

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



Committee & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. FB-025
Block 'G'
Acc. No.....14.....
Dated.....1 Aug. 2007.....

(Vol. XXIX contains Nos. 11 to 17)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

P.D.T. Achary
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

A.K. Singh
Joint Secretary

Harnam Dass Takker
Director

Vandna Trivedi
Joint Director-I

Prabhakar Mohanty
Joint Director-II

Nalin Kumar
Assistant Editor

[Original English Proceedings included in English Version and Original Hindi Proceedings included in Hindi Version will be treated as authoritative and not the translation thereof.]

CONTENTS

[Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXIX, Eleventh Session, 2007/1929 (Saka)]

No. 13, Friday, August 31, 2007/Bhadra 9, 1929 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS	
Re: Need to set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee to examine the various aspects of Indo-US Civil Nuclear deal in the context of the statement made by the Government on the issue, outside the Parliament, even though the House is in Session	1-11
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 261 to 280	12-51
Unstarred Question Nos. 2595 to 2751	51-307
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	307-318
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA	
AND	
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA	318
ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER	
Cancellation of sitting of the House	319
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	
Statements	319
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES	
Twentieth Report	320
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	
(i) Follow-up action on the recommendations contained in the report of high level committee headed by Justice Rajinder Sachar on the Social, Economic and Educational status of the Muslims Community of India	
Shri A.R. Antulay	321-328

- (ii) Status of implementation of the components of Bharat Nirman relating to the Ministry of Rural Development

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh

329-334

- (iii) Status of implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA)

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh

...

334-338

- (iv) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 170th Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests, pertaining to the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology

Shri Kapil Sibal ...

339

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Eighth Report ...

...

...

...

...

339

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

...

...

340-348

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

- (i) Formulation and implementation of Comprehensive Food and Nutrition Security Scheme

Shri Francis Fanthome ...

...

...

349

Shrimati Archana Nayak ...

...

...

...

350

Shri Adhir Chowdhury

...

...

...

351

Shrimati Karuna Shukla ...

...

...

...

356

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav ...

...

...

360

Shri Devwrat Singh...

...

...

370

Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria

...

...

374

Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh

...

...

377

Shri Naveen Jindal

...

...

...

...

...

393

- (ii) Free, compulsory and uniform education upto Higher Secondary Level in the country

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav ...

...

...

...

401

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	413-414
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	413-424
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	425-426
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	425-528

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Shri Chamjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Shri Giridhar Gamang

Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan

Shri Arjun Sethi

Shri Mohan Singh

Shrimati Krishna Tirath

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Shri P.D.T. Achary

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 31, 2007/Bhadra 9, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Need to set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee to examine the various aspects of Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal in the context of the statement made by the Government on the issue, outside the Parliament, even though the House is in Session

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of question of privilege in your office...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not received it yet, but *[English]* let it come to me. I will see. It is not a matter to be decided here, unless I ask you to raise it. It is a privilege matter.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I have given it in your office at 9.30...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

[English]

You have the right.

[Translation]

What is happening? I can listen to none in this way. You have the right to give notice of question of privilege.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : This House has been insulted, Pranab Mukherjeeji gave a statement yesterday that Indo-US...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am only saying that it should not be a matter to be discussed here. You are very well aware of it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will certainly look at it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me consider it. I will consider it. You can mention it after the Question Hour. I will allow you to mention it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The House is in Session...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us go to the Question Hour.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : What purpose will the Question Hour serve the whole country is discussing that the decision with regard to this matter of national interest is being taken by the Congress Party and the Communist Parties that they will put it on hold...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All right, speak one by one but finish it in two minutes. Please say what you want to say.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I would like to say to you that the issue of India Nuclear deal is being discussed in the House regularly for last so many days. It was decided that a debate would be held on this issue. Several demands were put up before the Government before starting debate in this regard, but Pranab Mukherjee Saheb in consultation with the Communist Parties has given a statement outside the House yesterday. The House is in Session, but he did not make any statement here. He stated outside that they are putting its operationalization on hold. The Congress and the Communist Party...
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have received your notice of question of privilege dated 31 August, 2007 regarding announcement of agreement between the Government and the Left parties to put the operationalisation of the Indo-US Nuclear Deal on hold and also set up a Joint Committee, outside the House while the House is in Session.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It is operationalisation....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please have mercy on me! I cannot even read a simple one.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The matter is under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : This is under your consideration....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right, I have heard you, now I'll listen to him. Please sit down, let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is one of our respected Opposition leaders.

[Translation]

Please speak. You will also be called.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, a meeting of Business Advisory Committee was held yesterday. It was decided even in that meeting that this matter will be discussed on 10th. Priya Ranjan Dasgupta had said that time would be fixed with the consent of hon. Prime Minister. In the meantime, the matter was discussed in this House several times, sometimes the statement of Indian Ambassador in America was discussed and sometimes the nuclear deal, actually the country is apprehensive of the deal.

I feel that this is not a family matter, this is related to the country. Had it been a family matter. Manmohan Singhji and members of Communist Party could have discussed and solved the matter by themselves, but making an announcement of constituting a Committee outside the House when the matter is related to the country and the House is in Session, is an insult to the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right, I will see to it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : In such circumstances I would request you to use the privilege of the Speaker. The matter should be looked into by the JPC constituted for this purpose. A separate Committee should not be constituted for this purpose as the matter is related to the country.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Business Advisory Committee decided yesterday only that the nuclear deal would be discussed on 10th. All the parties have their doubts in this regard and for removing these doubts if it is necessary to constitute a Committee then it should be the one which has the trust of all the parties.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit through you that if the Government have to constitute any Committee, it should be JPC only. I urge upon the Government that if any Committee is required to be formed, it has to be JPC only....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak) : In the past, many times, this kind of a discussion had arisen on the floor of the House. The Chair, on different occasions, had ruled that when the House is in Session, announcements regarding important matter of policy as well as on such other important matters, should not be made outside the House. Now, the House is not only in Session, but it is also seized of this matter. Rightly, you have also directed the Government and all the hon. Members have also agreed that a discussion will be held very soon. As I understand, it is going to take place on the 10th or 11th of September. When the House is in Session and when the House is seized of this matter, how can the Government declare the constitution of a particular Committee outside the House and why can it not make it inside the House? Why is the Government afraid of making the announcement of constituting such a committee inside the House? So, this is rightly a matter of privilege and I would request you to give your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : I will consider. I have said that already. You are entitled to raise it and I have said that I will consider.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buidhana) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by Prabhunath Singhji that left parties and Congress have appointed a Committee with regard to nuclear deal between India and US, and say that the matter concerns the entire nation. If it is so, all parties should be taken into confidence. A Joint Parliamentary Committees have been appointed for several issues raised in the past. It is my request that a Joint Parliamentary Committee be appointed for this also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will consider the matter.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, the question is whether the Government is going to withdraw that Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : How can I say that? I have heard you. The Minister wants to say something.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Government withdraw it and appoint a JPC....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to say something.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, I respectfully submit through you, to the entire House that on the very important issue of the nuclear deal, the hon. Prime Minister, on the first opportunity in this House, came and made the statement; and he made a further commitment that on the basis of that statement, whatever discussion is required in the House, shall take place and the Government will reply all the concerns. This is the first part.

The second part is that in every coalition, there can be discussions. I can cite three examples. If there is a difference between the coalition partners at political level or at any other level, the coalition partners sit, sort out the issues and solve them. The first example is in the POTA case. I can produce before the Parliament, umpteen number of reports....(Interruptions) Sir, should I not be allowed?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You let him respond.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him have his say.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We heard, when you spoke. Why do you not let me speak?...
(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : What happened and what did not happen....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Malhotra, I have heard you and the House has heard you. The Minister wants to respond now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : On the issue of reservation, I remember the House was in Session and after prolonged discussion between Chandrababu Naidu of TDP and DMK, the Government came out to have the Joint Session in spite of the fact that the House was in Session....(Interruptions) Please listen to me. Otherwise, I will sit down. I will not respond. You can do whatever you like. You should at least show minimum courtesy to the Minister when he is responding.

Sir, it is certainly the property of the House. With all respect to the House, Prime Minister's Statement should be only debated in the House. Government's response to all concerned should be only made in the House. But between the parties, between the partners who are supporting the Government, if politically we sit together and find out how to settle the issue, I do not understand how does it matter to the BJP?... (Interruptions) No, not at all. It is not a Government Committee. I Promise, on behalf of the Prime Minister, and assure that before the debate

is taken place and the reply is given, the Leader of the Opposition and each Party Leader will be invited and informed as to how we are going to shape it at this stage.

Secondly, I mandate it to communicate to the House today...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a JPC should be constituted to this...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Our Government did not take any decision with regard to the formation of JPC. UPA and Left Parties can talk thousand times on any legislation before it comes to the House. How does it matter? When the House will form a Committee or the Government will form a Committee, each Party should be taken into confidence. It is not a Government Committee. It is not a Government decision. It is not a Ministerial direction. It is not a Government Notification....
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter which concerns the whole country, not UPA.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Bengaluru) : Why did you address the Media?... (Interruption)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : No, I deny it....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear the Leader of the House. Kindly give him a patient hearing.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Sir, most respectfully I would like to submit, I have read in the newspaper, sometimes

Members have also expressed their views, but on this issue and on your ruling itself the Constitutional position is quite clear. Any international agreement, of which we have signed many, has never been subjected to any scrutiny of any Parliamentary Committee at any point of time since 26 January, 1950 the day we adopted this Constitution...
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Let me please complete. You can give your views but let me first complete. I will not take more than five minutes. Even with regard to important agreements like Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty in 1971, the House was just informed after the completion of the Treaty. Therefore, had the Government constituted any Committee, surely the representation of all political Parties representing Parliament could have been taken into consideration. But this is an internal arrangement between the UPA and its supporters...(Interruptions)

SOME HON MEMBERS : No, no...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : It is not a domestic matter, this issue is related to the sovereignty of the country....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Yes, this is an internal arrangement. I strongly refute to appoint any JPC in respect of Indo-US Nuclear Deal. The Power which has not been vested by the Constitution cannot be obtained by the Members of Parliament simply by shouting and resorting to the disruption of the House. On behalf of the Government, I am making it quite clear that there will be no formation of Joint Parliamentary Committee to discuss

the Indo-US Nuclear Deal. This is my submission...
(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : We do not agree to it....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Md. Salim, please take your seat. Shri Mistry, please take your seat. Please sit down. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Salim, Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Malhotra, please allow me to speak. You wanted to make an observation. It has been made and I allowed other hon. leaders also who wanted to speak on this. Today, you have submitted a privilege motion. I have said that please allow me to go through it. I will certainly take a decision. I cannot immediately say anything.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the print is whether parliamentary committee would be set up or not?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting you to let the House continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : You had supported it...*(Interruptions)* BJP had supported it ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

You had supported...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All of you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I would request you to allow the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not want the House to continue?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not want the House to continue. What can I do?

*Not recorded.

11.16 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri D.V. Sadanand Gowda and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Hike in Wages under NREGS

*261. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount being paid as wages under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is not the same in all the States;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to hike the wages being paid thereunder; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Section 6(1) of the NREG Act provides that the Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of the Act. Section 6(2) further provides that until such time a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. Central Government has not fixed a wage rate under NREGA for any of the States. Therefore, the minimum wages notified for agricultural labourers under Minimum Wages Act by the State Governments are applicable to NREGA. As such, the wages under NREGA are not the same in all the States. A statement indicating the prevailing minimum wages for agricultural labourers notified by State Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and as applicable to NREGA in various States is enclosed as Statement

(c) and (d) Fixation of wage rate under Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is within the Jurisdiction of the State Governments.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State/District	2007-08 Prevailing Wage rate under NREGA (Rs./Day)
1	2	3
1.	Assam	Rs.66.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 80.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Area-I Rs. 65.00 Area-II Rs. 67.00
4.	Bihar	Rs. 77.00
5.	Gujarat	Rs. 50.00
6.	Haryana	Rs. 99.21
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 75.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	Rs. 70.00
9.	Karnataka	Rs. 74.00
10.	Kerala	Rs. 125.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 67.00
12.	Maharashtra	Rs. 72, Rs. 70, Rs. 68 and Rs. 66 respectively for Zone I, II, III, IV
13.	Manipur	Rs. 81.40 for Hill and Valley

1	2	3
14.	Meghalaya	Rs. 70.00
15.	Mizoram	Rs. 91.00
16.	Nagaland	Rs. 100.00
17.	Orissa	Rs. 70.00
18.	Punjab	
	Hoshiarpur	Rs. 95.00
	Jalandhar	Rs. 93.00
	Nawanshar	Rs. 94.91
	Amritsar	Rs. 95.00
19.	Rajasthan	Rs. 73.00
20.	Sikkim	Rs. 85.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 80.00
22.	Tripura	Rs. 60.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 100.00
24.	West Bengal	Rs. 70.00
25.	Chhattisgarh	Rs. 66.70
26.	Jharkhand	Rs. 76.68
27.	Uttaranchal	Rs. 73.00

Community Sanitation Complexes

*262. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up

community sanitation complexes in every village under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and also the extent of any external assistance received for this purpose;

(c) whether any preference is given to SC/ST families and to people living below poverty line under the said programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Community sanitation complexes are not proposed to be set up in every village. Under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), priority is given to individual household toilets (IHHL). However, Community complexes can be constructed only when there is lack of space in the village for construction of household toilets. Such complexes can also be made at public places, markets, etc. where large scale congregation of people takes place. Its maintenance is to be done by Gram Panchayat or it has to make alternative arrangements at the village level. The maximum unit cost prescribed for the community complex is upto Rs. 2 lakhs, with a sharing pattern between the Centre, State and Community in the ratio of 60:20:20. The community contribution can be given by the Panchayat also. No external assistance is taken for this purpose.

(c) and (d): Under TSC projects, all households below poverty line (BPL), including Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) are to be provided with toilets. The Scheme provides for subsidy to BPL households, including SC/ST, in the construction of toilets. The cost of the toilet is shared between the Center, State and Beneficiary in the ratio of 60:20:20, for toilets costing upto Rs. 1500.00.

High Charges by Credit Card Companies

*263. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that credit card companies / banks are charging high rates of interest on the balance amount and also levy heavy charges for their services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has prescribed any norms in this regard and a ceiling on the fees for credit card companies/ banks to prevent the exploitation of common man;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to issue directions to credit card companies / banks for taking reasonable charges?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Credit Card operations of banks, including interest rates and other charges, have been deregulated except that banks should have a minimum networth of Rs.100 crore to undertake the business either independently or in tie-up arrangement with other banks. However, in order to ensure that banks / Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) run their credit card operations in a fair and regulated manner, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a Master Circular on Credit Card Operations on 2nd July, 2007. These guidelines cover various issues concerning credit card operations, like adoption of fair practices code for credit card operations, interest rates and other charges, protection of customers against wrongful billing, liabilities and responsibilities of the banks in respect of Direct Sales Agents (DSAs) / Direct Marketing Agents (DMAs) / Recovery Agents engaged by them, protection of consumer rights, redressal of grievances, setting up of internal control system to combat frauds, etc.

(c) and (e): In order to ensure transparency in banking services, RBI has issued instructions to banks on 16th May, 2006, to display and update the details of various service charges in the prescribed format on their websites and in their offices / branches. While fixing the service charges,

the banks are expected to ensure that the charges are reasonable, consistent with the cost of providing the services and that the customers with low value / volume of transactions are not penalized. Further, vide its instructions dated 20th July, 2006, RBI has advised the banks that the service charges and fees may be placed on the home page of their websites at a prominent place under the title of 'Service Charges and fees' so as to facilitate easy access to the bank customers. The banks are also required to provide a complaint form along with the name of the nodal officer for redressal of the complaint, on the homepage itself to facilitate complaint submission by the customers.

RBI has advised the banks that the annualized percentage rate (APR), the method of calculation of APR, late payment charges including the method of calculation, the manner in which the outstanding unpaid amount is to be included for calculation of interest, etc. on credit card dues should be indicated by card issuing banks in the 'Welcome Kit' and monthly statement. Banks have also been advised to be transparent in fixing their interest rate / service charge on credit card dues and include the above in the Most Important Terms and Conditions (MITCs). Further, credit card scenario is being constantly monitored and instructions to banks on their credit card operations are issued by the RBI, on an ongoing basis.

The Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006 has been notified w.e.f. 1st January, 2006 enlarging the scope of the scheme to cover customer complaints in areas such as levying service charges without prior notice to the customer, non-adherence to the Fair Practices Code as adopted by the banks, credit card complaints, deficiency in providing the services assured by the banks through their agents, etc.

Merger of Nationalised Banks

*264. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to merge one nationalised bank with the other nationalised bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when the merger of these banks will be made effective;

(d) the details of any such merger that has taken place during the last three years; and

(e) the manner in which the Government proposes to protect the interests of the stakeholders and employees of such banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) and (e) Committee on Banking Sector Reforms (Narasimham Committee) had recommended consolidation in the banking sector as part of wider financial sector reforms. Government is of the view that any proposal for consolidation, by way of merger etc., of one nationalised bank with another nationalised bank, should emanate from the concerned banks with Government playing a supportive role as the common shareholder. While supporting any merger proposal, Government will ensure that the interests of the stakeholders and employees of merging banks are adequately protected. On 25.08.2007, the SBI Board has taken a unanimous decision to merge its wholly owned subsidiary, the State Bank of Saurashtra with itself. The State Bank of Saurashtra Board, meeting on the same day, has also taken a unanimous decision to merge the Bank with the State Bank of India.

(d) No nationalised bank has merged with another nationalised bank during the last three years.

Task Force on RRB by RBI

*265. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI has set up a Task Force to suggest measures for enhancing the operational efficiencies of Regional Rural Bank;

(b) whether the Task Force has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI), vide letter dated 11.9.2006, set up a Task Force to deliberate on empowering Regional Rural Bank (RRB) Boards for operational efficiency under the Chairmanship of Dr. K.G. Karmakar, Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

(b) The Task Force submitted its report to RBI on 12.2.2007.

(c) Some of the major recommendations of the Task Force, as reported by RBI are stated below:-

- (1) Increase in the number of Directors on the Boards of RRBs Board upto 15 on selective basis in case of large sized RRBs, created after amalgamation.
- (2) Selection of Chairman of RRBs on merit from amongst a panel of qualifying officers.
- (3) Minimum tenure of 2 years, subject to a maximum of 5 Years for the Chairman.
- (4) The term of nominee directors should not exceed two terms of two years each.
- (5) Need to orient non-official Directors on the Boards of RRBs towards the functions of RRBs and their responsibilities as Nominee Directors.
- (6) RRBs should be subjected to the same level of safeguards and regulatory norms regarding capital adequacy as applicable to commercial banks after the process of amalgamation is over.
- (7) RRBs must have the following Committees: (i) Risk Management Committee (ii) Management Committee (iii) Investment, HR and IT Committee and (iv) Audit Committee.
- (8) Chairman of RRBs, should also be appointed as Members of the Empowered Committee (EC) constituted by RBI.

(9) Matters relating to categorisation of branches, staffing norms and promotion policies and other HR matters may be studied in depth by a Committee/Task Force, set up for the purpose by RBI/Government of India (GOI).

(10) RRBs need to take up computerisation of major areas of operations, Management Information System (MIS) in branches, controlling offices and HO in the next 3 years by adopting an Action Plan.

(11) RRBs may be allowed to deal in Non-resident (External) Rupee Account Scheme (NRE)/Foreign Currency Non-resident Account (Banks) [FCNR(B)]/Forward Contract Regulation Act (FCRA), certificates of deposits, etc. in consortium with sponsor bank and given freedom to place their money in term deposits with any bank.

(12) RRBs may join in consortium finance with sector banks/Development Financial Institutions (DFIs).

(13) Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 may be extended to RRBs.

(14) Provisions under section 80(P) of Income Tax Act may be continued for a further period of 5 years or till the restructuring process is completed, whichever is earlier.

(d) The report is under consideration of RBI. However, some of the recommendations such as minimum tenure of two years for the Chairman, constitution of Committee for Human Resources Policy, computerization of RRBs, RRBs to accept NRE/FCNR deposits, RRBs to join Public Sector Banks for consortium finance, extension of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 to RRBs etc. already stand implemented.

**Deepak Parekh Committee on
Infrastructure Financing**

*266. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee on Infrastructure Financing headed by Mr. Deepak Parekh has submitted its final report;

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

(c) whether any safeguard against utilising forex reserves to finance infrastructure projects has been envisaged; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The Committee on Infrastructure Financing headed by Mr. Deepak Parekh submitted its final report. The Report has recommended measures to develop the domestic debt capital market, to tap the potential of the insurance sector, to enhance the participation of banks, financial institutions and large NBFCs in infrastructure financing, to facilitate equity flows into infrastructure, to induce foreign investments into infrastructure and to utilize foreign exchange reserves for infrastructure development. The report has also made several fiscal recommendations to encourage private finance flows into infrastructure.

A meeting chaired by Finance Secretary was held on 11th July, 2007 to examine the recommendations made in the report. Representatives of RBI, SEBI, IRDA, Department of Financial Sector and Capital Market Division attended the meeting. Some of the major recommendations were discussed in the meeting and action points have been finalised.

(c) and (d) The proposal to utilize foreign exchange reserves envisages that a SPV be established to receive

forex funds from the RBI and lend to Indian companies implementing infrastructure projects in India or to co-finance their ECBs for such projects solely for expenditure outside India. Though this proposal has built in safeguard against monetary expansion, it is understood that the overall framework needs to be consistent with the legal requirements, must exhibit fiscal prudence, ensure integrity of RBI's balance sheet and be consistent with global best practices. It would be ensured, in consultation with RBI, that necessary safeguards are fully incorporated in the modalities decided upon.

**Central Subsidy for Free Power
to Farmers**

*267. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to bear the entire burden of subsidy in the matter of supply of free power to farmers and poor households; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b): The Ministry of Power convened a Conference of Chief Ministers on power sector issues on 28th May, 2007. In the Conference, the States did not raise any demand for bearing the entire burden of subsidy by the Union Government for free power supply to farmers and poor households.

The National Electricity Policy, notified in February, 2005 by the Central Government under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, while laying emphasis on ensuring the recovery of cost of service from the consumers to make the power sector sustainable, provides that a minimum level of support may be required for consumers living below poverty line and consuming only up a specified level, say 30 units/month, in terms of cross-subsidised tariffs; however, tariff for such consumers should also be at least 50% of the average (overall) cost of supply.

The Policy provides that the State Governments may give subsidy to a consumer or a class of consumers to the extent they consider appropriate in terms of section 65 of the Act in which case necessary budget provision would be required to be made in advance so that the utility does not suffer financial problems that may affect its operation. Efforts would be made to ensure that the subsidies reach the targeted beneficiaries in the most transparent and efficient way.

The Conference of Chief Ministers held on 28th May, 2007 also reiterated that where free or subsidised power is provided to a section of consumers, the State Government shall ensure upfront payment of the same to the utilities.

Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns

*268. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received project reports on integrated development of small and medium towns from various States during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Urban development is a State subject. However, the Government of India supports the initiatives of the State Governments by providing financial assistance under centrally sponsored schemes. Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme (IDSMT), a centrally sponsored scheme was initiated during 1979-80 (VIth Five Year Plan) which continued till March 2007. A total number of 1854 towns have been covered and central assistance of Rs. 1069.90 crore has been released against which an expenditure of Rs. 1505.84 crore has been reported by the State Governments under IDSMT. No new projects have

been sanctioned under IDSMT 2005-06 and 2006-07 as IDSMT has been subsumed in Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched in December 2005. One of the components of JNNURM is Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT). The UIDSSMT covers all the town and cities as per 2001 census other than 63 cities covered under Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component of JNNURM.

Under UIDSSMT, a total of 452 projects in 365 cities/towns have been approved by State Level Sanctioning Committees (SLSCs) with approved cost of Rs.7347.66 crore by July 2007. Since inception till July 2007, 1st installment of Additional Central Assistance amounting to Rs.1728.01 crore has been released for 329 projects in 269 towns.

[Translation]

Study on Changes in Weather

*269. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up any centre to undertake any study regarding the recent changes occurred in the pattern of weather; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

However, a Brainstorming meeting was held on June 1, 2007 to discuss need to undertake systematic research on changes that are happening, and likely to happen, over the Indian region alongwith their linkages to the global changes. This meeting was attended by leading experts working on climate change and representatives from all the concerned Ministries. Non-governmental organizations, and academic and scientific institutions were also represented.

The meeting recognized that there are important science issues related to climate change that require to be addressed on priority, and recommended for the launch of a coordinated research programme on climate change. As a major part of this programme, the meeting suggested for the establishment of a dedicated Centre to undertake research on Science aspects of Climate Change at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.

On the otherhand, the National Climate Centre (NCC), Pune of India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been working on analysing the changes in the weather patterns on monthly and seasonal scale. NCC regularly monitors the Changes in the monthly, Seasonal and annual weather and climate patterns over the Indian region and publishes monthly, seasonal and annual climate diagnostic bulletins. These publications present maps of mean patterns of weather elements such as temperature, rainfall, wind, pressure, outgoing long wave radiation etc. over the Indian region at different temporal and spatial scales and discuss the dynamics of the changes in the weather patterns.

NCC also conducts research work on long term changes in various climate elements such as rainfall, temperature, extreme weather etc. For this purpose long time series of climate data available in the data archive of IMD are used.

[English]

Private Power Plants

*270. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI SUBHASH SURESH CHANDRA
DESHMUKH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has permitted the construction of Private Power Plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the projects cleared in the last three years; and

(c) the progress made in the setting up of these plants?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): As per the Electricity Act, 2003, thermal generation has been delicensed and concurrence of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is not required for setting up of thermal power plants including those in the private sector. CEA has accorded concurrence to the following hydro-electric projects in private sector during the last three years. The details of these projects and progress made in respect of each project is as under:-

S. No.	Name of Scheme/ State	Name of the developer	Capacity (MW)	Date of concurrence of CEA	Progress made
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Teesta Stage-III/ Sikkim	M/s. Teesta Urja Ltd.	1200(6x200)	12.05.2006	— Financial closure achieved on 14.8.2007 — Environmental clearance obtained in August, 2007. — Letter of Intent issued on 18.04.2007 for execution of the project on turnkey basis.

1	2	3	4	5	6
					— Infrastructure works are in progress.
					— Commissioning period: 5 years from effective zero date i.e. October, 2006.
2.	Teesta stage-VI/ Sikkim	M/s. Lanco Energy Pvt. Ltd.	500(4x125)	27.12.2006	— Financial closure achieved in July, 2007.
					— Commissioning period: 5 years from effective zero date.
3.	Rangit-IV HEP Sikkim	M/s. JAL Power Corp. Ltd.	120(3x40)	06.07.2007	— Commissioning period: 4-5 years from effective zero date i.e., September, 2007.
Total capacity			1820 MW		

**National Capital Region Planning
Board**

*271. SHRI UDAY SINGH :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be
pleased to state :

(a) whether National Capital Region Planning Board
has recommended various developmental plans and
submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has since examined the
various recommendations made by the board;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the policy of the
Government to provide various developments in the NCR;
and

(e) the efforts being made by NCR Planning Board
to bring in NCR facilities at par with NCT, Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (e)
The NCR Planning Board Act, 1985, enacted by the
Parliament, provides for constitution of a Planning Board
for the preparation of a Plan for the development of the
National Capital Region (NCR) and for coordinations and
monitoring the implementation of such plan for evolving
harmonized policies for the control of land uses and
development of infrastructure in the NCR so as to avoid
any haphazard development of the region and for matters
connected therewith and incidental thereto. The NCRPB
Act, 1985 broadly provides for following two core functions
of the Board.

- Preparation of Regional Plan, Functional Plans
and to arrange and coordinate preparation of
Sub-Regional plans and Project Plans.

- To arrange for and oversee the financing of selected development projects in the NCR through Central and State Plan funds and other sources of revenue.

The Regional Plan and Functional Plans aim at promoting growth and balanced development of the NCR. These Plans are approved by the NCRPB. As per the provisions of the Act, approval of the Government is not required for the said Plans.

The Regional Plan with the perspective of 2001 and Regional Plan with the perspective of 2021 prepared by the NCRPB for the NCR were notified on 23.1.1989 and 17.9.2005 respectively with the approval of the Board. The Board had also prepared the Functional Plan on critical aspects i.e. Functional Plans for Transport, the Functional Plan on Power, the Functional Plan on Telecommunications and the Functional Plan on Industry. With respect to Sub-Regional Plan, the participating State, or as the case may be, the Union territory, shall, after due consideration of the observations made by the Board, finalize the Sub-Regional Plan after ensuring that it is in conformity with the Regional Plan. Two of the participating States namely, U.P. and Rajasthan had also prepared their Sub-Regional Plans. For major cities of the participating States and the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Master Plan as well as various project plans for development of infrastructure have been prepared.

As on 31st March, 2007, the NCRPB has disbursed loans amounting to Rs. 2628 crore for 171 infrastructure projects in the NCR. Out of 171 infrastructure projects, 109 have been completed and 62 are at various stages of completion. Those projects pertain to land development, water supply, power, transport, sewerage and drainage and other areas of infrastructure development.

Setting up of Non-Conventional Energy Power Projects

*272. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is lagging behind other countries in the generation of power from renewable energy sources;

(b) if so, the comparative position of the various countries in the world in this matter;

(c) whether the Government has received a number of proposals in the recent past for setting up of renewable energy projects in the country;

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

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a): No, Sir.

(b): 10,467 MW grid-interactive renewable power generation capacity has been set up in the country as on 30.06.2007, comprising 7231 MW from wind power, 2013 MW from small hydro power, 1221 MW from bio-power and 2 MW from solar power, making the country one of the leading players in the sector, especially in relation to exploitation of estimated potential, details of which are enclosed as Statement. In the case of wind power and small hydropower deployment, the country is placed respectively at fourth and tenth positions globally. In bagasse-cogeneration deployment the country is the leader. However, grid-interactive solar power, whose unit cost of generation is estimated at around Rs. 20/kWh, is yet to attain economic viability in the existing conditions.

(c) to (e): Proposals from state governments as well from private sector for the grant of central financial assistance under the schemes / programmes of the Ministry are received on a regular basis. At times, these proposals are found to be incomplete or not in line with the provisions of the schemes / programmes. Complete proposals are considered and approved subject to budget provisions.

Statement

*Details of estimated potential and deployment of Grid
Interactive Renewable Power in the country as
on 30.06.2007*

S. No.	Renewable Source	Estimated Potential (in MW)	Achievements (as on 30.06.2007) (in MW)
1.	Wind Power	45,195 ¹	7,230.99
2.	Small Hydro Power (upto 25 MW)	15,000 ²	2013.17
3.	Bio Power		
	— Agro residues and Plantations	16,881 ³	542.80
	— Cogeneration- bagasse	5,000 ⁴	634.83
	— Urban and Industrial Waste to Energy	2,700 ⁵	<u>43.45</u>
			1221.08
			1221.08
4.	Solar power	—	2.12
	Total (in MW)	84,776 ⁶	10467.36

MW = Megawatt

Note:-

- (¹) Potential based on areas having wind power density (wpd) greater than 200 W/m² assuming land availability in potential areas @ 1 per cent and requirement of wind farms @ 12 ha/MW, not all of which may be technically feasible and economically viable for grid-interactive wind power. In line with international practice for setting up grid-interactive wind power systems on

sites with wpd greater than 300 W/m², potential is estimated at 5000 MW. Even if sites with wpd greater than 250 W/m² were to be considered, potential is estimated at 15000 MW. Further, preliminary surveys do not at this juncture suggest a sizeable grid interactive offshore wind power potential. In comparison, wind power potential of USA considering sites having wpd greater than 300 W/m² is estimated at 2.0-7.6 million MW assuming PLF @ 25 per cent, depending on severity of land use restrictions. Deployment in the USA is placed at 12,736 MW corresponding to potential exploitation level of 0.17 - 0.64 per cent. In Europe, potential exploitation level for sites having wpd greater than 300 W/m² is estimated at around 1-3 per cent, depending on severity of land use restrictions. As against these, potential exploitation level of 16 per cent has been attained in the country, notwithstanding the lower wpd of 200 W/m², thereby placing it in 4th position globally.

- (²) Technically feasible and economically viable hydro potential is generally accepted at 40% of the total estimated potential. Accordingly, the technically feasible and economically viable small hydropower potential could be around 6000MW of which over 2000MW has already been harnessed, placing the country in 10th position globally.
- (³) Although the potential is based on surplus agro-residues, in practice there are several barriers in collection and transportation of such agro-residues to the generation site and biomass power generation units prefer to use fuel-wood for techno-economic reasons. A potential of 45,000 MWe from around 20mha of wastelands assumed to be yielding 10MT/ha/annum of woody biomass having 4000 k-cal/kg with system efficiency of 30% and 75% PLF has not been taken into account. In order to realize this potential a major Inter-Ministerial initiative

involving, among others, Environment and Forests, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj would be required. Further, a Biomass Atlas is under preparation which is expected to more accurately assess state-wise renewable energy potential from agro-residues.

- (4) With the establishment of new sugar mills and modernization of existing ones, technically feasible potential is assessed at 5000 MWe, not all of which may be economically viable. Furthermore, several sugar companies/cooperatives are unable to develop bankable projects on account of their financial and liquidity positions. Even then, the country is leading in bagasse cogeneration deployment.
- (5) With expansion of urban population post census 2001, current technically feasible municipal waste-to-energy potential is assessed at 1700 MWe, not all of which may be economically viable. However, subsidy disbursement under the municipal waste to energy programme had been kept in abeyance on the orders of the Supreme Court in the case of a PIL, in May 2005. This stay has now been vacated for setting up 5 pilot projects.
- (6) Not all of this renewable energy potential may be suitable for grid-interactive power for technical and/or economic reasons. Further, estimate excludes potential for solar power which is dependent on future developments that might make solar technology cost-competitive for grid-interactive power generation applications.

Tax Exemption to Co-operative Societies and Banks

*273. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE :
SMT. JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether requests for granting exemptions in respect of income tax and service tax to Cooperative Societies/Banks have been received by the Union Government during the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received for restoration of the tax benefit under section 80P of the Income-tax Act for cooperative banks which was withdrawn by the Finance Act, 2006. Similarly, representations have also been received seeking exemption from service tax on services provided by cooperative housing societies to their members.

(c) The request for restoration of the tax benefit under section 80P of the Income-tax Act for cooperative banks has not been found to be acceptable. However, as regards the request for exemption from service tax, the Government has issued notification No.8/2007-Service Tax dated 01/03/2007 so as to fully exempt services provided by a resident welfare association to its members, subject to the condition that the total consideration received from an individual member by said association for providing the said services does not exceed Rs.3,000/- per month.

Kisan Credit Cards

*274. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers who have been provided Kisan Credit Cards during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total amount disbursed to the farmers, till date; and

(c) the total number of farmers benefited by the scheme till March 31, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The number of farmers who have been provided Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) during the last three years, State-wise, is enclosed as statement.

(b) As KCC is a revolving credit limit facility allowing the farmer to draw and deposit amounts of money any number of times within the sanctioned credit limit, Data Reporting System does not maintain information about amounts disbursed to the farmers. However, the total credit limit sanctioned on the KCCs to the farmers is Rs.2,34,724.30 crore (upto 30.06.2007).

(c) The total number of farmers who have been issued KCCs upto 31.03.2007, is approximately 6,65,64,000.

Statement

Sl. No.	State/UTs	No. of Cards Issued		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07+
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	1582480	1345804	1378365
2.	Assam	83416	64963	34117
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4345	2173	1409
4.	Bihar*	231781	209249	279376
5.	Gujarat	209758	238534	216758
6.	Goa\$	2131	2826	597
7.	Haryana	158441	253997	110747
8.	Himachal Pradesh	32191	35170	28908
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	12678	9056	5165
10.	Karnataka	406589	505037	386786
11.	Kerala	318899	240090	317523

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	759448	497855	373557
13.	Maharashtra	590723	778374	1087696
14.	Meghalaya#	10883	9855	11956
15.	Mizoram#	3495	3748	4446
16.	Manipur#	5769	6045	14646
17.	Nagaland#	4277	4321	3948
18.	Orissa	602605	493979	348726
19.	Punjab	152243	179235	114108
20.	Rajasthan	875218	346500	264731
21.	Sikkim#\$	1438	1726	685
22.	Tamil Nadu	614641	527892	518203
23.	Tripura#	10415	11476	9842
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1998378	1333064	1358072
25.	West Bengal	498094	479726	181931
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands#\$	902	364	466
27.	Chandigarh#\$	928	1	0
28.	Daman and Diu@#	0	71	22
29.	New Delhi#\$	1139	658	1013
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	5	12
31.	Lakshadweep@#	75	109	67
32.	Pondichery #\$	5378	5222	
33.	Jharkhand	158472	126633	201057

1	2	3	4	5
34. Chhattisgarh	251944	238537	176068	
35. Uttarakhand	91197	59956	31755	
Total	9680374	8012251	7470240	

#SCB functions as CFA

⊙No Co-op. Bank in these UTs.

+Figures provisional

\$No RRB in these States/UTs.

*Data for Co-operatives under reconciliation

[Translation]

Growth Rate of Banking Sector

*275. DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of growth rate of banking sector activities during the last three years;

(b) whether the growth rate has declined due to rising interest rates;

(c) whether any estimate has been made by the financial experts in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The deposits of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) have increased by 13.0%, 18.1% and 23.7% on year-on-year (YoY) basis during the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. During this period, advances of these banks have increased by 30.9%, 30.8% and 28.0% (YoY) respectively. The profits of SCBs during

the last two years have increased by 16.7% and 24.5% respectively.

(b) to (d) The increase in interest rates due to monetary policy prescriptions has also caused decline in the rate of growth of advances of SCBs during the year 2006-07. This decline has been broadly in alignment with the projections of Reserve Bank of India.

Capacity Addition in Power Plants

*276. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether capacity addition of State run power plants has not increased in the last several years due to short supply of gas and coal to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the concrete steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the funds required in the Eleventh Plan to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) During the course of X Plan, in the State Sector, against a target of 11,157 MW, a capacity to the tune of 6244.6 MW was commissioned. Out of the projects which have slipped from the X Plan original list, no project had slipped due to non availability of coal. However, a gas based project at Karaikal (100 MW) in Puducherry was dropped from the X Plan due to non placement of orders in the absence of requisite gas tie up.

In so far as existing gas and coal based power plants in the State sector are concerned, the loss of generation during the last three years due to shortage of coal and gas has been as under:

Year	Loss of generation due to shortage of coal (MU)	Loss of generation due to shortage of gas (MU)
2004-05	25	2792.92
2005-06	42.66	3874.04
2006-07	Nil	4328.56

As seen from above, due to various measures taken by the Government, no generation loss has been reported by State run plants in year 2006-07 on account of coal shortage. However, to bridge the gap between demand and supply of natural gas, Government of India adopted a multi-pronged strategy which is stated as under:

- Intensification of domestic exploration and production (E and P) activities.
- Exploitation of unconventional sources like Coal Bed Methane (CBM).
- Underground coal gasification
- Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation.
- Encouraging import of gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG); and
- Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

(c) and (d) The Working Group on Power for the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) based on certain assumptions, has estimated a total fund requirement of about Rs. 10,31,600 crores for the power sector as a whole. For creation of projected capacity addition, fund requirement has been assessed at about Rs.4,10,900 crores by the Working Group. Out of the now proposed capacity addition of about 78500 MW as on 30th August, 2007, 2285 MW has already been commissioned and another 51,680 MW

is under construction. Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation have geared up to mobilize funds to ensure that viable projects do not suffer for want of funds. Further, to facilitate financial closure in respect of private sector projects, an Inter Institutional Group, comprising of leading financial institutions and banks, is functional. However, for equity contribution in respect of private sector projects, the developers have to make arrangements from their internal resources, while for meeting the equity requirements in respect of Central and State Sector projects, public sector undertaking/utilities have to make arrangements from their internal resources and/or budgetary support.

Missing of Files from the Office of CAPART

*277. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some files related to unaccounted funds disbursed to various Non Governmental Organisations are missing from the office of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART);

(b) if so, whether any enquiry is being conducted into the matter and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of funds disbursed by CAPART to different NGOs during the last five years in each State indicating the purposes for funding these NGOs; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to check misuse of funds by NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) After physical verification of files at Headquarters/Regional Centres of CAPART, it has been noticed that 4,719 project files shown as ongoing in the electronic data base are not physically present in the various divisions of Headquarters and in the Regional Centres of CAPART.

(b) In order to reconcile the discrepancy between the files physically present in various division / Regional Centres of CAPART and the files shown in CAPART data base, the services of an external independent agency viz. a reputed chartered Accountant firm have been engaged. The report of the agency is expected shortly.

(c) The details of state-wise and year-wise quantum of funds disbursed/ released by CAPART to different NGOs during the last five years are given in the statement enclosed. The NGOs are funded with the purpose to implement rural development projects for the benefit of rural communities.

(d) The measures taken by CAPART to check misuse of funds by NGOs, are given as under:-

- Photographs of the office bearers of the V.O. made necessary at the time of submission of project proposals to bring moral pressure on the members in the implementation of the projects given to them.
- Pre-funding appraisal by the subject matter specialist(s) made mandatory.
- The V.O. has to submit certificate that the concerned project has not received, is not receiving and will not receive or apply for receiving any funding, either completely or partially from any other Governmental, Non-governmental, International or any other agency, for the same project covering the same beneficiaries.
- Sanction orders are endorsed to the respective peoples' representatives (MP, MLA and Panchayat representatives) in addition to the Dist. Collector/ State Govt.
- Information on sanction, etc. are put on the website and published in the CAPART newsletter.
- Beneficiary selection, etc. to be finalised in consultation with the Gram Sabha.
- To ensure transparency, the grant recipient organisations have been instructed to exhibit the particulars of the project/funding source at the project sites.
- Mid-term evaluations are conducted by the empanelled Institutional Monitors and corrections if any, suggested, are ratified.
- Consolidated audited accounts are obtained for the grants disbursed with relevant break-up indicating the local contributions mobilised.
- On obtaining completion report alongwith the audited statement of accounts for the grant released, post-evaluation is ordered.
- On line monitoring of the projects is being introduced.
- Execution of Indemnity Bond by the Chief Functionary of the VO has been introduced.

Statement

Statement showing Amount Released to the VOs in last five years

(Amount in Rupees)

S. No.	Name of State	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Total No. of VOs	Amount Released	Total No. of VOs	Amount Released	Total No. of VOs	Amount Released	Total No. of VOs	Amount Released	Total No. of VOs	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	171	56688188	193	64877764	156	44237625	145	49965760	134	36669016

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	3	201675	3	488225	2	170500	1	125725
3.	Assam	15	2366435	30	4440141	26	6599337	27	6084763	20	4780419
4.	Bihar	187	86944372	180	90805139	48	15880394	52	23846916	42	11375147
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	4207767	3	3601737	3	1186367	7	1796128	10	8176571
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	125625
7.	Delhi	3	306350	2	340000	2	135000	0	0	0	0
8.	Goa	1	32500	0	0	1	32500	0	0	0	0
9.	Gujarat	30	13523652	43	21528993	49	22539525	51	24052172	37	18167289
10.	Haryana	74	37399357	89	40880872	65	24294371	55	19721689	37	11578899
11.	Himachal Pradesh	33	15894637	35	19729322	36	18913085	24	10424228	19	4909697
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	17	8588028	15	6205715	18	5862331	16	7103765	14	3673933
13.	Jharkhand	40	16108526	18	15554105	16	11502087	7	3087850	14	14398411
14.	Karnataka	1	667171	4	4277158	2	1458107	2	212625	1	4235000
15.	Kerala	3	4165305	7	1637955	6	6283292	1	10000	2	1606441
16.	Madhya Pradesh	12	12693671	31	22224524	25	10739314	28	10536861	30	12069103
17.	Maharashtra	47	38394530.3	60	35333588	67	30022691	55	26221799	35	234272283
18.	Manipur	32	4467643	38	9105797	41	7870319	46	9686908	27	3719482
19.	Meghalaya	0	0	3	331499	2	266500	2	277000	0	0
20.	Mizoram	3	412060	4	717040	5	965808	6	730506	5	641575
21.	Nagaland	6	507437	7	728338	8	1417034	10	2372487	7	2045418
22.	Orissa	105	24152947	85	26840145	63	22204909	88	22083677	64	20247764
23.	Pondicherry	2	503120	1	500000	0	0	1	372400	1	62250
24.	Punjab	10	1826899	14	6160311	12	3623753	7	3122290	6	1814392

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
25.	Rajasthan	25	27140942	78	41203499	62	24431614	58	13410397	44	13794881
26.	Sikkim	0	0	1	40000	0	0	2	84000	2	451341
27.	Tamil Nadu	89	34071360	69	23344510	52	17979383	36	12694435	29	7009938
28.	Tripura	4	2119566	10	945611	4	393040	7	1054713	8	865640
29.	Uttar Pradesh	184	49313489	202	58492087	244	72010289	108	32892623	29	9583884
30.	Uttaranchal	35	11321097	39	16299931	49	19502675	28	6700746	14	6728163
31.	West Bengal	101	32756043	76	27718923	78	29065802	70	17266510	40	13768159
Total		1233	486573092.3	1340	544066379	1143	399905377	941	305983748	673	236049446

[Translation]

Volatility in the Share Market

*278. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Sensex has fallen in the month of July-August;

(b) if so, the extent of loss suffered by the shareholders as a result thereof;

(c) the reasons for such a volatility in the share market;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to intervene in the stock market; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The Sensex moved from 14,664.26 at the close of business (cob) on July 2, 2007 to 15,121.74 at the cob on August 30, 2007. The loss or gain arising from movement in stock prices is notional.

(c) The movement of market indices or price of a specific share is a function of perceptions of the investors—domestic and overseas, retail and institutional – about the economy, the sector and the company. This perception is influenced by many factors including macro-economic environment, growth potential of the economy, corporate performance, domestic and international events, and market sentiments.

(d) and (e) The Securities and Exchange Board of India and the Exchanges have put in place systems and practices to promote a safe, transparent and efficient market and to protect market integrity. The Systems include advanced risk management mechanisms comprising on-line monitoring and surveillance, various limits on positions, margin requirements, circuit filters, etc. which reduce the scope for excessive volatility in the market.

[English]

Norms for BPOs

*279. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI has released norms for Business

Process Outsourcing (BPO) firms drawing foreign exchange to buy equipment for new overseas call centres;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the estimated foreign exchange outgo for this move?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India has issued directions to Authorised Dealers (ADs) vide circular dated May 25, 2007 liberalising the norms for Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) firms drawing foreign exchange to buy equipment for new international call centers (ICC) set up abroad.

(b) ADs have been allowed to permit BPO Companies in India to make remittances towards cost of equipment to be installed at their overseas sites subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) The BPO Company should have obtained necessary approval from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India and other authorities concerned with the setting up of ICC abroad.
- (ii) ADs should allow the remittance based on their commercial judgment, the bonafide of the transactions and strictly in terms of the contract.
- (iii) The remittance is directly made to the account of the overseas supplier.
- (iv) ADs should also obtain a certificate as evidence of import from the Chief Executive Officer or auditor of the importer company that the goods for which remittance is made have actually been imported and installed at overseas sites.

(c) The revised policy of RBI simplifies the procedures of undertaking such transactions. It does not increase the outgo of foreign exchange. Further, as no physical imports are involved, the RBI does not have exclusive data on foreign exchange outgo on account of the imports made by BPOs.

Non-Performing Assets

*280. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of Public Sector Banks are getting added up every year through fresh slippages;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years, Bank-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) There are always fresh slippages which add to the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of banks. Despite such fresh slippages the Gross NPAs of public sector banks (PSBs) have decreased from Rs. 42,117 crore as on 31st March 2006 to Rs. 38,957 crore as on 31st March 2007. Bank-wise details of gross and net NPAs of PSBs as on 31st March, 2006 and 31st March, 2007 are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have stipulated certain steps for expeditious recovery of NPAs by PSBs / FIs, which, inter-alia, include evolving and implementing a recovery policy by the banks, filing of suits in civil courts / DRTs, action under SARFAESI Act, 2002, compromise settlement, monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels, etc. The Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005 has been enacted to provide for regulation of credit information companies and to facilitate efficient distribution of credit and thereby arresting fresh accretion of NPSs. Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd. has also been set up by a few select banks to disseminate information on borrowers to the banks enabling them to take informed and considered credit decisions. Due to concerted efforts, the net NPAs of the PABs have reduced from Rs. 18,320 crore (3.11% of net advances) as on 31st March, 2004 to Rs. 14,614 crore (1.18% of net advances) as on 31st December, 2006.

Statement**Gross NPAs and Net NPAs of Public Sector Banks**

(Rs. in Crores)

Bank Group	Name of the Bank	March 2006		March 2007	
		Gross NPAs	Net NPAs	Gross NPAs	Net NPAs
1	2	3	4	5	6
Nationalised Banks	Allahabad Bank	1184	246	1094	440
	Andhra Bank	437	52	397	47
	Bank of Baroda	2390	518	2092	502
	Bank of India	2479	970	2100	632
	Bank of Maharashtra	944	334	820	277
	Canara Bank	1793	879	1493	927
	Central Bank of India	2684	972	2572	878
	Corporation Bank	626	154	625	0
	Dena Bank	949	433	744	365
	IDBI Ltd.	1116	563	1232	722
	Indian Bank	669	177	546	102
	Indian Overseas Bank	1228	224	1120	258
	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2116	163	1454	216
	Punjab and Sind Bank	942	220	291	77
	Punjab National Bank	3138	210	3391	726
	Syndicate Bank	1506	313	1560	391
	UCO Bank	1235	785	1506	1006
	Union Bank of India	2098	834	1873	601

1	2	3	4	5	6
	United Bank of India	744	303	817	333
	Vijaya Bank	540	142	564	144
SBI Group	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	389	187	463	223
	State Bank of Hyderabad	453	75	351	61
	State Bank of India	10376	4906	9998	5258
	State Bank of Indore	363	217	294	159
	State Bank of Mysore	398	86	384	75
	State Bank of Patiala	543	220	524	238
	State Bank of Saurashtra	168	98	128	78
	State Bank of Travancore	610	276	540	268
	Total	42117	14580	38974	15003

[Translation]

Self Help Groups under SGSY

2595. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Self Help Groups (SHGs) constituted so far by the Government under SGSY in Jharkhand;

(b) the number out of them graded as, I, II and others;

(c) the categories to which loans and other assistance have not been provided so far and the reasons for the same; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) As per the information available, a total number of 38799 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) till 31st July, 2007 in the State of Jharkhand.

(b) In Jharkhand, the number of SHGs who have passed Grade-I are 23720 and the number of SHGs who have passed Grade-II are 9279, till 31st July, 2007.

(c) and (d) The number of SHGs who have received financial assistance and have taken up economic activities in Jharkhand till 31st July, 2007, are 15682. Financial assistance under SGSY comprises of town components viz. Loan and subsidy. Subsidy is a minor and enabling component while credit is the key element. The SHGs who meet the requirements of the guidelines under the SGSY for receiving financial assistance are provided with revolving fund and the subsidy. The Banks sanction credit

which would be in multiples of the Group Corpus and could go upto four times of the Group Corpus as cash credit facility based on their assessment of absorption capacity and credit worthiness of the Group. The coverage of number of SHGs is thus limited by the factors of funds availability and the groups meeting the requirements for sanctioning of loan applications by the Banks. The Ministry has taken up with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance the issue of enhancing the Financial allocation to SGSY during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

[English]

Hawala Cases in Kerala

2596. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that Hawala cases increasing in the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Details of hawala cases taken up for investigation under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) during the last three years in Kerala, are as under:-

Year	Number of Cases	Amount in India Currency seized (In Rs. Lakhs)
2004	29	12.90
2005	202	164.97
2006	146	106.44
2007 (upto 31.7.2007)	74	234.05

(c) Constant preventive vigil is maintained to check Hawala. Appropriate action under FEMA 1999, is taken against those who contravene the provisions of Law.

Funds under JNNURM

2597. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether funds have been provided to the Sangli Miraj Kupwad Municipal Corporation under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission since its inception; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Demolition within 300 Meters of River Yamuna

2598. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to demolish all constructions in Okhla within 300 metres of river Yamuna;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Usha Mehra Committee has given recommendation in this regard;

(d) if so, the main recommendation of Usha Mehra Committee;

(e) the action taken to implement Usha Mehra Committee report in this regard; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to rehabilitate the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (e) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that Delhi High Court, on the recommendation of Justice (Retired) Usha Mehra Committee, has directed in WP (C) Nos. 2112 / 2002 and 689/2004 to remove unauthorized structures within 300 metres from the edge of river Yamuna. In compliance of Court orders, DDA has so far removed about 11,000 jhuggies from Yamuna bed.

The Government of NCT of Delhi have filed a review petition to the above orders in respect of Okhla area. The Union of India have also filed an affidavit to bring on record the factual position as regards the status of regularization of unauthorized colonies in Delhi.

(f) As per the policy of the Government, eligible jhuggi dwellers are given alternative plots.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Landless Agricultural Labourers

2599. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from the States and the Union Territories for the rehabilitation of landless agricultural labourers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No such proposals have been received from the States and Union Territories for the rehabilitation of landless agricultural labourers. However, suitable amendments to the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and revision of the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Project Affected Families, 2003 is under active consideration of the Government. Currently, the

matter is being examined by a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat to finalize the drafts of the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy and associated legislative measures in cases relating to land acquisition, for consideration of the Cabinet. In the draft R and R Policy, provisions have been made for rehabilitation and resettlement of persons affected by land acquisition and involuntarily displaced for any reasons, and special care has been taken for protecting the rights of, and ensuring affirmative State action for weaker segments of society, especially members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to create obligations on the State for their treatment with concern and sensitivity.

[English]

Customs Clearances

2600. SHRI C.S. SUJATHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that foreign passport holders are facing hardships in getting customs clearances at the airports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) No instance of foreign passport holders facing hardships in getting customs clearances at the airports has come to the notice of the Government.

[Translation]

Opening of Branches of Allahabad Bank

2601. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to open more branches of Allahabad Bank in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. As reported by the Allahabad Bank, the bank has received authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for opening of three new branches at different centres in Uttar Pradesh under the Annual Branch Expansion Plan of the bank for 2006-07. The details of these three centres are as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Centre	Name of the District
1.	Bharwari	Kaushambi
2.	Rani Bazar	Gonda
3.	Noida	Gautam Buddha Nagar

In its revised Annual Branch Expansion Plan for 2007-08, Allahabad Bank proposes to open seven more branches in different locations in Uttar Pradesh, subject to their commercial viability.

[English]

Turnover of NBCC

2602. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the turnover of the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) has been decreased over the years;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve its turnover and to augment its manpower to cope with the increasing demand of construction activities in the country;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Government has extended all support to NBCC for improvement of its performance. It is with the support of the Government that NBCC has also made foray in the Real Estate Sector and Power Sector. These measures have helped NBCC to improve its turnover. Further, the Govt. has recently allowed profit making PSUs, including NBCC, extension in the age of superannuation from 58 to 60 years allowing them to retain experienced manpower for a further period of two years.

National Investment Fund

2603. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria evolved for disposal of funds accrued to the National Investment Fund;

(b) whether a part of the fund is to be utilised for social sector schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which remaining funds will be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c): The proceeds from disinvestment of Government's equity in Central Public Sector Enterprises would be channelised into the National Investment Fund (NIF). The corpus of NIF will be of a permanent nature. NIF would be professionally managed to provide sustainable returns to the Government, without depleting the corpus. Selected Public Sector Mutual Funds are to be entrusted with the management of the corpus of NIF. 75% of the annual income of NIF will be used to finance selected social sector schemes, which promote education, health and employment.

(d) The residual 25% of the annual income of NIF will be used to meet the capital investment requirements of profitable and revivable CPSEs that yield adequate returns, in order to enlarge their capital base to finance expansion/diversification.

Land for Economically Weaker Sections

2604. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have directed the development authorities in the metros to reserve 20-25 per cent of the land for economically weaker sections at the affordable prices;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes a legislation to facilitate cross-subsidisation of the low-income housing by the development authorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Under optional reforms to be undertaken by the State Governments, the guidelines of Jawaharalal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) stipulate that at least 20-25% of developed land in all housing projects (both public and private agencies) should be earmarked alongwith a system of cross subsidization for Economically Weaker Section/Low Income Group Category.

Vacant Posts in PSBs

2605. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of higher level vacancies in the Public Sector Banks;

(b) whether the Government has prepared any guidelines on the selection method of PSBs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

Law Colleges

2606. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals for opening of new law colleges pending with the Bar Council of India as on date, location-wise, State-wise;

(b) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to expedite the approval of such law colleges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) List of Law Colleges pending location-wise, State-wise the Bar Council of India as on 29.08.2007 is enclosed as statement.

(b) No time limit has been prescribed under the Rules of the Bar Council of India for clearing the applications received for granting approval of affiliation. However, Bar Council of India has informed that they are taking utmost care in disposing of the pending application as quickly as possible.

(c) As per Section 7(1)(h) and 7(1)(i) of the Advocates Act, 1961, the Bar Council of India has been entrusted with the responsibility to promote legal education and recognition of Universities whose degree in law shall be a qualification for enrolment as an advocate and for that purpose to visit and inspect Universities respectively.

Statement

*List of Law Colleges pending for inspection modified
as on 29.08.2007*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of College
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Sri Balaji Law College, Puttur, Chittoor Distt. Visakha Law College, Vishakapatnam
2.	Assam, Nagaland and Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura etc.	Assam University Silchar University Law College, Gauhati
3.	Bihar	B.N. Mandal University, Madhepura Ramkumari Ayodhya Law College, Begusarai
4.	Jharkhand	Tata College Chapasa, Jharkhand
5.	Gujarat	Government Law College, Ahmedabad
6.	Karnataka	Basweshwar College of Law, Bidar Arundhati College of Law, Distt. Gulbarga
7.	Kerala	School of Legal Studies, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Katni Arts and Commerce College, Katni Sanskar Law College, Anupur, Anuppur, MP

1	2	3
		Maya Ram Degree College, Singruli, Distt. Sidhi
9.	Chhattisgarh	Shri University, Raipur Swami Vivekanand University of Science and Tehnology, Raipur
10.	Maharashtra and Goa	Baliram College of Law, Barotwada Distt. Amravati Baliram Patil College, Kinwat Distt. Nanded Mangaon Panchkorshi Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Sindhdurga People Welfare Society Amravati's College, Amravati Thakur Ramnaryan College of Law, Mumbai Navyug Vidhyapeeth Trust, Distt. Raigad Victor Dantas Charitable and Educational Foundation Tel Malvani, Distt. Sindhdurga Markandeya Padashali Pratishtan, Gadchiroli
11.	Orissa	KIIT University, Bhubaneshwar
12.	Punjab and Haryana	Shri Krishna College of Law, Bhiwani, HR Swami Sarvanand College of Law, Hoshiarpur Lovely Professional University, Phagwara

1	2	3
13. Rajasthan	Shri Bajrang Mahavidyalaya, (Bharatpur)	Vidhi Deeg
	Veer Teja Law College, Nagaur	
14. Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow Law College, Lucknow	
15. West Bengal	Rabindra Shiksha Sammilani Law College, Kolkata	

[Translation]

IT Return

2607. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the tax received by the Government in the form of income-tax during the last two years and the total number of tax returns filed during the said period;

(b) whether large corporate reflect their income as expenditure under various heads and paying nominal tax;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to start any awareness campaign with a view to make the public file their income-tax returns; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) During the F.Y. 2005-06 and 2006-07 the total collection from Direct Taxes stood as Rs. 1,65,008 crore and Rs. 2,30,091 crore respectively. The number of Total income tax returns filed for the financial years ending 2005-06 and 2006-07 registered at 2,62,38,582 and 2,75,47,599. respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above does not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Government has been spreading campaigns vigorously both through print and electronic media to raise awareness among the public to file their income tax returns.

[English]

Cauvery Hydro Power Project

2608. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a long pending demand for the revival of the Cauvery Hydro Power Project (CHPP);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project; and

(c) the time by which the revival work of the project is likely to be taken up and the expected time of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (c) On the request of Government of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka during January 2001, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC) had been entrusted with the work of preparation of the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 4 Hydroelectric Projects (HEP) in the Cauvery Basin, Viz. The Hogenekkal HEP (120 MW) and Rasimanal HEP (360 MW) in Tamil Nadu and Shivasamudram HEP (270 MW) and Mekadatu HEP (400 MW) in Karnataka.

Preparation of DPRs for these projects could not be taken up by NHPC due to the differences between the Government of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka on the 'draft tripartite agreement' to be signed between the two State Governments and NHPC. Government of Karnataka have, however, now informed that since the two projects of Shivasamudram and Mekadatu are exclusively within the territory of Karnataka, the State Proposes to forthwith execute the project through Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL). Government of Karnataka have further

informed that KPCL has already initiated preliminary works like survey, Geo-Tehcnical Investigation, Soil Investigation and preparation of DPR as per the pattern of downstream releases ordered by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

Construction of Commercial Complexes

2609. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government has received proposal for construction of commercial complexes under 10% pool fund from Government of Assam;

(b) if so, whether the project is being delayed due to pendency with Union Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) expected time for clearance of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Expenditure Finance Committee, on the recommendation of MoUD had taken a decision to operate the 10% Lumpsum provision scheme through JNNURM/UIDSSMT after they are operationalized, as purpose of both the schemes is to improve urban infrastructure in the NER.

However, Ministry of Urban Development had informed the Ministry of Finance of its decision to continue the 10% lump sum provision scheme in North East Region on the old pattern of Sanction through Standing Finance Committee mechanism. Ministry of Urban Development has been conveyed to take appropriate action for clearance of projects under the 10% Lump sum provision scheme as per its decision.

Excise Duty Evasion by Tobacco Companies

2610. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of excise duty collected by the Central Government from the tobacco companies during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether cases of excise duty evasion by tobacco companies have come to the notice of the Central Government during the last three years;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Central Government to check excise duty evasion by tobacco companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The Excise duty collected from the tobacco companies (manufacturers of Cigarettes, Biris. Chewing Tobacco and other products containing Tobacco) for last three years is as follows:-

Amount in Rs. Crore				
Year	Cigarettes	Biris	Chewing Tobacco	Other Products containing Tobacco
2004-05	5994.85	348.15	577.28	250.56
2005-06	6988.99	370.69	367.82	654.57
2006-07	7701.35	427.57	421.18	647.31

(b) to (d) The information is being collected will be laid on the Table of the House.

Probing Irregularities in Financial Institutions

2611. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court/High Courts have directed the Government to initiate enquiry into the cases of irregularities in the financial institutions owned by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a): The State Financial Corporations (SFCs) have been established under the SFCs Act, 1952 (Central Act 63 of 1951). This Act provides limited supervisory role to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in the affairs of SFCs. SIDBI has reported that nothing has been brought to their notice so far with regard to initiation of enquiry into the cases of irregularities in the SFCs.

(b) and (c): Do not arise.

Self-Help Group In Andhra Pradesh

2612. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government's lending to SHGs is the highest in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the State Government has sought any assistance from the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) The Self Help Group-Bank Linkage programme is one of the models of microfinance in the country and the Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and the Regional Rural Banks participate in the programme. The Bank's lending to SHGs promoted in Andhra Pradesh under SHG Bank Linkage Programme is the highest in the country. The details of SHGs linked to banks during the last three years in Andhra Pradesh are as under:-

Particulars	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
Cumulative no. of SHGs financed as on 31 March	492,927	587,238	683,619
Cumulative Bank Loan (Rs. in crore)	2,746.09	4,345.52	7,120.97

*Provisional.

Timely Disposal of Court Cases

2613. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases pending in various courts in the country as on date;

(b) whether the Government is considering for any fundamental changes in the judicial system for quick disposal of these cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken by the Government for timely disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) As per the information available, 2,90,90,293 cases were pending in various courts as on 31.12.2006.

(b) to (d) The matter of quick and timely disposal of cases pending in the courts is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, with a view to make quick and less expensive justice accessible to the common man at the grass root level, Government has introduced a Bill to establish Gram Nyayalayas in the rural areas which is presently with the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Some of the other steps taken by the Government for facilitating justice delivery include prompt filling up of

vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts, continued central financial support for operation of the Fast Track Courts in the States, providing central assistance for development of infrastructure through construction of courts and residences of Judicial Officers and modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts. With a view to ensuring expeditious disposal of civil cases, the Civil Procedure Code has been amended and the amendments have been brought into force with effect from 1.7.2002 which, inter-alia, limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to three, provide for speedy process service by speed post, courier services, fax or e-mail and authorize the court to fix time limit for oral arguments, etc. Further, with a view to ensuring speedy disposal of criminal cases, Government has made appropriate changes in the Criminal Procedure Code through Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2005, inter-alia, introducing the concept of 'Plea Bargaining'.

Accommodation Before Commonwealth Games 2010

2614. SHRI P.C. GADDIGUDAR :
SHRI M. SHIVANNA :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that there should be at least 20,000 more hotel rooms available in and around Delhi before 2009 as India is hosting 2010 Commonwealth Games; and

(b) if so, the details of the arrangements made by the Government in this regard?

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

(b): Various Central agencies viz. Delhi Development Authority, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and State Government agencies like Haryana Urban Development Authority,

NOIDA, Greater Noida are taking steps to augment the availability of Hotel accommodation in and around Delhi. At some sites work is in progress, some sites have been disposed of by auction/tender and in some other site action to dispose the plots is under progress.

VAT on LPG Cylinders

2615. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Value Added Tax (VAT) on LPG cylinders has been reduced from 12.5% to 4% by the State Government;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has requested to the Union Government that this benefit be transferred to consumers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ceiling for VAT levied by the State Governments on the sale or purchase of LPG cylinders has been reduced from 12.5% to 4% in consequence of including "LPG for domestic use" in the list of goods of special importance in inter-state trade or commerce, under Section 14 of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, with effect from 18.04.2006.

(c) Yes, Sir. A request in this regard was received from the Government of Kerala in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(d) The public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been bearing huge under-recoveries in marketing of domestic LPG. Consequent to dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism, the impact of changes in international prices of LPG was to be passed on to the consumers. However, despite steep increase in the price of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market, the domestic price of LPG was last increased marginally during 2004 and has not been revised since

05.11.2004. In order to give relief to OMCs, domestic LPG is partially subsidised by the Central Government from the Budget. Moreover, the OMCs were allowed to retain the Retail Selling Price of LPG (Domestic) from 10% to NIL in Union Budget 2005 and the excise duty was also reduced from 16% to 8% during June, 2004 and from 8% to NIL during Union Budget 2005. In Spite of the Subsidy and allowing retention by the OMCs of the benefit arising due to reduced customs duty and allowing retention by the OMCs of the benefit arising due to reduced customs duty and excise duty on domestic LPG, the under-recoveries of the OMCs continue to be still very high. Therefore, the OMCs were constrained to maintain the current retail selling prices, in spite of the domestic LPG being placed in the category of declared goods in the Budget for 2006-07 and the State Sales Tax / VAT rate being pegged at 4%, in the context of the losses and under-recoveries suffered in marketing the product.

Consolidation of PSBs

2616. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government proposes to initiate consolidation process among various Public Sector Banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Committee on Banking Sector Reforms (Narasimham Committee) had recommended consolidation in the banking sector as part of wider financial sector reforms. Government is of the view that any proposal for consolidation, by way of merger etc. of one public sector bank (PSB) with another PSB, should emanate from the concerned banks with Government playing a supportive role as the common shareholder. While supporting any merger proposal, Government will ensure that the interests of the stakeholders and employees of merging banks are adequately protected. On 25.08.2007, the SBI Board has taken a unanimous decision to merge its wholly owned

subsidiary, the State Bank of Saurashtra with itself. The State Bank of Saurashtra Board, meeting on the same day, has also taken a unanimous decision to merge the Bank with the State Bank of India.

LIC Policies

2617. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any irregularity has come to the notice of the Government in regard to single Premium Bima Plus and Future Plus Policies;

(b) if so, whether the above policies were surrendered and reinvested twice/thrice within the same financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that no irregularity has come to its notice with regard to single premium Bima Plus and Future Plus Policies.

(b) to (d) LIC has reported that Bima Plus and Future Plus Plans provide for surrender clause wherein the policyholder can surrender the policy subject to certain penalty ranging from 1% to 4% depending on the duration of the policy. However, there is no restrictive clause restraining the policyholder from surrendering the policy, either to avail funds for own use or reinvestment. LIC has, however, withdrawn Bima Plus and Future Plus policies with effect from 16th October, 2005 and 30th June, 2006, respectively.

[Translation]

Customs Duty Wine and Spirits

2618. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rates of customs duty on wines, spirits and liquors prevailing during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has decided to make changes in such rates;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any dispute in this regard;

(e) if so, whether the issue has been forwarded to the Dispute Settlement Panel of WTO; and

(f) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Spirits/liquors have been attracting a basic customs duty of 150% during the last three years, which is also the current rate. During the last three years and till 2nd July, 2007, wines were attracting a basic customs duty of 100%, which has been increased to 150% with effect from 3rd July, 2007.

In addition, till 2nd July, 2007, wines, spirits/liquors were also subjected to additional duty of customs at specified rates, having regard to State Excise Duty rates leviable on like domestic items. The rates of additional duty applicable till 2nd July, 2007 are given in enclosed statement. However, with effect from, 3rd July, 2007, this additional duty of customs on imported spirit/liquor, wines and beer has been withdrawn.

With effect from 1.3.2006, a special additional duty of customs of 4% is also applicable on spirit/liquor, wines and beer. This levy still continues.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The European Communities (EC) and the United States have filed a dispute in WTO in this regard. Although, the EC have suspended their complaint, the US has challenged the levy of additional duties on import of alcoholic beverages and some other products.

Statement

CIF Price per case* in US \$	Rate of Additional* duty of customs
Wines and beer	
< 25	75%
> 25 but < 40	50% or \$37 per case, whichever is higher
> 40	20% or \$40 per case, whichever is higher
Liquor	
< 10	150%
> 10 but < 20	100% or \$40 per case, whichever is higher
> 20 but < 40	50% or \$ 53.2 per case, whichever is higher
> 40	25% or \$53.2 per case, whichever is higher

*Case: packing containing nine litres.

[English]

Namma Metro Project

2619. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether those who will have more than 50 per cent of their holding for the "NAMMA METRO" project is to be allotted sites on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement the compensation package as per the recommendations of the PSS Thomas Land Committee Report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The land for the project is being acquired by Government of Karnataka. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (MNRCL) and Government of Karnataka have reported that Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has been requested to make bulk allotment of land. No final decision has been taken on the Criteria for specific beneficiaries.

(c) and (d) The State Government has reported that PSS Thomas Land Committee was constituted to assist the State Government in determining the Fair market value of the lands and the Committee submitted detailed valuation report for working out the fair market rate relating to the land component. The State Government has received the recommendations for the purpose of payment of compensation to those losing land for the project.

Acid Contents in Rain Water

2620. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY :
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study conducted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has found high acid contents in rain water in Pune and Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) IMD operates a network of 10 stations across the country where rain water samples are collected and are analysed for the last 26 years. The analysis carried out suggests that rain water samples collected in Nagpur have shown acid content in the last 10 years since 1997.

However, samples of 2006 have shown a remarkable recovery at Nagpur.

Rain water samples over Pune have remained by and large in safe range.

(c) The introduction of ultra low sulphur fuels for vehicles and automobiles, that has been extended all over the country by the Government, will help in arresting the identified acidification trends considerably.

[Translation]

Energy from Methane

2621. SHRI SURAJ SINGH :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop any scheme to generate energy from methane;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) to (c): No, Sir. However, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is facilitating installation of biogas plants for generation of methane under different Schemes namely, National Biogas and Manure Management Programme (NBMMMP), Village Energy Security Programme (VESP), Accelerated Programme on Energy Recovery from urban wastes, Recovery of Energy/Power from Industrial and commercial Wastes and Effluents and Biogas based Distributed/Grid Power Generation Programme.

English]

Functioning of CSIR

2622. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the C and AG in its report of March, 2006 given various adverse remarks on the functioning of CSIR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has examined the Report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Report of the C and AG for the year ending March 2006 was presented in the Lok Sabha on May 14, 2007. C and AG have inter- alia remarked on the need for:

- Proper feasibility study on the needs of the laboratories for seeking funds from the Government;
- Efforts to minimize the instances of non-installation, delayed installation, non-repair of installed equipment; and
- An effective monitoring mechanism for proper execution of Programmes.

(c) to (e) CSIR has accepted the recommendations and has initiated action to rectify the shortcomings.

[Translation]

Gas Supply to Ramgarh Power Plant

2623. SHRI NIHAL CHAND :

SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of gas presently available to Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Project (RGTP);

(b) the additional quantity of gas required to run the plant at full capacity;

(c) the name of agency authorized to supply gas for this project; and

(d) the time by which gas will be made available to run both Gas Turbines at full load?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) The quantity of gas presently allocated to Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Project (RGTP) is 0.75 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD). The average supply to RGTP during 2006-07 was around 0.66 MMSCMD.

(b) Additional quantity of gas required to run the plant at full capacity is 0.45 MMSCMD.

(c) M/s. Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) is the authorized agency to supply gas for this project from M/s. Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and M/s. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) fields.

(d) Oil India Ltd. has informed an additional gas availability of 0.2 MMSCMD in Rajasthan from its Dandewala gas fields. Negotiations on the commercial arrangements are going on between the parties RRVUNL, OIL and GAIL. Additional facility needs to be created for this additional 0.2 MMSCMD.

Implementation of PMGSY in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra

2624. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned projects for Vidarbha region of Maharashtra under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, the details of roads constructed/to be constructed in the region thereunder;

(c) the funds made available and utilized so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government has so far sanctioned five phases (Phase I to Phase V) for Vidarbha region of Maharashtra under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

(b) According to the information furnished by the State Government, the details of roads constructed and being constructed are as follows:-

Phase	No. of Roads	
	Constructed	To be constructed
I	234	0
II	189	0
III	58	2
IV	35	9
V	109	427
Total	625	438

(c) Amount of funds made available for Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and utilized upto June 2007 is Rs. 235.84 Crore.

Fraud by Chit Fund Companies

2625. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to protect the small investors from fraud by Chit Fund Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of Chit Fund Companies against

whom complaints have been registered during the last two years; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of small investors and the outcome of the action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a), (b) and (d) Chit Fund Companies have been exempted from the crore provisions of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act 1934, including registration with Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The State Governments regulate the chit business of these companies as per the provisions of the Chit Fund Act, 1949. On receipt of complaints, Registrars of Chits of respective State Governments initiate appropriate regulatory action against such erring companies.

(c) As the Chit Fund Companies are regulated by the respective State Governments, the Government of India and RBI have not registered any complaint against Chit Fund Companies.

Technical and Commercial Losses

2626. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRI SURAJ SINGH :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of aggregate technical and commercial losses in the power sector at present in the country as compared to other developed countries;

(b) the target set for the Tenth Plan for reducing such losses and achieved at the end of the plan;

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon during the plan to achieve the target, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to involve the private sector participation in transmission and distribution of power in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) A report prepared by the Power Finance Corporation indicates that the Aggregate Technical and commercial (AT and C) Loss of the State Power Utilities at the national level for 2005-06 was 34.54%. As per the guidelines issued by Central Electricity Authority for reduction of Transmission and Distribution (T and D) losses, the unavoidable technical loss in Indian conditions is about 10-15%. T and D losses in some of the countries (which are available for the year 2003) are given below:-

S. No.	Name of the country	T and D losses (%)
1	2	3
1.	Argentina	15
2.	Brazil	17
3.	China	6
4.	Columbia	19
5.	France	6
6.	Germany	5
7.	Japan	5
8.	Mexico	15
9.	Malaysia	5
10.	Pakistan	25
11.	Russian Federation	12
12.	United Kingdom	8

1	2	3
13.	United States of America	7
14.	Venezuela RB	26

(b) Government had launched Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the year 2002-03 with the objective of encouraging reforms and of reduction in AT and C loss, improving quality of supply of power and improving consumer satisfaction. The target was to reduce AT and C losses to 15% in five years to begin with in urban and high density consumption areas. At town level, AT and C losses have been brought below 20 per cent in 215 APDRP towns in the country of which 163 towns have brought AT and C losses below 15 per cent.

(c) Government of India had sanctioned 571 projects at the estimated cost of Rs. 17033.58 crores to States under the investment component of APDRP State-wise details about projects sanctioned and fund released are enclosed as Statement-I. Details of funds released under incentive component of APDRP for achieving cash loss reduction, State-wise, are enclosed as Statement-II.

(d) and (e) As regards private investment in transmission is concerned, Government of India has issued Guidelines for encouraging competition in the development of transmission projects and for competitive bidding for transmission services. An Empowered Committee constituted, as per provisions of these guidelines, has identified 14 inter-state transmission projects for tariff based bidding. Details of four projects out of 14 projects, which have taken up by Special Purpose Vehicles incorporated by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Under the Electricity Act, 2003, transmission and distribution of electricity are licensed activities and the license for these activities are given by the Appropriate

Electricity Regulatory Commission. 16 Private Distribution Companies are presently functioning in various parts of the country. The details of the Distribution Companies are given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement-I

Cost of the Projects sanctioned and Funds released to the States under investment component of APDRP

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Name of State	Number of projects sanctioned	Cost of the projects sanctioned	Funds released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100	1127.12	566.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	82.69	36.68
3.	Assam	15	650.73	412.89
4.	Bihar	15	823.15	313.28
5.	Chhattisgarh	7	353.33	159.21
6.	Delhi	2	211.02	105.51
7.	Goa	7	288.94	113.40
8.	Gujarat	13	1083.22	400.26
9.	Haryana	18	431.95	168.99
10.	Himachal Pradesh	12	322.77	306.88
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	1100.31	593.39
12.	Jharkhand	8	423.65	153.87
13.	Karnataka	35	1186.31	463.62
14.	Kerala	52	858.50	248.57

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Madhya Pradesh	48	663.20	178.70
16.	Maharashtra	34	1643.12	426.78
17.	Manipur	5	141.62	42.76
18.	Meghalaya	9	227.44	90.45
19.	Mizoram	7	108.74	78.01
20.	Nagaland	3	122.27	71.44
21.	Orissa	4	206.73	74.02
22.	Punjab	26	715.57	202.67
23.	Rajasthan	29	1193.25	434.28
24.	Sikkim	3	152.09	154.73
25.	Tamil Nadu	41	948.12	441.82
26.	Tripura	7	146.74	54.31
27.	Uttar Pradesh	35	1069.25	293.70
28.	Uttaranchal	6	310.08	279.76
29.	West Bengal	20	441.85	92.92
Total		571	17033.58	6959.56

Statement-II

Funds released to the States under incentive component of APDRP

S. No.	Name of States	Incentive Released (Rs. In Crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	265.11

1	2	3
2.	Gujarat	533.81
3.	Haryana	105.49
4.	Kerala	109.27
5.	Madhya Pradesh	114.95
6.	Maharashtra	137.89
7.	Rajasthan	137.71
8.	West Bengal	410.42
9.	Punjab	145.05
Total		1959.70

Statement-III

Details of projects taken up by Special Purpose Vehicles incorporated by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)

S.No.	Name of the Project
-------	---------------------

Through PFC

1. Evacuation System for Maithon RB (1000 MW), Koderma (1000 MW) and Bokaro Ext. (500 MW)
2. Scheme for enabling import of North Eastern Region (NER)/ER surplus by Northern Region (NR)

Through REC

1. Evacuation System for North Karanpura (1980 MW)
2. Talcher Augmentation System

Statement-IV

List of Private Distribution Companies presently functioning

S.No.	Name of Distribution Company	Name of State
1.	Ahmedabad Electricity Co. Ltd.	Gujarat
2.	Surat Electricity Co. Ltd.	Gujarat
3.	Calcutta Electricity Supply Co.	West Bengal
4.	Dishergarh Power Co. Ltd.	West Bengal
5.	Noida Power Co. Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh
6.	North Delhi Power Ltd.	Delhi
7.	BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd.	Delhi
8.	BSES Yamuna Power Ltd.	Delhi
9.	Reliance Energy Ltd. (erstwhile BSES Ltd.)	Maharashtra
10.	Tata Power Co. Ltd. (TPC)	Maharashtra
11.	Torrent Power Ltd.	Maharashtra#
12.	Southern Electricity Supply Company	Orissa
13.	Western Electricity Supply Company	Orissa
14.	North Eastern Electricity Supply Company	Orissa
15.	Central Electricity Supply Company	Orissa
16.	Tata Tea Ltd.	Kerala

#Operating as a franchisee of State owned distribution utility.

**Proposal of Financial Assistance from
Uttar Pradesh**

2627. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received proposals for financial assistance from the Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding infrastructural development of sewer and waste disposal:

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

(c) the decision taken in this regard; and

(d) the amount of financial assistance/ loan provided, location-wise?

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

[English]

Fee Charged by IRDA

2628. SHRI PRAODH PANDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) is charging a percentage of the premium from insurance companies as fees;

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

(c) whether the charges thus collected is a part of IRDA fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that as per the provisions under Section 14 (1) (g) of the IRDA Act, 1999, the powers and functions of the Authority shall include—"levying fees and other charges for carrying out the purposes of this Act". Further, as stipulated under section 20(1) in the IRDA (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations,

2000, an insurer, who has been granted a certificate under section 3 of the IRDA Act, 1999, shall make an application in the prescribed form for renewal of the certificate to the Authority before 31st day of December each year, and such application shall be accompanied by evidence of the payment of the fee which shall be higher of—

(i) fifty thousand rupees for each class of insurance business, and

(ii) one tenth of one per cent of total gross premium written direct by an insurer in India during the financial year preceding the year in which the application for renewal of certificate is required to be made, or rupees five crores, whichever is less.

The fee thus collected is utilised for meeting the expenses related to the discharge of the various responsibilities cast on IRDA under the Act.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per the information provided by IRDA, the details of the amount collected as fee during the last six years is as under:-

Year	Amount in Rs. (in Crores)
2001-2002	23.48
2002-2003	6.39
2003-2004	17.85
2004-2005	21.54
2005-2006	25.31
2006-2007	42.50

Removal of Ceiling on Loans for Export Purposes

2629. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has removed the ceiling on loans provided by banks to meet the requirement of export sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) There is no ceiling prescribed by the RBI on loans provided by banks to meet the requirement of the export sector.

[Translation]

Slum Population in Urban Area

2630. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN :

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN :

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of slum dwellers in urban areas of the country is constantly increasing;

(b) whether Union Government has records of

slum-dwellers in cities with population more than 10 lakh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof in respect of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal and Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) As per estimates by Town and Country Planning Organisation (TCPO) the trends in slum population are as follows:-

Year	Slum Population
1981	27.9 million
1991	46.2 million
2001	61.8 million

(b) and (c): As per Census, 2001 data, the city-wise details of slum dwellers in respect of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal and Delhi is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Slum Population in Metropolitan Cities

(as per Census - 2001)

Sl. No.	Name of Metropolitan Cities	State/Union Territory*	Total Population	Total slum Population	Percentage of slum population to total population
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Greater Mumbai	Maharashtra	11,978,450	6,475,440	54.1
2.	Pune	Maharashtra	2,538,473	492,179	19.4
3.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	2,052,066	737,219	35.9

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Thane	Maharashtra	1,262,551	351,085	27.8
5.	Kalyan-Dombivli	Maharashtra	1,193,512	34,860	2.9
6.	Nashik	Maharashtra	1,077,236	138,797	12.9
7.	Pimpri Chinchwad	Maharashtra	1,012,472	123,957	12.2
8.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	2,551,337	367,980	14.4
9.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	2,185,927	179,176	8.2
10.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	1,275,134	121,761	9.5
11.	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	1,091,918	137,977	12.6
12.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	1,068,772	471,581	44.1
13.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh	1,474,968	260,975	17.7
14.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	1,437,354	125,720	8.7
15.	Ahmadabad	Gujarat	3,520,085	473,862	13.5
16.	Surat	Gujarat	2,433,835	508,485	20.9
17.	Vadodara	Gujarat	1,306,227	186,020	14.2
18.	Kolkata	West Bengal	4,572,876	1,485,309	32.5
19.	Howrah	West Bengal	1,007,532	118,286	11.7
20.	Delhi	Delhi	9,879,172	1,851,231	18.7

[English]

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Power Projects in Border Areas

2631. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up power projects in border areas in cooperation with the Government of Nepal; and

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) India and Nepal have agreed, under the 1996 Mahakali Treaty, to jointly develop the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (5600 Mw) on the Mahakali river. The two Governments are engaged in finalizing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Pancheshwar Project. Further, a Joint Project Office has been established in Nepal with Indian assistance to carry

out field investigations for preparation of the DPR for Sun-Kosi Sapta Kosi Project (around 3300 MW). Preliminary discussions have also been held on the feasibility of Naumure hydroelectric project.

[Translation]

Loan Facilities for Remote and Backward Areas

2632. SHRI KIREN RIJUJU :

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to further strengthen regional rural banks for providing loan facilities in remote and backward areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) In order to strengthen the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for providing loan facilities in remote and backward areas, the Government has initiated a number of measures such as:-

- (i) The continuance of scheme of providing 2% interest subvention to RRBs on their own involvement of funds in disbursement of crop upto Rs 3.00 lakh per borrower at 7% rate of interest per annum for the year 2007-08.
- (ii) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) extends short-term refinance to RRBs for financing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) at the concessional refinance rate of 4.5% per annum.
- (iii) To augment their resources, RRBs have been permitted to accept Non Resident External (NRE)/Foreign Currency Non Resident (FCNR) deposits.

(iv) The Chairman, NABARD has been advised to draw an Action Plan identifying RRBs and their sponsor banks to undertake aggressive branch expansion especially, in uncovered districts, while giving due consideration to the contiguity factor, so as to increase access to credit in the remote and backward areas.

(v) Recapitalization of RRBs which have a negative network, in a phased manner.

Vanishing Companies

2633. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of vanishing companies has declined after the setting up of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO); and

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

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government approved setting up of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) on 9th January, 2003. However, it started functioning from 1st October, 2003.

A Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC), co-chaired by Secretary, (then) Ministry of Company Affairs (MCA) and Chairman, SEBI was set up in March, 1999 to settle the policy issues regarding the delinquent companies/promoters and to monitor the progress in regard to action against vanishing companies. Out of the companies that came out with the IPOs during 1992-98, a total of 229 companies were originally identified as vanishing companies. With the continuous efforts of CMC, 116 companies have been traced back, resulting in the number of Vanishing Companies being reduced to 113. Subsequently, the Task Forces have also undertaken a similar exercise in respect of the companies that came out with IPOs during 1998-2001.

As a result of this exercise, 9 companies have been identified as vanished. Thus, the total number of vanishing companies as of now stands at 122.

The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has no role to play with regard to the monitoring of action taken against Vanishing Companies.

Complaints Against CPWD Officials

2634. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2626 replied on March 16, 2007 and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected regarding the complaints against CPWD officials:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in collecting the requisite information; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (d) The information in respect of unstarred question No. 2626 has been collected and the details are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Question	Answer
(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has not been maintaining the Government quarters properly;	(a) No, Sir. Government houses are being maintained by CPWD in good condition.
(b) if so, the number of complaints received against the CPWD officials during the last one year; and	(b) 13 complaints were received against the CPWD officials during the year 2006-07.
(c) the action taken by the Government against the officials found guilty?	(c) No CPWD official has been found guilty so far. However, the matter relating to one complaint is still under investigation.

[English]

Restrictions for Raising Capital

2635. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes restrictions on Public Sector Banks from raising capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said restrictions on Public Sector Banks has led liquidating crunch; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Reduction in Fiscal Deficit

2636. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA :

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise performance on reduction of fiscal deficit as on date;

(b) whether any assessment of such performance has been made;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Union Government to eliminate fiscal deficit by 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) The state-wise performance on reduction of fiscal deficit in absolute number and as per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is enclosed as statement. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC), Ministry of Finance has formulated a scheme called the States' Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility (DCRF) for the TFC award period, 2005-10 for providing debt relief. This general debt relief is contingent on States enacting Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management legislation incorporating, inter-alia, bringing down Fiscal Deficit (FD)/GSDP ratio to 3% by 2008-09. For the assessment and monitoring of the fiscal performance, a Central Monitoring Committee at the Union level and Monitoring Committee at State level headed by Chief Secretary have been constituted. In the recent review, it was observed, inter-alia, that States have achieved a significant reduction in the Fiscal deficit.

Statement

S. No.	State	Fiscal Deficit (Rupees in Crore)				Fiscal Deficit as % of GSDP			
		2004-05 Base year	2005-06	2006-07 (RE)	2007-08 (BE)	2004-05 Base year	2005-06	2006-07 (RE)	2007-08 (BE)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8192	8300	7904	8621	3.97	3.62	3.11	3.05
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	386	256	258	140	15.28	8.97	8.03	3.86
3.	Assam	2057	*356	3649	2065	4.54	*0.71	6.53	3.33
4.	Bihar	1242	3700	6898	3159	1.77	4.76	8.00	3.30
5.	Chhattisgarh	1232	435	1428	1567	3.87	1.23	3.64	3.60
6.	Goa	551	603	707	742	5.38	5.22	5.43	5.05
7.	Gujarat	8691	6270	6165	5994	4.27	2.73	2.38	2.05
8.	Haryana	1206	286	648	1640	1.47	0.31	0.63	1.43
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1810	720	1108	1355	8.99	3.17	4.33	4.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1665	2643	1464	2039	5.29	7.56	3.77	4.74
11.	Jharkhand	2218	5603	5257	4469	5.35	12.17	10.29	7.88
12.	Karnataka	3600	3687	5372	6305	2.48	2.25	2.91	3.03
13.	Kerala	4452	4182	8331	7425	4.29	3.63	6.51	5.23
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6492	4572	4533	4655	5.75	3.62	3.20	2.94
15.	Maharashtra	18620	17630	15620	11158	4.94	4.17	3.30	2.11
16.	Manipur	449	271	228	106	8.16	4.44	3.36	1.41
17.	Meghalaya	313	179	86	83	5.77	2.97	1.28	1.11
18.	Mizoram	235	397	288	114	7.31	11.11	7.27	2.58
19.	Nagaland	218	306	392	235	3.13	3.96	4.56	2.46
20.	Orissa	1366	276	921	1025	2.30	0.42	1.26	1.26
21.	Punjab	4115	2654	5567	5546	4.84	2.81	5.32	4.77
22.	Rajasthan	6146	5150	5003	5322	5.58	4.14	3.57	3.37
23.	Sikkim	186	149	202	252	11.01	7.88	9.53	10.64
24.	Tamil Nadu	5570	2251	6614	7801	2.96	1.06	2.77	2.89
25.	Tripura	240	110	472	675	2.13	0.87	3.34	4.27
26.	Uttar Pradesh	12998	10078	11090	12485	5.51	3.82	3.75	3.77
27.	Uttarakhand	2180	1878	1878	1460	9.02	7.00	6.30	4.42
28.	West Bengal	10653	9601	11836	11484	5.70	4.56	4.98	4.28

Source: Finance Accounts and Budget documents (2007-08) of States.

*fiscal surplus.

**Award for Better Performance
under NREGS**

2637. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes some awards to States/districts/ panchayats for effective implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

Education Loan

2638. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN :
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of overseas education loans disbursed during the last three years;

(b) whether the data of beneficiaries of education loan at rural level is available; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Details of education loans disbursed to the rural and semi-urban areas for the last three years is as under:-

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
No. of accounts	103736	159537	180954
Amount disbursed (Rs. in crore)	833.55	1309.99	1638.70

Data of beneficiaries of education loans in rural areas is separately not available for all banks.

Calibrated Intervention by the Monetary Authority

2639. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the indirect measures taken by the Central Bank to control inflation have led to a situation where banks share pushing up rates on both deposits and loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the banks are ignoring the credit requirement of a number of productive sectors; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to control calibrated intervention by the monetary authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) The Commercial Banks operate in the Monetary Policy framework of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The RBI in its First Quarter Review of Annual Statement on Monetary Policy for the year 2007-08, released on July 31, 2007, has indicated that it would continue with its policy of Active Demand Management of liquidity through appropriate use of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) stipulations and Open Market Operations (OMO), using all the policy instruments at its disposal flexibly as and when the situation warrants.

Effective from October 18, 1994, the RBI has deregulated the interest rates and advances above Rs. 2 lacs including the housing loans and these interest rates are determined by the Banks themselves with the approval of their Boards. For credit limits upto Rs. 2 lacs, the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) has been prescribed as the ceiling lending rate. The Banks have also been allowed to freely price their own products below or above their BPLR and offer floating rate products in a transparent manner.

Effective from October 22, 1997, the RBI has given freedom to the Commercial Banks to fix their own interest rates on the domestic term deposits of various maturities with prior approval of their Boards. The interest rates on Savings Banks Deposits, however, continue to be administered by the RBI.

The deployment of non-food credit indicates the following year-on-year variation for different sectors:-

S. No.	Sector	Year-on-year variation (%) (May 26, 2006 to May 25, 2007)
1.	Agriculture	32.2
2.	Industries (Small, medium and large)	26.4
3.	Services	26.1
4.	Total non-food gross bank credit	26.4

It would be observed from the above table that there has been an increase in bank credit to all the important sectors.

Changes in Drinking Water Schemes

2640. SHRI THOKCHOM MEINYA :

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes some changes in schemes being implemented under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any special plan to provide financial assistance to some States facing acute shortage of safe drinking water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) to (d) It is proposed that only one scheme for rural drinking water will be under implementation during the Eleventh Plan period, with

components for promoting community participation, sustainability of water sources and tackling water quality problems. Special funding for water supply to areas identified under Desert Development Programme and those affected by natural calamity is proposed to be continued.

Since rural drinking water is a State subject, Government of India does not prepare special plans for any State. Financial assistance is provided to States and they are competent to plan, approve and implement projects.

[Translation]

Restructuring of SEBs

2641. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding restructuring of State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, whether the report of the study has been submitted to the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) The Central Government had awarded a study in year 2005 to the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) on the impact of restructuring of the State Electricity Boards.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The study covering 12 major states in various regions of the country has given broad conclusion that despite some shortcomings, the overall impact of restructuring has been positive and is in the right direction.

The study has also given some recommendations which have been examined in the Ministry of Power. Various recommendations alongwith action suggested by the Ministry of Power have been sent to the State Governments, State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and to the Forum of Regulators.

[English]

**Promotion of PPP with Viability
Gap Funding**

2642. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether schemes to promote Public Private partnership (PPP) in various infrastructure sectors with viability gap support from the Union Government have been implemented in various States;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has received external financial assistance for PPP projects; and

(d) if so, the details of the assistance disbursed to each State during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Scheme for Financial Support to Public Private Partnerships in Infrastructure [Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme] to accelerate and increase PPPs in infrastructure was announced in August, 2005 by Government of India. In order to be eligible for funding under the Scheme the project must be developed, financed, constructed, maintained and operated during the project term by an entity with at least 51% private equity. The total VGF under the scheme is ordinarily limited to 20% of the project cost. The Government or statutory entity that owns the project may, if it so decides, provide additional grants out of its budget upto further twenty per cent of the total project cost. The exact VGF support to be given would however be decided on the basis of competitive bidding. The sectors eligible under the Scheme are roads and bridges, railways, seaports, airports, inland waterways, power, urban trans-

port, water supply, sewerage, solid waste management and other physical infrastructure in urban areas, infrastructure projects in Special Economic Zones, International convention centers and other tourism infrastructure projects. So far final or in principle approval for following amount under VGF Scheme has been given to under mentioned States:-

State	No. of Projects	Amount of VGF (Rs. Crore)
Madhya Pradesh	07	245.38
Gujarat	03	365.48
Maharashtra	06	1827.86
Rajasthan	07	251.60

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

MPs Flats in North and South Avenue

2643. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the year of construction of Members of Parliament (MPs) flats at North Avenue and South Avenue;

(b) the prescribed life span of these flats;

(c) whether the Government proposes to construct houses with adequate space of the old and dilapidated flats of South Avenue and North Avenue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) The year of construction is 1951-52.

(b) 55 years is the expected economic life under normal occupancy and maintenance conditions.

- (c) No such proposal is under consideration.
- (d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

[English]

Setting up of Virtual Labs

2644. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up virtual labs in rural India for students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent by which the Ministry of Science and Technology is being involved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Liberalisation of Banking Business

2645. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the banking reforms have strengthened the bank's risk assessment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the decline in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) have contributed to credit expansion; and
- (d) the total amount of NPAs released by the PSBs during the year 2005-2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To improve the health of the banking sector in

India in general and that of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in particular and also to bring it at par with international standards, the Reserve Bank of India has prescribed measures for strengthening of risk based prudential supervision, introduction of capital adequacy standards on the lines of the Basel Committee norms, etc. coupled with wide ranging steps undertaken by the Government. After initiation of reforms in early 1990s, financial performance of the banking sector has improved significantly. Balance sheet and profitability indicators viz. Return on Assets, Net Interest Margin, Non-Performing Assets (NPA) Ratios, Provisioning and Classification norms for NPAs, Capital Adequacy Ratio etc. suggest that the Indian banking sector now compares well with global benchmarks.

(c) Yes, Sir. The lower level of NPAs results in increased profitability and reserves, and enhanced liquidity, which provides more leverage to the banks to expand their credit portfolio.

(d) During the year 2005-06, the NPAs of PSBs have reduced - by Rs. 23,210 crore, which includes recoveries through upgradation (Rs. 3,787 crore), compromise/write-offs (Rs. 8,833 crore) and cash recoveries (Rs. 10,590 crore).

Fiscal Incentive for Land Reforms

2646. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there are schemes for awarding fiscal incentive to States implementing land reform;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the achievements of the scheme during the last three years?

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

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

Duplication of Security Water Mark

2647. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a device used for introduction of security water mark on the paper is designed by India Security Press;

(b) if so, the details of the units manufacturing such device in the country;

(c) the number of cases of misuse of such device by manufacturers noticed by the Government during the last year and as on date;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check on duplicate production/theft/diversion of said device by such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b): No, Sir. India Security Press only gives the portraits/figures, which are incorporated in the paper as watermark, to the paper manufacture. Such devices:

(i) M/s. Dandy Rolls Indian Pvt. Ltd., A-179, Industrial Estate, I Stage, 4th Cross, Peenya, Bangalore -560 058.

(ii) M/s. SWILL Ltd., 25, Ganesh Chandra Avenue, Kolkata - 700 013 with its Branch Office at Kailash Kala Apartment, 1st Floor, 9A Shanajab Road, Lunknow - 226 001.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Details of manufacture of the device are provided to the India Security Press for record before the actual manufacture starts. The identification number of each

device is intimated to India Security Press for record and monitoring. A mechanism is put in place whereby inspection of the device is carried out by the India Security Press on half-yearly basis. The device is destroyed/defaced in the presence of the officials of the India Security Press soon after the ordered quantity is manufactured by the paper supplier as per the contract.

Merger of General Insurance Companies

2648. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for merger of four General Insurance Companies in the public sector;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c): Do not arise.

Change in Guidelines of Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC)

2649. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to make any change in the guidelines for non-banking finance companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that regulation and supervision of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) is a continuously evolving process and necessary changes are effected by way of issue of directions/

guidelines to NBFCs, under statutory provisions, from time to time. Some of the guidelines for NBFCs recently amended by RBI include Fair Practices Code, Corporate Governance, Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for non-deposit taking NBFCs with asset size of Rs. 100 crore and above and reclassification of NBFCs to recognize a new class of NBFCs namely Asset Finance Companies.

Disinvestment Policy

2650. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of disinvestment policy governing the process of disinvestment of Government as well as private equities;

(b) whether a revised disinvestment policy has been formulated;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government is treating the oil sector as non-strategic for disinvestment purpose; and

(e) if so, the rationale for classifying oil as non-strategic sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The policy with respect to the public sector, including disinvestment, is laid down in the National Common Minimum Programme adopted by the Government in May, 2004. The relevant extracts of NCMP are given hereunder:-

"The UPA Government is committed to a strong and effective public sector whose social objectives are met by its commercial functioning. But for this, there is need for selectivity and a strategic focus. The UPA is pledged to devolve full managerial and commercial autonomy to successful, profit-making companies operating in a competitive environment. Generally profit-making companies will not be privatized.

All privatizations will be considered on a transparent and consultative case-by-case basis. The UPA will retain existing "navratna" companies in the public sector while these companies raise resources from the capital market. While every effort will be made to modernize and restructure sick public sector companies and revive sick industry, chronically loss-making companies will either be sold-off, or closed, after all workers have got their legitimate dues and compensation. The UPA will induct private industry to turn around companies that have potential for revival.

The UPA Government believes that privatization should increase competition, not decrease it. It will not support the emergence of any monopoly that only restricts competition. It also believes that there must be a direct link between privatization and social needs — like, for example, the use of privatization revenues for designated social sector schemes. Public sector companies and nationalized banks will be encouraged to enter the capital market to raise resources and offer new investment avenues to retail investors".

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance for Urban Slum Projects

2651. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects being run with foreign assistance for improvement of urban slums, State-wise;

(b) the date on which the said projects were started; and

(c) the details of the projects on which actual work is yet to be taken-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Projects to improve urban slums with foreign assistance are undertaken as part of broad sectoral programmes in the sphere of land assembly and development, water supply, transport, sanitation and sewerage, drainage and provision of basic services to the urban poor. The relevant details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of Sectoral Projects (Grants)

As on 31.03.2007

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Grant Description with sanctioning date	Amount of Grant sanctioned
1	2	3

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)

1.	0005 - IND Asian Tsunami Fund Grant dt. 12.05.2005	435.599
----	--	---------

Total	435.599
-------	---------

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

2.	00044242 Capacity Building for Decentralised Urban Governance dated 01.08.2005	12.988
3.	IND/03/033 National Strategy for Urban Poor dated 14.10.2003	22.356

Total	35.344
-------	--------

1	2	3
---	---	---

4. UNITED KINGDOM

UKGG017 Andhra Pradesh Urban Services Improvement for poor dated 03.06.1999	539.221
---	---------

5. UKGG047 Kolkata Urban Services for the Poor Programme dated 31.12.2003	754.059
---	---------

6. UKGG063 Madhya Pradesh Urban Services for Poor: Prog. Gt. 2006 dated 10.11.2006*	309.228
---	---------

Total	1602.508
-------	----------

GERMANY

7. AL- 9765553 2323038E HDFC-III (Low Cost Housing) dated 25.09.1998	72.051
--	--------

Total	72.051
-------	--------

*Recently sanctioned project where pre-implementation modalities are underway.

[English]

Self Financing Scheme

2652. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct houses under self-financing scheme in different cities of the country during the current year;

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

(c) the details of the projects and the funds sanctioned for the scheme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) So far as the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is concerned, Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation (CGEWHO) takes up housing projects on self-financing basis for central government employees. The projects are taken up in different parts of the country based on the demand amongst the central government employees and depending upon the availability of land at such places from time to time.

The city-wise details of on-going schemes and the schemes likely to be announced during the current financial year are given in the enclosed statement.

CGEWHO's projects on self-financing basis are financed by the beneficiaries and no separate funds are allocated/sanctioned by the Government.

Statement

The city-wise details of on-going schemes and the schemes likely to be announced during the current financial year are as under

On-going Schemes:

City	No. of dwelling units being constructed
Lucknow	130
Chennai (II)	572
Hyderabad (III)	380
Pune (II)	148
Bhubaneswar (I)	256
Mohali (I)	586
Total	2072

Schemes likely to be announced during the current financial year:

City	No. of dwelling units
Meerut	100
Jaipur (II)	300
Kolkata (II)	500
Gurgaon (III)	900
Greater Noida (I)	900
Bangalore (II)	600
Vishakhapatnam	250
Kharghar (II), Navi Mumbai	1000
Total	3650

Directions by RBI

2653 SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that various private banks are not following the directions given by Reserve Bank of India (RBI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that ICICI Bank, Citibank and HSBC have received a notice of enquiry from Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) for alleged violation of RBI guidelines in their credit card business. Violations include soliciting and promoting credit card sales through Direct Sales Agents

(DSAs) without disclosing that they are independent contractors, DSAs indulging in alleged unfair trade practices and promising more than what the bank can offer while providing credit card services to general public, soliciting applications for credit cards without making prospects aware of the Most Important Terms and Conditions (MITC) in their language, inviting application for credit card services without making MITC a part and parcel of the application form, using smaller font size of alphabet in application forms, levying penal charges without ensuring that statement of accounts have been received in time, accepting cheques towards repayment without issuing acknowledgement etc.

(c) After the complicity of the bank is established, RBI takes appropriate regulatory action in the matter including advising the bank to improve its system and procedures, imposition of penalty on the bank, etc. to avoid recurrence of such instances

[Translation]

Allocation of Power to M.P.

2654. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that allocation of power to Madhya Pradesh from III Phase of Vindhyachal and Kahalgaon Thermal Power Projects has been reduced from 231 and 107 MW to 200 and 74 MW respectively;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the allocation is likely to be increased according to Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) signed with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Allocation of power mentioned in the Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) signed between NTPC Ltd. and the beneficiaries is only indicative and is subject to final allocation made by the Government in

accordance with the central sector allocation formula (Gadgil formula).

Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station Stage-III (2x500 MW)

As per the central sector allocation formula (Gadgil formula), Chhattisgarh is entitled for 308 MW from Korba power plant of NTPC but it is actually getting 210 MW. This decision was taken in 2001 based on the demand-supply situation in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh at that time. Subsequently, Chhattisgarh Government claimed higher allocation from Vindhyachal STPS Stage-III and it was decided that out of total allocation of 308 MW of combined entitlement of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, 105 MW would be given to Chhattisgarh and 200 MW would be given to Madhya Pradesh.

Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station (STPS) Stage-II (3x500 MW)

Kahalgaon STPS Stage-II has been set up for supply of power to the beneficiaries of Northern, Western and Eastern Regions. The share of Madhya Pradesh from this power plant on the basis of the central sector allocation formula (Gadgil Formula) is 74 MW.

Delay in Projects in Bihar

2655. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Vishesh Project Khastahal Bihar Unmien Sabse Badhai" appearing in Hindi daily "Dainik Jagran" edition dated July 30, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A detailed review of Special Projects under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) sanctioned in 14 states including Bihar, which together account for than 150 Special Projects under SGSY was recently held by the central Government. This review highlighted the fact that, Special Projects in the states have been plagued by delays and adequate attention is not being paid to regular and rigorous monitoring of implementation of these projects at the field level by the Rural Development Departments of the State Governments, resulting in poor project progress. During the review, the concerned State Governments have been advised to undertake periodic review of implementation of all the sanctioned Special Projects and closely monitor their progress at senior levels in the State Government to facilitate removal of bottlenecks and to ensure their timely completion.

[English]

Earthquake Awareness Plan

2656. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry has adopted a plan to spread earthquake awareness through school children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the aims and objectives of the plan; and

(d) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. All state, regional and central offices of India Meteorological Department (IMD) organize a regular 1-week programme for spreading awareness to school children that includes earthquake awareness as well apart from other natural hazards like cyclone, flood and drought coinciding with the National Science Day (28th

February) and World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Day - 23rd March. On both the occasions, exhibitions, lectures, visits to observatories etc. are exclusively organized for local school children.

Under Seismicity Programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), 5 pilot projects are funded for creating earthquake awareness in general and 2 projects specifically for school children.

Currency Swap Agreement

2657. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Japan have entered into a currency swap agreement to swap foreign exchange reserves to counter speculative moves on their currencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this agreement with Japan fructify;

(d) whether India has also entered into similar agreement with other countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL.) : (a) to (c) Negotiations between India and Japan are going on for putting in place a bilateral currency swap arrangement to take care of short term liquidity needs during a balance of payment crisis.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Interlinking of ATM Facility

2658. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to interlink ATMs of all the banks through internet in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Appointment of Notary Public

2659. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) The existing strength of Notary Public in the country, state-wise;

(b) the details of the norms prescribed for appointed of Notaries;

(c) the number of candidates applied and appointed Notary Public in various States during the last one year as on date, State-wise;

(d) the number of applications lying pending, State-wise;

(e) the reasons for pendency; and

(f) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

PFC Assistance to Thermal Power Stations in NE Region

2660. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation of India proposes to fund certain thermal power stations of North East Region including Sikkim; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The PFC has sanctioned loan amount of Rs. 165.48 crore for Lakwa Waste Heat Recovery Project (1x37.2 MW) of Assam Power Generation Corporation Ltd. (APGCL) in December, 2006. Out of this an amount of Rs. 40.45 crore has been disbursed upto 31.07.2007.

Another loan proposal for Namrup Gas Based Combined Cycle Power Project, Phase-I (100 MW) of APGCL has been received by PFC. The financial sanction and disbursement depends upon the detailed appraisal and request received from the concerned State.

Disinvestment Clause

2661. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is disinvestment clause regarding foreign companies;

(b) If so, whether Government is considering to review the policy of imposing a disinvestment clause on foreign companies in some key sectors; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The disinvestment clause for divestment of 26% equity in favour of Indian partner/public within 5 years is applicable in the following sectors/activities:-

(1) In the Petroleum and Natural Gas sector for undertaking trading and marketing of petroleum products.

(2) In Tea sector including Tea plantation.

- (3) In Telecommunication sector for (i) undertaking ISP without gateway, (ii) infrastructure provider providing dark fibre, right of way, duct space, tower (category-I), and (iii) electronic mail and voice mail, if these companies are listed in other parts of the world.

(b) and (c) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent FDI policy according to which FDI in most sectors/activities is permitted upto 100% under the automatic route. The FDI policy, including caps on foreign equity limits, compulsory divestment and procedures are reviewed on a continuing basis with a view to creating an improved investment regime for higher FDI inflows. Recently, a review of the FDI policy was undertaken by the Government in January, 2006. Press Note 4 (2006 series) containing the rationalization measures is available on the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion's website <http://dipp.nic.in>.

[Translation]

Bio-technology Parks

2662. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the State Government of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Goa and Madhya Pradesh for setting up Bio-technology parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from the State Government of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Goa and Madhya Pradesh for setting up Bio-technology park.

[English]

Import of Natural Gas by NTPC

2663. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is proposing to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for its power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NTPC has signed any Memorandum of Understanding in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the quantum of LNG is likely to be imported to meet the target of power generation in near future?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is exploring the possibility of importing Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for its power plants.

NTPC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Energy, Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) for setting up power Plants in Nigeria subject to condition that FGN will provide, subject to availability, at least three Million Tonnes of LNG per annum at reasonable price on long term basis for a period of 25 years from its existing/future LNG Plants. Upon successful operation of above commitment by FGN, NTPC will set up, subject to technical feasibility, a 500 MW coal based and a 700 MW gas based power plant in Nigeria.

Actual quantum of LNG will depend upon successful finalization of LNG Sale and Purchase Agreement with Government of Nigeria and re-gasification arrangements.

(e) During 2006-07, about 1090 Million standard Cubic Metre (MMSCM) of spot Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) was utilized at NTPC Stations. During the current year, about 530 MMSCM of spot RLNG was utilized at NTPC Stations till July, 2007. However, the quantum of LNG to be utilized in future will depend upon the pricing and availability of Natural gas/RLNG in domestic/international market.

[Translation]

Losses under Credit Card Scheme

2664. SHRI MOHD TAHIR :

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether banks suffered losses under the credit card scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a fresh scheme is being launched in place of the present one;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the interest rate on the outstanding amount of the credit card holders has been increased/being increased; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) The existing Management Information System of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate the desired data.

(c) and (d) The banks may frame their own credit card schemes as per their business plans subject to the guidelines/instructions issued by RBI from time to time.

(e) and (f) In terms of paragraph 3 of Master Circular

dated 2nd July, 2007, banks have been advised that credit card dues are in the nature of non-priority sector personal loans and as such banks are free to determine the rate of interest on credit card dues without reference to their Bench Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) and regardless of the size. However, RBI has advised the banks that the annualized percentage rate (APR), the method of calculation of APR, late payment charges including the method of calculation, the manner in which the outstanding unpaid amount is to be included for calculation of interest, etc. on credit card dues should be indicated by card issuing banks in the 'Welcome Kit' and monthly statement. Banks have also been advised to be transparent in fixing their interest rate/service charge on credit card dues and include the above in the Most Important Terms and Conditions (MITCs). Further, credit card scenario is being constantly monitored and instructions to banks on their credit card operations are issued by the RBI, on an ongoing basis.

[English]

Life Insurance Corporation

2665. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of divisions of the Life Insurance Corporation in the country, State-wise;

(b) the norms prescribed for the establishment of new divisions in the State;

(c) whether the Government has a proposal to set up new division of LIC in some States particularly in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that it has 106 Divisional Offices in the Country. State-wise details are as under:-

S.No	State	No. of Divisions
1.	Uttar Pradesh	10
2.	Uttarakhand	02
3.	Andhra Pradesh	09
4.	Himachal Pradesh	01
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	01
6.	Madhya Pradesh	06
7.	Rajasthan	05
8.	Delhi	03
9.	Chandigarh	01
10.	Kerala	04
11.	Tamil Nadu	08
12.	Haryana	02
13.	Karnataka	08
14.	Maharashtra	15
15.	Goa	01
16.	Gujarat	07
17.	Punjab	03
18.	Chhattisgarh	01
19.	West Bengal	07
20.	Assam	04
21.	Orissa	03
22.	Bihar	03
23.	Jharkhand	02

(b) LIC has reported that new divisional offices are opened by it depending upon the business growth, administrative requirements, financial viability and potential of the area.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of LIC at present.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Expenditure on Official Residence of
Chairman, SBI**

2666. SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the limit of expenditure on renovation, repair, upkeep and furnishing of the official residence of the Chairman of State Bank of India;

(b) the periodicity fixed for incurring expenditure on these works;

(c) the limit of ad hoc expenditure; and

(d) the details of annual expenditure incurred under these heads during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Limits on expenditure for renovation, repair, upkeep and furnishing of the official residence of the Chairman of State Bank of India are not specified and the expenses are incurred on these items as and when the need arises.

(b) No periodicity is fixed for incurring expenditure on above items except for furnishing which is once in 3 years or on change of incumbency whichever is earlier depending on the choice of the incumbent.

(c) Adhoc expenditure is incurred as and when the need arises. As such, there is no limit prescribed.

(d) The annual expenditure under these heads for 3 years are as follows:-

(Rs. in lacs)

Year	Repairs and Renovation	Upkeep	Furnishing	Total
2004-05	Nil	6.38	0.12	6.50
2005-06	2.12	8.79	0.84	11.75
2006-07	111.27	9.09	5.12	125.48

It will be observed that the major expenditure was on repairs and renovation (including water works, roofing, plumbing, electrification, bathrooms, painting, grounds, etc.). In the instant case, the property with an area of 65000 sq. ft. land and 15000 sq. ft. of built up area is more than 80 years old, requiring periodical expenditure on repairs, renovation and maintenance, which was not done for the last several years.

[English]

Report of India Energy Outlook

2007

2667. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has gone through the Report of India Energy Outlook 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Neither Ministry of Power nor Planning Commission nor Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have commissioned such a Study/Report.

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

Outsourcing of R and D Work

2668. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Investment Report released by UNCTAD has reported regarding updating of technology in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating outsourcing of Research and Development work to specialized centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the findings of the recent World Investment Report released by UNCTAD would be useful in updating technology in India?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The World Investment Report 2006 released by UNCTAD has not specifically reported regarding updating of technology in India. However, it highlights the changing role of developing countries and transition economies in global foreign direct investment and international production system. It states that the outward investment by developing economies is increasing. The report highlights the limited role of India in outward foreign direct investment, which is evident from the fact that only one Indian company figures in the list of top 100 Trans-National Corporations (TNCs) from developing economies, given in the report.

(c) and (d) In order to take our technology to match global standards, the Government has launched schemes that promote public-private partnerships and R and D collaborations (nationally as well as internationally), rather than outsourcing of R and D to specialized centres. For example, under the scheme - New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI), the endeavour is to bring the best private sector partners and publicly

funded institutions together to create technologies that provide technological leadership to the country.

(e) The World Investment Report 2006 released by UNCTAD focuses on FDI from Developing and Transition Economies and its main finding is the rise of TNCs from these economies is a part of profound shift in the world economy. The report includes a reference of Prime Minister of India, stating that Indian Government will remove all barriers to growth and encourage Indian companies to go global. The report also refers to the assistance being offered by FICCI to improve the competitiveness of Indian businesses and enhance their global reach.

Thus, the findings of the World Investment Report 2006 report signal towards creating an enabling mechanism for the creation and rise of TNCs of Indian origin, who with their outward investments would be able to access markets, natural resources, foreign capital, technology or intangible assets, essential for their competitiveness.

[Translation]

Constitution of India on Internet

2669. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to put the original copy of the Constitution of India alongwith pictures therein on Internet; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Modernization of Meteorological Department

2670. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme for modernization of meteorological department;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the meteorological department is contemplating to launch a meteorological television channel;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether warning centres are being started this year to deal with the problems relating to natural calamities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes Sir, a scheme for modernization of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been formulated in order to provide precise and timely weather services to various user agencies based on state of the art observational and communication infrastructure.

(b) The components of modernization scheme will be implemented in two phases viz. Phase-I (2007-09) and Phase-II-subsequent period of XI five year plan. These include:-

(i) Strengthening of the existing observational network and expanding the network.

(ii) Improving the forecasting methodology by integrating the Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) model outputs with synoptic reasoning.

(iii) Quick dissemination of weather information and warnings to the users in real time.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The government plans to set up a dedicated weather channel in the Public-Private-Partnership mode to telecast weather and climate related information required by public and other users.

A three-phased implementation strategy is being devised. The first phase of the channel with 6 hours of telecast time will be implemented by next year. Subsequent phases with 12 and 24 hours of telecast time will be implemented in 2009 and 2010.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System is getting ready for real time operations at the Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.

The warning dissemination specific to natural calamities is carried out through existing area cyclone warning centres, regional meteorological centres, flood meteorological offices. Network of digital cyclone warning dissemination systems (DCWS) is operated in areas vulnerable to cyclones.

[English]

Interest Subvention to Cooperative Banks

2671. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to consider appropriate interest subvention on own funds of Cooperative Banks as well as to make refinance available to the extent of 85% of total lending of Cooperative Banks and also to make applicable the above scheme to DCCBs; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request from the Government of Gujarat has been received before the Government of India (GoI) decision to extend 2% interest subvention to cooperative banks on their own involvement in disbursement of crop loans upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per borrower during 2006-07 at 7% p.a.

GoI refinances to the Co-operative Banks through the

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), which is supplementary in nature. NABARD cannot afford to take care of such credit needs of the client banks due to funds constraints. With the withdrawal of Ground Level Credit (GLC) facility by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), NABARD is entirely dependent on market borrowings at market rates for providing Short Term—Seasonal Agricultural Operations (ST-SAO) refinance also. For the year 2007-08, NABARD has made a budgetary provision of Rs. 18000 crore for ST-SAO refinance to cooperative banks in the country. Thus, at present, NABARD is not in a position to increase its ST-SAO refinance to cooperative banks from its present level of 40%/35% of Realistic Lending Programme (RLP).

NABARD has provided ST-SAO refinance to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs), on behalf of eligible District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), at concessional rates of interest of 2.5% p.a. with interest subvention from Government of India. The condition for availing this refinance is that Cooperative Banks provide crop loans upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per borrower at a rate of interest of 7% per annum. The rate of interest on this concessional refinance is 3% p.a. for the year 2007-08.

Speculation in Dwelling Units

2672. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that a lot of properties are kept vacant and used for speculation in the market thereby rising its prices artificially;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to stop speculation in dwelling units; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) Matters relating to land and housing are state subjects and come under the purview of State

Governments. This Ministry does not maintain any information with regard to speculation in dwelling units.

Grant in Aid To NGOs

2673. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has revised General Financial Rules to provide grants in aid to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Voluntary Organisations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Rules relating to provision of Grants in aid to Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Voluntary Organizations are, as laid down in Chapter 9 of the General Financial Rules, 2005, (a published document) in force from 01.07.2005, as amended from time to time.

Changes in Wealth Tax Act

2674. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has sought for changes in the Wealth Tax Act;

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

(c) the other changes sought for by FICCI; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on the recommendations made by FICCI?

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

(b) to (d) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) had submitted a pre-

budget memorandum for consideration for the Union Budget of 2007, which, inter-alia, included suggestions relating to changes in the Wealth-tax Act. The memorandum was examined during the budgetary exercise for the Budget of 2007 and the decisions taken thereon by the Government are reflected in the Finance Act, 2007.

Relief in Service Tax

2675. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any consultation has been held with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry regarding exemption/refund/rebate of Service Tax on certain export related items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to augment country's exports by way of retention/exemption of various taxes and duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c): Remission of service tax paid on input services used for manufacture of goods exported is provided under various schemes. Drawback rates prescribed for export goods have factored service tax paid on input services used for export goods. Ministry of Commerce and Federation of Indian Export Organisations have been requested to provide details of taxable services which are not in the nature of input services but could be attributable to export goods and to suggest suitable and verifiable method to refund service tax paid on such taxable services.

Project Parivartan in SBI

2676. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India (SBI) proposes to launch "Project Parivartan" programme for its employees for better customer relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely expenditure to be incurred on the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) State Bank of India (SBI) has launched "Project Parivartan" Programme on 16.7.2007. It is a two day Training Programme being rolled out mainly through their existing Training system and Trainers. It is an inclusive Programme, covering Clerks and Officers alike. The main objective of the Programme is to change the mindset of the employees to make them more customer friendly.

As Programme is designed In-House (not by Consultants) and rolled out mainly through In-House Training Schools, there is no significant additional cost incurred by the bank in administering the Programme.

Increase in the Interest Rate

2677. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that some nationalized/private banks have increased the interest rates frequently for the loans raised by the customers, particularly during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to minimise hardship of customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has de-regulated interest rates on advances above Rs. 2 lakh, including the housing loans, with effect October 18, 1994 and interest rates are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their Boards. For credit limit upto Rs. 2 lakh, the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) has been

prescribed as the ceiling lending rate. In order to enhance transparency in pricing of their loan products, banks have been advised by the RBI to fix their BPLR after taking into account (i) actual cost of funds, (ii) operating expenses and (iii) a minimum margin to cover regulatory requirement of provisioning/capital charge and profit margin and ensure that the BPLR truly reflects the actual cost. Banks are now allowed to freely price their products below or above their BPLR and offer floating rate products by using market benchmarks in a transparent manner.

As reported by the RBI, details of the BPLR of the Public Sector and Private Sector Banks for the last three years are as under:-

Year	Public Sector Banks	Private Sector Banks
2004-05	10.25-11.25	11.00-13.50
2005-06	10.25-11.25	11.00-14.00
2006-07	12.25-12.75	12.00-16.50

Given the prevailing credit market in India and the need to continue with concessionality for small borrowers, the practice of treating BPLR as the ceiling for loans upto Rs. 2 lakh will continue. However, banks are free to determine the rates of interest without reference to BPLR and regardless of the size of loans in respect of loans for purchase of consumer durables, loans to individuals against shares and debentures/bonds, other non-priority sector personal loans, including credit card dues etc.

In its Master Circular dated July 2, 2007 on Interest Rates on Advances issued to all the Scheduled Commercial Banks, RBI has advised the banks to lay out appropriate internal principles and procedures so that usurious interest, including processing and other charges, is not levied by them on loans and advances, including small value loans, particularly, personal loans etc. Such procedures should take into account, among others, factors like an appropriate

prior-approval process keeping in view the cash flows of the prospective borrower, reasonable risk premium, the presence or absence of security and the value, justifiable interest and all other charges levied on a loan, an appropriate ceiling on interest, a reasonable expected return from the transaction, etc.

ATM Facilities in Rural Areas

2678. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce ATM facilities in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Under the extant Branch Authorization Policy, banks are encouraged to open branches/install ATMs in rural centers and underbanked districts. While considering applications for branches/ATMs, RBI will give weightage to the nature and scope of banking facilities provided by banks to common persons, particularly in underbanked areas (districts), actual credit flow to priority sector, pricing of products and overall efforts for promoting financial inclusion, including introduction of appropriate new products and the enhanced use of technology for delivery of banking services. The need to induce enhanced competition in the banking sector at various locations is also a factor which is taken into account.

The choice of the center/location of the branch/ATM, is left to the discretion of the banks, which the banks decide based on the business potential, commercial viability, availability of infrastructure, etc.

[Translation]

Shrinking of Gangotri Glacier

2679. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gangotri glacier in the Himalayas is Shrinking by 120 feet every year;

(b) if so, whether the scientists have observed that it will disappear completely; and

(c) if so, the likely effects of disappearance of this glacier?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been conducting studies on the recession of the Gangotri Glacier since 1935. The rate of shrinking of 30.2 km-long Gangotri Glacier in the last three decades has been found to be more than the rate during the earlier decades. The average rate of recession has been computed by comparing the snout position on 1985 topo sheet map and the 2001 satellite imagery and the result shows that average recession for this period is about 25 meter/ year (83 feet/year).

(b) Although the shrinking of the Gangotri Glacier is a matter of concern, the prospect of disappearance of the glacier does not exist.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

World Bank Assistance for PMGSY

2680. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of road projects taken up/being taken up with the assistance from World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), State-wise; and

(b) the assistance received by each of such States during the last two years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The details of road projects taken up with assistance from World Bank (WB) under Rural Roads Project (RRP) I in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have been given as per the enclosed Statement-I. In addition, under RRP II (under assistance from World Bank) in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoran and Uttarakhand, the social and environmental assessment is being undertaken.

The details of Road Projects taken up with assistance of ADB in Phase I and II have been given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(b) The assistance received/releases made for each State during the last two years and the current year (upto 17.08.2007) has been given as per the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

(Rs. in crore, Length in km.)

S. No.	State	Value of proposals cleared	Length of road works cleared
1	2	3	6
1	H.P. Phase-I	80.28	672.49
	Phase-II	176.10	767.37
2	Jharkhand	29.15	130.07
3	Rajasthan Tranche-I	307.42	2261.83
	Tranche-II	130.18	804.84
	Tranche-III	295.40	1571.51
	Tranche-IV (BN)	160.41	589.18

1	2	3	6
4	Uttar Pradesh Phase-I	343.94	1465.61
	Phase II (Batch-I and II)	276.31	935.06
	Grand Total	1799.19	9197.96

Statement-II

The details of road project under Asian Development Bank (ADB)

(Rs. in crores/Length in km.)

S. No.	State	Value of proposals cleared	Length of road works cleared
1	2	3	6
1	Assam Batch-I	501.42	999.24
	Batch-II	573.46	1000.78
2	Chhattisgarh Batch-I	98.24	513.41
	Batch-II	587.11	2516.13
	Batch-III	598.83	2145.08
3	Madhya Pradesh Batch-I	99.40	515.12
	Batch-I (Part-II)	119.25	604.33
	Batch-II	456.81	2322.59
	Batch-III	560.71	2501.22
4	Orissa Batch-I	349.46	1189.17
	Batch-II	513.81	1612.22
5	West Bengal	313.71	999.32
	Grand Total	4772.21	16918.61

Statement-III

*Release/Assistance Received by the states under
World Bank/Asian Development Bank
Assisted Projects*

World Bank

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	State	Releases during*			Total
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 upto 17.8.2007	
1.	Himachal Pradesh	44.27	—	40.14	84.41
2.	Jharkhand	16.78	—	—	16.78
3.	Rajasthan	9.68	524.81	80.00	614.49
4.	Uttar Pradesh	128.32	225.19	98.22	451.73
Total		199.05	750.00	218.36	1167.41

Asian Development Bank

S.No.	State	Releases during*			Total
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 upto 17-8-07	
1.	Assam	20.00	140.00	90.00	250.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	72.50	300.00	200.00	572.37
3.	Madhya Pradesh	75.00	325.00	502.37	902.37
4.	Orissa	15.00	159.73	256.91	431.64
5.	West Bengal	10.00	75.27	71.58	156.85
Total		192.50	1000.00	1120.86	2313.36

Overseas Investment

2681. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed any resident Indian to invest a certain amount in a year abroad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India, under the "Liberalised Remittance Scheme for Resident Individuals," allows a resident individual to remit upto US \$ 100,000 per financial year for any permitted current or capital account transactions or a combination of both, such as bank deposit, purchase or immovable property, investment in equity/debt, etc. abroad. Similarly, resident individual are permitted to remit for current account transactions such as gift, donation, medical treatment, education, employment, emigration, import of medicines, books and periodicals subject to Foreign Trade Policy. However, the remittances for transactions, which are otherwise not permissible under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and those in the nature of remittance for margins or margin calls to overseas exchanges/overseas counterparty are not permitted under the scheme.

**Shortcomings In Implementation of Rural
Development Programmes**

2682. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently reviewed the performance of various Rural Development Programmes;

(b) if so, whether any shortcomings have been noticed in their implementation;

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

(d) whether any delay has been noticed in completion of these rural Development Programmes;

(e) if so, the details thereof indicating the cost escalation for such programmes; and

(f) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to expedite the completion of these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The review of Rural Development Programmes is continuous process. The Ministry reviewed various Rural Development Schemes in the Performance Review Committee, the latest held in April 2007.

(b) to (e) Some shortcomings like delay in completion of projects beyond the stipulated period, due to non availability of land, material, shortage of contracting capacity, inadequate institutional capacity, security related problems etc. were noticed in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). In case of Wastelands Development Projects, some of the projects got delayed beyond the project period. Under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) lack of work site facilities delay in wage payments and shortage of staff were noticed. Similarly, in Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) shortcomings were like delay in release of instalment at Block Level, non receipt of full amount of subsidy to the beneficiaries, non displaying of details of houses, some houses were constructed without smokeless chullah and sanitary latrine etc.

(f) the shortcomings in the implementation of Rural Development Programmes are immediately brought to the notice of the State Governments/UT Administrations for corrective measures and action taken report is sought.

Education Loan

2683. SHRI M. APPADURAI :

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Banks insist for security/guarantee for the grant of Education loans;

(b) whether this is violation of the directions and instructions issued by the Government;

(c) if so, the details of action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide loans to reserved category students at cheaper rates through the Banks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c): As per Model Education Loan Scheme, 2004, circulated by Indian Banks' Association to banks, the security/guarantee norms for grant of education loans have been provided as under:-

Upto Rs.4 lakh	No security
Above Rs. 4 lakh and upto Rs.7.5 lakh	Collateral in the form of a suitable third party guarantee. The bank may, at its discretion, waive third party guarantee, if satisfied with the net-worth/means of parent executing the document as 'joint borrower'.
Above Rs. 7.5 lakh	Collateral security of suitable value or suitable third party guarantee along with the assignment of future income of the student for payment of installments.

Information received from the Banks indicates that they are complying with the security/guarantee norms laid in the Model Education Loan Scheme, 2004.

(d) and (e) As per model Education Loan Scheme, 2004, the banks are to charge interest on education loan upto Rs. 4 lakh at Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) and above Rs. 4 lakh at BPLR+1 per cent. The BPLR is fixed by the banks themselves with the approval of their Boards and not by the RBI or the Government. The Model Education Loan Scheme 2004, does not provide for loans at rates other than those indicated above for reserve category students.

[Translation]

**Per Unit Cost of Thermal Power
Generation**

2684. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether per unit cost of Thermal power generation is much higher than the per unit cost of power generation from other sources of power in the country;

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

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to bring down the per unit cost of Thermal power generation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The unit cost of power generation varies from station to station and depends mainly on the type of plant and the fuel used, and the plants location, size, age and efficiency. Owing to higher capital costs as compared to thermal power plants, the cost of generation from hydro power plants is generally higher in the initial years and becomes significantly lower towards the later years mainly on account of nil cost on fuel. The details (according to information made available by the Central

Electricity Regulatory Commission) of the tariff of some of the thermal (coal, lignite and gas / liquid fuel) and hydro power stations, and details in respect of nuclear power stations (according to information made available by the Central Electricity Authority) are given in the enclosed Statement-I, Statement-II and Statement-III respectively.

(c) A number of steps have been taken for reducing the cost of power generation which include the following:-

The Electricity Act, 2003 creates a competitive framework for generation which should exert a downward pressure on costs.

The National Electricity Policy lays maximum emphasis on full development of feasible hydro potential. The cost of power generation from hydro projects reduces significantly in the long term.

In respect of thermal power, the policy states that the economics of generation and supply of electricity should be the basis for choice of fuel from among the options available.

The Tariff Policy, which was notified on 06.01.2006, provides that all future requirement of power should be procured competitively by distribution licensees except in cases of expansion of existing projects or where there is a State controlled/owned company as an identified developer. For Public Sector projects also, the tariff of all new generation and transmission projects is to be decided on the basis of competitive bidding after a period of five years or when the Regulatory Commission is satisfied that the situation is ripe to introduce such competition.

Captive coal mining for thermal projects is being encouraged with the object of inter alia, lowering the cost of fuel for coal fired stations.

The operational efficiency of poorly performing thermal power stations has improved by Renovation and Modernization programme.

The terms and conditions of tariff issued by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) for the period 2004-09 have improved the operational norms.

The Mega Power Policy provides for zero customs duty for import of capital equipment and deemed export

benefits for domestic suppliers for generation projects fulfilling eligibility conditions of this policy.

The Government has also earlier reduced the customs duty on Naphtha and Natural Gas for power projects and the custom duty on coal.

Statement-I

*Tariff of Generating Stations of NTPC existing as on 1.4.2007 for 2007-08 in Paise/k Wh Ex-Bus
(New Terms and conditions of Tariff with improved norms) at 80% PLF*

Sl. No.	Name of Generating Station	Installed Capacity (MW)	Commercial operation date of the Station	Paise/Kwh
1	2	3	4	5

Coal Based thermal generating Stations of NTPC

A. Pit head Generating Stations

1.	Vindhyachal STPS St-I	1260.00	1.2.1992	131
2.	Korba STPS	2100.00	1.6.1990	83
3.	Ramagundam STPS	2100.00	1.4.1991	134
4.	Talcher STPS St-I	1000.00	1.7.1997	125
5.	Talcher TPS'	460.00	1.7.1997	132
6.	Vindhyachal STPS St-II	1000.00	1.10.2000	161

B. Non-Pit head Generating Stations

1.	FGUTPP St-II	420.00	1.1.2001	198
2.	NCTP Dadri	840.00	1.12.1995	336
3.	Farakka STPS	1600.00	1.7.1996	160
5.	Badarpur TPS	705.00	1.4.1982	307
6.	Kahalgaoon STPS	840.00	1.8.1996	176
7.	Simhadri'	1000.00	1.3.2003	179

1	2	3	4	5
C. Lignite Based Thermal generating Stations of NLC				
1.	TPS-I	600.00	21.02.1970	182
2.	TPS-II Stage-I	630.00	23.04.1988	153
3.	TPS-II Stage-II	840.00	09.04.1994	157
4.	TPS-I (Expansion)	420.00	05.09.2003	212
Gas/Liquid Fuel Based Stations of NTPC and NEEPCO				
A. Using Natural Gas as Fuel				
1.	Dadri CCGT	829.78	01.04.1997	136
2.	Faridabad	431.00	01.01.2001	357
3.	Anta CCGT	419.33	01.03.1990	125
4.	Auraiya GPS	663.36	01.12.1990	130
5.	Gandhar GPS	657.39	01.11.1995	196
6.	Kawas GPS	656.20	01.09.1993	158
7.	Agartala GPS ¹	84.00	01.08.1998	187
8.	Assam GPS ¹	291.00	01.04.1999	190
B. Using RLNG as Fuel				
1.	Dadri CCGT	829.78	01.04.1997	431
2.	Faridabad	431.00	01.01.2001	476
3.	Anta CCGT	419.33	01.03.1990	450
4.	Auraiya GPS	663.36	01.12.1990	429
5.	Kawas GPS	656.20	01.09.1993	414
C. Using Liquid Fuel (Naphtha/HSD) as Fuel				
1.	Faridabad	431.00	01.01.2001	794

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Auraiya GPS	663.36	01.12.1990	768
3.	Kayamkulam CCGT	359.58	01.03.2000	741
4.	Kawas GPS	656.20	01.09.1993	718

Note: 'Based on Annual Capacity Charges as per Tariff order for the Period 2003-04 charged provisionally.

Statement-II

Tariff of Hydro Electric Power Stations for 2006-07

S. No.	Name of Power Station	Installed capacity in MW	Date of Commercial Operation	Paise/Kwh for year 2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chamera-I HEP	540.0	01.05.1994	134
2.	Tanakpur HEP	94.2	01.04.1993	121

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Rangit HEP	60.0	15.02.2000	178
4.	Chamera HEP	300.0	31.03.2004	256
5.	Baira Siul HEP	180.0	01.04.1982	73
6.	Salal HEP	690.0	01.04.1995	63
7.	Uri HEP	480.0	01.06.1997	209
8.	Loktak HEP	105.0	01.06.1983	127
9.	Indira Sagar HEP	1000	25.08.2005	210

Statement-III

Tariff for sale of power from various Atomic Power Stations of NPCIL

Sl. No.	Name of Power Stations	Capacity (MW)	P/Kmh	Tariff Validity
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Kakrapar Unit - 1 and 2	2x220	204.34	01.04.2006 to 31.03.2011
2.	Tarapur Unit - 1 and 2	2x160	93.56	01.04.2006 to 31.03.2011
3.	Tarapur Unit - 3 and 4	2x540	265.48*	01.04.2005 to 31.03.2010
4.	Narora Unit - 1 and 2	2x220	191.49	01.04.2006 to 31.03.2011
5.	Rajasthan Unit - 2, 3 and 4	1x210+2x220	279.79	01.01.2004 to 31.01.2008

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Madras Unit - 1 and 2	2x220	181.18	01.04.2006 to 31.03.2011
7.	Kaiga Unit - 1 and 2	2x220	279.50	01.07.2005 to 30.06.2010

NPCIL - Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.

Note: The Notified Tariff is subject to price variation of Fuel and Heavy Water.

*Provisional.

Complaints against National Level Monitors

2685. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the suggestions received regarding improvement in monitoring of rural development schemes;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints against the functioning of National Level Monitors (NLMs);

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposes to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) Monitoring of the rural development programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development is done through a multi-level and multi-tool mechanism. Suggestions to improve the monitoring mechanism received from the members of the Standing Committee on Rural Development, Parliamentary Consultative Committee, State/District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees, Performance Review Committee of the Ministry, Members of Parliament and general public

from time to time, have been incorporated in the system. Some of these are engagement of National Level Monitors, District Level Monitors, revitalization of District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees and emphasis on physical and quality verification of assets etc.

(b) to (d) About 1790 visits have been undertaken by National Level Monitors (NLMs) during 2003-04 to 2006-07 on different districts. One formal complaint against on NLM has been received during the period. The concerned NLM has been debarred from the panel of NLMs.

[English]

Reimbursement of Non-Bonafide Payment to New Allottees

2686. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Estates evicts Government quarters forcibly without ensuring payment of pending electricity, water and PNG bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these evicted quarters are being allotted to the Government servants without settling the dues;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the payment of such dues have been forcibly made by new allottees;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the steps taken to reimburse payments so made by the new allottees; and

(h) the departmental action taken for non-recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Upon cessation of entitlement and/or eligibility for Government housing, the primary aim is to regain possession of premises. Clearing of outstanding services dues is taken up thereafter. The eviction and the recovery of outstandings is done as per due process resorting to the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and the Conduct Rules respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The readiness of allottees to accept houses when dues are outstanding builds pressure for allotment.

(e) No, Sir. The new allottees are neither liable nor forced to pay the pending dues of the previous allottees.

(f) Does not arise in view of para (e) above.

(g) Not applicable in view of para (e) and (f) above.

(h) Arrangements are being worked out with service providers to install systems now available to adopt stored value-rechargeable systems in the houses so as to eliminate deposits, refunds, outstandings and recoveries.

Pension Fund Manager

2687. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has appointed some organizations as pension fund managers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), through a competitive bidding process has identified three public sector entities viz. State Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation of India and UTI- Asset Management Company Private Ltd. as sponsors of pension funds to manage the funds of the New Pension System in respect of Government of India employees who have joined on or after 1.1.2004.

External Assistance

2688. SHRI K. SUBARAYAN :

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI SURAJ SINGH :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals of States lying with the Union Government for external assistance as on date;

(b) the steps taken / being taken for early disposal of such proposals;

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided by the World Bank/International Finance Corporation (IFC)/ Asian Development Bank (ADB) for implementation of development schemes in the States during each of the last three years, project-wise, State-wise;

(d) the terms and conditions of such assistance; and

(e) the amount of assistance utilized by the States during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) The details of the proposals of States lying with the Union Government for external assistance at different stages of screening are listed in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Government of India issues guidelines to streamline the process of approval of externally aided projects, and for early disposal, better management and implementation of these projects. Various initiatives have been taken from time to time for early disposal of the proposals which include having regular review meetings and Annual consultations with donor agencies/countries. In case of Japanese ODA loans, a Double Tracked Process has been introduced in 2007-08 to facilitate faster appraisal of proposals and signing of loan agreements with JBIC.

(c) State-wise/Project-wise details of authorizations of external assistance provided by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for implementation of develop-

ment schemes in the States during the last three years are given in enclosed Annexure 1-4 to Statement-II. [The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, provides assistance only to the private sector in developing nations].

(d) The terms and conditions of external assistance provided by different external agencies are given in enclosed Statement-III.

(e) State-wise details of utilization of external assistance provided by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank during the last three years are given in enclosed Annexure 1-4 to Statement-IV.

Statement-I

S.No.	State	Donor Agency	Name of the Project
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	DFID (UK)	Sector-wise approach in Health Sector Reform
2.	Andhra Pradesh	World Bank	A.P. Urban Reform and Municipal Sanitation Project
3.	Andhra Pradesh	World Bank	Andhra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement Project
4.	Andhra Pradesh	World Bank	AP Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme
5.	Andhra Pradesh	World Bank	Improvement of 4286 km. of high-density core network roads in Andhra Pradesh
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Germany	Setting up of 2x800 MW Krishna Patnam Thermal Power station
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Germany	Setting up of Pare Hydro Electric (110 MW) Project
8.	Andhra Pradesh	Japan	Outer Ring Road Project, Hyderabad
9.	Andhra Pradesh	Japan	Water Supply and Sewerage Sector for twins cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and surrounding Municipalities
10.	Andhra Pradesh	Japan	Project for Development of Fish Landing Centre at Anthavedipallipalem and skill upgradation of coastal fisher folk in Andhra Pradesh

1	2	3	4
11.	Andhra Pradesh	Japan	Integrated Water Resources Management for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development under Tech. Coop. Prog.
12.	Andhra Pradesh	Japan	High Voltage Distribution Project of APTRANCO
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	Japan	Arunachal Pradesh Forestry Project
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	Germany	Setting up of pare Hydro Electric (110 MW) Project
15.	Assam	World Bank	Upgradation of State Highways and Major District Roads in Assam
16.	Assam	Japan	Greater Guwahati Water Supply Scheme
17.	Bihar	World Bank	Bihar Structural Adjustment Loan
18.	Bihar	World Bank	Bihar Decentralization Support Project
19.	Bihar	Japan	Water Supply, Sewerage and Solid Waste Management for Patna City, Bihar
20.	Bihar	Japan	Establishment of Nalanda International University
21.	Gujarat	World Bank	Gujarat Urban Reforms Project
22.	Gujarat	Japan	Tranch-I of State Level Transmission Project
23.	Gujarat	Japan	Development of Fishing Harbour at Sutrapada District Junaghadh
24.	Gujarat	Japan	Establishment of Plant Health Clinic at District Level Junaghadh Agricultural University
25.	Gujarat	Japan	Establishment of Cold Storage Chain in selected sites of Saurashtra region of Gujarat state, Junaghadh Agricultural University
26.	Gujarat	Japan	Establishment of rural agro-processing centers in Saurashtra region of Gujarat state, Junaghadh Agricultural University
27.	Gujarat	Japan	Establishment of center for renewable energy studies, Junaghadh Agricultural University

1	2	3	4
28.	Gujarat	Japan	Establishment of research centers for Jafrabadi buffloes, Junaghadh Agricultural University
29.	Gujarat	Japan	Income Augumentation of Economically lagging agriculture based tribals of central Gujarat Anand Agricultural University
30.	Gujarat	Japan	Centres for Excellence in Biofuels, Anand Agricultural University
31.	Gujarat	Japan	Strengthening of laboratory for testing pesticide residues and heavy metals from agricultural commodities, Anand Agricultural University
32.	Gujarat	Japan	Sustainable community Managed Drinking Water supply infrastructure for rural areas for backward and tribal restricts of Panchmahal and Dahod in Gujarat State.
33.	Gujarat	Japan	High-Tech floriculture project Research-Cum-Demonstration-Cum-Training Programmes, Anand Agricultural University
34.	Gujarat	Japan	Development of white onions varieties and its production and protection technology, Anand Agricultural University
35.	Haryana	World Bank	Upgradation of State Highways in Haryana
36.	Haryana	World Bank	Haryana Strengthening of Infra. In villages and Capacity Building of PRIs
37.	Haryana	World Bank	Haryana Power System Improvement Project
38.	Haryana	Germany	Indo Germany water shed Development project for Haryana, Shivalik
39.	Haryana	Germany	Bagasse based co generation project in co-operative sugar mills in Haryana
40.	Haryana	Germany	Resource management and livelihood project Haryana
41.	Haryana	Japan	Introduction of Environmental Friendly CNG buses by Haryana Roadways
42.	Haryana	Japan	Development of Aquaculture and post harvest infrastructure in Haryana

1	2	3	4
43.	Himachal Pradesh	World Bank	Himachal Pradesh SAL
44.	Himachal Pradesh	World Bank	Vishnugad Pipalkothi (444 MW)
45.	Himachal Pradesh	World Bank	Rampur Hydro Electric Project
46.	Jammu and Kashmir	Japan	Creation of facilities for State of Art Trauma and Emergency care and Assisted Reproductive Technology at Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Saure, Srinagar
47.	Karnataka	World Bank	Karnataka Community based tank Management Project
48.	Kerala	Japan	Kottiyam-Kumarakom Eco-city Project
49.	Kerala	Japan	Kerala Watershed Development Project
50.	Kerala	Japan	Augumentation of Water supply and/or Sewerage Project for Kollam, Kochi, Thirussur, Mallapuram and Manjeri Towns
51.	Kerala	Japan	Kerala Water Supply Project - Tranche-III
52.	Kerala	Japan	Rural Water Supply Project, Kerala
53.	Kerala	Japan	Infrastructure Strengthening for RCH Services at SAT hospital, Trivandrum
54.	Kerala	World Bank	Strengthening Local Governments in Kerala
55.	Kerala	Germany	Strengthening and Maintenance of Infrastructure of existing Industrial areas/development plots in Kerala
56.	Kerala	Germany	Strengthening and Maintenance of Infrastructure facilities of mini industrial states of Kerala
57.	Kerala	Germany	Strengthening of Infrastructure and Promotion of SMEs in the state of Kerala
58.	Multistate	World Bank	North Eastern Region Livelihood Project
59.	Madhya Pradesh	DFID (UK)	Sector-wide approach in Health Sector Reform
60.	Madhya Pradesh	World Bank	Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiative Project II
61.	Madhya Pradesh	Japan	Conservation and Management Plan for Lakes in Bhopal

1	2	3	4
62.	Madhya Pradesh	Japan	Upgradation of MDR Roads in Madhya Pradesh
63.	Madhya Pradesh	Japan	Pench Diversion Project, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
64.	Madhya Pradesh	Japan	Funding of ULBs Share in JNUURM for infrastructure Sector in Madhya Pradesh
65.	Madhya Pradesh	Japan	Nurturing and Strengthening of Pandit Dwarka Prasad Mishra (PDPM) Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, (IIITDM) Jabalpur by (a) Providing Academic Support for the running of its several courses and (b) Developing its design studios, i.e. R and D Laboratories through Japan-India Collaborations
66.	Manipur	Japan	Conservation and Sustainable Development of Loktak Lake (Manipur)
67.	Maharashtra	Japan	Maharashtra Natural Resources Management Project
68.	Maharashtra	Japan	Infrastructure Development Program for Sangali Miraj and Kupwada Municipal Corporation
69.	Mizoram	ADB	Mizoram Public Resource Management and Development Program (Structural Adjustment Loan)
70.	Mizoram	Japan	Comprehensive Development and Management of Land and Water Resources in Kolasib District
71.	Orissa	World Bank	Mahanadi Basin Development Project
72.	Orissa	World Bank	Orissa Community Based Tank Management Project
73.	Orissa	World Bank	Orissa State Roads Project
74.	Orissa	World Bank	Targeted Rural initiatives for Poverty Termination and Infrastructure (TRIPTI)/Orissa Rural Poverty Reduction Project
75.	Orissa	World Bank	Strengthening Land Administration in Orissa (Pilot Phase/Phase I)
76.	Orissa	DFID (UK)	Health Sector Reform Plan
77.	Orissa	DFID (UK)	Strengthening Land Administration in Orissa (Pilot Phase/Phase I)

1	2	3	4
78.	Orissa	Japan	Cluster Development approach of Brackish Water culture area in Orissa
79.	Orissa	Japan	Integrated Management and Pro-Poor support Project for Marine Fisherman of Orissa
80.	Orissa	Japan	Integrated Sewage and Drainage System for Greater Sambalpur
81.	Orissa	Japan	Integrated Sewage and Drainage System for Berhampur Town
82.	Punjab	Japan	Small Hydro and Biomass Projects in Punjab
83.	Rajasthan	Germany	Rural Water Supply Project Phase II
84.	Rajasthan	Japan	Integrated Ground Water Resource Development and Management, a proposal of University of Rajasthan
85.	Sikkim	Germany	Rural Development through Integrated Watershed Management in and around the community forest in Sikkim
86.	Sikkim	Japan	Improvement of Infrastructure and Medical facilities at STNM Hospital, Gangtok
87.	Tamil Nadu	World Bank	Tamil Nadu Railway Water Supply and Sanitation Project
88.	Tamil Nadu	Japan	Line of credit to the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project
89.	Tamil Nadu	Japan	Outer Ring Road for Chennai
90.	Tamil Nadu	Japan	Tamil Nadu-Hoagankkal Water Supply and Sanitation Project for Dharmapuri - Krishagiri District
91.	Uttar Pradesh	Japan	Tranch-I for State Level Transmission Project
92.	Uttar Pradesh	Japan	Maximising Oilseed and Pulse production in Bundhelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh
93.	Uttar Pradesh	World Bank	Rural Electricity Access Program in UP and Rajasthan
94.	Uttar Pradesh	World Bank	UP - Diversified Agricultural Support Project-II
95.	Uttar Pradesh	World Bank	Uttar Pradesh SAL-II

1	2	3	4
96.	Uttar Pradesh	Japan	Uttar Pradesh Forestry Project
97.	Uttaranchal	Japan	Char Dham Project in Uttaranchal
98.	Uttarakhand	World Bank	Luhri Hydro Electric Project (700 MW)
99.	West Bengal	World Bank	West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation
100.	West Bengal	World Bank	West Bengal Health System Development Project
101.	West Bengal	World Bank	West Bengal; Structural Adjustment Loan
102.	West Bengal	Japan	Bakareeshwar TPP Extension-VI
103.	West Bengal	Japan	Tranch-I of State Level Transmission Project
104..	West Bengal	Japan	Establishment of Mother and Child Health Unit in District Hospital of Malda
105.	West Bengal	DFID (UK)	Restructuring of PSUs in West Bengal. Phase-II

Statement-II**Annexure-1****Authorisation of Govt. Loan from 2004-2005 to 2006-2007**

(Amt. in Thousands)

Donor/State/Project	Loan Currency	Authorisations of Government loans		
		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5
ADB Asian Development Bank	USD	1,874,600.00	400,000.00	1,301,820.00
	INR	84,164,300.49	17,697,465.20	59,271,480.72
Assam	USD	150,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	6,734,580.75	0.00	0.00
2141-IND Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Prg	USD	125,000.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
	INR	5,612,150.63	0.00	0.00
2142-IND Assam Governance and Public Resource Devl. Proj.	USD	25,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	1,122,430.13	0.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	USD	180,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	8,081,496.90	0.00	0.00
2050-IND Chattisgarh State Roads Dev. (Sector) Project	USD	180,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	8,081,496.90	0.00	0.00
Central Govt.	USD	713,600.00	0.00	1,000,000.00
	INR	32,038,645.49	0.00	45,526,208.00
1981-IND Railway Sector Improvement Project	USD	313,600.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	14,079,763.49	0.00	0.00
2029-IND National Highways Sector-I Project	USD	400,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	17,958,882.00	0.00	0.00
2281-IND Rural Cooperative Credit Restr. and Dev.	USD	0.00	0.00	1,000,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	45,526,208.00
Delhi	USD	0.00	400,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	17,697,465.20	0.00
2154-IND National Highway Sector-II Project.	USD	0.00	400,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	17,697,465.20	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	USD	250,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	11,224,301.25	0.00	0.00
2151-IND Infrastructure Rehaillitation Project in Jammu and Kashmir	USD	250,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	11,224,301.25	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	USD	181,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	8,126,394.11	0.00	0.00
2046-IND Urban Water Supply and Environment Imp. in M.P.	USD	181,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	8,126,394.11	0.00	0.00
Multistates	USD	400,000.00	0.00	180,000.00
	INR	17,958,882.00	0.00	8,194,717.44
2018-IND Rural Roads Sector - I Project	USD	400,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	17,958,882.00	0.00	0.00
2248-IND Rural Roads Sector II Investment - Program 1	USD	0.00	0.00	180,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	8,194,717.44
Uttaranchal	USD	0.00	0.00	41,920.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	1,908,458.64
2309-IND Uttarakhand Power Sector Investment Program-Project 1	USD	0.00	0.00	41,920.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	1,908,458.64
West Bengal	USD	0.00	0.00	80,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	3,642,096.64
2293-IND Kolkata Environmental Imp. Project... Supplementary	USD	0.00	0.00	80,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	3,642,096.64
IBRD IBRD	USD	624,320.00	621,550.00	2,000.00
	INR	27,895,531.41	27,499,648.74	91,052.42
Assam	USD	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	91,052.42

1	2	3	4	5
P4330-IN Preparation of the Assam State Roads Project	USD	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	91,052.42
Central Govt.	USD	100,300.00	620,000.00	0.00
	INR	4,503,189.66	27,431,071.06	0.00
4753-IN Rural Project	USD	99,500.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	4,467,271.90	0.00	0.00
4764-IN Lucknow-Muzaffarpur National Highway Project	USD	0.00	620,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	27,431,071.06	0.00
P4150-IN Adv for prep of nati cyclone risk Mitigation Prj	USD	800.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	35,917.76	0.00	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	USD	0.00	1,550.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	68,577.68	0.00
P4240 Preparation of the HP State Road Project	USD	0.00	1,550.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	68,577.68	0.00
Karnataka	USD	40,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	1,795,888.20	0.00	0.00
4730-IN Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement	USD	39,500.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	1,773,439.60	0.00	0.00
P4130 Karnataka Municipal Reforms Project	USD	500.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	22,448.60	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	USD	394,020.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	17,690,396.71	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
4750-IN Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring	USD	394,020.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	17,690,396.71	0.00	0.00
Orissa	USD	85,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	3,816,262.43	0.00	0.00
4756-IN Orissa Socio-Economic Development	USD	85,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	3,816,262.43	0.00	0.00
Punjab	USD	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	89,794.41	0.00	0.00
P4170 Advance Preparation of Pro Punjab State Roads	USD	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	89,794.41	0.00	0.00
IDA IDA	USD	514.80	1,000.00	570.00
	INR	23,113.08	44,243.66	25,949.94
Central Govt.	USD	0.00	1,000.00	570.00
	INR	0.00	44,243.66	25,949.94
Q5040-IN National Vector Borne Diseases Control	USD	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	44,243.66	0.00
Q5270-IN Prep. of Capacity Bidg. for Ind. Poll. Mang. Pr.	USD	0.00	0.00	570.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	25,949.94
Jharkhand	USD	514.80	0.00	0.00
	INR	23,113.08	0.00	0.00
Q4420-IN Jharkhand Participatory Forest Mgt	USD	514.80	0.00	0.00
	INR	23,113.08	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
INA IDA	XDR	982,500.00	41,400.00	582,300.00
	INR	60,411,002.60	2,670,030.40	39,177,045.01
Assam	XDR	105,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	7,028,426.90	0.00	0.00
4013-IN Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project	XDR	105,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	7,028,426.90	0.00	0.00
Central Govt.	XDR	587,800.00	0.00	498,800.00
	INR	39,345,803.13	0.00	0.00
3682-IN Elementary Education Project (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan)	XDR	334,900.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	22,417,334.93	0.00	0.00
3952-IN Integrated Disease Surveillance Project	XDR	46,900.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	3,139,364.01	0.00	0.00
3987-IN Rural Roads Project	XDR	206,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	13,789,104.19	0.00	0.00
4161-IN National Agricultural Innovation Project	XDR	0.00	0.00	41,100.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	2,765,201.01
4162-IN National Agricultural Innovation Project	XDR	0.00	0.00	97,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	6,526,143.51
4227-IN Reproductive and Child Health Project Phase-II	XDR	0.00	0.00	245,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	16,483,558.35
4228-IN Tuberculosis Control Project Phase-II	XDR	0.00	0.00	115,700.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	7,784,276.33

1	2	3	4	5
Himachal Pradesh	XDR	0.00	41,400.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	2,670,030.40	0.00
4133-IN H.P. Mid Himalayan Watershed Dev. Pr.	XDR	0.00	41,400.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	2,670,030.40	0.00
Orissa	XDR	27,400.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	1,834,084.73	0.00	0.00
3996-IN Orissa Socio-Economic Development	XDR	27,400.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	1,834,084.73	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	XDR	61,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	4,083,181.34	0.00	0.00
3867-IN Rajasthan Health Systems Development	XDR	61,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	4,083,181.34	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	XDR	73,900.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	4,946,673.79	0.00	0.00
4018-IN Tamil Nadu Health Systems Project	XDR	73,900.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	4,946,673.79	0.00	0.00
Uttaranchal	XDR	47,400.00	0.00	83,500.00
	INR	3,172,832.71	0.00	5,617,865.81
3907-IN Uttaranchal Decentralised Watershed Develop.	XDR	47,400.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	3,172,832.71	0.00	0.00
4232-IN Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply and San. Proj.	XDR	0.00	0.00	83,500.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	5,617,865.81

Annexure-2

Authorisation of Govt. Grant from 2004-2005 to 2006-2007

(Amt in Thousands)

Donor/State/Project	Loan Currency	Authorisations of Government Grant		
		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5
IBRD	USD	67.83	976.00	1,929.19
	INR	218,551.96	43,270.30	87,828.71
Central Govt.	USD	3,012.93	490.00	1,929.19
	INR	135,272.14	21,679.40	87,828.71
TF-054401 Institutional Strengthening of AAAD of the MOF	USD	385.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	17,285.42	0.00	0.00
TF053744 Preparation of Urban Reform Initiative Fund Project	USD	597.44	0.00	0.00
	INR	26,823.39	0.00	0.00
TF053745 Prepn. of Slum upgrading and National Sanitation Pri	USD	710.49	0.00	0.00
	INR	31,890.02	0.00	0.00
TF053954 Perparation of Biodiversits Cons. and Rural Liy. Impr	USD	330.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	14,816.08	0.00	0.00
TF054184 Tech. Assist. to the Comp. Commission of India	USD	500.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	22,448.60	0.00	0.00
TF054877 Modernization of the CGA	USD	490.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	21,999.63	0.00	0.00
TF055145 PHRD Grant for Biomass for sustainable development	USD	0.00	0.00	998.70
	INR	0.00	0.00	45,467.02

1	2	3	4	5
TF055840 Modernization and Capacity Building of the C and AG	USD	0.00	490.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	21,679.40	0.00
TF056585 Infrastructure Financing support to IIFC Ltd.	USD	0.00	0.00	930.49
	INR	0.00	0.00	42,361.68
Karnataka	USD	0.00	488.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	21,590.91	0.00
TF55732 In Procurement Capacity Develop Programme for Karnataka	USD	0.00	488.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	21,590.91	0.00
Maharashtra	USD	956.40	0.00	0.00
	INR	42,939.69	0.00	0.00
TF051375 A Pilot ICT Programme for Rural Areas of Pune Distt.	USD	956.40	0.00	0.00
	INR	42,939.69	0.00	0.00
Uttaranchal	USD	898.50	0.00	0.00
	INR	40,340.14	0.00	0.00
TF053147 Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply and Envio. Sani Proj	USD	898.50	0.00	0.00
	INR	40,340.14	0.00	0.00
IDA	USD	900.30	1,750.230	1,389.00
	INR	136,052.00	77,435.26	63,235.90
Central Govt.	USD	0.00	1,300.20	900.00
	INR	0.00	57,525.61	40,973.59
TF-054593 Linking Biodiversity Con. and Rural Livelihood Proj	USD	0.00	412.20	0.00
	INR	0.00	18,237.24	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
TF054595 Jap Grant for Preparation of India HIV/AIDS III	USD	0.00	861.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	38,093.79	0.00
TF056284 DFID Grant for Capacity Buildg at the Min of W.R.	USD	0.00	27.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	1,194.58	0.00
TF057113 Tech. Activities to Govt of India for P.P.P. in Infrastructure. TF	USD	0.00	0.00	450.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	20,486.79
TF057503 Tech. Asstt for Urban TPT Planning at Moud	USD	0.00	0.00	450.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	20,486.79
Delhi	USD	0.00	0.00	489.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	22,262.32
TF57245-In Gas Recivry and Reuse from Closure of Three Delhi Lanfills	USD	0.00	0.00	489.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	22,262.32
Jharkhand	USD	432.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	19,395.59	0.00	0.00
TF053445 Jharkhand Participatory Forest Mamt Canacity Rido	USD	432.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	19,395.59	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	USD	1,915.90	0.00	0.00
	INR	86,018.56	0.00	0.00
TF053826 Capacity Building for Community Forest Management	USD	1,915.90	0.00	0.00
	INR	86,018.56	0.00	0.00
Multistates	USD	196.50	0.00	0.00
	INR	8,822.30	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
TF051704 Bidg Capacity of Village Level Inst. Collaborative	USD	196.50	0.00	0.00
	INR	8,822.30	0.00	0.00
PU Punjab	USD	0.00	450.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	19,909.65	0.00
TF054594 Punjab Water Supply and	USD	0.00	450.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	19,909.65	0.00
Tamil Nadu	USD	485.90	0.00	0.00
	INR	21,815.55	0.00	0.00
TF053162 Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project	USD	485.90	0.00	0.00
	INR	21,815.55	0.00	0.00

Annexure-3*Authorisation of Back to Back Loan 2004-2005 to 2006-2007*

(Amt. in Thousands)

Donor/State/Project	Loan Currency	Authorisations of Back to Back loans		
		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5
ADB Asian Development Bank	USD	0.00	146,108.00	211,200.00
	INR	0.00	6,464,353.11	10,070,397.21
Chhattisgarh	USD	0.00	46,108.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	2,039,986.81	0.00
2159-IND Chhattisgarh Irrigation Dev. Project	USD	0.00	46,108.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	2,039,986.81	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
Kerala	USD	0.00	0.00	221,200.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	10,070,357.21
2226-IND Kerala Sustainable Urban Dev. Project	USD	0.00	0.00	221,200.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	10,070,357.21
Multistates	USD	0.00	100,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	4,424,366.30	0.00
2166-IND Tsunami Emergency Assistance (Sector) Project	USD	0.00	100,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	4,424,366.30	0.00
IBRD	USD	0.00	733,960.00	1,101,000.00
	INR	0.00	32,473,963.77	50,124,355.01
Andhra Pradesh	USD	0.00	0.00	150,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	6,828,931.20
4845-IN Third Pradesh Economic Reform Orgam/ARFR	USD	0.00	0.00	150,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	6,828,931.20
Gujarat	USD	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	44,243.66	0.00
P4250 Gujarat Urban Developement Project	USD	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	44,243.66	0.00
Karnataka	USD	0.00	0.00	216,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	9,833,660.93
4818-IN Karnataka Municipal Reforms Project	USD	0.00	0.00	216,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	9,833,660.93
Maharashtra	USD	0.00	325,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	14,379,190.48	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
4796-IN Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement	USD	0.00	325,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	14,379,190.48	0.00
Multistates	USD	0.00	104,980.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	4,644,699.74	0.00
4749-IN India : Hydrology Project-Phase II	USD	0.00	104,980.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	4,644,699.74	0.00
Orissa	USD	0.00	3,000.00	150,000.00
	INR	0.00	132,730.99	6,828,931.20
4837-IN IInd Operation under Orissa Socio-Econ Dev Prog	USD	0.00	0.00	150,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	6,828,931.20
P4270-IN Preparation of Orissa State Roads	USD	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	132,730.99	0.00
Punjab	USD	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	11,381,552.00
4843-IN Punjab State Road Sector Project	USD	0.00	0.00	250,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	11,381,552.00
Tamil Nadu	USD	0.00	300,000.00	335,000.00
	INR	0.00	13,273,098.90	15,251,279.68
4798-IN Third Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project	USD	0.00	300,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	13,273,098.90	0.00
4846-IN Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation and Water Bodies Restoration	USD	0.00	0.00	335,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	15,251,279.68

1	2	3	4	5
IDA IDA	USD	0.00	0.00	822.83
	INR	0.00	0.00	37,460.15
Bihar	USD	0.00	0.00	822.83
	INR	0.00	0.00	37,460.15
Q5310 Bihar Rural Livelihood Development	USD	0.00	0.00	822.83
	INR	0.00	0.00	37,460.15
	INR	0.00	1,402,057.22	0.00
IDA IDA	XDR	0.00	387,800.00	483,900.00
	INR	0.00	25,010,574.65	32,556,709.74
Andhra Pradesh	XDR	0.00	0.00	50,800.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	3,417,815.36
4254-IN Third Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform Programme	XDR	0.00	0.00	50,800.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	3,417,815.36
Karnataka	XDR	0.00	0.00	178,700.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	12,022,905.62
4211-IN Karnataka Panchayats Strengthening	XDR	0.00	0.00	82,200.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	5,530,402.03
4229-IN Karnataka Health System Dev and Reform Project	XDR	0.00	0.00	96,500.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	6,492,503.60
Orissa	XDR	0.00	0.00	50,500.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	3,397,631.42
4225-IN Second Operation under Orissa Socio-Economic Dev P	XDR	0.00	0.00	50,500.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	3,397,631.42

1	2	3	4	5
Pondichery	XDR	0.00	24,672.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	1,591,183.34	0.00
4054-IN-PO Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project (PO)	XDR	0.00	24,672.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	1,591,183.34	0.00
Punjab	XDR	0.00	0.00	104,100.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	7,003,830.30
4251-IN Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	XDR	0.00	0.00	104,100.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	7,003,830.30
Tamil Nadu	XDR	0.00	363,128.00	99,800.00
	INR	0.00	23,419,391.31	6,714,527.03
4054-IN-TN Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project (TN)	XDR	0.00	283,728.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	18,298,608.36	0.00
4103-IN TN Empr. and Pov. Reduction Vazhndhu Kaatuvom Proj.	XDR	0.00	79,400.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	5,120,782.95	0.00
4255-IN Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agri Modernization and Water Bodies Restoration and Managem	XDR	0.00	0.00	99,800.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	6,714,527.03

Annexure-4*Authorisation of Back to Back Grant from 2004-2005 to 2006-2007*

(Amt. In Thousands)

Donor/State/Project	Loan Currency	Authorisations of Back to Back Grant		
		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5
WB Asian Development of Bank	USD	0.00	100,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	4,424,366.30	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
Multistates	USD	0.00	100,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	4,424,366.30	0.00
0005-IND Asian Tsunami Fund Grant	USD	0.00	100,000.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	4,424,366.30	0.00
IBRD	USD	0.00	384.41	587.00
	INR	0.00	57,714.62	27,179.15
Andhra Pradesh	USD	0.00	0.00	430.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	19,576.27
TF056829 strengthening Public Financial Management in-AP	USD	0.00	0.00	430.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	19,576.27
Orissa	USD	0.00	1,304.47	0.00
	INR	0.00	57,714.62	0.00
TF055552 Japan SDF Grant for Orissa Fund for Dev. Initiative	USD	0.00	1,304.47	0.00
	INR	0.00	57,714.62	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	USD	0.00	0.00	167.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	7,602.88
TF056882 Capacity Building of the Finance Department of U.P.	USD	0.00	0.00	167.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	7,602.88
IDA	USD	0.00	0.00	3,653.78
	INR	0.0	0.00	166,342.61
Andhra Pradesh	USD	0.00	0.00	1,641.98
	INR	0.00	0.00	74,752.99
TF-57800 Andhra Pradesh rural water supply and Sanitation Project	USD	0.00	0.00	680.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	30,957.82

1	2	3	4	5
TF057811 AP Drought Initiative Project (APDI)	USD	0.00	0.00	961.98
	INR	0.00	0.00	43,795.17
Bihar	USD	0.00	0.00	1,261.80
	INR	0.00	0.00	57,444.97
57619-IN Bihar Public Expenditure Management Capacity Build	USD	0.00	0.00	250.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	11,381.55
TF056584 Preparation of the Bihar Rural Livelihood Project	USD	0.00	0.00	535.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	24,358.52
TF057071 Bihar Flood Management Info System	USD	0.00	0.00	476.80
	INR	0.00	0.00	21,706.90
West Bengal	USD	0.00	0.00	750.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	34,144.66
TF57825-IN Capacity Building of the Department of Power in West Bengal under DFID	USD	0.00	0.00	750.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	34,144.66

Statement-II**General Terms and Conditions of External Loans**

(As on 31.1.2007)

S. No.	Country/Institution	Currency	Type of Loan	Grace period (in years)	Period of repayment after grace period (in years)	Rate of Interest (%)	Commitment charges (%)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Multilateral								
1.	A.D.B	US Dollars	Bank Portion	3 to 5	12 to 20	Variable*	0.75	**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	I.B.R.D.	US Dollars	Bank Portion	5	15	Variable*	0.75	***
3.	I.D.A.	SDR	Concessional	10	25	0.75	0.3	****
4.	I.F.A.D.	SDR	Concessional	10	40	0.75		The Payment of 0.75% shown under interest column is termed as Service Charges.
5.	O.P.E.C	US Dollars	Concessional	5	12	3		
Bilateral								
1.	E.E.C.(SAC)	UK Pounds	Concessional	10	40	0.75		
2.	France	EURO	Mixed	5	17	2.8		
3.	Germany	EURO	Govt. Portion	10	30	0.75		
4.	Germany	EURO	Bank Portion	2	10	5.07 to 6.79	0.25	
5.	Japan	Yen	Concessional	10	30	1.3		Interest is charged at a fixed rate indicated in each loan agreement.
6.	Russian	US\$	Concessional	6	14	4		
7.	Switzerland	S. FR	Export Credit	3	8.5	Variale		Interest payable is 0.5% over the Swiss Export base rate plus an annualised export risk guarantee. The interest payable ranges between 4% to 8.38% linked to the period of utilisation.
8.	USA	US\$	Concessional	10	30	2.5		

Note:

*Interest Rate is variable every Six months.

**The Interest Rate is determined on LIBOR + 0.40% based average cost of borrowings in their respective Currencies. Commitment Charges 0.75% on undisbursed amount is reckoned on a graded basis in respect of project loans. For Programme loans it is on the Total loan amount.

*** (i) US \$ Floating rate Single Currency

Interest Rate is determined based on 6 months LIBOR rate plus a variable spread.

The rate applicable for interest payment date beginning 15.2.2007 to 14.08.2007 is as follows:-

- Where negotiation was issued prior to 31.7.1998 - 5.54% p.a. (with a spread of 0.14 basis points)
- Where negotiation was issued on or after 31.7.1998 - 5.78% p.a. (with a spread of 0.38 basis points)

Interest waiver for prompt payment as notified by Bank, the waiver applicable for 2007 is as under:-

- Loans for which invitation to negotiation was issued prior to 31.7.1998 - 0.05%
- Loans for which invitation to negotiation was issued on or after 31.7.1998 - 0.25%

- (ii) Commitment Charges payable on the undisbursed loan amount at 0.75% p.a.

Bank have been notifying waiver of 0.50% since July, 91.

- **** (i) In respect of credits finalised till July 1998, the repayment period was 50 years including a grace period of 10 years. IDA credits presently enjoy a grace period of 10 years with a repayment period of 25 years.

- (ii) Commitment Charges is payable at 0.20% w.e.f. 01.07.2006.

- (iii) 0.75% shown under column is termed as service charges.

Statement-IV

Statewise Utilisation of Govt. loan from 2004-2005 to 2006-2007

Annexure-1

(Amt. in thousand)

Donorwise/Statewise	Loan Currency	Utilisation of Government Loan		
		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5
ADB Asian Development Bank	USD	414,978.01	479,081.68	829,989.24
	INR	18,454,958.74	21,280,402.00	37,208,315.24
Assam	USD	45,000.00	107,844.51	17,313.69
	INR	1,984,500.00	4,764,354.03	785,901.32
Chhattisgarh	USD	0.00	0.00	7,105.50
	INR	0.00	0.00	316,738.81

1	2	3	4	5
Central Govt.	USD	46,827.50	99,676.54	466,773.66
	INR	2,087,264.95	4,390,377.78	20,832,067.79
Delhi	USD	0.00	0.00	12,901.07
	INR	0.00	0.00	578,903.93
Gujarat	USD	87,813.58	105,107.70	20,149.47
	INR	3,943,151.93	4,685,017.72	912,519.26
Jammu and Kashmir	USD	0.00	2,530.00	6,950.20
	INR	0.00	116,284.50	311,325.65
Karnataka	USD	36,623.87	29,836.03	20,747.07
	INR	1,665,485.08	1,339,467.52	940,361.70
Kerala	USD	100,000.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	4,352,000.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	USD	40,959.99	66,739.53	83,252.77
	INR	1,828,801.88	2,968,522.75	3,755,549.81
Multistates	USD	0.00	10,622.09	167,456.67
	INR	0.00	482,234.29	7,547,379.43
Rajasthan	USD	49,686.58	41,985.36	856.60
	INR	2,232,716.83	1,877,215.28	38,517.45
Tamil Nadu	USD	0.00	0.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	USD	8,066.50	14,719.91	26,482.53
	INR	361,038.09	656,928.11	1,079,050.70
IBRD	USD	729,540.39	709,407.29	618,223.62
	INR	32,599,661.63	31,365,154.91	27,985,474.68

1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	USD	47,737.55	15,335.63	13,951.11
	INR	2,164,111.42	676,074.76	642,927.08
Central Govt.	USD	297,281.73	329,918.63	262,556.06
	INR	13,325,072.90	14,543,502.37	11,870,680.14
Delhi	USD	111.35	220.65	0.00
	INR	4,988.68	9,685.68	0.00
Gujarat	USD	53,537.27	54,410.92	29,077.58
	INR	23,381,317.97	2,404,736.96	1,314,099.24
Haryana	USD	0.00	668.45	0.00
	INR	0.00	22,011.70	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	USD	0.00	200.00	680.52
	INR	0.00	8,866.00	30,066.58
Karnataka	USD	77,614.15	104,779.89	100,709.72
	INR	3,460,851.31	4,634,283.29	4,552,509.63
Kerala	USD	37,107.42	33,522.12	32,039.10
	INR	1,659,672.28	1,483,823.82	1,452,797.67
Maharashtra	USD	4,276.17	62,595.00	24,883.71
	INR	181,115.09	2,786,802.93	1,116,750.71
Madhya Pradesh	USD	21,970.10	485.70	7,773.29
	INR	989,808.59	20,808.65	347,294.83
Multistates	USD	37,526.55	5,874.68	0.00
	INR	1,685,152.85	258,215.83	0.00
Orissa	USD	75,333.39	0.00	0.00
	INR	3,326,740.90	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
Punjab	USD	400.00	288.18	361.95
	INR	17,504.00	12,941.22	16,326.59
Rajasthan	USD	18,248.64	30,482.93	26,553.05
	INR	821,026.49	1,355,739.61	1,218,002.85
Tamil Nadu	USD	12,998.23	31,328.56	36,931.51
	INR	567,141.85	1,391,440.85	1,671,962.00
Uttar Pradesh	USD	45,397.83	39,315.95	82,706.04
	INR	2,044,107.80	1,748,921.24	3,752,057.58
IDA	USD	0.00	160.66	837.75
	INR	0.00	7,048.96	37,809.73
Central Govt.	USD	0.00	0.00	837.75
	INR	0.00	0.00	37,809.73
IDA	XDR	680,176.74	753,747.04	545,072.65
	INR	45,688,398.16	50,837,077.81	36,877,211.47
Andhra Pradesh	XDR	60,019.04	79,437.42	49,124.18
	INR	4,018,201.26	5,120,321.96	3,300,937.20
Assam	XDR	14,194.25	447.38	2,438.80
	INR	955,518.84	28,739.42	162,193.31
Chhatisgarh	XDR	34.28	4,432.58	9,354.26
	INR	2,270.68	285,920.24	635,100.21
Central Govt.	XDR	303,239.06	406,716.04	209,128.35
	INR	20,386,774.23	25,934,558.91	14,272,141.71
Gujarat	XDR	41,334.87	38,915.06	17,223.89
	INR	2,776,140.32	2,509,905.95	1,155,959.07

1	2	3	4	5
Himachal Pradesh	XDR	0.00	3,489.70	2,050.15
	INR	0.00	221,500.00	138,453.42
Karnataka	XDR	29,496.73	50,395.80	36,085.59
	INR	1,977,290.29	3,237,639.95	2,424,360.65
Kerala	XDR	9,547.71	9,425.96	8,259.51
	INR	642,412.99	605,762.45	559,309.17
Maharashtra	XDR	18,524.17	20,217.54	59,342.21
	INR	1,244,795.03	1,298,204.40	4,001,654.12
Madhya Pradesh	XDR	12,996.31	23,269.83	12,588.78
	INR	875,649.42	1,499,305.79	843,125.74
Multistates	XDR	26,076.47	55,075.45	69,063.95
	INR	1,748,875.42	3,534,638.39	4,655,658.74
Mizoram	XDR	8,584.98	6,871.70	7,941.28
	INR	575,167.52	442,952.52	527,841.46
Orissa	XDR	61,751.50	6,924.49	6,519.83
	INR	4,149,376.78	440,417.50	450,654.12
Rajasthan	XDR	35,928.96	42,955.15	36,392.23
	INR	2,407,581.98	2,767,033.68	2,439,392.30
Tamil Nadu	XDR	10,767.13	223.04	2,897.31
	INR	717,357.90	14,782.62	191,416.31
Uttar Pradesh	XDR	45,056.30	44,304.89	13,717.68
	INR	3,036,185.51	2,854,909.31	921,755.36
Uttaranchal	XDR	2,624.40	1,091.28	2,954.68
	INR	174,800.00	70,049.98	197,258.59

Annexure-2

Statewise Utilisation of Govt. Grant from 2004-2005 to 2006-2007

(Amt. in Thousands)

Donor-wise/State-wise	Loan Currency	Utilisation		
		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5
IBRD	USD	1,140.23	1,464.01	984.86
	INR	43,690.43	64,727.89	44,695.46
Central Govt.	USD	302.19	655.86	918.42
	INR	13,377.12	28,806.89	41,603.61
Karnataka	USD	0.00	100.00	0.00
	INR	0.00	4,437.00	0.00
Maharashtra	USD	508.67	385.75	23.11
	INR	15,836.01	17,371.16	1,031.17
Uttaranchal	USD	329.42	322.40	43.33
	INR	14,477.30	14,112.84	2,060.68
IDA	USD	5,902.96	2,356.62	3,084.91
	INR	265,748.96	103,624.52	138,534.35
Central Govt.	USD	0.00	337.91	321.24
	INR	0.00	14,858.30	14,665.66
Gujarat	USD	4,932.42	1,219.04	2,049.89
	INR	222,001.64	53,526.24	91,835.02
Jharkhand	USD	100.00	43.64	-100.00
	INR	4,640.00	1,918.20	-4,599.00

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka	USD	496.38	-1139	0.00
	INR	22,231.05	-495.86	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	USD	0.00	300.43	132.55
	INR	0.00	13,122.95	5,998.82
Multistates	USD	0.00	100.00	96.50
	INR	0.00	4,368.00	4,273.99
Punjab	USD	0.00	120.09	324.46
	INR	0.00	5,236.28	14,681.00
Tamil Nadu	USD	373.26	246.90	260.28
	INR	16,876.26	11,090.41	11,678.87

Annexure-3

Statewise Utilisation of Back to Back Loan from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006

(Amt. in Thousands)

Donorwise/Statewise	Loan Currency	Utilisation of Back to Back Loans		
		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	USD	0.00	448.18	3,339.54
	INR	0.00	19,888.53	150,671.07
MS Multistates	USD	0.00	448.18	3,339.54
	INR	0.00	19,888.53	150,671.07
IBRD	USD	0.00	48,553.34	251,106.68
	INR	0.00	2,196,851.52	11,209,994.19

1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	USD	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	4,414,000.00
Gujarat	USD	0.00	0.00	171.07
	INR	0.00	0.00	7,908.41
Karnataka	USD	0.00	440.40	17,303.93
	INR	0.00	19,349.00	788,346.21
Maharashtra	USD	0.00	31,788.25	665.81
	INR	0.00	1,432,058.77	30,181.51
Multistates	USD	0.00	0.00	10,936.92
	INR	0.00	0.00	487,915.18
Orissa	USD	0.00	0.00	100,508.89
	INR	0.00	0.00	4,510,006.40
	INR	0.00	0.00	22,601.40
Tamil Nadu	USD	0.00	16,324.69	21,520.07
	INR	0.00	745,443.75	971,636.49
IDA	USD	0.00	0.00	100.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	4,642.00
Bihar	USD	0.00	0.00	100.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	4,642.00
IDA	XDR	0.00	40,438.87	89,606.43
	INR	0.00	2,625,272.71	5,994,360.98
Andhra Pradesh	XDR	0.00	0.00	33,840.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	2,261,073.94

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka	XDR	0.00	0.00	17,049.68
	INR	0.00	0.00	1,123,413.48
Orissa	XDR	0.00	0.00	33,650.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	2,268,908.05
Pondicherry	XDR	0.00	2,776.04	774.72
	INR	0.00	180,440.00	52,722.50
Tamil Nadu	XDR	0.00	37,662.83	4,292.03
	INR	0.00	2,444,835.71	288,243.01

Annexure-4*Utilisation of Back to Back Grant from 2004-2005 to 2006-2007*

(Amt. in Thousands)

Donor/State/Loan	Loan Currency	Utilisation of Back to Back Grant		
		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
1	2	3	4	5
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	USD	0.00	236.23	23,765.96
	INR	0.00	10,499.30	1,069,224.75
MS Multistates	USD	0.00	236.23	23,765.96
	INR	0.00	10,499.30	1,069,224.75
IBRD	USD	0.00	0.00	381.28
	INR	0.00	0.00	17,006.62
AP Andhra Pradesh	USD	0.00	0.00	100.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	4,487.00

1	2	3	4	5
OR Orissa	USD	0.00	0.00	231.28
	INR	0.00	0.00	10,322.12
UP Uttar Pradesh	USD	0.00	0.00	50.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	2,197.50
IDA	USD	0.00	0.00	250.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	11,287.50
AP Andhra Pradesh	USD	0.00	0.00	100.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	4,428.00
BI Bihar	USD	0.00	0.00	150.00
	INR	0.00	0.00	6,859.50

[Translation]

Inflation

2689. SHRI SURAJ SINGH :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of inflation has declined since April, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the Government has curbed the supply of currency from its higher level during the last year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any impact on inflation due to inflow of foreign exchange reserve/money supply from outside the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the further steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Yes, Sir, Year-on-year monthly inflation measured in terms of Wholesale Price Index declined to 4.4 per cent in July, 2007 from 6.3 per cent in April 2007 and the point-to-point inflation for the week ended August 11, 2007 was 4.1 per cent.

(b) and (c) There has been a deceleration in the growth of 'currency with the public'. The increase in 'currency with the public' as on August 3, 2007 over the level of March 31, 2007 was 1.5 per cent (Rs. 7229 crore), as compared to the growth of 5.3 per cent (Rs. 21,700 crore) during the corresponding period of the last year.

(d) and (e) The exchange rate policy of the RBI is guided by the broad principles of careful monitoring and management of exchange rates with flexibility, and without a fixed or pre-announced target or band, coupled with the ability to intervene as and when necessary. An intervention

by RBI through purchase of foreign exchange, could inject rupee funds into the system, with implications for liquidity and inflation. It is addressed by RBI through monetary instruments like sterilization and changes in policy rates which regulate liquidity.

(f) Containment of inflation is high on the agenda of the Government. Apart from the monetary policy initiatives of the RBI, anti-inflationary policies of the Government include appropriate fiscal measures like rationalization of excise and import duties on essential items, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through tariff and trade policies and strengthening the public distribution system.

National Science Policy

2690. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has finalised the National Science Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main objectives of the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (c) The Government of India has announced a new Science and Technology Policy in 2003 (STP-2003) which supplements the Scientific Policy Resolution of 1958 (SPR-1958) and Technology Policy Statement of 1983 (TPS-1983).

The main objectives of STP-2003 are—

- To ensure that the message of science reaches every citizen of India, man and woman, young and old, so that we advance scientific temper, emerge as a progressive and enlightened society.
- To ensure food, agricultural, nutritional, environ-

mental, water, health and energy security of the people on a sustainable basis.

- To mount a direct and sustained effort on the alleviation of poverty, enhancing livelihood security, removal of hunger and malnutrition, reduction of drudgery and regional imbalances, both rural and urban, and generation of employment, by using scientific and technological capabilities alongwith our traditional knowledge pool.
- To vigorously foster scientific research in universities and other academic, scientific and engineering institutions; and attract the brightest young persons to careers in science and technology.
- To promote the empowerment of women in all science and technology activities and ensure their full and equal participation.
- To provide necessary autonomy and freedom of functioning for all academic and R and D institutions.
- To use the full potential of modern science and technology to protect, preserve, evaluate, update, add value to, and utilize the extensive knowledge acquired over the long civilizational experience of India.
- To accomplish national and security-related objectives, by using the latest advances in science and technology.
- To encourage research and innovation in areas of relevance for the economy and society, particularly by promoting close and productive interaction between private and public institutions in science and technology.
- To substantially strengthen enabling mechanisms that relate to technology development, evaluation, absorption and upgradation from concept to utilization.

- To establish an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime which maximises the incentives for the generation and protection of intellectual property by all types of inventors.
- To encourage research and application for forecasting, prevention and mitigation of natural hazards, particularly, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, drought and landslides.
- To promote international science and technology cooperation towards achieving the goals of national development and security, and make it a key element of our international relations.
- To integrate scientific knowledge with insights from other disciplines, and ensure fullest involvement of scientists and technologists in national governance so that the spirit and methods of scientific enquiry permeate deeply into all areas of public policy making.

[English]

Withdrawal of Saral Forms

2691. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA :

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for withdrawal of "saral forms" (ITR);

(b) whether the Government has taken the feedback from the people before making changes in ITR forms; and

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The earlier 'Saral' form was designed under the flawed assumption that the tax-payer was fully conversant with the various steps

in the computation of total income and the tax liability thereon. These forms neither provided the steps for computation of income nor did they provide any kind of guidance/assistance leading to the computation of a taxpayer's tax liability. Therefore, a taxpayer had to necessarily depend upon making the computation in a separate sheet based on his own understanding of the various steps involved in this process. Alternatively, the taxpayer was forced to use professional advice to fill out the form. Besides, the space available for filling various information was also extremely limited. Separate computation sheet running into couple of pages, TDS certificates, account statements and other documents were invariably annexed to the earlier 'Saral' form. Effectively, the form ceased to be a one-page form and was therefore, not compatible with the electronic mode of filing returns. Hence, it was decided to discontinue with the earlier 'Saral' form.

(b) Yes, Sir. The draft of the new ITR forms was made public on 29.4.2007. The comments of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) were also invited.

(c) The comments/suggestions of ICAI were examined and suitably incorporated in these new forms. Further, the new return forms for the assessment year 2007-08 have also been designed, incorporating therein the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance. The ITR forms were finally notified on 14.5.2007.

[Translation]

APDRP

2692. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL :

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the existing Accelerated Power Development and Reforms

Programme (APDRP) as appeared in the Economic Times on August 8, 2007;

- (b) if so, facts of the matter reported therein; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (c) On going through the Economic Times dated August 8, 2007 of Delhi edition, no such news item about revising the existing Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) had been noticed. APDRP was launched in the year 2002-03 with the objective of encouraging reforms and of reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT and C) losses, improving quality of supply of power and improving consumer satisfaction. The Government took up the independent evaluation of the programme through independent agencies. While recommending the continuance of the APDRP beyond 10th Plan, the evaluators made certain suggestions for achieving better results in the programme. The Utilities and the Planning Commission had also proposed certain modifications in the programme. Considering this, the Ministry of Power constituted a Task Force, headed by Shri P. Abraham, former Secretary, Government of India, to assess and analyze the current efforts, suggestions made by various agencies and to suggest restructuring of the programme to achieve the objectives of APDRP. In view of the recommendations/suggestions of the various stakeholders on the implementation of APDRP, the programme is proposed to be continued with the revised terms and conditions during the Eleventh Five Year Plan to make it more effective.

[English]

Fiscal Hurdle in Indian Market

2693. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government has set up a

committee to look into the issue regarding tax structure on gems and jewellery;

- (b) If so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the committee has made its recommendations; and
- (d) If so, the steps taken by the Union Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANIKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government had set up an Expert Body on 31st March, 2006, to look into the potential of the gems and jewellery sector and the prevalent taxation practices in India and abroad, and make suitable recommendations with regard to the holistic development of this sector to enable India to be a hub for this sector.

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) (i) Basic customs duty on cut and polished diamonds has been reduced from 5% to 'nil'.
- (ii) Basic customs duty on rough synthetic gemstones has been reduced from 12.5% to 7.5%.
- (iii) Basic customs duty on capital goods in general i.e. including machinery for cutting and polishing, and for processing of synthetic stones, has been reduced from 12.5% to 7.5%.
- (iv) The government has decided to introduce a benign assessment procedure for assesses engaged in diamond manufacturing and trading who declare a specified percentage of profits from such activities of the turn over.
- (v) RBI has allowed advance remittances for import of rough diamonds into India from the companies, namely Diamond Trading Company Pvt. Ltd., U.K. Rio Tinto, U.K., BHP Billiton, Australia, Endiama, E.P. Angola, Alrosa, Russia

and Gokharan, Russia vide AP (DIR series) Circular No. 34 dated 2-3-2007.

- (vi) Government is currently deliberating on the structure of the proposed National Gem and Jewellery Council.

**Use of Contractors and Machines
under NREGS**

2694. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the use of contractors and machines are prohibited under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

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

(c) whether the Government is aware the contractors and machines are being used in NREGS; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NREGA provides for a legal guarantee for 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. As the objective of the Act is to provide employment to the rural households, use of machinery is prohibited under the Act as far as practicable. Para 11 of Schedule 1 of the Act also prohibits engagement of any contractor for implementation of the projects under the Act.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise

Potential of Bio-tech Sector

2695. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bio-technology sector had shown lot of potential during the last one year;

(b) if so, the percentage of growth achieved during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for further development of Bio-technology sector?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Biotechnology industry in 2006-2007 is estimated to have touched around Rs. 8,500.00 crore (over \$2 billion) in revenues, registering a 30 per cent growth, over the previous year's (2005-2006) estimated revenues of Rs. 6,500.00 crore.

(c) The Government has taken special measures to promote the biotechnology industry and to facilitate increase in turnover of biotech sector. Initiatives have been taken to provide an enabling environment for industrial growth such as streamlining regulatory procedures; exemption of biotech sector from compulsory licensing; permitting 100% FDI; reducing the area of SEZ to bring it at par with IT sector; providing fiscal incentives to recognised in-house R&D of industries in terms of exemption of custom duty on capital goods, reduction in import duty and 150% weighted deduction against expenditure incurred on R&D.

To encourage public-private partnerships for joint R&D and technology development, Ministry of Science and Technology is implementing schemes through Technology Development Board (TDB) and Pharmaceutical Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) under Department of Science and Technology (DST) as well as New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) scheme under Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). To further accelerate industrial R&D in

biotechnology, recently, the Department of Biotechnology has also launched a novel public-private scheme "Small Business Innovative Research Initiative" for providing grant and soft loan to small and medium biotech industries for strengthening R&D and product development even at pre-proof-of concept and post-proof-of concept stage.

Norms for External Commercial Borrowings

2696. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

SHRI ADHIR CHOUDHURY :

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has tightened the norms on external commercial borrowings as reported in the Hindustan Times dated August 08, 2007;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether the quantum of funds raised by domestic companies in the overseas capital markets is increasing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A review of ECB guidelines was undertaken by the Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India. Based on review, Government has decided as follows:-

- ECB more than USD 20 million per borrowing company would be permitted only for foreign currency expenditure for permissible end-uses of ECB both under the Automatic Route and under the Approval Route.
- Borrowers proposing to avail ECB upto USD 20 million for rupee expenditure for permissible end-uses would require prior approval of the Reserve Bank under the Approval Route.

— Use of ECB proceeds for development of integrated township has since been withdrawn both under automatic and approval routes.

— All-in-cost ceilings have been revised downwards from 200 bps to 150 bps over 6 months' LIBOR for ECBs with average maturity period from three to five years and 350 bps to 250 bps over 6 months' LIBOR for ECBs with average maturity of more than five years

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Domestic companies can raise funds in the overseas capital markets through ECB or through Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds (FCCBs) or through Global Depository Receipts (GDRs) and American Depository Receipts (ADRs). As per information provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the amounts mobilised by Indian companies from abroad through the above sources during the last three years are given below:-

(Amount in US\$ Million)

Year	ECBs/FCCBs	ADRs/GDRs
2004-05	9,084	613
2005-06	14,547	2,552
2006-07	20,639	3,776

(e) The ECB / FCCB and ADR / GDR policies are constantly reviewed by the Government in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Creation of District Employment Guarantee Councils

2697. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA :

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up State Employment Guarantee Councils and District

Employment Guarantee Councils at States and districts level respectively for better monitoring of the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also contemplating to set up a technical secretariat to eliminate the problems in the implementation of NREGS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to come up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Section 12(1) of NREG Act provides for constitution of State Employment Guarantee Councils by each State for the purposes of regular monitoring and review of the implementation of the Act at State level. Constitution of District Employment Guarantee Council has not been provided under the Act.

(c) and (d) Rule 11 of Central Employment Guarantee Council Rules, 2006 provides for setting up of a technical secretariat by the Central Government to assist the Central Council and the Executive Committee in discharge of its duties and functions by providing logistic and technical support. The technical secretariat is not a permanent body and may be set up by the Central Government as and when required.

Mekadatu Power Project

2698. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to set up a hydro power project at Mekadatu on the border of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) A preliminary report for Mekadatu

Hydro-Electric Project (360 MW) was received in October, 1996 in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for its comments. The project involved inter-state aspects with Tamil Nadu and the matter of sharing of Cauvery water was under adjudication before the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal (CWDT).

(c) The Government of Karnataka have now informed that since the project of Mekadatu is exclusively within the territory of Karnataka, the State proposes to execute the project through Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL). Government of Karnataka have further informed that KPCL has already initiated preliminary works like Survey, Geo-Technical Investigation, Soil Investigation and preparation of Detailed Project Report as per the pattern of downstream releases ordered by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

Ceiling on Investment to PSUs

2699. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Ministry has moved a proposal to do away with the existing Rs.1000 crore investment ceiling applicable to power sector Public Sector Units (PSUs) for forming joint ventures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the power sector PSUs that will be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (c) As per the existing delegation of powers applicable to Navaratna Companies including NTPC Ltd., the ceiling on equity investment to establish financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India or abroad shall be 15% of the net worth of the Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) in one project limited to Rs. 1000 Crore and the overall ceiling on such investment in all projects put together shall be 30% of the net worth of the PSE. NTPC Ltd. had approached Ministry of Power for waiver of ceiling of Rs.1000 Crore for equity investment by NTPC Ltd. to establish financial joint venture for the purpose of

participating in the bidding of Ultra Mega Projects being established at the initiative of Ministry of Power. Government had approved the proposal of waiver of ceiling of Rs.1000 Crores for equity investments by NTPC Ltd. to establish financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India or abroad for the purpose of participating in the bidding of ultra mega projects. However, the ceiling of 15% of the net worth of NTPC in one project and the overall ceiling of 30% of the net worth of the NTPC Ltd. in all such projects of NTPC Ltd. Put together shall remain.

Vidarbha Packages by Private Banks

2700. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Vidarbha Package is to be implemented by private banks too;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the performance of such banks in providing agricultural credit to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Vidarbha package is being implemented by private sector banks also. So far, the following banks have been reimbursed from the Government of India (GoI) share in the Package:-

(Amount in Rs)

Name of the bank	Amount of Interest waived	50% share of GoI
Sangli Bank	66028	33014.00
ICICI Bank	4925135	2462564.50
UTI Bank Ltd	39826545	19913272.50
Total	44817702	22408851.00

(c): The Private Sector Banks have disbursed Rs. 18854.33 crore, Rs. 31199.22 crore and Rs. 25902.37 crore (figure provisional) to agriculture during the financial

years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively in the country.

GoI's scheme of providing interest subvention @2% p.a., for extending Short Term Production Credit @ 7% p.a. for loans upto Rs. 3.00 lakhs per borrower, is not available to the private sector banks. ICICI Bank has disbursed Rs. 0.28 crore of agriculture credit in Vidarbha region during 2007-08.

[Translation]

Security in Banks

2701. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the services of armed guards for security of Banks is available in each bank;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) The security arrangements at bank branches are primarily the responsibility of banks concerned. The strength of security personnel at each branch is dependent on security threat perception depending on the prevailing law and order situation, area specific issues, vulnerability of the branch etc. Reserve Bank of India stipulates deployment of armed police guards in so far as Currency Chest branches are concerned and round the clock security is provided by armed guards at all the currency chest branches. At other branches, ATMs etc., the banks can devise their own security arrangements with the approval of their respective Boards.

[English]

Total Sanitation Campaign

2702. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to review Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC);

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received suggestion from some States in this regard; and
- (d) If so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) to (d) In order to assess the impact of the implementation of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) in the country, M/s. Agriculture Finance Corporation Ltd., (AFCL) was engaged in the year 2004 for conducting Mid Term Evaluation of TSC Programme. The study was conducted in 20 TSC districts of the country in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Tripura, Orissa, Assam and Jharkhand. The study concentrated on assessing the impact of the policy changes introduced in 1999 in the rural sanitation sector and mid course correction required.

Besides this evaluation study, the Government of India also reviews the implementation of TSC through quarterly Review Meetings, periodic Review Missions, and monthly progress reports received from projects. Also, an Annual State Ministers Conference is held, wherein States often give their suggestions regarding policy and implementation, which are discussed in the Conference to remove bottlenecks in the implementation of the programme.

Task Force on Farm Sector

2703. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

- (a) whether Union Government has set up a task force regarding reinvigorating farm sector through science and technology; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b): Arising from the recommendations of the National Development Council to plan for a 4% annual growth rate in agriculture, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences held a brainstorming meeting seeking Science and Technology ideas and inputs that contribute to achieve the set objectives. The outcome of the meeting was to establish a Task Force to facilitate and monitor the following initiatives; (i) information outreach and reach out programmes; (ii) showcasing of successful/proven technologies and (iii) exploratory time targeted studies/development programmes.

Tax Exemption on Research Budget

2704. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bangalore-based Thrombosis Research Institute, the newly created research arm of the Narayana Hrudayalaya, has approached the Union Government seeking a tax exemption on its 10-year research budget for developing a vaccine to prevent heart attacks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a): No, Sir. However, the organization has been granted registration under section 12A of the Income tax Act, 1961, for the purposes of tax exemption available to a charitable organization, by the Director of Income tax (Exemption), Bangalore on 6th February, 2004.

(b) Nil, in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

MoU between PTC and IIFC

2705. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the PTC India Limited a leading company of power sector has signed an MoU with the India Infrastructure Finance Company (IIFC) to expedite the

execution work of new power projects in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An MoU was signed between PTC India Ltd. (PTC) and India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFC) on 29.05.2007 with the following purpose:-

- (i) to facilitate, encourage and promote the development and construction of power projects, including thermal, hydro and other sources;
- (ii) to work together closely and to make necessary arrangements with a view to securing cooperation and the exchange of information between them;
- (iii) to work towards achieving cooperation between the project developers, lenders and other stakeholders; and
- (iv) to undertake the due diligence process and appraisal for financing of power projects by IIFC in cases where Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) has been signed between project developers(s) and PTC.

Plantation Companies

2706. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India had ordered the plantation based investment companies to refund the amount mobilized by them;
- (b) if so, the details of the refunded amount, company-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether action have been taken against some companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d)

SEBI has informed that all the Collective Investment Scheme (CIS) including plantation companies, were launched prior to the notification of CIS Regulations in October, 1999. As on date, however, no CIS entity is registered with SEBI under the Regulation. According to information available with SEBI, 664 CIS entities had reportedly mobilized Rs. 3,518 crore from investors. Of these, 54 entities had wound up their schemes and refunded the money to the investors. SEBI had directed the balance 610 entities to refund the money collected under the schemes with returns due to the investors. Pursuant to this, 21 entities wound up their schemes and repaid the investors. Thus, a total of 75 entities have wound up their schemes and refunded the money to investors. The Courts have imposed stay Order/appointed official liquidators/ administrators in respect of 19 entities. SEBI has launched criminal prosecution against the remaining 570 entities. It has also passed Orders debarring these entities and their concerned officials from operating in the capital market for a period of 5 years.

[English]

Project under IHSDP and UIDSSMT

2707. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of projects sanctioned under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programmes (IHSDP), State-wise; and
- (b) the details of projects sanctioned under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) State-wise details of projects sanctioned under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) are at Statement-I and II respectively.

Statement-I**Integrated Housing Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)****Total Projects Approved****(Rs. in Crore)**

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of district	ULBs/ Town Panchayat/ Municipality	No. of Project Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Total No. of Dwelling Units Approved (New+Up-gradation)	Total Central Share Approved	Total State Share Approved	Amount of 1st installment (50% of Central Share)	ACA released by M/o Finance till 10.08.07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	26	26	357.28	29257	248.32	108.96	124.16	124.16
2.	Assam	4	5	5	17.26	922	15.06	2.20	7.53	7.53
3.	Bihar	7	8	8	60.84	4719	45.30	15.54	22.65	22.65
4.	Chhattisgarh	7	13	14	176.50	14846	122.00	54.49	61.00	61.00
5.	Gujarat	8	11	11	109.18	8962	75.03	34.15	37.52	37.52
6.	Haryana	6	12	15	238.84	14641	182.96	55.88	91.48	91.48
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	10	10	42.40	2654	32.23	10.17	16.12	0.00
8.	Karnataka	14	20	20	161.04	10294	105.84	55.20	52.92	20.95
9.	Kerala	11	22	22	107.19	9482	81.17	26.03	40.58	25.05
10.	Madhya Pradesh	14	24	27	210.18	15236	148.25	61.93	74.12	69.00
11.	Maharashtra	13	19	19	199.65	17095	154.25	45.39	77.13	77.13
12.	Nagaland	1	1	1	87.74	2496	44.14	43.60	22.07	22.07
13.	Rajasthan	13	20	20	149.09	10895	117.30	31.79	58.65	58.65
14.	Tamil Nadu	18	28	28	199.78	18118	154.80	31.79	58.65	56.27
15.	Uttar Pradesh	5	8	8	29.01	2032	22.11	6.91	11.05	11.05
16.	West Bengal	14	23	23	260.85	16170	194.31	66.54	97.16	75.28
Total		153	250	257	2406.83	177819	1743.06	663.77	871.53	759.79

Statement-II**State/Sector-wise Cumulative Status of Sanctioned and Released Projects**

Sl. No.	State	Water Supply		Sewerage		Storm Water Drain		Water Body		Solid Waste Management	
		Sanctioned (Total Approved Cost)	Released (1st Inst.)	Sanctioned (Total Approved Cost)	Released (1st Inst.)	Sanctioned (Total Approved Cost)	Released (1st Inst.)	Sanctioned (Total Approved Cost)	Released (1st Inst.)	Sanctioned (Total Approved Cost)	Released (1st Inst.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	111648.000	38082.710	34038.000	12246.350	14129.000	3554.080	0.000	0.000	361.000	149.820
	No. of Schemes	40	30	8	6	6	5	0	0	1	1
2.	Assam	2330.180	490.820	0.000	0.000	3073.880	873.110	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	No. of Schemes	2	1	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	0
3.	Bihar	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	No. of Schemes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Chhattisgarh	6118.650	2447.280	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	No. of Schemes	3	3	0	0	0.000	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Gujarat	27454.180	8560.280	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	No. of Schemes	32	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1022.280	217.590	25.480	0.000	0.000	0.000
	No. of Schemes	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	11842.890	5413.940	0.000	0.000	9409.700	4375.520	54.810	25.400	1033.770	480.700
	No. of Schemes	6	6			7	7	3	3	7	7
8.	Karnataka	12908.700	2003.180	6940.280	2754.480	7320.300	2100.020	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	No. of Schemes	7	5	9	8	3	1				
9.	Kerala	24277.000	5483.400	4978.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2429.000	1008.040
	No. of Schemes	3	2	1						6	6

Under Uidssmt as on 27-08-07 (Since Inception)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

UR/Heritage		Soil Erosion		Parking		Road		Total No. of Projects		Total	Total	Year of Release
Sanctioned	Released	Sanctioned	Released	Sanctioned	Released	Sanctioned	Released	Sanctioned	Released	Approved Cost	Amount of ACA Released	
(Total Approved Cost)	(1st Instl.)	(Total Approved Cost)	(1st Instl.)	(Total Approved Cost)	(1st Instl.)	(Total Approved Cost)	(1st Instl.)					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	25	26
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	4870.000	2021.050			165044.000	54033.990	2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08
0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	57	44			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			5304.040	1363.930	2006-07, 2007-08
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	15257.320	3958.140			15257.320	3958.140	2006-07, 2007-08
0	0	0	0	0	0	9	4	9	4			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			6118.850	2447.460	2006-07, 2007-08
0	0	0		0	0	0	0	3	3			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			27454.180	8580.280	2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08
0		0		0		0		32	25			
686.550	0.000	188.520	0.000	0.000	0.000	783.620	531.860			2706.410	749.450	2006-07, 2007-08
1		1				1	1	7	3			
1671.330	777.160	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3766.780	1751.550			27579.080	12824.270	2006-07, 2007-08
4	4					7	7	34	34			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	7307.400	2890.770			34476.680	9718.410	2006-07, 2007-08
						4	3	23	17			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			31684.000	6491.440	2006-07, 2007-08
								10	8			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10. Madhya Pradesh	19134.890	6988.205	1559.210	623.682	27.800	11.040	53.000	21.200	0.000	0.000	
No. of Schemes	17	17	5	5	1	1	1	1	0	0	
11. Maharashtra	138530.700	6482.008	50841.500	2932.595	25914.400	2212.400	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
No. of Schemes	40	10	10	4	6	1	0	0	0	0	
12. Manipur	6277.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
No. of Schemes	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13. Nagaland	6285.48	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
No. of Schemes	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
14. Rajasthan	5395.000	2238.390	14148.070	1617.700	3284.220	503.620	670.535	268.210	0.000	0.000	
No. of Schemes	1	1	5	3	7	4	2	2	0	0	
15. Tamil Nadu	41229.070	10480.370	2204.700	393.200	343.000	137.200	0.000	0.000	358.250	143.300	
No. of Schemes	48	35	4	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	
16. Uttar Pradesh	28106.280	4341.283	18038.150	7485.630	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	16903.120	4948.937	
No. of Schemes	18	9	3	3	0	0	0	0	19	14	
17. West Bengal	13084.190	5429.942	0.000	0.000	4922.290	2042.780	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
No. of Schemes	11	11	0		2	2	0	0	0		
18. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1884.730	0.000	1239.250	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
No. of Schemes	1		1								
19. Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	942.370	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
No. of Schemes	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
20. Orissa	976.000	405.040	593.280	248.200			2199.550	912.810			
No. of Schemes	1	1	1	1			2	2			
Cost	457142.901	98808.988	135518.740	28300.017	69448.250	18027.320	3003.155	1227.620	21085.140	6730.797	
No. of Schemes	239	156	49	32	41	27	9	8	34	29	

13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	25	26
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	636.310	254.523			21411.010	7898.650	2006-07, 2007-08
0	0			0	0	3	3	27	27			
164.700	67.406	0.000	0.000	37.000	14.800	5228.000	2090.400			220713.900	13799.907	2006-07, 2007-08
2	2			1	1	1	1	60	19			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			6277.000	0.000	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3973.860	0.000			10239.351	0.000	
0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	8	0			
520.580	206.228	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	3003.350	1061.720			27018.755	5887.868	2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08
1	1	0	0	0	0	12	11	29	22			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	9782.470	3912.960			53917.490	15047.080	2006-07, 2007-08
0	0	0	0	0	0	43	43	97	82			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	20422.610	7488.950			83470.180	24264.980	2006-07, 2007-08
0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	43	28			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	730.450	303.137			16736.930	7775.839	2006-07, 2007-08
0				0		1	1	14	14			
0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000			3103.980	0.000	
								2	0			
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			942.370	0.000	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0			
2148.920						5074.120	2105.810			10991.820	3669.860	2006-07, 2007-08
						1	1	6	5			
5192.080	1052.794	188.520	0.000	37.000	14.800	80634.320	28340.900	0.000	0.000	772448.106	178501.215	
9	7	1	0	1	1	91	79	474	339			

Applications for Education Loans in Tamil Nadu

2708. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge number of applications have been received for educational loans in the nationalized banks in Tamil Nadu;

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

(c) the number of applications considered and sanctioned so far, year-wise and the number of applications pending till date, and

(d) the steps taken for the early disposal of all the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (d) Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), the Convener of the State Level Bankers' Committee for Tamil Nadu, has reported the number of education loans and amount of loan granted for the last three years for the State of Tamil Nadu:-

Year	Number of education loans granted	Amount of loans granted (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	38461	500.38
2005-06	56230	824.78
2006-07	83933	1196.74

It is reported that the Banks process the applications for education loans expeditiously, while adhering to the extant guidelines in this regard. At the district level, the pendency and disposal of education loan applications by banks is monitored by the Lead Bank.

Assistance for Low Cost Flats to State Governments

2709. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is providing an assistance to the State Governments to build low cost flats; and

(b) if so, the details of such assistance provided to various State Governments during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Union Government launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005. Under this Mission, assistance is provided to the State dwellers/urban poor/EWS/LIG categories under the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The assistance includes cost of housing and related infrastructure such as water supply/sewerage/drainage/community toilets/baths etc. The details of assistance provided to various State Governments under BSUP and IHSDP are enclosed as statement.

Statement

JNNURM

Basic Service to the Urban Poor (Sub Mission II)

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	Name of State/ UT	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
		No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Central Share Approved	No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Central Share Approved	No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Central Share Approved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	623.90	311.95	9	572.61	284.34	2	192.31	94.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2.	Chandigarh (UT)				2	564.94	396.13			
3.	Chhattisgarh				4	391.45	312.18			
4.	Delhi							3	617.28	268.23
5.	Gujarat				10	1028.32	497.36			
6.	Haryana				2	64.23	31.18			
7.	Himachal Pradesh				1	9.99	7.05			
8.	Karnataka				3	238.84	125.40	2	56.22	25.65
9.	Kerala				3	69.20	47.38			
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4	75.05	37.38	14	428.22	206.02			
11.	Maharashtra				31	2934.82	1299.50	1	120.81	37.07
12.	Nagaland				1	134.50	105.60			
13.	Rajasthan				2	277.14	169.20			
14.	Tamil Nadu				19	830.26	359.58			
15.	Tripura							1	16.73	13.96
16.	Uttar Pradesh				5	85.13	38.58			
17.	West Bengal				45	1169.51	556.54			
Total		9	698.95	349.33	151	8796.14	4435.59	9	1003.36	439.83

Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP)

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	Name of State/ UT	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08		
		No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Central Share Approved	No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Central Share Approved	No. of Projects Approved	Total Project Cost Approved	Central Share Approved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh				25	301.92	210.57	1	55.36	37.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2. Assam					3	12.24	10.79	2	5.01	4.28
3. Bihar					7	48.81	36.55	1	12.02	8.74
4. Chhattisgarh					14	176.50	122.00			
5. Gujarat					8	72.07	51.54	3	37.12	23.49
6. Haryana					15	238.84	182.96			
7. Jammu and Kashmir								10	42.40	32.23
8. Karnataka					5	68.46	41.90	15	92.58	63.94
9. Kerala					15	65.25	50.10	7	41.95	31.07
10. Madhya Pradesh					23	197.16	138.00	4	13.02	10.24
11. Maharashtra					15	152.67	120.71	4	46.97	33.55
12. Nagaland					1	87.74	44.14			
13. Rajasthan		3	9.03	7.22	17	140.06	110.08			
14. Tamil Nadu					22	146.05	112.56	6	53.73	42.24
15. Uttar Pradesh					8	29.01	22.11			
16. West Bengal					16	201.20	150.57	7	59.65	43.75
Total		3	9.03	7.22	194	1937.99	1404.57	60	459.81	331.28

**Independent Mechanism for Checking
Banking Frauds**

2710. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the achievement of the Banking Services Fraud Cell in reducing banking frauds in the country;

(b) whether Government has received suggestions to put in place an effective and independent mechanism free from the Government controls to probe into banking frauds in all public and private banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that they are not aware of the existence of "Banking Services Fraud Cell". However, there is a 'Banking Security and Fraud Cell' (BS and FC) in Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to which all cases of frauds involving Rs. 5 crore and above are referred for investigation by the Public Sector Banks. Further with a view to have an integrated approach and focused attention to monitoring of frauds in the financial sector, the

Frauds Monitoring Cell was created in the Department of Banking Supervision of the Reserve Bank of India in June 2004. The Cell monitors all frauds involving Rs.1 lakh and above which are reported by Commercial Banks, Financial Institutions, Local Area Banks, Urban Co-operative Banks and Non Banking Financial Companies to RBI.

(b) and (c): RBI has also reported that a case titled "Common Cause (a registered Society) Vs Union of India and others (WP No. 291 of 1998)" had come up for hearing on November 9, 2006 before the Supreme Court of India. The Hon'ble Court observed that certain suggestions had come up in relation to setting up of an independent mechanism to investigate banking and other related frauds. The Apex Court directed Shri Harish Salve, Sr. Advocate, in his personal capacity, not necessarily appearing for RBI, to give a note on the suggestions to Shri Sharan, Learned Additional Solicitor General, who will have it examined. In compliance of the order of the Apex Court, Shri Harish Salve has submitted a note containing suggestions for setting up of an independent mechanism to investigate banking and other related frauds before the Apex Court, when this case up for hearing on 28.3.2007.

Analysis of Drinking Water Samples

2711. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether guidelines issued by Government to States for routine analysis of samples of drinking water not being followed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The guidelines on National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme issued by the Government to the State Governments clearly mention that the States

need to carry out routine analysis of samples of drinking water. The progress is monitored through Monthly Progress Reports. The States which are slow in the implementation of routine analysis of samples of drinking water sources in rural areas are reviewed in the review meeting taken by the Government of India from time to time and they are advised to take corrective measures accordingly.

Pollution from Fly Ash

2712. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether fly ash produced by thermal power plants is a pollutant for water, air and soil;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any instructions to thermal power generation companies for early disposal of fly ash; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of these companies thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) The ash generated by Coal and Lignite Thermal Power Stations in the form of fly ash, bottom ash, pond ash and mound ash can be a pollutant for water, air and soil. However, it can also be utilized as a resource material for many applications.

(b) and (c): Ministry of Power/Central Electricity Authority review the progress of ash utilization with the power Utilities from time and have advised and emphasized increased ash utilization level in accordance with the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOE and F) Notification dated 14.09.1999 read with its amendment dated 27.08.2003. Thermal Power Stations have formulated action plans in accordance with MOE and F notification.

Pending Projects with CAPART

2713. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects pending for clearance with Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART);

(b) the reasons for non-clearance of these projects; and

(c) the time by which the pending projects are likely to be cleared by the CAPART?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) A total of 1870 project proposals are pending for clearance with CAPART as on date.

(b) and (c) The project proposals are examined as per the guidelines in vogue which include submission of project proposals by the Voluntary Organisations complete in all respects, pre-funding appraisal by Institutional Monitors and finally approval of the competent committee constituted for the purpose. Lack of essential information/documents in the project proposals sometimes delay the clearance of projects. After the fulfillment of requirements of documents/reports, the projects are placed before the competent authority for clearance.

Allocation of More Funds for Rural Roads

2714. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the State Governments for release of more funds for construction of rural roads under PMGSY;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government has fixed responsibility for proper utilization of funds released thereunder; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) During the current financial year (2007-08), proposal for release of funds under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has been received from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim and some other States. Funds under PMGSY are released to the States/UTs/Agencies as per the provision of PMGSY Programme Guidelines. As per the Guidelines, the 1st instalment amounting to 50% of the cleared value of projects or annual allocation whichever is lower is released subject to fulfillment of conditions, if any, stipulated earlier. The 2nd instalment is released on submission of Utilization Certificates, Audit Report etc. and as per the Physical and Financial Progress of works.

(c): the details of funds released to the States under PMGSY during 2007-08 has been given in enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) The projects under PMGSY are monitored through various Reports, On-line Management, Monitoring and Accounting System (OMMAS), three tier Quality Control Mechanism, Performance Review Meetings etc.

Statement*Details of releases made during the Financial year 2007-08 as on 17.08.2007*

Sl. No.	State	Release for Programme	Release for PIUs	Release under ADB assistance	Release under WB assistance	Total release during 2007-08
1	2	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	114.150				114.15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh					0.00
3.	Assam	65.00		90.00		155.00
4.	Bihar	191.37	9.32			200.69
5.	Chhattisgarh			200.00		200.00
6.	Goa					0.00
7.	Gujarat	32.55				32.55
8.	Haryana	99.82				99.82
9.	Himachal Pradesh				40.14	40.14
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	72.20				72.20
11.	Jharkhand					0.00
12.	Karnataka	64.86				64.86
13.	Kerala					0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	258.05		502.37		760.42
15.	Maharashtra	513.96				513.96
16.	Manipur	76.17				76.17
17.	Meghalaya					0.00
18.	Mizoram	19.39	2.57			21.96
19.	Nagaland					0.00

1	2	5	6	7	8	9
20.	Orissa	289.92		256.37		546.83
21.	Punjab	150.00				150.00
22.	Rajasthan	576.51			80.00	656.51
23.	Sikkim	64.50				64.50
24.	Tamil Nadu	71.03				71.03
25.	Tripura					0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	200.00	6.25		98.22	304.47
27.	Uttaranchal	78.74				78.74
28.	West Bengal	446.58		71.58		518.16
Total (States)		3384.80	18.14	1120.86	218.36	4742.16
Union Territories						
(Total UTs)						
Total (States + UTs)		3384.80	18.14	1120.86	218.36	4742.16

ADB—Asian Development Bank.

PIU—Programme Implementation Unit.

WB—World Bank.

[Translation]

Sick Banks in the Country

2715. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several banks have become sick in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of such banks and the estimated loss therein;

(c) whether any measures have been adopted by

the Government to turn the sick banks into profit making banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not identified any private bank as sick.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) RBI has issued guidelines and prescribed prudential norms to ensure that the banks function on

sound business principles. It also monitors the financial position of the banks, on an ongoing basis, by way of onsite inspection and scrutiny of the returns submitted by them, and takes corrective action, wherever required, including issue of statutory directions etc. Further, RBI has issued guidelines on "Ownership and Governance in private sector banks" on 28th February, 2005 with a view to ensure sound capital base, diversified ownership, proper management and transparency in management practices in the private sector banks. RBI has introduced a framework of Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) for close periodic monitoring of the banks exhibiting weak financials to avoid further deterioration in the financial position of such banks, and to protect the interests of all stakeholders including the depositors.

[English]

Carbon Credit Trading by SBI

2716. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Bank of India (SBI) has planned to create financial instruments to aid carbon credit trading and advise clients in the eco-friendly business as reported in Hindustan Times dated August 08, 2007; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To tap the emerging opportunities in the global carbon trading market, the State Bank of India has tied up with three clean development mechanism (CDM) consultants viz. MITCON Consultancy Services Ltd., Ecoscurities India Private Ltd. and CantorCO2e India Private Ltd. to provide appropriate advisory services to its borrowers. The bank has put in place a policy whereby it plans to involve itself in the CDM areas such as (i) Advisory services, (ii) Intermediary services (iii) Loan

against carbon credit receivables (iv) Carbon credit delivery guarantee (v) Clustering of small scale units for availing CDM benefits (vi) Escrow Mechanism, etc.

Face Value and Market Price of Shares

2717. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether listed companies themselves decide the face value of their equity shares according to their convenience like from Rs. 100 or Re.1/- irrespective of their market price;

(b) if so, the rationale behind the stock split;

(c) whether the small investors are losing their hard earned money due to this; and

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to issue fresh guidelines/frame rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) The listed companies have freedom to issue shares in any denomination or change the denomination by splitting or consolidating the existing shares subject to certain conditions.

(b) Stock splits promote liquidity and enable the small investors to invest in shares of small denominations.

(c) and (d) Stock split as such does not cause any loss.

Indian Insurance Companies in Foreign Countries

2718. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Public Sector Insurance Companies are operating its business in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The details of Indian Insurance companies operating its business in foreign countries are as under:-

- (1) **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC):** In six countries viz. Fiji, Mauritius and United Kingdom (UK) through its branch offices and three joint ventures namely: (i) LIC (International BSC(C), Bahrain (ii) LIC (Nepal) Ltd., Nepal and (iii) LIC (Lanka) Ltd., Sri Lanka.
- (2) **New India Assurance Co. (NIAC):** 19 Branch Offices viz 7 in Japan, 4 in Fiji, 2 in United Kingdom (UK) and 1 each in Hong Kong, Philippines, Thailand, Australia, Mauritius, and New Zealand. 12 Agency Offices viz 3 in Saudi Arabia, 2 in United Arab Emirates (UAE) and 1 each in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Dutch Caribbean, Netherlands, France and Canada. One subsidiary company each in Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, Dominica, St. Mannarten, Sierra Leone, Liberia and an Associate Company in Ghana.
- (3) **National Insurance Co. (NIC):** Divisional Office in Nepal with three branch offices.
- (4) **Oriental Insurance Co. (OIC):** One branch office each at Kuwait, UAE and one Divisional Office in Nepal with 6 branches.
- (5) **General Insurance Corporation (GIC):** One branch office at Dubai and one representative office each at London and Moscow.

Besides the above, the four public sector general insurance companies are jointly operating in Singapore (India International Insurance Pvt. Ltd.) and Kenya (Kenindia Assurance Co. Ltd.).

[Translation]

Increase in Loan to SSI

2719. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total loans provided to Small Scale Industries (SSI) during each of the last three years and till date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase loans to small scale industries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) As per latest data available with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the State-wise outstanding credit given by Public Sector Banks to the Small Scale Industries (SSI) during the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, as furnished by RBI, is placed as statement.

(b) and (c): Government has targeted a 20% year on year growth in credit to the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Sector. RBI has formulated a scheme to encourage banks to establish a mechanism for better co-ordination between their branches and branches of SIDBI for co-financing of SMEs on mutually agreeable operational modalities. Modification in Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for upgradation of SSI sector, introduction of Credit Rating Scheme by National Small Industries Corporation and setting up of SME Rating Agency by SIDBI are some other measures taken by the Government and RBI to increase the credit flow to SME sector. Further, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 has been enacted to cater to the needs of the SME sector.

Statement

(Rs. in Crore)

State	Amount outstanding		
	2004	2005	2006
1	2	3	4
Haryana	2307	2778	3528

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh	291	306	409
Jammu and Kashmir	189	220	260
Punjab	4551	4897	5838
Rajasthan	2086	2252	2639
Chandigarh	389	448	742
Delhi	4392	5771	6288
Assam	326	388	580
Manipur	23	27	26
Meghalaya	34	145	43
Nagaland	23	37	38
Tripura	30	42	36
Arunachal Pradesh	07	12	13
Mizoram	10	40	12
Sikkim	05	24	14
Bihar	593	646	712
Jharkhand	636	730	945
Orissa	858	1021	1277
West Bengal	3847	3872	4895
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	23	33	11
Madhya Pradesh	1715	1993	2462
Chhattisgarh	524	671	853
Uttar Pradesh	4652	5287	6502
Uttaranchal	263	517	578
Gujarat	2982	3488	4720

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	10071	10769	15765
Daman and Diu	9	23	27
Goa	188	146	300
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	13	14	24
Andhra Pradesh	3659	3734	5089
Karnataka	2877	3469	4665
Kerala	1607	1717	2416
Tamil Nadu	5933	7117	10639
Pondicherry	42	61	90
Lakshadweep	0.1	0.2	0.3

[English]

Generation of Money by SBI

2720. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India is considering to mop up nearly Rs.180,000 crore over the next five years as reported in Times of India dated August 14, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has given permission in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Bank of India proposes to make changes in policy to generate required money; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Based on a sensitivity analysis of its capital position, Capital Augmentation programme of the State Bank of India envisages raising about Rs.89,600 crore as capital funds during the next five years.

(c) to (f) The Boards of Public Sector Bank are competent to take decisions regarding raising capital funds, except equity capital for which prior approval of the Government is required.

Overseas Operation by Banks

2721. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has issued instructions to all public sector banks to make effort to establish overseas operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c): No, Sir. However, to facilitate quick and efficient decision-making and to provide sufficient managerial autonomy to Board of Directors of Banks to be able to compete internationally, Government announced an *Autonomy Package* on 22.02.2005 for the public sector banks. The package delegates authority to the Boards in various operational matters, including opening offices abroad.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

2722. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received proposals for extension of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in more districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proposals for release of second installment under NREGS has been received by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. A State-wise statement containing names of districts for which proposals have been received for inclusion under NREGA after 2nd phase of its implementation is at Statement-I.

(c) to (e) NREGA is demand based and not allocation based. Funds are released to the districts on receipt of a proposal alongwith utilisation certificates showing at least 60% utilisation of funds released earlier alongwith other documents. State-wise funds released during the year 2007-08, so far, are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of Districts for which request have been received for inclusion after 2nd phase of Implementation of NREGA

S.No.	State	Districts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Kurung Kumey and East Kameng

1	2	3
3.	Chhattisgarh	Mengeli, Pabhria and Lormi Blocks of Bilaspur district, Raipur, Durg and Jangee-Champa
4.	Gujarat	Kutch, Saurashtra, Vadodara and Surat
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Remaining districts of H.P.
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	Udhampur
7.	Kerala	Allepey
8.	Karnataka	Koppal, Bijapur, Gadag, Haveri, Tumkur, Kolar and Chamarajnagar
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur, Narsinghpur and Indore
10.	Manipur	All five hill districts
11.	Mizoram	Remaining 4 districts
12.	Nagaland	Peren, Longlong and Kiphare
13.	Punjab	Tara Taran, Muktsar, Faridkot, Ferozepur, Sangrur, Mansa, Fatehgarh Sahib
14.	Rajasthan	All the districts of Rajasthan
15.	Tamil Nadu	Ramanathapuram, Perambalur, Dharmapuri, Pudukottai
16.	Tripura	Remaining three districts
17.	Uttaranchal	Remaining 8 districts

Statement-II

Central funds released to NREGA districts during 2007-08

S. No.	State	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	62808.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	105.38
3.	Assam	36091.87
4.	Bihar	29319.08
5.	Chhattisgarh	52486.45
6.	Gujarat	2883.78
7.	Haryana	2751.97
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5470.63
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4176.29
10.	Jharkhand	28423.99
11.	Karnataka	14772.67
12.	Kerala	2784.05
13.	Madhya Pradesh	147060.79
14.	Maharashtra	1008.75
15.	Manipur	1088.13
16.	Meghalaya	3669.15
17.	Mizoram	865.25
18.	Nagaland	2166.59
19.	Orissa	32567.08

1	2	3
20.	Punjab	1650.17
21.	Rajasthan	62030.51
22.	Sikkim	364.75
23.	Tamil Nadu	33376.93
24.	Tripura	12451.45
25.	Uttaranchal	6456.90
26.	Uttar Pradesh	33775.72
27.	West Bengal	72635.88
Total		653242.31

Energy from Bamboo

2723. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has developed any devise to generate power from Bamboo;

(b) if so, the names of States where a huge potential exists generation of power from Bamboo;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up bamboo based power projects in the country;

(d) if so, the locations identified and the amount allocated to each concerned States for the purpose; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The Department of Science and Technology is implementing the National Mission on Bamboo

Applications (NMBA) to develop, validate and demonstrate technologies for Value Added Products using Bamboo as raw material. As part of this mission, gasifiers using bamboo as raw material have been developed for generation of electricity. These gasifiers can use Bamboo waste and other biomass.

(b) All the states where bamboo is available in plenty can use these gasifiers for generation of electricity. Examples being all the states in the North East, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa etc.

(c) By terms of reference, the National Mission on Bamboo Applications is to develop, validate and demonstrate the technologies. The Government has no Plans to set up Power Generation Units in all the States. However, the states, if interested, can use the technology.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation for Women in Parliament and State Legislatures

2724. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is taking any action to enact law to provide reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which bill in this regard is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : (a) to (c) With the objective of evolving a consensus on Women Reservation Bill, a meeting was called by the Chairperson

of United Progressive Alliance (UPA) on 22.8.2005 in which the constituents of UPA and Left Parties participated and subsequently the Hon'ble Prime Minister held a meeting with the Leaders of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and other Leaders on 24th August, 2005. However, there was no consensus on the provisions of the Bill in both the above meetings. The main objection to the concept of reservation for women in Lok Sabha appears to arise from the rotational phenomenon which would break the link between the Member of Parliament and his/her constituency. These apprehensions are required to be removed to be removed before the Government could bring a new Bill in Parliament.

[English]

National Policy on Subsidies

2725. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main highlights of the report 'Central Government subsidies in India';

(b) whether Union Government has finalized the national policy on subsidies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) The main highlights of the report 'Central Government subsidies in India' are as follows:-

1. Three reasons account for the increase in the Central Government subsidies in recent years: (i) moving the petroleum sector to a transparent system of budgetary subsidies and delay in the announced phasing out of the subsidies on PDS kerosene and domestic LPG; (ii) increase in explicit budgetary subsidies on food and

fertilizer; and (iii) increase in input costs unaccompanied by any improvement in recovery rates resulting in escalation of implicit subsidies on a variety of economic and social services.

2. Subsidy reforms should aim at (i) reducing their volume relative to revenue receipts; (ii) limiting these to only Merit categories while eliminating the non-Merit subsidies; (iii) administering subsidies more directly to the targeted beneficiaries; (iv) making subsidies transparent by showing them explicitly in the budget; and (v) avoiding multiple subsidies to serve the same policy objective.
3. Operational inefficiency in the case of provision of any public good or service leads to higher cost of production and greater subsidies.
4. High costs of service provision and low or negligible recoveries through user charges are the two critical factors leading to high subsidies. Costs need to be reduced, by eliminating producer inefficiencies. Subsidy reforms need to follow a scheme of priorities by focusing on selected sectors, which yield maximum results.

(b) to (d) Government has endeavoured to target subsidies towards the poor and truly needy like small and marginal farmers, farm labour and urban poor and requisite policy measures are taken from time to time in this regard.

[Translation]

Setting up of BIRAC

2726. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Bio-technology Industrial Research Assistance Centre (BIRAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend the Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the likely benefits therefrom;

(e) whether any agreement / draft agreement has been prepared by the public sector or private sector industries in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology is proposing establishment of a Biotechnology Industry Research and Development Assistance Council (BIRAC) which would act as a strong interface agency to facilitate linkages between public sector and private sector, to achieve the goal of promoting innovation. BIRAC would also help in promoting industrial growth through technology sourcing/licensing, technology management, intellectual property management, technology forecasting, early stage funding, cluster building and venture funding etc.

(c) and (d) No Sir, the existing scheme on Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) is not being expanded for the purpose of BIRAC. However, BIRAC would facilitate idea generation meeting's and monitoring of SBIRI proposals.

(e) and (f) Currently, a feasibility report for the setting up of BIRAC has been prepared which is under discussion with concerned experts and stakeholders. No agreement has been prepared.

[English]

Violation of Guidelines by Credit Card Companies

2727. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is mandatory that credit card companies calculate the paying capacity of cardholders and follow "know-your-customer" norms;

(b) whether despite RBI's guidelines credit card companies are unwilling to disclose information like interest rates clearly;

(c) If so, the number of cases came to the notice of the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government against those banks who did not disclose information like interest rates clearly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has issued a Master Circular on Credit Card operations by banks / NBFCs on 2nd July, 2007 which, inter-alia, provides that bank should independently assess the credit risk while issuing cards to persons, especially to students and others with no independent financial means. The guidelines also provide that the card issuing bank / NBFC would be solely responsible for fulfillment of the Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements, even where Direct Selling Agents (DSAs)/Direct Marketing Agents (DMAs) or other agents solicit business on their behalf.

(b) to (d): The existing Management Information System of the Government does not generate the desired data. However, in order to ensure transparency in banking services, RBI has issued instructions to banks on 16th May, 2006, to display and update the details of various service charges in the prescribed format on their websites and in their offices/branches. While fixing the service charges, the banks are expected to ensure that the charges are reasonable, consistent with the cost of providing the services and that the customers with low value / volume of transactions are not penalized. Further, vide its instructions dated 20th July, 2006, RBI has advised the banks that the service charges and fees may be placed on the home page of their websites at a prominent place

under the title of 'Service Charges and fees' so as to facilitate easy access to the bank customers. The banks are also required to provide a complaint form alongwith the name of the nodal officer for redressal of the complaint, on the homepage itself to facilitate complaint submission by the customers.

RBI has advised the banks that the annualized percentage rate (APR), the method of calculation of APR, late payment charges including the method of calculation, the manner in which the outstanding unpaid amount is to be included for calculation of interest, etc. on credit card dues should be indicated by card issuing banks in the 'Welcome Kit' and monthly statement. Banks have also been advised to be transparent in fixing their interest rate / service charge on credit card dues and include the above in the Most Important Terms and Conditions (MITCs). Further, credit card scenario is being constantly monitored and instructions to banks on their credit card operations are issued by the RBI, on an ongoing basis.

The Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006 has been notified w.e.f. 1st January, 2006 enlarging the scope of the scheme to cover customer complaints in areas such as levying service charges without prior notice to the customer, non-adherence to the Fair Practices Code as adopted by the banks, credit card complaints, deficiency in providing the services assured by the banks through their agents, etc.

Clean Development Mechanism Project by SBI

2728. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SBI has entered into Memorandum of Understanding for jointly providing solutions to industries for clean Development Mechanism projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. To tap the emerging opportunities in the global carbon trading market, the State Bank of India has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with three clean development mechanism (CDM) consultants viz. MITCON Consultancy Services Ltd., Ecosecurities India Private Ltd. and Cantor CO2e India Private Ltd. to jointly provide solutions to industries for CDM projects. The bank has put in place a policy whereby it plans to involve itself in the CDM areas such as (i) Advisory services, (ii) Intermediary services (iii) Loan against carbon credit receivables (iv) Carbon Credit delivery guarantee (v) Clustering of small scale units for availing CDM benefits (vi) Escrow Mechanism, etc.

Urbanization of Smaller Cities

2729. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes plans for balanced urbanization of smaller cities in view of growth of economy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance for Rural Development Schemes

2730. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has allocated funds for implementation of several rural development schemes in India,

(b) if so, the details of those schemes; and

(c) the names of the States where these schemes are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) to (c): Yes, Sir, As per the information available and information furnished by Department of Economic Affairs, the World Bank has allocated funds for implementation of several rural development schemes in India. The details of the schemes are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

(Amount in US \$ million)

S. No.	Name of the Project	Project Period		Funds Allocated	State, where it is implemented
		From	To		
1.	Bihar Rural Livelihoods Project-Jeevika	1.9.2007	31.10.2012	63	Bihar
2.	AP-Rural Poverty Reduction Project	13.5.2003	30.9.2008	150	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Chhattisgarh District Rural Poverty Project	13.11.2003	31.3.2009	92.56	Chhattisgarh
4.	Karnataka Panchayats Strengthening Project	4.10.2006	31.3.2012	120	Karnataka
5.	Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project	27.2.2000	30.6.2008	90.1	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives Project	7.8.2000	31.12.2007	100.5	Rajasthan
7.	Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Reduction Project	24.10.2005	30.9.2011	120	Tamil Nadu
8.	Rural Roads Project (PMGSY-I)	16.3.2005	31.3.2010	399.5	Himachal Pradesh Rajasthan Jharkhand Uttar Pradesh

[English]

Task Force on Urban Cooperative Banks

2731. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has signed any Memorandum of Understanding with regard to Urban Co-operative Banks with State Government of Gujarat;

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

(c) whether a State level Task Force on Urban

Co-operative Banks has been constituted in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Government of Gujarat on June 28, 2005 with regard to Urban Cooperative Banks (USBs) in the State. As UCBs are subjected to dual control by the RBI and the respective State Government, MoU seeks to put in place an arrangement through which there is a convergence on the approach and remedial action to be taken for facilitating the development of the sector. The MoU, inter-alia, Provides for:-

- (i) Constituting a State level Task Force for UCBs (TAFUCB) for identification and drawing up of a time bound action plan for the revival of potentially viable UCBs and non disruptive exit for non-viable UCBs.
- (ii) Facilitating human resources development and IT initiatives in UCBs.
- (iii) Professionalisation of Audit i.e. statutory audit by Chartered Accountant for UCBs with deposit over Rs. 25 crore.
- (iv) Putting in place fit and proper criteria for the Chief Executive Officers based on the guidelines of the bank.

(c) and (d) Consequent upon signing of MoU, a State Level Task Force for UCBs (TAFUCB) has been constituted for Gujarat. The Regional Director of RBI, for the State of Gujarat is the Chairman of the TAFUCB while the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS), Gujarat is the Co-chairman. Other members of the TAFUCB are a nominee of the State Government of Gujarat, a representative of Central Office of Urban Banks Department of RBI, Mumbai and a representative, each, from National Federation of UCBs and Federation of UCBs.

Rolling Back Interest Rate by NABARD

2732. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any representations from the State Government for rolling back the interest rate hiked by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on agricultural loans;

(b) if so, the reactions of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to advance loans to the agriculturists on long term basis at lower rate of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c): NABARD neither lends directly to the farmers nor has any such proposal as it does not have the infrastructure and organizational set upto do so. However, NABARD provides refinance to banks for Agriculture lending. During the year 2006-07, NABARD has provided Short Term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations) (ST-SAO) refinance to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs), on behalf of eligible District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), at concessional rates of interest with interest subvention from Government of India. The condition for availing this refinance is that Cooperative Banks provide crop loans upto Rs. 3.00 lakh per borrower at a rate of interest of 7% per annum.

While finalizing the scheme of interest subvention, it was decided that NABARD will provide refinance to Cooperative Banks at 2.5% in 2006-07 and this rate is to be increased annually by 50 basis points to a level of 4% p.a. by 2009-10. Consequently, the rate of interest on refinance was fixed as follows : 2.5% during 2006-07; 3.0% during 2007-08; 3.5% during 2008-09 and 4.0% during 2009-10. This decision was communicated and thereafter, there has been no change in the original scheme of refinance to Cooperative Banks by NABARD. As per the

scheme the rate of interest on this concessional refinance is 3% p.a. for the year 2007-08. However, the rate of interest for borrowers for crop loan upto a principal of Rs. 3,00,000/- remains at 7% p.a.

Further, there is no proposal to reduce the rate of interest on refinance for long term agricultural loans.

Lord Krishna Bank

2733. SHRI K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Lord Krishna Bank is under monthly monitoring of Reserve Bank of India (RBI);

(b) if so, whether the share holding of the promoter group in Lord Krishna Bank is being brought down to the 10% level; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) Due to the poor financial and other adverse findings in the Annual Financial Inspection of the bank with respect to its position as on 30th September, 1997, the Lord Krishna Bank was placed under Quarterly Monitoring System, and subsequently under monthly monitoring since April, 2001. The bank was also under 'Directions' issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 since December, 2003. However, RBI has sanctioned the Scheme of Amalgamation of the Lord Krishna Bank Ltd. with Centurion Bank of Punjab Ltd. under Section 44A of the Act *ibid*, with effect from 29th August, 2007.

Draw of Lots for Group Housing Cooperative Societies in Delhi

2734. SHRI MOHAN JENA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Registrar, Co-operative Societies in Delhi, has cleared any Group Housing Co-operative Society for allotment of flats by DDA in the last four years,

(b) if not, the steps taken by the Government for allotment of dwelling units;

(c) whether CBI/Court/Government and any other authority has directed the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Delhi to withhold the process for allotment of flats of Co-operative Group Housing Society in Delhi; and

(d) if not, the reasons for withholding the draw of lots?

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

(b) Does not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

(c) and (d) Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS) has informed that the Delhi High Court in CWP No. 10066/2004 - The Yogiraj Krishna Group Housing Society vs. DDA and Anr. has entrusted the investigation of 101 Cooperative Group Housing Societies, which have been allotted land by DDA to the CBI. The Delhi High Court vide its order dated 7.9.2006 in CWP No. 19967/2004 in Nehru CGHS vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has declared the members enrolled in violation of Rule 24(2) of DCS Rules, 1973 as illegal, *ab initio* and also directed the CBI/Crime Branch to investigate such societies for the alleged violation. The Delhi High Court vide its order dated 2.7.2007 in CWP No. 140314/2006 in Rajiv Mukhopadhyaya vs. RCS has also upheld the constitutional validity of Rule 24(2) of DCS Rules 1973. The allotment of the CGHSs flats to members can be considered after completion of investigation by CBI, submission of requisite documents for allotment of flats by the Societies to the office of RCS and clearance of membership by the RCS, GNCTD.

[Translation]

Encroachment of Land in Delhi

2735. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the areas of Government's land on which encroachment is made in Delhi, location-wise;

(b) the details of the people who have made encroachment on such land;

(c) the time by which Government is likely make free this land from encroachment; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that about 1398 acres of land is under encroachment in the form of JJ clusters, unauthorized colonies, commercial structures, religious buildings etc. The Slum and JJ Department of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that about 14,828 sq.m. of its land is under encroachment in the form of jhuggis/religious structures etc. An area of about 67.68 acres of parks/gardens/green areas falling under the jurisdiction of MCD is under religious encroachment. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has reported that an area of about 1.40 lakh sq.m. is under encroachment of jhuggi clusters in NDMC area.

(c) and (d) The Government has been impressing upon land owning agencies to keep their land free from encroachment. The agencies having the administrative control/ownership of the relevant land take appropriate measures to restore the public land in accordance with law, viz., complaint with the local police, action under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, relocation/resettlement of eligible squatters, demolition of unauthorized structures etc.

[English]

Setting up of Urban Regulatory Authority

2736. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an urban regulatory authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per Entry 5 of the State List in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India "Local Government" is a State subject. The regulation of private developers and builders comes under the purview of State Governments, Urban Local Bodies/Development Authorities who control their activities under the provisions of State Town and Country Government is considering formulation of Real Estate Management (Regulation and Control) Bill which is at draft stage.

Misuse of PN Route

2737. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that several financial experts have pointed out that participatory notes are being misused by speculators in the market;

(b) if so, whether these experts have suggested that participatory notes should not be allowed as financial instruments for trading on the stock exchange as the beneficiary of the transactions are unknown;

(c) whether the Government has examined such a proposal; and;

(d) if so, by when the Government proposes to ban p-notes usage by foreign investors in the Indian stock market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) The Government had constituted an Expert headed by Dr. Ashok Lahiri, constituted by the Government of India, on "Encouraging FII Flows and Checking the Vulnerability of Capital Markets to Speculative Flows". It included representatives from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as members. The Expert Group examined the issue of PNs and recommended that the current dispensation of FIs issuing PNs to entities overseas may continue. Currently the FIs can issue PNs only to regulated entities overseas and the FIs are required to file a report at the end of each month with SEBI disclosing the names of all subscribers to the PNs issued by it.

(d) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Withdrawal of Excise Exemption

2738. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN :

SHRI UDAY SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of excise duty evasion in contract manufacturing and loan licensing by Pharmaceutical units have come to the notice of the Union Government;

(b) If so, the details thereof of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to withdraw the excise exemption from contract manufacturers and loan licensees as reported in the Tehelka dated July 21, 2007; and

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

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

(c) and (d) Government has received some suggestions regarding withdrawal of excise duty exemption in tax exempted States for manufacture of drugs against loan licensees and contract manufacturers. These are under examination.

Waiving of Interest to Farmers by NABARD

2739. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has received proposals to waive the heavy interest burden under special package to the farmers during the last two years; and

(b) If so, the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the extreme conditions of farmers in the 31 debt stressed districts in the four states of Maharashtra (06), Andhra Pradesh (16), Karnataka (06) and Kerala (03), a relief package was announced for farmers by the Government. It provides for waiver of the entire interest on overdue loans as on 01.07.2006. At the time of finalisation of the scheme, it was estimated to waive Rs. 2720.93 crore as overdue interest in the 31 identified districts. However, as on 27.07.2007 an amount of Rs. 3732.96 crore as overdue interest has been waived in these districts. The special package also provides for rescheduling of overdue loans of the farmers as on 01.07.2006 over a period of 3-5 years with a one year moratorium. The estimated amount of loan to be rescheduled was Rs. 9051.81 crore, whereas an amount of Rs. 10967.98 crore of loan has been rescheduled as on 27.07.2007.

[Translation]

Rate of Interest on Loan for Purchase of Second House

2740. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI KIREN RIJUJU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain private sector banks are providing second housing loan on higher interest rate;

(b) if so, whether the Government also proposes to raise the rates of interest on loan for purchase of second house keeping in view the shortage of dwelling units in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has stated that they have no information in this regard.

(b) and (c) With effect from October 18, 1994, RBI has deregulated the interest rates on advances above Rs. 2 lakh and the rates of interest on such advances are determined by the banks themselves with the approval of their Boards and not by the RBI or the Government.

[English]

Micro Level Energy Plan

2741. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether villages / clusters have been taken under Micro Level Energy Plans in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the budget allocation of Micro Level Energy Plans, State-wise;

(c) whether the same plan is also being implemented in Bihar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been implementing the centrally sponsored scheme 'Modified Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP)' on 50 : 50 cost sharing basis with the States since 2003-04. Under this scheme, there is a provision for preparing the micro level energy plans for selected clusters of villages in the districts identified by the States for implementation of the programme. The scheme has a provision of central financial assistance of Rs.1 lakh per year per district for preparation of such energy plans. There is no State-wise allocation of funds for the IREP projects, which are sanctioned based on the proposals received from the States. The modified IREP scheme has been implemented till 2006-07 in 21 States/UTs covering 323 districts in the country. The State-wise details of funds released under the modified IREP scheme, including funds for micro level energy plans, from 2003-04 to 2006-07 are given in enclosed statement. It has been proposed to merge the IREP with other rural energy programmes of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy during the Eleventh Plan Period.

(c) and (d) The State of Bihar did not submit suitable proposals for implementation of the modified IREP scheme and hence the programme was not implemented in the State of Bihar.

Statement

Funds released to the States/UTs under the modified IREP Programme

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	61.50	—	34.07	25.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	31.11	—	12.74	43.92
3.	Chhattisgarh	82.50	—	—	—
4.	Gujarat	—	12.00	—	—
	Trg. Centre, Anand	—	20.00	—	—
5.	Haryana	97.50	88.00	12.20	137.83
6.	Himachal Pradesh	62.5	—	—	297.50
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	72.50	—	—
8.	Jharkhand	27.66	—	—	—
9.	Karnataka	96.65	—	—	—
	Trg. Centre, Bangalore	5.00	13.00	20.00	20.00
10.	Kerala	142.50	—	—	—
11.	Madhya Pradesh	52.52	203.25	—	—
12.	Manipur	34.64	—	—	—
13.	Meghalaya	20.00	—	—	—
	Try. Centre, Shillong	—	25.50	4.20	—
14.	Mizoram	32.50	4.36	16.25	—
15.	Nagaland	32.50	—	—	—
16.	Pondicherry	3.66	—	—	—
17.	Punjab	87.50	67.75	—	160.26
18.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	72.50	—
19.	Tripura	—	12.50	—	—
20.	Uttaranchal	67.50	50.75	—	12.31
21.	Uttar Pradesh	250.00	264.50	182.00	291.29
	Trg. Centre, Lucknow	14.52	20.00	9.32	—
-	Trg. Centre, Bakoli, Delhi	—	17.00	—	—

Metro Train Facility in Mumbai

2742. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has received proposal to introduce Metro rail in Mumbai and its peripheral areas; and

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

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

(b) The Government of Maharashtra has prepared a master plan for introduction of Metro Rail System in Mumbai in 9 corridors to be implemented in 3 Phases. The details of 9 corridors are as under:-

S.No.	Corridor	Length in Kms.
1.	Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar	11.07
2.	Charkop-Bandra-Mankhurd	31.8
3.	Colaba-Mahim-Bandra	19.95
4.	Charkop-Dahisar	7.5
5.	Ghatkopar-Mulund	12.4
6.	B.K.C. to Kanjur Marg via Airport	19.5
7.	Andheri (East)-Dahisar (East)	18
8.	Hutatma Chowk-Ghatkopar	21.8
9.	Sewri-Prabhadevi	3.5

Central Govt. has received proposals for first three corridors for providing Central financial assistance as per the guidelines.

Indian Economy

2743 SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has become a US \$ 1.1 trillion economy during the recent time; and

(b) if so, the factors leading to such economic status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) As per the Revised Estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the GDP at current market prices for the year 2006-07 was Rs. 41,25,725 crore. This is equivalent to US Dollar 912 billion at an average exchange rate of Rs 45.25 per US dollar for 2006-07. India has been experiencing rapid economic growth in recent years which is reflected in an increase in its GDP.

Independent Regulator for Energy Sector

2744. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring market mechanisms in energy sector under an independent regulatory; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) and (b) Independent regulators already exist in the electricity sector in the form of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). In addition, a Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has been set up on 25 June 2007 for regulating the petroleum sector, covering refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas.

[Translation]

Housing Problem of Poor

2745. SHRI V. K. THUMMAR :

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agencies entrusted with the work of providing houses to the poor and middle class people in Delhi have not accomplished their work; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the main agency entrusted with the work of providing houses to the poor and middle class people in Delhi, has been making available housing, stock by allotment of plots under the Rohini Residential Scheme, allotment of land to Cooperative Societies as well as by allotment of built up flats. The total housing stock generated as part of the planned development through direct construction by DDA, construction of dwelling units by private individuals on plots allotted by DDA, accommodation by way of resettlement colonies and construction of plots allotted to Cooperative Societies has been approximately 10.5 lakhs. In addition, nearly 1 lakh units have been generated in the form of resettlement of slum clusters through the Slum and JJ Wing of MCD and DDA. Out of nearly 3 lakh dwelling units constructed by DDA, 1.83 lakh belong to Low Income Group (LIG) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). The houses constructed for LIG and EWS thus constitute nearly 60% of the total units constructed by DDA.

[English]

Traffic Congestion

2746. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received the study report from M/s. Vibar Smith Association Pvt. Ltd. on reduction of traffic congestion and pollution in the major cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Setting up of Weather Channel

2747. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a weather channel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) estimated expenditure to be incurred on weather channel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government plans to set up a dedicated weather channel in the Public-Private-Partnership mode to telecast weather and climate related information required by public and other users.

A three-phased implementation strategy is being devised. The first phase of the channel with 6 hours of telecast time will be implemented by next year. Subsequent phases with 12 and 24 hours of telecast time will be implemented in 2009 and 2010.

Details of expenditure on the launch of the channel are yet to be worked out.

[Translation]

Growth of Jhuggi-Jhonpuri

2748. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is working on any scheme to re-settle slums dwellers of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the measures being taken by the Government to check the growth of Jhuggi-Jhonparis in the city in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) As per present Government policy, eligible slum/jhuggi dwellers in Delhi are relocated elsewhere by allotting them alternate plots. Allotment of 18 sqm. plot is made to pre-1990 squatters and 12.5 sqm. plot to post-1990 but pre-31.12.98 squatters.

Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) - 2021 visualizes in-situ up-gradation of the land pockets of slum and JJ clusters, which are not required for public/priority use, is the first option for provision of affordable housing for rehabilitation of squatters. Resettlement, whether in the form of in-situ up-gradation or relocation, should be based mainly on built up accommodation of around 25 sqm. with common areas and facilities, rather than on the model of horizontal plotted development.

In order to prevent growth of slums in Delhi, the Master Plan stipulates provision of more than 50% of total housing for urban poor through a mix of approaches and by adopting multi-pronged housing strategy.

There is a mandatory provision of EWS housing/slum rehabilitation in all the group housing schemes to the extent of 15% of permissible FAR or 35% of dwelling units whichever is higher.

[English]

Incentive to State Governments

2749. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government is aware that State Governments are not timely utilizing funds and hence cash balance remains with them;

(b) if so, whether Union Government proposes to give incentive to States for better management of finance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) Does not arise.

Work Orders for CPWD from Abroad

2750. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CPWD is mandated to have work orders from abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CPWD is equipped to transact the business abroad; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Deduction of Post in CPWD

2751. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the orders regarding 10% deduction in filling up of vacant posts are effective in CPWD;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to these orders the quality of work is being adversely affected; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) There is no order regarding 10% deduction in filling up of vacant posts.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The house stands adjourned till 12 noon.

11.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

12.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : Sir, I bet to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the NTPC Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6862/2007]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley

Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6863/2007]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited (BIBCOL) and the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement accepting the Memorandum of Understanding by the Government mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6864/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by Ministers during various sessions of Eight, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabha:-

EIGHTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. XLV Tenth Session, 1988

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6865/2007]

2. Statement No. XXX Fourteenth Session, 1990

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6866/2007]

TENTH LOK SABHA

3. Statement No. XL Fifth Session, 1992

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6867/2007]

4. Statement No. XXXV Seventh Session, 1993

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6868/2007]

5. Statement No. XXXIX Ninth Session, 1994

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6869/2007]

6. Statement No. XXXIV Eleventh Session, 1994

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6870/2007]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

7. Statement No. XL Second Session, 1998

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6871/2007]

8. Statement No. XXXIV Third Session, 1998

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6872/2007]

9. Statement No. XXXVI Fourth Session, 1999

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6873/2007]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

10. Statement No. XL Third Session, 2000

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6874/2007]

11. Statement No. XXXIV Fourth Session, 2000

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6875/2007]

12. Statement No. XL Seventh Session, 2001

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6876/2007]

13. Statement No. XXVII Eighth Session, 2001

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6877/2007]

14. Statement No. XXVI Ninth Session, 2002

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6878/2007]

15. Statement No. XXII Tenth Session, 2002

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6879/2007]

16. Statement No. XXI Eleventh Session, 2002

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6880/2007]

17. Statement No. XIX Twelfth Session, 2003

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6881/2007]

18. Statement No. XVI Thirteenth Session, 2003

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6882/2007]

19. Statement No. XV Fourteenth Session, 2004

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6883/2007]

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

20. Statement No. XIII Second Session, 2004

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6884/2007]

21. Statement No. XI Third Session, 2004

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6885/2007]

22. Statement No. IX Fourth Session, 2005

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6886/2007]

23. Statement No. VIII Fifth Session, 2005

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6887/2007]

24. Statement No. VII Sixth Session, 2005

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6888/2007]

25. Statement No. VI Seventh Session, 2006

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6889/2007]

26. Statement No. IV Eighth Session, 2006

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6890/2007]

27. Statement No. III Ninth Session, 2006

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6891/2007]

28. Statement No. II Tenth Session, 2007

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6892/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : Sir, I beg to
lay on the Table:-

- (1) (a) A copy of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of India, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 40 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955, and sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6893/2007]

- (b) A copy of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of Patiala, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 40 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955, and sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6894/2007]

- (c) A copy of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of Mysore, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith

Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 40 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955, and sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6895/2007]

- (d) A copy of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of Indore, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 40 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955, and sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6896/2007]

- (e) A copy of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 40 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955, and sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6897/2007]

- (f) A copy of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 40 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955, and sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6898/2007]

- (g) A copy of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of Travancore, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 40 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955, and sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6899/2007]

- (2) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (8) of section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:-

- (i) Report on the working and activities of the Andhra Bank for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6900/2007]

- (ii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Baroda for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6901/2007]

- (iii) Report on the working and activities of the Central Bank of India, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6902/2007]

- (iv) Report on the working and activities of the Corporation Bank for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6903/2007]

- (v) Report on the working and activities of the Dena Bank for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6904/2007]

- (vi) Report on the working and activities of the Indian Overseas Bank for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6905/2007]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) S.O.319(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.) dated the 3rd August, 2001.

- (ii) S.O.378(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.) dated the 3rd August, 2001.

- (iii) S.O.586(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.) dated the 3rd August, 2001.

- (iv) S.O.838(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of import.

- (v) S.O.839(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of export.
- (vi) S.O.1020(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of import.
- (vii) S.O.1021(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of export.
- (viii) S.O.1230(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th July, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of import.
- (ix) S.O.1231(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th July, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for purpose of assessment of export.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6906/2007]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi

and English versions) under section 74 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002:-

- (i) The Prevention of Money Laundering (Appointment and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members of Appellate Tribunal) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.519(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) The Prevention of Money-Laundering (Appointment and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members of Adjudicating Authorities) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.520(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6907/2007]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 30 of the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Small Industries Development Bank of India, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6908/2007]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:-
- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Remittance of Assets) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No.

G.S.R.400(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2007.

- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Accounts by a Person Resident in India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.455(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2007.

- (iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property Outside India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.456(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2007.

- (iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) (Amendment) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.495(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23th July, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6909/2007]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution:-

- (i) The Customs and Central Excise Settlement Commission (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Members), Amendments Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.340(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) The Settlement Commission (Income-tax/Wealth-tax) (Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Members), Amendments Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.341(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May,

2007 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6910/2007]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6911/2007]

12.01½ hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No.3 Bill, 2007, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd August, 2007 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to State that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of

Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2007 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th August, 2007."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2007, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 30th August, 2007."

12.01½ hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Cancellation of Sitting of the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that as decided in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held yesterday (30.08.2007), the sitting fixed for Monday, the 3rd September, 2007 may be cancelled.

I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

12.01¼ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Statements

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table Hindi and English versions of the Statements showing action by Government on the recommendations contained in the following Action Taken Reports of the Public Accounts Committee:-

- (1) 61st Report of PAC (10th Lok Sabha) on "Alleged unauthorised importations of plant and

machinery, mis-declaration and under-invoicing of goods by a textiles manufacturer".

- (2) 5th Report of PAC (11th Lok Sabha) on "Building for Permanent Mission at New York".
- (3) 8th Report of PAC (11th Lok Sabha) on "Modvat Scheme-Fraudulent availment of credits".
- (4) 21st Report of PAC (11th Lok Sabha) on "Revision in the Format of Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Civil)".
- (5) 4th Report of PAC (13th Lok Sabha) on "The Advance Licensing Scheme".
- (6) 60th Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Aircraft Accidents in Indian Air Force".
- (7) 6th Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (2000-2001)".
- (8) 15th Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Refunds under the Income Tax Act, 1961".
- (9) 17th Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Union Government Appropriations (Civil) 1996-97".
- (10) 22th Report of PAC (14th Lok Sabha) on "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (2000-2001)".

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Twentieth Report

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, I beg to present the Twentieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances requests for dropping of assurances.

12.02¼ hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

- (I) **Follow-up action on the recommendations contained in the Report of High Level Committee headed by Justice Rajinder Sachar on the Social, Economic and Educational status of the Muslim community of India***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, as there was lack of authentic information about the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community of India, a High Level Committee was constituted on 9th March, 2005 under the chairmanship of Justice Rajinder Sachar to prepare a comprehensive report on this subject. The report was prepared after detailed and wide ranging consultation with State governments, non-governmental organizations, universities and academic bodies, intellectuals, women, youth and specialized organisations and bodies of the Central government.

2. The High Level Committee (popularly known as the Sachar Committee) submitted its report on 17th November, 2006. The report was tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 30th November, 2006.

3. The Sachar Committee brought out the stark reality about the condition of the Muslim community. The salient findings of the Sachar Committee are at Annexure.

4. The recommendations of the Sachar Committee have been considered by Government and a decision has been taken regarding the follow up action. The salient features are as follows:-

- (i) Targeted intervention is proposed for improvement of basic amenities and employment

opportunities in 90 identified minority concentration districts which are backward in terms of various developmental parameters.

- (ii) Appropriate measures will be taken to improve the deficiency in civic amenities and economic opportunities in 338 identified towns and cities with a substantial population of minorities. An inter-ministerial task force is already working on this to recommend appropriate strategies in this regard,

- (iii) An inter-ministerial group has been constituted to plan and monitor the implementation of a comprehensive programme for skill and entrepreneurship development among the Muslim community and for ensuring easy and smooth access to credit to the minorities. "Clusters", having a substantial presence of the Muslim community, especially of those engaged in artisanal activities, will be given focussed attention. The group has commenced its deliberations.

- (iv) Public sector banks will open more branches in Muslim concentration areas, financial institutions will promote micro-finance among the minorities, especially women, public sector banks will monitor the disposal of loan applications for minorities and maintain reasons for rejection, Reserve Bank of India will maintain district-wise and bank-wise data regarding disposal of applications on its website and the flow of credit to minorities, would be monitored regularly. The data can be accessed under the Right to Information Act. Efforts will be made for stepping up priority sector lending to minorities from the present level to 15% over a period of three years.

- (v) A multi-pronged strategy will be adopted for addressing the problem of educational backwardness of the Muslim community. The

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT No. 6912/2007.

[Shri A.R. Antulay]

outreach of upper primary schools will be expanded, particularly for Muslim girls, and where necessary, with 'girls only' schools, more Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) will be opened in areas with substantial Muslim population; priority would be given to the opening of secondary and senior secondary schools in areas of Muslim concentration, a special literacy drive will be taken up in districts with a substantial population of Muslims, Block Institutes of Teacher Education (BITEs) would be established to impart pre-service and in-service training to primary, upper primary and secondary level teachers in such areas, additional allocation will be made for opening women's hostels in schools and universities, the Madarasa Modernization Programme will be revised to enhance the components eligible for assistance, the mid-day meal scheme will be extended, especially backward Muslim concentration blocks and the question of equivalence of qualifications from madarasas for subsequent access to higher education will be addressed.

- (vi) Three scholarship schemes are proposed exclusively for the minorities. A merit-cum-means scholarship scheme for 20,000 students from the minority communities for pursuing technical and professional courses has been approved already. The other two viz. A pre-matric and a post-matric scholarship scheme will be introduced shortly. A revised coaching and remedial tuition scheme has been approved to improve the employability and academic performance of students belonging to the minority communities. Guidelines have been issued already to improve the representation of minorities, in Government, public sector enterprises, public sector banks etc. The Corpus of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) would be augmented and its operations expanded and streamlined.

- (vii) Dissemination of information regarding health and family welfare schemes will be done in Urdu and regional languages and in such districts, blocks and towns with a substantial minority population.
- (viii) A comprehensive amendment of the Wakf Act is proposed to address existing deficiencies at the earliest.
- (ix) A suitable agency would soon assist in the development of wakf properties so that the augmented income could be utilized for the purposes intended.
- (x) All personnel, like government employees, teachers, health personnel would be sensitized to the importance of diversity and social inclusion.
- (xi) Civil Rights Centres will be opened in universities, beginning with Central universities.
- (xii) A High Level Committee has been constituted to review the Delimitation Act and the concerns expressed by the Sachar Committee regarding anomalies in the representation of Muslims have been considered by this Committee.
- (xiii) It has been decided in principle to set up an Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) to look into grievances regarding discrimination. An expert group will study and recommend its (ECO's) structure and functions.
- (xiv) In order to promote diversity and social inclusion in educational institutions, work places and living spaces, an expert group has been constituted to propose an appropriate "diversity index". Such an index can be the basis for providing incentives for better representation in all three areas mentioned above.
- (xv) A National Data Bank (NDB) and an autonomous Assessment and Monitoring Authority (AMA) will

be soon set up which will analyse the data so generated and suggest appropriate policies to Government on a continuous basis.

Annexure

Salient Findings of the Sachar Committee

(I) Education:

- (a) The literacy rate among Muslims was 59.1%, which was below the national average of 64.8%.
- (b) The mean years of schooling (MYS) is lower compared to the average MYS for all children.
- (c) 25% of Muslim children in the age of 6 - 14 year age group have either never attended school or have dropped out.
- (d) The majority of Muslim girls and boys fail in their matriculation examination or drop out before that.
- (e) Less than 4% of Muslims are graduates or diploma holders compared to about 7% of the population aged 20 years and above.
- (f) There is a strong desire and enthusiasm for education among Muslim women and girls across the board.
- (g) Schools beyond primary level are few in Muslim localities. Exclusive schools for girls are fewer.
- (h) Lack of hostel facilities is a limiting factor, especially for girls.
- (i) Muslim parents are not averse to modern or mainstream education and to sending their children to affordable Government

schools. They do not necessarily prefer to send children to madarasas. However, the access to government schools for Muslim children is limited,

(II) Skill development:

- (a) Skill development initiatives for those who have not completed school education may be particularly relevant for some sections of Muslims given their occupational structure.
- (b) The skill demands in the manufacturing and service sectors are changing continuously and youth with middle school education would meet these needs.
- (c) A rehabilitation package for innovative re-skilling and for upgrading the occupational structure in the wake of liberalization is seen as an urgent need.

(III) Employment and economic opportunities:

- (a) Self-employment is the main source of income of Muslims. They are engaged more in self-employed manufacturing and trade activities compared to others.
- (b) The share of Muslim workers engaged in street vending is the highest. More than 12 per cent of Muslim male workers are engaged in street vending as compared to the national average of less than 8 per cent.
- (c) The percentage of women Muslim workers undertaking work within their own homes is much larger at 70 per cent compared to all workers at 51 per cent.
- (d) The share of Muslims in the total workers engaged in the tobacco and textiles/garment related industries are quite significant.

[Shri A.R. Antulay]

- (e) The share of Muslim workers in production related activities and transport equipment operation is much higher at 34%, as against 21% of all workers.
- (f) More than 16 per cent of Muslims were engaged as sales workers, while the national average was only about 10 per cent.
- (g) While the Participation of Muslim workers is relatively higher in production and sales related occupations, their participation was relatively lower in professional, technical, clerical and to some extent managerial work.
- (h) Muslims, by and large, are engaged in the unorganized sector of the economy and have to bear the brunt of liberalization.
- (i) The participation of Muslims in regular salaried job is much less than workers of other socio-religious categories.
- (j) Muslims are relatively more vulnerable in terms of conditions of work as their concentration in informal sector employment is higher and their job conditions, even among regular workers, are less for Muslims than those of other socio-religious communities.
- (k) Percentage of households availing banking facilities is much lower in villages where the share of Muslim population is high,

(iv) Poverty and development:

- (a) About 38% of Muslims in urban areas and 27% in rural areas live below the poverty level

- (b) Muslims are concentrated in locations with poor infrastructure facilities. This affects their access to basic services like education, health facilities, transport, etc.
- (c) About a third of small villages with high concentration of Muslims do not have any educational institutions.
- (d) There is a scarcity of medical facilities in larger villages with a substantial Muslim concentration. About 40% of large villages with a substantial Muslim concentration do not have any medical facilities.
- (e) Muslim concentration villages are not well served with pucca roads.
- (f) Policies to deal with the relative deprivation of the Muslims in the country should sharply focus on inclusive development and mainstreaming of the community while respecting diversity.

(v) Social conditions:

- (a) A community-specific factor for low educational achievement is that Muslims do not see education as necessarily translating into formal employment.
- (b) The Muslim population shows an increasingly better sex ratio compared with other socio-religious communities.
- (c) Infant and childhood mortality among Muslims is slightly lower than the average.
- (d) There has been a large decline in fertility in all the religious groups including Muslims.

12.02½ hrs.

(ii) **Status of implementation of the components of Bharat Nirman relating to the Ministry of Rural Development***

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay the statement in regard to components of Bharat Nirman related to Ministers of Rural Development.

Bharat Nirman has been conceived as a time bound, targeted Business Plan by the Government. It is to be implemented over a period of 4 years with the total estimated investment of Rs.1,74,000 crore. Of the six components i.e. Irrigation, Rural Roads, Rural Housing, Rural Drinking Water Supply, Rural Electrification and Telephone Connectivity, three components namely, Rural Roads, Rural Housing and Rural Water Supply are being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development with the estimated investment of Rs. 85,000 crore. I wish to apprise the House on the present status of the implementation of these three components of Bharat Nirman.

Rural Roads

Physical Progress

Under rural roads component of Bharat Nirman, it is proposed to connect all habitations with population of 1000 persons or more in the plain areas and all habitations with population of 500 persons or more in the hill States, the tribal areas and the desert areas with an all-weather road by 2009. During the period 2005-09, it is targetted to construct 146185 km. of rural roads connecting 66802 habitations and upgrade 194130 km. of existing rural roads. During the period 2005-07, construction of 39477 km. of rural roads was completed providing connectivity to 13831 habitations. In addition, 50056 km. of existing rural roads were upgraded.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT No. 6913/2007.

Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), clearance has been accorded for 67713 projects for construction of 2.38 lakh km. of rural roads. Upto the end of July 2007, construction of 1.34 lakh km. of rural roads has been completed and work is in progress in respect of 1.04 lakh km.

Financial Progress

Keeping in view the targets of Bharat Nirman, all efforts have been made for provision of adequate funds under the scheme as well as for augmenting the absorption capacity of States. While the average annual expenditure under PMGSY during the period 2000-05 was about Rs. 1900 crore, it stepped upto Rs. 4091.66 crore during 2005-06 and Rs. 7304.27 crore during 2006-07. During the current year, the allocation has been further enhanced to Rs. 11,000 crore. Assistance from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been taken to augment the resources for the scheme. About Rs. 9000 crore would be made available being assistance from World Bank and ADB. For ensuring adequate funding, a special window has been created under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of National Bank for Agricultural Rural Development (NABARD) for financing rural road projects under Bharat Nirman. About Rs. 6500 crore would be mobilized from the special window of NABARD.

Execution of Projects

"Rural Roads" being a State subject, Projects under the programme are executed by State / UT Governments through their agencies. i.e. SRRDA (State Rural Roads Development Agency) for monitoring, financial management and coordination at the State Level and Programme Implementation Units (PIUs) for programme implementation at the district level. Central agencies have also been engaged for execution of projects under the programme in Bihar and Tripura.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Transparency and Quality Control

All efforts are being made by the Ministry to ensure achievements of targets under Bharat Nirman (rural roads components) within the announced time frame i.e. by 2009. The State Governments have been advised to enhance their institutional and contracting capacity for accelerating the pace of implementation of projects under the scheme. The Ministry has also taken adequate steps to ensure quality and transparency in execution of projects under the programme. The 3-tier quality control mechanism as prescribed in the PMGSY programme guidelines has been strengthened.

Standard Bidding Document (SBD) has been prescribed to facilitate open tender and award of works under PMGSY. Necessary amendments have been made in the Standard Bidding Document to facilitate augmentation of contracting capacity in States. A Web-based on-line monitoring system (web address - www.ornms.nic.in and www.pmgsyonline.nic.in) has been developed to facilitate timely monitoring of works under PMGSY. Monitoring modules include Connectivity Status, Physical and Financial progress, Account and Quality monitoring etc. The entire database has been placed in the Citizens' domain.

Citizen information boards are displayed in local language at prominent locations in the benefited habitations indicating the volume of materials used in each layer of the pavement. In order to strengthen transparency and accountability in the programme implementation, all State Governments have been recently advised to arrange joint inspection of on-going as well as completed works under PMGSY by Hon'ble MPs, Hon'ble MLAs and functionaries of Panchayat Raj Institutions.

Rural Housing

The Rural Housing component of Bharat Nirman is

being implemented through the Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) and the allocation of resources is shared between the centre and the states on a 75 : 25 basis. For State level allocation of resources, 75% weightage is given to housing shortage and 25% to the poverty ratios prescribed by Planning Commission. For district level allocation, 75% weightage is given again to housing shortage and 25% to SC/ST population of the concerned districts. The financial assistance of Rs. 25,000/- per dwelling unit for plain areas and Rs. 27,500/- for hilly areas is provided. Under Bharat Nirman, 60 lakh houses are envisaged to be built over the period of four years i.e. from 2005-06 to 2008-09.

During the First two years of 2005-07, it is reported to have constructed 30.50 lakh houses against the target of 29.74 lakh houses with total utilization of funds to the tune of Rs. 7907.42 crore.

During the current year of 2007-08, central allocation has been stepped upto Rs.4032.70 crore as against Rs.2907 crore during the previous year and with this enhanced allocation, the target of construction of 21.27 lakh houses have been worked out. An amount of Rs.1885.80 crore as central share has already been released to the States/UTs as first instalment and the reports received from the State Governments reveal that 2.44 houses have already been constructed.

For ensuring transparency in the selection of beneficiaries, system of permanent IAY Waitlist has been introduced.

Rural Drinking Water Supply

During the Bharat Nirman period (2005-06 to 2008-09) aim is to cover 55,067 uncovered habitations, address 2.8 lakh habitations which have slipped bank from full coverage to partial coverage due to failure of source (this figure since reassessed as 3.31 lakh habitations) and address 2,16,968 habitations which have water quality problems.

During the first two years of Bharat Nirman, an amount of Rs. 8658 crore has been released as Central share of allocation. An amount of Rs. 2627 crore has been released during 2007-08 against the allocation of Rs. 6500 crore for rural drinking water supply. In terms of physical achievements during 2005-07, the coverage of uncovered habitations are reported as 25561, slipped back habitations as 168752 and quality affected habitations as 26485.

As per 2001 Census, 21.8% rural habitations had sanitation facilities which have now gone upto 46%. Government has planned to achieve the objective of Total Sanitation Coverage by the year 2012. There has been a remarkable progress towards this objective under Total Sanitation Campaign during the last two years. During 2005-06 and 2006-07, more than 195.39 lakh toilets for individual households have been constructed, besides, constructing 2.20 lakh school toilets. During the current year i.e. 2007-08 more than 23.83 lakh toilets for individual households have already been constructed.

Task Ahead

The balance of uncovered habitations as on 1.4.2007 reported by the States is 29534. The target for 2007-08 for uncovered habitation is 27664 and for 2008-09 is 1870 habitations. The backlog for slipped back habitations as on 1.4.2007 derived with reference to 2003 survey is 175154 habitations and during 2007-08, the target is to cover 90,000 such habitations and the balance 85154 habitations are to be covered during 2008-09. Similarly, as per State report, the backlog for quality affected habitations as on 1.4.2007 is 166693 and during 2007-08, 100000 habitations are proposed to be covered and balance 66693 habitations will be covered during 2008-09.

It has been decided that susceptibility component will be an integral part of all projects sanctioned under ARWSP. States are also being advised to undertake rainwater harvesting and water conservation and

cost effective technology options for drinking water. Highest priority is being accorded to susceptibility of drinking water sources and systems to prevent the slippages.

12.02% hrs.

(iii) Status of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, (NREGA)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay statement in regard to the status of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA).

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) aims at providing enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the identified districts of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was notified on 2nd February, 2006 in 200 identified districts in 27 States in its first phase of implementation. Section 1(3) of the Act states that the Act shall be applicable to the whole of the Territory to which it extends within a period of five years from the date of its enactment. Accordingly, 130 additional districts have been included in the 2nd phase making a total of 330 districts.

2. Financial Progress:

(A) 2006-07

Funds for NREGA are released based on employment demand in a district. Central

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT No. 6914/2007.

[Dr. Raghuvarsh Prasad Singh]

Government makes a budget provision to meet the initial anticipated demand. A budget provision of Rs. 11300 crores for the year 2006-07 was made for NREGA. During the year, an amount of Rs. 12073.56 crores was available with 200 phase I districts for implementing NREGA. This included Central release of Rs.8263.66 crores, State share of Rs. 802.92 crores and Opening Balance as on 1/4/2006 of Rs. 2052.92 crores. Besides, an amount of Rs. 377.20 crores was released to 113 phase II NREGA districts for preparatory arrangements and initial expenses. A total central release of Rs. 8640.86 crores was made to the 313 districts during 2006-07 under NREGA.

Total fund availability was to the tune of Rs. 12073.56 crore with the States during 2006-07 against which Rs. 8823.36 crore was utilised under the Programme. The average fund utilisation per district was Rs. 44.12 crore in 2006-07, while under SGRY for 2005-06 the average fund utilisation for a district was Rs.12 crore.

(B) 2007-08 (Upto July 2007)

The Central Government has made a budget provision of Rs. 12000 crores for the current financial year for implementation of the Act against which an amount of Rest. 6432.13 crores have been released upto 27th August 2007.

Total fund availability during the current year is Rs. 10065.37 crores with the States against which Rs. 3487.96 crore has been utilised under the Programme.

3. Programme Outcomes.

(A) 2006-07

- (i) As the Programme is demand based, 2.12 crore

households had demanded employment, out of which 2.10 crore households were provided employment during 2006-07 and a total of 90.51 crore person days of employment was provided under the Programme. Under NREGA, an average of 45.2 lakh persondays of employment per districts were generated, while under SGRY in 2005-2006, the average persondays generated were 14.02 lakh per district.

- (ii) Out of total 90.51 crore persondays, the share of Scheduled Castes was 22.95 crore persondays (25.36%) and Scheduled Tribes was 32.99 (36.45%) constituting a total of 55.94 crore persondays for SCs/STs which comes to about 62%.
- (iii) As per NREG Act, the share of women persondays should be 1/3rd and the same was 36.79 crore persondays which is about 41%.
- (iv) An amount of Rs. 5842.37 crore was paid as unskilled wages which was 66.21% of total utilization of Rs. 8823.36 crore.
- (v) A total of 8.35 lakh works were opened under the Programme, out of which 3.87 lakh works were completed. Category-wise breakup is as under:

Activities	No. in Lakh (%)
Water conservation and water harvesting	4.52 (54%)
Irrigation facilities provided in the lands of SCs/STs	0.81 (9%)
Land Development	0.89 (11%)
Rural Connectivity	1.80 (22%)
Others	0.33 (4%)

(B) 2007-08 (Upto July 2007)

- (i) During 2007-08 (Upto July 2007), 1.6 crore households have so far demanded and 1.56 crores households have been provided employment. A total of 40.73 crore persondays of employment has been generated under the Programme.
- (ii) Out of total 40.73 crore persondays, the share of Scheduled Castes is 10.3 crore persondays (25.29%) and Scheduled Tribes is 13.87 crore persondays (34.05%) constituting a total of 24.17 crore persondays which comes to about 59%
- (iii) The share of women is 19.44 crore persondays which is over 48% during the current year.
- (iv) The share of unskilled wages paid out of total utilization was 70.41%.
- (v) A total of 7.82 lakh works have been undertaken under the Programme, out of which 1.48 lakh works have been completed. Category-wise breakup is as under:-

Activities	No. in Lakh (%)
Water conservation and water harvesting	4.39 (56%)
Irrigation facilities provided in the lands of SCs/STs	0.92 (12%)
Land Development	1.00 (13%)
Rural Connectivity	1.09 (14%)
Others	0.42 (5%)

4. The focus of the Ministry is on strengthening programme implementation processes through following measures.

A. Strict Vigilance and Monitoring

- (i) States have been directed that social audit of each and every work of NREGA should be completed within three months and the Ministry be apprised of the results of the social audit.
- (ii) Muster Roll verification has to be done in a campaign mode and consolidated reports sent to the Ministry. So far information has been received from Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Rajasthan, Punjab, Karnataka and Gujarat. It is being examined by the Ministry. A total of 25.03 lakh Muster Rolls have been verified.
- (iii) Verification of works must be done on a 100%, 10%, 2% at the Block, District and State levels respectively.

B. People's Participation

- (i) Village level monitoring committees must be set up and trained.
- (ii) Gram Sabha should be held regularly and should have an active role in the decision on selection of works and implementation of NREGA.

C. Transparency

States have been instructed that all vital information about NREGA should be on public display at the offices of the Gram Panchayat, Programme Officer and District Programme Coordinator. Muster Rolls should be publicly read out during wage payment and should be made available for public scrutiny on demand.

D. Awareness

Active campaigns for information dissemination about the Act will be carried out at the village level.

12.03 hrs,

- (iv) **Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 170th Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests, pertaining to the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : Sir, I am laying this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Seventieth (170th) Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the direction of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 389 of the Rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part-II dated September 1, 2004.

The Standing Committee on science and Technology, Environment and Forests laid their One Hundred Seventieth (170th) Report on 24th April, 2006 in the Lok Sabha. In all there were 10 (ten) recommendations in the 170th Report of the Committee. The present status of implementation is detailed in the appended Annexure which may be allowed to be laid on the Table of the House.

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Eighth Report

[English]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Sir, I beg

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT No. 6915/2007.

to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

12.04½ hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Wednesday, the 5th of September, 2007 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:-
 - (a) The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2006;
 - (b) The Payment and Settlement Systems Bill, 2006; and
 - (c) The Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2006, after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.

Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2007 and consideration and Passing of the National Capital territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2007.

MR. SPEAKER : Submissions that have been given notice of on the statement of the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for the business of the next week will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

*SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana) : Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda in public interest:-

- (a) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission should spend the funds received as royalty for the development of areas from where oil and natural gas is extracted because many problems arise in these areas after extraction of oil and natural gas and the State Governments do not give any money in from of royalty to these areas, therefore funds received as royalty in the areas where ONGC extract oil and natural gas need to be spent there.
- (b) The Mehsana district is facing heavy shortage of drinking water and water is contaminated with residues of oil and fluoride elements due to which people in many villages are becoming victims of physical disability, therefore, there is a need to provide separate package for drinking water supply in Mehsana district.

[English]

*SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

- (1) Starting the construction of a new Railway Line from Koliengode to Trissur under Southern Railway. This will be a throughout Rail connectivity of Guruvayoor, Pazhani, Madurai, Rameswaram; this important pilgrim centres of South India.
- (2) Setting up of new LIT. in Kerala at Palakkad in 11th Plan itself as assured by the Prime Minister and H.R.D Minister.

[Translation]

*DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I request to include following two items in the next week's agenda:-

*The statement was laid on the Table.

- (1) The State Bank of Saurashtra and other associated banks should not be merged with State Bank of India so that the credibility earned by these banks and the employees-officers employed in these banks is not adversely affected. This kind of merger should not take place.
- (2) The interests of Scheduled Castes people may be protected. The religious converts should not be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and effective measures should be taken to check injustice and atrocities committed against the people belonging to Scheduled Caste communities. The people affected by Gohana incident in Haryana should be provided protection and relief.

*SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Girdih) : Sir,

- (1) Through the House, I, while drawing attention of the Government, would like to say that the roads from Ranchi, the State capital of Jharkhand to sub-capital Dumka on national highway like road number 33, from Ranchi to Hazaribagh, road number 100, from Hazaribagh to Bagodar, road number 2 from Bagodar to Maithan Mod are in a very dilapidated condition. Many important cities and establishments of the State, like, Ramgarh Cantt, Border Security Force Camp at Meru, Parsvanath the world famous Jain pilgrim site and Maithan establishment of DVC in the main city of the country, Dhanbad etc. located along this route.

Therefore, action in regard to strengthening and making this road four lane should be taken up without delay.

- (2) The water table has gone very low because of coal mining activity carried by Bharat Coking Coal Limited in Dhanbad and in the absence of

*The statement were laid on the Table.

[Shri Tek Lal Mahto]

drinking water supply a tumultuous situation is arising in hundreds of villages like Bhaghmara, Katras, Katrasgarh, Guhibandh, Jhijhipahari, Muralidih, Muraidih, Rudi, Kapuria, Kharabi to Loyabad, Chhatabad, Sijuva, Bhelataud, Devdhara, Chhatrutaud, Tilataud, Sonardih, Khanodih, Pandeydih, Ramknali, Brora, Raghunathpur, Tetulmuri, Madhuvan, Bashri, Dumra, Lahana, Kendua, Karkend, Kanko, Kakomadh, Harina, Sinhpur, Lohpiti, Sadryadih, Patrakulih, Bhaigazri etc. B.C.C.L. has not even accomplished a single task from Community Development Fund (C.D. Fund).

Therefore, through this House, I would like to demand that drinking water supply should be immediately restored in these areas with assistance from C.D. Fund.

*SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Sir, following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

1. The beautification of Bhataparani Railway Station in my parliamentary constituency Salempur and to declare it as a model railway station.
2. The Railway Health Centre in Bhatni under my parliamentary constituency, Salempur has been shifted to Deoria whereas the number of railway employees is more in Bhatni than the number of railways employees in Deoria. So in view of large number of employees employed in Bhatni it should be shifted there.

*SHRI HEMMAL MURMU (Rajmahal) : Sir, following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

1. To issue special financial package and to start time bound projects for the construction of proposed bridge on the National Highway-80

including the maintenance, repair, widening, upgradation and development of the said highway for development of backward areas of Jharkhand particularly the historical and tourist spot Rajmahal.

2. To start a time bound programme to save Rajmahal, Udhawa, Barharwa and Pakud etc. of Jharkhand from the onslaught of floods, rains and soil erosion and ensure the safety of lives and property of five lakh people from natural calamities every year and to make arrangements for providing proper compensation to the families of victims who were killed in the flood which hit Sahibganj district of Rampur recently and to issue a special financial package for Jharkhand.

[English]

*SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Sir, following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

- (1) To bring a comprehensive legislation for unorganized sector workers so that the 40 crore people like agriculture workers, bidi workers, rickshaw pullers, brick-field workers, construction workers, mutia-mazdoors, and the workers who are engaged as casual labourers should have the right to live like other human beings.
- (2) B.O.G.L. is declared closed but why the employees who retired at the age of 60 years are compelled to return back two years salaries and the remaining employees who have not taken V.R.S. are not given their full salaries as yet, not only that their pay scales are not revised till 90's. Why the discrimination is taking place among the PSU's. The difference of pay scale in between the Officer and next to Officer is from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 21 lakh.

*The statement were laid on the Table of the House.

*The statement were laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

*SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE (Bhandara) : Sir, following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

1. Gondia district was created by dividing district Bhandara of Maharashtra but its telecom services were not separated as a result of which Gondia is facing problems in respect of providing telephone services. So, it is my demand to put in place separate telecom services for Gondia district.
2. Bhandara district of Vidharba has not been included in National Horticulture Mission and the number of people committing suicide is increasing there. So I would request the Government to include it under National Horticulture Mission.

*SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Sir, following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

1. 35 kilos of rice was being provided to people living below the poverty line in several States including the Chhattisgarh but now it has been reduced to 20 kilos as a result of which discontent is prevailing in the poor people because they are unable to feed their families with such a small quantity of rice. So, I would request to withdraw this reduction and provide 35 kilos of rice so as to enable the poor to feed their families properly.
2. Several States alongwith Chhattisgarh are facing 4 to 8 hours long power cuts every day due to 288 megawatt power cut as a result farmers are facing the problem of scarcity of drinking water which they get from the tube-wells and industries including small scale industries are being affected. They are facing loss of crores of rupees daily. There is electricity crisis there. So, I would request the Union Government to stop power cut there.

*The statement were laid on the Table of the House.

*PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The need to regularly operate and modernize the cotton cloth mills situated at Byavar, Vijaynagar and Udaipur under National Textile Corporation which provides employment to thousands of people in Rajasthan and to utilize the capacity of these mills fully.
2. The need to include all the districts of Rajasthan which is the biggest State area-wise under National Employment Guarantee Scheme as the State continuously faces scarcity of rains and famine.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had raised the matter of Privilege Motion in the Morning also. A statement was given by the leader of the House later on. This is not a satisfactory statement and it is insult of the House to state that there is no need of taking the House into confidence. They stated that there is no need to constitute JPC or any committee. We want that the Government should with draw its statement regarding constituting a committee. Apart from it statement made by the leader of the House regarding that committee should be withdrawn...(Interruptions) The House has never been insulted like this that a matter comes to House and without constituting a committee of the House; the same is made an internal matter. If there is some rift between Congress Party and Communist Parties, then it's their internal matter, they can go out and decide anything but it is not acceptable to us that they insult the House in this manner and convert a National matter into a Party matter. We have strong objection to it...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : To interrupt the functioning of House is the biggest insult to the House...(Interruptions)

*The statement were laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Sir, let him withdraw the statement....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot compel the Minister. He has given a statement. I cannot compel the Leader of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): How can a Government Committee be formed....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is not a Committee of the Government....(Interruptions) You may please read the paper properly....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

What's happening in your Party. Hence BJP should form a committee to settle their internal disputes

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to all sections of the House to please co-operate. The matter will come up for discussion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please don't come here. This is not correct.

12.08 hrs.

(At this state, Shri Srichand Kriplani and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.30 p.m.

12.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-eight minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

- (I) Formulation and Implementation of Comprehensive Food and Nutrition Security Scheme—
Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, now we will start the Private Members' Business. Please cooperate. Private Members' Business is very important. Now we are demanding 100 days sittings in a year. If we cannot conduct the business everyday there is no meaning in demanding 100 days sittings in a year. A very important part of every Friday's sitting is to transact the Private Members' Business. It is in the interest of each and every Member of this House that this business is transacted. So, consider the importance of the day. It is not a day of the Government. It is a day of our own. It is the responsibility of each and every Member to conduct the Private Members' Business successfully. We are demanding 100 days sittings in a year. If we cannot conduct the Private Members' Business properly, how can we successfully demand 100 days sittings in a year?

Now, we will take up the Private Members' Business. Shri Francis Fanthome to continue his speech.

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM (Nominated) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for permitting me to continue my support to the Resolution moved by the hon. Member Shri Naveen Jindal which urges the Government to formulate and implement a comprehensive food and nutrition security scheme to eradicate hunger from the country. The importance of this Resolution has already met the attention of the Government as the Prime Minister, in his Address to the Nation on the 60th anniversary of the nation's Independence on the 15th of August, himself underscored this concern.

I quote:

"The matter of malnutrition is a matter of national shame. We have tried to address it by making the mid-day meal universal. I appeal to the nation to resolve and work hard to eradicate malnutrition within five years."

Sir, with this statement coming from the hon. Prime Minister, we have already put into practice this great resolve of the nation to eradicate malnutrition from the country. The freedom from fear of starvation, drought and disease is basic to the fundamental aspirations of a democracy and certainly poised as we are on the threshold of 10 per cent growth. We would need to ensure that nutrition and food for all happens within the span of this Lok Sabha.

In order to see this happen, it is necessary for us to strengthen the delivery systems related to the Panchayat Raj, the Integrated Rural Development Programmes, the Gramin Rozgar Yojana and the ICDS Scheme along with the Strengthening of the Public Distribution System. It is with this integrated and inclusive approach that we will be able to resolve the concerns we have to eradicate hunger from this country.

With about 22 per cent of the nation's population living below the subsistence level and the country ranked 96 out of 119 nations by the global hunger index, what is more disconcerting is that between 1997 and 2003, the hunger index remained stagnant. In this context, we need to create a national awareness towards the construction of a green economy paradigm on the lines of the knowledge economy

which shifts focus to crop centrality and niche requirements emphasizing the need for the importance of agriculture in the economic progress of this nation, coupled with poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security programmes.

Sir, to emancipate people from hunger and malnutrition, we need to strengthen enabling provisions, first secure our homes before we trade surplus produce. This will be possible, if we create a food security mechanism before liberalizing trade in agricultural produce, integrate advances in molecular biology and agricultural technology to provide sustainability in the agricultural economy. Let the agricultural trade in futures markets be institutionalized so that the benefit of world trade in agricultural produce benefits the farmers of this country.

In conclusion, may I mention that food and nutrition security and elimination of hunger cannot be achieved through top down process? There is need to forge partnerships with the farming community and a systems driven mode and engage their knowledge with emerging understanding of good agricultural practices with better technological inputs. We, as a nation, are linked with our rural brethren to a common destiny; their welfare is our collective good and their participation in the food and nutrition security mechanism can only solve the hunger facing about 2.2 crore people in this country.

With these words, I support the Resolution moved by hon. Member, Shri Naveen Jindal, and commend the hon. Minister for having taken the pains to be here to listen to this conversation.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the resolution on formulation and implementation of comprehensive food and nutrition moved by hon. Member, Shri Naveen Jindal.

It is a matter of great concern that even after 60 years of Independence a lot of people in our country are living in abject poverty and facing starvation deaths. Farmers'

[Shrimati Archana Nayak]

suicides have become the order of the day. The time has come to sit together and have a serious introspection to find out the shortcomings in our system.

Poverty and hunger are the curse of human being. Malnutrition and lack of food security are the main problems in our country. The survey conducted by NFHS shows an alarming report. It indicates that almost 50 per cent of our children below three years of age are underweight or are suffering from malnutrition. The survey shows that about 60 per cent of our pregnant women were suffering from anemia. One can very well imagine what would be the future of anemic and malnourished children of our country.

The great economist, Prof. Amartya Sen, a Nobel laureate pointed out that the Bengal famine, which took the lives of millions, was man made. He showed the statistics that there was enough food-grains produced in India during the British rule; and had the food been distributed among the people there would have been no starvation, no famine and no hunger. He pointed out that the system of distribution was such that it did not reach the hungry persons. It went to the godowns of the hoarders. Even at present, our Public Distribution System has not succeeded in helping the poor people of our society.

Scientific and intelligent management can fight against poverty and malnutrition in our country. For example the Kalahandi District of Orissa known for starvation deaths has become a surplus District at present. Thanks to Shri Naveen Patnaik Government's best efforts in this regard; a system has been evolved in Orissa that the Sarpanches have been given powers to under all help to the people suffering from starvation. They can in turn reimburse the money from the District Collectors. By fixing accountability, strict monitoring could be ensured.

Our country is mainly dependent upon agriculture. Even though our Government have made two categories of people — APL and BPL — it should not be strict water

tight compartments. A crop failure due to drought, flood or any other natural calamity can turn the condition of the farmer in the lower strata of the APL category pitiable than the BPL category farmer. Therefore, I would request the Government that the rule in this regard should be flexible rather than rigid in rendering help to the farmers.

While concluding, I would like to draw the special attention of the Government to the following areas. Poverty and malnutrition can be fought only with increasing the purchasing power of our poor people. More labour intensive programmes should be launched so that job opportunities can be made available. PDS quota for States should be increased. Supply of food-grains for the anganwadis should also be increased. Agrarian sector and traditional industries where hunger, unemployment and poverty are more need to be solved scientifically. The research on good quality seeds and fertilizers should reach the hands of our farmers rather than remaining in the research labs. Farmers' hands should be strengthened by giving minimum support price. Our Public Distribution System should be strengthened. More nutritional food should be given free of cost to the pregnant women and children to avoid malnutrition in the country. I strongly support the proposal of zero hunger by Shri Naveen Jindal. Above all, a self-sufficient India can be created only by removing hunger and poverty of the teeming millions of our country.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : Sir, at the outset, I must extend my lavish appreciation to my brother and colleague, hon. MP Shri Jindal as he has brought the resolution in regard to food and nutrition security in our country.

Sir, as you know, food is considered the first among the hierarchical needs of human beings. We have attained Independence sixty years ago. We are celebrating the day of Independence with much pomp and grandeur. It is true that while in the one part of our country, India is dazzling but in the other part of our country, India is glooming.

Sir, it is a shame to us that in spite of having achieved the fourth largest economy in the world as per purchasing

power parity, still we are ranking 126th in terms of Human Development Index. The seamy side of our economic development is that still a large number of population is reeling under penury and poverty.

Sir, food security is the most fundamental pre-requisite for any modern society. We had achieved self-sufficiency in food long back, I think, 36 years ago but still 35 per cent of our population is living in persisting insecure food situation.

Sir, Gandhiji once exhorted us that the God resides in every home and hut in our country but ironically those Gods are being deprived of having adequate food. Majority of the poverty-stricken people and food insecure people are living in the rural areas.

We have to answer to our posterity if any deficiency is left in our generation which might affect the livelihood of our successors.

Sir, children should be born for happiness, children should not be born for only existence. Therefore, we have to have a comprehensive food and nutrition programme and to achieve that in a specific time frame we will have to evolve a 'zero hunger' society in our country. The 'zero hunger' should be made a slogan, and should be made a movement.

Sir, in spite of self-sufficiency in food, why are our people still being starved to death? It is an anathema. It is a very nemesis of our country.

Food security is obtained when food is available at all times, when food is affordable to all people, when food is available with adequate quality, quantity and variety, and when people enjoy easy access to food alongwith their cultural tastes and preferences.

The second thing is that there is a wide gap between food and nutrition. Food security does not necessarily mean that we have secured nutritional security. In our prevailing system, poverty line is determined by the calories we

consume on the basis of protein. But in addition to protein, we need vitamins, we need minerals and we need other ingredients for our survival. So, we have to achieve both food security as well as nutritional security.

Sir, our hon. Prime Minister has already announced that we have to translate our food security into nutritional security. The prevalence of hunger in various parts of our country is often discussed here. But we need to go into the root cause of the malady, the problem. Still, India belongs to villages. Therefore, we should put our special emphasis for the development of agriculture.

Since the age of Green Revolution when we achieved the food self-sufficiency, it is true that we have not been able to do more, and adopt more viable and alternative methods of agricultural production based on modern technology, which could enhance the yield per unit of our agricultural land.

Sir, what we have got from Mexico has made us self-sufficient in the food production. At that time, public investment was so huge in the research and development that the poor farmer had no difficulty to derive the opportunity of the Green Revolution. But now, the scenario has been drastically changing. Now, the research and development programme on agriculture has been drastically changing. Now, the research and development programme on agriculture has very much shifted at the hands of the private entrepreneurs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Sir, within two-three minutes, I am concluding.

16.00 hrs.

Therefore, the cost of new agricultural technologies has become more acute for the poor farmers. Now, they are not being able to compete. They are not being able to deal with the situation anymore as they have severe constraints of funds.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

The United Nations has categorised the developing world into three areas in so far as insecurity of food and the severity of the insecurity of food are concerned. The three categories are serious, alarming and extremely alarming. India has been categorised as an alarming State of Insecurity of food.

I have a Report of the Planning Commission wherein it has been stated that "the prevalence of underweight among children in India is amongst the highest in the world, and nearly double that of Sub-Saharan Africa." We are lagging behind even Sub-Saharan Africa which is why we are recognised as the most poverty-stricken part of the world.

"Under-nutrition, both protein-energy malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, directly affects many aspects of children's development. In particular, it retards their physical and cognitive growth and increases susceptibility to infection, further increasing the probability of malnutrition. Child malnutrition is responsible, for low productivity, with adverse implications for income and economic growth."

"Underweight prevalence is higher in rural areas (50 per cent) than in urban areas (38 per cent); higher among girls (48.9 per cent) than among boys (45.5 per cent); higher among Scheduled Castes (53.2 per cent) and Scheduled Tribes (56.2 per cent) than among other castes; and, although underweight is pervasive throughout the wealth distribution, the prevalence of underweight reaches as high as 60 per cent in the lowest wealth quintile.

"Micronutrient deficiencies are also widespread in India. More than 75 per cent of pre-school children suffer from iron deficiency anaemia and 57 per cent of pre-school children have sub-clinical Vitamin A deficiency. Iodine deficiency is endemic in 85 per cent of districts. Progress in reducing the prevalence of

micronutrient deficiencies in India has been slow. As with underweight, the prevalence of different micronutrient deficiencies varies widely across States."

"Malnutrition is a leading contributor to infant, child and maternal mortality and morbidity. It has been estimated to play a role in about half of all child deaths and more than half of child deaths from major diseases, such as malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia as well as 45 per cent of deaths from measles."

Sir, this is the picture of our country. We have enough resources. We have already initiated a plethora of programmes in the name of Social Safety Net, ICDS Programme, Mid-Day Meal Programme, Rural Employment Guarantee Act which have been continuing. In the pre-Independence period, we had experienced Famine Code and in the post-Independence period, we have been initiating Food for Work Programme. But the fact is that still the market is being manipulated by the traders. In order to ensure food security, the poor people have to have higher income and lower food prices. The food prices used to be jacked up by the manipulation of the traders. So, we need to formulate a food guarantee act, food sovereignty of our country so that we will not have to play in the hands of those unscrupulous traders. Social Safety Net should be broadened. The implementation mechanism and the distribution mechanism should be strengthened and made more effective so that the beneficiaries could get the fruits of the welfare programmes that we have been pursuing over the years.

We hope that by the endeavour of the people of our country and this Government, we will be able to secure food and nutritional security of the people of our country.

With these words, I am concluding my speech.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the resolution moved by hon. Member Sh. Naveen

Jindal which urges that this House formulate and implement a comprehensive food and nutrition security scheme to eradicate hunger from the country. I support his feelings. If we all have sensitivity and humanity then there is no need for us to bring such resolution, even after the 60th anniversary of the nation's independence.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been reading, listening and viewing this for years that India resides in villages. Gandhi's India should be secure developed and prosperous. No one should be starved to death. It seems that these are empty promises which remain on paper only and the truth is in stark contrast to it.

Sir, I do not want to praise or criticise any Government but the prevailing circumstances are such not when we visit our parliamentary constituency then at least 8-10 ladies request me for inclusion of their names in BPL complaining that they are not getting the benefit of old age pension scheme or their children are not getting nutritional food. Many schemes have been formulated. For last 60 years we have been evolving schemes with new names, new format, but who will implement them?

Sir, this resolution moved by Shri Naveen Jindal is important to 'formulate a scheme and implement it'. As far as agriculture is concerned. Big industrialists are eyeing the fertile lands of the farmers, to construct high rise buildings that would ultimately put an end to any agriculture activity, and India which is self-reliant in foodgrains would no remain so for long.

Today we are importing wheat from Australia, it is likely that we would also start importing rice in future. We are self-reliant in rice and wheat, than why we are importing wheat, from abroad. People are not ready to eat the same; even animals are also not ready to eat it. Why agriculture land has been acquired by negotiating and changing the mindset of farmers alluring them with money. Why lands have been taken from the farmers?

Sir, I have come across several such cases where ladies having 100 acres of land have been rendered to

lead a life where they are forced to make cowdung cakes and bring woods from forest because their blood relatives, including sons, have usurped their money. The cost of 100 acre land comes around sixty lakhs to eighty lakhs, and unaware of where that all money has gone, they are living in dire conditions. We all are responsible for it, not a single person is responsible for it. I think that Shri Naveen Jindal has probably brought this resolution keeping in view the said condition.

We have implemented National Employment Guarantee Scheme, which is a good scheme. The People in those States which have implemented this scheme properly, have certainly benefitted from it. I can mention about Chhattisgarh. The people used to migrate from Chhattisgarh for earning their livelihood. This migration has come to a halt with implementation of this Scheme. We acknowledge how such the state of Chhattisgarh is as for natural resources like forest and water are concerned, but still people used to migrate to other States to earn their livelihood, but with the implementation of the saw scheme, the migration has come to a halt. Thus, I can say that this scheme has largely benefitted Chhattisgarh. Keeping in view the success met through the saw scheme, hon. Chief Minister has come out with another scheme called Chief Minister Food Assistance Scheme. The Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh has announced that whether is rich or poor belonging to any caste or religion, if they require foodgrains and they are unable to have rice for their food, certainly the Chief Minister Foodgrain Relief Scheme will provide necessary help to them and he will not fall ill and will not die because of hunger.

Another point is about nutrition. The women and children are a malnourished lot. Nutritional food should be given to the poor ladies at the time of pregnancy. Being poor they do not get nutritional food. They get very low wages due to which they are only able to provide normal food to their families, but they do not get nutrients such as B-complex, iron tablets, other vitamins. Every body is aware of the conditions in our hospitals. As to what quality of medicine is being given in them. You also know it very well. They do not get necessary

[Shri:ati Karuna Shukla]

vitamins and nutrients due to which they fall ill and later become victim of malnutrition. The issue of nutrition of the infant to be born comes later. The rate of infants mortality has come down but the children are born, do not have good health. When Choudharyji was speaking, he raised this matter in the House. Children are future of the country.

In our speeches we used to say that children are future of the country. When we deliver speech as a public representative we say that these children are future of the country but if we look towards their faces and eyes, it appears that probably they have not got anything to eat in the whole day. Mid Day Meal scheme is being implemented, under which, at some places children are provided with raw foodgrain and at some places they are given cooked food, but whether that food has any nutritional value? Children do a lot of physical and mental activities do they get total nutrition in this food necessary for them? They are not getting that nutritional value. Today the trend prevailing in the country shows that rich people are becoming richer and poor are getting be poorer. Gap between rich and poor is widening to the extent that it will become difficult to bridge that gap. If we implement the schemes formulated for the purpose in letter and spirit, I am sure the Government will seriously consider the resolution presented by Shri Naveen Jindalji. The Government will formulate a comprehensive scheme in this regard. Various schemes are being implemented. Our P.D.S. is functioning successfully in some areas and in some areas it is failure. In some areas it is being implemented through co-operatives and panchayats. People of co-operative and panchayats are doing good job in this regard. We need to contemplate as how to bring about systemic reforms in our country to increase our foodgrain production and to and storage and to ensure that the quality of the foodgrain as well as the distribution system is good so that it could be made available to the poor people in sufficient quantity.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay used to say that until the last man of the society is uplifted, the dream of Gandhiji

would not come true. If we want the dream of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay and Mahatma Gandhi to come true, we have to accept the truth. We should not run away from the reality and we should not stick to the official data because actual condition is different when we examine the situation. If we want to make the country prosperous and make the future of the country secure we need to consider the resolution seriously and implement to provisions in its letter and spirit irrespective which government is in power.

I once again support the resolution and congratulate Shri Jindalji for presenting this humane resolution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a good speech, Madam. Now, I give the floor to Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, can I speak from this front row?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are allowed to speak from the front row, but your speech should be very brief.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I will try to be short, but I am not sure about it.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak on such a burning issue being faced by the country.

I would like to thank my friend and brother Shri Naveen Jindalji who has presented such resolution. He has brought the resolution to formulate and implement the Comprehensive Food and Nutrition Security Scheme. I would like to thank him personally.

Various hon'ble Members have expressed their views on this burning problem of the country. I think that whole House will support the resolution because present situation of the country is not conducive. India is a vast

country and the population of the country is more than 100 crore. The large number of people are living below poverty. There are some States where condition is worsened. Hon'ble Chairman Sir, you know the States, which are generally discussed in the House. These States include Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. There are many States where condition is even more.

Sir, 61 years have passed since Independence. There are crores of people who are forced to sleep without meal even after so many years of our Independence. There are crores of people and families who can not manage one square meal for their children even after working for whole day. When India became Independent, our forefathers had dreams of a country in which people would get the constitutional right to live, education treatment and right to feed ourselves. I think that presently the situation is assuming serious dimensions. There are still such States where people are dying of hunger. People are dying of hunger. What is tack about getting nutritional food. These starvation deaths is a matter of concern.

Sir, I think that all the Governments that came into power after Independence had assured the people they we will provide bread, cloth and shelter is the people but I don't think that they have fulfilled this promise. I don't want to mention the name of any particular party or Government. Many schemes were formulated for poverty alleviation and upliftment of poor and for bringing forward the last person of the society forward. But I think that these slogans remain confined to papers and are never implemented.

Sir, I don't want to mention about schemes, as a number of schemes have been formulated. This Government have also formulated various schemes for poor people but the benefit of the schemes could not reach to the needy persons. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, when you will reply, you would mentioned 10 schemes bot I think that these schemes could not be implemented properly. Therefore, the benefit of the schemes could not reach to the poor people.

I would like to tell you that present condition of poor people in the country is getting formidable and people are on the verge of the starvation. I don't want to repeat it as many hon'ble Members have raised this issue.

Sir, I would particularly like to refer about a few schemes. Provisions have been made to provide ration to the poor people under public distribution system. But the same is not being provided to them. There is one report in this regard. I am giving the data of the said report of the Government. I would like to inform you about the report that a survey had been conducted by the Government through Planning Commission, which is called PEO.

Not even that, a survey was also conducted through OR. It reported that except in a few southern states like Kerala, Kamataka and Andhra Pradesh is nowhere the PDS is functioning properly. The ration by the Government of India for the poor under this system is being misutilized at large by way of blackmarketing. Thousands of crores of rupees that the Government of India wants to provide to the poor through their system and schemes are being straight away taken to the blackmarket and are thus being looted.

I want to say about my own State Bihar. The Government of this State, pretending to be a good Government, has not been able to get the ration cards available for the poor. It is an unfortunate situation. Until the ration cards are issued to the poor people, how could they get ration from the Government of India? However, the Government of India have done a good job by making the earlier quota of ration double for the poor. But, we are not getting the benefit thereof. Antodaya Scheme is a very popular scheme. The poor people of Bihar are not getting the fund allocated by the Government of India through this scheme. You are all aware of the poverty and destitution prevailing in Bihar. There is no need to mention it. Today, the people of the State are migrating due to poverty and destitution. By going to other parts of the country they are earning their livelihood. But you see how they are coping with the unfortunate situations. If they go to Assam, they have to face killings. There is no part of the country where

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

the people of Bihar have not migrated to and they have done so even at the cost of their lives only to earn their livelihood and eke out a living. No provision is being made for the marginalized people of the society under the Antodaya Yojana...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Discussion on this Resolution was started in December, 2006. We could not finish it till now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : There is no scope of restriction in it. A member is allowed to speak as much as he wishes...(Interruptions)

[English]

Everybody wants to speak on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Try to be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : If you want, I will conclude my speech soon...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is another resolution to be taken up today, with your permission. That is why, I said, you conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want me to take your resolution, you must conclude your speech right now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I will conclude. I am cooperative with you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The next resolution is in your name. I am very particular of taking up your Resolution. Please cooperate with me by limiting the time.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I will try to conclude...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Let me complete his speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I was only reminding him about the situation.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Today there are so many people in the country who are getting victims of malnutrition...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The extended time for the discussion is over. So, with the permission of the House, I have to further extend the time. Is it the sense of the House to extend the time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right — with the reply of the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : What is the reason of the children being victims of malnutrition in this country? The poor mother is unable to have a proper diet at the time of her pregnancy...(Interruptions). The power of India is in its manpower.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. Otherwise, your Resolution will get lapsed.

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) : It should be replied to today itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, the hon. Member must realise this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, I was saying that the reason behind child malnutrition is the lack of proper diet to the pregnant mothers. That is why children are born with disabilities or get afflicted of with polio. People say the such babies are born as a result of divine wishes but I do not admit this thing. Lack of proper food at the time of pregnancy results in the birth of unhealthy baby.

The power and potential of our country lies in its manpower. The future of the country cannot be secured and it is inherent cannot become powerful unless healthy children are born here. Sixty years have passed since India became independent. If a mother is not able to breastfeed her baby, it is a matter of great concern for us. Presently, the poor mothers do not have proper lactation to breastfeed their babies while everywhere it is advertised that a baby must be breastfed after its birth. There are many houses where there is no bread to eat and when the mother comes home from the work, the poor child, being hungry, asks for something to eat. At that time, the mother lacks anything to give the child to eat and so, being angry, she slaps and, thus, the poor kid remains suppressed with its tears. This is the situation of India. I do not know how many people sacrificed their lives for the independence of India, but they, too, had not imagined that India would pass through such a situation after independence.

Even now, many people in our country are leading a nomadic life. They do not get food to eat, so they are leading a miserable life by eating leaves. The Hon'ble Minister must be aware of this thing and I would like to know from him about the measures he is going to take for such people. We need to pay attention towards it to make the country powerful and developed. Independence cannot be said to be achieved in true sense of the term till the people of this country lead a life of starvation, poverty and destitution. The dream that we had for the prosperity of the country could not be achieved till poverty like this prevails here.

Around 40 percent population of the country falls

under B.P.L. but according to the Planning Commission it is 28 per cent. I would like to say that their figures are not authentic. We need to pay attention in this regard. Even today, many people die for want of medicines. If you happen to visit the rural and remote areas you will see that many people die for want of treatment and medicines. Hence, it is necessary to provide each and every child howsoever much poor he may be, the facility of proper food and medicines for fulfilling the dream of health for all. I agree that the Government is spending thousands of crores of rupees in this regard but the benefit is not reaching the needy. Presently, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening and there have been separate provision for both. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are a comrade. You have spent your entire life fighting for the poor. You may realize this fact that still today, there are people in the country who have not been able to have two square meals. The incident of violent movement and Naxalism are increasing day by day. The cases of exploitation are taking place everywhere. The impact of Naxalism is increasing and the people are compelled to raise arms. We need to work hard to keep the country united. Unless we are able to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, and provide two square meals to the people; such violent movement cannot be controlled. The Minister of Home Affairs has stated that we have stepped up the security to control the Naxal movement but I think it is not going to change anything. We need to uplift those people who have been socially backward and have been exploited since independence and merely paper work for them will not serve the purpose. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what provision are being made for them.

Sir, we have celebrated 61st anniversary of Independence but I want to know whether the condition of the poor is going to change? Whether the living conditions of the children of the poor and farmers will remain the same? Whether they will continue to die and remain malnourished? I would like to submit that unless we uplift the dalits, the sufferers, the exploited, the labourers, farmers and the poor people of this country, it cannot become economically sound.

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

You cannot even think of the prosperity of the country until the children of the country are malnourished. Presently, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. The third generation of manual labourers is also doing manual labour. If the Grand father used to pull the rickshaw, his grand son is also pulling the rickshaw today. There has been no change in their financial position in the meantime. The policies of the government are not being implemented properly that is why the gap between the rich and the poor is widening.

[English]

Even in dreams, you cannot think of it. You know it very well. That is why, I am requesting to please think over it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The next resolution has to be taken up and it is in your name.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Please do something for the down trodden and the poor.

[Translation]

Our country can make progress and become prosperous only when we make efforts to uplift the poorest people of the country. We don't expect anything from the opposition since it is the party of rich people. I don't expect anything from the Bhartiya Janata Party but I can say that UPA Government have made efforts for the cause of the common man and it will continue to do so for the cause of downtrodden. I would like to submit to the Government that merely allocating the funds is not going to change anything and we need to take concrete steps in this regard. Simply completing the formalities is not sufficient. If you sanction funds then ensure that it reach the poor people. You are sanctioning thousands of crores of rupees but alongwith this, provisions should be made to ensure that the benefits reach the poor. These policies are being implemented by the funds collected through the taxes paid

by all of us. You are collecting taxes from the poor. This amount does not belong to the Government; it belongs to the poor people of the country. The Government should make provisions to ensure that the benefits of the funds reach the poor and the country become prosperous.

The funds being released for Bihar are not being utilized there. What actions are being taken by the Government in this regard? I am aware of the provisions of federal system. The States and the Centre have different functions to perform. Don't give the unregulated liberty. If proper records of the funds released by the Government are not maintained and if it do not reach the poor then it is going to have no benefit. The Government should strengthen the PDS system. There is a large-scale mess in the distribution of foodgrains under PDS and you must be aware of that. If the complaints are made regarding the foodgrains being distributed under PDS, the officers say that the foodgrains being supplied are sub-standard. The land of Bihar is very fertile. The farmers are not getting the support price; therefore, they are on the verge of starvation.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : They are not getting the support price even then you are supporting them.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Your turn to speak is coming. I will listen to you with patience.

You make provisions for the security of foodgrains. Presently, the condition of farmers is deteriorating. The cases of starvation deaths are bound to increase in the coming days. There are incidents of famine, flood and droughts in different parts of the country. Farmers in Bihar are dying due to scarcity of foodgrains. We need to provide food to them. There are some more States, which have faced floods. Natural calamities keep on striking at regular intervals. We will have to consider all these things. We have potential to increase production since we have a lot of land but there is a need to assist the farmers. You should promote the farmers. The farmers have become disen-

chanted with the profession of farming. They have got capacity to workhard but, they just need the support price and irrigation facilities. Such these steps can make the people and the farmers prosperous. It will also lead to generation of employment opportunities. It is wrong to assume that unemployment can be removed through multinational companies. They can provide employment to the educated people but the common man has to work in the field only. The economy of the country can be strengthened in this manner only. The economy of the country cannot be strengthened unless the purchasing power of the people increases. The inflation is not coming under control. The Finance Minister keeps giving such statement that sensen has touched this point or that point but its effects are not visible on the ground. The hon'ble Minister should pay attention to these issues since he himself belongs to a farmer's family.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur) : Please say a few words for the Minister also.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I have talked very much about the Minister. We pray to God that he make more progress but he should do something for the poor. Nothing will change if no work is done for the cause of the poor people. Only the tall promises will not change the situation. The Government should formulate the policies. While formulating the policies your intention should be sincere. The country cannot make progress unless the poor of the country are uplifted. The people are dying of malnutrition. The country cannot become prosperous unless the gap between the rich and the poor is bridged.

With these few words, I moved like to impress my gratitude to his Jindalji and extend any thanks to Mr. Chairman for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

I believe when you reply to it, you can say with conviction that now the future of this country lies with farmers, labourers and they will be prosperous and nobody

in this country will die of starvation and will fall a prey to malnutrition and the fruit of independence of the country could also be enjoyed by the common people.

With these few words I, extending my thanks to Bhai Jindalji, Hon'ble Chairman and all of you, conclude.

SHRI DEVWRAT SINGH (Rajnandgaon) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the person who has been manufacturing the best quality of iron and steel in the country albiot having a very sentimental heart, deserves kudos for raising such an important issue in the House. Shri Naveen Jindalji is known as a manufacturer of iron and steel in this country. But the way by which Naveenji had earlier fought for the independence of the country and now he is fighting for poverty and starvation, definitely makes one believe that these will be eliminated from our country provided that his effort to this effect gets a legal shape through the House.

16.46 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair]

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I have seen a small film about India on an American T.V. Channel. The film starts from a scene in which a poor child in India has been shown standing near a pile of garbage in search of something. Suddenly, he finds a loaf of bread there. He picks it up from the pile of the garbage and looks around for a bit and then begins eating it. Such a picture of India is frequently presented all over the world, whether it is US or any other country. Definitely, there is a stark disparity in our country that in the metropolitan cities of this country a buffet meal of Rs. 2000/- to be served for the people visiting five star hotels is thrown away later as wastage. It is the policy of the big five star hotels that the food served once on a buffet table is thrown away later. It means a meal of Rs. 2000/- per head is thrown away, while, on other hand, there are lots of people living in our country who hardly get even rupees five for two time meals. This is gross disparity in our country.

[Shri Devvrat Singh]

Sir, now when we talk in terms of India's position in the world, then, turning India into a modern country comes to the mind. However, I would like to say that while, traveling by train, one passes through the various cities and sees around the railway stations, then he or she comes across real picture of starvation that prevails in our country. Small children are seen searching food in plastic and polythene bags. This is the pathetic picture of our country. Respected Jindalji has advocated to formulate a plan in this regard. Definitely, it is the moral responsibility of this House and ours to make it successful. Today in our country the public distribution system has collapsed completely to that extent that we are not able to provide foodgrains or two-time meal to the marginalized people as per constitutional provisions and have failed to fulfill such a constitutional obligation. Undoubtedly, it is a very unfortunate situation for us. Even after sixty years of country's independence, it is not being reviewed whether the big organisations like Food Corporation of India, Ware Housing Corporation etc., set up for achieving the sole objective of providing foodgrains to the marginalized people of both the rural and the urban areas under the public distribution system, are serving their purpose or not. It is unfortunate that today our public distribution system and the organisations, like FCI are the most corruption ridden. Apart from it, it is all due to corruption in the godowns of Ware Housing Corporation that foodgrains are not reaching the common people.

Sir, who is hungry in our country? In our country the people who grow food are hungry. Even a single grain of food is not available to the farmers those who grow and produce by toiling hard in the field. This is a great disparity that in Chhattisgarh where paddy is cheaper, rice is costlier for the paddy growing farmers. They do not get rice even to make their both ends meet even after producing paddy. It is unfortunate that it is all due to corruption prevailing in food processing department, rice mills and other feeder organisations of the public distribution system that the

foodgrains are not reaching the marginalized people of the society.

Today, I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that the Government of India have laid down a number of guidelines. Various sample of ration cards were prepared for distribution, but those cards are neither accessible nor available to the people who form the poorest section of the society. They still suffer to make their both ends meet. This thing must be discussed that there is a need to adopt some new process on country level so that the foodgrains are available to all the people.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that such efforts are being made in various countries. Various States have also made efforts to set up foodgrains banks for the foodgrains being produced there. If we, by framing a law in the country, set up a foodgrains bank at village level and authorize the village panchayat to setup and run such a bank in each of the villages, then, I think, the very purpose of meeting the basic requirement of foodgrains for the poorest people of the society could be served.

When we will establish foodgrains bank in every gram panchayat then the labourers will be able to get grain by filing application for it and the people will not die of starvation.

I would like to draw your attention towards another thing that there is a plan to provide sugar in ration. Definitely it is beneficial to health. But I would like to tell, through you that sugar disappears from ration shops. It is an irony of this country that all grower of sugarcane are burning their sugarcane, there is no one to buy it. All sugar factories are running in loss and they are on the verge of closure. Common men are unable to get sugar. Today it is to be imported from Pakistan. Our sugarcane growers never get sugar in ration. Certainly, there is a need of long discussion on it. If after 60 years of the independence of the country, the farmers who are producing grains

and labourers who are doing hard work, are unable to get two square meals, there is something wrong with the system.

Malnutrition is definitely a big issue. Hon'ble Jindalji has raised the issue with great concern. Pregnant woman who does not get food, nutrients, what she will give to her child? Today, crores of rupees are being allocated to the State Governments by the Centre in the name of aanganwadi kendras but if any Committee investigates it, will find that daliya etc. are provided to aanganwadi kendras. If you test the nutrition level of it, you will find that there is adulteration in it. Daliya which we are providing to poor children, if it has no nutrients like calcium or iron, certainly the child who is going to born, and who is going to be the citizen of India, being victim of malnutrition, will be so weak that there will be a big problem in building strong India. I would like to add here that it will be better to run these aanganwadi Kendras through women self help groups instead of making the Kendras run by Government. I would like to suggest also that if ration shops in villages would be allotted to these women groups in stead of men, then certainly these women will run them very honestly and ration will be provided unto the last.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI DEVWRAT SINGH : Sir, hon'ble Karuna Shuklaji has mentioned that Chief Minister foodgrains scheme has commenced in our State Chhattisgarh. I would like to say through you Sir that this is the good thinking but we have seen that this is for the first time in Chhattisgarh that this scheme has been introduced. Poor men get rice and wheat as Rs. 5 thorough public distribution system. Dal Bhat Kendras were opened for them which were engaged to feed the poor people so that they do not die of starvation but it is a matter of great concern that these Kendras have been closed down there. The people who were running these Kendras, had become the centre of corruption on a large scale...
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, they have not been closed down. Those which are performing well, are running, but where the will power is missing...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, no interruptions. Sit down.

SHRI DEVWRAT SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Jindalji has mentioned about schemes to be chalked out through his resolution, I would like to request the Government to convert this resolution into scheme since today we are celebrating 60th anniversary of our independence. So there is a need to bring a legislation in this regard. If our intentions and policies are clear, our fate will also be better.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho) : Mr., Chairman, Sir, Shri Jindalji has tried to understand the problem of this country. He has mentioned about chalking out scheme for nutrition and food for poor and execute the same. There are so many schemes but main problem is to execute them. So he has emphasised on this problem. Gandhiji visioned about it before the independence on the basis of the same he had said that we desire to get Ram Rajya in India. He said:

"Sarvey Bhavantu Sukhinah, sarvey santu niramayah,
Sarvey Bhadrani Pasyantu ma kashchid dukh
bhagabhavet

With this kind of thinking he imagined the Ram Rajya, depending upon this imagination of Ram Rajya Tulsidas enumerated these factors in his Ramayan—

"Daihi, Daivik, Bhoitk taapa,
Ram Rajya Kahu na Vyapa
Na hi koi dukhi, na darid deena,
nahi koi Avadhu na vidyaheena."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Gandhiji imagined such type of Ram Rajya but during in these years if anyone has been suppressed, that is poorman only. If we go into the depth,

[Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria]

we will be able to know the problem of poverty. Poverty is due to starvation and unemployment and vice-versa. It is also said that "nahi daridra sam dukh jag mahi, kari vichar dekho man mahi." Therefore, miseries and poverty are biggest and serious problem. You cannot remove it until you do not chalkout, the employment oriented schemes. Till then, you cannot eradicate poverty of the poor people. If poverty will not be eradicated, starvation cannot be removed. So both these things are inter-connected.

Mr. Chairman, Sir we have mentioned about food security scheme. Our country is agriculture based country where 80 per cent people are doing farming, but it is matter of regret that we are compelled to import foodgrains. We are importing wheat at the rate of Rs. 1500 per quintal but cannot pay Rs. 850 per quintal to our farmers.

17.00 hrs.

As a result of this, we are facing acute shortage of foodgrain. PDS was discussed here. I think many schemes have been announced. In our Bundelkhand region we are facing drought situation for last four years. I would like to thank Hon'ble Raghuvanshji. If he would not have implemented employment guarantee scheme, whole Bundelkhand could have migrated to Delhi. Still now about more than five lakh people of Teekamgarh, Chhattarpur and nearby Mhow etc. region are working in Delhi, who have migrated from their villages.

The existing schemes are now required to be implemented. We visit village after village. My fellow Member has recently said that when she visits villages, old people come to her complaining that their names are not included in the list of below poverty line (BPL). Central Government's circular defining poverty is very defective, If anyone having two dresses is ineligible to be included in the list of BPL. Our fishermen sometimes in rainy season

fish for food. They are asked whether they are vegetarian or non-vegetarian. When they reply that occasionally they take non-vegetarian food, their names are struck off the list of B.P.L. So, the fourteen prints survey circular that has been circulated by you, needs to be modified. If you are really interested in eradicating poverty, then you will have to prepare another document so that names of genuine poors are included in that and they get benefited from the schemes meant for them.

In our State Madhya Pradesh names of several poors have been deleted from the list of BPL. Ration cards are must to distribute ration and foodgrains through PDS. When their names will not figure in BPL List, they will neither be provided BPL ration cards nor they will get any job.

This is how they are suffering. So it, is not a factual position that condition of poors have improved and they are now above poverty line. The related datas are misleading and they are just for the sake of taking credit. These datas need to be corrected.

Sir, Employment Guarantee Scheme, recently implemented by him provides employment only for 100 days. Poors need employment throughout the year when there is situation like famine. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister Shri Raghuvanshji to ensure that poors are provided employment throughout the year in those areas where there is famine and drought. Presently Employment Guarantee is for only 100 days. If you provide employment to the poors throughout the year under present scheme then it will certainly give relief to the poors.

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV :
Employment Guarantee Scheme is a complete failure.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : I want to say if we have to eradicate poverty, we will have to bridge the wide gap between haves and have nots, as it has been stated by Shri Ram Kripalji. It is very difficult to eradicate poverty unless and until the said gap is bridged. Our

Honourable Chief Minister has recently started a number of works under Antyodaya Yojana in Madhya Pradesh. Antyodaya foodgrains scheme has been started. Poors are getting relief under "Antyodaya Upachar Yozna". Kanyadan Yojana has been started under which Madhya Pradesh Government has taken the responsibility to bear the expenditure incurred on the marriage of girls of those poors for whom their daughters have become a burden and they are not able to get their daughters married. Thus he has done a commendable work for providing relief to the people. I would like to conclude with a request that all these schemes should be implemented at the village level. If it happens, the resolution moved by hon'ble Naveenji will certainly provide relief to the poor.

Sir, I conclude while supporting the resolution.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my thanks to Shri Naveen Jindal who has moved a resolution for preparing and implementing a comprehensive Food and Nutrition scheme. I thank him from the core of my heart, not only for moving this resolution but also for his efforts which he made by meeting Shri Sharad Pawar, me and a number of influential Ministers. I appreciate the valuable suggestions given by him and hope that these will go a long way in facilitating this Ministry and the Government in formulating policy and finding solutions to this problem.

Sir, I also associate myself with my colleagues who have appreciated Shri Naveen Jindal for the problems which have been raised by him through resolution despite the fact that he belongs to a very reputed family of industrial background.

Sir, we take seriously the concern expressed over this problem and the suggestions given by you and also by Shri Shallendra Kumar, Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Sukhdeo

Paswan, Shri C.K. Chandrappan, Shri Kiren Rijju, Shri S.K. Kharventhan, Shri B. Mahtab, Shri R.S. Rawat, Shri Francis Fanthome, Shrimati Arhana Nayak, Shri Adhir Chowdhury, Shrimati Karuna Shukla, respected leader of our party and the Members of our party—Shri Ram Kripal Yadavji, Shri Devvrat Singhji and Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmariaji. The discussion on this issue started in December. The Government will certainly get benefited if they brood over important suggestions offered in well thought and meaningful words by all the hon'ble Members. Also the Government will certainly try to incorporate all these suggestions into the policy at the time of its formulation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what I mean by food security is the provision of sufficient foodgrains to all at reasonable prices. A number of policies have been formulated from time to time by the Government for this purpose. Government of India understands it very clearly that sufficient food should be available to all the citizens of the country at affordable prices. My Ministry is constantly making efforts to ensure the regular increase in the food production.

Sir, after the formation of UPA Government it was unanimously decided by all the coalition parties in the national common minimum programme that first of all the Government would double the rural credit in the Budget in three years time. The entire House is aware of the fact that while in the year 2004, the rural credit was Rs. 84 thousand crores but within three years time the Government succeeded in increasing it upto Rs. 2 lakh 25 thousand crores. The UPA Government, after coming to power, have concentrated on areas of irrigation and diversification of agriculture through the cooperative structure. I am not telling that whatever promises were made by us have been fulfilled because many things are yet to be done. Alongwith that, the Government have concentrated on targeted public distribution system for poor and weaker sections to ensure food security in a better way...(Interruptions)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Sir, you please also tell about the procurement centres of my areas.

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH : At present, I am talking about the targeted public Distribution system.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Chaudhary Lal Singhji, you please sit down. Unless the hon'ble Minister yields, I cannot permit you to speak.

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, under the targeted public distribution system, the Central Government provide foodgrains to all people of the country by dividing them into three categories. These categories are APL, BPL and AAY. APL means the people above poverty line. The number of such families in the country is 11.52 crores. The Government provide them rice at the rate of Rs. 8.30 per kg. and wheat at the rate of the Rs. 6.10 per kg. The number of families below poverty line is 5.2 crore. The rice is provided to them at the rate of Rs. 5.65 per kg. and wheat at the rate of Rs. 4.15. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav in his speech has discussed about Antyodaya Ann Yojana. Under this scheme, rice is made available at the rate of Rs. 3 per kg. and wheat Rs. 2 per kg. I would like to assure the House and I feel that majority of the Members will agree with me that if 11.52 crore APL families, 6.52 crore BPL and A.A.Y. families are added together, then nearly 18.04 crore families come under the targeted P.D.S. net of the Government of India and if each family is multiplied by 5.5 then nearly hundred crore people are covered under the targeted PDS. There is no other country in the world where such a large number of people are provided with foodgrain. I am not claiming that we fulfil all the requirement of the family.

Sir, the question regarding the nutritional security has also been raised here. However, the objective of the targeted public distribution system was not fixed keeping in view the nutritional security rather it was of the supplementary nature. The scheme was prepared keeping in view those considerations.

Sir, I would also like to draw the attention of all the

hon'ble Members towards the operational extent of public distribution system. Under the public Distribution System 42-43 crore people of BPL families are provided with foodgrains at subsidised rates and they are being benefitted by this programme.

17.19 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

Beside this, several schemes like SGRY, WBNP scheme, NPAG scheme, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Emergency feeding programme etc. are being run by the Government for providing nutritional feeding to the poor sections of society and under these schemes the foodgrains are provided through the employment. The Government have started NREGP Scheme under the employment programme for those who have no purchasing power because of their unemployment. It also gives economic empowerment to the people in an inclusive way. The scheme not only provide food, rather it also ensure the nutritional security. The UPA Government is also running a separate village grain scheme to provide food security to BPL and AAY families during the exigencies and natural calamities etc.

Besides, some other need based schemes are also being run by the various Ministries of the Government of India for the welfare of vulnerable sections of society like the old, widows, handicapped, shelterless persons suffering from incurable diseases and tribals. For example ICDM scheme is one such scheme under which supplementary food is provided to the children, between 6 month and 6 year of age group and, pregnant women and lactating mother. At present 467 lakh children and 95 lakh pregnant and lactating women are being benefitted under this scheme. Under NPAG schemes, 6 kg. of free foodgrains are being provided to malnourished adolescent girls. Similarly, under Kishori Shakti Yojana, information is provided to adolescent girls regarding the development of skills and health and nutritious diet.

Under Mid Day Meal Scheme hot cooked food is provided to 12 crore children in primary schools of the country. The diet contains micro nutrients, green vegetables and iodised salts. RCH mission is being run under the Rural Health Mission in which iron and folic added food is provided to pregnant and lactating women and pre-school children ...*(Interruptions)* Not foreign but all Indian food items are provided.

Similarly, tablets of Vitamin A are also provided to the children in the age group of 9 months and 5 years. The Department of Women and Child Development run heat based nutrition programme, under which nutritious food is provided to the children below 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers. Under Annapurna Yojana, 10 kg. of foodgrains per persons per month are provided free of cost to shelterless senior citizens or the persons above 65 years of age who are though eligible to get pension under the National Old age Pension Scheme but are not getting such pension. Beside this, on the basis of the recommendation of the Ministry of social justice and Empowerment 15 kg. of foodgrains per person per month are being allocated to various States under the schemes to supply foodgrains to SC, ST, OBC hostels and welfare institutions.

Under the Emergency Food Programme of the Government, food security is provided to old, weak and helpless people of BPL families in adverse condition...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : If you permit, I would like to know one thing in this context.

MR. CHAIRMAN : First let him complete his reply.

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH : I would also like to submit something regarding the nutritional security. Through I have referred it earlier also, however, I would like to inform the House that we have recently introduced iodine salt in at least four States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh. Similarly, Pilot

project on wheat fortification has been launched in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. Its use is gaining momentum in Gujarat also. For Vitamin A and D fortification of edible oils has been done since long in Gujarat. Besides, buffer norms are prepared by the Government for food security. Besides, requirement of wheat and rice under TPDS, its sufficient stock is required in the Central pool, so that, at the time of exigencies like drought and crop failure, foodgrains may be supplied and in the event of price rise open market intervention may be resorted to.

The minimum stock that should be available in the central pool at the beginning of each of the four quarters is detailed as under.

It is effective from April, 2005. 122 lakh tonnes of rice should be available there as on 1st April, though as per the buffer norms, 40 lakh tonnes of wheat should also be there, in total, we should have a stock of 162 lakh tonnes as per the buffer norms. On 1st July, there should be 98 lakh tonnes of rice, 171 lakh tonnes of wheat, and a total of 269 lakh tonnes stock. On 1st October, there should be 52 lakhs tonnes of rice and 110 lakhs tonnes of wheat. It means, in total it should be 162 lakh tonnes. On 1st January 118 lakh tonnes of rice and 82 lakh tonnes of wheat should be there as per the buffer norms. This way, total 200 lakh tonnes of foodgrains should be there in the Central pool on 1st January. At present, as per the situation of year 2007, there is 167.67 lakh tonnes of rice in the Central pool, though the stock of wheat is 91.61 lakh tonnes and in total 259.28 lakh tonnes of wheat and rice are available in the Central pool, which is 10 lakh tonnes short of buffer norms.

The replies to all the questions raised by the hon'ble Members are available with them, but I would like to make a mention of all of them. But if the hon'ble Members want, I can send replies to all the hon'ble Members. Naveen Jindalji, who has moved this resolution in the house and discussion on which was held, has made a mention of zero hunger programme of Brazil.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister and hon. Members, the allotted time for this Resolution is going to be over by 5.30 p.m. If the House agrees, we can extend the time till the completion of this item.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra) : Sir, please extend the time of the House by another one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is now replying, so the time need not be extended by another one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, my resolution should also be taken up...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : After this, the House will take up your Resolution.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my suggestion is that after this, the House should take up the next Resolution, and then you can adjourn the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, hon. Naveen Jindal has got the right to reply.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH : Shri Navinji had given a copy of zero hunger programme of Brazil, US Anti Hunger Empowerment Act, 2007 clippings of some newspapers and a draft bill 'On Right to Food' to me and to Shri Sharad Pawar, I and my entire department along with Shri Sharad Pawarji have studied the documents in depth in regard to Act referred by him. In the light of it, I would like to dwell upon the points. The House may or may not be aware of it, but I had made a mention of it in the earlier discussion also, that through targetted public distribution system, we keep around 100 crore people in the net. Brazil is having no such public distribution system.

Originally, Zero Hunger Programme, which is also known as Project Fermo Zero is Fundamentally, their strategy, Brazil is having around sixty programmes, and the Government over there have formulated a strategy to increase the income of the poor which constitute 33% of the total population. Rome Plan of Action, which was formulated in the world food summit of 1996, the basic concept behind it, was adopted by the Brazil Government as per their needs.

Second issue raised by him is that, Brazil Government is making efforts to implement its Zero Hunger Programme in the form of giving more entitlement rather than the right.

Third and most important thing is that there is a lot of difference in the implementation level of Brazil and India. As I have said earlier, we are covering 42-43 crore Antyodaya and BPL population under Public Distribution System, whereas Brazil is struggling to cover only a population of 6.2 crore living below the poverty line.

Fourthly, unlike India, not Government sector, but private sector is having dominance over food security in Brazil.

Fifthly, as far as Anti-Hunger Empowerment Act, 2007 of the US is concerned, I would like to inform the House that it is in its initial stage, in fact this name has been given by amending a Food Stamp Act of 1977 and this amendment has been made keeping in view only a population of 3.5 crore. The Administrative Cost Provision of Food Stamp Programme has been extended and Secretary of Agriculture, USA is being authorized for 75 per cent re-imbursement for special State programmes, which according to documents of US House of Representatives would be a mere 200 million US dollars or Rs. 800 crore every years from the year 2007 to 2012, whereas India is already bearing the burden of food subsidy of over Rs. 2.5 thousand crore in the current year.

I am stating these facts because keeping in view the relative PDS sensex of India in comparison to Brazil and

America, the House will appreciate that PDS System of India has more widespread coverage than these countries.

In the end, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that the National Commission for Farmers which was constituted under the Chairmanship of M.S. Swaminathan for considering food and nutrition security has given some comprehensive suggestions...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, kindly be brief in replying.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH : This Commission paid attention particularly towards the fact that both the farmers and the consumers having meager resources are facing difficulties in fulfilling their needs with regard to food security. Swaminathan Commission was of the opinion that most of the consumers having lesser resources are small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers of unirrigated land. Therefore, it recommended that National Food Security and Autonomy Board should sincerely pay attention to these complex links and all areas of the country...(Interruptions). It will provide policy guidelines for developing and implementing Food Security Programme, runned for social and economic development and for protecting the interests of all sections of our population. The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, has already proposed constitution of a Cabinet Committee on Food Security for taking appropriate measures on these suggestions.

As I said in the beginning that besides these proposals, 15 programmes related to Food Security and Nutritional Security are being run. This makes it clear that there is one or the other programme under which foodgrains are being made available to pregnant and nursing mothers i.e. before a child is born and upto 75 years old person...(Interruptions)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH : Do people not feel hungry after 75 years.

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH : It is there even after a person attains the age of 75 years or more ...*(Interruptions)* Lal Singhji, what I meant was that right from conception stage till the person dies i.e. for the whole life there is one or the other scheme through which foodgrains are being made available. Apart from this, I would like to say that on the suggestion of Navinji the Planning Commission has already constituted a working group on Food Nutrition Security in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. After the report of the working group of the Planning Commission is received, the Government will definitely consider Members' valuable suggestion if there is such a need. In view of all the programmes which I have mentioned here in my speech, the Government do not feel that there is a need of any comprehensive programme, because all categories of needy people like women, children, poor, students, homeless and destitutes, handicapped, young girls, unemployed persons etc. stand covered under various schemes of the Government of India. But inspite of all this, I welcome the proposals and suggestions given by the Hon'ble Members and urge Navinji that he should withdraw his resolution.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, as per the data of APL and BPL families being presented, the State Governments are demanding wheat and rice accordingly. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to why foodgrains are not being provided to them as per that proportion? State Governments are facing acute problems due to it.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Sir, from the reply of the Hon'ble Minister and more inclination of Shri Sharad Pawarji towards cricket, it doesn't seem that the Government will be able to eradicate starvation and malnutrition from the country. This Government had announced and as far as I remember the Hon'ble Minister of Finance had made an announcement in his budget speech that they will run a food coupon scheme in States

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

like Bihar where the number of poor people is more. States, where the number of people living below poverty line is more, will be provided food coupons and if the people do not get good food items from the Government's shop, then they can get food on that coupon from private shop. This Government has completed nearly three and half years but no progress has been made in this regard. For how many months this Government will last further, I do not know, so specifically I want to know from him as to by when he is going to implement this scheme?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kiren Rijju, please put a pointed question because you have already participated in the debate.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West) : Sir, I appreciate the programme mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister but we are also seeing the truth as to how much implementation is taking place how much progress we have made in this regard. I had said in my speech that inspite of so many programmes, we fail, some people die of starvation, the foodgrains are not made available to them. For such people, I am unable to see any point in his statement or that he is going to take any concrete steps or he will make some provision to ensure that if the implementation of the programme has failed because of some officer or politician, he will be held responsible and punished for the same. Will he make any law so that such people could be punished?

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB : The first question has already been posed, which is relating to food coupons. It has been very successful, as far as I understand — Hon. Member, Chaudhary Lal Singh is also aware — in Jammu and Kashmir. In Jammu and Kashmir, the system of food

coupons is very successful. I would like to understand whether it is going to be implemented throughout the country and if so, when?

But the basic question is relating to the PD system about which you have deliberated in a great detail. The major problem today is of poverty; people are migrating from villages and coming to the cities and they are unable to get low-cost food. Do you have any plan or programme to provide PDS Cards in urban areas to those people who have migrated? The migrant people should be provided with these cards. I would like to know as to whether this can be done.

Lastly, there is discrepancy between the Central List of BPL and the State List of BPL. Can we not have a single List in this regard? Is some progress made in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV : The Government of India spend crores of rupees on providing foodgrains but the common man is not able to get benefit of the same. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what arrangements the Government propose to make so that the common man could get benefit of it.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir) : I would like to say on the reply of the Hon'ble Minister that last year, 1630 metric tonne rice was allocated to Chhattisgarh for the people covered under BPL, while this year it has been reduced to 740 metric tonne only. On one hand, the data indicate that the Government has provided food assistance to so much families and on other hand they are reducing the foodgrains quota in respect of Chhattisgarh, why it is being done?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not related to the PDS. It is related to the food security.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Jindalji that he has presented a very good issue through this resolution in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly put your question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : In this House, all parties have given valuable suggestions on this issue. I would like to say to the Hon'ble Minister that the problem of malnutrition is more severe in the poor states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh etc. Apart from this, the problem of malnutrition is more severe in the rural areas as well as in slums in the cities. The problems of malnutrition and foodgrains are more severe in such cities where people belonging to scheduled castes, tribes and backward class live in large number. I would like to urge him that he should conduct a nation wide survey to find out the causes of these problems. Apart from this, this problem is also severe in the areas inhabited by the minorities. Their small children start working in their childhood, what effective steps the Government is taking to provide assistance to these children under a special campaign so that they could be helped and saved from becoming a victim of malnutrition and starvation?

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have one small question in the form of a suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question?

[Translation]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : The points raised by Jindalji are very vital. The Hon'ble Minister

replied to these points later and gave a routine reply.

[English] From medical point of view, there is one important component which I would like to suggest. Majority of the malnourished children are residing in rural areas. Our children generally suffer from malnutrition leading to diseases like diarrhea and other diseases which are due to worms' infestation. It is a very common problem for which routine de-worming programme is necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your suggestion or question?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : In our ICDS Centres there is no provision to supply de-worming tablets. This is a very common and important component. If the tablet for routine de-worming alongwith Iron therapy is supplied free of cost to our children, it will help to combat malnutrition.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Kripalji, the next resolution is yours. You have spoken on this matter also. If you ask more questions you will not get time for your resolution.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is giving subsidy to the tune of Rs. 25 thousand crore for the people living below the poverty line, but, paradoxically, a meager 32 per cent of the funds reach the poor whereas 68 per cent money earmarked for the purpose is spent on the maintenance, fans, A.Cs., electricity, cars, loading, unloading etc. so, the very purpose of providing subsidy gets defeated. I would like to ask as to whether the Government would take any measures to ensure that the quantum of 32 per cent subsidy that reaches the poor is enhanced to 60 per cent by reducing the expenditure incurred on establishment, loading-unloading and other wasteful expenditure being incurred in the name of poor. Whether he would cut down the allocation for the APL in order to supplement the subsidy meant for the BPL. Electricity, coal and water should be provided to the poor.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa) : Survey report of the National Family Health conducted after a gap of 60 years has been submitted. It was revealed that 47 per cent children to the country below five years of age are malnourished. Their number has declined by only one per cent in the last 60 years. Every second child below five years of age in the country is malnourished. The hon'ble Minister informed the House in his reply as to how much fund is allocated to the State Governments for this purpose. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the amount of allocation made for the foodgrains in the Budget is increasing every year. Hon'ble Ram Kripal Yadavji has rightly said that the allocation is being made to the States since it comes under their jurisdiction. I would like to know from the Central Government as to what action would be taken against the State Governments which are unable to achieve the targets, where the money is being usurped by the hoarders.

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in response to various questions raised by hon'ble Members, particularly hon'ble Shailendraji, I have to state that during the NDA regime, the National Sample Survey had conducted a survey. The outcome of that survey indicated that an estimated five crore people of this country do not get two square meals a day. Keeping that in mind, the UPA Government, in its Common Minimum Programme, decided to add one crore families to the list of 1.5 crore AAY families. Today, the number of AAY families, which was 1.5 crore during the NDA Government, has swelled to 2.5 crore. If we multiply the figure of 2.5 crore with 2.5 crore, then, we are providing wheat at the rate of Rs. 2 per kilo, rice at the rate of Rs. 3 per kilo to approximately 13 crore people. We supply rice and wheat to the BPL families at 35 kg. per family which are 5 crore in number as per the survey. Hon'ble Lakshman Singhji, the question in regard to the APL families was on the basis of availability and on the basis of last three years...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : This was not my question...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : It was my question.

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH : All right, this is reply to Shri Rasa Singh Rawatji's question. Allocation to the State Governments is made on the basis of average of three year's off take or minimum offtake. In regard to the point raised by Lakshman Singhji, I would like to state that we started pilot project but several difficulties were faced therein. Therefore, we are not launching that immediately.

Sir, it is a well known fact that PDS is a collective responsibility of the State and the Centre. My responsibility is of procurement, storage and making foodgrains available to the concerned State Governments on the basis of BPL, APL, AAY cards at the rate of Rs. 35 per card. It is the responsibility of the State Government to identify card holders, to make cards and make foodgrains available to the beneficiaries ...(Interruptions). I have already stated that this project was started earlier but there were difficulties, so we are not launching it right now...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon'ble Minister is replying one by one.

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH : Certain State Governments are running this programme. These include the State Governments of Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh. There is no obstacle from the Union Government in this regard. His party is in the Government in the State he hails from. I have no objection, if they wish to implement the scheme. The Union Government is sponsoring one scheme or the other. The Government of India is spending more than Rs. 25 thousand crore on this work. I would like to request all the hon'ble Members to make efforts for the effective implementation of the Public Distribution System in their respective areas and take assistance from the concerned State Governments so that its benefits accrue to the beneficiaries.

In regard to the point raised by hon'ble Member, Ram Kripalji, I would like to State that establishment expenses cannot be ignored. Our Communist friends are not present right now. We had implemented several schemes. Certain hon'ble Members have reservations in regard to the fact as to why should people opt for VRS. I do not think it is possible in a Welfare State. There is surplus staff at several places whose services are not required on the basis of the concept of the Welfare State as envisaged in our Constitution, we cannot remove everyone at one go, so the establishment expenditure would remain. I cannot ignore it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Chaudhary Lal Singhji, we are cutting down fresh recruitment... (Interruptions) We are taking several measures. My colleagues who have been left unanswered shall receive replies subsequently.

It is requested that in view of the Government's reply, Navinji may withdraw his resolution.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not my seat. If you permit then I will speak from here?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can speak from there.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : My aim of raising this subject through you and this august House was to attract the attention of the Government, all leaders and people of the country towards the burning problem of starvation and malnutrition. I am happy that to some extent I have achieved my aim because all hon'ble Members, cutting

*Not recorded.

across the party lines have completely supported the proposal. I particularly thank those hon'ble Members who took part in this discussion, supported this proposal and gave their valuable suggestions. I am very grateful to my colleague Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Sukdeo Paswan and Shri Devendra Prasadji who have given inspiring speeches. Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Shri C.K. Chandrappan, my friend, Shri Kiren Rijiju, Shri S.K. Kharventhan and Shri Mahtab have given valuable suggestions. I am also thankful to Prof. Rasa Singh, who gives valuable suggestions on every issue. Shri Francis Fanthome came well prepared, his speech was interrupted but today finally he got the opportunity to speak. I am also thankful to Shrimati Archana Nayak and my friend Shri Adhir Chowdhary. Shrimati Karuna Shukla gave good suggestions and I particularly liked it when she suggested that Government officers convince us with the jugglery of figures that every thing is going smoothly, we should not let ourselves be convinced so easily. It is a valuable suggestion that she has given. Shri Ramkripalji, whom I esteem as my elder brother stated very beautifully as to how to deal with starvation and malnutrition and the manner in which malnutrition is weakening our labour class and the children, who are the future of India. He stressed upon it, and I am thankful to him for this. I am thankful to all of them be it Shri Lakshman Singh, Shri Mahtabji, Lal Singhji, Sadhu Yadavji, Sachin Pilot or Devvratji.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the primary needs of every individual are food, cloth and shelter. The most important of the three is the need of two square meals a day. It is atrocious and unfair that even after 60 years of independence when our GDP is growing in double digits, people go without food in our country. I was to move this resolution at 3.30 p.m. but when I was about to leave my home, I felt hungry so I had two chappatis, I got delayed by one - two minutes due to this but when one is hungry his mentality changes. Hence it is said that "Bhukhey Pait Bhajan Na hoye gopala, yeh pakad apni kanthi aur mala" there is a proverb in Punjabi too: "Pait na paiyaan

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

rotiyan, Sabe gallan Khatiyani', instances of people going without food in our country can be found in many States. A large part of India's population faces starvation, poverty, diseases, malnutrition and illiteracy. It is unfortunate.

On 15 August, 2007, Hon'ble Prime Minister in his speech from Red Fort conceded that the problem of malnutrition is a blot on our nation. He urged the people of our country to work in unison to put an end to the problem of malnutrition within five years but it is rather unfortunate that State governments are paying no heed to this problem. At times it has also been noticed that State governments do not utilize the entire funds sanctioned by the Union Government for this purpose.

I would like to tell this House that in Tamil Nadu first step to deal with malnutrition was initiated in 1982 by introducing mid-day meal scheme in schools. Today, nutritious food is provided to seventeen lakhs of children of 6 months to 5 years age group because this is the age when nutritious diet is essential. We all know that setback to health in childhood cannot be compensated later in entire life.

I feel that Government is a medium of creating a better society, where no one sleeps without food, everyone has clothes to wear, every individual has a house to live, proper education is available to all to make life worth living and no one dies due to want of treatment, Government is there to take care of it all and it should address all these issues. I am delighted to state that Grameen Rojgaar Yojana initiated by our Government is turning out to be a benchmark scheme due to which youths of the country are getting employment in their village itself. Shrimati Karuna Shuklaji stated that youth is getting benefited tremendously from it. I urge the Government to implement National Rural Employment Guarantee Act across the country. I am grateful to my respected colleague. Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh Hon'ble Minister of State in the

Minister of Agriculture and would like to thank him for supporting my proposal and stating the position of the Government. I urge him to give due consideration to the implementation of all Government schemes being run in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time is over.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : I request you to give me five minutes time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Extended time is over. Now it is Ram Kripalji's turn to move his resolution.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Sir, I have been preparing for 9 months for this. He has stated that Rs. 25,000 crores are being spent. The State governments should monitor these schemes at regular intervals. Steps should be initiated to check corruption prevalent in the implementation of these schemes because taking away of meal from a hungry man is the biggest crime against humanity. Such corrupt officials should be awarded stringent punishment and if necessary laws may be changed accordingly. Hon'ble Food Minister stated a few months back that all the wheat allocated to North-East gets diverted. I find it to be a matter of regret. Our Government also understands that Public Distribution System has lots of loop holes and corruption rules the roost there. I feel that when we accept this, we need to take many steps in this direction.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time is over.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Sir, please give me three minutes more. Our Government is spending on food subsidies but it is rather important to check corruption prevalent in the system. This matter has been raised by all the Members that there are lots of discrepancies in the survey conducted regarding BPL families.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request the House because I have asked Shri Ram Kripalji from the chair to move his resolution and now we are running out of time. Hence I

feel that you may take two-three minutes more afterwards, we will take the resolution of Shri Ram Kripalji, I feel that the House will agree to it.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : The House agrees to it.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : We feel ashamed when we visit villages and it is pointed out to us that rich people have homes but poor go shelterless. Apart from this, it becomes rather awkward when elderly persons state that they are not getting old age pension. Hon'ble Minister is sitting here, I would like to request the government to get the doors of the houses of the BPL families painted in different colour so that when we or any government officer is on a visit, the BPL families might be traced out easily.

If we know that it is not a hut but a pucca house, we ourselves can find that there is some irregularity and that way the number of people who are taking undue advantage, will decrease. Hon'ble Minister has also mentioned about Zero Hunger Act of Brazil ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can give your suggestions to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Sir, I am concluding within 3-4 minutes. I will not take much time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time cannot be extended...
(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot extend the time.

[Translation]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : I will take only 3-4 minutes...
(Interruptions). I will conclude in due time.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : As the hon. Minister has requested, are you going to withdraw your Resolution or not?

[Translation]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : I will decide keeping in view all the facts. But kindly allow me to speak. He had requested me, I have moved this Resolution, therefore, I may be allowed to speak for 3-4 minutes.

Sir, I would like to inform the House that around 40 million people are living below poverty line in the country like Brazil which is one of the four largest foodgrain exporter countries. They introduced Zero Hunger Programme to remove starvation from the country. Following the footsteps of Brazil, countries like Egypt, Nicaragua and Morocco are going to introduce the same. The same is being implemented in America for centuries through Food Stamps. They ensure that no one remains hungry there. Recently, President of Brazil came to India and we honoured him with a National Award. If we can honour any foreign leader for eradication of hunger, I don't think that our government should not associate with the subject and accept my resolution and should not announce that the it is committed to eradicate hunger.

On this occasion I would like to pay tribute to a person who inspired me to move such proposal. The person who initiated the same has died. His name is Grand Master Chuakaksui. He was a philosopher from Philippines. He inspired me to bring the same. He had done commendable work in his country and he has been my inspiration in this regard. I would like to pay tribute to him while discussing the matter.

Sir, I think and it is quite noticeable that disasters like floods and any other calamities were dealt with earlier also but our government brought Disaster Management Act to deal with the same more effectively. Similarly, we brought Prevention of Communal Violence Bill. Communal violence was dealt with earlier also but to deal with the same

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

comprehensively and to provide justice to the affected people such provisions were incorporated in the Bill. Similarly, Zero Hunger Act should be enacted on the same lines, the hon'ble Minister has said that there are many schemes where Union government are contributing Rs. 25,000 to 30,000 crores but we all accept this fact that people are not getting full benefits of these schemes. If we enact Zero Hunger Act, the persons deprived of the benefits can move Food Court. In this way, the Minister can take stringent action against the officers found guilty and empower people to decide their fate.

18.14 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as I know 33 Private Members resolutions on the matters of national and international importance have been accepted in the House. I am very happy that no one can oppose my resolution. I proposed "that the House resolves that the government should formulate and implement a comprehensive Food and Nutrition Security Scheme aiming at total eradication of hunger from the country."

Hon'ble Minister has stated that various steps are being taken in this regard. He has also assured that he will take necessary steps keeping in view the loopholes of the scheme and the suggestions given by the hon'ble Members in this regard. Once again I would like to request that...(Interruptions) to implement such Zero Hunger Act, I think that we, the public representatives cannot expect that bureaucrats will give us suggestions to enact such a law because it will increase their responsibility...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, they will become accountable to the Food Courts. We have talked about Food Coupons, I am not saying that he should reduce the amount but I request the Minister that

Government should directly provide money or coupon to the needy person or poor people to purchase the food item from anywhere, I think it will be more beneficial...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, now speak about withdrawing the resolution.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to whether there is any working plan to present hunger deaths in the country?...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, not now. He can give me in writing later on. I would like to know whether any proposal to formulate working plan is under consideration of the Government? Please clarify. What positive steps are being taken by the government to maintain buffer stock of foodgrains for Food Security or Food Security Central Pool on regular basis? Kindly inform us about the reasons for import of wheat for domestic consumption. Several hon'ble members have said that malnutrition is a bigger problem than hunger and specially children who are the future of our country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not repeat.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, children are the future of our country; therefore, Government should eradicate the problem of malnutrition.

I would request you in this regard and firmly believe the assurance that the hon. Minister has given in the House, our young minister has always planned to ward off poverty and starvation and he has assured entire House to eradicate starvation and malnutrition. I express my confidence towards his and Government's feelings, because UPA government under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister and guidance of Smt. Sonia Gandhi has taken numerous steps for the welfare of common man and the poor, hence, I am sure that the hon. Minister and government would take all the necessary steps to alleviate poverty and starvation. I, therefore, due to all these assurances, withdraw my resolution...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record please.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House that the resolution moved by Shri Naveen Jindal be withdrawn?

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

18.18 hrs.

(ii) **Free, compulsory and uniform education upto Higher Secondary Level in the country**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before the House takes up the next resolution on the agenda regarding free and compulsory education upto higher secondary level by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, the time for discussion of the resolution has to be allotted by the House.

If the House agrees, two hours may be allotted for discussion on the resolution.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House request the Government to take effective steps to provide free of cost, mandatory and equal education till higher secondary level in the country."

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will take it up the next time. We now take up another item. You can express your views next time.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I accept your direction and would raise my issue later in detail. With your permission may I express my views?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, we shall take up 'Zero Hour'.

Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a very important issue.

I would draw the attention of the Government, through you, that the Allahabad University was once regarded as the mini-oxford university, which has produced not only many ICS officers but other administrative officers also. The House has passed the bill providing Allahabad University the status of a Central University, but thereafter education system there has fallen greatly. Students are agitating over of fees charged in degree colleges because their vary from college to college. They were brutally lathi charged by police while they were staging a dharna. Students went to the office of the Proctor but someone who is an employee there took out a revolver which was also shown on the T.V. This incident happened yesterday. Hon. Fatmiji is present here and I would make a request to him to send a parliamentary team there to look into the matter so that educational system could work properly there and students make progress in this field.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Rail Minister during the course of discussion on Demands for the Grants on Railways on 23.8. and 30.8.07 announced in the House to change the name of Gadar Express running between Barackpur

[Shri Rajnarayan Budholia]

to Kanpur-Jhansi as Pratham Swatantra Sangram Express to make the 150th anniversary of our freedom struggle memorable.

I thank the hon. Rail Minister for paying tribute to those who fought independence struggle but I think that all the members from Bundelkhand region and present in this House demand that Gadar express running upto Jhansi where brave Rani Lakshmibai who is equally remembered by all, laid down her life while fighting the Britishers in the First War of Independence in 1857 and it is said about her that:

Bundelon Har Bolo Ke Muh Hamne Suni Kahani Thi'
Khoob Ladi Mardani Who To Jhansi Wali Rani Thi'.

Sir, I would, therefore, request the hon. Rail Minister through you, to do needful in this matter respecting the feelings of the people of Bundelkhand. by renaming Gadar Express/Pratham Swatantra Sangram Express. as 'Veerangna Lakshmibai Express. It would be the real tribute to Maharani Lakshmibai on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of our independence struggle. At the same time I demand that her portrait like other great people should also be installed in the Parliament House Complex.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with Shri Budhulia.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I too associate myself with the demand raised by Shri Budhulia.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue. In Lakhmi Narayan Mandir in Bhadarwah, a Deputy S.P. was killed. He was killed while he was enquiring whether there was any militant a house. It happened in June. Thereafter, in July, and the 28th i.e. four days ago a grenade was hurled when people were

going to worship and there was a large crowd. Eight to ten people were injured in it. Thereafter, another grenade was hurled. People are insecure and living in fear [English] People are very much frustrated. [Translation] People observed a band in Bhadarwah. I mean to say that Shali Singh, DSP was an honest officer with a good personality. Police arrested the person whom Shali Singh had gone to arrest and now it has come to light that he has been released. I want to say that the Government of India should interfere in this matter and it should be noted seriously so that peace and tranquility that is being disturbed in Bhadarwah, could be maintained.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukhetra): Mr. Chairman, Sir. Less than a year has been left for the start of Beijing Olympics. Even today the people of India are not aware of the disciplines in which a sportsperson would be taking part and how preparation is on so that we may ensure that we could perform well in Beijing Olympics and win enough medals. We all know that competitiveness in the Olympics is growing today. It is a matter of pride for a country to win medals in Olympics. If we perform well there, it raises the pride of our country.

If the performance of our country is not good, then, it leads to weakening the morale of our country. We all know it that a lot is required to be done by the Government in order to win medals in Olympics. After 1984, China has won more than 300 medals whereas we have won only three medals in Olympics. On the one hand, our country is moving towards progress and on the other hand sports budget is merely 0.073 per cent. So it is required to be enhanced to 1 per cent at least. Through you, I would like to ask hon'ble Minister of Sports whether he would inform this House and the people of the entire country as to what are the games and sports in which our sportspersons are likely to participate in the coming Olympics and what steps are being taken for their training so that they could win medals?

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Sir, I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government

about the need to enact a law urgently to arrest crime rate in the country. There is a need to create DNA databank and improve the methods for collection and preservation of that evidence. It would greatly enhance the ability of defendants to use DNA evidence to prove their innocence.

As we all know, DNA evidence is generally regarded as the most effective method of identifying criminals. So, the concerned Department should collect DNA samples from every person convicted of a crime as well as individuals on probation, on parole supervision or registered as sex offenders. I feel that expanding DNA databank and providing more time to find DNA matches would result in more criminals being identified, prosecuted and convicted. It would greatly increase public safety, particularly in high crime areas.

I would, therefore, humbly request the Government of India to bring forward a Bill to create DNA databank.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House regarding shifting of the Office of Joint Director-General, Foreign Trade from Cuttack. The Office of Controller of Export and Import was opened in Cuttack, Orissa in 1977. Later, it was upgraded keeping in view the increasing exports from the State. Exports from the State have now reached Rs. 5,500 crore annually. The figure is likely to go up further in view of the industrialization spree by the State Government. I see no reason why this Office of the Joint Director-General, Foreign Trade is being shifted from Cuttack. Cuttack is not only the Commercial Capital of Orissa but is also strategically located. It is nearer to the Airport as well as to the Seaport, and almost all the offices concerned with the establishment and development of the industries are also located in and around Cuttack.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to declare cancellation of the proposed shifting of this Office from Cuttack.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVWRAT SINGH (Rajnandgaon): Mr.

Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Road Transport and Highways of the Government of India towards the fact that approximately three and a half lac people reside in the District Headquarters, Rajnandgaon of my parliamentary Constituency which is a municipal corporation area. There, the four-laning work on the National Highway No. 6 is about to be started. It was already proposed. It was to be constructed into four lanes out of the by-pass of Rajnandgaon town. Original drawing and plan of the said four-laning is being changed with the connivance of the officers and contractors doing the National Highway work and consequently road widening work amidst the town is being proposed in place of the by-pass. It will lead to the demolition of as many as 400 buildings, which include the Telecommunication office, business establishments, schools, colleges, hospitals and district collectorate. If road widening work is done there amidst the town, then it would result in accidents on a large scale and the entire town will be divided into two parts and the people will have to face a lot of difficulties in crossing the road...(Interruptions)

Moreover, it will lead to the renewal of water pipeline which was laid only two years ago. Hence I request you to issue necessary orders to the officers looking after the National Highways to construct the by-pass.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that an oil refinery is required to be set up in Rajasthan without delay. Government and private companies involved in exploration and drilling of oil and natural gas in bordering districts of Jaisalmer, Barmer and Jalaur of Rajasthan have found huge reserves of oil and natural gas. Experts are of the opinion that oil found here is of very good and high quality. The exploitation of those reserves has also been started by Cairn Energy Company and commercial production is likely to be started very soon. During the last few years refineries have been set up in all those states where the reserves of oil and natural gas have been explored either by the

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Government companies or by the private agencies, viz. Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh etc. In view of the above, a refinery is required to be set up in Rajasthan also. A public sector company and one of the navaratnas, ONGC accepted it in principle but I am sorry to say that the same is being deferred by the Union Government on one pretext or the other.

Sir, if refinery can be set up at Panipat in Haryana, at Bathinda in Punjab, at Mathura in UP and in Madhya Pradesh by laying thousand kilometres long lines after spending crores of rupees despite the fact that production of oil and gas does not take place at these places. Then keeping in view that fact that reserves of oil and gas have been found in Rajasthan and their commercial production is likely to be started there, under such circumstances a refinery must be set up there.

Sir, through you, I would like to urge the Government of India to announce the setting up of a refinery at an appropriate place in Rajasthan and the construction work for the same be started at an early date without delay and political consideration so as to ensure economic development and prosperity of Rajasthan State with providing employment to thousands of people in the state.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention towards the problems of widows, destitutes, as well as the problems regarding old age pension, artificial limbs and nutritious food for small children under the National Social Programme. They are given Rs. 200 per month which comes to Rs. 6.80 paise per day. One can hardly manage one's breakfast with such a meagre amount. How can a poor man live on such a meagre amount. In Chhattisgarh, Government is giving 20 kilogram rice in place of 35 kilogram and thus 15 kilogram rice is being cut.

Sir, through you, I would like to tell say the Government that the amount of Rs. 200/- is too meagre for the women

who have been divorced by their husbands. How can they pull on with such a scanty amount of Rs. 200/-? ...*(Interruptions)* How will they afford their medical treatment? Those who live with the support of artificial limbs, those who are deaf, those who do not have their legs, they are leading a miserable life and hence Rs. 200/- are hardly sufficient for them. Those whose parents have died, cannot get education...*(Interruptions)* The Government should make arrangements not only for their education but also for their health care. Rs. 200/- should be enhanced to Rs. 500 and the quantum of rice should be enhanced from 35 kilogram to 50 kilogram. ...*(Interruptions)* Artificial limbs should be provided free of cost to those who do not have their limbs...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now what you will speak, will not be recorded.

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the blocks of my parliamentary constituency, Gopalganj. Flood has caused massive devastation there. Seven blocks are still completely inundated. Consequently crops of sugarcane and paddy have been completely damaged. Entire area is in the grip of severe crisis. All of their assets have been washed away. All the farmers have reached on the verge of starvation. A dreadful situation of famine has started emerging. The State Government has completely failed in providing assistance to the farmers and victims of flood. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to provide special economic package to the flood-affected farmers, keeping in view the situation prevailing there so that they may get some relief.

I am grateful to you in providing me an opportunity to speak on the matter of urgent public importance.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the

*Not recorded.

hon'ble Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasadji towards Korba district of Chhattisgarh. Korba district is known as Mini India as the people belonging to all the states reside there. There is shortage of railway facilities there. Bilaspur Railway Division earns revenue to the tune of Rs. 12 crore from passenger fare and Rs. 3000 crore as freight from this district. But only three local trains, one link train and the Kochin Express two days a week run through it. Our station has been categorized into 'D' grade from 'B' grade and it has led to resentment among the people of that area. The people of Chamber of Commerce have constituted a "Rail Action Committee and it is staging agitation, dhama and demonstration in various phases. The committee has decided to organize "Rail Roko Andolan" from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on 9th September... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please tell, what is your demand from the Central Government.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am coming on that. I would request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to pay attention towards the demands of the Committee urgently so as to avoid the agitation becoming violent or any mishappening taking place and people should not get agitated to such an extent as may result in loss of life or loss of property of the railways. If any accident takes place, then the department of Railways would definitely be held responsible for the same. Railway facilities should be increased over there and demands of the Railway Action Committee should be fulfilled immediately so as to avoid this resentment.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a special Kendriya Vidyalaya in Ghaziabad near Delhi, where tribal students belonging to Arunachal Pradesh, Laddakh and Lahol-Sphiti districts of Himachal Pradesh are admitted. On 25th instant, as many as 80 anti social elements armed with guns and pistols entered the hostel building of the school and they started beating up all the students hailing from border area at gun point

and students were forced to have their hair cut and they were left in a miserable condition. All the students have left the hostel due to this. I demand from the Central Government, through you, that the Principal of the Vidyalaya who was an eye witness to the incident, and all other anti social elements, who dared to enter the hostel building should be arrested immediately. If that is not done, I would narrate this incident in Arunachal Pradesh and Laddhakh. It would poor a danger for the unity and integrity of the country. I demand that action be taken on this immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now notice has been received to raise the matter from two Hon. Members only who are present here as well as from several other hon. Members. They want to raise the matter related to the State but I allow these two Hon. Members to express their views as a special case.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a Sagar Talab (pond) in Kouch Nagar in my Parliamentary Constituency which is about two hundred year old and spread over 10 acres of land. This pond is the symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity. Here the Mazar, Dargah of Kalandar Shah lies on the one side, on the other side, there is a temple of Baldaui, which is known as the Gaddi of the Hindus. 12 to 15 stairs are built around that pond and they are on the verge of collapse. There is no arrangement of filling water in that pond. At the time of Ramleela, Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram crosses this pond and on this occasion a grand mela is organized there.

Sir, every year Urs is also organized here. I demand from the Central Government that broken stairs of the pond be repaired and arrangements made to fill water in the pond and the Central Archeological department asked to look after its maintenance work after taking it under its control.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my special thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important matter.

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

Sir, the matter which I am going to raise is very sensitive one and it is very unfortunate for the society. It has been shown on a private channel 'Live India' that people pay their focused attention towards Delhi, which is the Capital of India. Here, a teacher has indulged in vulgar act with the students which hangs our head in shame. The relationship between a student and a teacher should be that of a daughter and mother and the above act has cast a slur on this relationship. This teacher belongs to the Sarvodya Girls School, Asaf Ali Road and the act that she has indulged in with her students is unbearable for any society, State and country.

Sir, innocent girls are being blackmailed their obscene photographs and blue films are being made and these girls are being forced to do wrong by showing them these films. They are being pushed into flesh trade. It is a matter of serious concern. What would happen to this society? Will any parent send their daughter to school if such an act is done by the school and its teacher. It is being done with these innocent children and they are being forced to enter into unethical acts. Do such things happen in any society?

Sir, this is not only the story of Delhi alone, but the said incident was telecast. I want to thank the Journalist of Live India for this sting operation because he or she has dared to unearth this shameful act before the country and the society. Such things are happening in the entire country.

Sir, through you I demand that the teacher who was indulged in such wrong act and whether it is permissible to quote her name or not, though her name is*
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The name should not go on the record.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Through you, I demand that concrete action should be taken against her. The Government should take stern action against those who have indulged in such an act in the temple of learning. The Hon. Minister is present here and I would demand that concrete action should be taken on this so that no one could dare to repeat such act in future...(Interruptions). Concrete action should be taken against those who indulge in such type of acts...(Interruptions)

Sir, the Government should come with a reply on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Krishna Shukla, Shri Sadhu yadav and Dr. Karan Singh associate themselves with these views.

It is a very shameful incident. Mr. Minister, Sir, would you like to say anything on this?

[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) : Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav...(Interruptions) I will bring this matter to the notice of the hon. HRD Minister. I will not only bring it to the notice of the HRD Minister, but I will bring it to the notice of the Home Minister also, so that proper action is taken immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet on Wednesday, 5th September 2007 at 11 a.m.

18.44 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Wednesday, September 05, 2007/
Bhadrapada 14, 1929 (Saka)*

Annexure-I**Member-wise Index to Starred Questions**

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	275
2.	Shri Ananth Kumar	272
3.	Shri Appadurai, M.	280
4.	Shri Bose, Subrata	264
5.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	268
6.	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	274
7.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	271
8.	Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Sureshchandra	270
9.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	269
10.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	279
11.	Smt. Gawali, Bhavana P.	269
12.	Shri George, K. Francis	273
13.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	267
14.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	277
15.	Shri Kumar, Sajjan	278

1	2	3
16.	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	266
17.	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	270
18.	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	275
19.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	272
20.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	262
21.	Shri Radhakrishnan, Varkala	263
22.	Shri Rao, K.S.	266
23.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	265
24.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	276
25.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	277
26.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	276
27.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	268
28.	Shri Singh, Mohan	278
29.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	262
30.	Shri Singh, Uday	271
31.	Smt. Thakkar, Jayaben B.	273
32.	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	261

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	2661, 2692
2.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	2642, 2663, 2703, 2721, 2727

1	2	3
3.	Dr. Agarwal, Dhirendra	2595, 2685
4.	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	2645
5.	Shri Appadurai, M.	2683
6.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	2658, 2701, 2719
7.	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	2622, 2696, 2716
8.	Shri Barman, Hiten	2707
9.	Shri Bhadana, Avtar Singh	2740
10.	Shri Bhargava, Girdhari Lal	2651
11.	Shri Chakraborty, Swadesh	2697
12.	Shri Chand, Nihal	2623
13.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	2620
14.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	2689
15.	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	2682
16.	Shri Choubey, Lal Muni	2666
17.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	2735
18.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	2689, 2696, 2738
19.	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	2633, 2685
20.	Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Sureshchandra	2690, 2715, 2724, 2730
21.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	2670, 2705
22.	Prof. Dhumal, Prem Kumar	2692
23.	Shri Fanthome, Francis	2737
24.	Shri Gaddigoudar, P.C.	2614
25.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	2627

1	2	3
26.	Smt. Gawali, Bhavana P.	2670
27.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	2722
28.	Shri Gudhe, Anant	2624
29.	Ch. Hassan, Munawar	2738
30.	Shri Hussan, Syed Shahnawaz	2630
31.	Shri Jain, Pusp	2643
32.	Smt. Jayaprada	2736
33.	Shri Jena, Mohan	2734
34.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	2686
35.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	2732
36.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	2596
37.	Shri Kalmadi, Suresh	2657
38.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	2659, 2702
39.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	2598, 2676
40.	Shri Khan, Sunil	2637
41.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	2602, 2672, 2707, 2750
42.	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	2599, 2669, 2706, 2726, 2751
43.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	2629
44.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	2693, 2700, 2718
45.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	2689, 2696
46.	Smt. Laxman, Susheela Bangaru	2623
47.	Smt. Mahajan, Sumitra	2641, 2692
48.	Shri Maharia, Subhash	2636

1	2	3
49.	Shri Mahato, Narahari	2652
50.	Dr. Manoj, K.S.	2733
51.	Shri Masood, Rasheed	2618
52.	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	2741
53.	Dr. Meinya, Thokchom	2640, 2691
54.	Shri Mohd, Tahir	2664
55.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	2617, 2694
56.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	2682, 2683
57.	Shri Naik, Shripad Yesso	2632
58.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	2665
59.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	2673, 2688, 2712, 2725
60.	Shri Pallani Shamy, K.C.	2608, 2677, 2709, 2723
61.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	2628
62.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	2626, 2630, 2740
63.	Shri Pannian Ravindran	2648
64.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai Ambalal	2634
65.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	2680, 2713, 2728, 2731
66.	Shri Patel, Pratik P.	2597, 2739
67.	Shri Patel, Shriniwas Dadasaheb	2606
68.	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	2610, 2696, 2716
69.	Shri Pradhan, Dharmendra	2615, 2630
70.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	2601
71.	Shri Rai, Nakul Das	2660

1	2	3
72.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	2603, 2674, 2710
73.	Shri Rajbhar, Chandra Dev Prasad	2607
74.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	2612, 2743
75.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	2625
76.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	2649, 2697, 2747, 2748
77.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	2604, 2678
78.	Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	2639, 2744
79.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	2620
80.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	2745
81.	Shri Rijju, Kiren	2632, 2740
82.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	2667, 2704, 2722, 2729
83.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	2609, 2692
84.	Shri Sathyanarayana, Sarvey	2656
85.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	2626, 2631
86.	Smt. Scindia, Yashodhara Raje	2646, 2697, 2749
87.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	2638, 2655
88.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	2642, 2663, 2693, 2703, 2720
89.	Shri Shivanna, M.	2614, 2619, 2698
90.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	2662
91.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	2626, 2640, 2668, 2711
92.	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	2616
93.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	2635, 2687, 2714
94.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	2636, 2746

1	2	3
95.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	2654
96.	Shri Singh, Mohan	2679
97.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	2613, 2686, 2748
98.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	2681, 2742
99.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	2680, 2713, 2728
100.	Shri Singh, Suraj	2621, 2626, 2688, 2689
101.	Shri Singh, Uday	2738
102.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	2684, 2688
103.	Shri Subbarayan, K.	2638, 2683, 2688
104.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	2605, 2675, 2708
105.	Smt. Sujatha, C.S.	2600
106.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	2621, 2626, 2684
107.	Smt. Thakkar, Jayaben B.	2671
108.	Shri Thummar, U.K.	2611, 2633, 2634, 2745
109.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	2626
110.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	2647
111.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Belashowry	2644, 2691, 2695
112.	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	2625
113.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	2642, 2663, 2693, 2703, 2720
114.	Shri Yadav, Kailash Nath Singh	2664
115.	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	2741
116.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	2650, 2699, 2717

Annexure-II**Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions****Corporate Affairs****Earth Sciences****269****Finance****263, 264, 265, 266, 273, 274, 275, 278, 279,
280****Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation****Law and Justice****New and Renewable Energy****272****Power****267, 270, 276****Rural Development****261, 262, 277****Science and Technology****Urban Development****268, 271.**

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions**Corporate Affairs****2633****Earth Sciences****2620, 2656, 2670, 2679, 2747****Finance****2596, 2600, 2601, 2603, 2605, 2607, 2609,
2610, 2611, 2612, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618,
2625, 2628, 2629, 2632, 2635, 2636, 2638,
2639, 2642, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649,
2650, 2633, 2657, 2658, 2661, 2664, 2665,
2666, 2671, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677,
2678, 2681, 2683, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2691,
2693, 2696, 2700, 2701, 2704, 2706, 2708,
2710, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2718, 2719, 2720,
2721, 2725, 2727, 2728, 2731, 2732, 2733,
2737, 2738, 2739, 2740, 2743, 2749**

Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	:	2604, 2630, 2651, 2652, 2672, 2707, 2709, 2745
Law and Justice		2606, 2613, 2659, 2669, 2724
New and Renewable Energy		2621, 2741, 2744
Power		2608, 2623, 2626, 2631, 2641, 2654, 2660, 2663, 2667, 2684, 2692, 2698, 2699, 2705, 2712
Rural Development		2595, 2599, 2624, 2637, 2640, 2655, 2680, 2682, 2685, 2694, 2697, 2702, 2711, 2713, 2714, 2722, 2730
Science and Technology		2622, 2644, 2662, 2668, 2690, 2695, 2703, 2723, 2726
Urban Development		2597, 2598, 2602, 2614, 2619, 2627, 2634, 2643, 2686, 2729, 2734, 2735, 2736, 2742, 2746, 2748, 2750, 2751.

INTERNET

The original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address :

<http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in>

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on Lok Sabha T.V. channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. on everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of English and Hindi Versions and other Parliamentary Publications are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Parliament House, New Delhi-110001.

© 2007 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

**Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Eleventh Edition) and Printed by The Indian Press, G.T. Karnal Road, Delhi-110033.**
