be extremely careful to make sure that they do not cross the boundaries and that they work within the limits as enshrined in the Constitution. Not only that, it is very important also to note that the first Prime Minister of India used to spend a lot of time in the Parliament and it was not because he had business in the House but he did so because he realised that remaining in the Parliament is a matter of setting new customs and procedures and thereby he attached more importance to the functioning of the Parliament.

So, some of the areas need not be codified. They have to be acted upon by indulging into practice which will become the order of the day. So, the Executive has to be extremely careful to make sure not to cross the limits and that they allow the courts to interpret. Therefore, contempt of court is an extremely important issue and this is the only way to deal with it. When the court judgement is not respected, it is amounting to contempt of court. This is the only way in which we can actually keep the entire judicial process above certain limits. I would request the hon. Minister to say that, while replying to the debate, in fact, this tradition that has been followed for many years should be followed in future also. The independence of the judiciary should be maintained and we always respect the judiciary in the way it is required and the supremacy of the Parliament which is a sovereign authority will remain for a long time to come.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Baba Saheb Ambedkar framed the Constitution of the country and the Courts were given their rights thereunder. In our own democracy, all the organs of democracy are dependent on one another. I rise to support the new bill introduced by Shri H.R. Bhardwaj for amending the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. My suggestion is that there is a need to take decision by the Courts on their own rights. Many cases regarding the Jhuggi-Jhopadis, environment etc. were brought before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court gave ruling that no reservation should be given to SCs and STs in private education institutes. The Article 184 has been amended after that. I mean to say that there should not be contempt of court and courts also should not show disrespect to others, all organs should be inter-dependent. I support the bill, introduced by Bhardwaj ji.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, at the outset, I would thank all the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion of this Bill.

I have received support from almost all quarters because this Bill is very limited in scope and widely acceptable to all sections of the people. I will now enumerate on what basis it is acceptable.

Sir, many hon. Members have touched various points commencing from judicial activism, judicial restraint, judicial accountability, slow performance and many matters which this Bill does not deal with. It deals with only one measure. There has been a discussion going on for a long time in the judicial and the legal circles on whether the closure of defence against contempt of court should be allowed to be continued or not. There is no defence available against the act of contempt. That is where the leading personality, namely, Justice Shri V.R. Krishna Iyer started this campaign in India of course borrowing some ideas from US judges also that this blanket ban on defence against contempt should be lifted. The issue was referred to the Law Commission and the Law Commission went into it and decided that the time has come now that we should allow limited defence in this matter, that is, the truth should be made as defence. Several Members have highlighted the importance of truth. I myself believe that in our culture and civilisation, we attach very high importance to truth. "Satyameva Jayate" is part of our national emblem. That is what Vedas and Upanishads say. So, we cannot gag the truth. But having regard to the importance of the institution, namely the judiciary, we had allowed blanket ban on defence against the contempt matters. But this provision in regard to contempt has not helped in developing a good relation. Many a time, judges also err. Members of the bar have a duty to assist the court in reaching the right conclusions.

There was a powerful demand from all sections that we should now re-consider section 13 which prohibits the courts from sending a person to jail unless it is satisfied that the nature of the offence is such that it has a tendency to interfere in the fair course of justice. As a matter of fact, the whole philosophy of law of contempt is to see that justice flows smoothly and that there is no interference in the administration of justice from any quarter. It is

universally accepted that justice must flow smoothly and nobody should be allowed, howsoever powerful he may be, to interfere in the fair course of justice. So, that law stands.

By this Bill, we are adding one another sub-section, which is section 13 (b), according to which the court may permit — we are giving the power to the court itself — in any proceedings for contempt, justification by truth as a valid defence. Not only this, we are adding another condition "If it is satisfied that it is in public interest and that the request for invoking the said defence is bona fide". Therefore, the benefit will accrue to the contemner only if he satisfies the courts that what he is saying as a defence is true, it serves public interest and his request is genuine.

This matter was examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee. Some of the very senior members of the bar participated in that. They asked them as to why do we need this "public interest and genuineness". They suggested "truth" alone should be there. We still have taken precaution. We would not like to weaken the judiciary at all because judiciary enjoys the confidence of the people. Judiciary has performed a very difficult task. Whatever we may say, after the advent of the Constitution, judiciary in this country has done very good work. The credit goes to our founding fathers who provided an independent judiciary in the Constitution. They provided an equally independent bar in this country. India is one of the civilised countries where there is powerful independent judiciary and powerful independent bar. That is how our rights and liberties are being protected. So, the idea is the judiciary should not be browbeaten or scandalised. So, that is the intention of enacting the law. It is to support the judiciary. If anybody scandalises or even tries to threaten or browbeat the judiciary, he should be punished.

Article 21 is equally important. One of the hon. Members wanted to know from me why article 21 is mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. When we started practice, article 21 had hardly any meaning. It was said that under article 21 no person shall be deprived of his life and liberty and that he cannot be hanged without trial. But post-Maneka Gandhi's case, Justice Bhagwati had interpreted it in such away, that it is now said that the procedure prescribed under article 21 should not be arbitrary, it should be reasonable, fair and it should be seen to be fair.

[Shri H.R. Bhardwaj]

How many times are the courts now interpreting article 21? The environmental law is being expanded on the basis of article 21. Even every day, article 21 is being expanded. That is why, when article 21 is being expanded, then citizens or any person who is arraigned as a contemner or an accused should also have a reasonable and fair trial. That is why, if you say you are a contemner, whatever you are saying is contempt, you have no defence. It simply does not appeal to a common sense that a person says, yes, what he says is true. Suppose, there is a corrupt judge and he is doing corruption within your sight, are you not entitled to say that what you are saying is true? Truth should prevail. That is also in public interest. Therefore, having regard to both sides and again keeping the balance, we are giving a limited right to the citizens that what they are saying is true and it serves public interest. If court does believe like that, then they may allow a defence. Otherwise, there is no defence. Can you say a trial is fair when the other side does not get any defence? This is where we have invoked article 21. On that basis, the Law Commission says, public interest must be there. Even in a defamation law, I see that the Indian defamation law is the weakest in the world. But there also, the public good can be a defence. So, public good is paramount in our society. Even with regard to contempt of court, public good must be shown. Otherwise, the judges perform difficult duties and, therefore, they are entitled to all kinds of protection which are provided by the laws. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Can I put a question?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Why not? You are such a ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Varkala.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: He has agreed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Until and unless you get the permission from me, you cannot be allowed.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I seek your permission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First, you should get the permission from the Chair.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I seek the permission of the hon. Deputy Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you can speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, I raise a very simple question that two things have to be proved. One, 'public interest', and two, 'in good faith'. These two elements will have to be proved. Generally, justification by truth will come into play. Here the question is who is to decide. Is the very same Judge against whom corruption is charged or corruption is alleged? Who is the person to decide? Otherwise, the purpose will be defeated. Do you think that the judge against whom an allegation is. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I have understood. He is a very senior Member. He has a lot of experience. I always, when I go out, learn from him whenever he speaks. We are lucky he is in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should also not address him. You should address the Chair.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Let me submit that in matters of contempt, there are two types of contempt – contempt of Subordinate Courts and contempt of Court of Records. The Court of Records have been empowered to punish their own contempt. In Subordinate Court, the recommendation can be made to the High Court to punish an act of contempt. Therefore, the Constitution gives that power to the Court of Records to punish their own contemptees. It is not by this law that we are empowering. Therefore, having regard to the superior courts, they possess the power to punish their own contempt. Only, on this matter, we are relaxing it while a judge says you have no defence. If the man says he has a valid defence and that is the truth, then the Judge will decide it whether that is true or is in public interest. Then, he may say: "Okay, I will allow you to adduce your defence." Then, it is an appealable order. So, these safeguards are being given to the citizens as well as to the court. Many speakers have said so many things about the Judiciary, the Legislature and the Executive. I may remind that let there be no fear in anybody's mind we have run this Constitution successfully.

India is a proud nation where, despite all tensions, all institutional tensions, the Judiciary has done well, the Executive has done well and this Legislature has done well. Wherever the Constitution is interpreted, it is always by the Judiciary. The Legislature cannot interpret the Constitution. It can amend the Constitution. But once you amend it, the interpretation of your amendment is always

done by the Supreme Court. You have given that power. This Parliament has given that power to the Judiciary. The Judiciary has also shown regards. In Parliament, the Chair always says: "Do not discuss the conduct of the sitting Judges." We have refrained from doing it. Our whole energy should be devoted to the extent that when we debate, we debate according to the rules, according to the Constitution and not attack the Judges.

Similarly, the Judges also should act like that. I have always spoken publicly, sometimes harshly also, that Judges also should see that there is an elected body, namely, the Parliament which decide about the projects, about the policies and programmes. It is their right. They are the elected people. Judges are not elected. Therefore, they should leave it to the elected people. Wherever the Executive actions are arbitrary, they can strike them down. There is no harm in doing so because they have to uphold the rule of law. So, we have carried this country for 50 long years. Today, we are proud of it that institutional safeguards have been maintained by and large and there are no areas of confusion. Therefore, today, while we are requesting a little amendment in Contempt of Court, it may be accepted.

I hasten to add here that I want to preserve the independence of Judiciary. This Government is committed to it. We do not want to show any disrespect to the Judiciary. But, on the other side, the powerful demand of the legal world all over the world and mostly in the Western countries is there. I remember Lord Taylor of England, the eminent Chief Justice of England himself advised the Scottish and the English Bar — I was present there — that now, times have changed; the Judges should not be too much scared of their own criticism. That is why they are now separating Lord Chancellor's Office in separate wings. So, changes are natural in a democracy. Any democracy which is static and which does not change with times will have to pay the price. So, our Judiciary also welcomes it. Now, time will not be far off when we will also introduce Judicial accountability like we are introducing accountability of Parliamentary forums, of Executive actions. So, the Judiciary also should consider it. But that does not mean that we are not showing respect to the Judiciary.

Our Judiciary enjoy the highest confidence of the people. They have done their work well. It is with this view that we are only rationalising the law of contempt. I would request this House to pass this measure which has the

wholehearted support of the Parliamentary Standing Committee. It was, as a matter of fact, the previous Government that started with this measure. We are only passing it in our term.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, 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 clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short title

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is requested to move Amendment No. 2 to Clause No.1

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 2,—

for "2004"

substitute "2006" (2)

(Shri H.R. Bhardwaj)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,—

for "Fifty-fifth"

substitute "Fifty-seventh" (1)

(Shri H.R. Bhardwaj)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The long Title was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.51 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – *contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will come on Item No. 19, Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Yesterday, when the House was adjourned, Shri Adhir Chowdhury was on his feet. Now, I will request Shri Adhir Chowdhury to continue.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, while dwelling on Motion of Thanks on Presidential Address, I must appreciate that this is the Government which is striving hard to build a new vibrant India. The contours of the statement speak volume of the promises and pledges made by the Government in NCMP where the hallmark is growth reinforced by peace and prosperity. Sir, the five pillars, that have been identified for the development of our country, must engineer a social revolution without spilling a drop of blood rather a determination to wipe out every drop from the eyes of our common folk. I must appreciate the gesture of this Government for its decision to celebrate 150th anniversary of first war of Independence. It will help the present

generation and our future generation to learn the saga and sacrifices made by the Sepoy Mutineers who fought to free India from the yoke of British imperialism. However, they failed, but their sacrifices left an indelible imprint upon the psyche of our people. The latter days' National Movement continued to draw inspiration from those Mutineers who were the symbols of verve, vigour and valour. There is no gainsaying in it that our economy is maintaining the right track where macro economic fundamentals are positive.

We have an outstanding and robust foreign exchange reserve to the tune of 143 billion US dollars. The export growth is very impressive and the most important salient feature that has been observed is that the investment rate and savings rate are very propitious, which must augur well for the growth of our country, especially in fulfilling our social commitments. The external debt has been reduced by 122 billion US dollars and our economy has registered a growth of around eight per cent, which is an unprecedented thing in the contemporary situation.

Sir, India is one of the ten largest economies in the world in terms of GDP measured in dollars. India retains the fourth largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity. We have been ranked 55th in growth competitiveness. Naturally the economic scenario is conducive for our growth. India is one of the ten wealthiest nations in the world. However, there is no room for complacency and still our economy is besmeared by some seamy features, which need to be done away with by our constant efforts.

Naturally, the statement reflects and bears eloquent testimony of our constant endeavour towards growth, prosperity and development of our nation. Some may argue in the opposite. They are at liberty to do so. But for the sake of opposition, we should not indulge in opposing the achievements and successes that we have made during this period.

Yes, the infrastructure plays a pivotal role in any developing economy. Here, the statement has outlined Rs.1,72,000 crore for the development of road network, and Rs.20,000 crore have been earmarked for dedicated freight corridor. I would like to draw the attention of the House that still the inland water transport system has been treated as a neglected child in spite of the potentialities that have been endowed upon. Inland water transport is not being exploited to the hilt. However, it is

found that in the developed countries also, inland water transport system has been given due recognition. The Observer felt that if you require to move one tonne of freight by road, you will require one litre of fuel for 24 kms.

15.00 hrs.

If you go by rail, one litre of fuel will carry you 85 kilometres, but in case of water transport, you can go 105 kilo metres per litre. It is not only this; the other salient features are that the capital cost of waterways is equivalent to five per cent of road transport and five to ten per cent of rail transport. Even the maintenance cost is equivalent to only 20 per cent of the road and rail sectors. In USA, 50,000 kilometres of waterways are being exploited. In Russia, 1,42,000 kilometres of waterways are being exploited. In China, it is to the tune of 1,08,000 kilometres. In France, it is 64,000 kilometers. But, in India, it is miserable, only 2500 kilometres of navigability is available. Therefore, Sir, I would urge upon the Government that in view of fuel efficiency, in view of eco-friendliness, the inland water system must be given due priority and it should be recognised as an integral part of our infrastructure sector.

As far as our foreign affairs are concerned, our colleagues have raised a hue and cry as if we are deviating from our age-old foreign policy. Foreign policy of a country is determined by international and domestic factors including its tradition, its history, its culture, its economy, its military and its neighbours. It is regrettable to note that we are surrounded by hostile neighbours. They are akin to our culture but they are alien to our political practices. Naturally, we have to tread cautiously on our foreign policy issues. Over the years, India has been pursuing the path of non-violence, the path of Panchasheel and peaceful co-existence. We are opposing imperialism, apartheid and racial discrimination. Now, some of our colleagues are trying to besmirch the impression of this Government led by an eminent and most competent Prime Minister of India that we are deviating from our age-old path. It is not so. In the year 1953 Jawaharlal Nehru outlined our foreign policy. He told: "Bolshevism and Fascism are the two waves of the West. They are really alike. They represent in different phases the insensate violence and intolerance. So, our choice is between Lenin and Mussolini on the one hand and Mahatma Gandhi on the other hand." He was pained seeing the forcible occupation of Finland by Russia. He was shocked to see the non-aggression pact between

Germany and Russia in 1939. Those Communists who never posed a loyalty to the nation are now arguing our foreign policy. Those Communists are well-versed to change their colours like chameleon. Here they are opposing FDI but in West Bengal they are pleading for FDI. This kind of double dealing sometimes befuddle me.

Sir, in West Bengal, Shri Buddhadev Bhattacharya, the Chief Minister of West Bengal has become the poster-boy, who day in and day out, is wooing the foreign investor on the promise that no trade union problem would take place and social security would be given. Sir, now they are pleading for capitalism but in Delhi they appear to be anti-reformist. Not only that Sir, on Iran issue they appear to be more Iranian than Indian.

Sir, what happened in Iran? Our Prime Minister, in his statement very categorically stated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, he is attacking the communists. Please allow him more time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know better than you.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I quote from the Prime Minister's statement. It says:

"The objectives of upholding Iran's rights and obligations and our security concerns arising from proliferation activities in our extended neighbourhood have shaped our position. Therefore, our approach has been consistently in favour of promoting all efforts to find a solution, based on acceptable mutual compromises in which Iran's interests and the concerns of the international community would be addressed. We have consistently worked to promote a consensus in the IAEA towards this end. This has been the logic of our stand at the IAEA Board of Governors Meetings both in September 2005 and earlier this month."

Sir, it is largely due to the insistence of our Government that the Iran issue has been only reported to the UN Security Council. Sir, they are forgetting our persuasion in the IAEA meeting.

Sir, we are against the call of wiping out Israel from the world map. In the same way, we are pleading for an amicable solution of the Iran problem. Iran is a signatory

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

of NPT which India has been consistently resisting throughout the decades. In spite of all adversaries we have been resisting the pressures and pull exercised by the developed world because we thought that NPT is nothing but a discrimination. It was a sort of nuclear apartheid that India vehemently opposed in various forums of the world.

Sir, it is a country which supported the cause of the Palestinian people. In the same way, we want to see the present regime of Palestinian to be democratic, to be people-friendly. Sir, it is the country which has extended moral, political and ideological support to the Vietnam people, the depressed people of South Africa against their racial discrimination. Now those communists are exhorting us. Sir, these are the communists who had opposed the Quit India Resolution. They should be remembered that the Quit India Resolution was opposed by them. When everybody was rejoicing the Independence, they opposed it tooth and nail. They stigmatise the great Rabindra Nath Tagore as a stooge of imperialist. Now they are playing Saint in Delhi but actually they are the devil in West Bengal.

Sir, lakhs of false voters have been unearthed by the Election Commission. We are proud of our electoral institution. Lakhs of false voters and millions of fake ration cardholders are roaming scot-free, which has recently been detected. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, the UPA Government is striving hard. ...*(Interruptions)* That is another thing but you must accept it because it is the history. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, nobody can deny the history. It is the historical truth that you opposed the Quit India Resolution.

Sir, the UPA Government is striving hard for the progress of our country.

It is because the moral law of the Universe is progress. Every generation passes idly over the earth without adding anything to the progress. They will remain un-inscribed in the registers of humanity and the successive generation tramples their ashes as dust. Therefore, we are striving for progress.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: As far as agriculture is concerned, we have outlined the future plan on agriculture. Under Bharat Nirman, one crore hectares of fresh irrigation has been proposed. Sir, 1.28 crore hectares of gainful rise in drip and sprinkler irrigation has been targeted by 2012. Rural Infrastructure Development Fund revived and enlarged. Rural credit flow enhanced by 43 per cent in 2004-05, and the target is 22 per cent higher for the year 2005-06. Sir, 5.57 lakh Self-Help Groups credit linked in one-and-a-half years. There is a package of Rs.13,596 crore for reviving short-term rural co-operative structure. Unified market created. Under VAT, the States were persuaded for repeal of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act. Agri-produce Export Cess is to be removed. Agriculture research and extension outlay raised by 48 per cent, that means, Rs.375 crore in two years. New scheme launched for extension, agriculture, godowns and marketing infrastructure. Cold chain areas are largely cleared.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Now, our friends from the Opposition are arguing against FDI in retail sector. They are arguing against the modernisation of airports. The Airports Authority of India does not have adequate funds to modernise the airports. If they have funds, then why did not those airports modernise by themselves?

Now, in the age of infrastructural development, we cannot remain idle because now India is poised for organising Commonwealth Games. Sir, in our infrastructure development programme, modernisation is one of the vital components which cannot be neglected.

The communist people are opposing WTO and they are even opposing the phasing out of quantitative restrictions also in Parliament. But you see that their colleague Chaturanan Mishra who happened to be in the charge of agriculture, he did not make any rider in WTO. Now, they are opposing here in Parliament. That is why, the double dealing of the Communist Party in Parliament is nothing but a political trickery, but a political shenanigan with a view to scoring a political brownie point in the impending Assembly elections in various States, especially in West Bengal.

That is why, I am supporting all the statements, all

the achievements and all the successes made by our Government that have been enshrined in the Presidential Address. I hope that under the able leadership of Manmohanji, our country will be surging ahead.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Thank you very much for your comments.

[Translation]

*SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for the opportunity to speak in my mother-tongue. Today, speeches were made in this august house in various languages. Ours is a country peopled by various cultures speaking myriad languages. Earlier, I did not get the opportunity to speak in Punjabi. But, you have given me this opportunity and I am grateful to you. Sir, discussion is being held on the Motion of thanks to the President for his address to both houses of Parliament. We all know that our Hon. President is a celebrated scientist and a noble human-being. But the President's address is prepared by the Government of the day out-lining its programmes and policies. The Hon. President merely reads it out. The Government of the day waxes eloquent on its so-called achievements, whereas an honest appraisal of the policies to solve the problems of the people takes a back seat.

Sir, when India attained independence, the Constituent Assembly, under the stewardship of Dr. Ambedkar, opted for a federal structure for the country. The rights of states and the Central Government had been clearly demarcated. But, I am sorry to say that with the passage of time, the Central Government started encroaching upon the rights of the states. Punjab was second to none in making sacrifices for independence. But, after independence, first the Pepsu and then the Kerala Government led by United Front, were dismissed without rhyme or reason by invoking Article 356. This was done hardly a year and a half after independence. Injustice was done to Punjab. Despite our sacrifices, we had to fight for our right to get 'Punjabi Suba' or a state for Punjabi speaking people. A lot of sacrifices were made. More than sixty thousand people were imprisoned. But the state that we got was a truncated state that was deprived of its own capital. After independence, all the states carved on linguistic lines got their own capitals city.

The parent state got the right to keep the capital with it. When Gujarat was carved out, there was a demand that Bombay should be made the joint capital of Gujarat and Maharashtra. But, it was not done. Bombay was located in Maharashtra. So, it was given to Maharashtra. Similarly, Madras remained the capital of Tamil Nadu even when Andhra Pradesh was carved out. However, in the case of Punjab, its capital was snatched away from it. It was an unprecedented step.

Even on the issue of Punjabi speaking areas, injustice was done to Punjab. Many Punjabi speaking areas were handed over to Himachal Pradesh on the alibi that they were hilly areas. Some Punjabi speaking areas were given to Haryana. As a result, there was discord between all the states. Commissions were appointed. But, the problem remained unsolved.

However, the greatest injustice was done to Punjab when its share of river-water was snatched away from it. Inter-state tribunals were set up. However, the rivers that flowed through Punjab were not inter-state rivers. They flowed only through Punjab. There was no need for inter-state tribunals on this issue. Shrimati Indira Gandhi unjustly awarded water to Haryana. But, today, Punjab needs water for irrigation. We do not have a drop to spare. Punjab's share of river-water was given to other states. It was injustice.

Shri Prabhunath Singh was talking about Bihar. We all know about the manner in which President's rule was promulgated in Bihar. Similarly, great injustice was done to Punjab. Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you hail from Punjab. Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh also hails from Punjab. Between 1967 and 1970, three elected Governments were dismissed in Punjab and three new Governments were installed in Punjab by the Centre. As a result, Shiromani Akali Dal was compelled to pass the Anandpur Sahib resolution. But, a disinformation campaign was launched regarding this resolution. It was made out as if we wanted to secede from India. But, what was the reality? The Anandpur Sahib resolution demanded that the Centre should be vested with four subjects. They were defence, foreign affairs, communications and currency. The resolution demanded that all other departments should be vested in the State Governments. But, this resolution was painted with a secessionist tar and Akali Dal was demonised. The Congress won the elections riding on the wave of this disinformation and we were unjustly-punished.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa]

It led to unfortunate circumstances and for more than a decade, Punjab bled. It was in the throes of violence. Injustice was the root cause of this violence.

Sarkaria commission was formed. It made several recommendations. None of them have been implemented till date. During the tenure of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government, a Constitution Review Committee was formed. One of its task was to review the constitution regarding the rights and powers of the states and the Centre. But, after the change in Government, the entire project was put in cold storage. One knows the fate of the Constitution Review Committee now. My point is that not a single recommendation of Sarkaria commission has been accepted till today. The very purpose of constituting a commission gets defeated by such an act. I forcefully demand that we should have a federal system in our country. The Central Government should not encroach upon the powers of the states. The Centre should not misuse its powers. Discrimination and injustice against Punjab must stop.

I would like the hon. Prime Minister to know that Punjab has suffered a lot. A few days ago, Hindustan Times published a news item about a person who is dead in police records. He was supposedly killed in an encounter. But, the person is actually still alive and is leading a normal life. He is a travel agent and has taken a new name. Lakhs of rupees have been extorted by him from the people with the covert support of the police. When this report was published, the present DGP called a Press Conference in which the former DGP Mr. Gill was also present. He made a startling revelation that he knew about three hundred such cases where people were shown to have been eliminated in police records, but they were actually alive. In fact, we too have demanded that if someone who had gone astray, wants to join the national mainstream, he should be rehabilitated. Amnesty should be granted to such people. But, if there is a list of about three hundred such people, who is responsible for this? Does our constitution allow a DGP and the police force to liquidate anyone? Why are our young men languishing in the jails for more than twenty years? I have not yet been able to fathom whether all this is constitutional or not?

We must consider all these issues seriously. A fear psychosis is being generated in Punjab that there may be a revival of terrorism. But, as the former DGP has admitted, about three hundred such people are alive and are getting

covert support from the police. So, I would appeal to the Prime Minister to intervene and ensure that an environment conducive for the revival of terrorism in Punjab is not allowed to be created again.

Now, I come to agriculture. We all know that farmers are in a pitiable condition. When WTO was opposed in our country, we were happy. Our Commerce Minister claimed that the interest of farmers will not be compromised. But, later-on, he capitulated and signed on dotted lines. Deputy Speaker Sir, you will be amazed at the duplicity of the Western powers and industrialised countries. The European countries, U.S.A. and Japan grant subsidy worth hundreds of million dollars to their farmers. I am thankful to the Hon. Speaker that he included me in the delegation that visited the European Parliament. During the course of inter-parliamentary meetings, I raised this issue forcefully. As per the WTO regime, the developing countries were asked to cut down on their subsidy to farmers. But, there was another set of law for the developed countries. The French Chairman of the European Union flatly refused to withdraw the subsidy that was being given by the developed countries to their own farmers. I have got figures with me. The queen of England gets an annual subsidy of seven lakh dollars on agriculture. There is a small country called Monaco. Its prince gets an annual subsidy of three lakh dollars on agriculture. But, they want an end to the subsidy given to our farmers. This is sheer duplicity. They want that our farmers should not be given a Minimum Support Price. They should compete in the market. However, when there is no level playing field, how will our farmers survive?

I am saddened by the news that the Government has imported five lakh tonnes of wheat. The Government gives our own farmers only six hundred and forty rupees. But it readily pays over our thousand rupees to the farmers of foreign countries and imports wheat. The Government increases a meagre ten rupees on MSP for our own farmers. What kind of justice is this?

I have the facts and figures from various studies conducted by the Government and by the different Universities in Punjab. The hon. Prime Minister is a great economist. He must be aware of these facts and figures. In 2000-2001, the wholesale price index was 155. MSP of wheat was Rs. 580. In 2004-2005, it increased to Rs. 640. The wholesale price index shot up to 186.7. What does this mean? During this period, inflation increased by 4.5%. But, the increase in MSP in the corresponding period was

only 1.23%. This means that we are paying the farmers only peanuts. The farmers should have got at least Rs. 718. But, we increased the MSP by only Rs. 10. We paid the farmer only Rs. 650. Under these circumstances, how can our farmers compete in the International Market? We are going to do away with the subsidy. We are not increasing the MSP. These are trying conditions for the farmers. How can we increase the productivity of foodgrains under these circumstances?

What is the condition of the farmers of Punjab? In 2000-2001, the per capita income of a farmer in Punjab was Rs. 12,375, whereas that of the state was Rs. 15,210. In 2003-2004, the per capita income of the farmer shrank to Rs. 11,587, whereas that of the state increased to Rs. 15,219. This means that the per capita income of the farmer in Punjab declined by 6.37%. How can productivity of foodgrains increase under these circumstances? I am quoting these facts and figures regarding Punjab because Punjab is the biggest contributor to the Central pool as far as foodgrains are concerned. We already know that Punjab needs water for irrigation. About 98% area of Punjab is under cultivation. We contribute 89.4 lakh tonnes of wheat in the Central pool. We also contribute 37.9% of the total contribution of rice in the Central pool. About 30,19,000 hectares of land is being irrigated by tube-wells in Punjab. That means we are irrigating 75% of our land with the help of tube-wells. The area that is being irrigated with the help of canals is about 10,09,000 hectares. This is only 25% of the total irrigated area. Thus, we are not getting enough water for irrigation from canals. In fact, water that is rightfully ours is also being diverted to other neighbouring states. As Punjab has to increasingly depend on ground-water in the state, the water-table is rapidly going down. Dr. S.S. Johal, Economist and Ex-Vice-Chancellor of a University, and presently Vice-Chairman of Punjab Planning Board, has given an alarming report regarding the depth at which ground-water is available in Punjab. In 17 blocks of Punjab, ground-water is available only below 157 feet. In only 24 blocks, water is available at the depth of 97 feet. In other blocks of Punjab, water is available at depths between 157 feet and 129 feet. And the water-table is rapidly going down.

The Hon. President has mentioned in his address that cooperative banks and other financial institutes will grant loans to the farmers. But the rate of interest has not been reduced. If someone buys a car, the rate of interest varies between 6.5% to 7%. However, the rate of interest

on the loan given to the farmer is a steep 10%. As a result, the farmer falls a prey to the debt-trap. The farmers of other states too must be feeling the heat. In 1996-97, the total debt on the farmers of Punjab was Rs. 5750 crores. In 2002-03, it increased to Rs. 9886 crores. These figures have not been culled by me. They pertain to the study conducted by the professors of Punjab Agriculture University. If you calculate the total debt on the farmers in 2005-06, the estimates will be to the tune of Rs. 13,000 crores. If the farmers of Punjab are in such a miserable condition, how can Punjab progress? Or how can India progress?

The entire South-east Asia, Middle-east and Africa are importing food-grains. Only Thailand exports rice. In India itself, only Punjab, Haryana and Western U.P. have buffer-stock of food-grains. No other state has a buffer-stock of food-grains. Such is our condition but we are not ready to bail out our farmers.

The Hon. Prime Minister is not present here. The Hon. Minister Bansal is here. I appeal to him to listen to me. With much fanfare, the Hon. Prime Minister had made an announcement regarding the setting up of an economic zone at Amritsar. But, there is no mention of Amritsar anywhere since that announcement. Has the Cabinet decided otherwise? Punjab is a border state. But, no industries are being set-up here. We have never opposed to the setting up of industries in Uttaranchal, Jammu and Kashmir or Himachal Pradesh. But, why is step-motherly treatment being meted out to Punjab? Punjab has undergone traumatic experiences. It has seen tragic times. It is a border state. Why is it being neglected? No industrial infrastructure is being set-up in Punjab. No facilities are being provided in Punjab. Agriculture is in ruins. Industry is in shambles. Industrialists are migrating to Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu & Kashmir. There was a time when Punjab had the highest per capita income in India. Today, it is lagging behind at number five spot. I fail to understand why injustice is being meted out to Punjab.

We had discussed the Nanavati Commission report in this august house. The Hon. Prime Minister had announced a package for riot-victims. The Cabinet too, gave its approval to this announcement. Some affected people were given some aid but many riot-victims have not yet received any compensation. Assurance was given that jobs would be granted to the children of the affected families. These assurances have also remained empty

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promises. So, I urge upon the Government to come to the aid of the affected families.

We are improving our relations with Pakistan. We are happy about it. Our party has always championed the cause of friendship with our neighbouring country. I have written numerous letters and have also met the Hon. Prime Minister regarding the problems faced by the Muslim brothers residing in Malerkotla. It falls in my constituency. The Muslims of Malerkotla have their relatives across the border. But, they face a lot of hardship in getting visas. They have to visit Delhi time and again. But, many of them are denied visas inspite of running from pillar to post. Many such Muslim brothers come to me with their pleas. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government should grant visas to these people. Punjab is no longer a 'disturbed state'.

We are happy that Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus-service has started. It was our long-standing demand. We welcome its fulfilment. However, there is no arrangement for granting of visas at the Wagah Border. It is a problem. SGPC should be made the Controlling Authority in this case too. As we know, religious 'jathas' or groups visit Pakistan under the aegis of SGPC.

Sir, the ex-army men have been demanding the implementation of "One rank, one pension" scheme. Several committees were set up in this matter. Khurana Committee was constituted and it gave its report in favour of implementing 'One rank, one pension' scheme. There were other committees too. Now, we have constituted yet another committee. Sir, these ex-army men served our country with devotion and dedication. It is our turn now to look after them.

The Hon. Prime Minister is not present here. Sardar Badal, the SGPC Chief and I met the Hon. Prime Minister in connection with a very important issue. In France, the Sikh school-children are not being allowed to wear turbans in schools. The Hon. Prime Minister is himself a Sikh. The French President is visiting our country. We should talk to him and ask him to resolve this issue amicably. However, the Prime Minister has not taken up this issue with the French President. But, Shri Advani raised this issue with the French President during the course of his talks with him. The newspapers have reported that the Hon. Prime Minister discussed the issue of steel magnate Mittal's Industrial bid in Europe. We do not oppose this. But, he should have raised the issue of 'turban' pertaining to Sikh

School Children in France with the French President. This is not a welcome step. He himself is a Sikh. He should empathise with our cause. Our religious practices and traditions should also be respected in France. The Prime Minister should clarify on this issue.

Sir, in Kashipur, people had settled on two acres or four acres of land. They were residing there for the last thirty years. There were Punjabis, Bengalis and others among the settlers. Recently the Government bull-dozed their houses. Several people belonged to the Dalit Community. These people have been rendered homeless. The Centre should intervene and come to the rescue of these poor people.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, the situation in Afghanistan has taken a turn for the worse. About 15,000 Afghan Hindu and Sikh families had to migrate to India. They are residing in Delhi. They have been demanding Indian Citizenship. But, the Government has yet to accede to their request. Their stay in India is extended by two months or six months time and again. When one crore migrants from Bangladesh can be given Indian Citizenship, why can't these Hindus and Sikh migrants from Afghanistan be given Indian citizenship? For the last fifteen years, they have been condemned to live like refugees here. So, I urge upon the Government to grant them Indian Citizenship. Their ancestors were Indians. They had migrated to Afghanistan to earn their livelihood. They are our own brothers and sisters. So, their problem should be solved soon.

I thank you Deputy Speaker, Sir, that you allowed me to raise these matters. I hope that the government will take due notice of my demands and will act on it to fulfil them.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a discussion on the President's Address is going on here in the House since yesterday. The Hon. President Addressed the joint sitting of both Houses of the Parliament on 16th February. Sir, earlier my colleagues here said that what the Hon. President reads out in his address to the House truly reflects decisions of the Government or the Cabinet. In the President's Address the policies and programmes and vision as well as achievements of the Government are reflected. In this Address the President the Government has given an attractive slogan i.e. 'Bharat Nirman'. This slogan was given during Budget Session last year. The hon. Finance Minister has given the biggest slogan ever during the

course of his budget speech then. I am unable to understand what does he mean by Bharat Nirman?

The fate of the farmers, rural people and dalits are being decided by sitting in air conditioned rooms in big offices and by publishing schemes meant for them in the newspapers, figures are generated and data are published but ground realities are just the opposite. The Hon. President himself has said during the course of his Address that merely publishing figures cannot do any good to the people of the country unless we do something to solve the problem of people at ground level. The dream of 'Bharat Nirman' cannot be fulfilled. 'Bharat Nirman' is possible only when the problems of the farmers living in villages, dalits, agricultural labourers, people belonging to backward castes, carpenters, blacksmiths, potters and washermen etc. poor people are solved. Only then can be achieved what can be termed as 'Bharat Nirman'. Development only in urban areas cannot be termed as 'Bharat Nirman'.

The Government gave the slogan of 'Bharat Nirman' last year and I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what progress has been made under 'Bharat Nirman' during the last one year? Today the situation is going bad to worse? The sufferings of the farmers are not lessening rather they are increasing. The yield of the farmers is decreasing and instead of increasing, his income is decreasing. There are small farmers in the country as land holdings have shrunk and the basic facilities like electricity and water for agriculture are not available to the farmers. Their crops have been failing. The hon. Minister is not present in the House at the moment though he was present here a little while ago. I want to tell the hon. Minister to get his figures. Two-three months back Paddy crop came to mandis. The export price of Piyar variety of Paddy was fixed. Paddy crop all over the country did not fetch remunerative price. The per quintal price of Paddy came down by Rs.600-700 as compared to previous year. In Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab where cotton is cultivated the farmers get Rs.1000 to 1100 per quintal less for cotton and Narma as compared to the prices they got last year. As such how can he claim that 'Bharat Nirman' had taken place? Mustard crop has totally flopped. The farmers got less prices for their produce this year as compared to last year. Recently there was hailstorm and phased frost and in northern India the crops of Potato, Mustard and Peas and Tomato etc. got destroyed. This Government did not pay any attention at all towards any problems of the farmers. What to talk of providing any

compensation to them even their grievances were not heard. On occurrence of such sort of natural calamities it is the duty of the Government to take care of the farmers suo-moto. But is not being done. Just now Shri Dhindsaji said that godowns were overflowing with foodgrains during the regime of Shri Vajpayee. I endorse him. During his regime there was bumper crop in the country and there was no space in godowns to stock it and it was dumped in heaps in the fields itself and was covered with tarpaulins. I cannot understand as to where that food grain went within such a short span of time and what prompted the Government to import five to six lakh tonnes of wheat at the rate ranging from Rs.1100 to 1300 per quintal at the time when the farmers of our own country are being given only Rs.640 per quintal. Today prices have increased considerably. The price of every item has increased by 30 to 35 per cent within year.

During the last general elections the Congress party gave a slogan namely "Congress ka Hath, Aam Admi ke Sath" but after getting voted to power and forming the Government the same Congress Party has forgotten the common man. The Congress Party has always behaved with the common people of the country like this and always comes up with such slogans during elections and forgets them after forming the Government.

I want to tell as to what is the situation in regard to LPG. When I was elected first time to 12th Lok Sabha, there was acute shortage of LPG at that time and LPG coupons were issued to us. At that time there was black-marketing of LPG in the country and waiting list for LPG was quite long. But during the five-six years regime of Shri Vajpayee Government a policy was framed to check black-marketing of LPG and to exhaust the waiting list for LPG connections. At that time, such a situation had arisen that LPG cylinder suppliers were going from door to door and offering refilled LPG cylinder on the spot in exchange for empty cylinders. But today the situation is totally different. Yesterday only I listened to speech of an hon. Member here in the House and he said that there is no shortage of LPG. You will find one kilometer long queue for LPG cylinders in the countryside. What happened during this one year which has resulted in shortage of LPG? The Government has already increased the price of LPG by Rs.60 per cylinder and there is a proposal to increase it further by Rs.75 per cylinder. Despite this people are not getting it and he is talking of 'Bharat Nirman'. Dalits have no employment and land to till. He leaves his village due

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

to lack of employment there and migrates to city. But, what can he do even here? He has no money to build a house nor any money for his children's education. Where should he go now?

Today, dalits are becoming jobless. The small artisans in villages, known as rural artisans, are in a very pitiable condition. The work done by small artisans like ironsmiths, carpenters, cobblers etc. exists no longer while the fact is that they constitute real India. But, the UPA Government, through the President's Address, has not mentioned any scheme for them for the next year.

Besides agriculture, livestock is other source of income for the rural people. Those who have no source of income, survive by rearing animals. However, the figures reveal that as per the survey conducted in 1950, there were 452 animals per 1000 human beings which have been reduced to 188 animals per 1000 human beings as per the 2001 census. The farmers and the rural people have also been rendered jobless. No statement has been made to address the issue. Thus, everything is going against the rural people.

15.54 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

Just now Dhindsa Sahab was talking about the interest rate. The Government headed by Shri Atal ji had decreased interest rate of loan for farmers from 16-17% to 8-9%. Even after that, Atalji had promised that he would bring it further down to 5-6 percent. But, then the elections were held and by chance that Government lost power. But, there was no decrease in the rate of interest even after this new Government came into power. The Government provides loan to the ordinary industrialists at the rate of 5-6 per cent interest. But, a farmer gets a loan at 9-10 percent and even for that Bank staff loot him in some way or other. This has made the condition of the farmer more pitiable and there is need to pay attention to it.

The UPA Government has gone against the democratic norms. Conditions are becoming similar to the ones leading to imposition of emergency in 1975. The hon. Supreme Court's decision in regard to Bihar has put the then Governor Buta Singh ji and this Govt. in the dock. Shri Buta Singh ji made a statement that if his decision was wrong then the Union Government too was responsible for it.

Nobody cares about the Supreme Court's ruling. What happened in Jharkhand? What happened in Goa? There is no faith left in Democracy? These people want to be in power no matter democracy suffers. Such is the situation of this Government. Even from the viewpoint of democracy, situation is becoming like that in 1975. There is a need to improve the situation. The most important thing I want to bring to your notice is that our country became independent 58-59 years ago. We consider cow as mother and the whole country worships it. A motion to prohibit cow slaughter was also passed during the Government of Vajpayee ji so that some law could be enacted. This Government has not taken any step in that direction also. They have not brought any such Bill till date. Cow slaughter is going on continuously for 58 years. The sentiments of the whole of the country are connected to the matter. As per the sentiments of the society, cow slaughter should be banned but nothing has been done in this regard. Proselytism is taking place. Everyday we are coming across news relating to proselytism in the newspapers. This Government has not taken any step to check proselytising. Which kind of Bharat Nirman do they want? Just now Dhindsa Sahab was saying that the Congress Party had had its history. The Congress Party creates problems, then procrastinates them and then lets them keep hanging in the air. Many examples can be cited in this regard while on one hand there are inter-state disputes and boundary disputes, there is dispute for water on the other. The Congress party lacks on no approach to solve the inter-state disputes. I know Dhindsa Sahab. He was speaking for Punjab and I am speaking for Haryana. The hon. Prime Minister has left. He heard him but I did not get the opportunity to put forth my views before him. Punjab was re-organised in 1966. Punjab is like our elder brother and we respect it but division was made in the ratio of 60-40. The matter relating to capital and High Court was kept pending. SYL canal was to be constructed in our state which was to provide water to Haryana. Today half of Haryana is reeling under drought. Rajasthan also had a share in that. An agreement was signed in this regard and arbitration took place. Shrimati Indira Gandhi ji had laid foundation stone for that canal. After that, Rajiv-Longowal agreement was signed and many arbitrators took part in it. The verdicts were delivered but Punjab did not want to accept any of the verdicts. Finally, the matter reached the Supreme Court and lingered on for years. Even Supreme Court ruled in favour of Haryana but it is strange that this ruling is not being implemented. In Punjab too, there is

Congress Government, in Haryana too there is Congress Government and even at the Centre there is Congress Government. If the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is in favour of Haryana, the reason for not implementing the same? It is a peculiar thing. They were expressing their problems that the water supply has decreased in Punjab. Such thing has happened in Punjab now but we are suffering from the same for last 40 years. Thousands of crore rupees have been spent on the construction of SYL canal. The total length of this canal is 121 kms. Out of this hundred and fifteen kilometers has been constructed. Now they are not allowing the construction of remaining 6 kms. of canal. They have politicized this issue, no matter how much farmers will suffer from this. The circumstances have taken such a turn. I demand from the Govt. to construct SYL canal immediately, so that the people of Haryana and Rajasthan could get water and their land could be irrigated. Farmers have suffered the loss of thousands of crores rupees, therefore the Govt. should pay attention to this matter. They are talking of soaring prices at present. Everything has become costly today. They get votes in the name of the poor. The flour is being sold at the rate of 13 to 15 rupees per kg. today. When the crop/produce of the farmers are brought in the market, the prices fall. As soon as agricultural produce/crops of farmers are sold the prices go up. I want to bring to your notice that nobody will be ready to purchase it at the rate of 600 rupees after two months and today the same thing is being sold at the rate of 13-14 hundred rupees. The same wheat will be sold at the rate of rupees 600. We will have to stop this policy, this black-marketing and exploitation of farmers. The economic condition of farmers is worsening day by day. I agree with Dhindsa Sahib. The entire country is being ruined at present. Farmers are committing suicide. Data in this regard is being received by you daily. We shall have to think of the number of farmers committing suicide. But we just express our concerns about them among us sitting here in this House, can win elections without support of the farmers.

16.00 hrs.

Everyone talks and no one implements. Everyone is anguished with this situation of the farmers but no one knows why Govt. depends on officers and bureaucrats for framing the policies. These are the persons who collect baseless figures and decisions are taken on the basis of those figures. Therefore the farmers are in a wreck. We need to pay attention to it. Take the example of LPG, iron,

medicines, cement, the price of which has gone as high as Rs.200 per bag. Inflation has touched a new high in Congress regime. There is a saying for Congress — "Jab se Congress Aaee hai, Mahagaee sath layee hai." It has been seen in the past that whenever Congress came into power prices soared unexpectedly. It has broken the backbone of the poor.

I want to raise the issue related to the ex-servicemen. I have been raising the issue of — "one rank, one pension" in every session regularly. I had also raised this issue during the last session. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. During the last session he had assured me that a Committee of group of Ministers has been constituted, which will very soon take decision in this regard but so far no decision has been taken. I have records of his assurance. What happened with that. Nothing have happened so far. Nobody knows.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): This matter has been settled.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: If the matter has been settled, then it is good. This demand of one rank, one pension was being raised for years. The pensions for various posts in the country has been increased but the same for ex-servicemen is not being increased.

Discussions on Sachchar Committee are going on for many days in the House. Now they have stated counting of Muslim personnels in the army. The reason for the same is beyond my understanding. If one has to conduct survey then the data should be collected of the unemployed persons in the country, the number of persons starving, the number of farmers committing suicide, and what are the reasons for the same, the number of terrorists hideouts in the country as well as on border should be collected. You are finding ways to communalise our forces. Congress has always played the politics of communalism. Reservation has been introduced in education, and government jobs and now it is being introduced in army, which is very unfortunate. The Congress party is playing petty politics. The country is supreme.

I want to talk about Haryana and want to bring issues pertaining to that state to your notice. Congress is in power in Haryana. Earlier there was the Chautala Govt.

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

He had retrenched 30-40 thousands employees. This Govt. had promised that all the retrenched employees would be taken back. But, so far, no body has been taken back on duty and he also has begun to retrench the employees. Eighteen hundred employees of Kendriya Suraksha Bal are sitting on dharana for last one year in Haryana. Two of them have committed suicide but the Govt. is not paying any attention to them. Their problem is not being solved. Three thousand Gram Vikas Sahayaks were appointed. This is a petty job, in which only 500/- are paid as salary to the employee. They also were retrenched. The most dangerous thing is that the Govt. is now working on the loss and profit basis. In fact, businessmen are guided by this motive. The Govt. has left to work for the benefit of the people. Trading of lands has begun there. The prices of land in Haryana are all time high. Land of small farmers is being acquired at the cost of 18-20 lakh and it is sold to big builders at the cost of rupees one crore. The Govt. acquires the land of farmers and sells it to the builders. The farmers are being looted. The land is being acquired in the name of Rajiv Gandhiji. All this is being done for constructing High-Tech city. It has been published in newspapers that Haryana Govt. has acquired 25 thousand acres of land from farmers at a cheap rate and is providing the same to the owner of a big company, to whom I do not want to name. Such big dealings are being done. The people, whose land is being acquired are people of down-trodden and backward classes. They are also losing their homes. They are not getting any compensation. The land of farmers is being acquired at the rate of rupees 8-9 lakhs and the same is being sold at the rate of rupees 10-12 lakhs. The land in the surrounding area of Delhi is being sold at the rate of Rs. one to one and half crore. The farmers are sitting on dharna. No one is there to listen them. So called well-wishers of the farmers are causing harm to them. Terror has spread there. The country will develop only when farmers, down-trodden and the people of backward communities develop. When people of the above classes prosper economically & socially only then this nation will be a developed nation. This nation can not reach in the category of a developed nation only by preparing data sitting in air-conditioned bungalows.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the President's address to the nation is considered to be a reflection of the policies and ideologies of the Government. It shows the policies and the ideologies of the Government that it is likely to follow. Today, when I

look at the image of the UPA Government under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh, I find that it presents a ugly face. I would lay some concrete examples of the nature of this ugliness before the House. His Excellency, the President said in his address that our economy is on the roll and our people are making steady progress. Alongwith the said points, the President also mentioned the 'Bharat Nirman' programme being propagated by the present Government. 'Bharat Nirman' is merely a slogan that does not herald any new idea. The programme announced under the name of 'Bharat Nirman', which has also been mentioned by the President in his address is not a new programme. The various programmes which were being implemented under separate heads by the previous governments have been brought under one umbrella and given the name of 'Bharat Nirman'. However, the present Government is acting as if now the said programme is going to bring about drastic changes in the country and that the next three or four years will see poverty vanish from the country. I would be the happiest person if this happens. I would have no reason to be unhappy. If this were to come true I would be very happy. But the fact is that the various programmes implemented by the previous government under the Bharat Uday Programme are being carried forward under the name of Bharat Nirman by the present Government.

Mr. Chairman, nearly 58 years of independence have been completed. 58 years after independence the President still mentions the need for 'Bharat Nirman' but what is the actual agenda of this programme? This programme has as an objective electrification of all the villages in the country. This means that we accept that even now there are villages in our country which do not have electricity. Another objective is providing road linkages to places which have a population of one thousand and above. In addition, there is a plan to provide road linkages to tribal or backward areas having a population of more than 500. It is the same scheme which was introduced under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana by the previous Government. The previous Government had formulated a programme to provide electricity connections and road linkages to every village in the country. This is the same programme. It had a programme for providing clean drinking water to all settlements under the name of Swajaldhara Programme for supply of drinking water. This is the same programme. The objective of providing one telephone connection in every village, creation of irrigation

capacity for irrigation of one crore hectares of land and construction of 60 lakh houses for shelterless people living in rural areas are not new programme objectives. These objectives reflect the ground reality in our country. This is the real face of poverty in our country and we are calling it Bharat Nirman. Nevertheless, I have no objection towards Bharat Nirman.

Mr. Chairman, an agitation for water took place in Amravati district in Maharashtra yesterday. The people of the district conducted this agitation. The Irrigation Department has a water dam called Chargarh in the district. For many years, the people living in the adjacent areas have been demanding that drinking water from the dam should be supplied to them. There is a severe scarcity of water in the place. People do not get drinking water. Over the years, many agitations have been carried out over the issue and the agitators have also been fired upon. A similar incident had taken place yesterday. This was what the people were demanding. When the demand gathered force the State Government told the people that they would have to make some contribution of funds. The State Government told the people that they would have to provide same contribution to get water from the irrigation dam. The people were told to deposit eight lakh rupees as contribution. Eight lakh rupees were deposited as people's contribution. After making the said deposit the demand for drinking water was raised again. The people were facing severe water scarcity. They were not getting drinking water. Thereafter, the people were told that the sum of eight lakh rupees was not sufficient and they were asked to pay a further eight lakh rupees. The people lost patience and started an agitation. The agitation was being carried on peacefully. While the agitation was going on, the area SP, Niket Kaushik, came there and resorted firing on the agitators with his revolver. We are talking about 'Bharat Nirman'. I am bringing this incidence to your notice because. ...*(Interruptions)* Wheresoever it may happen, I would not condone it. It is wrong whether it takes place in Maharashtra, Rajasthan or any other state. If this sort of incident occurs, it is wrong. The SP opened direct firing on the agitators which caused on the spot death of a young man, Praful Kishanrao Raut, who had gone there to demand water. He was shot in the chest. The Prime Minister is not here but many Ministers of the Government are present. Another young man was shot in the neck. This led to a stampede in which many people were injured. I do not know as to what action the State Government will

take in this regard and what the opinion of the State Government is thereon. But the public there is more agitated after that.

Sir, I would like to request the Government of India that this issue does not concern a single state. This problem relates to drinking water and this problem is not limited to Maharashtra only, this is there in every state and such type of agitation are going on in every state due to this problem. This is not the responsibility of the State Governments only, it is also the responsibility of the Government of India. The incident which took place yesterday is fully reported in the newspapers. There should be an impartial inquiry into this incident. The Government of India should give directions to the Maharashtra Government in this regard. The Minister of State in the Home Ministry is present here who is associated with Maharashtra. Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards it and request the Government of India to direct the State Government in this regard. An impartial judicial inquiry should be conducted into this incident and if someone is found guilty, he should be punished. I have raised this issue not only to get the guilty punished but for making available water to the people there who are facing severe water crisis. I am saying this because the ground reality is that even today more than 38 percent population is living below the poverty line.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister will give his Budget speech here on the 28th instant. In the last budget when a discussion was held on rural development. Some figures were given here. The Finance Minister was giving figures here and making a comparison with what the NDA Government had allocated under various programmes for rural development just to show that they had allocated more funds in the budget for the purpose. And all the members were applauding him by thumping on their desks at that time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we talk about the Bharat Nirman, it is imperative to know as to at what stage all the Schemes are which were launched earlier for rural development. I do not have information about each state, as I come from Maharashtra, I do have information about different schemes launched in the state by the Government of India particularly the ongoing rural development schemes of the State. Almost all the schemes of the Union Government have come to a stand still in all the states

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

today. The work on these schemes is not in progress. I would like to cite an example here from the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana which has completed one year's time. Under different schemes of rural development be it road construction scheme, housing scheme or drinking water supply scheme, whether the amount provided in the budget for the respective scheme has really been fully spent? I would like to know as to how much percentage of that has been spent? I think not even 50 percent of the amount has been spent. Then what is the reason for that? Have you ever conducted an inquiry into that? Why that much amount is not spent which is provided for and why its direct benefit is not reaching the common man? Only sloganeering is not going to remove poverty from our country, such several slogans were given earlier too. Poverty cannot be removed by giving a slogan or announcing a programme. We need to work on the ground. As Sangwan ji was just saying that we have to accept the ground reality. And if we really accept the ground reality and all these schemes which have been announced in the Hon'ble President's Address like the Bharat Nirman, we need to make improvement in it. If we can do that, we would definitely succeed and only then we deserve accolades. Only sloganeering cannot ensure success.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was citing an example just to clear as to what is the condition of our agriculture sector. Our Minister of State in the Home Ministry is sitting here, who belongs to Maharashtra. I think perhaps he will agree to what I am going to say. Till sometime back there was the NDA Government. I think that today's Government will also be of the view that water should be made available to the people who are facing its shortage. That is why the water supply schemes are formulated and the Union Government provides crores of rupees to the State Government for the purpose. The previous Government had also formulated a drinking water scheme named the 'Swajal Dhara'. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please. You please continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anant Geete, your time is over. You have taken ten minutes more.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give me some time because the facts have to be discussed in the House. If we keep on fighting each other, it is not going to solve the problem because we also have some responsibility and the Govt. is not fully responsible. We all have to make the dream of Bharat Nirman come true. I cannot say it confidently that any Govt., be it the UPA Govt. or any other Government in the time to come, can claim to achieve absolute success. Given the constitution, demography and topography and the federal structure of our country no Government can claim to be able to face each and every challenge alone. This is not possible. We should accept this fact and think seriously if we want to see progress of our people and the country. Implementation of any central scheme is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. The States cannot deviate from the guidelines set by the Centre. It is unfortunate that a drinking water supply scheme formulated by the previous Govt. under the name 'Swajaldhara' was implemented by the Maharashtra Government after changing its name and amending the guidelines. That is why a number of villages are not covered under the said guidelines. We have to provide drinking water in the areas where there is water scarcity. As per the guidelines the cost of the scheme should not exceed Rs.25 lakh. Share of the local public has to be 10 percent. These are the three main points provided in the guidelines by the previous Govt. but the State Govt. has linked this scheme at some places with Empowerment of Women and other with Rural Sanitation Scheme or Upliftment of SC and ST or with Rural Panchayat Financial Position. After linking this scheme with a wide range of guidelines, how can it be possible for any village or district or the State to comply with the guidelines fully. Total empowerment of women or rural sanitation can be achieved in a particular village but the point is that we owe the responsibility of providing drinking water to the people. It is none of our business to create new problems for them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think, madam Minister wants to intervene as she is from Maharashtra State. If she wants to clarify, certainly she should. It is good if there is anything in favour of the people of Maharashtra.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister can intervene afterwards. Shri Geete, you please complete your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

16.25 hrs.

(*Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am yielding. The Minister is from Maharashtra. I will welcome if anything in favour of the people of Maharashtra comes from her side.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to tell the hon. Member that if he is ridiculing what Maharashtra Govt. has incorporated in that, it is objectionable. Empowerment of women takes place or not, does not mean that it can be left as it is. Similarly, he is speaking against rural sanitation programme also.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: You are not understanding me. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: I do understand. I have no problem with what you said. I want to say only that empowerment of women should not be taken in a manner suggesting that the women can never be empowered. You are speaking against sanitation programme also. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: You are not following what I am saying. You are only defending the State Govt. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: I have no reason to defend the State Govt. I am saying only that if empowerment of women and rural sanitation programme has been linked to the guidelines, it should not be ridiculed.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the Minister. Different schemes are being implemented in the State for those purposes. I am not opposed to them. She is not following me. What I mean to say is that these schemes should not be linked to the scheme of drinking water supply. Schemes related to empowerment of women are being implemented in every State. I am not opposed to it.

I am not opposing either the scheme for rural sanitation or the scheme for the scheduled castes and the

scheduled tribes. It is wrong to link these schemes with the scheme for drinking water and make condition that people will get water only after they will do certain things. This State Government is saying that if you will do all this then only you will get water and not otherwise. It is the moral responsibility of the Indian Government and the State Governments to provide drinking water to the public. We chant slogans. I am not against those schemes. They are going on and should go on but is it happening in any other state that other schemes are linked with the drinking water scheme? I am not aware if Swajaldhara scheme is treated like this in any other state except Maharashtra. In no other state, except Maharashtra, such things are happening. Why this happened, I do not know. It is our responsibility to provide water to those who need it. Why should the funds and the schemes given by the Union Government be wasted? This exactly is my contention. I am not against what you are saying. You have misunderstood me. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): Do not make allegations but give suggestions.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am only giving this suggestion that no State Government should have the right to change the guidelines of the Government of India schemes. The State Governments should not have the right to make any change in those schemes. The schemes should be implemented as they are intended to be. You are the Minister of State of Rural Development and you should, atleast, be aware of what I am saying and if this is happening in Maharashtra or not? I will resign from the membership if whatever I am saying is not true. What are you saying? I am angry because you are distorting it. I repeat that I will resign if I am not true. Hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is present here. He should rise and say that I am wrong. Why is she taking it otherwise? I am saying that the States should not have the right to change any scheme of the Government of India and they should not change the schemes. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Geete.

[*Translation*]

You should speak on your turn.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Who is stopping him? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said so because as I gave you an example that a youth had died yesterday on the issue of water. An S.P. fired the shot and the youth died after the bullet hit him in the chest. Agitation is going on in Amravati, Maharashtra today. The corpse of that youth is still there. His funeral has not taken place yet and how can the matter be solved if the State Government distorts or uses wrongly the schemes of the Government of India in such situation? The State Government should not have any right to change the schemes formulated by the Government of India if Bharat Nirman is to be implemented in reality. The schemes formulated by the Union Government should be implemented in toto. The State Government should have no right to alter the scheme. Women empowerment has been implemented, there is no reason to oppose it. I, too, belong to the backward class. The backward class should progress and move forward.

I want to ask as to what is the condition of the farmers in Maharashtra today? Farmers in Maharashtra are committing suicides. It was discussed today morning and the news regarding import of wheat has been published in the newspapers. We are talking about the import of 5 lakh tonnes of wheat. The Government claims that we have surplus foodgrain. We had buffer stock one time. Our foodgrain started getting rotten and had to be thrown into the sea. Even today, foodgrain gets rotten in the FCI godowns and has to be thrown into the sea once a year. How can this Government deny it? After much hard work, the farmers in the country produce foodgrain and we throw this foodgrain into the sea after it gets rotten and then we import it from abroad. It is not in the interest of the farmers. What is this happening? It is all right to import if we have shortage of foodgrain but we have surplus foodgrain and we have to throw it into the sea. In spite of this, we are not giving remunerative prices to the farmers and are importing wheat from abroad at higher prices. The concerned hon. Minister has given reply today. Hon. Minister of Agriculture is not present in the House but the import of wheat should be stopped. It is not needed today. There is not shortage of wheat anywhere in our country. How can Bharat Nirman be implemented through this? If we will procure 5 lakh tonnes of wheat and not pay remunerative prices to our farmers and procure wheat at the rate of Rs.900 per quintal, then I would like to ask the basis on which this decision has been taken? The Government should change this decision. If the Government

does not change this decision then this decision is certainly an anti-farmer decision and not in the interest of the farmers and the country.

I have failed to understand, one thing. The terrorism has been referred to in H.E. President's address. There is a mention of security of our borders, there is a need for national unity within the country. But whenever we talk of national unity, the most sensitive issue for us in this regard always center around Hindu or Muslim. This issue always crop up before us. I am not an old politician. I have been a member of this House for the last 10 years only. But I have seen many previous Governments in power. During the time of Nehruji, Rajivji the Governments never felt the need of this Ministry which has been set up now. Hon'ble Minister Shri Antuleyji is not present here. I should have said this before him. I cannot understand why Shri Manmohan Singhji felt need for this Ministry when the Governments of Nehruji and Indiraji did not feel the need of this Ministry earlier. Why this Ministry was constituted, is beyond my understanding. What kind of message the Government wants to give to the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except Mr. Geete's speech.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: It is beyond my understanding what kind of unity Government wants to foster through it. The need of the hour is to keep all the people of this country united whether one belongs to any caste or religion. There is no need to differentiate in national unity. There is no need to divide national unity. This decision has been taken by the Government and I fail to understand how the Government is going to achieve unity of this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

It has been already stated.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I can not understand how the Ministry constituted by him is going to foster the feeling of unity in the hearts of the majority or minority of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Such feeling should not creep in anybody's mind that one is being subjected to injustice whether one belongs to minority or majority. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure justice for all irrespective of caste or religion. It is the moral responsibility of the Government. Governments are not formed to discriminate against. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The Government exist to ensure that the feeling of caste and religion do not creep in the minds of anybody. I would like to cite one example. I was in Raigarh district in connection with bye election of Legislative Assembly. Hon'ble Minister is not present here. I have to tell this before him. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except Shri Geete's Speech, nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I'll take up this issue later on. Had Shri Antulejee been present, I would have been happier. If we have to take our country on the path of progress and prosperity and maintain the integrity and unity in the country then the Government must ensure justice for all minority or majority and each citizen of the country.

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a list containing the names of 41 members who are to speak. If Members continue to speak at their own will and take excess time they are not likely to finish before morning. Hence I want that all members take not more than 5-6 minutes. That will be better for us.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, may I seek your protection? I will take only reasonable time, but not four-five minutes.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri C.K. Chandrappanji, will 10 minutes be enough for you? If so, then I give you ten minutes time to express your views. I request you to conclude in 10 minutes.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Thank you Sir. I think, you will cooperate with me.

Sir, the President's Address was the third Address that he had made to this Parliament and probably we will remember that the UP A Government is going to complete its second year in a few months' time. We expected that the speech that the President would make — it is a policy statement of the Government — would be such that it would inspire the people. But I am sorry to say that it was not very inspiring.

The Left Parties, 61 Members of the Left Parties, are extending support to this Government. We are not running any Ministry. We have not asked for any portfolio. We thought that the Government would respect the decision the people had taken in the last election. What was the decision? Was it only that the NDA should be ousted from power? It was not only that. The NDA was unseated because of its misdeeds, because they were against people, because they were communal and because they were questioning the integrity of the country. People did not like that and so people wanted a new Government, which would extend its support to the common man.

We supported the UPA Government with the expectation that they would be more pro-people. But I am sorry to say that they are yet to prove that. One simple example of that is that the President, in his Address, spoke

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at length about the economic growth. But any student of modern economy knows that mere economic growth does not mean economic development.

What is the situation today? Somebody, while moving the Motion said that they were excited about the economic growth, that we are achieving 8 per cent growth and that the Sensex is crossing 10,000-point mark. These are all one side of the picture. That does not mean that our people are given a better quality of life. That is reflected in the economic development.

The economic development index has been assessed. Out of the 175 countries in the world, we were 124th in human development index, but we slipped to 127th position. That means, the quality of life that the people in India today are enjoying has deteriorated.

What is India in a nutshell? One-third of the people, who are hungry, in the world, are Indians. Three hundred million people are living below the poverty line. Sir, 233 million people go hungry everyday in India. Forty-one million people are unemployed, that is more than 10 per cent of the working population. The family income of 16 per cent of the population, that means, 16 crore of Indians, is Rs.3 only per day. With a family income of Rs. 3 per day, can anyone live with human dignity? You cannot. In contrast, I would like to point out one thing. The spending on a cow in the United States is two dollars. Here, a family ekes out a living with only Rs. 3. The President in his Address turned a Nelson's eye towards all these realities which we are facing. He did not mention a word about land reforms. There was no word about land reforms. In a country like ours, a country where in 1936 the Congress adopted Karachi Resolution declaring that free India will have land reforms — you can have an anniversary or a centenary of that declaration, but land reform has been scuttled in most of the States. Let us make a claim that — many of you will not contradict it — only in the Left-ruled States meaningful land reforms have been implemented. Is the President unaware of it? ...*(Interruptions)*

Do not shout. There is no point in shouting. These are the realities.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: The President should have seen these realities. ...*(Interruptions)* Land reforms in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh;

less we speak about it is better. Your land reform is a eye wash. It is not a land reform. All the studies made about the land reforms in India admit that the land reform has been meaningfully done to create a new life for the common people only by the Left-ruled States. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not want your certificate but that is the reality.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only Shri Chandrappan's statement will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandrappan, address the Chair and not any individual. This is not the proper way.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will only look at you.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you address the Chair there will be no noise.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: This is the problem. Why in the Human Development Index, our position has come down from 124 to 127? It is because of these realities about which the President did not speak a single word. Land reforms could have been a single measure by which big changes in the country would have taken place, about which he was silent. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is here. I am happy. Sir, 50 per cent of the Indian population would have been happy if our President would have made a categorical statement that we will bring the Bill for one-third reservation for women in Parliament and the State Assemblies in this Session. Did he do so? He did not do so. He made a very enigmatic statement. He said they will try to do that. We were hearing that. This side, the NDA people were trying to do that. Now you are also saying that you will try to do that. Let us come to a position. Let us take risk. You introduce a Bill and see who are against women. If you do not take the risk, if you do not introduce the Bill, if you sing only the song: "We will try, we will try, we shall overcome", you will never overcome that. Let us not sing the song "We shall overcome". If you want to get the support of half of the population in the country, that single act of yours would have made a difference. The

Not recorded.

President did not say anything. He said: "We will try." We are tired of hearing that we shall try. There is another side of the picture. When you speak about the economic development, you see what is the plight of the common people? There is another thing. The annual income of 50,000 families in India is Rs. 5 crore each.

Another five thousand families have been added to that. There are 50,000 affluent families and another five thousand families have been added to that. Thirteen new billionaires have been created in India during this period. Does it mean that poverty alleviation is taking place or does it mean that our economic policies are creating millionaires? Another thing is that they are taxed with a very soft attitude. The tax net is widened. That means, more people should be taxed but more rich people are spared. The reality of the situation today is that India is the least taxed country. That situation should go. Otherwise you will make the poor man to feel the crunch of all the taxes. You will say that there is no money for development programmes. You have got a much trumpeted programme, Bharat Nirman. Last year, the President said in his Address that we have the Bharat Nirman programme. Thereafter, Shri Chidambaram came and said here in his Budget that we are implementing the Bharat Nirman programme. I would have liked to hear from the President to what extent that implementation took place. One year has passed. You have only five years not 50 years. The President did not mention about it. He only said that Bharat Nirman is still there. How long will we hear this? Every year you will come and say: "Bharat Nirman is there." The Government is not seriously trying to implement it. That is our charge.

Sir, there is another thing, which I would like to say, that the workers especially the most downtrodden people, the agricultural workers are in the unorganized sector. The UPA Common Minimum Programme is there. It says that our focus would be to give such guarantees and that 90 per cent of the population or 93 per cent of the workforce would be given a better treatment. Have you spared a single second for that? Sir, these people promised that. Did they bring an enactment for deciding the minimum wage of the agricultural workers? That is a promise given in the Common Minimum Programme. They have not done it so far. They say, "We shall overcome." But so far they have not done it. So, you did not try to do that. On the contrary, you are trying to do things. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: A Bill on the unorganised

workers may be coming in this Session. It is in the process. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: The President should have mentioned about this in his Address. You are not the President. I am debating the President's Address. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: If you come to me, I will show you the document. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: If you are bringing it, then that is very good. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: This Bill on the unorganised workers may come in this Session. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Not a single word has been mentioned in the President's Address. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: I am extremely happy that the Minister has made a statement. Can I take it as an assurance? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: It is in the process. If possible we are trying to introduce the Bill in this Session. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Why are you sliding back? You said that the Bill is coming in this Session. We welcome that. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I have said that we are trying to introduce this Bill. *...(Interruptions)* Shri Chandrappan, I will convince you. The Bill is in the process. It may come anytime now, maybe in the second half of this Session. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Even then I am happy. In one second, he has slid thrice. He said: "The Bill is coming." Then he said: "It is in the process." Now he says: "It may come." *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I said: "The Bill may come in the second half of the Session." It might come. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Very good. I congratulate you.

If that Bill comes in the second half of this Session,

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then I congratulate you for that. I do not know why this was made a secret. Why did you not give the honour to the President to say this? Anyway I am happy that he has explained.

But I did not hear another promise that the Women's Reservation Bill is coming.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: You moved the Resolution here. You moved the Resolution in the Private Members' Business. You know it.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: I moved the Resolution from this side and most of the Members supported it. The Minister requested me to kindly withdraw it. But are you bringing it now? I am asking you. You represent the Government. Are you bringing the legislation promising one-third reservation to women?

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: You are talking about the Bill on the unorganised sector.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can say it in the reply. This is not the way.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: In West Bengal, you have given 33 seats to the women out of 294 seats. It comes to only 11 per cent. Do you want that there should be 11 per cent reservation? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: It is like Daniel coming to judgment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You address the Chair.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: He had the opportunity when they were in power to bring this legislation, to get this Bill enacted. We all supported it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not address them. You address the Chair.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: You did not legislate. Then do not ask us.

These are some of the important things that the President's Address missed.

Now, there is another promise made in the Common Minimum Programme. Six per cent of the GDP will be earmarked for education. Well, that would have been a wonderful situation. Now we are earmarking hardly two per cent. But we have not made any appreciable enhancement in the allotment for education in the Budget. So, that is an area where the Government should have made a mark but the Government did not do much about it.

Another important point is with regard to the foreign policy. In regard to the foreign policy, the President has said that we are making good relations with the United States and all that. It is very good. It is nice that we are improving our relations with the United States. What did the Common Minimum Programme say about foreign policy? It said: "We will continue to uphold India's great tradition by pursuing a foreign policy, an independent foreign policy." On this score, I must say that the record of the Government is not very good, rather dismal.

Yesterday we had a discussion on the conduct of the American Ambassador in India. I need not go into the details but in a country like India with its size, with its population and with its reputation in the world, how can the American Ambassador dare to behave in a manner in which he is behaving? He should have been called by the Foreign Ministry to its office to tell him that we disapprove his action. We have failed to do this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This has already been thoroughly discussed.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Yesterday, the Speaker said that more could be said on this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: All right, I am concluding. The only thing is that they should have called him to the foreign office and told him that his behaviour is unbecoming of an Ambassador of a country like the United States. We did not do that. When he is repeatedly doing that, we have a right to declare him *persona non grata* and ask the United States to pack him off from this country. Did we do that?

17.00 hrs.

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*)

Are we a slave country? Are we one of the banana republics in South America? No. We are a proud nation. We are a country with a big standing in the world. But our behaviour in this regard is rather unfortunate. ...(*Interruptions*) You want us to withdraw support. Are you eager to come back? ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, my friends from this side are telling us to withdraw support so that they can come back. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chandrappan, please address the Chair. You need not address them. Otherwise, you would not get sufficient time. I would request the hon. Members' cooperation. There are about 40 speakers and if they cooperate, many of them may get chance; otherwise the number will have to be cut down. So, please cooperate with the Chair. We cannot have endless speeches. More or less you covered the points and everybody will have a chance to speak for and against the Government. But be precise.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I will address the Chair.

Now, I would like to say something regarding the resources. Now, they are thinking of cutting the subsidy on food. Is it that a sum of Rs. 4,000 crore a big amount that they cannot afford to spend? Yesterday also when the hon. Minister of Agriculture was answering the question, he said: "Wait for the special discussion with West Bengal, Kerala and Orissa. After that discussion, may be the damocle's sword will fall on our head". But are we really so poor that we cannot afford this? In this country, the experts are of the opinion that a minimum of 30 per cent of the GDP and some people say 51 per cent of the GDP constitutes the parallel economy which is known as black money. Does the hon. President know about it? I think, the hon. President knows about it. Not a single word is said about it. There should have been a definite mention of it and then he would have said that my Government would take drastic measures so that this money would be unearthed. Then, we could have done all these poverty alleviation programmes without any difficulty. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chandrappan, please do not listen to others. Otherwise, you will not be able to conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: About unearthing of the black money, I say that the Government should take a firmer stand. They should bring a legislation, if necessary. They can declare demonetisation. Many methods are being adopted by various countries. But here we are sitting quiet. The parallel economy is growing. That is one thing.

Secondly, I would like to say something about the Non-Performing Assets and their volume. We say that it is more than one lakh crore of rupees. Once it is declared that it is a non-performing asset, those who have to pay to the banks, they can sit quiet because no action will be taken against them. Only you will negotiate and 70 per cent of the interest is waived. You are begging, still you deposit the money and they do not. Now the point is, on the question of Non-Performing Assets, the Government, if necessary, can bring a legislation and ensure that this amount of more than one lakh crore of rupees is collected or a big portion of that is collected and that will be spent for finding solutions to problems like public health, public education and all that and to support the PDS.

No such measure has been mentioned there in the President's Address. No hint of it is there. So, what is lacking in this case is that they promised good things, they promised a new India, they promised a new life. Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia who seconded the Motion quoted the words of William Frost saying: "We have a long way to go" and all that. I do not know whether Mahatma Gandhi today is popular with them. If you go to the Teenmurti House, there is an exhibition where Gandhi's portrait is there. He said: "If any Government or any anybody decides on any policy or a certain thing, close your eyes for a while and think about the poorest of the poor that you have come across, that *Daridra Narayana* that you have come across. If you think that the action that you are taking will be in favour of that *Daridra Narayana* take that action and if it goes against him, do not take that action." Gandhiji said this. Gandhiji said this is a talisman that he is giving you, particularly to Congressmen. Do you sometimes remember about Mahatma Gandhi, that *talisman*, that advice? If so, then you would not have thought in terms of cutting the food subsidy; in terms of not collecting the black money, in terms of not taking strong measures to put an end to these

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non-performing assets. You would have been able to think of that *Daridra Narayana* who are called "people living below the poverty line, people who are hungry, people who are having no dwelling houses of their own". Those *Daridra Narayanas* unfortunately did not find a place in the President's Address.

Sir, in this President's Address he spoke of the "terrible" economic growth that we are going to achieve. But it is for whom? Is it for the Ambanis, for the Tatas or for the multinationals? This *Daridra Narayana* should be in the primary thought of yours. My criticism is that this President's Address completely forgot him, but he thought about the affluent people. So, I cannot wholeheartedly support this President's Address.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much for the opportunity given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Kirip Chaliha to speak. Shri Chaliha, you must realise that you are given only ten minutes only to speak.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is quite astounding nowadays to hear certain voices from certain sides. For example learning about communal harmony from the BJP and also Communists teaching us about following Gandhiji's precepts. Anyway, strange things do happen in this world and we have to go through them. But, I will come to the crux of these matters later.

I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Madhusudan Mistry for the Address given by the President of India to both Houses of Parliament. The Address of the President correctly evaluates the performance of the UPA Government during the last 30 months and rightly lays down the broad parameters of the course that the Government is going to take in the days to come by.

The hon. President rightly starts by pointing to the sense of optimism that is prevalent in the country today and refers to a nation of billion people rising to its potential which he calls an exciting feeling. It is true that when the economy is showing a rise of 7.5 per cent, when the inflation rate is under modest growth, when there is development in the rural sector and the emphasis has shifted from the NDA regime to agriculture and to the rural poor and when in Bharat Nirman we are talking today about providing electricity to the villages.

In Bharat Nirman, we are talking about drinking water to the poorest; we are talking about providing irrigation capacity to the farmers; we are talking about constructing houses for the rural poor; and we are talking about connectivity through telephones. We have all this because of the great vision of our leader, and with her own initiative we have the Rural Employment Guarantee Act. At one point of time there was a lot of cynicism and skepticism from various sides when we thought of introducing this Bill or talked about introducing it. But this has come into existence, and this has started operating. Therefore, the Dr. Manmohan Singh led UPA Government deserves congratulations for this bold step, which promises to revolutionise this country.

I must compliment our leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for taking personal initiative to see that this becomes a reality, and it has become a reality in spite of all the criticisms of some of my friends on the right side of this House. I even understand that some of the NDA supporting Chief Ministers have asked for an extension of this programme to various villages with their State resources. It shows that the course was right.

Similarly, as regards Bharat Nirman, the cynics will always say that why you are doing it or what you are doing, you are not doing anything new, this is not being implemented, this is not being done, etc. But the fact is that this is a good programme. Why do you feel shy to say that this is a good programme? They are opposing for opposition sake. Criticism also means constructive criticism. Anant Geeteji was quite constructive in spite of all the compulsions of the Shiv Sena politics, but I must say that you have to be a little more honest to say that the programmes and emphasis of this Government have been correct. In less than two years, this Government has started spending money, and has started giving priorities in the right direction.

Now, we have problems with our Left friends, and I will come to it a little later. But before that I must say that so far as the economic agenda is concerned, so far as the economic programmes are concerned, so far as the development activities are concerned, I am sure that even our worst critics including the BJP cannot criticise this UPA Government for any lapse. I am saying this because we are in the right direction, and we are moving with determination and conviction. Therefore, there should be no doubt about it.

In fact, the BJP and the parties supporting BJP hardly had anything to criticise us. I was rushing to the House to hear what Mr. V.K. Malhotra had to say about our policies and programmes, and how he brushes aside the Rashtrapati's address to criticise our Government. There was hardly anything in it, and I was surprised. I took extensive notes of whatever he was saying. He hardly had anything to speak against us. I am still waiting for Mr. Swain to talk about some bad economics and good economics, but Mr. V.K. Malhotra was a disaster. He went on only through his own agenda of total communalism, divisiveness, and talked about Muslim appeasement and what not. He was so desperate that he even tried to bring down the reputation of a person like Dr. Manmohan Singh. He was trying to give an impression that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi – as the Congress Party President – was trying to remote-control just as they were being remote-controlled by Nagpur. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not blame you. You are scared because Dr. Manmohan Singh has become a gigantic figure today. His acceptability has now come across every Indian political divide, and he has attained a stature whereby not only in India, but even outside he is considered to be one of the best Prime Ministers today and I am not saying it on her face. I am not supposed to be one of the sycophants, and I will remain in the back bench. Therefore, and do not worry about it. But the fact is that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi's renunciation of the Prime Ministership has made her a personality and stature which has no parallel, which is. ...*(Interruptions)* these people are scared. Therefore, you are making insinuations. You are trying to spread false rumours against her that she is doing this and she is doing that. This is why you are saying that Dr. Manmohan Singh is a weak Prime Minister, and that he does not know what he is doing.

Let me tell you that with these kinds of false propaganda, with these kinds of falsities and rumours, you have 130 or so Members now, you will be having only two Members, like you were having once. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record, except the speech of Shri Kirip Chaliha.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: The winds of change are so strong that it will blow everything away and however much you try, you will not succeed in tarnishing the image of this Government.

Not recorded.

They have a lot of problems in accepting their defeat. They were in a state of shock, when they lost power. They were so frustrated and desperate that their last resort was astrology. There were some astrological predictions then that within three months, they would come back to power, and therefore the last Prime Minister would continue to be the Leader of the House for six months because something could happen astrologically. Even astrology has let you down. That is why, you are now into all this Machiavellian politics of divide. Their last hope, let me tell you, is that a serious division will take place between the Left and the Congress. The Left is bringing out certain issues. Their thinking is that there can be certain contradictions because of which the UPA Government may fall, and that they may come to power by default. There is no ban on daydreaming, Mr. Swain. Please go on daydreaming. However, let me tell you as a Congressman that even within the Congress Party, there are a number of people who want some corrections on some of the economic matters that have been pursued. This has not taken place as if somebody has imposed it on them.

Dr. Manmohan Singh, when he started economic liberalisation in 1991, he is definitely the pioneer of economic reforms and liberalisation in India, he was not for a *laissez faire* policy. As Congressmen, we are aware that if we accept economic liberalisation and globalisation in its crude form, if we think that liberalisation is the end and not the means to achieve the end, we might end up as a failure. It is not a question of only India or Congress. This has happened in Germany, and SDP ruling coalition has paid the price for it. This has happened in France. Nobody is more aware of this than our leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, who is all the time conscious of the difficulties and, at the same time, receptive to the criticism from the Left. Madam has always been receptive. Therefore, if you have hopes that something will happen, things will reach such a flash point that somebody will go for brinkmanship and there will be an election or something and you may come to power again, forget that. Today, we have two icons and you have two old men and those two old men, on whom you are dependent all the time and want to come back to power, even those two old men are now ageing. Those two old men cannot bring you back to power. Unfortunately, you cannot even throw them out and tell them that it is time to give you people a chance. The B.J.P. is really in doldrums. I feel pity for you. As I said, they can go on building castles in the air. However, they

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must at least show us the alternative agenda to the agenda that we are pursuing. They must have the guts to do that, and they do not have that. That is why, they go on harping on communalism. They talk about Muslims in a manner as if Muslims are not citizens of this country and that they are not a part of India. The kind of hatred that you have for the Muslims or anything that has to do with the Muslims, my goodness, it is something that is unimaginable.

I now come from Shiv Sena to the North-East. A body building competition was held in Mumbai last month in which an Assamese boy, Bijit Gogoi, was awarded the title of Mr. India. This is all on record. The All Assam Students Union has called a strike on this issue. All the newspapers in Assam are writing about it for the last one week. What happened was, because the boy was Assamese, Shiv Sainiks termed him an outsider and started shouting slogans. They started demanding that the title should be taken back from him and given to a Maharashtrian who was the runner up. This is what they do and they talk of unity! This should be condemned. Such a serious thing has taken place. It is very unfortunate that such things are happening due to which alienation is taking place.

I mentioned this not to condemn the Shiv Sena as such but to appeal to this House to be a little circumspect, to be a little restrained and not alienate people unnecessarily. Whether it is Muslims, whether it is people in the various regions, you must know that they all feel proud to be Indians. They will have to be made to feel proud of being Indians. How do we feel proud to be Indians if there is discrimination? In spite of the fact that I have always been a Congressman, right from Youth Congress to the Congress, I must say that the North-East has been discriminated against. The North-East has till now not got its real due from the national mainstream.

We in the North-East have no infrastructure. We have suffered from one huge earthquake; historical and geographical divide; long years of neglect; the big gap that exists between Delhi and the North-East. We have to take urgent steps to redress these problems. I know that that is not possible to happen under any other political party than the Congress party led by Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister.

I appeal for two or three considerations immediately. One is Foreign Direct Investment. Assam Government did not have much Foreign Direct Investment. We have got

Foreign Direct Investment very recently in five or six major infrastructure development programmes. These were given as Special Category States on the basis of 90 per cent grant and ten per cent loan. If the policy is revised and it becomes a back to back system, then we suffer. This cannot happen.

Similar is the case with the NLCPR. The Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources is meant to be spent in the North-East. This is the money which is earmarked in the Central Government for the development of North-East. Some of the Central Government Departments are not able to utilise this money. So, a corpus fund was made and this money is set aside for development of the North-East. Even in that if 90 per cent is given as grant and ten per cent as loan, what meaning does it have? How can it be called equitable? NLCPR is primarily meant for the North-East. It is supposed to have been spent by various Departments of the Central Government. They were unable to spend it and that is why it has gone to the NLCPR. You will have to give 100 per cent of it as grant. I would like to seek your intervention to convince the Government about it.

The situation of the North-East Council is similar. The North-East Council has been specially constituted for special development of the North-East. North-East cannot be equated with other States because North-East has a huge backlog. That backlog is not only economic but also psychological. As I said, it has got a historical and geographical perspective. So, you need to give more incentives to the North-East. You cannot equate the North-East with other States. Unfortunately, nowadays every State in the country wants to be clubbed with the North-East without understanding the problems and peculiarities that we face in that area. We need compassion; we need sympathy and we need a special consideration.

I would request you to kindly do something to see that the North-East becomes really a part of the advanced India because for the growth of India the contribution of North-East also has been tremendous.

Many people do not know that Assam had been in the forefront of the freedom struggle of India. In fact, one of the first major incidents of freedom struggle in various forms took place in Assam. Many people do not know

about it. Our people are not very ambitious economically. In fact, I became very impressed by the very honest declaration made by Shri Rajivji about North-East.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have covered all the important points. Please conclude.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Rajiv ji said that, when he goes to the North-East he feels very impressed by the people and the contentment of the people and the spiritual happiness of the people and that they live within the confines of their limited world. Sometimes, they do not know whether the material prosperity is more important than the spiritual prosperity. If I talk about spiritual prosperity, people may misunderstand that I am against the development in the North-East. We do not want to give that kind of impression. We do not want Guwahati to be made Delhi or Mumbai within a day. But we must have the basic necessities to the people so that we lead our lives within our confines with contentment, with dignity and with honour. I am sure, the whole House would join me in this regard to do the needful.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. We follow British Parliament in respect of a Presidential Address to a joint session of both the Houses of the Parliament every year. This address by the President gives us information regarding the policies of the Government for the forthcoming years, the important works proposed to be undertaken and whether these are to be completed within a year or are long term programmes. The Members of both the Houses assemble to listen to the speech and take part in the proceedings. Now the point to be considered is what the address conveys to us? Has any special message been conveyed through it? Has it invigorated the country? Have any measures been suggested to help the people of the country overcome the real obstacles being faced by the country? After going through the Address from beginning to end I find it to be soulless one. It sends out no message to the country or to the international community. I have proposed amendments from serial No.36 to 70 in the list-2 on the vote of thanks on the President's Address. These encompass national as well as local issues. These amendments also mention the works that should have been undertaken but have been abandoned.

17.28 hrs.

(SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG in the Chair)

I would like to point out that there has been lot of discussion on how UPA Government was formed. ...* We are not aware of it since we are in the opposition. We do not know whether they were invited to form the Government or whether Shri Manmohan Singhji was invited. It is a constitutional procedure what we know is that an invitation had been issued and that was meant for Shri Manmohan Singhji and he had taken oath as the Prime Minister. Our contention has been the reigns of the Government are indirectly ...* In such a situation the Government was formed by a patchwork of parties, be it DMK, RJD or other such parties. This is the way this ...* UPA Government was formed. I would like to say in this context that they managed to cobble together a majority. It is good that they managed this feat. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Are you talking about NDA?

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I am talking about the UPA at the moment, we will discuss NDA later. ...*(Interruptions)* We expect them to do good work and earn praise from all quarters. But when we look at the President's Address we find that para one of Address contains introduction and greetings. In para two it has been stated that the economy is moving forward. Subsequently figures are quoted regarding the annual rate of growth from 7.5 percent to eight per cent. In the eleventh line of above paras, it has been stated that the inflation has grown at normal rates. The common man is then mentioned in the first page. For the common man, for our families industry my own family, for every family the most important economic aspect is the prices of commodities. This sentence is also given in the speech that the most important aspect is the prices of commodities. It has been further stated that the Indian economy has made substantial progress despite the rise in oil prices. After that no mention has been made of prices of essential commodities nor has it been mentioned that if the prices of goods have been raised in the market then how is it to be controlled? The Presidential Address has failed to address this issue.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I would like to mention the lead item in yesterday's (i.e. 20th February 2006) Punjab Kesri where it has been said that the common man is bearing the brunt of the price hike after Manmohan Singh Government came into power. I do not want to enumerate the list of things that have become dearer. But I would like to point out that Urad dal which used to cost Rs. 1700 per quintal has jumped up to Rs.4100 per quintal. Seventeen into two makes thirty four which means that Urad prices have made a jump of more than hundred percent. There is a saying in our country "Yeh mooh aur masoor ki dal. Pata Lagega atte dal ka bhav". Now you will get to know the cost of living. What I mean to say is that the common man has been hit badly by rising prices. In my view all policies should be directed at bettering the lots of the poor, the helpless, the low paid and the poverty stricken people. This should be the impact of all policies. I think that every sensitive person who has read this news, not only in the BJP but also in the Congress would also give thought to the reasons behind the increasing prices and would consider ways to control this rise. There is one remark in the said article in the newspaper which I would like to quote. In the end it says, "the fact is that the UPA Government and the Congress Party is least concerned about the common man being burdened by inflation. Whenever Congress comes to power the market becomes bullish and the traders reap benefits.

It means that it is also an issue as to what type of protection is being provided to the hoarder and black-marketeers. I mean to say that there is no mention of any measure for controlling the soaring prices in this Address. Therefore, it is incomplete.

Mr. Speaker sir, there are a lot of issues, but one of the important issues which has come before us for discussion is minoritism. It is the matter of providing reservation to Muslims in the name of minorities, as the issue of Allgarh Muslim University came, issue of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh came, and the Hon'ble Supreme Court pronounced its verdict that it is wrong. After that it has been mentioned in the speech that Ministry of Minority Affairs has been set up in the country for the first time. 15 point programme was announced, Minority Education Commission Bill was passed in 2004. A Bill is being brought to amend it now. Many other issues were included in it, but the assessment of the number of soldiers in the army of the country was also mentioned in it. A Committee, under the Chairmanship of Justice Shri

Rajendra Sachchar is conducting a study of status of minorities and it will make recommendation for their economic and social development. It will study economic and social development in regard to the army. Such work is being done for the first time in history. Our leaders and we have requested our hon'ble President and also handed him over memorandum as a responsible opposition. Besides this, we request the Govt., also that at least the army should be left as an exception as there is still time left for that ...* We have ourselves filed objection that these figures would not be made available, then what is the reason that no initiative is being taken by the Govt.

I would like to throw some light on the circumstances of providing reservation and protection to the minorities 57 years ago. A report on minorities was submitted by the Committee before the constituent assembly and discussion were held on it. I want to quote what Hon'ble Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister said regarding his view in this regard. It is mentioned in the second paragraph of page no. 510 of the proceedings of constituent assembly. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehruji has said in that, "I want that whether it be the question of reserving seat for minorities or any type of protection, it should be considered keeping in view of the actual condition. Such protection or any other protection are meaningful only when there is any autocratic Govt. or any foreign rule in your country, but when there is democratic system of Govt. In your country, then there is more possibility of loss to the community for whom such reservation is being provided instead of benefit. When there is any foreign rule or any autocratic ruler in the country, then the protection may be beneficial for you since the ruler may divide you. But when you are against complete democratic system, the minority community would go away from you for ever." It has been written in detail in it, but I would not read it out completely. I want to draw your attention in this matter because the matter was considered seriously immediately after the partition of the country. It can be said in accordance with the views of Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehruji on providing reservation or protection to the minorities that today when we talk of being the biggest democracy of 21 century, we should ponder whether there is any foreign rule in the country or there is an autocratic ruler. It is a ponderable proposition that if the ruler is not autocratic and there is not even any foreign rule in the country, then why the question of providing reservation or protection?

*Not recorded.

Sir, the action being taken with regard to army is not in favour of the country, it should be withdrawn. I would finish my speech after having spoken in brief on it. I belong to Himalayan region, Uttaranchal, but no serious discussion on Himalaya has been held so far. Many Hon'ble members from Arunachal and Himachal Pradesh are also present here. Only Jammu and Kashmir has been given special status by article 370, and it should be provided. North-East has been given special package and there should be no two opinion that it should be given. But neither any special package, nor any time-bound programme, nor any opportunity of employment for the youth has been given/prepared for Central Himalaya, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal. It is so only because North-East is a disturbed area but it is not a disturbed area. Since there is special article 370 in Indian Constitution for it and terrorist incidents take place there, therefore there should be special package for that. There should be a provision of Rs.24,000 crore in budget for North-east, and the provision is there, but whether the people of middle-himalayan region should be held guilty for being peaceful. Whether we would wait for the disturbance in the region for giving any package. Why should not a policy be framed for entire Himalayan region. I would request for the same; as it is a lapse in it. I have also mentioned in my amendment that it should be considered. 'Bharat Nirman' was discussed at length but actually it holds nothing new. One of its components is the old Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana prepared by us which envisages that the Gram Sadak Yojana would be completed by the year 2007 under the Tenth Plan. Electrification of villages is not a new programme. It is not that Bharat is a new country. Bharat has been in existence for thousands of years and development has been going on slowly but steadily. Hence, there is nothing new in this programme.

But there is one problem in it. When the NDA Government was in power in the Centre it was decided that population norms for hilly regions or rural hilly regions would be 250 but as per para 6 of the President's Address road linkages would be provided to areas having population of more than 1000 or in tribal areas having a population of more than 500. This is greatly objectionable because the hilly regions have many small villages with a population of 250-300-400. Such villages would never be able to get road linkages. They have been neglected since long. Therefore, the criteria of population for

constructing roads in hilly regions should be 250. This demand may please be put before the Hon. Minister so that criteria of population for tribal hilly areas may be 250 only. Shri Sukhdev Singh Dheendsa had raised the issue of Escorts farm. Land should be allotted to all. Also, land should be allotted to people of hill regions whose land has been taken away from them because they are facing great hardship. Land should be made available for those people.

Mr. Chairman, bio-fuel has been mentioned. When the NDA was in power it had made a provision of Rs.1430 crores for this purpose but the last one and a half year has seen a steep rise in prices of petroleum products. The Agriculture Ministry and the Rural Development Ministry kept on trying to push the cost onto each other throughout the year. This is getting delayed. It is my request that the work should be expedited so that India is able to save foreign exchange, people get employment and the country is able to become self-sufficient in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, chicken is in short supply due to avian influenza but the fish is being sold at high prices. Price of fish has risen by 300 percent according to the TV Channels. It is the Government's responsibility to ensure that people who eat fish should get the fish at reasonable rates. I had asked a starred question number 86 regarding Avian Influenza last year but attention had not been paid to it. I had said at that time that this sort of situation could arise and I have been proved right but lack of preparedness on part of the Government has led to the culling of lakhs of hens. Medicine for this flu is being imported from Holland. It costs Rs.1000 per 10 capsules. How can a common man afford a Rs.100 capsule. The Government should give some thought to the matter.

Mr. Chairman, my parliamentary constituency is spread over a 15000 square km. area. At least Rs.100 crores should be given in the MP fund for carrying out development of this area. Merely Rs.2 crores would be of no use. I am not in favour of this scheme since this work should be done not by the legislature but by the executive. The Government should take action in this regard too. Price Index is rising due to inflation but the salary of the MPs is not being increased. 'Atta' is being sold at Rs.14 per kg. in the market. The Government should take some steps to provide relief from inflation.

Mr. Chairman, the minimum height requirement for recruitment to the army for males was 163 cm but the present government has increased this to 166 cm. I would

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

like to point out that young men belonging to the hilly regions used to join the army since these regions have no trade, agriculture or industries but the decision to increase the minimum height requirement by 3 cm would block this last avenue of employment also for lakhs of young men. The Government should reconsider its decision.

Mr. Chairman, the time is running out. I had many issues to discuss but I will express my views on one or two more issues and end my speech. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan was talking about abolishment of cow slaughter. I have brought a Private Member's Bill in this regard. I request the Law Minister that he should bring a Bill under Article 48 of the Constitution and we would support it. In the end, I would like to say that no one raises any issue here with malafide intentions. The Government should give consideration to the measures suggested by the Opposition. The issues is raised by Shri Chandrappan were issues related to policies. These should be given serious consideration. After all, what do they want, what does the opposition want? Every one wants the Government to move in the right direction. Therefore, I fully support all the amendment proposals and express my disagreement with the President's Address.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, this 20 months old UPA Government came to power with a categorical verdict of the people against the communal and anti-people policy of the previous Government. We, the 61 Members Left Party in Lok Sabha, unitedly decided to extend our support to the UPA Government from outside. It was a political decision taken by the Left Party of the country. We have our own reason for extending our support from outside. We decided to keep the communal BJP out from the power because it was the decision of the people in the last election.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): BJP cannot be communal.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Yes, they are. This was our reason to support the UPA Government. From the very beginning itself, in certain policy matters we did have our reservations because we have our own stand and attitude on certain basic policy issues. With these reservations we decided to support the UPA Government from outside.

The UPA Government framed a National Common Minimum Programme as the agenda for its governance. We have always been reminding the Government that this NCMP is the document of the Government and not of the Left Party and we are extending our support to implement the points mentioned in this NCMP. For the last 20 months we have been supporting this Government from outside with certain reservations. Whenever the UPA Government tried to violate the commitment and the assurance mentioned in the NCMP we always opposed them.

Yesterday, while participating in the discussion our Party Leader Comrade Basu Deb Acharia and some other Left Party Leaders also mentioned about our reservations. Our charge against this Government is that the Government should intensify its very-very rigid attitude against communalisation in the country which was there during the BJP regime. Certain decisions have been taken by the Government during this short period. We are asking the Government to intensify the fight against communalisation of our secular fabric, which was perpetrated by the earlier BJP regime. We should intensify our fight against the communalisation of different sectors of our society. This is our criticism. I come from Kerala.

Mr. Ravindran has been elected on 22nd November, 2005 in the Trivandrum by-election in place of Shri P.K. Vasudevan Nair, a CPI leader who died unfortunately. This by-election was held in the capital city of Trivandrum. We, the Left Parties, are supporting this Government to keep BJP out of power. But the Congress Party in Kerala took the support from the BJP to defeat our Left Party in the recent by-election in Trivandrum. This is the attitude which the Congress Party had shown in our State. It is our criticism. In the 2004 elections, in that particular Trivandrum Lok Sabha Constituency, the BJP was having around 2,28,000 votes in the Lok Sabha elections but they had given their votes to the Congress candidate to defeat the Left Parties. With the result, their votes reduced from 2,28,000 to 37,000 in Trivandrum Constituency. In Kerala, the Congress and the BJP are colluding to defeat the Left Parties. That is our criticism against both these people. We, the Left Parties, are here to protect the secular fabric of our country. ...*(Interruptions)* We are supporting them to keep you out of the power. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: We are very vigilant. We

are criticising anti-people policies. Whenever they are not following the points mentioned in the National Common Minimum Programme, we are criticising them. That is why, we are against this UPA Government in respect of some matters. We are very much vigilant to keep you (BJP) out of the power. Therefore, you should not feel very much happy. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It means you will only bark but you will not bite. Very good, keep on barking.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: We are very much vigilant for keeping this communal party out of the power.

We must also appreciate this Government. We have to do that. Some very inspiring decisions have been taken by this Government. For example, in the last Monsoon Session, we unanimously passed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill. Certain very pro-people decisions have been taken by this Government.

At the same time, we are opposing them because this Government is violating whatever the assurances were given in the National Common Minimum Programme. I would like to mention the area of foreign policy. The National Common Minimum Programme assured the country we would uphold very rich tradition of our foreign policy. It says that India would uphold each and everything of its own independent foreign policy but very recently on the question of Iran, the Government violated the assurance given in the National Common Minimum Programme regarding the independent foreign policy. We are opposing that. The Government has decided to open up the retail trading also for the Foreign Direct Investment. We are strongly opposing that as it is also against the assurance given in the National Common Minimum Programme.

The next point is about the farming community. In the Address delivered by the Rashtrapati he has mentioned that, 'My Government is giving the highest priority to the welfare of our farmers and to the development of our rural economy. There has been an increase of 60 per cent in rural credit to the agricultural sector.' But here I would like to submit that rural credit always need not be construed as agricultural credit. For example, person in a rural area may take loan for starting a cinema theatre but that loan cannot be construed as a loan taken for development of agriculture. So, the major thrust while giving rural credit should be for the betterment of the farming community of

our country. Everyday cases of suicide by farmers in different parts of the country are being reported in the national dailies. I am coming from the State of Kerala. In my State, in the last four and a half years more than 327 farmers have committed suicide. This is the situation. There has been news of suicide by farmers from different parts of the country because of the debt trap of the farmers. We should take care of the welfare of the farming community in our country. This is our criticism.

Sir, apart from this, I would like to add that prices of certain agricultural produces like pepper, cardamom and arecanut and certain other products have fallen steeply and as a result the farming community in the State is in deep crisis. This has happened only because of removal of Quantitative Restrictions on import in the WTO agreement. The Government should protect the welfare of the farmers in this country by restricting the import of agricultural produces.

Sir, in the State of Kerala, there are about more than 12 lakh traditional industrial workers engaged in occupation like fishing, bidi industry, handloom, coir and cashewnut. These industries are on their way to a decline. Lakhs and 1 lakhs of workers engaged in these traditional industries have either lost their jobs or are on the verge of losing their jobs. They have become jobless labourers. This is a clear violation of the promise made in the National Common Minimum Programme. So, the Government should take care of this sector to save our traditional industries and protect the interest and lives of the labourers who are engaged in these traditional industries in the country.

Sir, with these observations we extend our support to the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. But we would continue to fight the Government whenever they violate the assurances given in the National Common Minimum Programme. We would agitate in case of violation of the assurances given in the Common Minimum Programme.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on Presidential Address. In actual terms the President's Address is a government document. While

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I was going through the Address, I felt that the erstwhile BJP Government, that is, the NDA Government, had been a slogan of 'India shining' or 'Bharat Uday' which is now being propagated under the name of 'Bharat Nirman' by the UPA Government. All the Members of the House, those belonging to the Treasury benches as well as those belonging to the Opposition benches have expressed concerns about the burgeoning population of the country which has reached the mark of one billion. We are all concerned about this issue.

18.00 hrs.

According to this booklet, His Excellency, the President has said in the Address that our economy is on the move and our people are on the march. We know very well the state of our economy and of our people, we know how much our people have progressed. A little introspection will tell us how much we are progressing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shailendraji, I want to make an announcement. Since 35 Members are yet to speak, shall we extend the time of the House by one hour?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time of the House may be extended by one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Please do so. The Constitutional, and Fundamental Rights of the people of India, the facilities that they are entitled to get. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The Prime Minister would be replying at 5 p.m. tomorrow. So, Sir, you may extend the time of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us see for one hour first, we can think about extending the time further afterwards.

[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: We have not made much progress in the debate. ...*(Interruptions)* There are many Members to speak and tomorrow is the last date to conclude the debate.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: That is what I am also saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): We will take half an hour at the most for mentioning our issues. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: No, please extend the House for another one hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, the hon. Members have given notices for discussion on various important issues during the Zero Hour. It is my humble request that Zero Hour be declared.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Extend by half an hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Members have given notices on many important issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This can take place after one hour. You can discuss after one hour.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: Mr. Chairman, Zero Hour was scheduled from 12.00 p.m. to 1.00 p.m. The time has already passed. Now you are moving it forward. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will decide about this in the House later.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: It is decided. You allow half an hour or Zero Hour. Kindly take up the Zero Hour. There are only about 5 to 7 Members here. The rest have left, hence you please allow Zero Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: A large number of Members are there to speak so I will extend the House by one hour. We will see later if we have time.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): We have important issues to discuss during Zero Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will be decided after the debate. When the debate is concluded after one hour then we will see about it.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Let the

debate carry on throughout the night. Let the people speak the whole night. Let them speak on the President's Address throughout the night and we will listen to them from our houses. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Although we rush to attend the Zero Hour at 8 A.M., we do not get a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: We will listen to their speeches on TV at our houses. They are giving such excellent speeches. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Zero Hour will definitely take place.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: Sir, the Zero Hour is very important. You can allow it later. It will take just half an hour. There are not many people who want to speak. All of us will take just two minutes each. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: It is their Zero Hour too. They are also taking interest. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Let it be extended by one hour. Make it half an hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: We are simple rustics. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Just a minute, he is saying something. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time has been extended by an hour. You may speak thereafter.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: You had said we might speak after Shailendraji has delivered his speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Kiranji, your side has many Members who want to speak. We have also given notice for Zero Hour. We are with you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Your issues are not as important as our issues concerning Rajasthan. We have many important issues on our agenda which need serious consideration. I want to draw your attention towards those issues. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, we have also given notice for Zero Hour. Other hon. Members have also

got issues to discuss during Zero Hour. We will also sit in with you but you should at least let us speak. I would have finished by now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shailendra Kumarji, please speak. Please do not take too much time. You take five minutes each.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: As far as the question of general public in the Constitution of India. ...*(Interruptions)*
[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: We shall also take part in the debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: We are also participating in the debate since morning. ...*(Interruptions)*
[Translation]

All Members take 5 minutes each in zero hour. If you have 35 Members, they will continue through out the night. What sense does it make? Our request is in order. ...*(Interruptions)*
[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: We may extend the time upto 6.30 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)* At 7.00 p.m., we can see whether we can continue with the debate or not.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have not been able to confer Constitutional and Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Constitution of India to the people till date whether these rights pertain to education, health, employment or agriculture. The Presidential Address indicates towards a bright future ahead. Shri Bachi Singh Rawat was concerned about price hike of essential commodities. He said that commodities were cheaper during NDA regime and the UPA Government has increased prices. If we take a comparative glance, we find that the price of every commodity has increased. I would like to say that we should take care of various things related to common people. The Presidential Address refers to provide security to the poor and alleviate rural poverty. Four or five points have been brought to fore therein. So far as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is concerned,

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numerous Members have already expressed their views thereon. The scheme provides guarantee of employment for 100 days only, what will that family do for the rest of 265 days? Security of employment to the poor has been referred to in the Address. Even today, there are families which earn their livelihood on daily basis and if they do not earn even for a single day, their children do not get their meals. The Address refers to make basic infrastructure available in rural areas. Rural conditions are still similar to those existing earlier. Living standard of rural people has not improved much even today. Villages have been electrified but power supply is not adequate. Rural people are not in a position to pursue even small industrial professions. Rural people are migrating to cities as we have failed in providing education facilities, health care and employment for them.

The Uttar Pradesh Government has recently presented its budget. I would like to congratulate the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Mulayam Singh who has announced an unemployment allowance of Rs.500 p.m. to urban and rural unemployed and registration for them has also been started.

Similarly, many things have been said about National Rural Mission. Crores of rupees are being spent but PHCs and CHCs in rural areas are in very bad condition. Doctors do not come there because they do not get proper facilities there including good schooling for their children. Therefore, equipments are lying unused there.

The issue of urban renewal has been touched upon in the Address. This morning, Shri V.K. Malhotra and Shri Devendra Prasad ji were discussing that houses of big people are being razed and there is great hue and cry on this issue. When jhuggis of poor people migrating from States like Bihar and U.P. were demolished, we could not do anything for them. It is said in the Address that education will be provided to all. Crores of rupees have been spent on it. Today the House discussed the Constitution amendment 45(a) on which all the Members expressed their views.

Through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and say that be it the Adult Education Programme or the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the entire budget should be spent on improving primary and junior schools and provide facilities to them so that the children

can attend school and get education. There is a need to strengthen primary education.

Similarly, the issue of water conservation has been referred to. These days water table is going down everywhere in rural areas. We have not formulated any action plan or scheme on water conservation.

In terms of Bharat Nirman Yojana, it is inter-alia said that every village having a population of over 1000 will be electrified by the year 2009. All weather roads will be constructed to connect all the villages having population of over 1500, I could not understand this. May be this is explained in the budget. It is said that supply of drinking water will be ensured for everyone. There is a great problem of drinking water. Bhargavaji is looking at me attentively. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you please conclude.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I am concluding. We have provided telephone facility to every village. There is likely to be no development from it. If there is any utility of telephone today, that is for big cities and town. As far as the matter of creating one hectare additional irrigation facility is concerned, it is right. There is no water in rivers and canals today. We are unable to provide electricity for uplifting the life standard of farmers at rural level by irrigating unirrigated land.

The matter of constructing 60 lakh accommodation for rural poor has been talked of. It was also shown in the budget of last year. ...*(Interruptions)* I am unable to understand as to who are the poor who have been provided accommodation particularly in rural areas. I do not think so. But if it is so, it also requires to be shown in detail in budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: As far as the matter of providing all facilities to rural areas is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please state your last point.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: All right, I shall continue later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will not get so much time since a lot of members are yet to speak.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Having stated 2-4 points more, I am concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no so much of time. You were allotted the time of five minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: The expansion of airport has been talked about. I would like to convey through you that all the passengers have to face great difficulty in one or two flights at some airports like Allahabad. There is a need to construct private airports because it is a central place of war of independence, it is also a tourist site. Be it Anand Bhavan, Swaraj Bhawan, Confluence of rivers or High Court all are located there. All foreign and domestic tourist will be facilitated from it. Railway services has been talked about. The railway services from Allahabad to Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh is very bad particularly of train which comes from the Parliamentary Constituency of hon. Sonia Gandhi. It takes six hours and nobody likes to sit in that. Hence, I would like to say that railway services of the train operating up to at least hundred, one hundred and fifty, two hundred kilometers in the capital region should be good so that people may go and come back after having done their work.

Right to Information has been talked about. It is good since it shows transparency and people will be able to evaluate the works of Government.

Similarly in private non-educational institutions, SC, ST, social and educational. ...(Interruptions) If it is completed, it will be very good in my view, particularly when the Government has announced to fill up the backlog vacancy of reserved posts. If it is filled, the posts reserved for SC, ST or all such reserved posts will be filled and it will be a great achievement on the part of the Government.

With these words, I conclude my speech. You have allotted very little time to me to speak, most of the time was lapsed in increasing, decreasing.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Hon. Chairman, Sir, some more points which should have been included in the Address by the President, have not been included. I want to draw your attention towards those.

Actually the incident of phone tapping took place in the country after the UPA Government came into power. People went to the extent of saying that in it. ...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not take anyone's name.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I am telling what was told outside this House. I am telling what has been told in recent letters. I am not taking anyone's name. Had the President mentioned it in his Address, the Government would have been exposed.

Secondly, the President forgot to mention in his Address as to how the money was withdrawn from the accounts of Quatrochi? There is no mention of it in his Address as to how the money was withdrawn, with whose direction it was withdrawn, why was it withdrawn, how the CBI had forgotten; who is mounting pressure etc. It has also been mentioned in the recent letters that America has threatened us that they would withdraw from the nuclear agreement if India does not vote against Iran. What did America said at that time regarding foreign policy, regarding Iran issue, ...* There is no mention in the Address by Hon. President as to how we are succumbing to pressure.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the most important issue was raised by many Members that the direction issued on counting the number of minorities in the army should have been mentioned in the Address by Hon. President. What was in it to hide? Actually after a lapse of so much years, since it was mentioned so in place of mentioning of the forces dividing the nation on second page of the address by the President. If the President mentions regarding the forces dividing the nation as per the guidelines of the Government after a lapse of 57 years since independence, then where do we want to take this country after the independence of 57 years; since the democracy of India is considered to be the biggest democracy of the world. Had it been a discussion on common Civil Code, there is no country in the world where there are two separate rule for two communities. India is only country, where there are separate rules for people of two different communities. It is so in family planning also. What type of country it is where we cannot say anything to a special community due to politics of votes?

* Not recorded.

[Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar]

If we continue the policy of Muslim appeasement and to say that the days for discussion relating to partition of the country are over now etc. and the new discussion has started but if we cast a look at the recent events then it would be quite clear as to which direction we want to take the country to and also to which direction the country is heading to. I strongly believe that sentiments of followers of any religion should not be hurt. If cartoon of 'Pegamber Sahib' is misused then it should be banned but some painter named Hussein paints the picture of Bharat Mata ...* but one Minister of a State says that he would give a reward of 51 crores of rupee or gold equal to his body weight and at that we should not utter a single word then it will endanger democracy itself.

Can this Government think of punishing the man who dared to paint the naked picture of Bharat Mata? I do not think that the Government would ponder over it and Leftist supporters in the Congress Party running the Government will do anything. They are supporting the Government from outside say the Leftist in the day, they support from outside and in the night they meet at a place. The whole Government is being run by them.

[English]

because power is the cementing force for them.

[Translation]

They would never withdraw the support. They would enjoy the power fully and demonstrate as if they are attacking the Government. If they feel so strongly then they should withdraw the support. They call BJP as communal and deliberately keep it out. I would like to know as to who is communal in this country? Whether those indulging in the appeasement of Muslims are communal or those seeking Common Civil Code are communal. There has to be a discussion on it and which direction we wish to steer the country to. This is highly regrettable that nothing about it has been mentioned in the President's Address and no guidelines have been given therein.

I would also like to say a few things about agriculture. Several reports have come in the last decade. More than 26000 farmers have committed suicide in this country. The population of land labourers has gone beyond 3 crores in last 10 years. Gross National Product has been declining. In the year 1951 it was 51 per cent in the year 1991 it was

35 per cent, in 2001, 26 per cent and in the year 2004 it was merely 4 per cent. This is relating to those dependent on agriculture. Their number was 18.1 crores. Thereafter the number of farmer families have increased manifold and within 10 years their number has reached 23.4 crore. If we analyse these figures, we find that the agriculture until which was 2.78 has come down to 1.57 hectare in last 10 years. The President's Address does not make any mention of farmer's suicides. The farmers who toil hard to feed all the countrymen are not being treated well in the country and are being pushed to suicide. I have got the figures in regard to Andhra Pradesh during the period from 2002 to 2005 more than 1310 farmers have committed suicides. In Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)* I said up to 2005 ends in December. You should keep it in mind. In Karnataka during the period from 2002 to 2005, 979 farmers committed suicides. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has admitted that thousands of farmers have committed suicides. One Hon'ble Member just told that 327 farmers committed suicides. In the President's Address, increase in input cost has been attributed to the farmers committing suicides. Just giving figures and expenditure details will not serve any purpose, a comprehensive policy needs to be drawn up. In certain states, the families of the farmers who committed suicide have been given Rs.100,000 each as compensation but in certain other States, the compensation is just Rs.50,000/-. We all know that this amount is negligible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I have just begun.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 10 minutes since you started.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Some time was taken by him also. Therefore, I should get some more time as I have to explain so many issues.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Zero Hour should be taken up.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: The zero hour will start at 6.30 p.m. I will conclude by then. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government should have formulated a policy for the areas where the farmers are committing suicides. You just see what is the rate of interest. We have told the hon. Finance Minister in the House and outside the House that

* Not recorded.

the rate of interest on the loans being given to the farmers should be less. The rate of interest on such loans was 13 per cent in Atalji's regime which was later reduced to 9 per cent. But it is still high. The farmers are of the view and I am also of the view that the rate of interest should come down to 6 per cent. It can come down to this level and I can tell how. Cooperative Banks are giving loan at the rate of 13 per cent even today. The debt burden on the farmers is more following the higher rate of interest. 7 to 8 per cent interest charged by cooperative banks goes to the state cooperative banks, district cooperative banks and the NABARD. The people sitting there have got cars and several other facilities so they would not like interest rate to come down. They should not give this amount to the district cooperative banks. Therefore, the Government should effect a change in that and thereby bringing down the interest rate to 6 per cent. If the loan is available from 6 to 7 per cent for constructing a house then why the interest rate cannot be brought down for the farmers. The crop loan should also be increased upto Rs.2 lakh.

The number of the farmers committing suicides in Vidharba region of Maharashtra is high. Several farmers have also committed suicides in the district where I come from. These farmers who are growing cotton and paddy are committing suicides more. I think this should have found clear mention in the President Address. Actually, the loans of farmers in the Vidharba region should have been waived. The price of cotton there has come down from Rs.2300/- per quintal to Rs.1700/- per quintal. Similarly the paddy price has also come down substantially. The cost price of these crops there is more than Rs.1000/- per quintal whereas the farmers are getting only Rs.500-600 per quintal. How the farmers will make up this loss, one can understand it very well. That is why they are compelled to commit suicides. A farmer takes loan even for the marriage of his daughter. I remember that one farmer committed suicide at night at Brahmpuri village in my area. The very next day his daughter was to get married and he committed suicide because he had no money. Such a pitiable condition they are in today. Therefore, the prices of paddy, cotton etc. should be fixed on the basis of cost price. He was getting Rs.2300 per quintal for cotton in 1998 whereas now he is getting only Rs.1700. We are going downwards instead of upward. There is no mention of all these things in the President Address.

The Government has decided to import wheat. The prices of wheat have increased in the country but the

farmers did not get its benefit whereas its benefit went into the pockets of hoarders because the Government has sided with them. 37 lakh metric tonnes of wheat was imported from Australia at the rate of Rs.900 per quintal. No import duty was levied on that. Had it been there, the prices of wheat would have come around Rs.1200 to 1300 per quintal. This is not the rate of wheat anywhere in our country. So, who cornered that money, the answer is the foreign exporters. The wheat growers do not get such a high price in India. When the farmers grow so much of wheat in our country, why the need of importing wheat was felt then?

Mr. Chairman, it is going to be 6.30 p.m., if you allow me, I can carry on my speech.

[English]

I am on my legs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are on your legs but Zero Hour is there.

[Translation]

You have already spoken for more than 15 minutes. Now you conclude.

[English]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Then, I will continue my speech tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. You have already spoken for 15 minutes.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I was talking about the wheat. As for the import of wheat, in actual 47 lakh metric tonnes of wheat was imported. If we look at the figures, 12 lakh 30 thousand metric tonnes of wheat is required every month from the central pool. Last year, the production of wheat was 92 crore metric tonnes in the country and if we work out all these figures, there was no need to import wheat but the need was to prevent its hoarding. The Government has connived with the hoarders and its consequence is before us. Now, I want to come on the basic issues concerning the farmers. The basic issue that loans of farmers in the Vidharba region should be waived. They should get remunerative prices for their

[Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar]

paddy and cotton. Thirdly, the prices of fertilisers, seeds, chemicals and pesticides have increased. This has led to a major increase in the cost of production. As a result of all these things, they are not getting anything and they are on the verge of penury and how can they survive in such conditions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should conclude.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: In regard to the mandate received.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is 6.30 p.m. now. I have to take up Zero-Hour also. You have taken more than 15 minutes.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: I was saying that the Government has failed completely. This Government has added up all these schemes of the NDA Govt. related to roads, drinking water.

18.32 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

The farmers should get some facilities in respect of the seeds, fertilizers, medicines. I was saying that the districts Bandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli have not been included in the National Horticulture Mission. How long will you drag the old schemes like Golden Qurdilateral scheme and the National Highway scheme? How long do they want to continue to carry on the same old schemes? There is nothing new in the President's Address and that is why I disagree with it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to continue the discussion in the House then there will be no Zero-hour.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: It was decided that the Zero-Hour will be taken up after 6.30 p.m.

[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Sir, at six o'clock it was decided that we would take up the 'Zero Hour' at 6.30 p.m.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up the matters of Urgent Public Importance.

* Not Recorded

Shri Gaurishanker Chaturbhuj Bisen.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUJ BISEN (Balaghat): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Central Reserve Police Force was deployed in district Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh since August, 2004. Balaghat is the most sensitive and naxalite affected district of Madhya Pradesh. Gadchiroli (Maharashtra), Chandrapur and Trimur are near its border and there are many other districts also like Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh including my parliamentary constituency Gondia Bhandara. The Govt. of India has issued this order two days ago that the 170th Battalion should be shifted to Chhattisgarh. Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to tell the Govt. that if this Battalion is transferred to Chhattisgarh then the Naxalites, who are to be driven away from the upper region and those who have been held up in Balaghat, will enter directly into the border districts like Seoni, Zindauri, Mandla, Shahdol, Umria and Balaghat of Madhya Pradesh where a detailed survey has been conducted. There should be some arrangement made immediately for this. Hon. Home Minister should cancel that order. I support him, if he wants to crush the Naxalites in Chhattisgarh. A joint campaign should be run in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Removal of the Reserve Police Force is not the alternative. It will become an open-route. As a result of this, the Naxalite districts, which have already been surveyed, will come inside the territory giving rise to serious situation which Madhya Pradesh will not be able to control. Fifty two persons have been killed in the district Balaghat by the Naxalites till date. Fifteen major incidents have taken place there. A cabinet Minister was gagged to death. The life of MPs, MLAs and the people's representatives is in difficult situation there. The situation will become even more grave if the Force is removed in such a situation. The situation is not under the control of the District Police Force presently. We had personally met and spoken to hon. Home Minister. We want proper arrangement to be made for it. The Union Govt. should interfere immediately. It should immediately stop the transfer of the 170th Battalion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everyone should take two minutes each as the time is short.

[English]

that will be sufficient.

Shri Tek Lal Mahto — *Not present.*

Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq — *Not present.*

18.36 hrs.

- (iv) **Re: Situation arising out of non-payment of compensation to the families of Indian Haj Pilgrims who died in the stampede in Mecca (Saudi Arabia) in January, 2006**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot of Indian people had gone for Haz in Mecca, Saudi Arabia in January this time. They got trapped in a stampede and many people died in that. It is not necessary that all the Haz pilgrims were rich. It is a question of religious belief. Certainly, the families of those who died there, are facing financial problem today. In 1997 also, there was a fire accident in which hundreds of Haz pilgrim had died. Shri Inder Kumar Gujral's Govt. was in power at that time. The family of each of the Haz pilgrim was given one lakh rupees then. This time, the number of those who died there is only 67. The number of the Haz pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh was 25. The Uttar Pradesh Govt. has decided to give five lakh rupees to the next of the kin of each family of the victims who lost their life in this Haz Pilgrimage. The Haz Sewa Samiti has also written to the Govt. in February to provide financial assistance to the next of the kin of the families of the victims of Haz pilgrimage. But, even then the Govt. of India has not taken any decision in this regard. I would like to urge that the families of the dead Haz pilgrims should be given five lakh rupees each. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here, he should tell something about it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has heard your point.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): In fact, as soon as I saw the notice, I tried to contact the MoS for External Affairs, Mr. E. Ahamed. At the moment, he is out of the country. He has gone to Iran. As soon as he comes back, I would request him to inform the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya — *Not Present*

Shri Raghunath Jha — *Not Present*

[Translation]

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): Ours is a predominantly agricultural country and all the economists accept that agriculture sector is the largest employment provider in our Gross Domestic Product. But it is regretted to say that only crocodile tears are being shed in the country in the name of the farmers and agriculture. The farmers are compelled to commit suicide in States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka etc. On the one hand the farmers are not getting adequate support price for their produces, the godowns of Food Corporation of India are overflowing with food grains and on the other hand the Government is importing five lakh tonnes of wheat. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: It is most regrettable and painful that the wheat imported at the rate of Rs.900 per quintal will cost us Rs.1100 or 1200 due to overhead expenses thereon whereas support price of wheat being paid to the farmers of the country is only Rs.600 per quintal. This Government is anti-farmer. Therefore, through you I would like to request the Government that import of wheat should be stopped immediately. In addition to this the farmers of the country should be encouraged to increase their agricultural yield by giving them adequate assistance and more support price of their produces.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in western part of Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you like to associate yourself with him because the matters raised by both of you are identical.

* Not recorded.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my matter is related to electricity.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Munshi Ram, you have given the notice on the same matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will take two minutes only. Western parts of Uttar Pradesh did not receive timely rain in Autumn this year and the farmers there left without any source of water to save their crops due to which their wheat and other crops were damaged. With great regret, I have to say that due to non-supply of electricity they have to use diesel engines to draw water to save their crops and diesel cost them Rs.34 per litre. In this way the farmers who save their crops of wheat etc. which cost them dearly and they are suffering huge loss. I think India has adequate stock of wheat to meet its requirement of foodgrains. At present the Government has 47 lakh tonnes of wheat in its stock and 13 lakh tonnes of wheat is released every month. In this way the country has stock of wheat for four months and the Government is paying to the farmers of the country at the rate of Rs.640 per quintal as support price. The Food Corporation of India is selling the same wheat at the rate of Rs.1140 per quintal and we are ready to import it at the rate of more than Rs.1200 per quintal. If we do not pay remunerative prices to the farmers for their produces how will their condition improve? I want to bring to the notice of the Government that the situation prevailing in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka is going to occur in Western Uttar Pradesh also where the farmers were compelled to commit suicide. Why does the Government want to create such a situation in Western Uttar Pradesh also? If the Government intend to fix price, the Government should bear that. How will the wheat growing farmers think of producing wheat? If the farmers do not get remunerative prices for their produces, how will they survive?

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (Mangalore): Kannada is an ancient language. As a member of the Dravidian language family its life span has crossed two

thousand years. Kannada branched out from the proto-Dravidian family in 6.5 B.C. Scholars have proved that Kannada was the first major language. Its oldest recorded word 'Isila' is found in the Brahmagiri inscription of Ashoka which is located in Karnataka. This inscription is from Third Century B.C. 'Isila' is a place name. This city was in a place in mid Karnataka as on date. This evidence suggests that Kannada was a spoken language in the area by the time. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The matter related to regional languages has been discussed in the morning.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, practically I gave the notice in the morning with regard to the same issue. But my fate was that I could not raise that issue in spite of my request to the hon. Speaker. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude within one minute.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, I will not take much time. I will take only one minute.

Sir, Kannada literature has an independent tradition. Critics have established that the uniqueness of Kannada literary tradition is that it has continuously strove to be different from Sanskrit literary tradition. The very first Kannada work on poetics and grammar, Kavirajamarge clearly establishes the separate identity of Kannada language and literary tradition.

Kannada literature is vast. It comprises of both oral and written components. Its epigraphical material is abundant and is full of cultural elements. Karnataka has a record number of inscriptions. Over 25,000 of these inscriptions written in Kannada language and script are found in various parts of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. There are many instances where the mainstream poets like Ranna and Janna as early as tenth century have written the texts of inscriptions.

Kannada literature is rich in the sense that it is not a

mere creative literature but contains canonized local knowledge systems. There are books on grammatical tradition, dictionaries, encyclopedias and books on veterinary science, agriculture, medicine. All these facts indicate that Kannada is a fit case to be declared as a classical language. No other Indian language has such an unbroken history of writing.

Now, the case is before the Committee of Linguistic Experts for categorisation of languages as classical language. I urge on behalf of the people of Karnataka and I humbly request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly prevail upon the Committee Members to consider the wishes of the people of Karnataka by according the status of a classical language to Kannada at an early date.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Sir, I associate myself with Shri Sadananda Gowda on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar – Not Present

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention as well as that of the House towards a very serious matter. Recently on 30th January 2006 a documentary titled 'Gandhiji Ham Sarminda Hain' was shown on the National Channel i.e. DD-I. It is a serious matter that in this documentary Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh has been directly held responsible for assassination of Gandhiji. There is no doubt that the entire country was shocked by the incident of assassination of Gandhiji and that unfortunate incident is a matter of grave concern for all the countrymen even today. But it does not mean that even after 58 years of his assassination efforts should be made to establish illusive and baseless things to mislead the country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of this House towards an important thing and that is after assassination of Gandhiji, a judgement of three member bench of Hon. Punjab High Court came and the conclusion of that judgement was that the assassination was not a nationwide conspiracy hatched by thousands of people rather it was a handiwork of a

handful of people and the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh had nothing to do with it. This was the judgement of a High Court and keeping in view the said judgement of the High Court such comments on the National Channel is not only improper but is also contempt of the said High Court. I would also like to mention here that Justice Khosla who was a Member of the said three Member Bench wrote a book namely "Murder of Mahatma and cases from Judges Note Book", where in it has been mentioned that Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh had no role in the assassination of Gandhiji. Not only this, even after 19 years of this verdict Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh has been made to account for this incident many times. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): He is lying and misleading the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded. Nothing excepting the speech of Shri Rakesh Singh will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What are you doing? Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: It is due to people like these that an atmosphere of confusion is created in the country. I would like to say that they are misleading the country. ...(Interruptions) That is why they do not want this issue to be raised in the House. For 19 years now. ...(Interruptions) they have misled the country. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you doing. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Please listen what I want to say further. They have misled the entire country. After 19 years attempts have been made to put the Government in the dock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: I am concluding in one minute.

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Kapur commission was constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice Shri Kapur. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Kapur Commission presented its report in 1969 after recording the evidence of 101 witnesses and examining 407 documentary proofs. I want to tell what the Commission stated in its report. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rakesh Singhji what do you want, please tell what are you demanding?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Sir, I want to make my speech complete. They said in their statement that there is no proof that they i.e. criminals were the members of Sangh. They were not satisfied with the activities of Sangh. They used to regard the sports, physical exercise etc. as meaningless exercises. They believed in extreme and violent activities. This has been stated at page No.165, section 1 of the report. Thereafter it has been mentioned at page 186, section 1 of the report of Kapur Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, this is not correct. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, this should not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am just concluding after making my last point. It proves that the Commission has accepted that Sangh was not involved in any way in the murder of Gandhiji.

Sir, to repeat such things time and again smacks of a conspiracy. ...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistryji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Sir, I would like to tell that the people who are behind this should be identified and exposed by the Central Government. Strict action should be taken against those Ministers and officers involved in this. ...*(Interruptions)* This is tantamount to misleading the nation and also contempt of court. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next is Shri Ganesh Singh. Mr. Singh try to conclude within one minutes' time.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue which I want to raise here has already been discussed in the morning, nevertheless I want to raise the issue again. The violent demonstration in Lucknow against the publication of objectionable cartoons regarding the symbol of a religious faith in newspapers in Denmark crossed all limits. Not only this, the Office of BJP was attacked and bombed, why all this was done? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Sir, the hon. Minister has already given a reply in the House on this issue.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Reply has been given on this issue in the morning.

* Not recorded.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: The anger was against Denmark, regarding objectionable cartoons hurtful to symbols of a religious faith, against the USA on Iran issue and against the present UPA Government but the office of BJP was put on fire, this is highly objectionable. It clearly brings out that people of a particular religion are conspiring against BJP. ...*(Interruptions)* Such incident was not an isolated one but took place in many other States of the country and in their religious capitals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel that such violent demonstrations are giving dangerous signals to the country. I think a similar incident has also taken place elsewhere in which the picture of Bharat Mata was portrayed in bad taste by making a cartoon. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been mentioned.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying another thing, the symbols of religion — whether they belong to any religion, if anyone is trying to incite the feelings of people by portraying them in such a bad taste, the country and its Government should be concerned. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a matter of concern that no untoward incident take place on a large scale. ...*(Interruptions)* My demand is that strict action should be taken against them and a CBI inquiry be conducted into this incident. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia — Not present.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan — Not present.

Shri Prasanna Acharya.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 21 big Printing Presses run by the Government of India, and one of them is situated at Bhubaneswar in Orissa. In the last year, that is, on 1st February the Union Cabinet had taken a decision to privatise three out of the 21 Printing Presses, namely, at Bhubaneswar, Bangalore and Chandigarh.

All the three Printing Presses were set up in 1973. The Government of West Germany had gifted it under the UNICEF programme. The Bhubaneswar Printing Press is making profit since then with less number of employees, less investment and without modern machinery. But, surprisingly, the other Printing Presses like the one at

Kolkata and Asansol are running at a loss. Some more investment was made in those Printing Presses a few years back, but even now those Printing Presses are running at a loss.

The Comptroller and Auditor General has also pointed it out and passed strictures, but surprisingly, instead of privatising those printing presses which are running in losses, the Union Government on 1st February had taken a decision to sell those printing presses which are running in profit, including the one which is at Bhubaneswar. I do not understand this. The Government of Orissa has given more than hundred acres of land, during that time, for those printing presses. It is making profit with less number of workers. No more investment is required in those printing presses, but the Government has taken a decision to sell the profit-making printing presses instead of the loss-making printing presses.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I do not understand the logic behind it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: My demand is that the Government should change the decision and instead of selling those profit-making printing presses, some more investments should be made to modernise them. Instead of selling profit-making printing presses, the Government should sell those printing presses which are running in losses.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am raising this question as a matter of public interest. All the schemes presently pending before Central Offices of Govt. of India to construct by-passes for solving the problem of congestion of traffic in the cities of Rajasthan be cleared. One such scheme of constructing bypass in the eastern part of Jaipur for solving the problem of congestion of traffic is under consideration. A bye pass leading to Sikar road has been constructed in the west, similarly a subway has been constructed for Jaipur-Bikaner and the same is being extended and connected to Jaipur-Delhi National Highway. But no action has been taken by the central Govt. so far for constructing subway and connecting it to Ajmer-Agra (N.H.8). The land will be

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

acquired for the site where bye pass has to be constructed. I request that the problem of congestion of traffic be solved and bye pass be constructed at the locations where land is lying vacant, where no construction work has been made and the land is useless for farmers and full compensation and other facilities be made available for the land to the farmers who are offering their land voluntarily.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is why I demand from the Central Govt. that approval be granted for construction of bye pass in the eastern side of Jaipur city and sanction be accorded with release of funds for the proposals for construction of by-pass in other cities of Rajasthan which are under consideration of the Central Govt. From this the major problem of congestion of traffic in Jaipur will be dealt with.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Minister of Communications that the BSNL network in Bangalore in particular and in Karnataka in general is very poor. When I was in Bangalore for a week, I was flooded with complaints from the people of Bangalore that the BSNL network is not being received and, even if it is received, the quality of the service is so poor that the people got vexed with the BSNL network. The private network services are not dependable. More than one-and-a-half lakh people have got BSNL connections in Bangalore Metro City, and they are not satisfied with the services of BSNL. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister, through you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to set right the wrong and the sufferings of the poor people, who are mostly dependent on BSNL network. The BSNL network is considered to be good in other Metros of this country. Therefore, it may kindly be rectified.

19.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Govt. toward a very important issue. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India issued a direction under the Motor Vehicles

Act on January 1, 2006 in accordance with which a truck cannot carry a load of more than 9 tonnes, a turbo not more than 25 tonnes. From this 40% loading in each truck has been reduced. The burden of soaring prices on common men increased from it because the prices of everything, be it building material or food material, has increased. I request that there is an urgent need to amend the M.V. Act if it (Motor Vehicles Act) is seen in present perspective. It will not be proper if we say that only 9 tonnes of goods would be carried by a truck and only 16 tonnes would be carried by a turbo because the infrastructure of road is very good today and the condition of roads have improved sufficiently since the implementation of Golden Quadrilateral Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna. Besides this, the technical capacity of trucks has also improved a lot. Hence, it would not be proper to say that loadings should not go beyond a limit keeping in mind a 40 years old Act. Our economy is being affected adversely from it. I belong to the area of Udaipur Rajasthan, where there is a marble market.

Udaipur, Rajasamand and Kishangarh are such areas from where marble is exported. It is a matter of pride for our country that the marble being exported by us compete with the Italian marble. I want to draw your attention that on the one hand upper limit for carriage of goods for trucks has been fixed at 9 tonnes and 16 tonnes for turbos, whereas the marble blocks of export quality have at least the weight of 20-25 tonnes. In such a situation we cannot load that on trucks by cutting it and when the complete block is loaded it becomes a case of overloading. There must be some relaxation for loading marbles in the Motor Vehicles Act so that the export of marble may continue uninterrupted and our revenues may not decrease. The Govt. should provide exemptions for marble blocks under this Act.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One has also to pay taxes again and again for this.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: I want to say that they may impose road tax on it if they feel like it, so that the more one loads, the more will he have to pay taxes. It is right if it is done so but it will not be right to restrict the loadings to 9 tonnes. One thing that is specially done in it is that where excess goods are loaded, the same is unloaded. It is very impractical because the marble blocks are unloaded on the road itself. They do not have any such facility whereby unloaded goods may be kept secure.

It is a very impractical thing. The prices in the country are soaring day by day due to it. In such a situation, the Govt. should do justice to the marble industry by amending this act. I expect that the Govt. will certainly take some action on it.

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue relating to Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bellary in Karnataka.

Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bellary has been upgraded to a three-section school in the year 2003. Consequently, the number of students seeking admission in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bellary has been increasing day-by-day. However, there has been no increase in the number of teachers. As a result of that, there are a lot of vacant posts of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bellary currently. In addition to this, the Vidyalaya is in need of another Trained Graduate Teacher (Mathematics) for the coming academic year, 2006-07, as per the latest staff sanction order. No teachers on contractual basis are available locally. There is an urgent need to fill up these vacant posts so that teaching will not suffer as a result of shortage of teachers.

Since this is a major problem being faced by the students in the Vidyalaya, I urge upon the Union Government to take urgent steps to fill the vacancies of regular staff in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bellary, Karnataka.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora.): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have just returned from the tour of my parliamentary constituency tomorrow. There are no means of irrigation in hilly area of Uttaranchal and the farming depends on the sources of rainy water there. There has been no rainfall there from September 2005 to 21 February, 2006. Therefore, the sources of drinking water have gone dry and no means of irrigation are left. All the crops stand destroyed due to shortage of rainfall even in December and January. No fodder for animals/livestock is available and drinking water is also not available as it depends upon the rainfall. People are already suffering due to price hike. The programme of drought relief has not been commenced immediately after conducting the survey. Despite requests having been made to the Govt. to make all the three arrangements viz. drought relief, drinking water for human consumption and fodder for the cattle,

neither any survey was carried out nor any policy was framed in that direction. I just want to say that despite apparent prosperity, a state of despair can be seen all around us. The Sensex is touching new heights and yet the people of the country are distressed due to drought, inflation, scarcity of drinking water, lack of fodder for the cattle. I demand that the Government should immediately take cognizance of the situation and attend to the problems faced by the people in the hilly regions of Uttaranchal and the other regions adjacent to the Himalayas.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to you. I would like to draw your attention towards the condition of BSNL in Bihar. As the Hon. Member has just said, I would also like to draw the attention of the government towards this issue, through you. BSNL is in a sorry state in Bihar, specially, the Cell One system is not in working condition. Even if you try for twenty times, you would not get the number connected. In my view, the BSNL system is not working efficiently, not only in my parliamentary constituency Patna, but in the whole of Bihar and, as some Hon. Members have pointed out, also in the whole of the country. I fail to understand why BSNL mobile connections do not work where as mobile connections of private companies, which get their licences from BSNL, work perfectly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please state what you want to convey.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon. Ministers are present here and they are listening to me. I had personally requested the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister of State belongs to my state and I had drawn his attention towards the plight of the people and requested him to find a solution to the problems being faced by the people. Even now people prefer BSNL mobiles and Cell One over other mobile services. If BSNL does not improve its services people would start giving up their BSNL phone connections. People in Bihar, Patna have started surrendering the BSNL phones and buying private mobile connections, be it Airtel, Reliance or other any other company. Today there is cut throat competition amongst the mobile service providers. Infact, the Government is suffering the loss. Mobile bills are not received regularly and if they are at all received they are generally incorrect. Therefore, I would request that the services of BSNL and Cell One mobile service should be improved so that people get better services. Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister is

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

present here. It seems that he has not paid attention to what I have been saying. I am raising such-an important issue of public concern but the Minister is not paying any attention towards it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is listening to you.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, you may also be using Cell One services. Generally many Hon. Members use Cell One mobile services. I would like to request the hon. Minister to take note of this problem and convey it to the concerned Minister with a request to take expeditious action in this regard so that the bad performance of BSNL Cell One in Patna, Bihar and other parts of the country could be improved and people may get some relief.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, Tsunami has caused great devastation in terms of life, property, environmental damages, fishery changes and several other related developments. Sir, in this aspect, may I invite your kind attention to the fact that several countries where Tsunami has affected, have initiated 'impact assessment studies' to gauge the changes in the socio-economic, geological, environmental and fishery aspects. In the backwaters of Kerala, the fishermen are very strongly protesting and demanding for conducting such ecological studies to understand the fishery changes that have occurred due to Tsunami.

There have also been media reports cautioning the change in the habit of several species of fishes like the puffer fish causing severe damages to the fishing gears. I would like to know about any post-Tsunami studies or research conducted in the inland sector in Kerala particularly by the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute having its regional unit in Alappuzha. In this context, I was very disappointed to note that I have not come across any serious research programme to elicit the post-Tsunami changes in the backwaters and inland sector of Kerala to assess the ecological status vis-a-vis the fishery resources. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want in this regard?

DR. K.S. MANOJ: There is a move to shut down the only Inland Fishery Research Unit of ICAR in Kerala and shift it to Bangalore. I urge upon the Government to continue and strengthen the CIFRI unit of ICAR in Alappuzha by providing staff and equipment to conduct new studies on the impact of Tsunami in inland fishing

sector.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati P. Sathidevi – Not present

Shrimati C.S. Sujatha – Not present

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the funds allocated to the Rajasthan Government for providing post-matric scholarship to students of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes to enable them to pursue higher education are utterly inadequate.

Sir, the population of Rajasthan comprises of 18 per cent Scheduled Caste, 16 per cent Scheduled Tribes and nearly 52 per cent Other Backward Classes. The students belonging to these categories studying in colleges, universities, medical and engineering institutions have to repeatedly approach the Government to get their scholarships. Angry students had recently gheraoed the Department of Social Welfare and had registered their strong protest.

Sir, the Rajasthan government had requested for an allocation of Rs.90 crores from the Union Government for this purpose but the Union Government made an actual allocation of only Rs.30 crores. The State Government had demanded Rs. 23 crores for the Scheduled Castes but only Rs.6 crores have been allocated. Similarly, Rs.26 crores were demanded for Scheduled Tribes but only Rs.9 crores have been allocated. Funds to the tune of Rs.52 crores were requested for other Backward Classes but only Rs.2-3 crores have been provided for this category.

Sir, earlier this scholarship was given to students living in hostels but now it is granted only to students studying in government institutions. I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that students belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and OBCs are not able to deposit their fees because they have not received their scholarships and as a result the institutions are not allowing them to sit for examinations. Hence, I request the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, through you, that he should order an investigation into the matter of grant of post-matric scholarships. There are no rules for making allocation for this purpose. I urge that clear rules in this regard should be formulated so that SC, ST and OBC students may get scholarships in time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dushyant Singh – not present.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, you know that there is a Nanava Tehsil in the Nandurwar district of Maharashtra from where Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gaviti, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs hails. It is also his constituency. More than 9 lakh poultry birds have been destroyed. Yesterday our Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawarji assuring the House said that a compensation of Rs.40/- each bird would be given on 50-50 sharing by the Government of India and Government of Maharashtra. My demand is that there should be an inquiry into how and where this disease broke out and whether it was caused by some problem in eatables. I demand that the compensation for each bird is not enough it should be increased to Rs.60/- per bird.

[English]

*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, a new railway line between Maddur and Tumkur via Kestur, Huliur durga, Hebbur, Nagavalli, Honnuduke cross, Gulur has to be laid immediately as the traffic on this route is going out of control. The heavy road traffic is causing accidents more frequently. The people of this entire area are demanding for this new railway line for a very long time. This railway line will be more convenient to the passengers travelling towards Shira, Hiruyur, Davanagere and Chitradurga. This direct route will not only save the money and time of the passengers. This new railway line will enable the entire area to flourish in its business activities.

I am making this demand repeatedly and urging the Union Government to take up the construction work of this new railway line. In fact, hon. Members of Parliament Shri Suddeshwara and Shri Hanumanthappa from Davanagere and Chitradurga constituencies respectively have made this demand earlier. The people of this area are expecting that this long pending railway construction will get the green signal from the hon. Railway Minister Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav.

I hope that Centre would respond to our demand positively and start the construction of the above mentioned railway line. I thank you Sir and with these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi
— Not present

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is an open secret that a number of requests are received regarding admission in all educational institutions whether it is for primary, junior or higher

education. I think all hon. Members from treasury benches as well as from opposition are getting requests in this regard. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has fixed a quota of two admissions for each hon'ble Member in one year. Our parliamentary constituencies are quite big in size having population of 15-16 lakh and the pressure for admission is quite high. Hence either this quota should either be scrapped or increased. I think all the hon'ble Members support it. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Minister, Sir it is a very serious issue and it should be noted. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree with it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I, through you, would like to request to hon'ble Minister that it should either be scrapped or increased. Specially my demand is that provision should be made to allow hon'ble Ministers to make recommendations for admission in Government institutions or Inter Colleges, Degree colleges. It is sure that we shall not make recommendations for students having no merit. There are many students who secure high marks but cannot get admission. At least such students should be helped to get admission. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It would be better if convent schools are also included in it.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon'ble Minister should collect information in this regard. It causes lot of hardship for us. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is listening.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Quota should either be scrapped or increased.

[English]

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Sir, I will bring it to the notice of the HRD Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address will continue tomorrow also.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 22nd February, 2006 at 11.00 a.m.

19.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, February 22, 2006/Phalgun 3, 1927 (Saka).

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

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