

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 16, 2007 / Sravana 25, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

WELCOME TO GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have a very happy announcement to make.

On behalf of the hon. Members of the House and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Dr. Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag and the members of the German Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived in India on Tuesday, 14th August, 2007. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of Federal Republic of Germany.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us take up Q.No. 61, Shri Anwar Hussain.

Installation of Wi-Fi System at Railway Junctions/Stations

+

*61. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways subsidiary RailTel is planning to install Wi-Fi systems at 500 railway junctions/stations;

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof along with names of junctions/stations selected for installation of the system;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the passengers from this system; and

(d) the time by which the system is likely to become operational at selected junctions/stations and also by when it will be extended to all junctions/stations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) RailTel is planning to install Wi-Fi system at 50 stations initially as a pilot scheme.

(b) The system comprises of Base Stations and Customer Premises Equipments (CPE). The Base Stations shall be installed at stations which would cover a distance of about 1 Kilometer. Customer Premises Equipments (CPE) with Wi-Fi feature will be installed at different locations within the coverage area of each Base Station. Services including Broadband Internet and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) etc. can be provided through this system. Provisional list of stations selected is given in the enclosed Annexure.

(c) The passengers at these stations can make use of Broadband Internet facility using their laptops and other Wi-Fi enabled devices.

(d) 20 stations are expected to be made operational by March, 2008 and remaining 30 stations will be commissioned in 2008-09. Based on the result of the pilot scheme, the system may be extended to other stations.

Annexure

List of 50 Stations

S.No.	Name of the Stations
1	2
1	Ghaziabad
2	Rewari
3	Gurgaon
4	Delhi (DRM Office)
5	Naya Azadpur
6	Nerala
7	Sonipat
8	Panipat
9	Gharaunda
10	Karnal
11	Taraori
12	Kurukshetra
13	Shahbad Markanda
14	Meerut City

1	2
15	Muzaffamagar
16	Shambhu
17	Rajpura
18	Sirhind
19	Khanna
20	Chawapil
21	Sanehawal
22	Phillaur
23	Phagwara
24	Beas
25	Jandiala
26	Amritsar
27	Delhi (Thompson Road)
28	Hazrat Nizamudin
29	Tughlakabad
30	Faridabad
31	Ballabhgarh
32	Asaoti
33	Palwal
34	Jammu Tawi
35	Moradabad
36	Pathankot
37	Sawai Madhopur
38	Chaksu
39	Siras
40	Kalyan
41	Solapur
42	Gulbarga
43	Mahalaxmi
44	Champner Road
45	Piplod
46	Dahod
47	Thandia Road
48	Bamnia
49	Bhusaval
50	Igatpuri

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be heard before 12 noon.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is under my consideration, Prof. Malhotra. I received the notice and it is under my consideration. Let me go through it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that I shall allow you to raise it after the Question Hour, please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no notice for suspension of Question Hour. There is no notice today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything. Nothing is to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What image we are giving to the people of this country and also to the outside world? Outside the country, what will be the image that we are giving? You are behaving in a most irresponsible manner; you are not cooperating with the Chair. You are not interested in the House to run. You do not have any sense of responsibility, I am very sorry to say. I am ashamed of you. I do not think this Parliament is entitled to function.

The House stands adjourned till 11.30 a.m.

11.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

11.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of question of Privilege. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you already that it is under my consideration.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You, please allow us to raise this issue at 12 O'clock.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The notice is received just now in the morning, after I came. It is under my consideration. Let me go through it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to behave. Prof. Malhotra, you are here for a long time. You are not a new Member. You know all the rules of procedure. In any event it does not come before the Question Hour. You know that very well.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not my House alone. If you do not want the House to run, it will not be run. Say that and let the Government decide what to do.

Please do not record one word.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of any commitment from the Speaker. I have mentioned more than once. Repeatedly I have mentioned at 11 o'clock. In spite of my assurance, in spite of the assurance given to me in my room, there has been deliberate disruption of the House when there were hon. guests from abroad sitting in the Gallery. Before them, it has been done in a deliberate manner. You get rid of me. So long as I am sitting here, I would not allow it.

Nothing is being recorded. Why are you speaking?

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. you do as you like.

[English]

The House consists of 545 Members. I am only one of them.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever I have announced, Mr. Acharia, you must have heard more than once at 11 o'clock. You cannot hold the House to ransom and want the Speaker

* Not recorded.

to make commitment to you now. Please get rid of me by the method open to law.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not alone concerned about the country. I am also concerned about the country.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you only concerned about the country?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Tell me whether you want to conduct the business of the House or not.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can only express my sorrow. I have been appealing to all sections of the House in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on? I have told you that

[English]

any matter or for that matter any issue which is permissible, has been allowed and will be allowed to be discussed, but according to the rules. You cannot compel me.
...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Job Reservation for SCs/STs in the Private Sector

*62. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether the Industry leaders made a statement that they were ready to provide employment opportunities to people from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) but were opposed to mandatory job reservation in the private sector as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 15, 2007;

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

(c) whether the Government has constituted a Coordination Committee for reservation in jobs for, SCs and STs in the private sector;

(d) if so, the details of the points discussed in its meetings alongwith the outcome thereof;

- (e) whether the Committee has also submitted an interim report in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the further steps taken by the Government to provide job reservation to SCs and STs in the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (g) In response to the commitment contained in the National Common Minimum Programme to initiate a dialogue with Industry and other associations to fulfil the aspirations of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth, a Group of Ministers was formed. The Group met five times and also held consultations with the representatives of Apex Industry Associations. The Industry Associations are in favour of affirmative action but not in favour of reservation. To carry forward the process of dialogue, a Coordination Committee was constituted. The Committee held two meetings. During the discussions issues such as evolving a Code of Conduct; quantitative targets for capacity building through students scholarship for studies in premier educational institutions within the country and abroad, coaching programmes, entrepreneurship development and training; preparation of data base of SC/ST employees in private sector figured prominently.

The Coordination Committee has not submitted interim report. During the discussion with the Industry Associations following points emerged:

- (i) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSO-CHAM) have evolved a Code of Conduct of Affirmative Action. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has also agreed to soon evolve a similar plan of action.
- (ii) Industry Associations are willing to intensify their efforts in developing the skill sets and developing entrepreneurial abilities amongst SC/ST persons.
- (iii) There was a general agreement on positive discrimination in employment in favour of SC/ST persons i.e. other things being equal SC/ST persons will be given preference.
- (iv) Industry Chambers are agreeable to reporting of data on SC/ST employment.
- (v) Ombudsman will be appointed by Industry Associations to monitor the compliance with the voluntary Code of Conduct.

Investment Proposal of SAIL and RINL

*63. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) have proposed to invest Rs. 50,000 crore for augmenting steel production in the country by 2010;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) are undertaking ambitious modernization and expansion plans. SAIL proposes to modernize and expand capacity at its plants to increase production of hot metal from present level of 14.6 million tonnes per annum (2006-07) to 26 million tonnes per annum by the year 2010-11 at a present indicative cost of Rs. 49,000 Crores. Apart from augmenting the production capacity at the plants, the plan also envisages removal of technological obsolescence, reduction in energy consumption, improvement in product mix, up gradation of pollution control measures and augmentation of infrastructure facilities in all the plants to support higher production.

SAIL has already approved the expansion of all major steel plants viz. IISCO Steel Plant, Bokaro Steel Plant, Bhilai Steel Plant, Rourkela Steel Plant, Durgapur Steel Plant and Salem Steel Plant. Plant-wise details of the expansion plan are given as under:

(Million Tonnes)			
SAIL	Current Production of hot metal	Proposed Capacity of hot metal	Cost*
ISP	0.78	2.91	Rs.8,871 Crores
DSP	2.06	3.5	Rs.5,549 Crores
RSP	2.12	4.5	Rs.7,668 Crores
BSL	4.59	7.44	Rs.8,399 Crores
BSP	4.82	7.5	Rs.11,262 Crores
SSP	0.18**	0.34**	Rs.1,419 Crores

(*Excluding sustenance schemes)

(** Saleable Steel)

The Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) proposes to expand its capacity to increase production of hot metal from the present level of 4.05 million tonnes per annum (2006-07) to 6.50 million tonnes per annum by the year 2009-10 at a present indicative cost of Rs. 11,200 Crore. The work has

commenced.

[Translation]

Foreign Tourists

*64. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase in number of foreign tourists during the year 2006-07 till 30th June as compared to the year 2004-05;

(b) the details of foreign exchange earned from tourism during the said period;

(c) whether foreign tourists are charged manifold at various tourist places in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by Government to reduce the entry charges being taken from foreign tourists for ticketed monuments; and

(f) the efforts made by the Government to attract more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The percentage increase in foreign tourist arrivals during January-June 2007 over January-June 2005 is 30.5%.

(b) The foreign exchange earnings from tourism in India during the period January-June in the years 2005 and 2007 are estimated at 2661 and 3590 US\$ million respectively.

(c) and (d) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) charges entry fee at the centrally protected ticketed monuments as follows:-

- i) Rs.250/- or \$5 from foreign tourists and Rs.10/- from domestic tourists at Category "A" monuments (World Heritage Sites).
- ii) Rs. 100/- or \$2 from foreign tourists and Rs.5/- from domestic tourists at Category "B" monuments (Ticketed Sites other than World Heritage Sites).

(e) It has been decided that visitors from South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries will be charged entry fee at the centrally protected ticketed monuments at par with Indian citizens.

(f) The efforts being made by the Government for attracting more foreign tourists to India include:

- Development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development for tourist circuits and

destinations;

- Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels;
- Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;
- Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and Print media through the "Incredible India" Campaign;
- Creation of World Class Collaterals;
- Direct co-operative marketing with the airlines, tour operators and wholesalers overseas;
- According greater focus in the emerging markets particularly in the region of China, North East Asia and South East Asia;
- Participation in Trade Fairs & Exhibitions;
- Optimizing the PR and Publicity;
- Use of Internet and web marketing;
- Generating Tourist Publications; and
- Re-inforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite the media personnel and tour operators on familiarization tour to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

Bio Diesel Procurement Policy

*65. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced the Bio-diesel Procurement Policy from January 2006;

(b) if so, the main features of the said Procurement Policy;

(c) whether 20 procurement centres of Oil Marketing Companies have been identified under the policy;

(d) if so, the locations of these procurement centres;

(e) the quantum of Bio-diesel procured by them and the price thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government on the working of these procurement centres?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Bio-diesel Purchase Policy announced by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG) with effect from 1.1.2006 are as follows:-

- (i) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) will purchase Bio-diesel, meeting the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) specifications, through their select purchase centres.
- (ii) Bio-diesel manufacturers interested in supplying Bio-diesel, meeting the requirements as per BIS specifications, to OMCs shall register with State Level Coordinators.
- (iii) Priority in registration shall be given to such producers who propose to manufacture Bio-diesel from non-edible tree borne oils.
- (iv) OMCs shall decide from time to time a uniform delivered price for buying Bio-diesel and such price shall be valid for six months and would be reviewed thereafter. The initial purchase price of Bio-diesel was Rs.25 per litre, which has since been revised to Rs. 26.50 per litre w.e.f. 22nd August, 2006.
- (v) Panchayati Raj Institutions PRIs would undertake Purchase of Bio-diesel as a rural business hub activity.
- (c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

The locations of the 20 identified procurement centres are as under:

Sr. No.	State	Location
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	Ghatkesar (also for Jharkhand and Orissa States)
2	Chhattisgarh	Mandirhasaud
3	Delhi	Bijwasan
4	Gujarat	Kandla
5	Haryana	Rewari
6	Karnataka	Devanagunthi (Bangalore)
7		Manglore
8	Madhya Pradesh	Mangliagaon -Indore
9	Maharashtra	Manmad
10		Borkhedi-Nagpur
11		Loni
12		Vashi
13	Punjab	Bhatinda
14	Rajasthan	Sanganier-Jaipur
15		Salawas

1	2	3
16	Tamil Nadu	Korrukupet-Chennai
17		Narimanam
18		Karur
19	Uttar Pradesh	Panki
20		Amousi- Lucknow

(e) and (f) OMCs have not purchased Bio-diesel at the identified purchase centres till date. The production of bio-diesel from seeds coming from plants such as Jatropha is at a nascent stage and will take time to stabilize. It is yet early to take a view on the working of the centres.

[English]

Budget Hotels

*66. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various locations identified by the Railways for construction of budget hotels;

(b) the progress made in regard to construction of such hotels alongwith their present status; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the construction of such hotels alongwith the target time for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) The Railways have decided to set up one hundred Budget Hotels all over the Indian Railways network as per the details given in the enclosed statement. The hotels will be set up on public private partnership by Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

(b) Out of identified one hundred Budget Hotels sites, tenders for 20 sites have been finalized and awarded to successful bidders by IRCTC. Further, tender for 9 sites have been floated by IRCTC on 08.02.2007 and remaining 71 sites are under finalization.

(c) The quantum of investment for the Budget Hotels varies according to size, total room strength and location of the hotel, but on an average the investment is expected to be Rs. 20.00 crores (approximate) per hotel. No target time have been fixed for completion of these Budget Hotels.

Statement

List of Proposed locations for Budget Hotels

S.No	Location	Railway
1	2	3
1	Carnac Bunder	Central Railway
2	Nasik Road	Central Railway

1	2	3
3	Kolhapur	Central Railway
4	Lonawala	Central Railway
5	Mumbai CST	Central Railway
6	Nagpur	Central Railway
7	Shirdi	Central Railway
8	Pune	Central Railway
9	Gaya	East Central Railway
10	Patna	East Central Railway
11	Rajgir	East Central Railway
12	Bhubaneswar	East Coast Railway
13	Puri	East Coast Railway
14	Cuttack	East Coast Railway
15	Vishakhapattanam	East Coast Railway
16	Sealdah	Eastern Railway
17	Howrah	Eastern Railway
18	Mathura/Vrindavan	North Central Railway
19	Allahabad	North Central Railway
20	Gwalior	North Central Railway
21	Agra	North Central Railway
22	Agartala	Northeast Frontier Railway
23	Silchar/Lumding	Northeast Frontier Railway
24	Darjeeling	Northeast Frontier Railway
25	New Jalpaiguri	Northeast Frontier Railway
26	Guwahati	Northeast Frontier Railway
27	Srinagar	Northern Railway
28	Jammu	Northern Railway
29	Joginder Nagar	Northern Railway
30	Ludhiana	Northern Railway
31	Shimla	Northern Railway

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55	Tirupati	South Central Railway
56	Nanded	South Central Railway
57	Hyderabad	South Central Railway
58	Secunderabad	South Central Railway
59	Bilaspur	South East Central Railway
60	Raipur	South East Central Railway

1	2	3
61	Tata Naga	South Eastern Railway
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68	Rameshwaram	Southern Railway
69	Ooty	Southern Railway
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71	Ernakulam	Southern Railway
72	Kottayam	Southern Railway
73	Calicut	Southern Railway
74	Tuticorin	Southern Railway
75	Pondichery	Southern Railway
76	Alwaye	Southern Railway
77	Cochin	Southern Railway
78	Madurai	Southern Railway
79	Kodaikanal Road	Southern Railway
80	Quilon	Southern Railway
81	Belgaum	South Western Railway
82	Bangalore	South Western Railway
83	Madgaon	South Western Railway
84	Mysore	South Western Railway
85	Goa/Vasco-da-gama	South Western Railway
86	Khajuraho	West Central Railway
87	Kota	West Central Railway
88	Jabalpur	West Central Railway
89	Habibganj/Bhopal	West Central Railway

1	2	3
90	Indore	Western Railway
91	Vapi	Western Railway
92	Veraval	Western Railway
93	Rajkot	Western Railway
94	Mumbai	Central Western Railway
95	Ahmedabad	Western Railway
96	Vadodara	Western Railway
97	Dwarka/Okha	Western Railway
98	Surat	Western Railway
99	Bombay Bandra	Western Railway
100	Ujjain	Western Railway

[English]

Profit earned by Oil Refineries/Oil Companies

*67. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

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

(a) whether the profit earned by the oil refineries in the country through crude oil processing has increased during the first quarter of the year 2007-2008 vis-a-vis the profit earned during the first quarter of 2006-2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the average amount of profit per barrel earned by the Government oil companies during the said period;

(d) the profit earned by the said companies through this process during the said period of these two years, separately; and

(e) the reasons for difference in the amount of profit earned during the said two periods?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. A statement on Gross Refining Margin (GRMs) reflecting the earnings by Public Sector Refineries by way of crude oil processing during the first quarter of 2006-07 and 2007-08 is enclosed.

(e) The Gross Refining Margins (GRMs) vary from refinery to refinery and from period to period mainly on account of the following:

- i. Plant configurations and the type of crude processed,
- ii. Spread between international crude & product prices;

- iii. Operating parameters such as higher thruput, better distillate yield & lower fuel & loss.

	Statement			
	1st Quarter 2007-08 Apr-Jun'07	1st Quarter 2007-08 Apr-Jun'07	1st Quarter 2006-07 Apr-Jun'06	1st Quarter 2006-07 Apr-Jun'06
	Gross Refining Margin (GRM)	Total Gross Refining Margin*	Gross Refining Margin (GRM)	Total Gross Refining Margin*
	(\$ / bbl)	(Rs. In crore)	(\$ / bbl)	(Rs. In crore)
IOC				
Guwahati	18.07	113.29	(2.55)	(15.93)
Barauni	5.17	242.32	5.12	187.19
Gujarat	10.77	1109.38	5.38	562.28
Haldia	8.62	405.59	5.98	293.28
Mathura	13.96	830.86	9.07	697.63
Panipat	11.09	1092.09	9.24	532.56
Digboi	28.39	116.47	(0.87)	(4.57)
IOC Refineries	10.70	3910.00	6.70	2252.44
HPCL-Mumbai Refinery	9.04	477.58	8.08	518.97
HPCL-Vishakh Refinery	7.80	520.24	8.41	625.67
BPCL-Mumbai Refinery	6.50	642.74	5.41	505.71
BPCL-Kochi Refinery	7.97	475.34	5.98	430.95
CPCL	8.76	690.49	6.64	589.84
NRL	6.04	111.38	10.75	208.58
BRPL	16.80	253.85	12.70	234.55
MRPL	8.27	790.45	6.64	624.04

() means negative

* Total Gross Refining Margin is the product of crude throughput of the refinery and the GRM per barrel

[English]

Exploration of New Gas and Oil Blocks

*68. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH.

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

(a) the details of the survey for discovery of new gas and oil blocks conducted by the Government during 2007 so far, location-wise, company-wise;

(b) the details of the outcome of each of such survey;

(c) the details of expenditure incurred by the Government on each of such surveys;

(d) the details of achievements made from these surveys alongwith the quantity of oil and gas reserves discovered;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to explore such reserves; and

(f) the time by which production from such blocks will be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (f) During financial year 2006-07, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has carried out 9,751 km of 2D seismic, 24,172 sq. km of 3D seismic and drilled 87 exploratory wells in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu as well as in eastern and western offshore areas. Nine Oil & gas discoveries were made by ONGC in the states of Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and offshore areas including deepwater. Inplace hydrocarbon reserves accretion by ONGC in 2006-07 was about 170 Million Metric Tonnes of oil plus oil equivalent of gas (MMTOE). The exploration expenditure incurred by ONGC in 2006-07 was Rs. 4316.05 crore.

In 2006-07, Oil India Limited (OIL) has carried out 414 km of 2D seismic, 923 sq km of 3D seismic and drilled 9 exploratory wells in the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. Four oil & gas discoveries were made by OIL in Assam. Inplace hydrocarbon reserves accretion by OIL in 2006-07 was about 25 MMTOE. The exploration expenditure incurred by OIL in 2006-07 was Rs. 1044.16 crore.

In 2006-07, Private/JV Exploration and Production companies have carried out 2945 km of 2D seismic, 10225 Sq km of 3D seismic and drilled 111 exploratory wells in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat and Rajasthan as well as in eastern and western offshore areas. 11 oil & gas discoveries were made by private / Joint Venture companies in Gujarat, Rajasthan and offshore areas including deepwater. Inplace hydrocarbon reserves accretion by private/JV co. npanies in 2006-07 was about 193 MMTOE. The exploration expenditure incurred by private /JV companies in 2006-07 was Rs. 3105 crore.

In order to explore oil & gas in Indian sedimentary basins, Government of India has already awarded 162

exploration blocks in six bidding rounds under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) to national oil companies, private and foreign companies including 52 exploration blocks awarded in 2006-07. Under NELP, 43 oil & gas discoveries have been made and about 3 lakhs cubic metres of gas per day is being produced from one block of Gujarat. Gas production of 40 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) from Krishna Godavari Basin is likely to commence in July 2008, with peak production of 80 MMSCMD. Other discoveries made under NELP including in Mahanadi basin and off the coast of Orissa are under appraisal.

Normally, time taken for exploration of a block is about 3 to 8 years and development of oil & gas discoveries takes about 3 to 8 years depending upon the location of discovery, availability of infrastructure and markets in and around the discovery area.

Under-utilisation of Capacity of DLWs

*69. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the order for locos placed by the Railways with the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLWs) were far below the installed capacity of DLWs resulting in gross under-utilization of their capacity in terms of manpower and technology;

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

(c) whether the Railways require additional rolling stock to match the growth in traffic; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) Sir, the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), Varanasi has an installed capacity of 150 diesel locomotives per year from infrastructure point of view. During the last year, 2006-07, the production of locomotives was 186, i.e. 36 more than capacity. However, the production during the seven year period from 1999-2000 to 2005-06 were less than the installed capacity as the orders placed on DLW by the Railways were less. This is shown in table below:

Year	Installed capacity	Target (Orders by Indian Railways)	Actual number of locomotives turned out
1	2	3	4
1998-99	150	157	161
1999-00	150	138	137
2000-01	150	100	103

1	2	3	4
2001-02	150	90	102
2002-03	150	100	116
2003-04	150	109	116
2004-05	150	120	121
2005-06	150	143	148
2006-07	150	150	186
2007-08	150	200	78 (till July'07)
2008-09	150	250	-

(b) The less orders for Diesel Locomotives was due to the reduced requirement as traffic growth had been on the lower side resulting in reduced demand for locomotives, in the years 1999-00 to 2005-06.

However, due to the resurgence of traffic growth over the last three years, there has been an increase in requirement and the orders placed on DLW are commensurate to, and even more than, the installed capacity of DLW, and the trend is expected to continue in the foreseeable future.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. With the recent economic upsurge in the country, there has been growth in the traffic demands of the Indian Railways.

To meet the enhanced requirements of rolling stock, the Ministry of Railways, are setting up a Rail Coach Factory, a Diesel Locomotive Factory and an Electric Locomotive Factory, and also augmenting the capacities of the existing production units as under:

	Existing installed capacity (per year)	Capacity being augmented to: (per year)
Diesel Locomotives:		
Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi	150	200
Electric Locomotives:		
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works Chittaranjan	150	200
Coaches:		
Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala	1000	1400
Integral Coach Factory, Chennai	1000	1500
Wagons:		
Adequate capacity for manufacture of wagons exists in the Private and Public Sectors at present, and orders for wagons are being placed as per the requirements for traffic.		

[Translation]

Railway Projects Pending

*70. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise present status of ongoing and pending railway projects as on date;

(b) the State-wise number of railway projects sanctioned by the Railways during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) the amount sanctioned for each of these projects and the details of the works done on these projects during the above period;

(d) whether the Railways are aware that even after more than 12 years, several such railway projects in some States could not be completed till date;

(e) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Railways to complete the pending railway projects within the stipulated time limit?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) State-wise present status of ongoing and pending railway projects is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) State-wise, year-wise number of ongoing railway projects sanctioned during each of the last 3 years and till date are as under:-

S.No.	Name of the State	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	9	0	0	11
2	Assam and NER	1	2	0	0	3
3	Bihar	4	7	7	0	18
4	Chhattisgarh	3	1	2	1	7
5	Delhi	0	1	0	0	1
6	Gujarat	1	2	1	0	4
7	Haryana	1	1	2	0	4
8	Himachal Pradesh	2	0	0	0	2
9	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	0	0	1
10	Karnataka	3	5	0	0	8
11	Kerala	2	2	1	0	5
12	Madhya Pradesh	1	2	1	0	4
13	Maharashtra	2	1	1	0	4
14	Orissa	3	2	1	0	6
15	Punjab	2	0	0	0	2
16	Rajasthan	2	2	2	1	7
17	Tamil Nadu	2	7	0	0	9
18	Uttar Pradesh	5	8	7	0	20
19	Uttarakhand	2	0	0	0	2
20	West Bengal	4	2	1	1	8
	Total*	43	54	26	3	126

*Project falling fully/partly in more than 1 State has been shown in both the States.

(c) The details of works done and expenditure incurred on the projects included in the Budget in the last 3 years and the current year is covered in the Statement marked as (c):

(d) to (f) 22 projects consisting of 11 New Line, 8 Gauge Conversion, and 1 each of Doubling, Railway Electrification and Metropolitan Transport Project are not yet completed even after their inclusion in the Budget for more than 12 years. These projects have been delayed due to various reasons

including want of resources, non-acquisition of land and/or forestry clearances. In order to expedite completion of the railway projects, Ministry of Railways have taken a number of initiatives in the implementation of projects through participation of State Governments, Public Private Partnership, Defence funding and by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Further, the availability of funds has also increased over last couple of the years through internal generation of resources and additional funds for National Projects.

Statement

Railway Projects Pending for completion

S.No.	Year of inclusion in the Budget	Plan Head	Name of the Project	Length (in KMs)	Cost	Exp upto Mar, 07	Outlay during 2007-08	Projects included in budget in last 3 yrs and till date marked as @	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(Figures in Crore of Rupees)									
Andhra Pradesh									
1	1993-94	New Line	Peddapally-Karimnagar-Nizamabad	177.87	517.63	206	35.00		Peddapally-Karimnagar-Jagtiyal completed.
2	1996-97	New Line	Nandyal-Yerraguntla	126	173.32	44	15.00		Earthwork, Bridge work etc. taken up.
3	1997-98	New Line	Munirabad-Mehbubnagar	246	497.47	36	5.00		Yerramas-Yadlapur (14 km) completed. Land acquisition, earthwork taken up.
4	1997-98	New Line	Macherla-Nalgonda	92	243.17	0	5.00		Final Location Survey completed.
5	1998-99	New Line	Gadwal-Raichur	60	108.91	42	18.01		Earthwork, Bridge work etc. taken up.
6	1999-2000	New Line	Kakinada-Pithapuram	21.5	66.14	0	5.01		Clearances awaited.
7	2000-2001	New Line	Kotipalli-Narsapur	57.21	695	9	2.00		Land Acquisition taken up
8	2006-07	New Line	Vishnupuram-Janapahar	11	42.08	0	2.00	@	Final Location Survey completed.
9	2006-07	New Line	Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam	113	428.34	9.02	10.00	@	Work on Venkatachalam-Krishnapatnam taken up.
10	2006-07	New Line	Manoharabad-Kotapalli	148.9	378.56	0	0.01	@	Final Location Survey taken up.
11	2006-07	New Line	Jaggayapet-Mallacheruvu	19.1	53.21	4	10.00	@	Targeted for completion during 07-08.
12	2007-08	New Line	Rayadurg-Tumkur	213	887.31	0	0.01	@	Final clearances awaited.
13	1992-93	Gauge Conversion	Guntur-Guntakal & Guntakal-Kalluru New line from Pendakallu to Gooty	546.54	528.38	474.77	60.00		Guntur-Guntakal completed, Balance targeted for 2007-08
14	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Naupada-Gunupur	90	91.3	62	25.00		Earthwork, Bridge work etc. taken up.
15	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Dharmavaram-Pakala	227	294.99	19	85.00		Earthwork, Bridge work etc. taken up., Pakala-Madenapalli targeted for completion during 2007-08.
16	2001-02	Doubling	Gooty-Renigunta-Patch doubling	151	305.96	67	99.00		Work taken up

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
17	2003-04	Doubling	Raichur-Guntakal	81.1	145.81	0	50.00		Work taken up.
18	2006-07	Doubling	Vizianagram-Kottavalasa 3rd line	34.7	167.67	0	10.00	@	Final Location Survey completed.
19	2006-07	Doubling	Kottavalasa-Simhachalam North 4th line	16.69	86.32	0	20.00	@	Final Location Survey completed.
20	2006-07	Doubling	Guntur-Krishna Canal	27.12	76.17	13.91	56.00	@	Earthwork, bridge work taken up. Targeted for completion during 07-08.
21	2007-08	Doubling	Samalkot-Kakinada	15.6	65.12	0	10.00	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
22	1982-93	Railway Electrification	Renigunta-Guntakal	308	182,548	79	3.00		Renigunta-Nandur and Balampalle-Pullampet completed.
23	2006-07	Railway Electrification	Lingsampalli-Wadi	161	96.24	3	5.00	@	Preparation of plan and estimate taken up.
24	2006-07	Railway Electrification	Karepalli-Bhadrachalam-Manuguru	88	57,5428	11	10.00	@	Preparation of plan and estimate taken up.
Assam & North East Region									
1	1982-93	New Line	Dudhnot-Depra	15.5	22.33	0.5	0.02		Land could not be handed over due to public resistance.
2	1986-97	New Line	Kumarghat-Agarhala	109	879.99	633.67	45.00		Earthwork, bridges, tunnel etc. taken up and targeted for completion by Dec 07.
3	1986-97	New Line	Harmuti-Itanagar	33	156	0	5.00		Final Location Survey taken up.
4	1997-98	New Line	Bogibeeel bridge with linking lines between Dibrugarh and North Bank line	73	1767.36	700.16	249.45		Earthwork, bridge work, boulder collection taken up.
5	2000-01	New Line	New Maynaguri-Jogighopa	257	894.38	149	55.00		Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge work taken up.
6	2003-04	New Line	Jiribam-Imphal Road (Tupul)	97.9	727.56	5.6	15.00		Final Location Survey, land acquisition taken up.
7	2006-07	New Line	Dimapur-Kohima (Zubza)	88	850	0	1.00	@	Final Location Survey taken up.
8	2068-07	New Line	Azra-Byrnihat	30	200	0	1.66	@	Final Location Survey taken up.
9	1983-94	Gauge Conversion	Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingers, Haibargaon-Mairabari (44.8 kms) and Senchoa Jn.-Slighat Town (61.85 kms)	734.65	882.12	796	5.00		Lumding-Dibrugarh completed. Senchoa-Slighat targeted for completion during 07-08.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	1996-97	Gauge Conversion	Lumding-Silchar including alignment between Migmaisa-Ditockchera and extension from Bedarpur to Bhatnagar	367	1678.31	824	90.00	Various works taken up. Targeted for completion by March 2010.		
11	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	New Jaipalguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon - Branch lines.	419.48	892.83	824.15	31.00	New Jaipalguri-New Bongaigaon completed.		
12	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Katakhal-Bairabhi	84	88.7	10	5.98	Earthwork, bridge work taken up.		
13	2003-04	Gauge Conversion	Rangia-Murkongselek alongwith linked fingers	510.33	915.7	7	22.00	Work taken up on Rangia-Rangapara north section.		
14	2007-08	Doubling	New Guwahati-Digaru Bihār	29.81	96.32	0	10.00	New work included in budget 07-08. @		
1	1995-96	New Line	Mandurhi-Rampurhat via Durnka	130	254.07	96	17.00	Earthwork, bridge work taken up.		
2	1996-97	New Line	Sakri-Hasanpur	76	89.7	41.56	20.00	Earthwork, bridge work taken up.		
3	1996-97	New Line	Khagaria-Kusheshwarsthan	42.3	162.87	33.7	5.00	Land acquisition, earthwork taken up.		
4	1997-98	New Line	Patna-Ganga bridge with linking lines between Patna and Hajipur	19	769.42	301.45	100.00	Work on main bridge substructure taken up. North and South Approaches also in progress.		
5	1997-98	New Line	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi	64.5	232.15	111.26	40.00	Earthwork, bridge work etc. in progress. Targeted for completion during 2007-08.		
6	1997-98	New Line	Munger-rail-cum-road Bridge on river Ganga	19.8	961	184.11	120.00	Work on main bridge substructure in progress Land acquisition, protection taken up.		
7	1997-98	New Line	Ara-Sasaram	98	189.14	192.3	25.00	Sasaram-Bikramganj completed. Balance targeted for 2007-08.		
8	1998-99	New Line	Fatuha-Islampur Restoration and Sheikhpura to Neora via Dantiawan	171.5	406.92	189	10.00	Fatuha-Islampur Completed.		
9	2000-01	New Line	Deogarh-Sultanganj, Banka-Barahat and Banka-Bhitish Road	151.28	312	93	15.00	Banka-Barahat completed. Work taken up on balance portion.		
10	2001-02	New Line	Rajgir-Hisua-Tilaiya & Islampur-Natesar MM	67	245.17	172.29	10.00	Tilaiya-Jagdishpur and Rajgir-Natesar completed.		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	2001-02	New Line	Koderma-Tilaiya	65	413.17	31.85	25.66		Earthwork, bridges in part length taken up. Land acquisition in progress.
12	2003-04	New Line	Maharajganj-Misrakh	36.155	113.75	40.22	2.00		Final Location Survey completed and land acquisition taken up.
13	2003-04	New Line	Kosi Bridge	21.85	341.41	14.55	30.00		Main bridge substructure taken up.
14	2003-04	New Line	Hajipur-Segauli	148.3	324.86	48.14	5.00		Final location survey completed. Land acquisition taken up.
15	2005-06	New Line	Hathua-Bhaini	79.64	230.03	31	40.00	@	Final location survey completed. Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges taken up.
16	2006-07	New Line	Mothari-Sitamathi	76.7	211	0	4.47	@	Final Location Survey taken up.
17	2006-07	New Line	Darbhanga-Kusheshwar Asthan	70.14	205	0	8.00	@	Final Location Survey taken up.
18	2006-07	New Line	Chhitauni-Tumkuhi Road	58.88	235	0.01	5.00	@	Final Location Survey taken up.
19	2006-07	New Line	Chhapra-Muzzafarpur	84.65	378.56	0	2.50	@	Final Location Survey taken up.
20	2006-07	New Line	Araria-Galgalla (Thakurgani)	100	300	0	0.50	@	Final Location Survey taken up.
21	2007-08	New Line	Sultanganj-Katuria	74.8	288.85	0	0.01	@	Final clearances awaited.
22	2007-08	New Line	Bihta-Aurangabad	118.45	326.2	0	0.01	@	Final clearances awaited.
23	2007-08	New Line	Bartarpur-Mananpur	67.78	250.55	0	0.01	@	Final clearances awaited.
24	1996-97	Gauge Conversion	Mansi-Saharsa & Saharsa-Dauram Madhepura-Purnia	142	330.51	133	40.15		Mansi-Saharsa completed.
25	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Samastipur-Khagaria & Mansi-Khagaria	94	132.45	152.53	20.00		Khagaria-Mansi-Hassanpur-Ruseraghat completed.
26	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	288	523.81	150	85.00		Jayanagar-Darbhanga nearing completion. Darbhanga-Sitamathi targeted for completion by 2007-08.
27	1999-2000	Gauge Conversion	Kaptanganj-Thave-Siwan-Chhapra	233.5	325.1	98	130.00		Thave-Siwan completed.
28	2000-01	Gauge Conversion	Katihar-Jogbani and Katihar-Barsoi-Radhikapur	200	425.05	429.15	108.00		Barsoi-Radhikapur completed and Katihar-Barsoi nearing completion. Balance targeted for 2007-08.
29	2003-64	Gauge Conversion	Sakri-Laukaha Bazar-Nirmali & Saharsa Forbesganj	206.06	355.81	8	5.00		Tenders are under process for invitation.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
30	2006-07	Gauge Conversion	Aluabani Road-Siliguri	76	170	0	15.00	@	Final Location Survey taken up.
31	1999-2000	Doubling	Purpun-Taregna (Patna-Gaya, Ph-III)	16	63.53	66	3.00		Completed.
32	2002-03	Doubling	Taregna-Jehanabad	15.2	87.16	1	10.00		Earthwork, bridges taken up.
33	2002-03	Doubling	Kajra-Kul	15	23.23	8	15.00		Earthwork, bridges taken up.
34	2003-04	Doubling	Sonepur-Hajipur including Gandak Bridge	5.5	53.97	3.05	35.00		Gandak bridge taken up.
35	2003-04	Doubling	Jehanabad-Bela	27.47	75	0	5.00		Work yet to be taken up.
36	2003-04	Doubling	Bela-Chakhand	9.98	23.19	1	5.00		Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
37	2005-06	Doubling	Tirath-Begusarai	7.24	15.25	0	15.00	@	Earthwork, bridges etc. taken up.
38	2005-06	Doubling	Thanabihpur-Kursela	34.2	45	3.58	20.00	@	Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
39	2005-06	Doubling	Maheshkurt-Thanabihpur	31.75	45.41	33.28	25.00	@	Earthwork, bridges, track linking taken up.
40	2005-06	Doubling	Kursela-Semapur	27.78	49.28	15.39	15.00	@	Earthwork, bridges, track linking taken up.
41	2005-06	Doubling	Ekma-Jiradei patch doubling	43.6	89.83	10	25.00	@	Earthwork, bridges, taken up.
42	2005-06	Doubling	Begusarai-Khagaria	40.23	71.31	5.35	50.00	@	Earthwork, bridges, track linking taken up.
43	2006-07	Doubling	Bhaini-Jiradei	38.11	100.27	0.01	30.00	@	Work taken up.
44	2007-08	Railway Electrification	Barabanki-Gorakhpur-Barauni	709.14	526.44	0	0.50	@	New Work sanctioned in 07-08.
Chhattisgarh									
1	1995-96	New Line	Dalrajahara-Jagdalpur	235	968.6	0	13.00		Land Acquisition taken up.
2	1997-98	Doubling	Bilaspur-Urkura	110	362.55	152	74.00		Bilaspur-Bhatapara completed.
3	2004-05	Doubling	Bilaspur-Salka Road	39.4	144.18	15	25.00		Targeted for completion during 07-08.
4	2005-06	Doubling	Salka Road-Khongsara Patch Doubling	26	84	0	10.00	@	Work is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)
5	2005-06	Doubling	Bhilai-Durg 3rd line	13.16	33	2	20.00	@	Preliminary works taken up.
6	2006-07	Doubling	Khodri-Anuppur with flyover at Bilaspur	61.6	84	0	10.00	@	Work is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7	2007-08	Doubling	Rajpur-Titiagarh	203	614.35	0	1.00	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
8	2007-08	Doubling	Bypass at Champna	14	31	0	5.00	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
9	2007-08	Doubling	Bypass at Annupur	6	18.42	0	5.00	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
			Delhi						
1	1998-99	Doubling	New Delhi-Tilak Bridge 5th and 6th line	2.65	55.42	36.51	5.00		Works taken up. 6th Lines targeted for completion by 07-08.
2	1999-2000	Doubling	Dayabasti-Grade separator	6	33.58	0	4.00		Preliminary works taken up.
3	2003-04	Doubling	Sahibabad-Anand Vihar - 3rd & 4th line	4	49.57	0	45.00		Work taken up.
4	2006-07	Doubling	Tughlakabad-Palwal 4th line	33.5	83	0	1.00	@	Work taken up.
5	2001-02	Railway Electrification	Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Gurgaon	30	12	0	0.00		Clearances awaited.
			Gujarat						
1	1989-90	New Line	Dahod-Indore & Dewas-Maksi	236	678.56	56.07	6.00		Dewas-Maksi completed. Final location survey taken on Dahod-Indore taken up.
2	2007-08	New Line	Chhotaudepur-Dhar	157	570	6	0.01	@	Final clearances awaited.
3	1990-91	Gauge Conversion	Bhildi-Virangam	157	124.65	110	45.00		Virangam-Mehsana completed. Mehsana-Pattan targeted for 07-08.
4	1991-92	Gauge Conversion	Bhildi-Samdari	223	244.74	103	110.00		Work taken up. Targeted for 08-09.
5	1994-85	Gauge Conversion	Rajkot-Veraval, Wansjalia to Jetalsar with new line from Veraval to Somnath	281	508.87	265.14	38.00		Rajkot-Veraval completed.
6	1996-97	Gauge Conversion	Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhara-Mahuva with extrn. to Pipavav	387	562.27	510	30.00		Surendernagar-Bhavnagar-Pipavav completed.
7	2005-06	Gauge Conversion	Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur	99.27	227.52	12.81	50.00	@	Earthwork, bridge work taken up. Pratapnagar-Bodell targeted for completion during 07-08.
8	2006-07	Gauge Conversion	Rajpipla-Ankleshwar	62.89	115	0	10.00	@	Preliminary works taken up.
9	2006-07	Gauge Conversion	Bharuch-Sammi-Dahej	62.36	165.66	0	2.60	@	Work with RVNL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	2000-01	Doubling	Surat-Kosamba PH-I of 3rd line between Vadodara and Virar priority.	35	49	0	0.10		Being regulated as per low operational
1	2003-04	New Line	Haryana Rewari-Rohtak	81.26	196.36	33.42	40.00		Earthwork, bridge work, land acquisition taken up.
2	2003-04	New Line	Jind-Sonapat	88.9	190.81	0.41	6.46		Final location survey completed.
3	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Rewari-Sadulpur (211 Kms) Incl. Sadulpur-Hissar (70 Kms)	281	364.19	18.97	160.00		Earthwork, bridge works etc. taken up.
4	2005-06	Gauge Conversion	Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari	294.97	469.1	139	125.00	@	Rewari-Ringus-Phulera targeted for completion by March 08.
5	2003-04	Doubling	Rohtak-Jakhal	52	66.75	49.95	35.00		Patch doubling targeted for completion 07-08.
6	2005-06	Doubling	Palwal-Bhuteshwar 3rd line	81	330	7	125.00	@	Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
7	2008-07	Doubling	Tughlakabad-Palwal 4th line	33.5	83	0	1.00	@	Work under implementation by RVNL
8	2007-08	Doubling	Kukrana-Paripat		821.65	0	5.00		@ New work.
9	1982-83	Railway Electrification	Ambala-Moradabad	274	249.6	240	5.00		Work nearing completed.
10	2001-02	Railway Electrification	Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Gurgaon	30	12	0	0.00		Clearances awaited.
1	1981-82	New Line	Himachal Pradesh Nangal Dam-Taiwara & Taking over siding of Mukerian Taiwara	83.74	300	125	15.08		Nangaldam-Una-Chururu-takraia completed. Land acquisition taken up in part length.
3	2007-08	New Line	Chandigarh-Baddi	33.23	328.14	0	0.00	@	Clearances awaited.
3	1997-98	Doubling	Jalandhar-Pathankot-Jammu Tawi	203	461.23	444.09	100.00		100 kms completed. Balance is targeted for completion during current year and next year.
4	2007-08	Railway Electrification	Jalandhar-Jammu Tawi	222	95.46	0	0.25	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
1	1994-95	New Line	Jammu and Kashmir Uchampur-Srinagar-Baramulla	292	11270	3825.5	0.00		Kakapora-Budgam completed. Project is targeted for completion by 2011-12.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	1997-98	Doubling	Jalandhar-Pathankot-Jammu Tawi	203	461.23	444.09	100.00		100 kms completed. Balance is targeted for completion during current year and next year.
3	2007-08	Railway Electrification	Jalandhar-Jammu Tawi	222	95.46	0	6.25	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
			Jharkhand						
1	1995-96	New Line	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	130	254.07	96	17.00		Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
2	1997-98	New Line	Girdih-Koderma	102.5	390.07	125.22	20.00		Earthwork, bridges taken up.
3	1998-99	New Line	Koderma-Ranchi	202	1033.04	335.63	50.00		Land acquisition, earthwork taken up.
4	1998-99	New Line	Deogarh-Dumka	72.25	180.73	107	10.00		Earthwork, bridge works etc. taken up.
5	2000-01	New Line	Deogarh-Sultanganj, Banka-Barahat and Banka-Bhitiah Road	151.28	312	93	15.00		Banka-Barahat completed. Work taken up on balance portion.
6	2001-02	New Line	Koderma-Tilaiya	65	413.17	31.85	25.00		Earthwork, bridges in part length taken up. Land acquisition in progress.
7	1996-97	Gauge Conversion	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori	111	324	181.45	10.66		Ranchi-Lohardaga gauge conversion completed. Balance in progress.
8	1997-98	Doubling	Goelkera-Manoharpur 3rd line (Chakradharpur - Bondamunda Section)	40	186.92	1.7	20.00		Preliminary works taken up.
9	2003-04	Doubling	Barharwa-Tripahar	16.49	41.13	17	25.00		Earthwork, bridges taken up and Barharwa
			Karnataka						
1	1995-96	New Line	Kottur-Harihara via Harpanhalli	65	206.82	46	30.70		Kottur-Harpanhalli targeted for completion during 2007-08.
2	1998-97	New Line	Kadur-Chickmagalur-Saklesphur	93	274.29	56	10.00		Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, taken up on Kadur-Chickmagalur section.
3	1998-97	New Line	Hubli-Ankola	167	997.58	70	5.00		Land Acquisition taken up. Proposal pressed for forestry clearance.
4	1998-97	New Line	Hassan-Bangalore	166	412.91	220.08	21.00		Hassan-Shiravanabelagola completed. Work taken up on balance section.
5	1998-97	New Line	Bangalore-Satyamanglam	280	901.62	0	1.00		Final Location Survey taken up.
6	1997-98	New Line	Munirabad-Mehbubnagar	246	497.47	36	5.00		Yemmaraj-Yadliapur (14 km) completed. Land acquisition, earthwork taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7	1997-97	New Line	Gulbarga-Bidar	140	369.7	51	20.00		Earthwork, bridges taken up.
8	1998-99	New Line	Gadwal-Raichur	60	108.91	42	18.01		Earthwork, bridges taken up.
9	2007-08	New Line	Rayadurg-Tumkur	213	887.31	0	0.01	@	Clearances awaited.
10	1992-93	Gauge Conversion	Shimoga-Taiguppa (Bangalore-Hubli-Birur-Shimoga)	630	539.43	409.85	70.00		Earthwork, bridges taken up.
11	1993-94	Gauge Conversion	Sholapur (Hotgi)-Gadag	284	357.7	312	65.00		Sholapur-Bagalkot completed and balance targeted for 07-08.
12	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Mysore-Chamarajanagar (Ph-I) with extn to Mettupalayam	148	606.58	87	45.00		Mysore-Chamarajanagar taken up and targeted for 07-08.
13	2006-07	Gauge Conversion	Kolar-Chickballapur	96.5	98.42	5	64.00	@	Earthwork, bridges taken up.
14	1997-98	Doubling	Yeshwantpur-Tumkur	64	109.56	96.18	30.00		Work in advance stages.
15	1997-98	Doubling	Kengeri-Ramnagar	29.83	142.02	42.47	10.00		Targeted for completion during 07-08.
16	1997-98	Doubling	Bangalore-Whitefield-Bangalore City-Krishnarajpuram Quadrupling	23.08	84.98	0	0.10		Clearances awaited.
17	2003-04	Doubling	Raichur-Guntakal	81.1	145.81	0	50.00		Earthwork, Bridge work etc. taken up.
18	2006-07	Doubling	Kankanadi-Panamburu Patch Doubling	19	70	0	2.00	@	Preliminary works taken up.
19	2006-07	Doubling	Hubli-Hebsur	17.17	56.99	0	20.66	@	Preliminary works taken up.
20	2006-07	Doubling	Dharwad-Kambaravi	26.68	87.48	0	30.00	@	preliminary works taken up.
21	2007-08	Doubling	Ramanagar-Mysore incl. electrification of Kengeri-Mysore	91.5	343.18	0	5.16	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
22	2007-08	Doubling	Arasikere-Birur	44.28	96.21	0	1.00	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
23	2006-07	Railway Electrification	Lingampalli-Wadi	161	96.24	3	5.00	@	Preparation of plan and estimate taken up.
Kerala									
1	1997-98	New Line	Angamali-Sabarimala	146	550	7.2	10.00		Final Location Survey taken up. Land acquisition taken up.
2	1999-2000	New Line	Tanur (Kunitipuram)-Guruvayoor	50.23	137.71	15	2.77		Final location survey taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhnagar	357	697.14	294.46	90.02		Virudnagar- Tenkasi completed. Quilon-Punnalur and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur targeted for completion during 07-08.
4	2006-07	Gauge Conversion	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat & Pollachi-Coimbatore	224.88	343.17	0	30.00	@	Preliminary works taken up.
5	2001-02	Doubling	Ernakulam-Mulianturutti	17.37	91.16	51	8.00		Work nearing completion.
6	2003-04	Doubling	Mavelikara-Kayankulam	7.89	26.81	14.1	5.00		Earthwork bridges taken up.
7	2003-04	Doubling	Mavelikara-Chengannur	12.3	89.87	7.11	31.00		Earthwork bridges taken up.
8	2003-04	Doubling	Cheppad-Kayankulam	7.76	27.94	7.3	10.00		Earthwork bridges taken up.
9	2003-04	Doubling	Cheppad-Haripad patch doubling	5.28	33.49	1.64	10.00		Earthwork bridges taken up.
10	2005-06	Doubling	Mulianturutti-Kuruppantara	24	79.94	5	30.00	@	Earthwork bridges taken up.
11	2006-07	Doubling	Chinganur-Chingavanam	26.5	99.69	0	15.00	@	Tender under process.
12	2007-08	Doubling	Kuruppantthara-Chengavannam	26.58	99.2	0	2.00	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
13	2007-08	Doubling	Ambalapuzha-Haripad	18.13	48.38	0	2.00	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
14	1999-2000	Railway Electrification	Ernakulam-Trivandrum	320	243.38	165	15.00		Work completed.
			Madhya Pradesh						
1	1985-86	New Line	Guna-Etawah	344	432.46	388.64	30.00		Guna-Bhind completed.
2	1989-90	New Line	Dahod-Indore & Dewas-Maksi	236	678.56	56.07	6.66		Dewas-Maksi completed. Final location survey taken on Dahod -Indore taken up.
3	1997-98	New Line	Lalitpur-Satna & Rewa-Singrauli	541	925	182.4	50.00		Earthwork bridges taken up, Mahoba-Khajuraho targeted for completion during 07-08.
4	2000-01	New Line	Ramgarjmandi-Bhopal	262	726.05	67.38	30.00		Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges taken up. Ramgarjmandi-Jhalawar is likely to be completed during 08-09.
5	2007-08	New Line	Chhotaudepur-Dhar	157	570	0	0.01	@	Clearances awaited.
6	1996-97	Gauge Conversion	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi	285	524.88	240	60.00		Gondia-Balaghat completed. Work taken up on balance section.
7	2005-06	Gauge Conversion	Chhindwara-Nagpur	149.52	383.79	11	70.00	@	Final location survey completed. Earthwork, bridges taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8	1990-91	Doubling	Kalalpai-Phanda/Maksi-Bhopal	41.49	97.64	83.54	25.00		Targeted for completion by March 08.
9	2003-04	Doubling	Akodia-Shujalpur Patch doubling	13.15	34.4	10.4	10.00		Earthwork, bridges taken up.
10	2006-07	Railway Electrification	Ujjain-Indore & Dewas-Maksi	115	48.3496	0.01	12.00	@	Work being taken up.
11	2006-07	Railway Electrification	Bina-Kota	303	175.72	0.05	10.00	@	Work being taken up.
Maharashtra									
1	1993-94	New Line	Amravati-Narkher	138	284.27	170.67	7.00		Amravati-Chandurbazar completed.
2	1993-94	Gauge Conversion	Sholapur (Hotgi)-Gadag	284	357.7	312	65.00		Sholapur-Bagalgot completed and balance targeted for 07-08.
3	1996-97	Gauge Conversion	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat-Katangi	285	524.88	240	60.00		Gonda-Balaghat completed. Work taken up on balance section.
4	2000-01	Gauge Conversion	Akola-Purna	210	245.22	148.21	150.00		Targeted for completion during 07-08.
5	2005-06	Gauge Conversion	Chhindwara-Nagpur	149.52	383.79	11	70.00	@	Final location survey completed. Earthwork, bridges taken up.
6	2002-03	Doubling	Pakni-Solapur	16.28	36.52	9	12.00		Nearing completion.
7	2003-04	Doubling	Pakni-Mahol	17	42.73	28	24.00		Targeted for completion during 07-08.
8	2006-07	Doubling	Parvel-Pen	35.46	96.16	0	10.00	@	Preliminary works taken up.
9	2007-08	Doubling	Pen-Roha	40	98.74	0	2.00	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
10	2007-08	Doubling	Kalurna-Nagpur	6.16	21.61	6	2.00	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
11	2003-04	Metropolitan Transport (MUTP)	Mumbai Urban Transport Project		3480	1182	474.25		Work on various stages taken up.
12	1965-66	New Line	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajirath	281.25	462.67	15	10.00		Final Location Survey completed and land acquisition taken up.
13	1996-99	New Line	Baramati-Lonad	54	138.48	17.5	5.00		Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges taken upon Lonad-Phalton section.
14	2000-01	New Line	Puntamba-Shirdi	17.8	79.77	53	20.00		Earthwork, bridges etc. taken up. Targeted for completion during 07-08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15	1993-94	Gauge Conversion	Miraj-Latur	374	515.57	402.11	75.53		Latur to Osmanabad and Khurduwadi Pandharpur completed.
16	1999-2006	Doubling	Divya-Kalyan doubling of 5th & 6th line	10.73	70	63	5.00		Work completed. Yet to be commissioned.
17	1996-97	Metropolitan Transport	Thane-Turbhe-Nerul/Vashi part of corridor No.1 in New Mumbai	23.3	403.39	363	1.00		Thane-Vashi completed. Turbhe-Nerul targeted for 07-08.
18	1996-97	Metropolitan Transport	Belapur-Seaewood-Uran electrified double line	27	495.44	84	15.00		Earthwork, bridges taken up.
Orissa									
1	1993-94	New Line	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh	56	142	37	12.00		Earthwork, bridgework and land acquisition taken up.
2	1994-95	New Line	Khurda Road-Bolangir	289	700	68	20.00		Final location survey completed, earthwork, bridge work and land acquisition taken up.
3	1996-97	New Line	Haridaspur-Paradeep	82	594.34	69	20.00		Under execution by RVNL through SPV mode and work on Mahandi and Luna bridges taken up.
4	1997-98	New Line	Angul-Sukinda Road	98.76	344	1	12.00		Under execution by RVNL through SPV mode and land acquisition taken up
5	2003-04	New Line	Talcher-Bimlagarh	154	790.08	2	15.00		Final location survey completed, detailed estimate is under process of sanction.
6	1995-96	Gauge Conversion	Rupsa-Bangriposi	90	135.56	65.4	35.00		52 Kms completed. Earthwork, bridge work, ballast collection and track linking taken up on balance 38 Km section from Barpada to Bangriposi.
7	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Naupada-Gunupur	90	91.3	62	25.00		Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge works taken up.
8	1996-97	Doubling	Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep (2nd Bridges on Mahanadi & Birupa)	3	122	54	64.00		Bridge on Birupa river completed and the bridge on Mahanadi is under execution by RVNL through ADB funding and planned for completion during 2007-08.
9	1997-98	Doubling	Titlagarh-Lanjigarh	47	150	146	15.00		34 Kms completed and balance 13 Kms is targeted for completion during 2007-08.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	1999-2000	Doubling	Rajatgarh-Barang	29.32	242.87	24	86.00		Under execution by RVNL through ADB funding. Final location survey completed and work of bridges road bed and track linking taken up.
11	2000-01	Doubling	Khurda Road-Puri (PH-I)	15.3	68.71	58	5.00		Work is nearing completion
12	2002-03	Doubling	Sambalpur-Rengali	22.7	60.36	40	25.00		Land acquisition and targeted for completion during 2007-08.
13	2002-03	Doubling	Jharkhandruguda Bypass	8.73	44	23	20.00		Earthwork, ballast and track linking taken up and targeted for completion during 2007-08.
14	2003-04	Doubling	Khurda Road-Barang 3rd line	35	207	23	88.00		Under execution by RVNL through ADB funding. Work of road bed, bridges, ballast, track taken up.
15	2003-04	Doubling	Cuttack-Barang	12.3	178.98	47	55.00		Under execution by RVNL through ADB funding. Work of road bed, bridges, ballast, track taken up.
16	2005-06	Doubling	Jharkhandruguda-Rengali	25.96	91.41	2	17.00	@	Final location survey completed and detailed estimate sanctioned. Work is being taken up.
17	2006-07	Doubling	Sambalpur-Titlagarh	182	474.25	0	10.00	@	Detailed estimate is under process of sanction.
18	2006-07	Doubling	Padapahar-Banspani	28	138.009	1	50.00	@	Detailed estimate sanctioned. Padapahar to Dongraposi (6 Kms) is targeted for completion during 2007-08.
19	2007-08	Doubling	Raipur-Titlagarh	203	614.35	0	1.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
20	2007-08	Doubling	Bimlagarh-Dumitra	18.3	73.77	0	3.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
21	2007-08	Doubling	Barbil-Barajandia	10	41.7	0	3.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
22	1995-96	Railway Electrification	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Talcher-Paradeep	540	406.51	392	2.00		450 Kms energized and electrification on Cuttack-Paradeep taken up.
			Punjab						
1	1981-82	New Line	Nangal Dam-Talwara & Taking over siding of Mukerian Talwara	83.74	300	125	15.08		Nangaldam-Una-Churaru-Takrala completed. Land acquisition taken up in part length.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	1997-98	New Line	Tarantaran-Goinawal	21.5	37.51	12.53	5.00		Final location survey completed. Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
3	1997-98	New Line	Chandigarh-Ludhiana	112	577.03	271.16	30.00		45 Kms completed and land acquisition taken up on Morinda-Sahnewal. On Sahnewal-Ludhiana, earthwork, bridge works taken up.
4	1997-98	New Line	Beas-Dera Baba Jaimal Singh	5	4.07	0	0.01		Dera authorities have not signed the MoU for transfer of land free of cost to the railways since October '98, as committed.
5	1997-98	New Line	Abohar-Fazilka	42.72	86.44	23.73	10.00		Land acquisition taken up. Earthwork, bridge works taken up in 16 Kms length.
6	2007-08	New Line	Chandigarh-Baddli	33.23	328.14	0	0.00	@	Clearances awaited.
7	1997-98	Doubling	Jalandhar-Patankot-Jammu tawi	203	461.23	444.09	100.00		100 kms completed. Balance is targeted for completion during current year and next year.
8	2007-08	Railway electrification.	Jalandhar-Jammu Tawi	222	95.46	0	0.25	@	New work included in budget 07-08.
			Rajasthan						
1	1998-97	New Line	Deusa-Gangapur City	92.67	208.83	28	5.00		Earthwork and bridge work taken up.
2	2000-01	New Line	Ramgarjmandi-Bhopal	262	726.05	67.38	30.00		Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges taken up. Ramgarjmandi-Jhalawar is likely to be completed during 08-09.
3	2000-01	New Line	Ajmer-Pushkar	31.4	88.4	33	10.00		Forestry clearances obtained. Earthwork and bridge works taken up.
4	1991-92	Gauge Conversion	Bhildi-Samdari	223	244.74	103	110.00		Work taken up. Targeted for 08-09.
5	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Sriganganagar-Sarupsar	116	170.59	4	30.00		Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
6	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Rewari-Sadulpur (211 Kms) incl. Sadulpur-Hissar (70 Kms)	281	364.19	18.97	160.00		Earthwork, bridge work etc. taken up.
7	1999-2000	Gauge Conversion	Phulera-Jodhpur-Pipar Road-Bilara	41.14	33.44	9.9	20.00		Targeted for completion during 2007-08.
8	2005-06	Gauge Conversion	Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari	294.97	469.1	139	125.00	@	Rewari-Ringus-Phulera targeted for completion by March 08.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	2007-08	Gauge Conversion	Sedulpur-Bikaner & Ratangarth-Degana	394.35	474.79	0	50.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
10	2004-05	Doubling	Jaipur-Phulera	54.75	94.91	2.12	60.00	@	Bridge work and ballast supply has been taken up.
11	2005-06	Doubling	Jaipur-Dausa	61.28	148.38	1.47	10.00	@	Ballast collection taken up.
12	2008-07	Doubling	Dausa-Bandikui	29.04	67.11	0	5.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
13	2007-08	Doubling	Alwar-Harsauli	34.86	89.62	0	5.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
14	2006-07	Railway Electrification	Bhna-Kota	303	175.72	0.05	10.00	@	Work being taken up.
Tamil Nadu									
1	1986-97	New Line	Karur-Salem	85	229.88	112	20.00		Litigation on land acquisition in Salem and Namakkal districts are being attended to.
2	1996-97	New Line	Bangalore-Satyamanglam	260	901.62	0	1.00		Final location survey taken up.
3	2006-07	New Line	Tindivanam-Nageri	179.2	456	0	10.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
4	2006-07	New Line	Tindivanam-Gingee-Tiruvannamalai	70	125	0	10.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
5	1995-96	Gauge Conversion	Tiruchirappalli-Nagore-Karalkkal (200 Kms) with extn. Nagespattinam-Tiruthirapundi (43 Kms)	243	205.79	196.5	36.00		105 Kms completed. 30 Kms from (Tiruvuru to Nagore targeted during 2007-08.
6	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhnagar	357	697.14	294.46	90.02		Virudhunagar-Tenkasi completed. Quilon-Punnalur and Tirunelveli-Trichandur targeted for completion during 07-08.
7	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Madurai-Rameswaram	161	246.47	241	45.00		Completed and commissioned.
8	1998-99	Gauge Conversion	Thanjavur-Vilupuram	192	356.9	210	75.00		71 Kms completed and balance targeted for completion during 2007-08.
9	1999-2000	Gauge Conversion	Cuddalore-Salem via Vriddhachalam	191	517.49	227	30.00		Work has been completed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	2000-01	Gauge Conversion	Vilupuram-Katpadi	161	232.83	67	80.00		84 Kms from Vellore to Tiruvannamalai is targeted for completion during 2007-08.
11	2000-01	Gauge Conversion	Trichy-Manamadurai	160	200	190	80.00		90 Kms completed and commissioned and balance is targeted for completion 2007-08.
12	2006-07	Gauge Conversion	Manamadurai-Virudhnagar	66.55	97.24	0	25.00	@	Detailed estimate is under process of a sanction.
13	2006-07	Gauge Conversion	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat & Pollachi-Coimbatore	224.88	343.17	0	30.00	@	Preliminary works taken up.
14	2007-08	Gauge Conversion	Mayiladuturai-Karaikudi & Tiruturai-pundi-Agastiyampalli	224	404.19	0	10.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
15	1996-97	Doubling	Irugur-Coimbatore	17.7	38.67	34	10.00		2.7 Kms completed and earthwork, bridge work, ballast collection and track linking taken up in the balance section.
16	1999-2000	Doubling	Attipattu-Korukkupettai	18	132.03	61	5.00		The work is targeted for completion in 2007-08.
17	2002-03	Doubling	Pattabiram-Tiruvallur 4th line (15.06 km) & Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 3rd line (26.83 Km)	41.89	70	52	45.00		Under execution by RVNIL through ADB funding. 16 Kms completed and balance 26 Kms is targeted for completion during 2007-08.
18	2003-04	Doubling	Medurai-Dindigul (Suppl)	62.05	128.56	6	70.00		Detailed estimate sanctioned. Earthwork, bridge work, ballast collection taken up.
19	2003-04	Doubling	Chennai Beach-Korukkupet	4.1	59.5	0	2.00		Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
20	2003-04	Doubling	Chennai Beach-Attipattu 4th line (Suppl)	22.1	50.23	0	2.00		Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
21	2006-07	Doubling	Chengalpatu-Vilupuram-Tiruvannamalai	103	247	0	11.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
22	1996-97	Metropolitan Transport Project	Thirumallai to Velacherry - MRTS (Ph-II)	11.17	733.39	632	8.00		Work has been completed.
23	2006-07	Metropolitan Transport Project	Extn. of MRTS from Velachery to St. Thomas Mount	5	165.59	0	10.00	@	Detailed estimate under process of sanction.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
24	2006-07	Railway Electrification	Vikapuram-Tiruchirappalli	178	98.6686	230	5.00	@	Estimate sanctioned, contract awarded.
25	2007-08	Railway Electrification	Tiruchirappalli-Madurai	154	154	0	0.25	@	Estimate under process of sanction.
			Uttar Pradesh						
1	1985-86	New Line	Guna-Etawah	344	432.46	388.64	30.00		Guna-Bhind completed.
2	1995-96	New Line	Rampur-Lalkuan-Kathgodam ROB on NH	0	16.06	0	0.50		Detailed estimate from State Government awaited.
3	1997-98	New Line	Lalitpur-Satna & Rewa-Singrauli	541	925	182.4	50.00		Earthwork bridges taken up, Mahoba-Khajuraho targeted for completion during 07-08.
4	1997-98	New Line	Etawah-Mainpuri	60	129.7	53	3.00		Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge works taken up.
5	1999-2000	New Line	Agra-Etawah via Fatehabad and Bah	114	214.9	75	7.00		Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge works taken up.
6	2005-06	New Line	Hathua-Bhaini	79.64	230.03	31	40.00	@	Final location survey completed. Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges taken up.
7	2006-07	New Line	Chhitauni-Tumkuri Road	58.88	235	0.01	5.00	@	Final Location Survey taken up
8	2007-08	New Line	Deoband (Muzzaifarnagar)-Roorkee	27.45	105.52	0	10.00	@	On 50:50 cost sharing with State Government of Uttarakhnad.
9	1995-96	Gauge Conversion	Mathura-Achnera	35	33.67	0	30.00		Detailed estimate sanctioned and is now targeted for completion during 2008-09.
10	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura-Bareilly & Bareilly-Lalkuan	545	681.72	448	125.00		248 Kms completed and commissioned. 105 Kms targeted for completion during 2007-08.
11	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand nagar Nautanwa	260	381.17	65.66	25.00		Earthwork, bridge work, ballast collection taken up.
12	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Gonda-Bahraich as Ph 1 of Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow	60	73.42	3.89	10.00		Detailed estimate sanctioned. Earthwork, bridge work, taken up.
13	1999-2000	Gauge Conversion	Kapanganj-Thawe-Siwan-Chhapra	233.5	325.1	98	130.00		Thawe-Siwan completed.
14	2003-04	Gauge Conversion	Aunthar-Jaunpur	50.6	85.75	4.09	49.93		Earthwork, bridge works taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15	2007-08	Gauge Conversion	Bhojipura-Pilibhit-Tanakpur	101.79	145	0	0.01	@	Included based on 'in principle' approval.
16	1995-96	Doubling	Tundla-Yamuna Bridge	21	27.07	20	4.06		6 Kms completed and estimate for the balance length is under process of sanction.
17	1995-96	Doubling	Kanpur-Panki 3rd line	9	69.58	65.11	4.00		Targeted for completion during 2007-08.
18	1997-98	Doubling	Gorakhpur-Sahjanwa	17.3	69.8	53	27.00		6 Kms completed and commissioned and balance is targeted for completion during 2007-08.
19	1998-99	Doubling	Utratia-Chandrauli and Sultampur-Bandhua Katan	37	72.42	81.93	10.00		24 Kms completed and earthwork, bridge work, ballast collection taken up in the balance length.
20	2000-01	Doubling	Zafraabad-Utratia PH-II (Zafraabad-Srikishnagar)	34	70.28	80	10.66		26 Kms completed. Earthwork, bridge work; ballast collection, track linking taken up in the balance section.
21	2000-01	Doubling	Amroha-Kankather	31	68.63	37.75	20.00		Formation work completed and now ballast supply and track linking taken up.
22	2002-03	Doubling	Cheonki-Lohgara (Manikpur-Cheonki Ph-II)	26.88	51.58	65	0.50		9 Kms commissioned and 18 Kms completed.
23	2003-04	Doubling	Sahitabad-Anand Vihar - 3rd & 4th line	4	49.57	0	45.00		Work taken up.
24	2003-04	Doubling	Lohgara-Katiadandi (Manikpur-Cheonki Ph-II)	32.3	65.03	49	29.18		Targeted for completion in 2007-08.
25	2003-04	Doubling	Hapur-Kankather	42.71	106.63	80.85	40.00		23 Kms from Hapur to Simbholi targeted for completion during 2007-08.
26	2003-04	Doubling	Aligarh-Ghaziabad 3rd line	106.15	230.73	90	175.00		Under execution by RVNL through ADB funding. Work taken up.
27	2005-06	Doubling	Sahjanwa-Munderwa patch doubling	32.19	80.95	10	50.00	@	17 Kms Sahjanwa to Khalilabad targeted for completion in 2007-08.
28	2005-06	Doubling	Palwal-Bhuteswar 3rd line	81	330	7	125.00	@	Under execution by RVNL through ADB funding. Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
29	2005-06	Doubling	Bhimsen-Juhi	13.82	22.3	12	10.00	@	Targeted for completion during 2007-08.
30	2005-06	Doubling	Babnan-Mankapur patch doubling	30.15	62.89	21	45.00	@	Targeted for completion during 2007-08.
31	2005-06	Doubling	3rd line between Panki-Bhaupur	11.38	23.69	0.12	10.00	@	Detailed estimate under process of sanction.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
32	2006-07	Doubling	Munderwa-Bachman	45.25	102.1	15	60.00	@	Detailed estimate sanctioned. Earthwork, blanketing taken up.
33	2006-07	Doubling	Gorakhpur-Baitalpur	37.93	89.18	5	50.00	@	Targeted for completion in 2007-08.
34	2006-07	Doubling	Ghagharaghat-Chowkaghat	5.63	91.19	5	31.00	@	Detailed estimate sanctioned.
35	2006-07	Doubling	Bhatni-Jiradei	38.11	100.27	0.01	30.00	@	Work taken up.
36	2006-07	Doubling	Bhatni-Baitalpur	28	71.59	0.01	20.00	@	Detailed estimate sanctioned.
37	2006-07	Doubling	Balance section of Utratia-Suitanpur-Zairabad	148	369.9	0	106.88	@	Detailed estimate sanctioned.
38	2007-08	Doubling	Wiau-Indara	8	29.39	0	1.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
39	2007-08	Doubling	Barabanki-Burhwal	39	73.22	0	1.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
40	1992-93	Railway Electrification	Ambala-Moradabad	274	249.67	240	5.00		Work nearing completed.
41	1996-97	Railway Electrification	Khurja-Meerut-Saharanpur	207	89.21	0	0.00		Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
42	2005-06	Railway Electrification	Moradabad-Lucknow-Utratia	338	258.352	85	100.00	@	Estimate sanctioned, contract awarded.
43	2006-07	Railway Electrification	Utratia-Suitanpur-Mughalsarai	288	234.182	0	100.00	@	Estimate sanctioned, contract awarded.
44	2007-08	Railway Electrification	Barabanki-Gorakhpur-Barauni	709.14	528.44	0	0.50	@	Estimate sanctioned, tender floated.
1	2003-04	New Line	Uttarakhand Kichha-Khatima	51.5	165.67	0	7.00		Detailed estimate sanctioned. Land acquisition taken up.
2	2007-08	New Line	Deoband (Muzaffarnagar)-Roorkee	27.45	105.52	0	10.00	@	On 50:50 cost sharing with State Government of Uttarakhand.
3	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura-Bareilly & Bareilly-Lalkuan	545	681.72	448	125.00	@	248 Kms completed and commissioned. 105 Kms targeted for completion during 2007-08.
4	2007-08	Gauge Conversion	Bhojipura-Pilibhit-Tanakpur	101.79	145	0	0.01	@	Included based on 'in principle' approval

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5	1992-93	Railway Electrification	Ambala-Moradabad	274	249.67	240	5.00		Work nearing completed.
			West Bengal						
1	1974-75	New Line	Howrah-Armta	73.5	154.3	82.97	5.00		43 Kms completed and commissioned. Final location survey completed, land is yet to be provided by State Government.
2	1984-85	New Line	Eklakhi-Balughat & Gazol-Itahar	113.11	282.74	218.16	2.00		87 Kms completed and commissioned. Detailed estimate is under process of sanction for the balance length.
3	1995-96	New Line	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	130	254.07	96	17.00		Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
4	2000-01	New Line	Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur with Ext up to Kumarkundu Bypass connecting Howrah-Bardhaman Chord	85	255.68	90	15.00		Forest land acquisition taken up. Earthwork, bridge work, blanketing taken up.
5	2000-01	New Line	New Maynaguri-Jogighopa	257	894.38	149	55.00		Land acquisition, earthworks, bridge work taken up.
6	2001-02	New Line	Azimganj (Nasipur)-Jiyaganj up to the Ghat	6.6	51.13	21	20.00		Final location survey completed. Bridge works taken up.
7	1997-98	Gauge Conversion	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon Branch lines.	419.48	892.83	824.15	31.00		New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon completed.
8	1998-99	Gauge Conversion	Bankura-Damodar River Project GC, Bowalchandi-Khanna NL, Rainagar-Chanchai NL & Bankura-Mukutmanipur NL	196	282	159.08	40.00		Bankura-Sehrabazar completed.
9	2000-01	Gauge Conversion	Katihar-Jogbani and Katihar-Barsoi-Radhikapur	200	425.05	429.15	108.00		Barsoi-Radhikapur completed and Katihar-Barsoi nearing completion.
10	2006-07	Gauge Conversion	Aluabari Road-Siliguri	76	170	0	15.00	@	Final Location Survey taken up.
11	2007-08	Gauge Conversion	Burdwan-Katwa	51.52	202.64	0	10.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates taken up.
12	2000-01	Doubling	Tikiapara-Santragachi IV line	5.6	46.79	10	8.00		Earthwork, bridge work taken up.
13	2000-01	Doubling	Tarakeshwar-Sheoraphulli Ph-I (Sheoraphulli -Nalikul)	17.76	40.79	48	5.00		Sheoraphuli-Diara-Singur (12 kms) completed and commissioned. Singur-Nalikul (6 kms) targeted for completion during 2007-08.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	2000-2001	Doubling	Kalinarayampur-Krishnanagar including Ext. as GC from Krishnanagar-shantipur and New line Krishnanagar to Chartala	51	43.39	39	10.00		Bimnagar-Krishnanagar (12 Kms) is targeted for completion during 2007-08. Krishnanagar-Badkulla (9.92 Kms) completed.
15	2000-01	Doubling	Habra-Chandpara	22.25	40.88	17	26.00		Habra-Maclandpur (9.2 km) completed and commissioned. Machalilandapur-Gobardanga (4 Kms) section is targeted for completion during 2007-08.
16	2000-01	Doubling	Baruipur-Lakshmikantpur Ph-I (Baruipur- Dakshini Barasat)	17	31.82	16	13.00		Baruipur-Dhapdhapi (7 Kms) targeted for completion during 2007-08.
17	2000-01	Doubling	Barasat-Hasanabad doubling with electrification Ph-I (Barasat-Sondalia)	12.12	23.65	5	10.00		Earthwork, bridgework taken up.
18	2001-02	Doubling	Baruipur-Magrahat	15	30.1	2	10.00		Detailed estimate sanctioned.
19	2001-02	Doubling	Bandel-Jirat	22.01	50.14	31	12.00		Bandel-Bansberia (4.5 kms) completed and commissioned. 12 Kms targeted for completion during 2007-08.
20	2003-04	Doubling	Chandpara-Bongaon	9.77	22.23	1	10.00		Detailed estimate sanctioned.
21	2004-05	Doubling	Pandabeswar-Chirpai	21.41	69.03	10	30.00	@	Work taken up.
22	2005-06	Doubling	Chirpai-Sainthia	29.71	81.8	5	30.00	@	work taken up.
23	2007-08	Doubling	Malda & Old Malda	0.38	21.17	0	2.00	@	Preparation of plans and estimates. taken up.
24	2007-08	Doubling	Gokulpur-Midnapur New bridge on diversion alignment with substructure & steel super structure on Bridge No. 143.	2	26.64	0	1.00	@	New work included in the Budget 2007-08.
25	2007-08	Doubling	Adra-Joychandipahar	6	18.19	0	1.00	@	New work included in the Budget 2007-08.
26	1972-73	Metropolitan Transport Project	Dum Dum-Tollygarij Design and construction of Rapid Transit System	24.95	2709.12	2116	193.25		Work taken up.
27	1995-96	Railway Electrification	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar including Tatcher-Paradeep	540	406.51	392	2.00		450 Kms energized and electrification on Cuttuck-Paradeep taken up.
28	2006-07	Railway Electrification	Ardal-Pandabeswar	20	41.1564	2	10.00	@	Estimate sanctioned, contract awarded.

[English]

**Conference of Minorities Commission
of States**

71. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Conference of Minorities Commission of the States has taken place in the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and details of the recommendations made in the Conference; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Minorities convened the 5th Annual Conference of State Minorities Commissions at New Delhi on 2nd November, 2006, Amongst the issues discussed in the Conference were the following:

- (i) Minorities should feel safe and get a fair and reasonable share of development. The benefits of various Government schemes should flow equitably to the minorities and a certain proportion of development projects should be located in minority concentration districts.
- (ii) Communal peace and harmony should be maintained.
- (iii) Special tribunals should be set up to deal with communal offences.
- (iv) The victims of communal carnage should be given adequate financial support for rehabilitation.
- (v) Minorities should get a fair share in Central and State Government jobs. The minority youth should be provided with skills to get their legitimate share in employment, both in the public and private sectors.
- (vi) The main factor responsible for the socio-economic backwardness of the minority communities, particularly the Muslim community, is the lack of access to the common school system. This is particularly true in the case of Muslim girls. Therefore, concrete schemes for setting up secondary and higher secondary schools in the blocks and districts having a predominantly Muslim population, should be implemented for Muslim girls. Widening of access to professional and technical education should be a priority area in educational programmes.
- (vii) Government should monitor implementation of the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities.
- (viii) The scholarship schemes funded by the Maulana Azad

Education Foundation should be enlarged to cover the post-matric level also.

(ix) The Wakf Board properties should be utilized to open educational institutions.

(x) The status of the National Commission for Minorities should be raised to a constitutional body.

(c) The Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, announced in June 2006 addresses many of these concerns. It has significant socio-economic content and it focuses on enhancing opportunities for education, equitable share in economic activities and employment and improving the conditions of living of minorities.

The New 15-Point Programme provides for earmarking of 15% of targets and outlays for minorities, wherever possible, in the schemes included in the Programme. Targets for 2007-2008 have been approved and communicated to the Ministries / Departments concerned for appropriate action.

The implementation of the 15 Point Programme is monitored by the Committee of Secretaries (COS), which reviews the progress of the programme in respect of monitorable targets, once every six months and reports the status to the Cabinet. Detailed guidelines have been sent to the State Governments. UT Administrations, including constitution of State and District Level Committees for monitoring the implementation of the programme. Several States have already constituted such Committees.

The New 15-Point Programme provides for special consideration to minorities in recruitment to government jobs. Department of Personnel & Training has already issued guidelines to improve the representation of minority communities in government jobs.

The educational backwardness of the Muslim community is sought to be addressed through a multi-pronged strategy. Government has already launched a merit-cum-means scholarship scheme and a Free Coaching and Allied Scheme. The corpus fund of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation has been enhanced from Rs. 100 to Rs.200 crores so as to enable it to enlarge its activities.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Bill, 2004, to confer constitutional status on the National Commission for Minorities, has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 2004.

Government has already introduced the Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005, in Rajya Sabha in December, 2005.

Shortage of Pilots

* 72. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe scarcity of pilots to cope up with the requirement of the aviation sector in the country;

(b) if so, the requirement of pilots vis-a-vis the actual number of pilots in position, airlines-wise;

(c) whether there is a huge backlog of class-I medicals for getting the Commercial Pilot Licence;

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the class-I medicals;

(e) whether airlines expansion plans are adversely affected due to shortage of pilots;

(f) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government; and

(g) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to tide over the shortage of pilots and to meet the requirement of aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) In view of the recent boom in civil aviation in the country, shortage of skilled manpower is being felt in the industry.

(b) 4540 pilots are currently required in the country for airline operations in the country. Out of this 3950 Indian pilots are available presently and the shortfall of 590 pilots is being met through foreign pilots. The details of pilots with scheduled airlines are as under:-

S. No	Name of the airlines	No. of Indian Pilots	No. of Foreign Pilots	Total
1.	Air India (including Air India Express)	544	94	638
2.	Indian Airlines (including Alliance Air)	696	20	716
3.	Jet Airways	671	117	788
4.	Air Sahara	233	15	248
5.	Air Deccan	277	131	408
6.	Kingfisher Airlines	263	48	311
7.	Spice Jet	130	17	147
8.	Go Air	44	20	64
9.	Paramount Airways	13	17	30
10.	Indus Airways	01	-	01
11.	Blue Dart	24	15	39

(c) and (d) At present Class-I Medical examination for initial issue of Commercial Pilot Licence are being carried out only at 3 designated centres of India Air Force, thus leading to backlog. In order to reduce the rush at Air Force Medical Centres, Indian Air Force has added 11 more centres for carrying out medical check up for renewal of Licence. Further Government has taken up with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to identify more centres for carrying out Class-I Medical Test for issuance/renewal of Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL).

(e) No, Sir. No such reports have been received.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions for pilots, Upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)/Aero Club of India (ACI). Besides, DGCA has approved a total of 26 flying training institutes (including IGRUA) in the country for imparting Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) training.

Rehabilitation of Persons Cured of Leprosy

*73. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NGOs involved in the rehabilitation of Persons cured of Leprosy in the country;

(b) whether the Government has agreed to enhance the financial assistance being provided to Persons who are cured of Leprosy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time-frame fixed for implementation of the decision and the details of region-wise variations in the matter, if any?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), financial assistance to the NGOs is provided for various projects for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities including Persons cured of Leprosy. Presently, 17 NGOs are being supported for this purpose.

Financial assistance to the projects under the scheme is provided on the basis of requirements projected by the organisations, subject to admissibility as per prescribed norms. Therefore, enhancement of financial assistance for a particular project depends on the requirement in a project and its admissibility.

Southern Gas Grid Project

*74. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to launch the Southern Gas Grid Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any study report available regarding Krishna-Godavari Basin (KG-basin) Natural Gas reserves;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any project proposal pending before the Government to establish pipeline connectivity to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala from KG-basin Natural Gas production areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Gas pipelines are laid according to gas availability and connect production and consumption centres. A network of trunk gas pipelines is being laid connecting customers in the Southern part of the country to various sources of natural gas.

Currently GAIL (India) Limited has pipeline network in

Krishna-Godavari basin and Cauvery basin in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu respectively. Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited (RGITL) is constructing Kakinada-Hyderabad-Uran-Ahmedabad pipeline, which would inter alia connect parts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to the KG-D6 field. RGITL has also been granted authorization for Vijaywada-Nellore-Chennai pipeline, as also its extensions Chennai-Tuticorin and Chennai-Bangalore-Mangalore pipelines; these pipelines would connect parts of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to the KG-D6 field. GAIL has been granted authorization for Dabhol-Bangalore pipeline; this would be a bidirectional pipeline transporting Re-gasified LNG from Dabhol LNG terminal to Bangalore and natural gas from RGITL's pipeline at Bangalore to Maharashtra. GAIL has also been granted authorization for Kochi-Kanjirakkod-Mangalore/Bangalore pipeline; this would also be a bi-directional pipeline transporting Re-gasified LNG from the upcoming Kochi LNG terminal to Kerala and Karnataka, and natural gas from RGITL's pipeline.

(c) and (d) Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has certified future gas production from KG basin field. This includes RIL's Dhirubhai field and Cairn's Ravva field and Ravva Satellite field. The certified gas production as of now is given in the enclosed Statement.

Apart from this, it is anticipated that there would be some production from GSPC's fields in the KG basin.

(e) and (f) Krishna Godavari Gas Network Limited (KGGNL) has applied to the Ministry to lay, build and operate common carrier natural gas pipelines in the state of Andhra Pradesh, based on production from offshore fields of Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC). The issue of authorization will be considered based on due certification by DGH regarding availability of gas in GSPC's gas discoveries.

The request for authorization of Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL) for its Kakinada-Bhopal-Ahmedabad pipeline would be considered after DGH's certification regarding gas availability from GSPC's gas discoveries.

Statement

Future Gas Production profile in KG basin field (in MMSCMD)

Year	Dhirubhai	Ravva Existing	Ravva Satellite	Total
1	2	3	4	5
2007-08	-	1.03	0.9	1.93
2008-09	40	0.68	0.53	41.21
2009-10	60	0.5	0.37	60.87
2010-11	60	0.255	-	60.255

1	2	3	4	5
2011-12	80	0.174	-	80.174
2012-13	80	0.145	-	80.145
2013-14	80	0.12	-	80.12
2014-15	80	0.1	-	80.1
2015-16	80	0.08	-	80.08
2016-17	80	0.07	-	80.07

Rise in Steel Prices

*75. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed and reviewed the effect of the increasing prices of steel on the economy and particularly the construction industries during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the percentage of hike in steel prices during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has convened a meeting of the Steel Price Monitoring Committee to review the price situation recently;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to re-introduce the Administered Price Mechanism for steel;

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

(f) whether the Government has asked the steel producers not to hike prices especially for rural areas;

(g) if so, the response of the steel producers thereto; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the steel prices?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Steel has not conducted any specific assessment on the effect of increasing price of steel on the economy and construction sector. However, the share of steel price in Wholesale Price Index (WPI), which captures price movements of various commodities, is 3.63656 %. Percentage price changes of some of the major steel products used in construction industry are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. The last meeting of the Steel Price Monitoring Committee (SPMC) was held on 08.06.2007.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) and (g) No direction has been issued by the Government regarding prices. However, in the last meeting of the Steel Price Monitoring Committee (SPMC) it was noted that prices of long products, which are widely used in rural areas, have increased by 9-12% in the last quarter. Measures such as containing the ex-factory prices by major producers and producing more of long products by augmenting capacity and by adjusting the product mix were discussed. With regards to steel price in rural areas, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) have decided to supply steel products of common use through their dealers covering all districts in the country, at prices as applicable in adjoining stockyards. The cost of transportation from the stockyard to the dealer location is borne by the SAIL and RINL.

(h) In a liberalized environment, the market forces determine the prices. However, Steel Price Monitoring Committee constituted by Government monitors and reviews the movement of steel price.

Statement

Price Movement, with percentage change of various categories of steel at Mumbai retail market during the last three years

Product	(Rs./Tonne)				
	July 2004	July 2005	July 2006	July 2007	Overall between July 2004 to July 2007
1	2	3	4	5	6
TOR/TOT (10mm)	28000	27750 (-0.9%)	27000 (-2.7%)	32000 (18.5%)	14.3%
Wire Rods (8 mm)	26600	26650 (0.2%)	27250 (2.3%)	31000 (13.8%)	16.5%

1	2	3	4	5	6
Rounds (16 mm)	26000	27250 (4.8%)	26250 (-3.7%)	30000 (14.3%)	15.4%
Plates (12 mm)	30750	29500 (-4.1%)	32000 (8.5%)	35000 (9.4%)	13.8%
HR Coil (2.5 mm)	30650	28500 (-7.0%)	32000 (12.3%)	35000 (9.4%)	14.2%
CR Coil (0.63 mm)	33250	34000 (2.3%)	33000 (-2.9%)	38500 (16.7%)	15.8%
GP Sheets (0.63 mm)	34250	38000 (10.9%)	38000 (0%)	40000 (5.3%)	18.8%

(Figures in the parenthesis indicate % age variation over the previous year.)

Modernisation of Airports

*76. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise Status of the on-going modernisation projects of airports in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to include more airports of the country for modernisation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for fast track modernisation of airports in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the amount sanctioned and spent on the on-going modernisation of each airport in the country, airport-wise; and

(g) the time by which the said projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As per enclosed Statement-I and II.

(b) and (c) In addition to the modernisation project of select 35 Non-Metro airports, AAI is also undertaking upgradation and modernization of airports at Akola, Cooch-Bihar, Cuddapah, Mysore, Puducherry, Rajahmundry, Vijaywada, Surat, Tirupati, Gondia, Shillong, Warangal etc.

(d) and (e) 35 Non-Metro airports have been taken up for modernisation on priority basis. These projects are likely to be completed by 2010.

(f) and (g) As per enclosed Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Ongoing modernization projects of Airports	Amount Sanctioned for the Project	Amount spent on the Project upto July 2007	The time by which likely to be completed
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
Tirupathi				
1	Resurfacing and strengthening of runway, taxi-track, apron, isolation bay etc.	17.30	6.80	30.09.07
Vizag				
1	C/o new integrated TB	94.94	20.00	31.12.07

1	2	3	4	5
Assam				
Dibrugarh				
1	Construction of new terminal building i/c land acquisition.	54.52	16.08	31.10.07
Guwahati				
1	Construction of new apron with link taxiway, extension of runway by 360m, drainage, box culvert and perimeter road	45.76	5.10	30.06.08
2	Construction of isolation aircraft parking stand	14.00	2.39	31.10.07
Silchar				
1	Extension of runway, acquisition of land & construction of boundary wall.	33.00	18.00	30.09.07
Gujarat				
Ahmedabad				
1	C/o new arrival block	56.94	27.16	31.12.07
2	C/o New International Terminal Building	291.00	8.34	31.01.09
3	C/o Construction of New Apron for New International Terminal Building	13.84	2.18	31.10.07
Vadodara				
1	Ext. of apron and C/o link taxiway plus allied works	10.00	5.15	31.08.07
Goa				
Goa				
1	Construction of new Apron and allied works	9.49	1.10	30.11.07
Jammu and Kashmir				
Srinagar				
1	Expansion and modification of terminal building complex	77.48	33.49	31.10.07
Karnataka				
Mangalore				
1	Construction of new apron and allied works	19.10	3.80	31.10.07
2	Construction of New Terminal Building i/c apron	104.00	1.19	31.12.09
Mysore				
1	Development of Mysore Airport	69.29	18.00	23.03.08
(i) Pavement work				
Kerala				
Calicut				
1	Exp. & Modification of ITB i/c electrical packages	89.48	88.10	15.10.07
2	Strengthening of Runway & allied works	17.50	1.40	31.10.07
Madhya Pradesh				
Khajuraho				
1	Construction of new apron and taxiway	9.80	2.07	31.07.08

1	2	3	4	5
	Raipur			
1	C/o New apron and link taxiway	6.03	1.78	30.09.07
	Maharashtra			
	Akola			
1	Strengthening and extension of runway, apron, taxiway and allied works	9.68	1.05	31.10.07
	Aurangabad			
1	Construction of New Apron and allied works	7.39	4.00	31.10.07
2	C/o new integrated TB	60.00	6.00	31.07.08
	Nagpur			
1	Exp. & mod. of Terminal Bldg. for international operations	83.00	15.50	17.12.07
	Pune			
1	Ext. & Str. of existing apron and taxi-track Phase I	8.50	5.82	30.11.07
2	Ext. & Str. of existing apron and taxi-track Phase II	7.00	1.65	30.09.07
3	C/o parallel taxi track	16.64	1.65	31.10.07
	Orissa			
	Bhubneshwar			
1	Expansion of Apron, Strengthening of existing apron and taxiway, Construction of additional taxiway and associated works.	13.00	2.85	18.11.07
	Rajasthan			
	Jaipur			
1	Construction of new international terminal complex	94.87	19.92	31.10.07
2	Construction of new apron and taxiway	26.92	1.10	31.03.08
	Udaipur			
1	Construction of new terminal building complex	77.44	33.39	31.10.07
2	Extension of Apron, link taxiway	14.55	2.56	31.12.07
3	Extension and strengthening of runway and allied works	30.00	0.50	30.06.08
	Tripura			
	Agartala			
1	Expansion and strengthening of apron	18.66	2.03	14.12.07
	Tamil Nadu			
	Coimbatore			
1	Extension of runway	7.22	3.15	31.10.07
	Madurai			
1	Strengthening & Extn. of Rwy & allied works	35.25	28.10	30.09.07
	Trichy			
1	Ext. of apron, c/o new apron and taxi-track	17.71	10.20	30.09.07

1	2	3	4	5
2	C/o New Terminal Bldg.	74.70	30.00	04.12.07
3	Strengthening and extension of rwy	25.94	12.93	30.06.2008
Uttar Pradesh				
Lucknow				
1	Drainage and rain water harvesting system	5.50	4.74	30.09.07
Uttaranchal				
Dehradun				
1	Development of Dehradun Airport for AB-320/B737-800	72.50	8.65	31.12.07
Pantnagar				
1	Extension of runway and associated works	12.00	4.53	31.01.08
Union Territory				
Agatti				
1	C/o TB, Fire Station and Control Tower	5.39	3.10	31.12.07

Statement-II*Ongoing Modernisation Projects of Airports*

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Ongoing Modernisation Projects of Airports	Amount Sanctioned for the project	Amount spent on the project upto July 2007	The time by which likely to be completed
1	2	3	4	5
Tamil Nadu				
Chennai				
1	Construction of Integrated Cargo Terminal (Ph-II)	34.08	8.89	Dec.'07
2	Construction of barracks for commandos and security forces	6.69	0.76	Feb.'08
3	Construction of aerolink corridor with aerobridge for bay no. 24 to 29	49.05	Nil	Dec.'08
4	Construction of aerolink along with aerobridge and travaltator for bay no. 35	68.00	Nil	Mar.'09
West Bengal				
Kolkata				
1	Extension of Secondary runway beyond 19R beginning	13.36	7.60	Nov.'07
2	Reconstruction of bays no. 43 & part of bay no. 42 and strengthening of apron taxi (Rigid Pavement)	5.66	1.51	Dec.'07
3	Construction of 6 nos. domestic parking stand	13.85	8.71	Nov.'07
4	Construction of Cargo Apron towards Northern side	20.16	5.60	Oct.'07
5	Provision of ETV at export area of Integrated cargo	17.00	-	Oct.'07
6	C/o Integrated Cargo Complex (a) ASRS work	65.00	15.50	Oct.'07

1	2	3	4	5
Kerala				
Trivandrum				
1	Provision of aerobridges SH: Apron Work	12.35 2.56 (C)	2.15	Sept.'07
2	Construction of New International Terminal Complex across the runway on Chackai side. (a) C/o NITB and other services	245.58 (Incl. Ph-II) 167.00 (Ph II)	18.88	Aug.'08
3	C/o additional parking bays	7.60	2.45	Sept.'07
Gujarat				
Surat				
1	Development of Surat Airport for ATR-72 operations	49.41	40.79	Nov.'07
2	Extension of runway to 2250m for AB-320 type of aircraft	19.40	11.44	Oct.'07
Punjab				
Amritsar				
1	Modular Expansion of Terminal Building (Ph-II)	80.20	18.34	Mar.'08
2	Extension of runway, expansion of apron and associated works	14.90	4.61	Jan.'08
3	Operational area works:			
	(i) C/o 4 remote parking bays for 2D / 2E type aircrafts	9.56	5.65	Nov.'07
Kolkata				
1	Provision of ETV at Export area of Integrated Cargo Complex (PH-I) at NSCBI Airport, Kolkata	14.54	Nil	11.10.2007
Amritsar				
1	Provision of CAT-II Lighting system on Runway 34 at Amritsar Airport, Amritsar	12.40	Nil	Tenders opened on 10.07.2007 and under scrutiny.

[Translation]

Shortage of Fertilizer

*77. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be
pleased to state:

(a) the total production of fertilizers in the country
during each of the last three years and also current year,
state-wise and unit-wise;

(b) the demand and consumption of fertilizers during
the said period, state-wise & fertilizer-wise;

(c) whether there is an acute shortage of fertilizers in
the country even before the onset of the kharif season;

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

(e) whether the Government is importing fertilizers
to make up for the shortage of fertilizers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the other steps taken by the Government to meet
the demand of fertilizers and to achieve the self-sufficiency in
the fertilizer sector?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a)
Statement-I indicating production of major fertilizers viz. urea,
DAP and complex grade fertilizers in the country during the
last three years and April-July, 2007 is enclosed.

(b) State-wise assessed demand and sale of urea,
DAP and MOP during 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and April-
July, 2007 is given in the enclosed Statements-II to V,
respectively.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, During the ongoing Kharif season, in
each of the months of April, May, June and July, availability of

urea, DAP and MOP has been more than the assessed requirement as well as sales during the month.

(e) and (f) The Government has planned import of around 31.80 LMTs of urea (including off-take from OMIFCO, Oman) to bridge the gap between the assessed requirement and the estimated indigenous production during Kharif, 2007. In respect of DAP, sufficient quantity of imports have been contracted by M/s. Indian Potash Ltd. to meet the assessed gap between requirement and availability by various State Governments.

(g) Government is continuously pursuing a policy to incentivise indigenous production and improvement of efficiency by conversion from Naphtha to Natural Gas based production of urea. In P&K sector, due to inherent dependence on imported raw materials, intermediates and finished fertilizers, the Government has been encouraging setting up of joint ventures abroad in resource rich countries; in order to secure adequate supplies of P&K fertilizers to India to meet its growing demand.

Statement-I

State-wise, Unit-wise Production of Major Fertilizers for the last three years and current year (April-July, 2007)

('000 MTs)						
Name of State/Unit	Product Name	Ins.Cap. (as on 1.04.06) Qty.	Production			
			2004-05 Qty.	2005-06 Qty.	2006-07 Qty.	2007-08 (Apr-July) Qty.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh						
CFL-Vizag	28:28	200.0	318.4	414.2	363.2	133.7
	14:35:14	200.0	227.0	142.4	173.8	0.0
	20:20	200.0	208.9	354.7	445.4	117.6
	10:26:26	0.0	22.3	29.2	23.6	0.0
Total		600.0	776.6	940.5	1006.0	251.3
GFCL-Kakinada	DAP	670.0	616.7	673.6	616.1	220.5
	14:35:14	0.0	166.7	141.8	180.7	25.4
	20:20	0.0	0.0	6.4	214	0.0
	10:26:26	0.0	41.2	145.3	194.2	103.8
	12.32:16	0.0	66.0	66.2	75.4	50.6
Total		670.0	890.6	1033.3	1087.8	400.3
NFCL-Kakinada-I	Urea	597.3	657.1	703.6	726.7	200.6
NFCL-Kakinada-II	Urea	597.3	735.2	675.4	597.2	206.8
Total		1194.6	1392.3	1379.0	1323.9	407.4
State Total		2464.6	3059.5	3352.8	3417.7	1059.0
Kerala						
FACT-Udyogmandal	20:20	148.5	101.0	143.2	141.7	51.5
FACT-Cochin-II	20:20	485.0	473.4	602.4	574.2	160.1
Total		858.5	774.9	919.1	899.4	242.1
State Total		858.5	774.9	919.1	899.4	242.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karnataka						
MCF-Mangalore	Urea	380.0	335.7	399.9	370.1	103.9
	DAP	180.0	165.4	166.9	203.9	68.2
	20:20	0.0	41.2	27.5	52.9	9.8
	16:20	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MCF-Mangalore Total		560.0	542.3	594.3	626.9	181.9
State Total		560.0	542.3	594.3	626.9	181.9
Tamil Nadu						
MFL-Chennai	Urea	486.8	473.1	368.6	473.3	106.0
	17:17:17	840.0	292.8	205.1	57.1	35.2
	19:19:19	0.0	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
	20:20	00	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
MFL-Chennai	Total	1326.8	780.0	573.7	530.4	141.2
SPIC-Tuticorin	Urea	620.0	679.0	620.5	645.5	0.0
	DAP	475.0	369.6	379.5	286.5	0.0
	17:17:17	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
	20:20	0.0	34.5	20.0	38.3	0.0
SPIC-Tuticorin		1095.0	1083.1	1020.4	970.3	0.0
CFL-Ennore	16:20	170.0	116.4	180.8	183.8	71.7
	20:20	70.0	131.5	70.0	110.8	73.6
CFL-Ennore	Total	240.0	247.9	250.8	294.6	145.3
State Total		2661.8	2111.0	1844.9	1795.3	286.5
Goa						
ZIL-Goa	Urea	399.3	449.4	399.9	402.5	130.4
	19:19:19	240.0	272.5	332.8	305.7	101.8
	DAP	330.0	192.9	159.9	198.2	71.8
	10:26:26	0.0	111.2	219.2	215.3	10.7
	12:32:16	0.0	26.7	26.7	16.8	48.4
Total		969.3	1052.7	1138.5	1138.5	363.1
State Total		969.3	1052.7	1138.5	1138.5	363.1
Madhya Pradesh						
NFL-Vijaipur	Urea	864.6	926.6	916.1	874.5	288.2
NFL-Vijasapur Expn.	Urea	864.6	939.6	926.2	974.9	219.1
State Total		1729.2	1866.2	1842.3	1849.4	507.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Maharashtra						
RCF-Trombay	15:15:15	300.0	350.1	429.5	482.9	141.4
RCF-Trombay-IV	20.8:20.8	361.0	223.1	222.8	35.3	0.0
RCF-Trombay-V	Urea	330.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RCF-Thal	Urea	1706.8	1789.9	1684.5	1861.0	527.6
Total (RCF)		2697.8	2363.1	2336.8	2379.2	669.0
DFPCL Taloja	23:23	230.0	89.6	54.2	62.4	24.0
State Total		2927.8	2452.7	2391.0	2441.6	693.0
Gujarat						
IFFCO-Kandla	10:26:26	515.4	386.6	583.4	572.0	215.9
	12:32:16	700.0	762.6	1122.6	1100.3	368.0
	DAP	1200.0	1290.9	980.6	804.4	136.4
Total (IFFCO-Kandla)		2415.4	2440.1	2686.6	2476.7	720.3
IFFCO-Kalol	Urea	544.5	554.4	544.5	559.9	165.0
KRIBHCO-Hazira	Urea	1729.2	1805.4	1806.5	1714.5	559.2
GSFC-Vadodara	Urea	370.6	303.3	313.5	253.6	43.2
	A/S	228.0	273.4	290.7	290.7	85.2
	DAP	165.0	83.9	175.9	14.2	0.0
	20:20	0.0	117.6	24.8	242.9	60.3
	Total (GSFC-Vadodara)		763.6	778.2	804.9	801.4
GNFC-Bharuch	Urea	636.0	637.3	642.8	626.2	206.5
	20:20	142.5	179.7	203.5	198.9	44.9
Total (GNFC-Bharuch)		921.0	987.7	1019.0	969.1	285.7
GSFC-Sikka-I	DAP	588.0	286.2	322.5	425.5	111.9
	12:32:16	0.0		2.7	2.7	2.7
Total		588.0	286.2	325.2	508.0	156.6
GSFC-Sikka-II	DAP	396.0	279.9	311.1	419.9	119.9
	12:32:16	0.0		18.0	18.0	18.0
Total (Sikka-I & II)		984.0	566.1	654.3	927.9	276.5
Hin. Ind. Ltd.:Dahej	DAP	400.0	286.3	198.1	190.9	26.8
	20:20	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.2	0.0
	10:26:26	0.0	0.0	9.9	4.2	10.1
	12:32:16	0.0	0.0	10.1	17.8	8.1
Total		400.0	286.3	218.1	219.1	45.0
State Total		7757.7	7418.2	7733.9	7668.6	2240.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan						
SFC-Kota	Urea	379.0	379.0	378.9	361.1	130.5
CFCL-Gadepan-I	Urea	864.6	961.5	970.1	973.6	340.3
CFCL-Gadepan-II	Urea	864.6	894.5	931.5	952.0	326.0
Total (CFCL)		1729.2	1856.0	1901.6	1925.6	666.3
State Total		2108.2	2235.0	2280.5	2286.7	796.8
Orissa						
PPL-Paradeep	DAP	720.0	736.8	877.6	822.3	313.1
	20:20	0.0	174.5	230.6	328.8	86.2
	28:28	0.0	23.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
	14:35:14			7.1	0.0	0.0
	12:32:16	0.0	36.2	69.1	59.5	20.2
	10:26:26	0.0	59.2	76.3	109.9	23.2
Total		720.0	1029.9	1260.7	1320.5	442.7
IFFCO-Paradeep	DAP	1500.0	600.4	92.3	418.2	164.7
	20:20	100.0	32.8	156.6	332.2	175.6
Total		1600.0	633.2	248.9	750.4	340.3
State Total		2320.0	1663.1	1509.6	2070.9	783.0
West Bengal						
TCL-Haldia	DAP	675.0	276.1	290.1	452.0	109.5
	28:28	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	0.0
	12:32:16	0.0	100.5	185.9	244.7	45.2
	10:26:26	0.0	159.6	192.0	357.3	43.5
	14:35:14	0.0	0.0	24.4	47.5	7.4
	15:15:15	0.0	2.3	12.6	0.0	0.0
Total		840.0	660.9	845.2	1288.0	252.7
State Total		840.0	660.9	845.2	1288.0	252.7
Assam						
BVFCL-Namrup-II						
	Urea	240.0	0.0	32.4	60.5	27.3
BVFCL-Namrup-III						
	Urea	315.0	206.1	219.3	246.9	74.4
State Total		555.0	206.1	251.7	307.4	101.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana						
NFL-Panipat	Urea	511.5	531.3	503.7	508.7	153.1
State Total		511.5	531.3	503.7	508.7	153.1
Punjab						
NFL-Nangal-II	Urea	478.5	494.0	480.2	481.5	170.5
NFL-Bhatinda	Urea	511.5	536.6	518.0	511.4	185.8
State Total		990.0	1030.6	998.2	992.9	356.3
Uttar Pradesh						
IFFCO-Phulpur	Urea	551.1	565.1	551.1	573.8	200.2
IFFCO-Phulpur Expn.	Urea	864.6	864.7	884.6	882.8	268.9
IFFCO-Aonla	Urea	864.6	864.6	863.0	885.3	249.3
IFFCO-Aonla Expn.	Urea	864.6	865.3	874.6	880.5	274.2
DDL-Kanpur	Urea	722.0	0.0	37.2	0.0	0.0
IGCL-Jagdishpur	Urea	864.6	985.4	994.9	1028.0	216.5
TCL-Babrala	Urea	864.6	968.1	960.0	1010.7	320.1
KSFL-Shahjahanpur	Urea	864.6	861.1	897.5	872.1	320.0
State Total		6460.7	5974.3	6062.9	6133.2	1849.2
Grand Total		33577.8	31422.5	32139.9	33291.5	10088.0

Statement-II*State-wise Assessed Demand and Sales of UREA, DAP & MOP 1st April 04 to 31st March 2005*

Qty in (LMTs)

Product Name of State	UREA		DAP		MOP	
	Assessed Demand	Sales	Assessed Demand	Sales	Assessed Demand	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	19.50	17.46	6.25	4.48	2.85	3.39
Karnataka	9.40	9.27	3.90	4.09	2.45	2.89
Kerala	1.33	1.10	0.10	0.18	1.39	0.98
Tamil Nadu	6.60	7.45	2.20	2.81	3.00	3.15
Gujarat	11.70	12.25	4.50	5.12	0.95	1.42
Madhya Pradesh	11.35	10.34	6.00	4.62	0.42	0.52
Chhattisgarh	3.76	3.84	0.84	1.03	0.48	0.46
Maharashtra	15.25	15.14	4.25	5.30	2.00	2.16
Rajasthan	11.50	10.16	4.25	3.44	0.13	0.16
Haryana	15.15	14.74	5.35	4.68	0.22	0.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Punjab	23.00	24.04	7.25	6.63	0.55	0.57
Jammu and Kashmir	1.20	0.94	0.70	0.50	0.17	0.06
Uttar Pradesh	47.10	45.11	14.00	11.33	1.85	1.77
Uttaranchal	81	1.58	0.30	0.19	0.11	0.04
Bihar	14.30	12.79	3.00	0.98	1.10	0.51
Jharkhand	1.58	1.63	1.15	1.06	0.19	0.03
Orissa	4.30	3.60	0.80	0.66	0.90	0.82
West Bengal	11.50	10.83	4.61	3.33	3.32	3.16
Assam & Other N.E	2.67	2.33	0.96	0.26	0.95	0.58
Other Total	1.08	0.90	0.20	0.08	0.19	0.16
All India	214.08	205.49	70.60	60.78	23.21	23.10

Statement-III*Statewise Assessed Demand and Sales of UREA, DAP & MOP 1st April 05 to 31st March 2006*

Qty in (LMTs)

Product Name of State	UREA		DAP		MOP	
	Assessed Demand	Sales	Assessed Demand	Sales	Assessed Demand	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	23.50	22.27	7.05	5.96	3.86	4.13
Karnataka	9.55	10.68	4.60	4.57	2.85	3.36
Kerala	1.55	1.18	0.20	0.16	1.30	1.19
Tamil Nadu	9.50	8.78	3.50	3.64	4.50	3.67
Gujarat	12.50	13.38	5.20	5.41	1.30	1.55
Madhya Pradesh	11.55	10.21	5.95	4.66	0.50	0.57
Chhattisgarh	4.70	4.45	1.16	1.27	0.49	0.49
Maharashtra	16.75	17.34	5.85	5.13	2.45	2.47
Rajasthan	12.30	11.59	4.90	4.14	0.20	0.17
Haryana	16.00	16.46	5.60	5.10	0.30	0.36
Punjab	24.70	23.73	7.65	7.32	0.65	0.85
Jammu and Kashmir	1.20	1.11	0.70	0.56	0.17	0.07
Uttar Pradesh	52.00	46.03	15.50	12.34	2.60	1.66
Uttaranchal	1.77	1.75	0.27	0.23	0.11	0.05
Bihar	14.30	13.82	3.00	1.78	1.40	1.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jharkhand	1.75	1.51	1.16	0.68	0.26	0.05
Orissa	4.75	4.00	0.90	0.81	1.00	0.96
West Bengal	11.90	10.43	4.10	3.43	3.90	2.52
Assam & Other N.E	2.85	2.26	0.49	0.21	0.85	0.57
Other Total	1.13	0.93	0.20	0.11	0.21	0.16
All India	234.25	221.91	77.98	67.53	28.89	26.08

Statement-IV*Statewise Assessed Demand and Sales of UREA, DAP & MOP 1st April 06 to 31st March 2007*

Product Name of State	UREA		DAP		MOP	
	Assessed Demand	Sales	Assessed Demand	Sales	Assessed Demand	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	27.00	22.13	6.69	5.97	5.21	3.72
Karnataka	11.20	10.92	5.00	4.88	3.90	2.76
Kerala	1.46	1.27	0.17	0.23	1.40	1.12
Tamil Nadu	10.00	9.18	3.85	3.84	4.85	3.48
Gujarat	15.00	15.03	5.75	4.56	1.65	1.42
Madhya Pradesh	12.10	13.16	6.20	4.96	0.50	0.67
Chhattisgarh	4.90	5.53	1.38	1.27	0.52	0.59
Maharashtra	19.00	19.87	6.25	6.49	3.00	2.34
Rajasthan	13.20	12.26	5.60	4.05	0.22	0.07
Haryana	17.50	17.33	5.60	4.46	0.40	0.23
Punjab	25.00	25.74	7.90	7.12	0.90	0.47
Jammu and Kashmir	1.42	1.05	0.71	0.51	0.21	0.10
Uttar Pradesh	50.00	51.83	14.50	12.94	2.30	1.22
Uttaranchal	1.65	2.10	0.32	0.23	0.12	0.04
Bihar	17.50	16.01	4.50	2.65	2.50	1.00
Jharkhand	1.74	1.60	1.10	0.68	0.07	0.01
Orissa	4.70	4.21	0.98	1.03	0.92	0.75
West Bengal	12.00	11.94	4.10	3.54	3.58	2.51
Assam & other N.E	3.08	2.47	0.51	0.24	0.82	0.54
Other Total	1.10	0.90	0.20	0.12	0.20	0.13
All India	249.55	244.52	81.31	69.75	33.27	23.17

Statement-V*Statewise Assessed Demand and Sales of UREA, DAP & MOP 1st April 07 to 31st July 2007*

Product Name of State	UREA		DAP		MOP	
	Assessed Demand	Sales	Assessed Demand	Sales	Assessed Demand	Sales
Andhra Pradesh	5.85	4.73	1.80	1.81	1.00	0.60
Karnataka	4.50	3.81	2.80	2.10	1.19	1.13
Kerala	0.51	0.45	0.12	0.06	0.46	0.39
Tamil Nadu	2.64	1.74	1.33	0.73	1.34	1.22
Gujarat	4.90	4.98	2.14	1.89	0.48	0.49
Madhya Pradesh	3.25	2.94	2.60	1.71	0.36	0.20
Chhattisgarh	2.53	2.53	0.61	0.73	0.36	0.25
Maharashtra	10.00	8.50	3.40	2.56	1.00	1.11
Rajasthan	2.98	3.00	1.15	0.98	0.04	0.05
Haryana	5.85	5.71	1.19	1.13	0.18	0.08
Punjab	10.60	9.11	1.85	1.30	0.50	0.19
Himachal Pradesh	0.32	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	0.71	0.52	0.43	0.10	0.14	0.03
Uttar Pradesh	20.00	13.16	4.10	2.06	1.15	0.26
Uttaranchal	0.90	0.94	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.01
Bihar	5.10	3.76	1.42	0.74	0.55	0.20
Jharkhand	0.77	0.44	0.41	0.41	0.05	0.02
Orissa	1.73	1.10	0.43	0.57	0.34	0.30
West Bengal	2.53	2.05	1.43	1.18	0.80	0.66
Assam	0.62	0.69	0.13	0.04	0.21	0.16
N.E. States	0.39	0.19	0.08	0.00	0.04	0.01
Other Total	0.16	0.13	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.03
All India	86.84	70.77	27.56	20.17	10.28	7.39

*[English]***Passenger Service Fee (PSF)**

*78. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers who travelled by domestic and international flights from India during 2006-07;

(b) the total amount as Passenger Service Fee (PSF) earned from them by the Airports Authority of India during the said period;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the airport authorities and airlines operators have a dispute over the sharing of the Passenger Service Fee (PSF);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

- (e) whether the Government is planning to dispense with the collection of PSF from all air passengers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the year 2006-07, the international passenger traffic to/from India was 23.3 millions and the domestic passenger traffic was 35.5 millions.

- (b) Rs. 560.33 crores.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) Does not arise.

Price of Natural Gas

*79. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA:

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

- (a) whether a Committee constituted by the Ministry has submitted a report on formulating transparent guidelines for approving the natural gas price formula;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has accepted the report in toto;
- (d) whether the Union Government has received requests from some State Governments particularly from Andhra Pradesh for setting up of a Petroleum Regulatory Authority for regulating the prices of natural gas;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) provide for pricing of gas on the basis of sale on arms-length basis. The role of the Government is to approve the valuation of gas for the purpose of determining Government take. In order to provide transparency in approving valuations, the Government formed a Committee in August 2006 to formulate guidelines for approving natural gas price formula / basis for giving Government approval under the Production Sharing Contracts.

The Committee was headed by Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and had Director General, Directorate General Hydrocarbons and concerned Joint Secretaries as other members. The

Committee held extensive consultations with various stakeholders, including the producers as well as the consumers, besides other expert organizations, before finalizing its report.

The Committee has recommended that in all situations where a price discovery through competitive bidding is possible, there should be no need to apply any other principle for valuation of gas. Once a market-determined price has been discovered between the suppliers and customers through a transparent competitive bidding process, there should be no need for the Government to interfere with the same.

Further, the Committee has said that in the absence of a market determined price discovered through a transparent bidding process, where valuation of gas has to be necessarily done by Government, it may be done based on the price in the most recent competitively determined contract in the region duly indexed to the present. Indexation is to be done as per provisions of the market determined reference contract, as each market-determined contract sets out various terms and conditions of supply, including the price review mechanism.

The Committee has noted that each contract, normally, has a price review clause every five years. If the price stands reviewed as per the reference contract, that may become the new reference price. For interim periods, the Committee has recommended that indexation may be linked to percentage increase in price of cheapest liquid fuel, i.e., Furnace Oil (FO), which is not only the cheapest liquid fuel but has also shown least price volatility in recent years.

The Committee was of the view that the above valuation may be applied only when actual supply has commenced and the price has not been discovered through the market mechanism. However, if the actual price, at which any producer supplies to any consumer, is higher than the one arrived at by the above methodology, then the higher price is to be reckoned for Government take. It would be ideal if the Committee's approach had never to be applied, but if the eventuality does arise, DG DGH and Director, PPAC will do the calculations based on Committee's recommendations. It would be DGH's responsibility to ensure that the Producer remits the Government's take accordingly.

- (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has written to the Prime Minister and to Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas requesting that an independent market regulator be appointed for upstream gas pricing.

(f) The Government has since issued orders for constitution of an Empowered Group of Ministers to consider issues pertaining to pricing of natural gas produced in the country.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Fertilizers

*80. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether the current rate of subsidy on fertilizers being provided to the farmers has been increased; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The rate of subsidy (Subsidy per Metric Tonne) on fertilizers is the difference between the normative delivered cost of fertilizers up to the farm gate level and its selling prices as notified by the Government. The delivered costs of fertilizers at farm gate level has increased substantially over the last few years due to sharp increase in international prices of raw materials, intermediates and finished fertilizers, leading to increase in current rate of subsidy to fertilizers.

The increase in average subsidy over last three years on various subsidized fertilizers is as below:-

Fertilizers	(Rs.per MT)		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Urea*	4800	5528	6945
Indegenous DAP	4826	5966	7087
Imported DAP	4397	5725	6392
MOP	5610	6594	7025
SSP	650	650 upto 30/9/2005 975 w.e.f 1/10/2005	975
NPKs (11 grades)	3833	4947	5871

* Exclusive of freight subsidy. The rates are provisional.

[English]

Tribal Dances, Art and Folklore

521. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether teams are sent to remote areas to study tribal dances, art and folklore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other measures being adopted to give due recognition to their traditional cultural activities?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF

CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres to extend support to folk and traditional artistes and artisans of the country. These Zonal Cultural Centres depute teams to remote areas to study tribal dances, art and folklore under the Scheme for Documentation of Vanishing Art Forms. Some of the traditional art forms documented so far are- Lama Dance of Sikkim; Folk Tales from hills and fields of Orissa; Mizo Traditional Games; Malita (Ballad) of Assam; Wari Leeba of Manipur; Traditional Textiles of Manipur and its Socio Cultural Significance; Folk musical instruments of Orissa; Geets of Kaligopal Nat (Ankia Geet), Assam; Gambhira of West Bengal; Sambhalpuri dance of Orissa; Mayurbhanj Chhau of Orissa; Purulia Chhau of West Bengal; Gotipua and Pattachitra of Orissa; Life Style of Ladakh; Living Tradition in Spiti & Kullu Valley; Life Style of Kinnaur.

The Ministry of Culture is also implementing a Scheme for Promotion and Dissemination of Tribal/Folk art and Culture. Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided to Voluntary Organizations/Institutions/Individuals engaged in preservation and promotion of Tribal/Folk Art and Culture. Besides, National School of Drama is implementing a Scheme for Promotion of Folk and Tribal Arts Theatre under which various folk and tribal theatre groups are invited to participate every year in National Theatre Festival and Bal Sangam. In addition to this, under National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP) operated by Zonal Cultural Centres, tribal troupes are sent to various parts within the Zone as well as the State coming in the purview of other Zonal Cultural Centre also. In November 2006, the Zonal Cultural Centres participated in National Tribal Festival 'Prakriti' organized in collaboration with Ministry of Tribal Affairs in which more than 400 artistes participated. The Zonal Cultural Centres also operate a "Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme" for promotion of traditional & folk theatre.

[Translation]

New Petro-Chemical Policy and Consumption of Plastic and Synthetic Fibres

522. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced the National Policy on petrochemicals;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce necessary incentives to boost private investment with petroleum, chemicals and petro-chemical investment regions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the consumption of plastic and synthetic fibre in Kilogram in the country, year-wise and per capita consumption of these items;

(f) whether a decision has been taken by the Government to increase the per capita consumption of these items;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the loss being caused to the environment due to this and the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

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): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The National Policy on petrochemicals is aimed at addressing issues relating to increase in investments, increase in production and consumption of petrochemical products, increasing the competitiveness of the industry, promotion of R & D and achieving environmentally sustainable growth.

(c) and (d) The Cabinet has recently approved the Policy for setting up of Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIR), and the same has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1 dated 4th April, 2007) and is also placed on the web site of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals viz: www.chemicals.nic.in The PCPIR is a specifically delineated investment region having an area of about 250 sq. kms. (with atleast 40% area earmarked for processing activities). This region would be a combination of production projects, public utilities, logistics, environmental protection, residential areas and administrative services. The purpose is to encourage global scale investment in petroleum, chemical & petrochemical sectors to accelerate economic growth. The Central Government will consider and approve applications from the State Governments for establishment of PCPIRs in terms of this policy and also facilitate availability of external physical infrastructure linkages including rail, road, ports, and airports. Similarly, the State Government, applying for a PCPIR, will ensure that all physical infrastructure and utilities linkages under its jurisdiction are provided.

(e) to (g) The consumption of plastic and synthetic fibre in Kilogram in the country, year-wise and per capita consumption of these items are as follows:

Group	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
	Consumption (million Kgs)				
Synthetic Fibres	1717.31	1800.03	1881.67	1890.16	1893.28
Polymers (Plastics)	3826.12	3795.68	4106.93	4177.06	4795.16
	Per Capita Consumption (Kgs /person)				
Synthetic Fibres	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.7
Polymers (Plastics)	3.2	3.6	3.9	3.9	4.4

The policy of the Government is to promote investments in the petrochemical sector both upstream and downstream. Plastic products are manufactured in down stream sector by adding value to the polymers produced by the upstream. Government proposes to increase the per capita consumption by enhancing use of plastic in thrust areas like plasticulture, infrastructure, Information technology, telecommunication, etc.

(h) Plastics are chemically inert material and are generally not hazardous substances per-se. Most of the plastics are re-processable and recyclable in nature. It is the indiscriminate littering of plastic material and the absence of

organized solid waste/ plastic waste disposal mechanism in urban centers, which is the main problem. Plastic waste recycling is being encouraged by the Government. At present 30% to 40% of used plastics are being recycled which is quite substantial. To avoid generation of non-recyclable plastic waste the Central Government as well as various state Governments have issued Notifications regarding minimum thickness of 20 micron for plastic carry bags.

Expansion of Rail Network in Himachal Pradesh

523. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to formulate any special scheme to expand rail network in the States like Himachal Pradesh where expansion of railway and frequency of trains is low; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is no such scheme formulated at present.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Fertilizer Units in Operation

524. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer units operating in the country both in public/private sector at present, state-wise;

(b) whether these units are utilizing their full capacity;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the production capacity of these units;

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to set up new fertilizer factories in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof, location wise; and

(g) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

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): (a) to (c) The required information is given in the enclosed statement-I and II.

(d) Government is continuously pursuing a policy to incentivise indigenous production and improvement of efficiency by conversion from Naphtha to Natural Gas based production of urea. Insofar as P&K sector is concerned, there are constraints in enhancing indigenous production due to inherent dependence on imported raw materials and intermediates.

(e) to (g) Government have decided 'in principle' to revive closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. Subject to techno-economic viability of revival and availability of natural gas. No firm time frame for revival of the closed units can be prescribed.

Statement-I

State-wise and Sector-wise no. of major Fertilizer units operating in the Country

Sl. No.	Name of States	No of Units operating	Sector			Total
			Public	Co-operative	Private	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	4			4	4
2	Assam	2	2			2
3	Bihar					
4	Chhattisgarh					
5	Goa	1			1	1
6	Gujarat	8		3	5	8
7	Haryana	1	1			1
8	Jharkhand					
9	Karnataka	1			1	1
10	Kerala	2	2			2
11	Madhya Pradesh	2	2			2
12	Maharashtra	5	4		1	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13	Orissa	2		1	1	2
14	Punjab	2	2			2
15	Rajasthan	3			3	3
16	Tamilnadu	4	1		3	4
17	Uttar Pradesh	7		5	2	7
18	West Bengal	1			1	1
Total		45	14	9	22	45

Statement-II*State-wise, Unit-wise Production of Major Fertilizer Units for the year 2006-07 & their capacity utilization*

Name of State/Unit	Product Name	Ins. Cap. (as on 1.04.06)	Production (in Th. MTs)		%age capacity utilization	
			2006-07	2006-07	2006-07	2006-07
1	2	3	Qty.	Qty.	4	5
Andhra Pradesh						
CFL-Vizag	28:28	200.0		363.2		181.6
	14:35:14	200.0		173.8		86.9
	20:20	200.0		445.4		222.7
	10:26:26*	0.0		23.6		-
Total		600.0		1006.0		167.7
GFCL-Kakinada	DAP	670.0		616.1		92.0
	14:35:14*	0.0		180.7		-
	20:20*	0.0		21.4		-
	10:26:26*	0.0		194.2		-
	12:32:16*	0.0		75.4		-
Total		670.0		1087.8		162.4
NFCL-Kakinada-I	Urea	597.3		726.7		121.7
NFCL-Kakinada-II	Urea	597.3		597.2		100.0
Total		1194.6		1323.9		110.8
Kerala						
FACT-Udyogmandal	20:20	148.5		141.7		95.4
FACT-Cochin-II	20:20	485.0		574.2		118.4
Total		858.5		899.4		104.8

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka				
MCF-Mangalore	Urea	380.0	370.1	97.4
	DAP	18.00	203.9	113.3
	20:20*	0.0	52.9	
Total		560.0	626.9	111.9
Tamil Nadu				
MFL-Chennai	Urea	486.8	473.3	97.2
	17:17:17	840.0	57.1	6.8
Total		1326.8	530.4	40.0
SPIC-Tuticorin	Urea	620.0	645.5	104.1
	DAP	475.0	286.5	60.3
	20:20*	0.0	38.3	
Total		1095.0	970.3	88.6
CFL-Ennore	16:20	170.0	183.8	108.1
	20:20	70.0	110.8	158.3
Total		240.0	294.6	122.8
TAC Tuticorin	A/C	64.0	64.8	101.3
GOA				
ZIL:Goa	Urea	399.3	402.5	100.8
	19:19:19	240.0	305.7	127.4
	DAP	330.0	198.2	60.1
	10:26:26*	0.0	215.3	-
	12:32:16*	0.0	16.8	-
Total		969.3	1138.5	117.5
Madhya Pradesh				
NFL-Vijaipur	Urea	864.6	874.5	101.1
NFL-Vijaipur Expn..	Urea	864.6	974.9	112.8
Maharashtra				
RCF-Trombay	15:15:15	300.0	482.9	161.0
RCF-Trombay-IV	20.8:20.8	361.0	35.3	9.8
RCF-Trombay-V	Urea	330.0	0.0	0.0
RCF-Thal	Urea	1706.8	1861.0	109.0
Total (RCF)		2697.8	2379.2	88.2
DFPCL:Taloja	23:23	230.0	62.4	27.1

1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat				
IFFCO-Kandla	10:26:26	515.4	572.0	111.0
	12:32:16	700.0	1100.3	157.2
	DAP	1200.0	804.4	67.0
Total (IFFCO-Kandla)		2415.4	2476.7	102.5
IFFCO-Kalol	Urea	544.5	559.9	102.8
KRIBHCO-Hazira	Urea	1729.2	1714.5	99.1
GSFC-Vadodara	Urea	370.6	253.6	68.4
	A/S	228.0	290.7	127.5
	DAP	165.0	14.2	8.6
	20:20 *	0.0	242.9	-
Total (GSFC-Vadodara)		763.6	801.4	105.0
GKFC-Bharuch	Urea	636.0	626.2	98.5
	20:20	142.5	198.9	139.6
Total (GNFC-Bharach)		921.0	969.1	105.2
GSFC-Sikka-I	DAP	588.0	425.5	72.4
	12:32:16	0.0	2.7	0.0
Total		588.0	508.0	86.4
GSFC-Sikka-II	DAP	396.0	419.9	106.0
	12:32:16*	0.0	18.0	-
Total (Sikka-I & II)		984.0	927.9	94.3
Hin. Ind. Ltd. Dahej	DAP	400.0	190.9	47.7
	20:20*	0.0	6.2	-
	10.26:26*	0.0	4.2	-
	12:32:16*	0.0	17.8	-
Total		400.0	219.1	54.8
Rajasthan				
SFC-Kola	Urea	379.0	361.1	95.3
CFCL-Gadepan-I	Urea	864.6	973.6	112.6
CFCL-Gadepan-II	Urea	864.6	952.0	110.1
Total (CFCL)		1729.2	1925.6	111.4
Orissa				
PPL-Paradeep	DAP	720.0	822.3	114.2

1	2	3	4	5
	20:20*	0.0	328.8	-
	28:28*	0.0	0.0	-
	14:35:14*	0.0	0.0	-
	12:32:16*	0.0	59.5	-
	10:26:26*	0.0	109.9	-
Total	720.0	1320.5	183.4	-
IFFCO-Paradeep	DAP	1500.0	418.2	27.9
	20:20	100.0	332.2	332.2
Total		1600.0	750.4	46.9
West Bengal				
TCL-Haldia	DAP	675.0	452.0	67.0
	28:28*	0.0	4.9	-
	12:32:16*	0.0	244.7	-
	10:26:26*	0.0	357.3	-
	14:35:14*	0.0	47.5	-
	15:15:15*	0.0	0.0	-
Total		840.0	1288.0	153.3
Assam				
BVFCL-Namrup-II	Urea	240.0	60.5	25.2
BVFCL-Namrup-III	Urea	315.0	246.9	78.4
Haryana				
NFL-Panipat	Urea	511.5	508.7	99.5
Punjab				
NFL-Nargal-II	Urea	478.5	481.5	100.6
NFL-Bhatinda	Urea	511.5	511.4	100.0
Uttar Pradesh				
IFFCO-Phulpur	Urea	551.1	573.8	104.1
IFFCO-Phulpur Expn.	Urea	864.6	882.8	102.1
IFFCO-Aonla	Urea	864.6	885.3	102.4
IFFCO-Aonla Expn.	Urea	864.6	880.5	101.8
IGCL-Jagdishpur	Urea	864.6	1028.0	118.9
TCL-Babraia	Urea	864.6	1010.7	116.9
KSFL-Shahjahanpur	Urea	864.6	872.1	100.9

* Installed Capacity not indicated separately for these items.

**Modernisation and Expansion of Haldia
Petro-Chemical Project**

525. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal for the modernization and expansion of Haldia Petro-Chemical Project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (d) the present capacity of the plant?

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): (a) to (d) Haldia Petrochemicals Limited has undertaken an expansion project. The cost of the expansion project as approved by the Board of Directors of the Company is Rs.770 crore. The present and proposed capacities after the expansion are as under:-

Sl. No.	Product	Present capacity (Tonnes per annum)	Proposed capacity (Tonnes per annum)
1	Ethylene	520000	670000
2	HDPE	300000	320000
3	PP	300000	320000
4	LLDPE	260000	368000
5	Benzene	85000	152000
6	Butadiene	82000	100000
7	PyroGasoline	150000	158800

Pension for Artists

526. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing a monthly pension for those artists of various genres of yesteryears who are in indigent conditions;
- (b) if so, the details of the total amount of such pensions granted to artists of various forms, State-wise during the last three years i.e. from 2004 to 2007;
- (c) whether a large number of pension applications lying pending;
- (d) if so, the details of such pending applications, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which this pendency is cleared?

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

(b) The year wise breakup of amount of pension granted state-wise in Central quota and Central-State quota during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 has been enclosed as Statement-IA and Statement-IB.

(c) to (e) Besides 1262 existing beneficiaries (1010 in Central quota and 252 in Central State quota), 1650 fresh applications have been received so far. The State-wise break up of fresh applications has been enclosed as Statement-II. The renewal of the pension of existing beneficiaries has already been started depending on the furnishing of Life and Income Certificate by them as envisaged in the Scheme. The processing of fresh applications has also been initiated as per procedure laid down in the scheme and sanctions will be issued to the artists selected subject to the availability of funds.

Statement-IA

Grant released under Pension Scheme - Central quota

State/UTs	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Total No. of beneficiaries	Total amount Released	Total No. of beneficiaries	Total amount Released	Total No. of beneficiaries	Total amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	84	2016000	148	2684000	133	3384000
Bihar	7	168000	7	168000	27	648000
Chhattishgarh	2	48000	2	48000	2	48000
Delhi	25	600000	37	828000	36	864000
Goa	6	144000	11	264000	8	192000
Gujarat	2	48000	5	120000	8	192000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	9	216000	20	360000	21	504000
Himachal Pradesh	5	120000	5	70000	5	120000
Jammu and Kashmir	1	24000	2	28000	2	48000
Jharkhand	4	96000	4	96000		6 144000
Karnataka	52	1248000	155	2864000	139	3336000
Kerala	37	888000	69	1336000	65	1560000
Madhya Pradesh	12	336000	5	70000	28	672000
Maharashtra	46	1104000	120	3000000	120	2880000
Orissa	65	1632000	94	1966000	99	2376000
Pondichery	3	72000	3	72000	12	288000
Punjab	3	72000	5	66000	6	144000
Rajasthan	2	48000	6	144000	5	120000
Tamil Nadu	8	312000	5	120000	20	480000
Uttar Pradesh	78	1910000	126	2612000	120	2880000
Uttaranchal	3	72000	3	72000	7	168000
West Bengal	12	288000	45	1080000	48	1152000
Assam	10	240000	22	528000	21	504000
Manipur	56	1344000	76	1824000	69	1656000
Nagaland	1	24000	1	24000		
Tripura	1	24000	1	24000	1	24000
Meghalaya	1	24000	1	24000		
Mizoram	1	24000	3	72000	2	48000
Total	536	13142000	981	23544000	1010	24432000

Statement-1B*Grant released under the Pension Scheme - Central - State quota*

State/UTs	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Total No. of beneficiaries	Total amount Released	Total No. of beneficiaries	Total amount Released	Total No. of beneficiaries	Total amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	16	288000	15	270000	16	288000
Assam	14	252000	15	270000	14	270000
Goa	10	180000	10	180000	10	180000
Haryana	1	18000	1	18000	1	18000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karnataka	25	450000	28	504000	29	522000
Kerala	69	1296000	69	1422000	59	1062000
Maharashtra	8	144000	8	180000	11	216000
Manipur	4	72000	3	54000	2	36000
Mizoram	3	90000	2	36000	1	18000
Orissa	80	1440000	85	1530000	101	1872000
Punjab	2	36000	2	36000	1	18000
Pondichery	1	18000	1	18000	1	18000
Rajasthan	2	36000	2	36000	2	36000
West Bengal	5	90000	4	72000	4	72000
Total	240	4410000	245	4626000	252	4626000

Statement-II*[Translation]**Status of Fresh Applications State-wise***Scam in Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)**

S.No	State/Union Territory	Total applications
1.	Andhra Pradesh	364
2.	Assam	21
3.	Bihar	19
4.	Chandigarh	1
5.	NCT-Delhi	15
6.	Haryana	22
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
8.	Jharkhand	1
9.	Karnataka	239
10.	Kerala	156
11.	Madhya Pradesh	62
12.	Maharashtra	411
13.	Manipur	63
14.	Orissa	97
15.	Punjab	2
16.	Rajasthan	1
17.	Tamil Nadu	66
18.	Uttar Pradesh	74
19.	West Bengal	34
Total No. of Applications		1650

527. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scam involving crores of rupees in Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered in this regard;

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

(e) the action taken/to be taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. No such scam involving crores of rupees in Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has come to light.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Rural Tourism in Maharashtra

528. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to promote rural tourism in Maharashtra;

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

(c) the amount allocated for the said purpose during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UTs including Maharashtra for infrastructure development in rural sites having tourism potential, under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for

Destinations & Circuits. Capacity Building is supported by GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project and under the scheme of Capacity Building for Service Provider (CBSP).

(b) and (c) The details of CFA provided to Government of Maharashtra for promotion of rural tourism are as under:-

S.No.	Location	CFA sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)			
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Sulibhanjan-Khultabad, Distt. Aurangabad	20.00 for CBSP	-	-	-
2.	Morachi Chincholi, Distt. Pune	-	-	70.00 (Rs.50.00 lakh for infrastructure development and Rs.20.00 lakh for Capacity Building)	-

[English]

The Year of Thailand and North East India-2008

529. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to observe 2008 as "The year of Thailand and North East India"; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the contemplated observance and the celebrations and functions to be organised, towards revival of the age-old India-Thailand cultural and trade ties?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Food Parks

530. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that out of the 54 food parks approved by the Government for assistance, only 29 food parks are operational;

(b) if so, main reasons for such a dismal performance; and

(c) immediate steps taken by the Government for making the remaining food parks operational within a reasonable time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFP) has approved financial assistance for 56 food parks in the country, out of which 29 are considered operational. The

Progress of food parks is observed slow due to several constraints viz. long gestation period, connectivity and linkage problems, power shortages, water problem, location constraints, slowness in bringing matching promoter's share etc. The Ministry has been regularly reviewing the Food Parks with Implementing Agencies as well as State Nodal Agencies for making the remaining Food Parks operational.

Incidents of Deaths of Passengers

531. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing and frequent incidents of passenger deaths in various airlines in the country in the recent past;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any preventive steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) There has been no case of Passenger deaths in various airlines in the country in the recent past due to accident or incident. However there may have been cases of passenger death due to natural reasons for which information from the individual airlines is being collected.

[Translation]

Airports in NE States

532. SHRI KIREN RIJJU:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct new airport in the North-Eastern (NE) States;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposals in this respect from the aforesaid States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have received proposals to construct Greenfield airports at Itanagar and Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), Peking (Sikkim), Cheithu (Nagaland) and Kokarajhar (Assam).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. On the request from State Government of Sikkim, Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and submitted to the State Government. Action has also been initiated for preparation of DPR in respect of Greenfield airports at Itanagar and Cheithu. Besides, apt ion has been initiated by AAI to appoint consultants for carrying out feasibility study in respect of proposed airports at Kokarajhar and Tawang.

Doubling of Railway Line on Jhansi-Kanpur Section

533. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have received a proposal for doubling of Railway line on the Jhansi-Kanpur section in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the surveys work on this section has been started; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Representations have been received regarding doubling of rail line of Jhansi-Kanpur (220 kms). Doubling of Kanpur-Bhimsen (11 kms) has been taken up. The traffic on Bhimsen-Jhansi sections has not yet reached the level to justify its doubling. No survey for doubling has been taken up.

Women Employees in Railway Services

534. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to enhance the participation of women employees in Railway Services;
- (b) if so, whether any action plan has been prepared for the same;
- (c) if so, the details of the number of women

employees presently working with the Railway Services, as on date; and

(d) the estimated number of women employees according to the action plan?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A total of 75091 (seventy five thousand ninety one) women employees were working on the Railways as per the latest available figures i.e. as on 31.3.2006.

(d) Does not arise.

New Railway Line in Rajasthan

535. SHRI PUSP JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new railway line proposals included in the Railway Budget 2005-2006 for Rajasthan;
- (b) time fixed by the Railways to survey these railway lines;
- (c) the details of railway network, State-wise, in India; and
- (d) the status of Rajasthan regarding railway line and the details of the rail connectivity of Rajasthan with other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No new railway line proposals has been included in the Railway Budget 2005-06 for Rajasthan. Two surveys for new lines have been included in the Budget 2005-06.

(b) 2007-08.

(c) and (d) A statement is attached.

Statement

The details of railway network, state-wise, in India are given as under:

S.No.	Name of State	Route Kms as on 31.03.2006
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	5185.10
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1.26
3	Assam	2284.28
4	Bihar	3330.41
5	Chhattisgarh	1186.10

1	2	3
6	Delhi	204.22
7	Goa	69.00
8	Gujarat	5282.87
9	Haryana	1595.00
10	Himachal Pradesh	285.01
11	Jammu and Kashmir	137.77
12	Jharkhand	1954.83
13	Karnataka	3002.83
14	Kerala	1050.20
15	Madhya Pradesh	4903.16
16	Maharashtra	5527.98
17	Manipur	1.35
18	Meghalaya	0.00
19	Mizoram	1.50
20	Nagaland	12.85
21	Orissa	2281.47
22	Punjab	2133.41
23	Rajasthan	5837.99
24	Sikkim	0.00
25	Tamil Nadu	4170.86
26	Tripura	64.42
27	Uttar Pradesh	8546.36
28	Uttarakhand	344.92
29	West Bengal	3910.73
Union Territories		
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00
2	Chandigarh	15.70
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00
4	Daman and Diu	0.00
5	Lakshadweep	0.00
6	Pondicherry	11.10
All India		63332.13

Rajasthan is connected with other states by Railways.

Railway Line in Andhra Pradesh

536. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of rail line proposed to be laid in Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year;

(b) the names of places where these rail lines are likely to be laid; and

(c) the details of line in Andhra Pradesh is likely to be converted into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The following new line, doubling and gauge conversion works falling fully/partly in Andhra Pradesh are targeted to be completed during 2007-08:

- i) Jaggayapeta-Mallacheruvu (19 Kms.) new line;
- ii) Guntur-Krishna Canal (27 Kms.) doubling;
- iii) Guntakal-Kalluru (40 Kms.) gauge conversion; and
- iv) Pakala-Madnapalle (82 Kms.) section of Dharamavaram-Pakala gauge conversion.

Special Schemes to Attract Foreign Tourists

537. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any data regarding number of foreign tourists traveled by trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the income earned by Railways therefrom during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Railways are contemplating to formulate any special scheme to attract foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In order to attract the foreign tourists, Indian Railways introduced Indrail Pass Scheme in the year 1977 as a tourism promotion measure. These passes are issued to the foreign nationals and Non Resident Indians (NRIs) against payments in the US dollars, Sterling pounds and Euro currency. The pass holder is entitled to travel throughout the Indian Railways' Network within the period of its validity in a class it is issued for. Further, Indian Railways has also run six luxury tourist trains for tourists including foreign tourists i.e. Palace on Wheels, Heritage on Wheels in Rajasthan sector, Steam Safari Train-the Fairy Queen on Delhi-Alwar sector, Deccan Odyssey in Maharashtra Sector and Buddhist

Special by covering places linked with Lord Buddha. In addition to above, two new luxury tourist trains in Karnataka and Rajasthan may also be launched in the tourist season 2007-08. One luxury tourist train in the Punjab Sector has also been approved. These luxury tourist train facilities are availed by foreign tourists.

[English]

**Modernisation and Value Addition
in Barauni Refinery**

538. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

S.No.	Project & Objective	Expected Expenditure (Rs./Cr.)	Anticipated date of completion
1.	Motor Spirit (MS) Quality Improvement Project for production of MS complying to Euro III equivalent specifications.	1000.00	December, 09
2.	Installation of 3rd Reactor in Diesel Hydrotreater (DHDT) for production of High Speed Diesel (HSD) complying to Euro III equivalent specifications.	84.00	December, 08

[Translation]

**Stoppage of Train at Bagha
Railway Station**

539. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Express Train introduced from Bapudham Motihari to Madvadihi via Varanasi has not been given stoppage at Bagha railway station;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways for provision of stoppage of said train at Bagha railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Stoppage of proposed 2537/2538 Bapudham (Motihari)-Manduadh Express has not been scheduled at Bagaha in view of superfast nature of the service so as to avoid proximity of stoppages enroute. The train has a scheduled stoppage at Narkatiaganj (42 km away).

Electrification of Railway Line

540. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length (in kms) of the railway route electrified by the Railways;

(b) the total length (in kms) of the railway route without electrification as on date;

(a) whether the Government has any plan for modernisation and value addition in Barauni Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred on the Plan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is implementing following modernisation/value addition Projects at Barauni Refinery:

(c) whether the Railways is planning to electrify the remaining railway routes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) As on 31.03.2006, 17907 Route kilometres are electrified and 45425 Route kilometres are non-electrified.

(c) and (d) Electrification of railway track is a need based exercise which is reviewed on a continuous basis. Investment on Railway Electrification is made based on the requirements of the system and those sections which are considered necessary are taken up for electrification.

[English]

Central Institute for Classical Tamil

541. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Central Institutes for Classical Tamil;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the locations identified for setting up of the same;

(c) the time by which the above Institutes are likely to be set up;

(d) whether it is also proposed to set up international awards in memory of ancient Tamil literacy figures; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Central Institute for Classical Tamil (CICT) is proposed to be set up in Chennai. During 2007-2012, an expenditure of Rs.149.69 crores is expected to be incurred.

(d) and (e) The existing 'Central Plan Scheme for Development of Tamil Language' will be transferred to Central Institute for Classical Tamil and this scheme has provision for one life time achievement award for Indian scholar and two International awards for life time achievement, one each for person of Indian and non-Indian origin. There is a proposal to rename these awards as Thiruvalluvar Award and Tolkappiyar Award respectively.

Stoppage of Train at Karad Railway Station

542. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a weekly train from Kolhapur to Ahmedabad has been started recently in Central Railway;

(b) whether the train does not have halt at Karad railway station;

(c) if so, whether there is any demand to stop the train at Karad railway station; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to provide stoppage of train at Karad station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. 1049/1050 Shri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj (T)- Ahmedabad Express (weekly) has been introduced from 7.7.2007.

(b) Yes, Sir. 1049/1050 Shri Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj (T)- Ahmedabad Express (weekly) is not stopping at Karad station.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Examined, but it has been found neither commercially justified nor operationally feasible.

[Translation]

New Train between Anandpur Sahib and Patna Sahib

543. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce a new train between Anandpur Sahib and Patna Sahib; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Board of Directors of PSEs

544. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines for appointment of Board of Directors of the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs);

(b) whether the Government has fixed any eligibility criterion of requisite academic and professional qualifications for holding such positions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government proposes to fix such criterion for Government Directors;

(f) if so, whether their presence undermines autonomy of the PSEs; and

(g) the manner in which the Government assesses performance of the Government Directors on the Boards of PSEs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Boards of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) consist of Functional, Government and non-official Directors. The Functional Directors are appointed by the concerned Administrative Ministries/Departments on the basis of recommendations of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) after obtaining the approval of competent authority. The choice of the Nominee Directors vests with the concerned Administrative Ministry/Department. The non-official Directors are appointed by the concerned Administrative Ministries/Departments on the basis of recommendations of Search Committee/PESB after obtaining the approval of competent authority.

(b) to (d) In respect of Functional Directors, a standard formulation of educational qualification and experience has been laid down which takes into account the specific requirements of the particular board level post. The Government has laid down specific criteria in terms of educational qualification, age and experience for appointment of part-time non-official Directors on the Boards of CPSEs. In order to be eligible for appointment as non-official Director, a person should inter alia, have minimum educational qualification of graduate degree from a recognized university.

(e) and (f) The Government Directors are generally officers who are dealing with the concerned CPSE. The association of Government officers with the Boards of CPSEs provides for a liaison role and a channel of communication between Government and the CPSEs.

(g) The performance of the Government Directors is assessed by the Government through their annual confidential reports.

[Translation]

Production of Long Products by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

545. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) would augment its production of long products used in the construction work in future alongwith flat products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to make available the steel and other products in the village at par with the prices in urban areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) plans to augment its production of Long Products [Thermo Mechanically Treated (TMT) Bars] used in construction work. The Expansion/Modernization Plan for TMT at various plants of SAIL upto 2010-11 is as under:

- i) Installation of new Bar & Rod Mill of 0.7 million tonnes per annum capacity at Durgapur Steel Plant.
- ii) Installation of new Wire Rod & Bar Mill of 0.45 million tonnes per annum capacity at IISCO Steel Plant.
- iii) Enhancement of capacity of TMT Bar Mill of Bhilai Steel Plant to 0.655 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) SAIL is making all efforts to make steel easily available in the rural sector. In the current fiscal year, SAIL has entered the rural market in a significant manner.

To improve the availability in the rural sector, SAIL has plans to have a SAIL dealer in every district of India by the end of the current fiscal year 2007-08.

To expedite dispatch to the rural sector, SAIL has also made arrangement to transport materials to the dealers' premises free of cost through SAIL's own transport arrangement. While there is no administered pricing control mechanism for maintaining price parity between urban and other locations, including rural locations, SAIL is attempting

to ensure through their free transportation system for District Dealers that landed cost of materials at urban and other (including rural) locations in that State are similar.

[English]

Financial Package to UPDPL

546. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given a financial package to Uttar Pradesh Drug Pharmaceutical Limited (UPDPL) or any other State to pay the dues to small scale drug manufacturers for supply of raw material to manufacture TB medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Small Scale Units have not been paid these dues;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the government to ensure that the package is fully implemented without any further delay?

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): (a) to (e) Government of India had released a grant of Rs. 10 crores to Uttar Pradesh Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (UPDPL) as per rehabilitation scheme sanction in August 2002 by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The rehabilitation package sanctioned by BIFR included payment towards One Time Settlement (OTS) to banks, pressing creditors, statutory liabilities and capital expenditure.

Konark and Puri Temples

547. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ASI has decided to remove the sand filled in the interior of the world famous Konark Temple in Orissa for its protection;

(b) if so, the damages, if any, likely to happen to the temple;

(c) whether the Government has also decided to renovate the Sun Temple, Konark and Jagannath Temple, Puri in Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) At present, there is no decision to remove the sand filled inside the Jagmohana of Sun Temple, Konark, Orissa.

(c) and (d) In addition to day to day maintenance, a long term conservation strategy to strengthen the Jagmohana of Sun Temple, including chemical preservation and environmental development, based on requisite investigation, analysis and design of compatible intervention, is under active consideration. This will also include measures to contain the effect of seismic forces.

A decision has also been taken to deplaster the Jagmohana of Jagannath Temple at Puri, under the supervision of a technical committee which has been constituted to examine all issues related to the conservation of this protected monument.

(e) The details of the funds earmarked for conservation, preservation and environmental development, in the current financial year for these monuments are as under:

Sl. No.	Temples	Funds Earmarked for		
		Structural Conservation	Chemical Preservation	Environmental Development
1.	Sun Temple, Konark	52.49 lakhs	7.50 lakhs	6.00 lakhs
2.	Jagannath Temple, Puri	22.75 lakhs	8.00 lakhs	3.00 lakhs

Namrup Fertilizer Plant

548. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken decision to set-up another unit of the Namrup Fertilizer Plant (Namrup-IV)

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional capacity to be installed, its estimated cost and schedule for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQU): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Cancellation of Allotment of Telephone Booths to Disabled at Railway Stations

549. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contracts of special telephone booths allotted to handicapped persons at railway platforms/stations are being cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this decision will deprive more than 10,000 disabled persons for their means of livelihood;

(d) if so, whether the Railways propose to provide them any other employment before cancellation of their contracts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Instructions have been issued extending the contracts, up to 27.10.2007.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Extension of Garib Rath Train Service

550. SHRI VASANTRAO MORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Garib Rath' train service would be extended to the adivasi regions;

(b) if so, the time by which this service is likely to be extended;

(c) whether the Railways propose to introduce 'Garib Rath' trains on routes which have high density of passenger traffic;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways propose to introduce 'Garib Rath' train from New Delhi to Nandoorbar, an adivasi dominated region in Maharashtra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Introduction/extension of trains including Garib Rath services, is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, resource availability and traffic justification. Indian Railways is alive to the needs of tribal regions and has proposed the following Garib Rath services which inter-alia will serve these regions:

- 2993/2994 Jaipur-bandra (T) Garib Rath Express (Tri-weekly)
- 2831/2832 Bhubaneswar-Ranchi Garib Rath Express (Tri-weekly)
- 2517/2518 Kolkata-Guwahati Garib Rath Express (Bi-weekly)
- 2535/2536 Raipur-Lucknow Garib Rath Express (Bi-weekly)

- (e) No, Sir.
(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Prices of Iron Ore

551. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the difference in prices of iron ore charged to domestic steel making companies with or without captive iron ore mines; and

(b) the production of steel by companies with or without captive iron ore mines and the cost of production per tonne of steel during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) As far as National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Steel & Orissa Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (one of the companies of Bird Group of Companies under the administrative control of Ministry of Steel) are concerned, the price charged for iron ore to domestic steel making companies with or without captive iron ore mines is same and no difference exists. This Ministry does not have data on iron ore prices charged by private mine owners.

(b) As per information furnished by Joint Plant Committee (JPC), total production of crude steel in the country during each of the last three years is given below:

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity in Million Tonnes
		Production of crude steel
1.	2004-05	43.44
2.	2005-06	46.46
3.	2006-07 (P)	50.85

Disclosure of the cost of production per tonne of steel may not be in the commercial interests of steel producers, and hence this data is not available in the Ministry.

Revival of Closed Fertilizer Plants

552. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made for the revival of closed fertilizer plants including Talcher in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to enter into joint ventures with private players for the revival of closed fertilizer plants; and

(c) the time by which the several plants would commence production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQU): (a) to (c) The Government has decided 'in principle' to examine the possibility of revival of closed fertilizer plants of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) including Talcher unit of FCIL subject to the confirmed availability of gas. The decision of the Government has been intimated to FCIL and HFCL for implementation. Fertilizer PSUs/ Cooperative - Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF), National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) have shown their intention to participate in the revival process of certain units of FCIL and HFCL and accordingly process of preparing techno-economic feasibility reports has been initiated. There is no proposal to involve private sector in the revival process at this stage. Since the revival of the closed units of HFCL and FCIL is process oriented, it would not be feasible to indicate definite timeframe about their revival.

Performance of Halt Stations

553. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of halt stations in Adra Division (South Eastern Railway) as on date;

(b) the amount of revenue earned by the Railways from these halt stations during the last one year;

(c) whether there are some Railway halt stations in the division which are running in losses; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are 24 halt stations in Adra division of South Eastern Railway.

(b) The earnings from these halt stations during the last one year is approximately Rs. 62.21 lakhs.

(c) and (d) A 'Halt Station' is considered unremunerative where average number of passengers is less than 25 per day (outward) on branch lines and 50 per day (outward) on main lines. From time to time halt stations where patronization is poor are closed.

New Open Sky Policy

554. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a new open sky policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the aviation industry is likely to benefit from the formulation of this policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Inclusion of Ship Recycling Activities
under Petroleum Rules**

555. SHRIMATI JAYABEN. B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Gujarat has sent proposal to Union Government to include Ship Recycling activities under Rule 43 of Petroleum Rules, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from Government of Gujarat to amend Petroleum Rules, 2002 to include ship breaking activities.

(c) The Petroleum Rules, 2002 have been amended vide Notification GSR 61 (E) dated 2nd February, 2007 to include ship breaking activity.

[Translation]

Road Overbridge on Baileisa Crossing Number 29A

556. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount out of Rs. 50 lakhs allocated for construction of road over-bridge on Baileisa crossing (Number 29A) at Ajamgarh-Sarairani in 2006-07 utilised for execution of work so far,

(b) whether construction work of the said road overbridge has not been started so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said construction work is likely to be started by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. No expenditure has been incurred so far.

(b) Yes, Sir. Construction (Physical) work has not been started.

(c) and (d) State Government has not yet submitted the Estimate and Structural details, on receipt of which detailed estimate shall be prepared to take up the work. Hence, time to take up physical work of construction depends on State Govt's submission.

[English]

Loans by NSFDC under Central Sponsored Schemes

557. SHRIMATI K. RANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loans/assistance released by the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) under various schemes implemented by it during 2007-08, State/UT-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) the number of persons to be benefited therefrom; and

(c) the details of the ongoing/proposed to be launched new schemes/programmes for which NSFDC is funding individuals/groups in the States, particularly in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The details of State/UT-wise loans/assistance released by NSFDC under various schemes during 2007-08 (April to July, 2007), persons to be benefited therefrom and details of the ongoing and sanctioned projects under NSFDC's funding schemes for the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Loan/Assistance released by NSFDC and Number of Persons to be benefited in 2007-08 (April to July, 2007)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Term Loan		MCF		MSY		Total	
		Amount Released (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of Persons To be Benefited	Amount Released (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of Persons To be Benefited	Amount Released (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of Persons To be Benefited	Amount Released (Rs. in Lakh)	No. of Persons To be Benefited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	620.59	679	0.00	0	0.00	0	620.59	679
2	Chandigarh	3.34	10	0.00	0	0.00	0	3.34	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	Gujarat	0.00	0	58.05	215	0.00	0	58.05	215
4	Haryana	5.95	7	0.00	0	0.00	0	5.95	7
5	Kerala	5.20	5	21.75	145	16.95	113	43.90	263
6	Maharashtra	252.34	161	24.00	120	26.00	130	302.34	411
7	Pondicherry	121.28	134	8.55	57	17.25	115	147.08	306
8	Rajasthan	28.64	24	0.00	0	0.00	0	28.64	24
9	Tamilnadu	133.90	206	0.00	0	0.00	0	133.90	206
10	Tripura	0.00	0	0.00	0	3.75	25	3.75	25
Total		1171.24	1226	112.35	537	63.95	383	1347.54	2146

Details of ongoing projects in which funds released and sanctioned projects under NSFDC's individual/group Schemes in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka in 2007-08 (April to July, 2007)

S.No.	Name of the State	Ongoing Projects	Sanctioned Projects
1	Tamil Nadu	Auto (LPG)	Nil
2	Kerala	Credit Finance & Mahila Samridhi Yojana	Micro Credit Finance
3	Karnataka	Nil	Mini Dairy, Hardware Shop, Tata Pickup Van, Auto Rickshaw.

Prices of Gas

558. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

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

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted to review the prices of gas supplied through pipeline in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the suggestions/recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the extent to which consumers are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Cultural Complexes in Kerala

559. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be please to state:

(a) whether project proposals for Kumraranasan Smaraka Cultural Complex at Pallara, Chattampiswami

Memorial Cultural Complex at Trivandrum and preservation and promotion of Kodiyettom by Kerala Kalamandalam are pending before the Government

(b) if so, details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Multipurpose Cultural Complex Scheme which was in existence till 31-3-2007 has been dropped by Planning Commission from the current financial year onwards. Accordingly proposal relating to Kumaransan Smaraka Cultural Complex at Pallana which was received in May 2007 was returned back. No proposal relating to Chattampiswami Memorial Complex at Trivandrum has been received. The proposal by the name Kodiyettom could not be located. However, Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University for Art & Culture forwarded a proposal for promotion of Kutiyattam-Starting of PG and Ph.D courses for Art & Culture in the University which however is not covered under the existing "Scheme of Financial Assistance to Safeguard and Support Masterpieces of Intangible Heritage of Humanity" of Ministry of Culture.

Rail Reservation Scheme

560. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have reversed the advance reservation period from 90 days to 60 days;

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

(c) whether the Railways are aware of the problems being faced by the passengers due to insufficient Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centres in smaller cities particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, whether the Railways have any proposal to open more PRS centres in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The advance reservation period for rail reservation has been reduced from 90 days to 60 days w.e.f. 15-07-2007 based on the booking pattern and the feedback received from Zonal Railways.

(c) There are 99 Passenger Reservation Systems functional in the state of Tamil Nadu that include smaller cities also.

(d) and (e) Passenger Reservation System along with facilities for Unreserved Ticketing (PRS-cum-UTS) have been sanctioned for about 76 more stations located in the state of Tamil Nadu.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Availability of Bottled Drinking Water at Lower Prices

561. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jabalpur Division under West Central Railway has any scheme for supplying water in the entire Railway region at its own;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to make available bottled drinking water at lower prices in place of the costly mineral water sold at the platforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) At present water is supplied at most of the railway stations of Jabalpur Division from Railway's own sources through tap or hand pumps.

However, at few stations water supply is taken from municipal corporations/local bodies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Kollam Sengottai Metre Gauge (MG) Line

562. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the poor progress of conversion work of Kollam-Sengottai metre gauge (MG) line which was started in the year 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The gauge conversion of Kollam (Quilon)-Sengottai metre gauge line is a part of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion project (357 Kms). On this project, gauge conversion of 130 Kms section has already been completed and gauge conversion of 106 Kms length, covering Quilon-Punalur (45 kms) & Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur (61 Kms), is targeted for completion during 2007-08. The Punalur-Sengottai (49 Kms) is a Ghat section where final location survey has been completed and detailed estimate is under process. No target has been fixed for completion of gauge conversion of this section.

Installation of Network Video Recording Cameras at Railway Stations

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

(a) whether the Railways have given its sanction for installation of 2700 Network Video Recording Cameras at the railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether installation of such cameras would be practically feasible in view of the overcrowded nature of these railway stations and the number of stations to be covered with 2700 cameras;

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

(e) the time by which the entire process of installation of cameras is likely to be over and the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the installation of these cameras; and

(f) the extent to which the installation such cameras would help the authority in nabbing the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There is no specific sanction by the Railway Board for installation of 2700 Network Video Recording Cameras at the railway stations.

(c) and (d) The selection of stations for installation of Close Circuit Televisions and Cameras have been done on the basis of terrorists threat perception and during the year 2006-07, the following stations have been covered with the facilities of Close Circuit Televisions and Cameras. Remaining important Railway Stations of Zonal Railways will be covered subject to availability of adequate funds.

State	Railway Stations	Expenditure Incurred
Bihar	Patna, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur	Rs. 27,32,000.00
Tamilnadu	Chennai Egmore, Trivandrum, Erankulam, Trichur	Rs. 42,00,000.00
Maharashtra	Manmad, Nasik Road, Nagpur, Dadar, Kurla, Thane, Kalyan, Vashi, Nanded	Rs. 18,52,058.00
Orrisa	Vishakhapatnam,	Rs. 1,98,100.00
Karnataka	Bangalore City	Rs. 25,42,200.00
U.P.	Allahabad, Naini, Agra Cantt, Jhansi, Prayag	Rs. 56,21,383.00
M.P.	Gwalior, Bhopal	Rs. 12,76,000.00
West Bengal	Howrah (Old Complex) Sealdah, 17 Metro Stations of Kolkata, New Jalpaiguri	Rs. 23,38,000.00
Delhi	Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi Main	Rs. 7,25,000.00

(e) Strengthening of security measures at Railway Stations including installation of Close Circuit Televisions and Cameras is an on going process. The expenditure to be incurred thereon is Rupees 34,99,10,006/- (approximately) for the year 2007-08.

(f)

- It will help monitoring the movement of suspicious persons in station area.
- It will help in investigating the untoward incident, if occurred within the station premises.
- It will help in locating the unclaimed articles lying in station platforms.
- It will help in keeping overall surveillance.

Preservation of Old Manuscripts and Books

564. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the financial crunch faced by different Institutes to preserve old manuscripts and books in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect and preserve the same?

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

(b) Manuscripts are kept in various government and private collections across the country, in libraries, museums, matts, madrasas, temples etc. Most of these institutions, especially the private ones, have very little funds for preserving manuscripts. Both in terms of infrastructure and skill, these institutions are lagging behind. The general lack of awareness about manuscripts are also responsible for sufficient funds not flowing in for the preservation of the manuscripts in the smaller and often unknown collections of manuscripts.

(c) The Government started the National Mission for Manuscripts in February 2003 with the aim of locating, documenting and preserving the manuscript collections across the country. The Mission has networked with as many as 80 partner institutions throughout the country as Manuscript Resource Centres and Manuscript Conservation Centres, which are given financial assistance in documenting the regional manuscript collections, as well as conserving them. Special projects are being taken up and funded, in association with reputed institutes for conservation of manuscript collections.

International Prices of Crude Oil

565. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a Global phenomenon that oil prices proportionately pushed up whenever crude oil prices in the international market registers an upward trend;
- (b) if so, the names of those countries where the increase is allowed in the domestic market whenever the international market registers an upward trend;
- (c) if not, the names of such countries in which International increase of crude oil price has no bearing in the retail selling price of the petrol/diesel/LPG/ Kerosene;
- (d) the reason for the abnormal increase in the selling price of petrol and diesel in the domestic market;

(e) whether Government has a plan to announce a further price hike as reported in the leading dailies; and

(f) if so, the probable hike and the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) It is generally true that prices of petroleum products increase alongwith crude oil prices. However, the magnitude of the increase may not match exactly. The monthly price trend for the benchmark crude oils and major petroleum products in the international market during January' 07-July' 07 is given in the enclosed Statement. Generally, oil import

dependent countries do pass on the impact of increase in international prices to domestic retail price.

(e) and (f) Government has been taking all possible measures to ensure that there is no hardship to common man on account of price rise. Government adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing amongst three stakeholders, namely, the consumers, the PSU oil companies and the Government to protect the interest of the common man and the vulnerable sections of society. The Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

Statement

Monthly Average Published Prices of Crude Oils/Major Petroleum Products

	Crude		Crude		Crude		Jet/ Kero Arab	Incr- ase/ Decr- ease	GO 5% Arab Gulf	Incr- ase/ Decr- ease	Naph- tha Arab Gulf	Incr- ase/ Decr- ease	Unlea- ded Singa- pore	Incr- ase/ Decr- ease	Pro- pane Saudi Aramco	Incr- ase/ Decr- ease	But- ane Saudi Aramco	Incr- ase/ Decr- ease
	Dubai	Oman	Brent (Dated)	Brent	ase/ Decr- ease	ase/ Decr- ease												
	\$/BBL	%	\$/BBL	%	\$/BBL	%	\$/BBL	%	\$/BBL	%	\$/BBL	%	\$/BBL	%	\$/MT	%	\$/MT	%
Jan' 07	51.69		52.14		53.68		66.76		63.00		54.67		60.31		545.0		550	
Feb' 07	55.75	7.85	55.96	7.34	57.43	6.98	69.27	3.76	67.96	7.86	60.92	11.43	65.73	8.99	526.0	-3.49	528	-4.36
Mar' 07	58.80	5.47	59.19	5.76	62.15	8.22	72.24	4.29	70.52	3.78	67.21	10.31	75.52	14.89	506.0	-3.80	506	-3.80
Apr' 07	63.97	8.79	64.45	8.90	67.51	8.62	78.33	8.43	77.50	9.89	71.53	6.43	82.69	9.50	530.0	4.74	545	7.71
May' 07	64.61	1.00	65.05	0.93	67.23	-0.41	79.36	1.32	78.79	1.66	74.62	4.32	87.96	6.37	560.0	5.66	575	5.50
Jun' 07	65.79	1.83	66.08	1.58	71.54	6.42	81.19	2.30	79.09	0.38	71.57	-4.09	83.82	-4.71	592.0	5.71	612	6.43
Jul' 07	69.49	5.63	70.09	6.07	77.01	7.63	84.43	3.99	82.85	4.75	73.35	2.49	84.36	0.64	575.0	-2.87	595	-2.78

Representation from Loco Staff and Guards

566. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any representation/memorandum from the All India Loco Running Staff Association and All India Guards Council in the last three years about their service conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

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

(b) Representations/Memoranda from large number of Associations including All India Loco Running Staff Association and All India Guards Council is a regular feature in the Railways and Railway Board. All India Loco Running Staff Association and All India Guards Council have been raising primarily the issues of their duty hours, rest hours,

condition of running rooms, cooking facilities and different allowances applicable to running staff.

(c) Loco Running Staff and Guards are important and crucial categories for train operations and the railway administration has always been making its best efforts to ameliorate the grievances of Loco Running Staff and Guards to look after their needs and to extend facilities to them to the maximum extent possible, within the permissible parameters. The Running Allowance Committee-2002 has also gone into details of various issues pertaining to running staff. The Committee's recommendations are under deliberation of Ministry of Railways.

[Translation]

Airport at Greater Noida

567. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an international airport at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh;

- (b) if so, whether the techno feasibility report in this regard has been received from the State Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the commercial viability of the project;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which the said airport is proposed to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (f) A proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh to set up an International Airport near Jewar, Gautam Buddha Nagar District for which a site has been identified by the State Government. The matter is under examination.

Production of Fertilizers in Eleventh Five Year Plan

568. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has fixed any target for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (FYP) to increase the production of chemical fertilizers;
- (b) if so, the details of the target fixed;
- (c) whether any assessment has made in respect of the capital investment required to achieve this target; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) to (d) No target for increased production of chemical fertilizers has been set for the Eleventh Five Year Plan. However, the Working Group on Fertilizers for the Eleventh Plan has projected a requirement of 287.55 lakh metric tonne (LMT) of Urea, 95.10 LMT of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and 37.40 LMT of Muriate of Potash (MOP) by 2011-12. The total installed operational capacity for production of Urea and DAP in the country is 197.01 LMT and 72.99 LMT respectively.

No production capacity of MOP is expected to be set up in Eleventh Plan as there are no economically exploitable reserves of potash in the country. The production of phosphatic fertilizers in the country is dependent upon availability and price of raw materials/intermediates in the international market. Hence, additional capacity creation for production of DAP cannot be anticipated definitely.

The additional production capacity of Urea in the country during the Eleventh Plan is expected to come through revival of closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., setting up of brownfield & greenfield projects, and capacity addition through revamp of existing units. Though, no definite estimate of total required investment is possible at present, it is estimated that a 1 million tonne production capacity plant of urea will cost approximately Rs.3500 crore.

[English]

Smart Card System

569. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to introduce Smart Card System in cooperation with the oil marketing companies to curb diversion of PDS kerosene into the black market and to plug leakages in the system;
- (b) if so, the extent to which smart card is going to help in curbing diversion of kerosene meant for PDS;
- (c) whether it is going to be introduced on a pilot scheme basis in some districts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details of the districts so identified in different States particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh for this purpose;
- (e) whether some States are opposing this move; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to formulate a long-term pricing policy of petroleum products, the Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan. The Committee has inter alia recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided 'in principle' that subsidy on PDS kerosene be limited to BPL families only. With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the BPL families in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene to BPL families. The Smart Card Scheme is expected to help contain the black marketing of kerosene and also its diversion for adulteration.

(c) to (f) The Smart Card Scheme was proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis in three districts – Latur in Maharashtra, Nalanda in Bihar and Nainital in Uttaranchal in 2007. Under the Smart Card Scheme, Smart

Cards would be issued to the BPL card holders, to ensure that the subsidized PDS kerosene is delivered to BPL families only. The beneficiaries i.e. BPL families will be identified by the district authorities. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementation of the Pilot scheme.

The State Governments of Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttarakhand did not favour the implementation of the pilot Smart Card Scheme. The State Governments stated that the supply of subsidized PDS SKO should not be restricted to BPL families only and the same should continue to all families as at present. The State Government of Bihar intimated that they have approved distribution of PDS SKO to BPL families on the basis of coupon and the APL families on the basis of ration card and requested to stay the implementation of smart card scheme in the Nalanda district.

In view of the unfavourable response from the State Governments, this Ministry has not been able to implement the pilot Smart Card Scheme.

The pilot scheme of Smart Card is not planned in any district of Andhra Pradesh.

Jurisdiction of Salem Division

570. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the territorial jurisdiction of the newly proposed Salem Division under Southern Railway has been fixed finally;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any disputes to fix up the territorial jurisdiction of the newly proposed Salem Division;

(d) if so, the details of steps being taken by the Railways for an amicable settlement in this regard;

(e) whether conference of Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu with the Railway Minister was held in this regard; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) The following jurisdiction has been proposed for the new Salem Division:

- Udagamandalam - Coimbatore North - Erode - Salem-Jolarpettai (excluding.) (from Palghat Division);
- Irugur - Podanur (including) -Coimbatore North (from Palghat Division);
- Erode - Tiruchchirappalli (excluding.) (from Palghat Division);
- Salem - Karur (New line);
- Karur - Dindigul (excluding.) (from Palghat Division);
- Salem - Vriddhachalam (excluding) (from Tiruchchirappalli Division); and
- Salem-Mettur Dam (from Palghat Division).

(c) Yes, Sir. Some apprehensions have been raised by the Very Important Persons from the State of Kerala.

(d) The Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been requested for a joint meeting to solve the issues amicably.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Guwahati Airport

571. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on now International Terminal Building, New Apron and Taxiway was taken up during 2006-07 as assured;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of programme finalised for the modernisation of Guwahati Airport including expansion of taxi parking area and approach road; and

(d) the alternate arrangement made for the VIP lounge at arrival hall in the event of its inordinate delay in execution of Passenger Boarding Bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The work of New International Terminal Building is at planning stage whereas the work of new apron and taxiway has been awarded and is in progress.

(c) Details of works for modernization of Guwahati airport are as under:

- (i) Provision of canopy on air side, additional security hold area, lift and escalator completed.
- (ii) Other works - city-side canopy, expansion of taxi parking area, development of approach road and installation of passenger boarding bridges.

(d) VIP lounge in arrival hall has been commissioned w.e.f. 7.8.2007.

Surveillance Checks by DGCA

572. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) teams have recently found various lapses at airports across the country for surprise surveillance checks;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the responsibilities have been fixed at airports in such lapses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further steps taken by the Government to ensure that the guidelines are properly adhered to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Team of Directorate General of Civil Aviation carried out surveillance checks at major airports across the country wherein certain lapses/non-adherence of procedures were observed.

(c) and (d) Deviation/ non-adherence observed during such surveillance checks were brought to the notice of the concerned operators for necessary remedial action, in a few serious lapses punitive action was taken against the concerned personnel.

Schools for Free Education to SC Children

573. SHRI SUDAM MARNDI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any project from Government of Haryana to run free education school for Scheduled Caste Children in Jind District during the current year;

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

(c) whether the All India Association for SCs/STs and Physically Handicapped has given any representation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for opening a school for SCs in District Jind, Haryana has been received from the All India Association for SCs/STs & Physically Handicapped through the Government of Haryana.

(c) and (d) Copies of some letters written by the All India Association for SCs/STs and Physically Handicapped in this regard have been received through the Government of Haryana. All these letters relate to the sanction of grant-in-aid for opening and running the school in question.

(e) As the proposal of the above organization is deficient in certain respects it is being returned to the State Government.

Intergovernmental Agreement on Trains Asian Railways

574. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement on Trans Asian Railways project of UN-ESCAP;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) the total coverage of this project?

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

(b) The Agreement defines and lists the railway lines of international importance including the missing links and lays down the guiding principles relating to technical characteristics for providing seamless transport on the Trans Asian Railway network.

(c) The total Trans Asian Railway Network as finalized by the agreement has 80,900 Kms. of Railway lines in 28 countries including 22,600 Kms. in South Asia, Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Petroleum Products

575. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) the value of subsidy given by the Government on each unit of LPG;

(b) the quantum of LPG unit on which subsidy has been provided during the last three years and the quantum of LPG unit used during each of the years;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide subsidy on LPG used for domestic purposes only alongwith the details of provisions made by the Government to check its misuse; and

(d) the action taken by the Government under the said provision during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) Government provided a subsidy of Rs. 22.58 per 14.2 kg of domestic LPG cylinder for the year 2006-07, from the fiscal budget.

Additionally, the Government had issued oil bonds worth Rs.11,500 crore to OMCs for the year 2005-06 as partial compensation in respect of losses/under-recoveries suffered by them in selling PDS kerosene and domestic LPG. During the financial year 2006-07, the Government issued oil bonds worth Rs.24,121 crore as partial compensation in respect of losses/under-recoveries suffered by OMCs in selling sensitive petroleum products, which includes PDS kerosene and domestic LPG.

(b) The Government has provided subsidy on LPG used for domestic purposes only. The estimated quantum of LPG units on which subsidy has been provided for the last three years is given below:

Year	Million Cylinder
2004-05	671
2005-06	664
2006-07	685

(c) and (d) While OMCs make all efforts to meet the genuine demand of the customers registered with the LPG distributors, action is taken against the erring distributors in accordance with the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). In addition, State Governments are empowered to take action against illegal use of domestic LPG.

The following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes:

(i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution), Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commo-

dities Act, 1955 the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of OMCs is prohibited. The State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the diversion of domestic cylinders of unauthorized usage.

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

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

(iii) Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

(iv) Government have advised OMCs to introduce different colours for domestic & non-domestic cylinders. This is expected to help in controlling the diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

Action taken by the OMCs as per the provisions of MDG for the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

	2004-05				2005-06				2006-07			
	All India				All India				All India			
	IOC	BPC	HPC	Total	IOC	BPC	HPC	Total	IOC	BPC	HPC	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Total number of inspections carried out	14644	7853	7382	29879	15040	8983	6566	30589	16581	8240	8508	33329
Total number of irregularities detected	344	202	354	900	547	232	401	1180	514	154	356	1024
Total cases of diversion	119	155	210	484	168	144	205	517	121	57	169	347

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Total number of cylinders found diverted	26053	867	7573	34493	38330	21133	12593	72056	7140	2828	17262	27230
Total cases of overcharging	25	2	28	55	48	7	15	70	58	1	11	70
Total cases of under-weight cylinders	52	6	9	67	45	9	4	58	24	5	0	29
Action taken as per MDG	326	43	354	723	516	80	401	997	514	154	354	1022
Caution/Warning	81	17	30	128	115	9	51	175	155	22	33	210
Fine	239	24	323	586	398	65	349	812	357	125	315	797
Termination	6	2	1	9	3	6	1	10	2	7	6	15

Remarks from IOC : Total action taken as per MDG is less than total number of irregularities detected as for the number of irregularities detected at one instance, only one caution/warning is issued.

Remarks from HPC : Terminations which are not on account of MDG action, but as per dealership agreement, Supreme Court directions, resignations, etc. totalling to 1 for 2004-05 & 8 for 2005-06 are not shown in the table above.

New Aviation Guidelines

576. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new aviation guidelines listed in the policy "Vision 2020" have been approved by the Government;

(b) if so, the main aims and objectives of the new civil aviation policy;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Ministry of Defence has raised some objections on the said new policy; and

(e) if so, the details alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The National Civil Aviation Policy alongwith "Vision 2020" is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM).

Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme

577. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY:

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to mandatorily mix 10% Ethanol with petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has been facing any hurdles in implementation of the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present status of Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Ethanol is mixed only with petrol. At present there is no proposal to mandatorily mix 10% Ethanol with petrol.

(c) and (d) The major hurdles faced by the Government in implementation of Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme are as under:-

(i) Delay in issuance of the requisite Gazette Notification by State Governments.

(ii) Hurdles in free inter-state movement of Ethanol.

(iii) Delay in issue of excise permits.

(iv) Non-rationalization of levy of taxes/duties on Ethanol.

MoP&NG is pursuing the matter with the State Governments for speedy implementation of EBP Programme.

(e) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Vide Gazette Notification No. G.S.R 580(E) dated 20.9.2006 has directed that subject to commercial viability, oil marketing companies shall sell 5 percent of ethanol blended petrol, as

per Bureau of Indian Standards specification, in the notified 20 states and 4 Union Territories w.e.f. 1.11.2006. Oil Marketing Companies are procuring ethanol from indigenous producers through open tenders, with a validity period of three years extendable by two more years.

The tenders for supply of Ethanol have been finalized in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Goa, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh (partially). The ethanol blended petrol supplies have already commenced in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Goa, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand (partially), Gujarat (partially) and Andhra Pradesh (partially).

[English]

Commercial Utilisation of Surplus Railway Land

578. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

PROF. M. RAMADASS:

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any action plan for commercial utilization of surplus railway land including prime properties in cities and towns for establishing chain of luxury Budget Hotels;

(b) if so, whether the General Managers of Zonal Railways have been given discretionary powers to release such land;

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

(d) the criteria fixed for utilization of such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Railway land, which is not required in foreseeable future for Railways' operational use and having commercial potential, is proposed to be utilised for commercial purposes including Budget hotels. General Managers of the Zonal Railways have been delegated powers for commercial use of railway land upto 1000 square meter. Sites more than 1000 require approval of Railway Board. State-wise details are not maintained. However, Zone-wise details of sites identified for commercial utilization and budget hotels are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

Commercial Utilisation of Surplus Railways

S.No.	Railway	Name of site
1	2	3
1.	Eastern	Belgharia
2.		Bidhan Nagar
3.		Halishahar

1	2	3
4.		Balighat
5.		Kancharapara
6.		Budge-Budge
7.	East Central	Gautam Budha Institute, Gaya
8.	East Coast	Vishakhapatnam (2 sites)
9.	Northern	Railway Institute Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow
10.		Delhi-Sarai Rohila
11.	North Central	Gwalior
12.		Nirala Nagar (Kanpur)
13.		Idgah
14.		Mathura Jn.
15.		Kampoo Kothi
16.	South Western	Bangalore City
17.	Northeast Frontier	Karimganj
18.		Silcher
19.		New Coochbehar
20.		New Alipurduar
21.		Alipurduar
22.		Kurseong
23.		Darjeeling
24.		Kishanganj
25.		Katihar
26.		Jorhat
27.		Makum
28.		Sibsagar
29.		Margherita
30.		Burdwan Road, Siliguri
31.		Between Road Over Bridge & Jorapani near New Jalpaiguri
32.		In front of New Jalpaiguri station
33.		In front of Power House of New Jalpaiguri
34.		Tin Batti More near New Jalpaiguri

1	2	3	1	2	3
35.		Near circulating area of New Jatpaiguri	59.		Guntakal
36.		Mahananda Colony, Siliguri	60.		Aurangabad
37.		By the side of Darjeeling More	61.		Hingoli Stn area
38.		Diesel Shed Road Siliguri	62.		Adilabad
39.		Panchnai River and Transit hostel, Siliguri	63.		Washim Stn
40.		Hawker Corner at Siiguri	64.		Mudkhed
41.		Amingaon by the side of Hajo-Guwahati Road	65.		Hafeezpet
42.		Amingaon by the side of Hajo-Guwahati Road	66.		Near Rly.hospital at Vijayawada
43.		Amingaon by the side of Amingaon-Rangiya Road	67.		In front of TA Camp Staff Quarters. Moula Ali
44.		Amingaon by the side of Amingaon-Rangiya Road	68.		Near Moula Ali flyover
45.		Amingaon near Rajib Gandhi Indoor Stadium	69.	South Eastern	Bokaro-I
46.		In between Agthori-Amingon by the side of Amingaon - IIT Road	70.		Bokaro-II
47.		Amingaon near CONCOR complex	71.		TATA
48.		Amingaon by the side of Hajo-Guwahati Road	72.	South East Central	Zone-II/Bamiana
49.		Pandu New Colony -I	73.		Zone-II & III Bamiana
50.		Pandu New Colony-I	74.		In front of Zone III/Bamiana
51.		Pandu on Adabari - Pandu Road	75.		PP Yard/Bamiana
52.		Pandu on Adabari -Pandu Road	76.		Urkura
53.		Pandu on Adabari - Pandu Road	77.		Kapa
54.	South Central	Between MMTS stations- Bharanagar & Boarabanda	78.		Waris Aleganj
55.		Near Uppal bus stand	79.	South Western	Malleswaram Railway Station
56.		Moula-Ali -I	80.		Yeswanthpur
57.		Moula-Ali -II	81.		Bangalore City
58.		Guntakal	82.	Western	Bhavnagar Terminus side to Manekwadi Station
			83.		Manekwadi station
			84.		Manekwadi station
			85.		Takhteswar station
			86.		Takhteswar station
			87.		Krishnagar
			88.		Krishnagar Stn. to Chainage 246
			89.		Jamnagar -Old Station Area

1	2	3
90.		Maninagar (West)
91.		Maninagar (East)
92.	Integral Coach Factory, Perumbur	Kakkapallam Padi, Chennai

Statement-II*List of Proposed locations for Budget Hotels*

S.No.	Location	Railway
1	2	3
1	Carnac Bunder	Central Railway
2	Nasik Road	Central Railway
3	Kolhapur	Central Railway
4	Lonawala	Central Railway
5	Mumbai CST	Central Railway
6	Nagpur	Central Railway
7	Shirdi	Central Railway
8	Pune	Central Railway
9	Gaya	East Central Railway
10	Patna	East Central Railway
11	Rajgir	East Central Railway
12	Bhubaneswar	East Coast Railway
13	Puri	East Coast Railway
14	Cuttack	East Coast Railway
15	Vishakhapattanam	East Coast Railway
16	Sealdah	Eastern Railway
17	Howrah	Eastern Railway
18	Mathura/Vrindavan	North Central Railway
19	Allahabad	North Central Railway
20	Gwalior	North Central Railway
21	Agra	North Central Railway
22	Agartala	Northeast Frontier Railway
23	Silchar/Lumding	Northeast Frontier Railway
24	Darjeeling	Northeast Frontier Railway
25	New Jalpaiguri	Northeast Frontier Railway
26	Guwahati	Northeast Frontier Railway

1	2	3
27	Srinagar	Northern Railway
28	Jammu	Northern Railway
29	Joginder Nagar	Northern Railway
30	Ludhiana	Northern Railway
31	Shimla	Northern Railway
32	Varanasi	Northern Railway
33	New Delhi	Northern Railway
34	Nizamuddin	Northern Railway
35	Delhi Cantonment	Northern Railway
36	Deharadun	Northern Railway
37	Rishiksha	Northern Railway
38	Kangra	Northern Railway
39	Katra	Northern Railway
40	Lucknow	Northern Railway
41	Haridwar	Northern Railway
42	Amritsar	Northern Railway
43	Anand Vihar (Delhi)	Northern Railway
44	Chandigarh	Northern Railway
45	Moradabad	Northern Railway
46	Udaipur	North Western Railway
47	Lalgarh/Bikaner	North Western Railway
48	Jaisalmer	North Western Railway
49	Jodhpur	North Western Railway
50	Mount Abu	North Western Railway
51	Ajmer	North Western Railway
52	Jaipur	North Western Railway
53	Vijayawada	South Central Railway
54	Aurangabad	South Central Railway
55	Tirupati	South Central Railway
56	Nanded	South Central Railway
57	Hyderabad	South Central Railway
58	Secunderabad	South Central Railway
59	Bilaspur	South East Central Railway

1	2	3
60	Tata Nagar	South Eastern Railway
61	Raipur	South Eastern Railway
62	Ranchi	South Eastern Railway
63	Chennai	Southern Railway
64	Chennai Egraore	Southern Railway
65	Mangalore	Southern Railway
66	Trivandrum	Southern Railway
67	Coimbatore	Southern Railway
68	Rameshwaram	Southern Railway
69	Ooty	Southern Railway
70	Kanyakumari	Southern Railway
71	Ernakulam	Southern Railway
72	Kottayam	Southern Railway
73	Calicut	Southern Railway
74	Tuticorm	Southern Railway
75	Pondichery	Southern Railway
76	Alwaye	Southern Railway
77	Cochin	Southern Railway
78	Madurai	Southern Railway
79	Kodaikanal Road	Southern Railway
80	Quilon	Southern Railway
81	Belgaum	South Western Railway
82	Bangalore	South Western Railway
83	Madgaon	South Western Railway
84	Mysore	South Western Railway
85	Goa/Vasco-da-gama	South Western Railway
86	Khairaha	West Central Railway
87	Kota	West Central Railway
88	Jabalpur	West Central Railway
89	Habibganj/Bhopal	West Central Railway
90	Indore	Western Railway
91	Vapi	Western Railway
92	Veraval	Western Railway

1	2	3
93	Rajkot	Western Railway
94	Mumbai Central	Western Railway
95	Ahmedabad	Western Railway
96	Vadodara	Western Railway
97	Dwarka/Okha	Western Railway
98	Surat	Western Railway
99	Bombay Bandra	Western Railway
100	Ujjain	Western Railway

Airports in Small Cities

579. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to bring more and more small cities under the air map;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether plan has been prepared to develop the additional number of airports in those cities and to identify the airlines which are willing to operate aircraft to those cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) have decided to take up developmental works in coordination with the State Governments at some of the unused airstrips. This would facilitate air connectivity to small cities.

The non-operational airports at Akola, Coochbehar, Cuddapah, Kolhapur, Mysore, Sholapur, Warangal, Surat and Gondia are being developed on the request of airlines and State Governments.

Gauge Conversion in Gujarat

580. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received by the Railways from the Government of Gujarat for conversion of certain lines to broad gauge;

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

(c) the present status of the Surendranagar-Dharangadhra, Mahesana-Patan, Ahmedabad-Botad railway lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) As per available records, Government of Gujarat had requested for gauge conversion of metre gauge/narrow gauge line falling partly in the state of Gujarat. Details of ongoing projects/ new proposals for gauge conversion falling fully/partly in the state of Gujarat and action taken thereon is as under:-

Ongoing Projects

S.No.	Projects	Status
1	2	3
1	Bhildi-Samdari	This work is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Earth work and bridge works have been taken up. This work is planned for completion during 2008-09.
2	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej	This work is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Special Purpose Vehicle named Bharuch-Dahej Railway Company Limited has been formed and shareholders agreement has also been signed. The process of award of contract will start after signing of the Concession Agreement.
5	Mehsana-Patan	Work on Viramgam-Mahesana has been completed. Mahesana- Patan is targeted for completion during 2007-08.
8	Surendranagar-Dhrangadhra	Work on Surendranagar-Dhrangadhra section has been taken up and targeted for completion during 2007-08.

1	2	3
Proposals		
1	Ahmedabad-Botad	Survey completed. Necessary action has been initiated to obtain requisite clearances.
2	Dhasa-Jetalsar	
3	Ahmedabad-Udaipur	
4	Dhasa-Veraval	Survey has not been taken up on this route Dhasa-Khijadiya-Veraval

[Translation]

Exploration of Oil and Gas

581. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

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

(a) whether the Government has made sincere efforts in exploration of natural gas and oil fields in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of regions in which natural gas and oil was explored during the last two years;

(d) the name of the Government agency undertaking this work and the expenditure incurred on these works during the last two years;

(e) whether the private companies are also engaged in exploration of oil and gas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (f) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/Joint Venture companies are engaged in oil and gas exploration in the country. Government of India is continuously offering exploration blocks to National Oil Companies, private & foreign companies through bidding rounds under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Government of India has awarded 162 exploration blocks in six bidding rounds under NELP. 43 oil and gas discoveries have been made. Development plan/appraisal of oil and gas discoveries are in progress.

Exploration expenditure incurred by ONGC and OIL in last 2 years was Rs. 4210.46 crore and Rs. 968.24 crore respectively. Under NELP, Private/Joint Venture companies have invested about US\$ 2.5 billion (Rs. 10,000 crore).

In last 2 years, exploration activities have been under way in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal as well as in eastern and western offshore areas.

To supplement the exploration efforts, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has carried out geo-scientific surveys in last two years in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttaranchal, Mizoram, and areas of Kutch Basin, Saurashtra region, Narmada Cambay and Deccan Syncline region of central India.

[English]

Facilities for Disabled Air Passengers

582. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most airlines, airports lack of basic facilities for disabled persons like aisle chairs, ambulifts despite Disability Act making these mandatory;

(b) if so, whether airlines have not differentiate between sick and disabled and ask for doctor's certificate;

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure that physically challenged passengers are not offloaded by airlines on flimsy grounds; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that airlines and airports follow the provisions of Disability Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) and major airlines have provided facilities for sick and disabled persons at airports.

(b) All airlines have published the facilities to be provided to passengers including the sick and disabled persons on their respective websites.

(c) and (d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a draft Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) on the subject of carriage of physically challenged persons by air. The draft CAR will be finalized after considering public comments. The CAR when published shall be mandatory for all airlines and airport operators. The draft CAR states that no airline should refuse to carry incapacitated persons or physically challenged persons if such carriage does not pose a threat to safety.

Setu Samundram Project

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to save the Ram Setu from destruction by the implementation of Setu Samundram Project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) As per the scientific evidence available so far, Ram Setu does not fulfil the criteria to be declared as a monument of national importance under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

(b) Does not arise.

Shifting of Office of Chief Engineer, Southern Railway

584. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Southern Railway have decided to shift the Office of the Chief Engineer (Construction) from Thiruvananthapuram to Egmore, Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Chief Engineer (Construction), Thiruvananthapuram Office was decided to be shifted to Chennai with a view to have better coordination with Officers of various departments headquartered at Chennai. However, the orders issued in this regard for shifting headquarter of Chief Engineer (Construction), Thiruvananthapuram to Chennai have been cancelled for the present.

Implementation of Sachar Committee Report

585. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations given by the Sachar Committee are under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the present status with regard to its implementation; and

(c) the time by which the recommendations given by the Committee are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Sachar Committee have already been considered and a decision taken regarding the follow-up action. Ministries/Departments concerned have already been advised to take appropriate action in pursuance of the decision. It is not possible to specify

a time frame as different decisions will take varying periods of time for implementation.

Special Plan for Muslims

586. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a special plan on the lines of the tribal sub-plan, for Muslims, to address the problems faced by them on the health, education, employment and other fronts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that though the Government had announced 15 point programme, no machinery or funds were put in place; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities provides for earmarking, wherever possible, of 15% of targets and outlays for minorities under various schemes included in the programme. At the central level, the government has put in place a mechanism for close monitoring of the programme. States/UTs have also been advised to make similar arrangements and several States/UTs have already done so.

Mergers and Acquisitions Policy

587. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of mergers and acquisitions in domestic aviation sector, particularly domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the number of mergers or acquisitions have taken place during the last two years;

(c) the financial details of equities of these mergers/acquisitions;

(d) whether the Government has in place any mergers and acquisitions policy; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) During the last two years there had been only one acquisition of scheduled domestic airline wherein Jet Airways has acquired Sahara Airlines in the year 2007.

(c) This Ministry does not scrutinize financial details of the merging airline companies. It however ensures compliance of the prescribed Civil Aviation Requirements.

(d) Yes, Sir. There is a policy regarding use of airport infrastructure in case of merger/take over of airlines and sale/transfer of aircraft.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

X-Ray Machines at Stations

588. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal regarding installation of X-ray machines to check the luggage of passengers at railway stations in metro cities, was made 3 years back;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing this proposal till date; and

(c) the time by which the proposal to install X-ray machines at railway stations is likely to be implemented completely?

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

(b) and (c) In this connection, procurement process has been started for installing X-Ray machines for screening luggage/baggage of passengers at very important Railway Stations. One such machine has been installed at Kolkata Terminal Railway Station (Chitpur) and another Machine has been procured for platform No. 18 at Delhi Main station. Moreover, procurement of 29 numbers of X-Ray machines are under process with Zonal Railways.

State-of-the Art Technology for Oil and Gas Exploration

589. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) the details of the state-of-the-art technology used during the last three years for the oil and natural gas exploration processes and the sectors in which it has been used;

(b) the details of the progressive works done with the use of such state-of-the-art technology; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to such progressive works done thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
 (a) and (b) The companies (private, public and joint venture) engaged in exploration of oil and gas in India are using some of the latest technologies which are as under:-

- Q marine, Seabed Logging, GX Technology's India Span Campaign and Air borne Electro Magnetic survey (AEM).
- 3D high density, long offset survey, Multi transient electro magnetic (MTEM) Survey, Virtual drilling and PC cluster technology.
- Over and Under technology.
- New Geophysical tools like control source electro-magnetic survey, magneto-telluric survey, Ocean bottom seismic survey.

The progressive work done with these State-of-the-art technologies are in terms of enhanced resolution and visualization of sub-surface features, computational power, handling of large amount and analysis of different component of data for more meaningful interpretation which have resulted in accelerated appraisal of acreages, exploration of subtle features, risk reduction and comparatively less drilling requirement.

(c) As a result of above, hydrocarbon discoveries have been made in deepwaters and unexplored basins. Also new discoveries are being made in matured basins. This has also resulted in exponential growth of knowledge base in different hydrocarbon domain.

[English]

IT Audit of Railway Reservation System

590. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
 SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
 SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an information technology (IT) audit of the Indian Railways computerized passenger reservation system has revealed some serious deficiencies causing

wasteful expenditure and inconvenience to the passengers;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Information Technology Audit of Indian Railways Computerised Passenger Reservation System has revealed few design deficiencies and certain areas of concern related to system based and manual controls.

(c) Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS), IT arm of the Indian Railways, has initiated necessary corrective measures. Further fine tuning of software of such a vast scale IT enabled system is an on-going process. As and when any software bug or deficiency is noticed, the same is rectified appropriately on priority.

Scholarship for SC, OBC and Minorities

591. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has hiked/Pre/Post-Matric scholarships for SCs, OBCs and Minorities in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the scholarships provided to said categories during the last three years alongwith number of beneficiaries; and
- (d) the guidelines for allocation of funds under the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No Sir.

- (c) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.
- (d) The guidelines are available in the Annual Report of the Ministry.

Statement

Details of grant in aid released and number of beneficiaries benefited during last three years (i.e. 2004-05 to 2006-07) under various schemes of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

1. Post Matric Scholarship for SC students

Year	Country		Andhra Pradesh	
	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)	Number of beneficiaries	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)	Number of beneficiaries
2004-05	33027.29	22,64,321	8434.70	3,46,495
2005-06	54809.52	25,41,282	9435.46	3,77,529
2006-07	52602.65	29,58,742	6265.74	4,14,537

2. Pre-Matric Scholarships for OBC students

Year	Country		Andhra Pradesh	
	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)	Number of beneficiaries	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)	Number of beneficiaries
2004-05	1875.66	12,87,610	673.37	1,20,000
2005-06	1970.99	13,28,872	457.86	1,00,229
2006-07	2526.99	9,57,338	510.00	1,04,000

3. Post-Matric Scholarships for OBC students

Year	Country		Andhra Pradesh	
	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)	Number of beneficiaries	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)	Number of beneficiaries
2004-05	2466.97	2,27,980	299.02	15,454
2005-06	2640.62	1,71,926	299.02	15,454
2006-07	5373.90	4,16,768	364.73	17,000

Shortage of Rigs

592. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil exploration companies which have been awarded blocks for exploration in recent years could not take up the exploration work due to non-availability of rigs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which exploration work is likely to be started; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to overcome shortage of rigs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The scarcity of offshore rigs in the international market has impacted drilling commitments in many exploration blocks.

The following measures have been taken to address the unforeseen situation of non-availability of offshore rigs in the international market:

(i) Govt issued policy guidelines in June, 2007 for merger of exploration periods of phases-I & II of NELP-III & IV offshore blocks into a new phase to be called as phase-I and to merge the minimum work programme of phase-II & III to be called phase-II.

(ii) Rig sharing between operators for jointly hiring and sharing rig resources introduced in East Coast on pilot basis.

*[Translation]***Garib Rath Trains on Daily Basis**

593. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to run the "Garib Rath" trains on daily basis in wake of its popularity among the masses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce air-conditioned chair-car EMU trains between short distanced stations on the lines of the 'Garib Rath' with the similar fare structure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Corruption in Tatkal Scheme**

594. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is rampant corruption in "Tatkal Scheme" of the Railways;

(b) if so, the details of incidents reported in this regard during the last six months and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the connivance of railway officials in such practice have been found;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against officials found guilty; and

(e) the stringent measures taken by the Railways to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No report of rampant corruption in revised Tatkal scheme has come to notice during the last six months.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Checks are conducted from time to time to apprehend the staff indulging in malpractices in reservation including Tatkal Reservation Scheme.

Touts' Menace at Stations

595. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that a large number of touts are operating at various railway stations;

(b) if so, the number of touts apprehended during the last one year by the Railway Protection Force (RPF);

(c) whether any further strategies have been made by the Railways to get rid of touts at railway stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to joint efforts of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Vigilance and Commercial staff, 1015 touts have been apprehended over Indian Railways during the year 2006 and 655 touts upto June 2007 under the provisions of the Railways Act.

(c) and (d) The following measures are being taken to curb the menace of touts:-

- a) RPF staff is deployed to keep surveillance over touts and other undesirable elements at reservation complexes to arrest them under the provisions of the Railways Act.
- b) Special joint raids by RPF, Vigilance and Commercial staff are organized from time to time at vulnerable booking counters and reservation centres.
- c) Intelligence machinery has been geared up to collect intelligence about the activities of touts at vulnerable places.
- d) Regular announcements are made at Railway stations and reservation complexes to sensitize passengers against purchase of tickets from the touts or any unauthorized agents.

Financial Assistance from World Bank

596. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government sought for financial assistance from the World Bank for infrastructure development in the field of food processing industries of the country;

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

(c) the reaction of the World Bank to this proposal; and

(d) the extent this would benefit the food processing industries sector of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):

(a) and (b) The issue on possibilities of financial assistance for Infrastructure, Development in food processing industries from World Bank was discussed by this Ministry with World Bank officials in June, 2007. No specific proposal seeking financial assistance from the World Bank in this regard has been made.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Rise in Prices of Drugs

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

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pharma Companies have made unjustified price rise in nine commonly used medicines;

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

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

(d) whether the Union Government has fixed prices of non-commonly used drugs where it noticed that prices have shot up for no valid reasons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) to (e) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed / revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. The price fixation/revision of the Scheduled Drugs and formulations is a continuous process under DPCO, 95. In case of any violation of the price

fixed by NPPA, action for recovery of overcharging amount is taken by NPPA.

As part of its price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations in accordance with certain internal guidelines. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-Scheduled formulations. Wherever abnormal price increase is noticed, necessary action is taken. The manufacturers are impressed upon to bring down the prices. This is an ongoing process.

NPPA has fixed prices of nine non-Scheduled formulations on 13.6.2007 and 27.6.2007 and subsequently another eleven non-Scheduled formulations on 30.7.2007 under para 10(b) of DPCO, 1995 in the public interest where the price rise is not justified.

[Translation]

Delay in Booking of the Goods in Railways

598. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unnecessary delay caused in booking the goods in Railways and the goods are not transported as per demand;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to ensure transportation of goods on time as per demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The booking and transportation of goods is done as per the extant policy guidelines. Every effort is made to ensure transportation of goods on time as per demand subject to operational exigencies.

[English]

Amendment to Wakf Act, 1995

599. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2344 dated March 15, 2007 regarding amendment in Wakf Act, 1995 and state:

(a) the progress made in regard to the process of amendment to Wakf Act, 1995; and

(b) the time by which the said Act is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R.

ANTULAY): (a) A comprehensive amendment to the Wakf Act, 1995 is under consideration of Government.

(b) It is not possible to indicate an exact time frame at this stage. However, this will be done expeditiously.

[Translation]

Food Parks in Uttar Pradesh

600. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up food parks at some places in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for delay in setting up of food parks in Gorakhpur; and

(f) the time by which food parks is likely to be set up in Gorakhpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (f) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) provides financial assistance for establishment of food parks. It does not set up Food Parks on its own. MFPI has approved financial assistance for five food parks in Uttar Pradesh i.e. Ghaziabad, Kharkion (District Varanasi), Barabanki, Khushalipur (District Saharanpur) and Sahajanwa (District Gorakhpur). The project proposal for Food Park at Sahajanwa, District Gorakhpur by Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) was approved for assistance of Rs. 323.11 lakhs in 2004-05. After constant monitoring and persuasion by the Ministry, the formalities for release of funds were completed by GIDA Rs. 80.77 lakhs has been disbursed to GIDA. GIDA is taking further necessary steps for implementation of the project. The objective of the Ministry is to establish food parks in a given time frame, so that the farmers are immensely benefited by adopting clusterised and demand driven farming.

Pre-Examination Coaching Facility to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes

601. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have sent any proposal for running free coaching/tutorial classes for the students of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes preparing for civil services during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the proposal being accepted and the amount of funds/grants being allocated, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the free coaching classes being run with central assistance at various places in the country particularly in tribal areas of Gujarat for All India level competitive examinations for the said students, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Details of grants-in-aid released to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Coaching & Allied Assistance for Weaker Sections including SCs, OBCs and Minorities and Coaching & Allied Assistance for Scheduled Tribes for providing coaching for Group A Services during the last three years viz. from 2004-05 to 2006-07 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) Details of central assistance released during the year 2006-07 to the State Governments/UT Administrations, Universities and the private institutions for providing coaching to SC (including OBC and Minorities) and ST students are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Funds released by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under the scheme of Coaching & Allied Assistance for imparting coaching to scheduled castes, other backward classes and minority students for group A services

(In Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Funds released		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.62	9.34	85.82
2.	Punjab	8.05	0	0.00
3.	Delhi	0	3.47	0

Funds released by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the scheme of Coaching & Allied for Imparting Coaching to Scheduled Tribes Students for Civil Services

(In Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Funds released		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.24	12.84	2.88
2.	Assam	1.57	1.99	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Chhattisgarh	3.06	0.00	0.00
4.	NCT of Delhi	0.80	0.00	0.00
5.	Karnataka	1.49	0.88	8.47
6.	Kerala	0.00	0.48	0.00
7.	Maharashtra	0.00	7.12	0.00
8.	Orissa	0.00	1.34	0.00

Statement-II

Funds released by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for providing coaching to SC, OBC and Minorities during the year 2006-07

Rs. in Lakhs

Sl. No.	State/UTs, Universities/NGOs	2006-07
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	125.32
2	NIIT Ltd. Hyderabad, AP	7.60
3	Training Reconstruction Educational environmental society, (TREES), Nellore, A.P.	3.59
4	Zakeer Hussain Pre-examination Coaching centre, Guntur, A.P	3.65
5	Vikas Seva Samiti, Chittor, AP	7.71
6	Nava chaitanya Youth Association, Sangareddy, Medak, AP	3.65
7	Hanuman Raithu Seva Sangam, Sangareddy, Medak, A.P	1.22
8	Shri Raju Educational Society, Nellore, A.P.	2.43
9	National Instt. of Computer Management, Nagaon, Assam	1.22
10	District Agricultural & Rural Dev. Assoc. Darrang, Assam	1.22
11	Educational Foundation, Assam	2.43
12	Manila Mandal, Nagaon, Assam	1.22
13	GARD, Kamrup, Assam	1.22
14	Bahumukhi Krishi Aru Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Nagaon, Assam	1.22
15	Patna University, Patna, Bihar	6.58

1	2	3
16	Suwani Shikshan Samity, Durg, Chhattisgarh	1.22
17	Mahakoshal Acd. for Adm. Careers, Raipur, Chh.	3.29
18	NIIT, Chandigarh	2.53
19	NIIT, New Delhi	11.41
20	Delhi Education Centre, New Delhi	3.71
21	Himachal Pradesh University, Himachal Pradesh	2.90
22	NIIT, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	2.53
23	Dr. Saxena Vision Foundation, Srinagar, J&K	3.71
24	Universal Coaching, Karnataka	5.77
25	Dalitha Mahasabha, Devangere, Karnataka	1.86
26	APS University, Rewa, MP	7.70
27	Smt Shanti Devi Mahila Mandal, Bhind, MP	0.79
28	Suruchi VPS, Gwalior, MP	2.43
29	Sant Kabir Shiksha Samiti, Gwalior, M.P	1.22
30	Gram Bharati Sansthan, Gwalior, MP	2.43
31	Ahilya Bahu. Shik. Pras. Mandal, Latur, Maharashtra	2.43
32	Akhil Bharatiya Leva Samaj Utkarsh Mandal, Jalgaon, Maharashtra	4.38
33	Manav Seva Mandal, Seed, Maharashtra	1.35
34	NIIT, Mumbai, Maharashtra	15.04
35	Swami Vivekananda Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Hingoli, Maharashtra	1.35
36	Annapurna Shikshan Sansthan, Hingoli, Maharashtra	1.22
37	Dnyanvardini Educational and Charitable foundation, Solapur, Maharashtra	4.38
38	Gurukripa Welfare soclty, Aurangabad, Maharashtra	1.35
39	Women Economic Dev.Soc. Imphal, Manipur	3.64

1	2	3
40	Environment and Economic management Association, Imphal, Manipur	1.22
41	Rural Industries Dev. Association, Manipur	2.43
42	Social Dev. & Rehab. Council, Phouden, Thoubal, Manipur	4.86
43	CARE, Imphal East, Manipur	1.22
44	Centre for Rural Development, Thoubal, Manipur	1.35
45	Type writing Instt, & Dev. Services, Manipur	2.10
46	Social Awareness and Dev. Agency, Imphal, Manipur	3.65
47	Western rural Socio-economic Dev. Orgn. Imphal west, Manipur	1.22
48	Social Educational Helpline Foundation, Manipur	1.22
49	Social Centre to organise Rural Dvelopment, Cuttack, Orissa	2.70
50	ABHINAV, Cuttack, Orissa	1.22
51	NSA Krishi Samity, Jaipur, Rajasthan	19.44
52	Balram Adarsh Vidyalay Samity, Jaipur, Rajasthan	0.76
53	Sri Krishna Vidyala Prabandhak Samiti, Sriganganagar, Raj	1.22
54	Vidya Mandir Shiksha Samiti, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	6.13
55	Vidya Mandir Shiksha Samiti, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan	2.52
56	Indira Devi Memorial Jan Kalyan sanstha, Sriganganagar, Rajasthan	3.74
57	Rashtriya Jan Kalyan and Mahila Vikas Samiti, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan	1.22
58	New Public Modern shikshan Sansthan, Pali-Marwar, Rajasthan	1.22
59	GENUS, Jaipur, Rajasthan	1.22
60	Bharatiya Vidya Pith, Dungarpur, Rajasthan	1.22
61	Srijan sansthan, Bharatpur, Rajasthan	1.22

1	2	3
62	NIIT, Chennai, T.N	15.04
63	University of Allhabad, Allahabad, UP	9.76
64	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, U.P.	26.36
65	NIIT Ltd. Kolkata, West Bengal	17.68
Total		390.70

Funds released by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for providing coaching to ST students during the year 2006-07

1	Andhra Pradesh	15.76
2	Bihar	2.36
3	Delhi Education Centre, Delhi (NGO)	5.52
4	Karnataka	10
5	Madhya Pradesh	22.05
6	Study Forum, G-30, Chanmari, Aizawal, Mizoram	6.68
7	Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan	7.56
Total		69.93

[English]

Protected Monuments in Jammu and Kashmir

602. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally Protected Monuments in J&K;

(b) the amount allocated for the maintenance of monuments during the last three years; and

(c) the revenue earned by the Government from these monuments during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There are 69 monuments/sites declared as of national importance under the jurisdiction of Srinagar Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India in Jammu & Kashmir and the details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The amount allocated for the maintenance of these monuments during the last three years is as under:

2004-05	Rs.240.00 lakhs
2005-06	Rs.275.00 lakhs
2006-07	Rs.275.70 lakhs

(c) The amount of revenue earned by way of entrance fee during the last three years is as under:

2004-05	Rs.2.35 lakhs
2005-06	Rs.2.37 lakhs
2006-07	Rs.2.31 lakhs

Statement

List of Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites in Jammu and Kashmir

Sl. No.	Name of Monument/Site	Location	District
1	2	3	4
1	Ancient site of Chakradhar/ Semthan	Semthan	Anantnag
2	Mughal Arcad and Spiring at Verinag	Verinag	Anantnag
3	Kartanda (Sun Temple)	Ranbirpura	Anantnag
4	Bumzuva Cave and Temple	Bumzuva	Anantnag
5	Detah Mandir	Bandi	Baramulla
6	Ancient Temple	Buniyar	Baramulla
7	Ancient Temple	Fatehgarh	Baramulla
8	Ancient Stupa (Excavated Remains)	Ushkur	Baramulla
9	Partapswami Temple	Tapparwaripor	Baramulla
10	Sankaragaurisvara Temple	Pattan	Baramulla
11	Sugandhesa Temple	Pattan	Baramulla
12	Ancient Stupa, Chaitya & Monastery	Dever Yakhamanpior/ Parihaspiora	Baramulla
13	Ancient Site	Sumbal	Baramulla
14	Mosque and other ancient remains on the island	Nular Lake	Baramulla
15	Khanpur Sarai	Khanpur	Budgam
16	Fort at Akhnoor	Akhnoor	Jammu
17	Remains of Ancient sites (Pambaran)	Ambaran	Jammu
18	Ancient Temple (Harihara)	Billawar	Kathua
19	Rock carving of Devi riding a lion	Basohli	Kathua

1	2	3	4
20	Rock carving of Sitala, Narada, Brahma & Radha Krishna	Basohli	Kathua
21	Vishesvara and other cave Temple	Basohli	Kathua
22	Trilochannanath Temple	Mahadera	Kathua
23	Sculpture at Drass	Drass	Kargil
24	Rock cut sculptures	Mulbag	Kargil
25	Buddhist Monastery	Lamayuru	Leh
26	Buddhist Monastery	Lakir	Leh
27	Buddhist Monasteries	Alchi	Leh
28	Buddhist Gonpa	Phyang	Leh
29	Ancient Palace	Leh	Leh
30	Old Castle (Tsemo Hill)	Leh	Leh
31	Stupa	Tisserru	Leh
32	Ancient Palace Shrine	Shey	Leh
33	Hamis Gonpa	Hamis	Leh
34	Ancient Gonpa	Thiksey	Leh
35	Shrine of four Lords Gon-Khang (Tsemo Hill)	Leh	Leh
36	Aliabad Sarai	Aliabad	Pulwama
37	Avantiswami Temple	Avantipura	Pulwama
38	Avantisvara Temple	Avantipura	Pulwama
39	Hirpur Sarai	Hirpur	Pulwama
40	Ancient Temple	Kakapora	Pulwama
41	Monolithic Shrine	Khrew	Pulwama
42	Remains of Ancient Temple	Khrew	Pulwama
43	Ancient Temple	Loduv	Pulwama
44	Remains of Ancient Stupa	Malangpora	Pulwama
45	Remains of Ancient Temple	Pampur	Pulwama
46	Ancient Siva Temple	Payar	Pulwama
47	Pathar Masjid	Zaina Kadal	Srinagar
48	Ancient Temple	Bohri Kadal	Srinagar

1	2	3	4
49	Tomb of Zain-ul-Abudin's mother	Zaina Kadal	Srinagar
50	Khan Qah of Shah Handan	Shah Handan	Srinagar
51	Akhund Mulla Shah's Mosque	Kathi Darwaza	Srinagar
52	Gates in the Rampart of the fort	Kathi Darwaza	Srinagar
	a) Kathi Darwaza	Sangen Darwaza	Srinagar
	b) Sangen Darwaza	Sangen Darwaza	Srinagar
53	Ancient Temple	Hari Parvat	Srinagar
54	Group of Ancient Temples	Naranag	Srinagar
55	Ancient sites & Remains	Burzahqm	Srinagar
56	Ancient Monastery & Stupa	Harwan	Srinagar
57	Group of arched terraces/structural complex	Pari Mahal	Srinagar
58	Shankaracharya Temple	Kothi Bagh / Durganag	Srinagar
59	Ancient Site	Pandrethan	Srinagar
60	Excavated Remains	Pandrethan	Srinagar
61	Pandrethan Temple	Pandrethan	Srinagar
62	Ancient Site, Babour	Thalora	Udhampur
63	Devi Bhagwati Temple, Babour	Thalora	Udhampur
64	Ancient Temple Dera, Babour	Thalora	Udhampur
65	Ancient Temples Kala Dera 1 & II	Manwal	Udhampur
66	Ancient Temple, Babour	Manwal	Udhampur
67	Group of Temples	Kirmachi	Udhampur
68	Ancient Fort attributed to Raja Suchet Singh and Samadhi of Queen of Raja Suchet Singh	Ramnagar	Jammu
69	Ancient Palaces attributed to Raja Suchet Singh	Ramnagar	Jammu

Production of Bio-Fuel

603. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research is being carried out in the country for production of bio-fuel by diverting sugar for this purpose;

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

(c) whether the institutions conducting the research have taken note of warning to Western countries by UN's special rapporteur on the right to food accused them of "total hypocrisy" for promoting bio-fuels to cut their own dependence on imported oil;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has not undertaken any such research.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps/Gas Agencies

604. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has prescribed certain norms for the allotment of petrol pumps/gas agencies to the persons belonging to general category and the SCs/ STs;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding the violation of these norms;

(c) if so, the total number of such complaints received from each State particularly Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Subsequent to the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 1.4.2002, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been given freedom to choose location and select Retail Outlet (RO) dealers/ LPG distributors as per their commercial considerations.

OMCs conduct feasibility surveys to assess the potential/ commercial viability of locations before setting up any LPG distributorships and RO dealerships, and if found viable, further necessary action including issue of advertisements, holding of interviews of eligible candidates, etc. are taken. As

per the extant guidelines, the percentage of reservation to different categories is as follows:

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	- 25%
Defence Category (DC)	- 8%
Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP)	- 8%
Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	- 5%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	- 2%
Outstanding Sports Persons (OSP)	- 2%
	50%

OMCs have not reported any violation of guidelines relating to reservations provided for in the selection of RO dealers/LPG distributors.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Sex Workers' Children

605. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme being run by the Government for the rehabilitation of children of Sex Workers, victims of physical violence and sexual abuse under the General Scheme of Social Defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated and released by the Government under each of these schemes during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under General Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the Field of Social Defence, projects which provide preventive, protective, development and rehabilitative services are given financial assistance. The projects to tackle problem areas which are relatively unserved but for which there is urgent need are also covered under this scheme.

(c) During 2004-05, Rs. 1.59 Lakhs and Rs. 37.44 Lakhs respectively were released for one project each in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat while Rs. 21.62 Lakhs., Rs. 51.7 Lakhs and Rs. 16.15 Lakhs were released to 5 projects in West Bengal during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

[Translation]

Airport at Navi Mumbai

606. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer

to the reply given to USQ No.3483 dated April 26, 2007 regarding 'construction of International Airport at Navi Mumbai' and to state:

(a) whether the Government has accorded approval in principle to a proposal for the construction of airport at Navi Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred and the time by which it is likely to be constructed and made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The Government of India has granted "In principle" approval for setting up of a new Greenfield airport at Navi Mumbai through Public Private Partnership (PPP). The cost of the project is about Rs.9970 crores. The project will be built over 1140 hectares of land and will be implemented in four phases with Phase I getting completed by 2012.

Crude Oil Production

607. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of crude oil and natural gas being produced in the country on an average per year and the details thereof;

(b) the quantum of the crude oil and natural gas being imported on an average per year and the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the schemes/ projects ongoing currently alongwith the details of the proposed projects/ schemes for exploration and augmentation of crude oil and natural gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Average crude oil and natural gas production in last 3 years was about 33.38 Million Metric Tonnes & 31.82 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) per annum respectively. The year-wise crude oil & gas production is as under:-

Year	Crude Oil	Natural Gas
	MMT	BCM
2004-05	33.98	31.762
2005-06	32.191	32.206
2006-07	33.98	31.519

(b) The average crude oil import per year was 102.25 MMT in last 3 years. Year-wise details of crude oil imported is as under.

Year	Crude oil imported (MMT)
2004-05	95.861
2005-06	99.409
2006-07	111.502

Natural gas is imported in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Year-wise details of LNG imported is as under:-

Year	LNG imported (MMT)
2004-05	2.43
2005-06	2.60
2006-07	6.95

(c) Government of India has already awarded 162 exploration blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) to augment oil and gas production.

Oil and gas development projects in Assam, Gujarat, eastern and western offshore areas are being implemented by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/Joint Venture companies.

[English]

Enrolment of Muslim Girls in Schools

608. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that despite the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan about 10% of the Muslim girls have not been enrolled in the schools;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is proposing to prioritise admission of Muslim girl children in schools in the country; and

(d) if so, the action the Government propose to take in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Strike by IA Staff

609. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of State owned carrier 'Indlan' went on strike recently across the country;

(b) whether several flights were affected during the strike of ground staff of public sector airlines in the country;

(c) if so, the details of loss of airlines during the strike; and

(d) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such strike in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Employees of Indian Airlines covered by Air Corporation Employees Union (ACEU) had gone on flash strike all over India w.e.f. night shift of 12th June, 2007. The strike was called off on the afternoon of 14th June, 2007. Though contingent plans were put into operation to deal with the situation, a number of flights were affected due to the strike.

(c) The estimated loss incurred by Indian Airlines (including Alliance Air) due to strike is Rs.3.5 Crores by way of loss of contribution, additional expenditure on hotel, food and conveyance charges for disrupted flights etc.

(d) Memorandum of Settlement covering revision of wages and allowances, payment of arrears etc., have been signed by the management with 5 out of the 8 recognised Unions/Associations. In the Memorandum of Settlement signed with Air Corporation Employees Union (ACEU), which represents around 12,200 employees, the Union has agreed to observe constitutional means and not to resort to agitational steps and/or concerted action or any other means which may have effect of interrupting or disrupting the work of the Company or the operation of services of the Company.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Old Railway Workshops

610. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to modernise 10 selected old railway workshops in the country particularly Golden Rock and Hubli Workshop;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals, zone-wise; and

(c) the funds likely to be allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Modernisation of 9 Workshops have been approved and included in Railway Budget 2007-08.

(b) and (c)

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	Railway	Workshop	Anticipated Cost	Fund allocation during 2007-08
1.	CR	Matunga	40.00	0.15
2.	NCR	Jhānsi	76.00	0.15
3.	NER	Izatnagar	58.00	0.05
4.	NWR	Ajmer	70.00	0.10
5.	SCR	Lallaguda	65.00	0.10
6.	SER	Kharagpur	45.00	0.15
7.	SR	Ponmalai	75.00	0.15
8.	SWR	Hubli	77.50	0.15
9.	WCR	Kota	48.00	0.05

[English]

Pantry Car Facility

611. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are providing pantry car in all long distance super fast trains;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways propose to provide pantry car facility in some more trains; and

(d) if so, the names of trains selected for provision of such facility during 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) At present, pantry car services are not available in all long distance super fast trains. Attachment of pantry cars to trains is an ongoing process based on various considerations such as priority of trains, journey time, commercial justification, availability of pantry cars etc. The name of trains selected for provision of pantry car during 2007-08 are as under:-

1.	2905/2906	Porbander-Howrah Express
2.	9269/9270	Porbander-Motihari Express
3.	2397/2398	Gaya-New Delhi Mahabodhi Express
4.	6359/6360	Ernakulam-Patna Express
5.	2603/2604	Howrah-Chennai Express

Out of the above trains pantry car services has already been started in 2397/2398 Gaya-New Delhi Mahabodhi Express with effect from 01.08. 2007.

*[Translation]***Supply of LPG**

612. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any new scheme for supplying cooking gas (LPG) in various States of the country particularly in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cooking gas (LPG) has still not been made available in the rural areas;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to make LPG available in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) Government have given freedom to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining independent distributorships. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 841 locations including 47 locations in the State of Uttar Pradesh for setting up LPG distributorships mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identifying of a suitable location, arranging land for setting up of godown and other statutory clearances.

(c) to (e) As on 01.07.2007, OMCs are serving about 212 lakh rural LPG customers in the country through their 1138 LPG distributorships in rural areas and 1209 distributorships in the urban-rural areas.

OMCs have also introduced 5 Kg domestic LPG cylinders with effect from August 2002 in order to meet the demand of low-income groups in urban, semi-urban and rural pockets and also extend the reach of LPG to the hilly terrain and interior areas in the country, including Uttar Pradesh on account of convenience in transportation. As on 30.06.2007, there are 3.86 lakh LPG customers of such cylinders in the country including 0.42 lakh in Uttar Pradesh.

Nanded Railway Division

613. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that irregularities were observed in the gauge conversion work carried out under Nanded Railway Division;

(b) if so, action taken by the Railways in this regard;

(c) whether construction of railway under-bridge on Islapur-Jaldara and Islapur-Cosmate Railway line is of sub-standard and the said construction has been damaged completely; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Railways against guilty?

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

(b) Investigation in one case has been completed and the case has been referred to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for advice. Two more cases are under investigation.

(c) and (d) The matter is under investigation.

*[English]***State-wise Minority Status**

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring 103rd Constitutional amendment seeking State-wise minority status rather than national status of minorities in the country;

(b) if so, the rationale behind this amendment;

(c) whether this amendment is in violation of article 25-30 providing protection to religious minorities;

(d) if so, the reasons for bringing this amendment;

(e) whether after this amendment some minority community are likely to lose their minority status in their respective States and deny them benefits; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure the protection of rights of minorities?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (f) The Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Bill, 2004, was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 2004. This was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment which submitted its Report to the Lok Sabha in February, 2006. A final view regarding bringing official amendments to the Bill is still to be taken.

*[Translation]***Collaboration of Indian Railways with Foreign Countries**

615. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways have been awarded

contract for laying railway lines and supplying rail wagons in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of the countries who have awarded the contracts and the cost thereof;

(c) the names of the countries where Indian railway is collaborating in establishing and operating the railway system before 2007;

(d) whether the Indian Railways is undertaking the job of laying railway lines and expansion of railway networks in Afghanistan also; and

(e) if so, the time by which the proposed work of Afghanistan is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Indian Railways have not been awarded any contract for laying of railway lines and supplying rail wagons in the foreign countries. However, IRCON International Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways is involved in undertaking the contracts for laying of Railway lines in the foreign countries.

(b) IRCON International Limited has been awarded contract for laying railways lines but not for supplying rail wagons in the following countries:

Name of Country	Cost of the project
Mozambique	USD 73.41 Million
Malaysia	Ringgit 56 Million

(c) Indian Railways is not collaborating in establishing and operating the railway system in foreign countries. However, RITES Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways has collaborated in Colombia and Mozambique in establishing and operating the railway system before 2007.

(d) No, Sir. Neither Ministry of Railways nor any of its Public Sector Undertakings are undertaking the job of laying railway lines and expansion of railway networks in Afghanistan.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

[English]

Manuscript of Mahatma Gandhi

616. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recommended the Indian High Commission in London to serve a legal notice on British auction house 'Christies' to stop sale of a rare manuscript of Mahatma Gandhi written 19 days before his assassination in 1948; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of Mobile Laboratories

617. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government, has decided to provide more and more mobile laboratories to various States during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made as to how many laboratories are required in each State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, has sent a proposal to Union Government for opening up of 120 mobile laboratories to check adulteration of petroleum and other products;

(e) if so, by when the request is received in the Ministry; and

(f) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) There are 92 mobile laboratories and 97 Static laboratories on all India basis under the control of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to check adulteration in petroleum products. Even though mobile laboratories are stationed State-wise, however, in case of exigencies, the services of mobile laboratories situated in neighbouring States can also be utilized, IOC & BPC have no proposal to add new mobile labs in the country in near future, while HPCL has plans to add 3 mobile labs in the country.

(d) to (f) A proposal from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh was received in October, 2006 by the Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for supply of 121 mobile laboratories for enforcing the law relating to Weight and Measures. This could not be considered by the Department of Consumer Affairs for want of scheme/budgetary provisions.

Security Counter at Kolkata Airport

618. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the count of passenger at the Netaji

Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport has registered a 30 per cent growth during last year, but the number of security counters to cater them has not gone up from three;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The passenger growth at NSCBI Airport, Kolkata was 36% during the year 2006-07 vis-a-vis 2005-06.

The growth is attributable to general growth in aviation, better connectivity and competitive prices. To cater to the increased passenger traffic, the number of X-ray machines have also been increased from three to five at domestic terminal for screening hand baggage. The number of frisking booths has also been increased at Domestic terminal. Nine frisking booths are manned during day and four during night.

(c) Keeping in view the growth of passenger traffic, additional security hold areas were planned and the new scheme has been put into operation w.e.f. 22.5.2007 after deployment of 40 additional CISF personnel.

[Translation]

Electrification of Railway Line in Maharashtra

619. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any plan for electrification of rail line between Solapur-Pune and doubling & electrification of Bhigwan to Solapur railway line under Solapur Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The doubling of Bhigwan-Solapur-Gulbarga with electrification from Pune to Guntakal has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). The doubling of Solapur-Pakni-Mohol is already in progress. For doubling of balance portion including electrification of Pune-Solapur-Guntakal, studies have been completed by RVNL. The proposal is to be processed for approval.

Bid of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)

620. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major International companies are not participating in fresh bid called by NELP;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard to attract these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas have not invited participation in the fresh round of bidding under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) as the Seventh round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VII) is yet to be launched. However, in the last NELP bidding round viz. NELP-VI the response of the International companies was very encouraging. A total of 36 foreign companies and 32 National companies participated in that bidding round.

[English]

Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables

621. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to assist State Government to organize marketing of fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the fund earmarked therefore and the allocation made to different States for the purpose in the current financial year 2007-08;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to create additional storage facilities for preserving fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Under the Central Sector Scheme titled "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Grading and Standardization" being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Cooperation), credit linked back-ended subsidy is provided on capital investment to the private agencies and direct assistance is provided to the State agencies which do not require Bank credit for setting up of functional infrastructure and for development market user common facilities or direct marketing facilities as well as for mobile infrastructure for post harvest operations (excluding transport equipment) to facilitate marketing of fruits and vegetables. Under the Scheme, assistance can be provided for creating additional storage facilities for preserving fruits & vegetables. During the current financial year i.e. 2007-08, an allocation of Rs.62.50 crore is available in the Plan Budget of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for this Scheme.

Besides, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for

Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States (TMNE) in a Mission Mode with an end to end approach for holistic development of horticulture including marketing and storage of fruits and vegetables in the Region. Under Mini Mission III of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North East States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, funds have been earmarked during the current Fiscal Year 2007-08 for marketing purpose as given below:-

N.E. States	-	Rs.5.00 crores
J&K, HP & Uttarakhand	-	Rs.3.00 crores.

Under Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States (TMNE), assistance is being provided to States for strengthening storage facilities in the Region through National Horticulture Board.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries through its plan schemes has been promoting development of infrastructure for food processing industries including cold storages, special type of cold storages with controlled/modified atmosphere facility and cold storages as integral part of processing units or part of common facilities in Food Park. During the Tenth Plan, the Ministry has implemented a scheme for cold chain facilities whereunder assistance upto 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs.75 lakhs was admissible to all implementing agencies. During the Eleventh Plan, the Ministry proposes to launch a revamped comprehensive Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels - farm level primary processing center-cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centers and Strategic Distribution Centers. The initiative being undertaken by the Ministry are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages.

Luxury Tourist Trains

622. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:
SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- the progress made in regard to start luxury tourist trains in various States to encourage tourism;
- whether proposals in this regard are also received from some State Governments; and
- if so, the details thereof alongwith their present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) This Ministry runs only

three luxury tourist trains at present viz. "Palace on Wheels" and "Heritage on Wheels" in the Rajasthan Sector and "Deccan Odyssey" in Maharashtra Sector. Further, Indian Railways has approved for luxury tourist trains in the state of Rajasthan i.e., 2nd Palace on Wheels & Karnataka and the same will be in operation after signing of MoU/Agreement during the tourist season of 2007-08. The luxury tourist train in Punjab sector has also been considered & may be introduced after signing of MoU/Agreement and manufacturing of the coaches.

Withdrawal of Indian Airlines (IA) Services

623. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- the details of sectors on which Indian Airlines have withdrawn its services during the last three year; year-wise and sector-wise;
- the reasons for withdrawal of IA services;
- whether on some of the sectors Indian Airlines were generating sufficient revenue and the load factor was also adequate; and
- if so, the reasons for withdrawal of IA services on profitable sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Information regarding withdrawn sendees by Indian Airlines and its subsidiary Alliance Air is as under:

Indian Airlines:

Year	Sectors
2006	Mumbai- Pune
2007	Kolkata- Dhaka

Alliance Air:

2004	Patna - Bagdogra-Patna, Patna -Guwahati-Patna
2005	Delhi - Agra-Khajuraho-Varanasi & Return Mumbai - Bhavnagar- Mumbai, Kolkata - Vizag-Kolkata Vizag - Bhubaneswar- Vizag, Leh/ Chandigarh/ Leh Mumbai - Rajkot- Mumbai, Shillong - Silchar - Shillong Shillong - Aizwal- Shillong, Guwaliati - Imphal- Guwahati
2006	Kolkata- Hyderabad- Kolkata

(b) Indian Airlines withdrew the Mumbai-Pun and Kolkata-Dhaka links as flights on these routes were making losses. Alliance Air withdrew/curtailed its services due to operational constraints and unsatisfactory load factors/revenue.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Refund on Cancellation of Tickets

624. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airlines offering cheaper air travel are resorting to cancellation of their domestic flights;

(b) if so, whether the airlines delay the refund of cancelled tickets of passengers;

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

(d) the steps being taken by the Government against such airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The flights are generally cancelled in case of bad weather, technical snags etc. for which scheduled airlines have procedures to inform the passengers in advance and rescheduling them to next available flight.

Airlines also refund the tickets as per their company policy.

All the scheduled domestic airlines have been advised to revisit their respective policy with regard to conditions pertaining to refund of air fares in the event of cancellation of air tickets by passengers and/or cancellation of flights by the airlines with stipulated time frame of refund for convenience of air travellers.

[English]

On-going Projects in Maharashtra

625. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the status of all the on-going projects being executed by Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL) particularly those in Maharashtra has been reviewed recently as reported in the "Times of India" dated July 3, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether there has been a demand from the State Government to expediting the commissioning of these projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) The status of all the on-going projects executed by Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL) are regularly reviewed in the Ministry. The Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises had made a special review of the projects being executed by BHEL in Maharashtra along with Energy Minister of the State Government on 27.6.2007. BHEL have already synchronized New Parli Unit 1 (250 MW) and Paras Unit 1 (250 MW) in February 2007 and May 2007 respectively. Parli Unit 1 is presently running at rated capacity. In addition, BHEL has been awarded contracts for New Parli 2 (250 MW) and Paras 2 (250 MW) in August, 2006 and Khaperkheda (1x500 MW) and Bhusawal (2x500 MW) in January, 2007 with commissioning due in the year 2009 and 2010 respectively. BHEL is also actively involved in revival of Dabhol Plant which was non operational for the past 5 years. Block II (740 MW) of this plant has already been recommissioned. The Government of Maharashtra has made request to expedite these projects in view of critical power situation in Maharashtra.

Involvement of BHEL in the above projects in Maharashtra is limited to Boiler and Turbine Generator package (BTG), which constitute around 55-60% of the total work involved. Civil works and Balance of Plant (BOP) are being executed by Mahagenco (Maharashtra State Power Generation Company) through other contractors and the commissioning of the units depends on availability of inputs and readiness by Mahagenco. Mahagenco and BHEL are jointly making best efforts to expedite the commissioning of these projects.

[Translation]

Recommendations of BRPSE on PSEs

626. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) have made any recommendations to the Government for the revival of some of the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount allotted by the Government for the revival thereof;

(d) the details of cases still pending with the BRPSE for making recommendations to the Government for the revival of such enterprises; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) BRPSE has so far recommended the revival of 43 cases of CPSEs (Statement-I) to the Government. In addition, BRPSE has also recommended to the Government to accord 'in principle' approval for reversal of its earlier decision to close the units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL) so as to explore various options for their revival.

(c) Government have approved revival proposals of 26 cases of CPSEs (Statement-II) envisaging total assistance of Rs.8263.68 crores from Government of India (cash assistance of Rs. 1941.30 crores and non-cash assistance of Rs.6322.38 crores). Government have also decided 'in principle' to examine the possibility of revival of FCIL and HFCL subject to the confirmed availability of Gas.

(d) and (e) Two complete proposals (Biecco Lawrie Ltd. and Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.) are awaiting consideration of BRPSE. The BRPSE is likely to consider these two cases by September 2007.

Statement-I

List of CPSEs whose revival proposals have been cleared by BRPSE

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Administrative Ministry/Department/CPSE	Broad gist of the recommendation of BRPSE	Assistance from GOI		
			Cash#	Non-cash@	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Department of Heavy Industry					
1.	Hindustan Salts Ltd., Jaipur, Rajasthan	Revival as a PSE	4.28	73.30	77.58
2.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd., Kolkata	Revival as a PSE	60.00	112.92	172.92
3.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd., Kolkata	Revival as a PSE	0.00	54.61	54.61
4.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd., Kolkata	Revival as a PSE	0.00	818.79	818.79
5.	HMT Bearings Ltd., Hyderabad, AP	Revival as a PSE	7.40	43.97	51.37
6.	Praga Tools Ltd., Secunderabad, AP	Revival as a PSE	10.00	204.71	214.71
7.	Braithwaite & Company Ltd., Kolkata	Revival as a PSE	0.00	288.21	288.21
8.	NEPA Ltd., Nepa Nagar, MP	Revival through Joint Venture/disinvestment	0.00	229.07	229.07
9.	Richardson & Cruddas Ltd., Mumbai	Revival through Joint Venture/disinvestment	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., Bellary, Karnataka	Revival through Joint Venture/disinvestment	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Bharat Wagon & Engineering Co. Ltd., Patna, Bihar	Revival as a PSE	25.66	164.45	190.11

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd., Allahabad, UP	Revival through Joint Venture/disinvestment	0.00	137.00	137.00
13.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd., Delhi	Non-operating units may be closed. Other operating units will be revived as a PSE.	184.29	1267.95	1452.24
14.	HMT Machine Tools Ltd., Bangalore, Karnataka	Revival as a PSE	623.00	112.00	735.00
15.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi, Jharkhand	Revival as a PSE	102.00	1266.30	1368.30
16.	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd., Kolkata	Revival as a PSE	146.62	508.87	655.49
17.	Instrumentation Ltd., Kota, Rajasthan	Revival as a PSE	85.44	603.00	688.44
18.	Triveni Structural Ltd., Allahabad, U.P.	Revival as a PSE	93.74	290.73	384.47
19.	HMT Ltd., Bangalore	Revival as a PSE	0.00	83.28	83.28
20.	HMT Watches Ltd., Bangalore	Revival as a PSE Closure of Bangalore unit and transfer of Ranibagh unit to State Government before its closure	204.42	302.15	506.57
21.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.	Revival through financial restructuring & taken over by BHEL	0.00	414.95	414.95
Ministry of Textiles					
22.	British India Corporation Ltd., Kanpur, UP	Revival through Joint Venture/disinvestment	47.35	0.00	47.35
23.	National Textiles Corporation Ltd. & its subsidiaries, Delhi and other states	Revival of 15 mills as PSE units and 19 mills through Joint Venture	0.00	0.00	0.00
Deptt. of Fertilizers					
24.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd., Manali, Tamil Nadu	Revival as a PSE	0.00	185.31	185.31
25.	Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Kochi, Kerala	Revival as a PSE	0.00	670.37	670.37

1	2	3	4	5	6
Deptt. of Shipping					
26.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd., Kolkata	Revival through joint Venture/disinvestment	17.00	400.00	417.00
27.	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Delhi	Revival as a PSE	548.50	253.70	802.20
28.	Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd.	Revival as a PSE	87.99	366.38	454.37
Deptt. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals					
29.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pune, Maharashtra	Revival as a PSE	80.62	123.75	204.37
30.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Mumbai	Revival as a PSE	250.00	100.00	350.00
31.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., Delhi	Revival as a PSE	0.00	240.01	240.01
32.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Kolkata	Revival as a PSE	207.19	233.41	440.60
33.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Gurgaon, Haryana	Revival as a PSE	361.00	2861.76	3222.76
34.	IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Ltd., Chennai	Merger with IDPL	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Bihar Drugs & Organic Chemicals Ltd., Muzaffarpur, Bihar	Merger with IDPL	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ministry of Coal					
36.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd. Burdwan, W. Bengal	Revival of PSE	0.00	0.00	0.00**
Ministry of Mines					
37.	Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd., Nagpur, Maharashtra	Revival as a PSE	0.00	104.64	104.64
38.	Hindustan Copper Ltd., Kolkata	Revival as a PSE	0.00	637.26	637.26
Department of Scientific & Industrial Research					
39.	Central Electronics Ltd., Delhi	Revival as a PSE	0.00	28.60	28.60

1	2	3	4	5	6
Ministry of Water Resources					
40.	National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd., Delhi	Revival as a PSE	60.00	745.97	805.97
Ministry of Steel					
41.	MECON Ltd., Ranchi, Jharkhand	Revival as a PSE	93.00	7.72	100.72*
42.	Bharat Refractories Ltd., Bokaro, Jharkhand	Revival through financial restructuring & merger with SAIL	0.00	428.45	428.45
Deptt. of Agriculture & Co-operation					
43.	State Farms Corporation of India Ltd., Delhi	Revival as a PSE	37.63	227.00	264.63
Total			3337.13	14590.59	17927.72

Cash Assistance may involve budgetary support through equity/loan/grants

@ Non-cash Assistance may involve waiver of interest/penal interest/GOI loan/Guarantee fee, conversion of loan into equity/debentures, etc.

** The revival plan recommended by BRPSE inter alia envisaged non-cash assistance of Rs.2470.77 crores and waiver of service charges of Rs.14 crores per annum from 2004-05 from Coal India Ltd.

* Excluding waiver of guarantee fee not exceeding Rs.1.92 crores per annum on VRS loans and continuation of 50% interest subsidy not exceeding Rs.6.50 crores per annum on VRS loans.

Statement-II

Cash and Non-cash Assistance approved by the Government in respect of revival proposals recommended by BRPSE

Sl.No.	Name of the CPSE	Assistance (Rs. in Crores)		
		Cash#	Non-Cash @	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	4.28	73.30	77.58
2.	NTC including its subsidiaries	39.23	-	39.23
3.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	60.00	42.92	102.92
4.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd.	-	54.61	54.6
5.	HMT Bearings Ltd.	7.40	43.97	51.37
6.	Praga Tools Ltd.	5.00	209.71	214.71
7.	Braithwaite & Company Ltd.	4.00	280.21	284.21
8.	British India Corporation Ltd.	47.35	-	47.35
9.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd.	73.60	280.00	353.60
10.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.	102.00	1116.30	1218.30
11.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	184.29	1267.95	1452.24

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Richardson & Cruddas Ltd.	-	-	-
13.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	137.59	267.57	405.16
34.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	250.00	NA	250.00
15.	Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.	-	670.37	670.37
16.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	-	-	-
17.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	-	267.29	267.29
18.	Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.	-	104.64	104.64
19.	Central Electronics Ltd.	-	6.02	6.02
20.	Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.	*	*	*
21.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd.	3.37\$	153.15	156.52\$
22.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	207.19	233.41	440.60
23.	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	723.00	157.80	880.80
24.	MECON Ltd.	93.00	23.08	116.08**
25.	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.	-	457.14	457.14
26.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	-	612.94	612.94
Total		1941.30*	6322.38*	8263.68*

Cash Assistance may involve budgetary support through equity/loan/grants.

@ Non-cash Assistance may involve waiver of interest, penal interest, GOI loan, Guarantee Fee, conversion of loan into equity/debentures etc.

* The revival plan approved by the Government inter alia envisaged non-cash assistance of Rs.2470.77 crores and waiver of service charges of Rs.14 crores per annum from 2004-05 from Coal India Ltd.

\$ In addition ONGC and BHEL would extend cash support to the extent of Rs. 150 crores and Rs.20 crores respectively.

** Excluding Continuation of 50% interest subsidy (not exceeding Rs.8.50 crores per annum) on VRS loans

Inclusion of Tarkhan in SC list

[English]

627. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Peoples Representatives have requested to accord Scheduled Caste (SC) status to Tarkhan Caste (Carpenters) to ward off their status-based anomaly with the Lohars; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The proposal of Government of Himachal Pradesh to include Tarkhan community in the list of Scheduled Castes was processed in accordance with the approved Modalities. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes did not agree to the proposal of the State Government. Hence, the same was rejected.

Regional Science Centre at Dharwad

628. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 383 on 11 November, 2006 regarding Regional Science Centre at Dharwad and state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has provided suitable land for setting up of Regional Science Centre at Dharwad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the required funds are likely to be sanctioned/released by the Union Government for this project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government of Karnataka has identified a plot of land in the Karnataka University campus to the extent of approximately 12 acres. National Council of Science Museums, the nodal

agency for implementing this scheme under the Ministry of Culture, has reported that the land offered by Govt. of Karnataka is suitable for establishing Regional Science Centre. As per the existing norms of the scheme, the total cost for setting up of a Regional Science Centre is Rs. 6.50 crore to be shared by Central Government and State Government in the ratio of 50:50.

(c) Fund for the project will be released by the Government of India as well as State Government of Karnataka after the Standing Finance Committee clearance.

Centralisation of Drugs Control Machinery

629. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to centralize the drugs control machinery in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQU): (a) to (c) Drugs Controller General (India) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that the proposal to set up the Central Drug Authority of India to upgrade the National Drug Regulatory System to bring uniformity of licensing and to provide technical vision and policy direction for the pharmaceutical and cosmetics sector is under active consideration of the Ministry of Health. The Authority would have ten main divisions for performing functions as envisaged under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. It is proposed to have a phased transition from the present system of granting manufacturing licenses by the State Licensing Authority to the Central Licensing of drug manufacturing Units by the Government of India. For this purpose, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is proposed to be amended.

Schemes for Providing RUBs and RGBs

630. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any specific schemes for providing RUBs and ROBs at the requests of the concerned local Governments/local bodies;

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

(c) whether there are any requests for such RUBs & ROBs, the railway is charging in addition to the full cost of such proposals but also maintenance & away leave expenses from the respective local bodies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Road over/under bridges in lieu of existing busy level crossings (LC) i.e. with traffic density of one lakh or more TVUs (TVU - A unit obtained by multiplying the number of train with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) are constructed on Cost sharing basis, otherwise i.e. in case of lesser traffic density or at new site where no LC exists, such works are undertaken on Deposit terms. Proposals in both cases have to be sponsored by State Govt. concerned duly fulfilling certain preliminary prerequisites under extant rules.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In case of Deposit works, Maintenance charges @ 3% per annum. Capitalised to 30% of the cost charged. Way leave charges are levied @ Rs 6000/- per annum for 2 lane road crossing two tracks and Rs. 12000/- per annum in case bridge is wider than 2 lane and/or crossing more than two tracks.

[Translation]

Late Running of Trains

631. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers were subjected to inconvenience during the last four months due to the late running of trains in all over the country causing loss of worth crores of rupees to the Railways;

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

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken by the Railways to ensure timely running of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The punctuality of trains for the last four months is as under:-

Month	BG	MG
April, 2007	91.7%	99.5%
May, 2007	96.6%	99.5%
June, 2007	91.4%	99.6%
July, 2007	93.9%	99.3%

The punctuality performance is above the target which is 90% for Broad Gauge and 96% for Metre Gauge. Loss of earning due to late running of trains is notional and hence the statistics for the same cannot be maintained.

(c) Following steps are taken by the Railways to ensure timely running of trains:-

1. Intensive, round the clock monitoring of trains at all three levels viz. Divisional, Zonal Head Quarters and Railway Board.
2. Improvements in Time tabling to provide a clear path.
3. Improvement in standard of maintenance of assets to reduce equipment failures.
4. Counseling and motivating staff to ensure punctual running.
5. Liaison with State Government to tackle the Law and Order problems and miscreant activities.
6. Up-gradation of technology of track, rolling stock and signaling.

Centrally Protected Monuments in Maharashtra

632. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the centrally protected monuments in Maharashtra;

(b) the amount allocated for the maintenance of these monuments during the last three years; and

(c) the revenue earned by the Government from these monuments during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) In the State of Maharashtra there are 285 monuments/sites which have been declared as of national importance of which 168 monuments are under the jurisdiction of Aurangabad Circle and 117 monuments are under Mumbai Circle (formed with effect from 1st December 2004). The list of centrally protected monuments under the control of Aurangabad and Mumbai Circle in the State of Maharashtra is enclosed as Statement.

(b) The details of amount allocated and expenditure incurred towards conservation, preservation, and maintenance of monuments/sites declared as of national importance under the control of Aurangabad and Mumbai Circle in Maharashtra are as under:

2004-05	Rs.448.03 lakhs
2005-06	Rs.507.25 lakhs
2006-07	Rs.675.00 lakhs

(c) The details of revenue earned from monuments/sites in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years are as under:

2004-05	Rs. 95.88 lakhs
2005-06	Rs. 147.76 lakhs
2006-07	Rs.155.76 lakhs

Statement

List of Centrally Protected Monuments/sites in Maharashtra

Sl.No.	Name of Monumentes Sites	Location	District
1	2	3	4
Aurangabad Circle			
1.	Damri Masjid	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar
2.	Gate near Niyamat Khan's Place	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar
3.	Kotla of Twelve Imams	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar
4.	Mucca Masjid	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar
5.	Old tomb near Changiz Khan's palace	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar
6.	Tomb of Nizam Ahmedshah	Ahmednagar	Ahmednagar
7.	Hemadpanthi Temple	Bemini	Ahmednagar
8.	Dhokeshwar Caves	Dhoke	Ahmednagar
9.	Building Known as Faria Bagh	Ghotan	Ahmednagar
10.	Jain Temple	Bhingar	Ahmednagar
		Cantonment	
11.	Temple of Mallikarjuna	Ghotan	Ahmednagar

1	2	3	4
12.	Cave & Temple	Harishchandra Gad	Ahmednagar
13.	Jarasangh Nagari	Jorve	Ahmednagar
14.	Temple of Mallikarjuna	Karjat	Ahmednagar
15.	Temple of Shiva called Naktichedeul	Karjat	Ahmednagar
16.	Old Temple	Kokamthan	Ahmednagar
17.	Temple of Devi	Mandavagaon Katrabad	Ahmednagar
18.	Salbathan's Tomb	Mohekari	Ahmednagar
19.	Temple of Shiva on the futher side of the stream	Parner	Ahmednagar
20.	Baleshwar Temple	Pedgaon	Ahmednagar
21.	Temple of Laxmi Narayan	Pedgaon	Ahmednagar
22.	Temple of Amriteshwar	Ratanwadi	Ahmednagar
23.	Triple shrined temple of Bhavani	Tahakri	Ahmednagar
24.	Five Stone Gates	Tisgaon	Ahmednagar
25.	Temple of Devi	Toka	Ahmednagar
26.	Temple of Siddheshwar Mahadev	Toka	Ahmednagar
27.	Temple of Vishnu & Five Ghats at attached thereto	Toka	Ahmednagar
28.	Ancient sites and remains at Daimabad	Daimabad (Ladgaon)	Ahmednagar
29.	Ancient site locally known as Ladmod	Newasa	Ahmednagar
30.	Dahihanda gate of outer city wall	Akola	Akola
31.	Khirki gate in the outer city wall	Akola	Akola
32.	South -East bastion of the outer city wall together with 10 years of the adjacent wall on each side, variously known as panch Burj Hasrath Yab and containing a persion inscription	Akola	Akola
33.	Balapur fort	Balapur	Akola
34.	Chhatri near Dak Banglow	Balapur	Akola
35.	Black stone temple of Bhawani	Barsi Takil	Akola
36.	Namala Fort: i Akot Gateway, ii Ambar Mahal iii Delhi Gateway, iv Large & Two smaller Guns v Mahakali Gateway, vi Mendheao Gateway vii Shahapur Gateway, viii Sirpur Gateway ix Small Mosque, x Tank buikt to contain Oil & Ghee.	Patur	Akola
37.	Patur Cave (Two Cave)	Patur	Akola
38.	Tank in front of tomb of Lalkhan	Amner	Akola

1	2	3	4
39.	Tomb of Lalkhan	Amner	Amaravati
40.	Gawilgarh Fort (The walls 85 the whole area contained by them)	Chikalda	Amaravati
41.	City wall of Nawab Ismail Khan	Bilichpur (Achalpur)	Amaravati
42.	Dula Gate	Bilichpur (Achalpur)	Amaravati
43.	Haripura Gate	Bilichpur (Achalpur)	Amaravati
44.	Hauz Katora	Bilichpur (Achalpur)	Amaravati
45.	Jiwanpura Gate	Bilichpur (Achalpur)	Amaravati
46.	Temple of Anandeshwar	Lasur	Amaravati
47.	Ajanta Caves	Ajanta	Aurangabad
48.	Aurangabad Caves	Aurangabad	Aurangabad
49.	Tomb of Rabia Daurani (Bibi-Ka-Maqbara)	Aurangabad	Aurangabad
50.	Daulatabad Fort & Monument therein (i.e. Chand Minar)	Daulatabad	Aurangabad
51.	Ellora Caves	Ellora	Aurangabad
52.	Tomb of Aurangazeb	Khultabad	Aurangabad
53.	Tomb of Malik Ambar	Khiltabad	Aurangabad
54.	Ancient Site/Mound	Paithan	Aurangabad
55.	Pitalkhora Caves	Paitalkhora	Aurangabad
56.	Ghrishneshwar Temple, chattries & other ancient sites	Verul (Ellora)	Aurangabad
57.	Area containing the old remains of two temples consisting of a collection of Massive stones in two separate heaps, One immediately outside padampur to the north & the other immediately to the south of Ganeshpur	Padampur	Bhandara
58.	Remains of the temple to the North of the Village	Padampur	Bhandara
59.	Remains of the temple to the North-west of the village	Padampur	Bhandara
60.	Remains of the temple close to the south of the village Ganeshpur	Padampur	Bhandara
61.	Remains of the temple locally known as Nath Bawa	Padampur	Bhandara
62.	Fort	Pratapgrah	Bhandara
63.	All the remains of the circumambulation wall of Pauni Fort	Pauni	Bhandara
64.	Ancient mounds on which the modern temple of Jagannath stands	Pauni	Bhandara
65.	Mound known as Hardutala-ki-Tekri	Pauni	Bhandara
66.	Cromlesh known as 'Tillota' (Frying Pan)	Pipalgaon	Bhandara
67.	Ukkadeshwar Mahadev Temple	Ukkad Pimpri	Bheed
68.	Moti Samadhi	Deulgaon Raja	Buldhana

1	2	3	4
69.	Three old Temples	Dhotra	Buldhana
70.	Mosque	Fathekheyda (Sakharkheda)	Buldhana
71.	Two old Temple	Kothali	Buldhana
72.	Dharmasala locally called chhatri	Lonar	Buldhana
73.	Fifteen Temple	Lonar	Buldhana
74.	Gaimukha Temple & Tank	Lonar	Buldhana
75.	Gaimukha Temple No 1 of Daitya Sudana	Lonar	Buldhana
76.	Square Kunda on the East of the Town	Lonar	Buldhana
77.	Temple of Daitya Sudana	Lonar	Buldhana
78.	Dharmasala at North-East corner of the town	Mehkar	Buldhana
79.	Mosque	Rohinkhed	Buldhana
80.	Temple of Mahadev	Sakegaon	Buldhana
81.	Temple of Vishnu, remains of an old building to the east of that temple and remains of small temple	Satgaon	Buldhana
82.	Tank	Sindhkhed Raja	Buldhana
83.	Temple of Mahadev	Sindhkhed Raja	Buldhana
84.	Lakhuji Jadhavrao's Samadhi	Sindhkhed	Buldhana
85.	Fort Wall	Ballarpur	Chandrapur
86.	Fort	Bhandak	Chandrapur
87.	Large high knoll immediately to the east of Bhandranath temple with remains of a temple, with huge stone carved blocks & a figure of Ganapati	Bhandak	Chandrapur
88.	Pandavas caves containing three images	Bhandak	Chandrapur
89.	Achaleshwar Temple & another small temple within an enclosure	Chandrapur	Chandrapur
90.	Enclosure & buldings of the Gond Raja's Tomb just outside the Achaleshwar gate the city.	Chandrapur	Chandrapur
91.	Fort Wall	Chandrapur	Chandrapur
92.	Lalpeth monoliths consisting of the sixteen colosal stone images. i. Anna Purma, ii. Bhim, iii. Fish, iv. Ganga v. Ganpati, vi. Hanuman, vii. Hanuman, viii. Kali, ix. Mahadev, x. Mahadev xi. Nandi, xii. Rawan, xiii. Snake, xiv. Tortoise xv. Ganpati xvi. Ganga	Chandrapur	Chandrapur
93.	Mahadev Temple close to the Municipal office	Chandrapur	Chandrapur
94.	Temple of the Mahakali	Chandrapur	Chandrapur
95.	Temple of Keshavanath	Churul	Chandrapur
96.	Ancient Temple	Deotek	Chandrapur
97.	Hemadpanthi Temple containing images of Dattatraya, Mahadev & Laxminarayan	Dhanora	Chandrapur
98.	Old Bridge	Ghutkala	Chandrapur
99.	Old Temple of Chandikadevi	Ghutkala	Chandrapur

1	2	3	4
100.	Remains of an old Fort	Khatora	Chandrapur
101.	Temple of Mahadev	Mahadwari	Chandrapur
102.	Temple of Mahadev	Neri	Chandrapur
103.	Ramdigi temple & Ramdigi pool	Nimdhela Forest	Chandrapur
104.	Old Hemadpanthi Temple	Palebaras	Chandrapur
105.	Old Temple of Mahadev	Rajgarh	Chandrapur
106.	Math	Balsana	Dhulia
107.	Small Temple on Survey No. 141	Balsana	Dhulia
108.	Temple of Durga	Balsana	Dhulia
109.	Temple of Shiva	Balsana	Dhulia
110.	Temple of the left side of shiva's Temple in Survey No. 418	Balsana	Dhulia
111.	Temple in front of the above in Survey No. 418	Balsana	Dhulia
112.	Temple between Durga's Temple and Math in Survey No. 141	Balsana	Dhulia
113.	Old gateways in the ruined fort & caves	Bhamer	Dhulia
114.	Seven Mohammedan Tombs	Thalner	Dhulia
115.	Three Mohammedan Tombs	Thalner	Dhulia
116.	Ancient site & remains	Prakasha	Dhulia
117.	Old Temple	Armori	Gadchiroli
118.	Stone Circle	Arsoda	Gadchiroli
119.	Group of twenty cromlechs or Kistvaens	Chamurshi	Gadchiroli
120.	Rock Caves	Jharapapra	Gadchiroli
121.	Group of Temple	Markanda	Gadchiroli
122.	Fortress of Tipagarh	Murumgaon	Gadchiroli
123.	Large Temple	Thanegaon	Gadchiroli
124.	Fort wall	Waira	Gadchiroli
125.	Temple of Bhandareswar	Waira	Gadchiroli
126.	Ancient mound & monument known as Pawar's Gadhi	Bahal	Jalgaon
127.	Temple of Changdev	Changdev	Jalgaon
128.	Temple of Debi & Sambha	Dighi	Jalgaon
129.	Maheswara Temple	Patan	Jalgaon
130.	Temple of Chandika Devi	Patan	Jalgaon
131.	Temple of Nagarjun	Patan	Jalgaon
132.	Temple of Shringer Chavdi	Patan	Jalgaon
133.	Mahadev Temple	Sangameswar	Jalgaon
134.	Mudhai Devi Temple	Vaghli	Jalgaon
135.	Old Temple of Sidheshwar with three inscriptions slabs	Vaghli	Jalgaon
136.	Ancient site and remains	Tekwada	Jalgaon

1	2	3	4
137.	Archaeological site & remains	Bhokardan	Jalna
138.	Remains of an old fort on the hill	Bhiwagarh	Nagpur
139.	Fort	Dpnagartal	Nagpur
140.	Temple of Mahadev	Ghogra	Nagpur
141.	Stone Circle	Junapani	Nagpur
142.	Stone Circle	Ghorar	Nagpur
143.	Ancient Buddhist remains comprising monastery, stupas, Rock-cut inscription etc.	Mansar & Kahari	Nagpur
144.	Stone circle	Nildho	Nagpur
145.	Kalimata's Temple	Ramtek	Nagpur
146.	Remains of a very old shrines upon the western ride at the end of the Ramtek hill consisting of a portion of porch of a temple and the mutilated image of Trivikram Avatara of Vishnu	Ramtek	Nagpur
147.	Tank and Mandapa opposite to the Dattatraya's Temple	Ramtek	Nagpur
148.	Stone Circle	Takalghat	Nagpur
149.	Brahmanical caves locally known as a Pandevlena	Mahoor Village	Nanded
150.	Hindu Temple	Ambegaon	Nasik
151.	Old Temple	Anjaneri	Nasik
152.	Caves	Ankai	Nasik
153.	Hindu Temple	Deothan	Nasik
154.	Old Matichi-Gadhi	Nasik	Nasik
155.	Pandev Lena Caves	Pathardi	Nasik
156.	Temple of Aeshwar	Sinnar	Nasik
157.	Temple of Gondeshwar Mahadev	Sinnar	Nasik
158.	Trimbakeshwar Temple	Tringalwadi	Nasik
159.	Jain Temple	Tringalwadi	Nasik
160.	Hemadpanthi Temple of Mahadev	Zodge	Nasik
161.	Fort	Paunar	Wardha
162.	Hemadpanthi Temple of Mahadev	N Neir	Yeotmal
163.	Temple of Goddess pandardevi	Pandhardevi	Yeotmal
164.	Temple of Kamaleshwar	Pathrot	Yeotmal
165.	Mahadev Temple	Rant Swangi	Yeotmal
166.	Mahadev Temple	Rui-Wai	Yeotmal
167.	Hemadpanthi Temple of Shree Mahadev (Taponeshwar)	Tapona	Yeotmal
168.	Mahadev Temple	Yelabara	Yeotmal
Mumbai Circle			
1.	Ancient site at Brahamapuri	Kolhapur	Kolhapur
2.	Panhala Fort	Panhala	Kolhapur
i. Ambarkhana, ii. Andhra Vav iii. Dharma Kopthi, iv. Naikinicha Sajja v. Teen Darwaja, vi. Wagh Darwaja vii. Tatabani together with bastions			

1	2	3	4
3.	Buddhist Caves	Panhala	Kolhapur
4.	Whole hill fort of Sion together with all ancient Portuguese remains of buildings situated to the north, east and south-east sides of the hill	Sion	Mumbai
5.	Monolithic bass relief depicting Siva	Parel village	Mumbai
6.	Old Portuguese Churches, tower and caves	Mandapeshwar	Mumbai Suburban
7.	Buddhist Caves	Kanheri	Mumbai Suburban
8.	Jogeshwari Caves	Majas	Mumbai Suburban
9.	Kondivate Cave	Kondivate	Mumbai Suburban
10.	Mandapeshwara Caves	Mandapeshwar	Mumbai Suburban
11.	Portuguese Monastery over the cave & the large watch tower on the adjoining hill	Mandapeshwar	Mumbai Suburban
12.	Songad	Achloli	Raigad
13.	Cathedral	Agarkot	Raigad
14.	Chouaburji-Castle or Factory of Cheul	Agarkot	Raigad
15.	Church & Convent of the Augustinians	Agarkot	Raigad
16.	One Dominican Church & Convent	Agarkot	Raigad
17.	Jesuit Monastery	Agarkot	Raigad
18.	Kothi	Agarkot	Raigad
19.	Buruj	Agarkot	Raigad
20.	St. Francis Xavier's Chapel	Agarkot	Raigad
21.	Satkhani St. Barbara's Tower	Agarkot	Raigad
22.	Two gates-Potra Da Mar & Pota da Terra	Agarkot	Raigad
23.	Hirakota old Fort	Agarkot	Raigad
24.	Kolaba Fort Containing i) Manik Chawada, ii) Nanisahib's Palace iii) North Causeway, iv) Padmavati Shrine v) Reservoir Apsaras, vi) Sarja Kot vii) Shrine of Bhawani, viii) Shrine of Maruti ix) Shrine of Yashvantadari, xi) Talghar x) South causeway, xii) Temple of Bopdec xiii) Temple of anpati-pen-Chyaten xiv) Temple of Gulabai or Mahtshuri xv) Temple of Kanoba, xvi) Thorle wada, xvii) Temple of Mahadev xviii) Tomb of a Mahamadan saint Cave	Agarkot	Raigad
	Birwadi Fort	Ambivli	Raigad
	Barber's Mahel	Birwadi	Raigad
	Dader (Stair Case)	Cheul	Raigad
	Kaman (Arch)	Cheul	Raigad

1	2	3	4
30.	Mosque	Cheul	Raigad
31.	Rajkot	Cheul	Raigad
32.	Tomb of Angre	Cheul	Raigad
33.	Wada of Dancing Girls	Cheul	Raigad
34.	Chandragad	Dhavala	Raigad
35.	Elephanta Caves	Gharapuri	Raigad
36.	Ghereagad or Surgad Fort	Ghera Surgad	Raigad
37.	Ghosalgad Fort	Ghosale	Raigad
38.	Old Fort containing a temple of the God Kangormel & Two tanks	Kadasari Kangori	Raigad
39.	Buddhist Caves	Gomashi	Raigad
40.	A precipitous hill near Raigad Fort containing one rock-cut cistern of water. It was formerly used as a Jail for prisoners.	Kadasari Lingana	Raigad
41.	Caves	Kol	Raigad
42.	Caves in Survey No.49 & No. 50	Kol	Raigad
43.	Caves	Kondhane	Raigad
44.	Old Fort	Kortai	Raigad
45.	Awchitgad	Medhe	Raigad
46.	Caves	Kuda	Raigad
47.	Kasa (Kamsa) Fort	Murud	Raigad
48.	Thanala Caves	Nadsur	Raigad
49.	Nagothana Bridge	Nagothana	Raigad
50.	Khadsamla Caves	Nenawali	Raigad
51.	Jijamata's Samadhi consisting of four towers.	Pachad	Raigad
52.	Jijamata's Wada comprising four dilapidated houses & three wells surrounded by a stone wall	Pachad	Raigad
53.	Caves	Pale	Raigad
54.	Caves Near the Kotali Fort	Peth	Raigad
55.	Kotali Fort with two iron guns and one bronze gun	Peth	Raigad
56.	Janjira Fort	Rajapuri	Raigad
57.	Tombs at Kholkar Najik Ghumaj (Khokeri Ghumaj)	Rajapuri	Raigad
58.	Fort of Raigad	Raigad	Raigad
59.	Tala Fort	Tala	Raigad
60.	Ancient Bricks stupa at Elephanta Island	Gharapuri	Raigad
61.	Kondane caves	Khapoli	Raigad
62.	Aga Khan Palace Building	Pune	Pune
63.	Cave Temple of Bhamburada	Poona	Pune
64.	Old Citadel known as Shaniwar Wada	Poona	Pune
65.	Old European Tombs	Poona	Pune

1	2	3	4
66.	Fort	Rajmarchi	Pune
67.	Excavations & Inscriptions	Shelarwadi	Pune
68.	Fort	Visapur	Pune
69.	Small Dargah near Habsi Gumaz	Agar	Pune
70.	Cave Temple and Inscription	Bedsa	Pune
71.	Cave temple and Inscription	Bhaja	Pune
72.	Caves and inscription at the Nana Pass (Naneghat)	Ghatghar	Pune
73.	Caves, Temple and Inscription	Junnar	Pune
74.	Fort of Shivneri	Junnar	Pune
75.	Habsi Gumbaz	Junnar	Pune
76.	Caves, Temple and inscription	Karla	Pune
77.	Ancient dam with lock and sluice gates	Khed	Pune
78.	Dilawar Khan's Masjid	Khed	Pune
79.	Dilawar Khan's Tomb	Khed	Pune
80.	Lohagad Fort	Lohagad	Pune
81.	Bhuleshwar Mahadeo Temple	Malsiras	Pune
82.	Mohammed Tughlak's Mosque	Khanapur	Sangli
83.	Mosque	Dabhol	Ratnagiri
84.	Rock cut Caves (Ganesh lena group)	Dapoli	Ratnagiri
85.	Suvarnadurga Fort	Harnai	Ratnagiri
86.	Jaygad Fort	Jaydgad	Ratnagiri
87.	Vijaydurg Fort	Vijaydurg	Ratnagiri
88.	Panta's Kot or Got open space	Karad	Satara
89.	Old Temple of the River Krishna	Old Mahabaleshwar	Satara
90.	Jhabreshwar Mahadev Temple	Phaltan	Satara
91.	Buddhist caves	Jakhinwadi	Satara
92.	Tomb of Begami	Ghodeshwar	Sholapur
93.	Aurangzeb's Fort	Machnur	Sholapur
94.	Old Temple of Sri Siddeshwar (enclosed in a paved court)	Machnur	Sholapur
95.	Covered colonnade (to the south of the well)	Mahalung	Sholapur
96.	Hemadpanthi Temple of Mahadev	Mahalung	Sholapur
97.	Hemadpanthi Temple of Vithoba	Mahalung	Sholapur
98.	Hemadpanthi Well	Mahalung	Sholapur
99.	Mahadev Stones	Mahalung	Sholapur
100.	Temple of Devi (Yamai)	Mahalung	Sholapur
101.	Old Fort	Sholapur	Sholapur
102.	Gateway and old Maruti temple with Viragal stones on either side.	Velapur	Sholapur
103.	Old doubled shrined temple	Velapur	Sholapur

1	2	3	4
104.	Old Temple & Viragals or sculptural memorial stones	Velapur	Sholapur
105.	Old Temple of Sarkarvada locally known as Parasnath temple	Velapur	Sholapur
106.	Temple of Haranareshwar & Ardhanarineshwar, one Hemadpanthi tank (small square kunda) & Vinagal stone kept in the compound.	Velapur	Sholapur
107.	Sindhurg Fort	Malvan	Sindhurg
108.	Temple of Ambarnath	Ambarnath	Thane
109.	Fort	Arnala	Thane
110.	Fort and Portuguese remains	Bassein	Thane
111.	Tank by the west side of the road from Umarale village to Bolinj	Bolinj	Thane
112.	Mound locally known as "Sonar Bhat"	Gas	Thane
113.	Caves on Burud Hill	Khunwada	Thane
114.	Mahuli Fort	Mahuli	Thane
115.	Mound locally known as "Burud kot" Mardes	Mardes	Thane
116.	Brahmanical Caves	Polu Sonala	Thane
117.	Carved Stones	Vada	Thane

[English]

Majuli Island

633. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project has been drawn out for due protection of Majuli Island from flood and erosion;

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

(c) the progress made in implementation and completion thereof well in time before the seasonal rains and floods this year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Brahmaputra Board under the Ministry of Water Resources has prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the protection of Majuli Island from flood and erosion for an amount of Rs.86.56 crores. Brahmaputra Board has taken up the works, as per approved DPR, to be executed in three phases. Phase wise break up is given below:

Phase I	Rs. 41.28 crores
Phase II	Rs. 18.28 crores
Phase III	Rs.27.00 crores

Phase I started in 2005. So far an expenditure of Rs.21.86 crores has been incurred.

Speed of Mail/Express and Goods Trains

634. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the differential in speeds of mail/express trains and goods trains at present;

(b) whether the Railways have taken any steps to bring down the speed differential between mail/express trains and goods trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The maximum permissible speeds of majority of mail, express trains running on Indian Railway (IR) system are in the vicinity of 110 kmph while that of goods trains is 75 kmph. IR has designed freight stock fit for 100 kmph. Few such rakes have been manufactured and are already in operation. Most of container trains are fit to run at 100 kmph. Overpowering of freight trains is also being done to reduce the speed differential between mail, express & goods trains.

Pamban Railway Bridge

635. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pamban Railway Bridge across the Palk Straits in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu has been opened for traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce more services from Rameswaram to other destinations in the country and also to seek World Heritage Status for the Pamban Bridge; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Gauge Conversion of Manamadurai-Rameswaram including Pamban Bridge has already been completed and the converted broad gauge section is commissioned for passenger train services on 12.08.2007 by running 03 pairs of trains viz. 6713/6714 Chennai Egmore-Rameswaram Express, 751/752 & 753/754 Madurai-Rameswaram Passengers.

(c) and (d) Introduction of 8495/8496 Bhubaneswar-Rameswaram Express (Weekly) and Madurai-Rameswaram passenger train has been announced in the Railway Budget for 2007-08 and 2006-07 respectively.

Southern Railway has planned to seek World Heritage status for Pamban Bridge.

[Translation]

Sky Bus Metro Project

636. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made for implementation of Sky Bus Metro Project in the country;

(b) the present status of the project alongwith funds earmarked for the project during 2007-08; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Sky Bus Metro Technology Project is currently in developmental stage. A test track for a length of about 1.6 kms for conducting trials has been constructed at Madgaon.

The Ministry of Urban Development had appointed an Expert Committee headed by Dr. P.V. Indiresan, Former Director, IIT/Chennai, for evaluation of the Sky Bus Technology. The Committee's Report, submitted in August 2005, recommended formation of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to evaluate the novel system and guide for further development of the technology. The TAG has already been constituted and has had three meetings so far.

(b) The Ministry of Railways has allocated an amount of Rs.25 Crores under Plan Head "Railway Research" for conducting further trials of Sky Bus Metro leading to Certification of Technology under the guidance of Technical Advisory Group.

(c) Specific time frame for a technology development project cannot be stipulated as the success of the project will depend upon the results of the trials and opinion of Commissioner of Railway Safety or any other agency appointed for the designated purpose.

[English]

Railways Competition with Low Cost Airlines

637. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are facing stiff competition from low cost airlines;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Railways to face the competition;

(c) the number of soft cards issued so far by the Railways and the facilities extended to the card holders;

(d) whether the Railways have taken any steps to make the scheme for frequent travellers (SOFT) more attractive; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railways are aware of the competition from the Airlines sector particularly due to low cost Airlines. Following steps have been taken by the Railways to gear up to the competition:

(i) Reduction of fares of 1st AC and 2nd AC classes.

(ii) By introducing additional trains.

(iii) Enhancing the load of well patronised trains to the maximum to meet the demand.

(iv) Attaching additional coaches in trains to clear waiting list.

(v) Introduction of Scheme of Frequent Travellers (SOFT).

(vi) Upgradation of Passengers without additional charges.

(c) to (e) 33,428 SOFT (Scheme for Frequent Traveller) cards have been issued upto 31.7.2007. A Frequent Traveller gets complimentary train trip after certain number of reward points are accumulated. The other facilities extended and the steps taken to make the scheme more attractive are as under:-

1. Online registration, renewal and redemption of points earned.
2. Waiver of 1.8% transaction charge on the credit card transactions done through this card.

3. Facilities to shop, dine out or travel on cards issued under this scheme and earn railway points.
4. Card also offers discount on purchase of fuel at designated petrol pumps and also saving of transaction fee.

International Drama Festival

638. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government for sanction of financial assistance for the "International Drama Festival" organized by Shri Shivakumara Kala Sangha, Sanehalli, Hosadurga Taluk, Chitradurga District, Karnataka.

(b) if, so the details of the proposals;

(c) whether the Union Government has considered the proposal; and

(d) if so, by what time the financial assistance to the Sangha is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Manpower Reduction in Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

639. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manpower is being reduced in the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL);

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

(c) the number of employees retired under the voluntary retirement scheme and the number of persons recruited during the last three years and current year;

(d) whether a number of posts are lying vacant in SAIL;

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

(f) the steps taken to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The manpower of SAIL has been reducing due to natural superannuation and other separations. The manpower position and year-wise reduction during the last three years and in the current year upto June 2007 is as under:

Year	Manpower of SAIL (including ISP)	Manpower Reduction
2004-05	143075	-
2005-06	138211	4864
2006-07	132973	5238
2007-08 (upto June 30, 2007)	131890	1083

(c) The number of employees retired under the voluntary retirement scheme during the last three years and current year is given below:

Year	2004- 05	2005- 06	2006- 07	2007- 08 (upto June'07)
No. of employees retired under VRS	1440	881	539	0

The recruitments undertaken in the last three years and current year till June, 2007 for meeting skilled manpower requirement and recoupment of separations is given below:

Year	2004- 05	2005- 06	2006- 07	2007- 08 (upto June'07)
Recruitment	720	1031	1350	450

(d) to (f) The Company follows a budgeting system i.e., Annual Human Resource Planning for meeting manpower requirements. For meeting the requirements of enhanced level of production, SAIL will be increasing its labour productivity through efficient operations and higher levels of automation. There would be requirement for recruitments in project area to meet the work load in expansion projects. However, there would be progressive reduction in number of employees in the works and non-works areas due to yearly separations. Recruitment will also be undertaken for recouping separations and improving the age mix of the work force. Requirement of expansion projects shall also be met partially through retraining and redeployment of existing employees.

[English]

NPP and Drug Pricing Formula

640. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a draft has been prepared by the Government for declaring the National Pharmaceutical Policy, (NPP) 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the policy of drug pricing formula has been opposed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUÉ): (a) to (e) The draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 was prepared keeping in view the comments of various stakeholders including the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). CSIR in its comments on the draft Note had observed, inter alia, that the price control on an increasing number of drugs/formulations may lead to a decrease in the production of essential drugs which might necessitate the import of drugs.

The Cabinet Note on proposed National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006 along with views of various Departments was placed before the Cabinet for its consideration/ approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11th January, 2007. It was decided that the matter, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM has since been constituted. The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007. The GOM after detailed discussions on various aspects of the Policy would make its recommendations to the Cabinet.

[Translation]

Superfast Charges

641. SHRI VASANTRAO MORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger travelling in superfast express trains running across the country and on the inter-state routes are charged ten rupees more as superfast charge;

(b) whether the Railways are aware that passengers travelling in short distance trains and those running within a state are also charged said superfast charge;

(c) if so, whether the Railways are aware of such excess fare being charged from the passengers of Sewagram Express running in Maharashtra resulting in immense resentment among the passengers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The rate of superfast surcharge for travel by superfast trains is ranging from Rs. 8/- to Rs. 50/-, depending on the class of travel. For second

class, the superfast surcharge is Rs. 8/- per passenger. This surcharge is not related to distance of travel or State boundaries.

(c) and (d) Certain trains whose average speed on the entire run in both directions is minimum 55 kmph on broad gauge and 45 kmph on metre gauge are designated as superfast and a nominal surcharge is levied for travel by such trains. The surcharge is levied for travel by Sewagram Express also as it has qualified the above mentioned minimum speed criteria.

(e) The surcharge on second class tickets has already been reduced from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 8/-. For monthly second class season tickets, the rate of monthly superfast surcharge is only Rs. 150/- instead of Rs. 600/-. There is no superfast surcharge for season ticket holders who travel by the superfast trains which have a total journey distance of less than 325 kms.

[English]

New Civil Aviation Policy

642. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the projected growth in air traffic and requirement of acquisition of additional aircraft and development of infrastructure at the airports and expenditure involved;

(b) the problems being faced by Indian aviation sector while competing with international airlines;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate new growth oriented Civil Aviation Policy to encourage public-private-partnership in the sector, restructure Airports Authority of India, improve air connectivity and have liberal foreign direct investment norms to meet its huge demand of financial resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Currently, the domestic passenger traffic is growing at a rate of about 37% and international traffic at a rate of about 16%.

The total passenger traffic during 11th and 12th Five Year Plan is projected to grow at the rate of 21.6% and 17.8%, respectively.

Airports authority of India (AAI) has projected to incur Rs. 12434/- crores during 11th Plan for infrastructure development of airports.

The growth of civil aviation sector depends upon economic growth, business and tourist traffic, foreign tourist arrivals, affordability etc. Induction of aircraft is expected to

be commensurate with the growth in passenger traffic in the coming years.

(b) Traffic rights with foreign countries are exchanged on the principle of reciprocity. However, utilization of traffic rights by the Indian national carriers vis-a-vis foreign carriers has been less due to fleet and other infrastructure constraints.

(c) and (d) The National Civil Aviation Policy is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM).

New Railway Line in Bengal

643. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long-pending demand for a new rail line from Jhargram to Adra via Purulia, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Adra to Purulia is already connected by a broad gauge line. Representations have been received for construction of a new line between Purulia and Jhargram. As per the updating survey for new line between Jhargram-Purulia, the cost of construction of 136-km-long new line was assessed as Rs. 356.22 crore with a rate of return of (-) 7.17%. Final decision on this proposal would be feasible once the survey report is finalized.

International Puppetry Day

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

(a) whether the Government had held any puppet shows for the children on the occasion of the International Puppetry Day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount incurred; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase the awareness about the puppet shows among kids?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA), an autonomous organization of Ministry of Culture organized festival and exhibition titled "Putul Yatra" on the occasion of International Puppetry Day in Mumbai from 20-27 March 2005. The festival and exhibition showcased various traditions of Indian Puppetry which was witnessed by children in large numbers. As many as 10 performances were presented by traditional puppeteers from all over the country and an expenditure of Rs. 19.20 lakhs was incurred. The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training

(CCRT), an autonomous organization of Ministry of Culture also organized training workshops on the theme of role of puppetry in education at various places since January 2007 in which teachers from various states and local students participated and an amount of Rs.26 lakhs (approx.) had been incurred on organization of the above programmes.

(d) In order to increase awareness about puppets, monthly performances of puppet shows, training programmes, workshops, exhibitions and demonstrations of puppets are being organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi from time to time providing an opportunity for all including children to learn making of puppets and its manipulation. Puppet theatre is also the part of the children theatre festival and Bharat Rang Mahotsav being organized by National School of Drama every year. In the training workshops being organized by Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) on Puppetry the students and teachers are benefited. The Zonal Cultural Centre also organize puppet shows and workshops on puppet making for children.

New Railway Lines in Gujarat

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

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal for construction of new rail lines to the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As per available records, no such proposal has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Evacuation of Retiring Room

646. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retiring room at Jaunpur City Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh is still in possession of the Government Railway Police (GRP);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts made/being made by the Railways for evacuation of retiring room; and

(d) the time by which the retiring room is likely to be made available for public?

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

(b) The waiting room of Jaunpur City was occupied by the Government Railway Police on the plea that there was no space in the office building of Jaunpur City Railway Station for Government Railway Police Thana.

(c) and (d) Divisional Railway Manager/Lucknow has provided space for the Government Railway Police Thana in the new building being constructed at Jaunpur City Railway Station. The work of fixing Electrical fittings, windows/doors and floor of the room is under process and will be completed in near future. On completion of the work, it will be handed over to the Government Railway Police and waiting room will be made available for the public.

[English]

Selling of Oil and Gas at Market Price

647. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Exploration Licensing Policy give companies the right to sell the discovered oil and gas at market price;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has formed a Committee to look into the pricing of gas discovered by the Reliance Industries in the Krishna Godawari basin;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same;

(d) whether the foreign investment such as British Petroleum, Hardy Exploration and British Gas made protest in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the further steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) Yes, sir. As per the Production Sharing Contract signed by the Government under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), operators are free to market the oil on international price parity basis and gas in the domestic market on arms length basis.

(b) and (c) In terms of the provision of PSC, RIL has submitted the price formula for sale of gas from KG Basin for approval of the Government. This price formula has been considered by Cabinet Secretary who was asked to go into issues of gas pricing.

(d) and (e) No protest as such has been received from any of the companies. However, British Gas and British Petroleum have requested the Government to maintain the sanctity of the PSC provisions.

(f) The issues related to gas pricing under NELP are to be considered by an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM).

Increase/Decrease in Prices of Petroleum Products

648. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of prices increased or decreased on petrol, kerosene, LPG and other petroleum products during the last two years by the Union Government;

(b) whether the prices of the above items increased or decreased were in percentage of fall/rise in global crude prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) The details of major revisions in retail selling price for sensitive petroleum products during the last two years at Delhi are given as under:

As on	(Rs./litre)			(Rs./ cylinder)
	Petrol	PDS Kerosene	Diesel	Domestic LPG
1	2	3	4	5
1.4.05	37.99	9.05	28.22	294.75
04.05.05 (Vat rate reduced to 12.5% on diesel)	-	-	26.45	-
21.6.05	40.49	-	28.45	-
7.9.05	43.49	-	30.45	-
06.06.06	47.51	-	32.47	-
21.06.06 (Tax Rebate in VAT on petrol and diesel)	46.85	-	32.25	-

1	2	3	4	5
30.11.06	44.85	-	31.25	-
16.02.07	42.85	-	30.25	-
Current price (price revised on account of VAT revision Effective 06.06.07)	43.52	9.09	30.48	294.75

(b) to (d) The details of increase in international prices and domestic retail prices at Delhi are given as under:

	Crude Oil - Indian Basket	Petrol (\$/bbl)	Diesel (\$/bbl)	Kerosene PDS Kerosene	Domestic LPG (\$/Ton)
Mar'05	49.21	58.72	59.83	63.74	380.00
2005-06	55.72	64.51	64.70	69.43	481.04
2006-07	62.46	72.67	74.12	77.03	499.67
Percentage increase over March'05	26.9	23.7	23.9	20.9	31.5

Retail Selling Price (RSP) as on	Petrol	(Rs./Litre) Diesel	(Rs./Cylinder) PDS Kerosene	Domestic LPG
1.4.05	37.99	28.22	9.05	294.75
31.03.07	42.85	30.25	9.09	294.75
Percentage increase	12.8	7.2	0.4	-

The Government has adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing amongst three stakeholders, namely, the consumers, the PSU oil companies and the Government to protect the interest of the common man and the vulnerable sections of society. Consequent to decline of crude oil prices in the international market, the prices of petrol and diesel were reduced on two occasions, i.e. on 30 November 2006 and on 16th February 2007. The basic price of PDS kerosene has not been revised since 1st March 2002 and the domestic prices of LPG was last revised on 5.11.04. The burden of increase in the international prices of crude oil has not, thus, been fully passed on to the consumers of petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG.

Renovation of Historic Forts in Bandra, Maharashtra

649. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has provided any financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra for the renovation of some historic forts in Bandra (Vandre) and Worli regions of Mumbai city as well as Bassein (Vasai) Fort in Thane District;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any of these Forts is in the list of Heritage list of UNESCO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Bassein Fort at Vasai is a centrally protected monument and conservation of Gonsalo Garcia Church inside the fort has been taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India from its budget. A provision of Rs.11.00 lakhs has been made during the current financial year.

Forts in Bandra and Worli regions are not centrally protected.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Rs.7.28 crores as financial assistance to Government of Maharashtra of which Rs.582.75 lakhs have been released for undertaking conservation and development of Forts in Mumbai. Government of Maharashtra has identified forts at Bandra, Worli, Shivdi and Ghod Bandar under this scheme which includes conservation, beautification, landscaping and providing basic amenities to visitors. Works at Bandra and Worli forts are in progress.

(c) and (d) None of these, forts are inscribed on the World Heritage list of UNESCO.

New Bill for Senior Citizens

650. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

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

(a) whether the cases of ignorance of senior citizens by their family members are increasing in the country day by day;

(b) if so, whether the Parents and Senior Citizens (Welfare and Maintenance) Bill, 2006 in this regard has been finalized;

(c) if so, the salient features of the Bill; and

(d) the time by which Bill is likely to be passed and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUBBU-LAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007 was introduced in the Parliament (Lok Sabha) on 20.3.2007. The

Bill provides for setting up of appropriate mechanism to offer need-based maintenance to the parents and senior citizens, setting up of old age homes in every district; better medical facilities to senior citizens; and institutionalization of a suitable mechanism for protection of life and property of older persons. No time frame can be indicated by which the Bill will be passed.

FPIS in NER

651. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Processing Industries (FPIs) set up in Assam and the North Eastern Region (NER) including Sikkim in the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to encourage Food Processing Industries in the North Eastern Region (NER)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) under its Plan Schemes provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid for Establishment/Upgradation/Modernization of Food Processing Industries @ 25% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Work subject to a maximum of Rs. 25 lakhs for general areas and 33.33% upto maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs for difficult areas. The Ministry does not set up Food Processing Industries of its own. The Ministry has approved financial assistance of Rs. 16.00 crores for 40 projects in North-Eastern Region including Sikkim during the last three years i.e. 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07.

For encouraging Food Processing Industries in North Eastern Region (NER), 10% of the total Plan outlay is earmarked for North Eastern Region. Further, grant-in-aid at higher rate of 33.33% of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Work subject to maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs is provided for difficult areas including North Eastern Region for Establishment/Upgradation/Modernization of Food Processing Industries under Plan Schemes of Ministry. Under Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, higher level of assistance in the form of credit linked back-ended subsidy is available to the extent of 50% of cost of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Work to a maximum of Rs. 4.00 crore of setting up of new units and upto Rs. 1.00 crore for Upgradation/Modernization of existing units.

Issues Pertaining to Employees of AI and IA

652. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn by the Indian Airlines Employees Unions about

the need for resolving key issues pertaining to employees before the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines takes place;

(b) if so, the details of the issues raised by them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some employee Unions have submitted a representation expressing their concerns on the merger. On receipt of the representation, Government had invited the concerned Unions/Associations on 27.07.2007 and had allayed their apprehensions and reiterated that all employees would remain unaffected as a result of the merger.

[Translation]

Cancellation of Petrol Pumps

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

(a) the names and details of the LPG gas agencies and petrol pumps cancelled during the period from 1st April, 1999 till 30th June, 2007;

(b) the grounds for cancellation;

(c) whether any irregularity had been detected about the cancelled petrol pumps; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have cancelled/terminated 194 LPG distributorships and 1195 Retail Outlets (ROs) during the period from 1st April, 1999 to 30th June 2007 respectively. The names and details of the cancelled/terminated LPG distributorships and ROs are available with Directors (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

(b) to (d) Action for cancellation/termination of the LPG distributorships and ROs was taken in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) for indulging in various established malpractices, violation of the terms and conditions of the Distributorship Agreement and in compliance of Court orders etc. OMCs have not reported any irregularity in cancelling/terminating the LPG distributorships and ROs.

Unauthorized Entry of Jawans in AC Coaches

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

(a) whether jawans of Army, Navy and Air Force as well as para military forces travel illegally in AC II tier coaches of Guwahati-Delhi Rajdhani Express causing great inconvenience to the passengers;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter;
- (c) the amount of loss being incurred by the Railways as a result of such illegal activities; and
- (d) the steps taken to prevent such activities and avoid consequential losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No cases of unauthorized travelling of Jawans from Army, Navy and Air Force as well as Para-military forces in AC II tier Coaches in Guwahati-Delhi Rajdhani Express have come to notice. However, persons if detected are penalized as per relevant rules.

(d) Rajdhani Express trains are fully manned trains. Train manning staff remain vigilant in their - coaches and outside coaches at stations to prevent entry of unauthorized passengers.

[English]

Taj Mahal Amongst the Seven Wonders of the World

655. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government anticipate heavy rush of tourists, both domestic and international, to visit Taj Mahal in view of the fact that Taj has been declared recently as one of the seven wonders of the world; and

(b) if so, the details of extra arrangements made?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Taj Mahal is already the most visited centrally protected monument. In the year 2006-07, 26,03,571 tourists (Indian: 20,71,243 and Foreigner: 5,32,328) visited Taj Mahal. Some increase in these numbers is anticipated as a result of the recent declaration of the Taj Mahal as one of the seven wonders of the world.

(b) In addition to the regular watch and ward, the security and safety of the Taj Mahal is assigned to the Central Industrial Security Force. Basic tourist amenities like drinking water, toilets, wheel chairs for physically challenged persons, lockers etc. have been provided.

[Translation]

Profit of Indian Oil Corporation.

656. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) whether the oil companies have been benefited due to the strengthening of rupees vis-a-vis dollars in the country;

(b) if so, the financial profit that accrued to the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) under this head in the first quarter of year 2007-08; and

(c) the percentage of the said profit out of the total profit earned by the company during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Oil Marketing Companies (IOC, HPC and BPC) have benefited due to strengthening of the rupee vis-a-vis dollar as they import crude oil for refining. However, Oil and Gas producing companies (ONGC, OIL and GAIL) have not benefited.

(b) During the first quarter of 2007-08, the exchange variation gain net of exchange variation on crude liabilities for Indian Oil Corporation is Rs.726 crore.

(c) The exchange variation gain of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. works out to 34.55% of the Profit Before Tax reported by it for the first quarter of 2007-08.

[English]

Setting up of New Petrol Pumps

657. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target to open more petrol pumps in the country during 2007-08;

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

(c) the number of petrol pumps set up so far in various States, company-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets of 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Subsequent to the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 1.4.2002, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been given freedom to choose location and select Retail Outlet (RO) dealers/ LPG distributors as per their commercial considerations. Government have no direct role in allotment of Retail Outlets of OMCs.

During the year 2007-08, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have planned to set up approximately 3215 retail outlets all over the country.

(c) As on 30.6.2007, the OMCs have set up 32,558 retail outlet (RO) dealerships all over the country. Company-wise details are as under:

Name of the OMC	Number of RO Dealerships
IOC	16622
BPC	7876
HPC	8060
Total	32,558

(d) The outlets are to be set up by the OMCs. The process of setting up of retail outlet dealerships involves various steps like scrutiny of applications and documents, conduct of interviews of the eligible candidates for selection of dealers/distributors, release of merit panels, field investigation in respect of selected candidates, obtaining land/statutory approvals/ licences, construction, etc.

Acquisition of Diesel Locomotives by Railways

658. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have set any target to acquire diesel locomotives during 11th Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways have contemplated tentative requirement of 1800 diesel locos for the 11th Plan period.

(c) During the current year 2007-08, Railways have planned to manufacture 200 diesel locos at Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), Varanasi. In addition, a new factory at Marhowra in Bihar is being set up for increasing the manufacturing capacity of diesel locos.

Train Accidents

659. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:
DR. K.S. MANOJ:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY;
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents reported since January 2007, their prima-facie reasons, loss of lives and properties and compensation/ex-gratia relief given to victims, accident-wise;

(b) the details of inquiries ordered into such accidents alongwith outcome and action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed stricture against the Railways regarding increasing number of accidents at unmanned level crossings;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Railways thereon alongwith the number of level crossings to be manned during the current year, zone-wise;

(e) the number of manned and unmanned level crossings in the country as on date alongwith the number of level crossings manned during the last three years, zone-wise;

(f) whether consent of State Governments are required for closing level crossing;

(g) if so, the response of State Governments thereto; and

(h) the steps taken by the Railways to curb train accidents, particularly at unmanned level crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There have been 106* consequential train accidents on Indian Railways during the period from January to July, 2007, in which 128* persons lost their lives. Loss of railway property on account of these accidents has been estimated to be Rs. 26.53 crores (approx.). A sum of Rs. 5.10 lakhs (approx.), as ex-gratia, has been paid in cases where admissible. Compensation, however, is payable after the claim cases are filed and awarded by the Claims Tribunals.

Out of these 106* accidents, 14 cases are being enquired into by the respective Commissioners of Railway Safety, and in case of remaining 92, departmental inquiry committees were constituted. Depending upon findings of the inquiry reports, so far finalized, action as warranted is in progress including punitive action under Discipline and Appeal Rules against those found responsible. Accident-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise. However, Railways have targeted manning of 447 unmanned level crossings during 2007-08 and the zone-wise break-up is as under:-

Railway Zone	Target for Manning during 2007-08
Central	3
Eastern	1
East Central	10
East Coast	0
Northern	100
North Central	20
North Eastern	17
North East Frontier	6
North Western	54
Southern	100
South Central	20
South Eastern	6
South East Central	15
South Western	30
Western	55
West Central	10
Total	447

(e) Zone-wise number of manned and unmanned level crossings over Indian Railways as on 01.04.2006 and

the number of level crossings manned during last three years is as under:

Railways	Manned	Unmanned+	No. of unmanned LCs manned during last three years		
			2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Central	932	503	0	06	0
Eastern	912	379	11	11	1
Northern	2333	2021	10	43	24
North	1008	1729	24	21	28
Eastern					
North East Frontier	673	1092	06	14	08
Southern	1714	1333	05	51	49
South	1241	1373	15	37	12
Central					
South	414	964	04	02	03
Eastern					
Western	1743	2901	04	26	29
East Central	962	879	21	10	5
East Coast	437	985	20	22	14
North	1009	625	24	02	9
Central					
North	1320	1414	18	05	21
Western					
South	405	821	13	19	12
East					
Central					
South	617	913	12	22	17
Western					
West	880	365	03	0	04
Central					
Total	16600	18297	190	291	236

+ excluding 'D' class cattle crossings and canal crossings.

(f) and (g) Yes Sir. Railways are required to obtain consent of the State Government authorities before closing a level crossing. However, the response of the State Governments is not always very encouraging.

(h) The important steps undertaken to prevent accidents at unmanned level crossings include provision of levelled road surface, approaches with suitable gradients, provision of road sign boards and speed breakers/rumble strips on approaches to level crossings, whistle boards alongside the rail track on approach to level crossings and progressive manning of unmanned level crossings based

on laid down criteria. Public awareness programmes for educating road users for observing safe practices while negotiating unmanned level crossings are also launched periodically through various means including advertisement on television, newspapers, street plays, etc., and joint ambush checks are conducted with the involvement of civil authorities. Emphasis is also being given to close down less used unmanned level crossings, merging them with another level crossing in the close vicinity, or by constructing 'Limited Use Subways' wherever feasible in lieu of existing level crossings with lower Train Vehicle Units (TVUs).

Statement

* Figures are provisional.

S. No.	Date of Accident	Type of accident	Railway	Section	Train No.	Brief particulars	Casualty		Cost of Damage
							Killed	Injured	
1	01.01.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern Passenger	Jakhal-Hissar	7LJH train	One Tractor dashed against Trains.	1		0
2	04.01.07	Derailment	Northeast Frontier Railway	New Jalpaiguri-Alipurduar	Up HBN Goods	Seven wagons derailed			15619684
3	05.01.07	Collision	Western	Vadodara-Godhra	Dn GIM-SHM Goods & Dn TKD Goods	Dn TKD Goods dashed in rear of Gandhidham-Shalimar Goods		2	45190000
4	10.01.07	Derailment	Eastern	Rampurhat-Gumani	Coal Goods	Train engine & 4 wagons derailed			1137626
5	12.01.07	Derailment	East Central	Barkakana-Garba Road	Up Panipat Goods	Banker engine & 4 wagons derailed	8	7	10807000
6	14.01.07	Derailment	South Western	Hassan-Mangalore	Triple Light Engine	Three engines derailed			40150000
7	20.01.07	Derailment	North Central	Manikpur-Banda	Up Mela Special	Train engine derailed			5000
8	21.01.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Jammu Tawi-Pathankot	8102 Express	One Tata Sumo dashed against the train engine	2	7	0
9	21.01.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Central	Nadikudi-Pagidipalli	2719 Express	Unknown vehicle infringed movement of train	1	4	0
10	24.01.07	Manned Level Crossing	Northeast Frontier Railway	Barsoi-New Jalpaiguri	Up NBQ Goods	One truck dashed against the train engine	1	4	30000
11	24.01.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Ludhiana-Ferozepur	4 LF Passenger	One Maruti car dashed against the train engine	3	0	0
12	27.01.07	Derailment	East Coast Railway	Bolangir-Jharsuguda	N/LPG Goods	12 wagons derailed			17590458
13	28.01.07	Derailment	Southern	Jolarpettai-Katpadi	2674 Express	5 coaches derailed		10	4788000
14	01.02.07	Derailment	South Western	Raydurg-Chikjajur	584 Passenger	1 coach derailed			99900
15	03.02.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Delhi-Shamli-Saharanpur	1 SSD Passenger	One truck dashed against train engine	1	4	500
16	03.02.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Southern	Manamadurai-Karaikkudi	854 Passenger	One tractor trolley dashed against train engine	1		38837

Statement

Ex-gratia/ Compensation	Prima facie Cause of accident	Type of inquiry	Findings/ Outcome	Responsibility	D & AR Action taken
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable.
0	Sabotage	Departmental	Sabotage	Miscreants	Not applicable
0	Negligence of on duty switchman and failure of lever lock of Dn Home signal which led to interlocking failure.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Switchman, SSE (Signal), MCF, Station Master, CSI, Driver, Asst. Driver, TI and ASM.	TI - With Holding of increment for 2 Years, ASM With Holding of increment for 1 Year, Remaining under process.
0	Running of train without continuity of air pressure	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Driver and Asst. Driver, Two Guards and four Shuntmen	Reduction of pay for 3 staff and remaining under process.
0	Yet to be established.	CRS	Awaited	—	—
0	Track defect	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	SE/Pway, Two Gangmen, Driver and Asst. Driver	SE/Pway - Reduction of Pay by one stage for two years, Gangman- Under process, Driver & Asst Driver- With holding of increment for two years.
0	Overspeeding and sudden braking by Driver	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Driver	With holding of increment for three years
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable.
35000	Infringement by unknown vehicle	CRS	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable.
6500	Initially LC gate was closed & then it was opened to clear the traffic	CRS	Failure of Railway staff	Driver, Asst. Driver and Gateman	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Negligence of private siding owner	Departmental	Negligence of private siding owner	Private siding owner (M/S Bhusan Steel)	Not applicable.
5000	Hot axle	CRS	Equipment failure	No Railway staff held responsible	Not applicable.
0	Premature operation of points	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Station Master and TRH	Reduction in lower grade with loss of seniority for six months
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable.

Statement

* Figures are provisional.

S. No.	Date of Accident	Type of accident	Railway	Section	Train No.	Brief particulars	Casualty		Cost of Damage
							Killed	Injured	
17	08.02.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Kurukshetra-Narwana	4 JNK Passenger	One truck dashed against train engine	1	4	10000
18	11.02.07	Derailment	East Central	Katihar-Barauni	2505 Express	1 coach derailed			43443
19	18.02.07	Derailment	Northeast Frontier	Dibrugarh Town-New Tinsukia	4055 Express	Train engine derailed			48000
20	19.02.07	Derailment	North Western	Phulera-Ajmer	Up MOZ/E/BCN	1 wagon derailed			1295000
21	22.02.07	Derailment	Central	Pune-Kolhapur	1023 Express	Train engine derailed			0
22	22.02.07	Derailment	South Eastern	Bhadrak-Kharagpur	Dn. BCN Special	1 wagon derailed			1520000
23	23.02.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Central	Nizambad-Mudkhed	533 Passenger	One car dashed against train engine	2		0
24	26.02.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Delhi-Shami-Saharanpur	6 SD Passenger	One car dashed against train engine	1		0
25	01.03.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Southern	Tenkasi-Virudhunagar	786 Passenger	One tractor dashed against train engine		1	64252
26	01.03.07	Derailment	Northern	Rewari-Delhi	4312 Dn Exp.	Train engine derailed			0
27	02.03.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Lohian Khas-Phillaur	3308 Dn Exp.	One auto dashed against train engine	1		0
28	05.03.07	Derailment	Western	Vadodra-Goghra	Dn WKB Goods	One wagon derailed			40000
29	12.03.07	Derailment	Eastern	Ranaghat - Gede	Darshana - Ranaghat 36 Dn Goods	Three wagons derailed			61000
30	12.03.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Central	Katpadi - Tirupati	D 168 DMU	One car dashed against train engine	1		0
31	19.03.07	Derailment	South Western	Arsikere- Hubli	ST -11 Goods	One wagon derailed			2700000
32	21.03.07	Derailment	Northern	Moradabad-Shahjahanpur	5716 Dn Exp.	Six coaches derailed			1010000

Statement

Ex-gratia/ Compensation	Prima facie Cause of accident	Type of inquiry	Findings/ Outcome	Responsibility	D & AR Action taken
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Axle broken	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	workshop staff	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable.
0	Buffalo dashed	Departmental	Cattle Run Over	Driver, Asst. Driver, Guard and section controller	Asst. Driver - withholding of increment for 2 years, Section Controller - Warning letter issued, driver and Guard - under process
0	Engine Defect	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Loco maintenace staff	Under Process
0	Breakage of rear trolley axle of wagon.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	TXR staff, Guard and Traffic Points Man	Traffic Points Man- Stoppage of increment for one year, TXR staff and Guard - under process.
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Loco defect	Departmental	Failure of Railway Staff	Loco maintenace staff	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Hot axle	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	SSE/ C&W, Guard, Asst. Driver, and Two Pointsman.	Guard-With Holding of increment for 2 Years, Asst. Driver-With holding of increment for 1 Year, SSE/ C&W and Two Pointsman - Under Process.
0	Track and Wagon defect	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Section controller, Dy Controller & SE/Pway	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Hot axle and failure in stoppage of train	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Asst. Station master, Driver and Chief Controller.	ASM - Reduction of Pay by one stage for six months, Driver and Chief Controller- Under process
0	Rail fracture.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	SSE/USFD, P/way supervisor	Under Process

Statement

* Figures are provisional.

S. No.	Date of Accident	Type of accident	Railway	Section	Train No.	Brief particulars	Casualty		Cost of Damage
							Killed	Injured	
33	23.03.07	Derailment	West Central	Bina - Bhopal	CDG Goods	Eleven wagons derailed			11100000
34	26.03.07	Derailment	Northern	Delhi-Ambala	LHM Goods	Five wagons derailed			197000
35	15.03.07	Derailment	South Eastern	Rourkela-Jharsuguda	N BOX Spl Goods	One wagon derailed			252500
36	03.04.07	Derailment	Eastern	Bhagalpur - Sahibganj	4056 Dn Mail	One coach derailed			200600
37	03.04.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Western	Chikajajur - Harihar	588 Pass.	One Scorpio dashed against train engine	3		0
38	04.04.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Central	Mathura-Alwar	183 Passenger	One maruti car dashed against train engine	1		0
39	05.04.07	Derailment	Western	Ahmedabad-Palanpur	537 Dn EMU Passenger	One coach derailed			0
40	07.04.07	Collision	South Eastern	Rajkharswan-Dongoaposi	(i) N BOX Empty (ii) N BOX Empty	Driver of NBOX side collided with other NBOX empty.			630000
41	10.04.07	Derailment	EastCosst	Cuttack-Paradeep	MD/ATP-55 goods	Six wagons derailed			11800000
42	10.04.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Eastern	Gonda - Barabanki	Dn Gonda-GKP goods	One maruti van dashed against train engine	1	5	19000
43	15.04.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	East Coast	Balangir-Vizianagaram	Up TNEB goods	One maruti van dashed against train engine	1	1	0
44	16.04.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Southern	Chengalpattu - Arakkonam	156 Dn Passenger	One mini bits dashed against train engine	11	11	66611
45	16.04.07	Derailment	North Western	Mavli-Marwar	483 Passenger	Train engine derailed			0
46	20.04.07	Manned Level Crossing	South Central	Secunderabad-Nizamabad	7040 Dn Express	One RTC bus dashed against train.	1		0
47	21.04.07	Derailment	Southern	Chennai Central - Arakkonam	MA-17 Dn EMU Passenger	One coach derailed			0
48	23.04.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Western	Bangalore-Dharamavaram	1013 Dn Express	One lorry dashed against train.	1		0
49	26.04.07	Derailment	South East Central	Gondia- Nagpur	371 MEMU Passenger	One coach derailed			0
50	26.04.07	Derailment	South East Central	Gonda-Nagpur	375 MEMU Passenger	Train engine derailed			0

Statement

Ex-gratia/ Compensation	Prima facie Cause of accident	Type of inquiry	Findings/ Outcome	Responsibility	D & AR Action taken
0	Cold axle breakage	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Staff of Rail Wheel Factory /Bangalore, individual responsibility of staff to be fixed.	
0	Overloading	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Commercial staff	Under Process
0	Uneven loading	Departmental	Uneven loading	No Railway staff held responsible.	Not applicable.
0	Driver passed signal at danger	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Driver, Asst Driver & Guard	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable
0	Due to Trap Point in open condition	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Asst. Station Master, Station Master, SS, and TI	Under Process
0	Disregard of shunt signal by Driver of up N BOX (E) DPS.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Driver and Asst Driver.	Under Process
0	Wagon defect.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	C&W Staff	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable.
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Truck and loco defect	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	JE/Pway & Loco maintenance staff	Under Process
8500	Non closer of gate by gateman	CRS	Failure of Railway staff	Engineering gateman	Under Process
0	Non securing of point by station master,	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Station Master, Pointsman	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Track defect.	Departmental	Failure of Railway Staff	SE/Pway.	Under Process
0	Track defect.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	SE/Pway.	Under Process

Statement

* Figures are provisional.

S. No.	Date of Accident	Type of accident	Railway	Section	Train No.	Brief particulars	Casualty		Cost of Damage
							Killed	Injured	
51	27.04.07	Miscellaneous	Southern	Gudur- Chennai	3351 Express	One lorry grazed the train.	1	10	13753
52	27.04.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	East Coast	Jharsuguda Balangir	333 Passenger	One Trekker dashed against train.	5	3	0
53	29.04.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Eastern	Mau-Balla	5108 Express	One Tractor trolley dashed against train.	2	1	0
54	01.05.07	Collision	East Coast	Vishakhapatnam Vishakhapatnam	EL/Steel goods and Multi Diesel Loco	Multi Diesel Loco side collided with EL/Steel goods.		1	2750000
55	02.05.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Eastern	Bhatani-Chhapara Kacheri	5028 Express	One Tractor trolley dashed against train.	4	11	18125
56	02.05.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Eastern	Gonda-Barnbanki	9039 Express	One Tractor trolley dashed against train.	1	4	34891
57	05.05.07	Derailment	Northeast Frontier	New Coochbehar - New	Up NBQ RMC Goods	One wagon derailed	1		795553
58	08.05.07	Derailment	East Coast	Koraput-Kirandul	BVF-20/1 goods	Three wagon derailed			1220654
59	08.05.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Eastern	Mau-Shahganj	152 Summer Spl.	One Truck dashed against train.	1		5229
60	08.05.07	Derailment	Northeast Frontier	Badarpur-Lumding	5694 Express	One coach derailed			8000
61	11.05.07	Miscellaneous	East Coast	Khurda Road - Puri	214 Dn Passenger	One Dumper grazed the train		11	0
62	13.05.07	Derailment	Central	Pune-Satara	6506 Up Express	Leading loco derailed			500
63	14.05.07	Derailment	North Central	Jhansi- Gwalior	Dn SOG Spl Goods	Sixteen N BOX/L derailed			3255000
64	14.05.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Western	Bhildi - Samdari	2 SB Passenger	One car dashed against train	3		500
65	17.05.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Pathankot-Jullandher	9224 Express	One car dashed against train	6		0

Statement

Ex-gratia/ Compensation	Prima facie Cause of accident	Type of inquiry	Findings/ Outcome	Responsibility	D & AR Action taken
29000	Negligence of road user	CRS	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable.
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Disregard of signal by driver of Multi Diesel Loco.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Driver	Under Process
61000	Negligence of road user	CRS	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable.
6500	Negligence of road user	CRS	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable
15000	Improper securing of Railway consignments loaded in wagon.	CRS	Failure of Railway staff	C&W staff	Under Process
0	Sabotage	Departmental	Sabotage	Miscreants	Not applicable.
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Collapse of retaining wall.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Construction Deptt. of Railway	Under Process
18000	Negligence of road user	CRS	Negligence of road users	Road users	Not applicable.
0	Due to obstruction on track by hard object.	Departmental	Awaited	-	-
0	Rail Fracture and wagon defect	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	SE/Pway and C&W staff	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable.

Statement

* Figures are provisional.

S. No.	Date of Accident	Type of accident	Railway	Section	Train No.	Brief particulars	Casualty		Cost of Damage
							Killed	Injured	
66	20.05.07	Derailment	Western	Himmatnagar-Khedbrahama	427 Up Passenger	One coach derailed			0
67	21.05.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Ludhiana-Ferozepur	Light engine	One car dashed against engine.	2	1	0
68	23.05.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Western	Bhildi-Samdari	2 SB Passenger	One auto dashed against train.	1	2	500
69	23.05.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Southern	Maduri - Virudunagar	6124 Express	One tractor dashed against train.	1		0
70	26.05.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Central	Donakonda - Guntur	408 Passenger	One tractor dashed against train.	1		0
71	27.05.07	Derailment	South Central	Akola - Khandwa	497 Passenger	Engine and three Coaches derailed		1	2350000
72	30.05.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Western	Ahmedabad - Botad	Light engine	One Road trailer dashed against Engine.		1	5871
73	30.05.08	Unmanned Level Crossing	East Central	Muzaffarpnr - Narkatiaganj	329 Passenger	One Van dashed against Train.	1	3	0
74	03.06.07	Derailment	Central	Bhusawal-Badnera	Tiger Empty Box-N	Twenty Wagons Derailed			365000
75	04.06.07	Derailment	South Central	Maulali - Sanatnagnr Chordline	P-11 Empty Box-N	Five Wagons Derailed			2344490
76	06.06.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Eastern	Chandrapura Bhojudih	448 Passenger	One Truck dashed against Train derailing leading unit of MEMU	1	1	1330000
77	06.06.07	Manned Level Crossing	South Central	Manmad - Mudkhed	7063 Express	One Jeep dashed against Train.	1	2	0
78	08.06.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Shakurbasti - Bhatinda	8 JNK Passenger	One Tractor Trolley dashed against Train	1		40000
79	09.06.07	Derailment	North Central	Banda - Jhansi	1108 Express	One Coach derailed			7500
80	09.06.07	Manned Level Crossing	South Central	Donakonda - Guntur	408 Passenger	One Tractor dashed against Train.	1		0

Statement

Ex-gratia/ Compensation	Prima facie Cause of accident	Type of inquiry	Findings/ Outcome	Responsibility	D & AR Action taken
0	Track defect	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	JE/ Pway and Gang Mate	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users	Not applicable.
0	Sabotage	Departmental	Sabotage	Miscreants	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Wagon Defect	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	C&W Staff	Under Process
0	Track defect and wagon defect	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	SE/P-Way and C&W staff	Under Process
5000	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users	Not applicable
8500	Engineering Gateman failed to close the gate	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Engineering Gateman	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Throwing of luggage by same passenger	Departmental unknown passenger	Negligence of	Unknown passenger	Not applicable.
8500	On duty ASM failed to exchange private Number with Gateman before	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Station Master and Gateman	Under Process

Statement

* Figures are provisional.

S. No.	Date of Accident	Type of accident	Railway	Section	Train No.	Brief particulars	Casualty		Cost of Damage
							Killed	Injured	
81	10.06.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Western	Anand - Khumbhat	526 DMU Passenger	One Auto Rikshaw against dashed Train.	4	6	0
82	10.06.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Western	Dhola - Mahuva	226 Passenger	One Car dashed against Train.	4	1	0
83	11.06.07	Derailment	East Coast	Duvvana-Vishkapatnam	2659 Express	Eleven Coaches derailed	3	26	20200000
84	15.06.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Pathankot - Jullandher	2920 Express	One Car dashed against Train	1		0
85	16.06.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Central	Secundrabad - Dronachalam	525 Passenger	One Auto Rikshaw dashed against Train.	3	2	0
86	19.06.07	Derailment	Northern	New Delhi - Delhi - Delhi Kishanganj	SNP-7 EMU	Two Coaches derailed			6500
87	22.06.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	North Western	Raikabagh - Jaisalmar	JPJ Passenger	One Jeep dashed against Train.	2	3	0
88	23.06.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	East Central	Garwa Road-Chopan	3348 Express	One Auto Rikshaw dashed against Train.	4	4	0
89	25.06.07	Derailment	North Frontier	Lumding-Hailong Hill	Dn FCI Bhim goods	Multiple Engine and six wagons	7	9	11239893
90	25.06.07	Derailment	East Central	Barkakana - Latehar	Dn BOBRN Empty	Engine and twenty two Wagons derailed			38905000
91	26.06.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Shakurbasti - Bhatinda	2137 Express	One Car dashed against Train.	1		0
92	27.06.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	East Central	Muzaffarpur - Narkataganj	414 Passenger	One Road Tanker dashed against Train resulting derailment of train engine and ten coaches.	2		7200000
93	28.06.07	Derailment	South Central	Gooty-Dharmavaram	Dn WFDN Goods	Fourteen Wagons derailed			4455593
94	29.06.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Southern	Emakulam - Alapuzha	6308 Express	One Auto Rikshaw dashed against Train.	1		0

Statement

Ex-gratia/ Compensation	Prima facie Cause of accident	Type of inquiry	Findings/ Outcome	Responsibility	D & AR Action taken
100000	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable
91500	Rail Fracture	CRS	Track equipment failure	No Railway staff held responsible	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Poor Maintenance of track and EMU Coach.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	JE/Pway, EMU maintenance staff and Electric Driver	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable
111500	Collapse of bridge No. 108 under moving train	CRS	Awaited	-	-
0	Sabotage	Departmental	Sabotage	Miscreants	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Overloading	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Commercial Staff	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable

Statement

* Figures are provisional.

S. No.	Date of Accident	Type of accident	Railway	Section	Train No. ^	Brief particulars	Casualty		Cost of Damage
							Killed	Injured	
95	03.07.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	East Central	Narkatiaganj - Valmikinagar Road	449 Passenger	One Tractor dashed against Train	2	2	0
96	06.07.07	Derailment	West Central	Kota-Nagda	Up BJW/OT Empty	Twelve Wagons derailed			407000
97	06.07.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Eastern	Chandi - Muri	8101 Express	One Tata Sumo Car dashed against Train	9	5	102702
98	12.07.07	Derailment	West Central	Chitorgarh - Kota	296 passenger	One Coach derailed			0
99	12.07.07	Derailment	Northern	Delhi - Ambala	BNDM - CDG Goods	Six wagons derailed			0
100	16.07.07	Manned Level Crossing	Northern	Ambala-Delhi	2716 Express	One Tempo dashed against Train	1	4	0
101	16.07.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	South Central	Pangaon-Ghatnandur	347 Passenger	One Auto Rikshaw dashed against Train	5		0
102	16.07.07	Derailment	Southern	Kottayam - Ernakulam Jn.	2696 Express	Train Engine and one coach derailed			553200
103	17.07.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	Northern	Shamli - Saharanpur	ISD Passenger	One Tractor Trolley dashed against Train	1	1	25500
104	19.07.07	Unmanned Level Crossing	West Central	Ruthiyai - Kotta	292 Passenger	One Tractor dashed against Train	1		0
105	20.07.07	Derailment	South Eastern	Chakradharpur - Tata	Dn Mellanium Parcel Express	Eleven Coaches (VPU) Derailed			1140000
106	28.07.07	Collision	West Central	Ruthiyai - Kotta	Dn VSPS Goods & Up Kota/N goods	Dn VSPS Goods Collided with Up Kota/N goods resulting derailment of both engines and eighteen wagons of VSPS goods		2	Under Investigation
Total							128	177	265295385

Statement

Ex-gratia/ Compensation	Prima facie Cause of accident	Type of inquiry	Findings/ Outcome	Responsibility	D & AR Action taken
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Enquiry report awaited	Road users	Not applicable
0	Wagon Deffect	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Workshop Staff, JE-1, MCM & Fitter C&W	Under Process
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Premature operation of points	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	Pointsman	Under Process
0	Poor Maintainance of track, over speeding and improper securing of Iron	Departmental	Awaited	-	-
0	Under Investigation	CRS	Awaited	-	-
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Earth slip from cuttings	Departmental	Natural Calamity	Nil	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable
0	Negligence of road user	Departmental	Negligence of road users.	Road users.	Not applicable.
0	Weid failure	Departmental	Awaited	-	-
0	Signal passing at danger	CRS	Awaited	-	-

Separation of ATC from AAI

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

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been apprehensions that Indian airports are currently not ready for the massive boost in air traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for mix use of defence airspace and having off ATC from the AAI by forming a separate corporation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to meet unprecedented surge in the air traffic in past three years, the existing airport infrastructure is required to be strengthened/augmented. Government have accordingly taken up a major plan to upgrade/augment airport infrastructure, which includes: (i) Modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports through Joint Venture route; (ii) Expansion and modernisation of Kolkata and Chennai airports by Airports Authority of India; (iii) Construction of new Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad; (iv) Modernisation of 35 non-metro airports; (v) Upgradation of CNS/ATM facilities at various airports; (vi) GAGAN Project for better air navigation services.

(c) to (e) It has been the endeavour of the Government to ensure optimum utilisation of air space in a coordinated approach so as to meet the increased demands of all stake holders. A concept of 'Flexible Use of Airspace' by the defence and civil authorities is under consideration.

A Committee set up by this Ministry to prepare a Road Map for Civil Aviation Sector, has, inter-alia, recommended that Air Traffic Control (ATC) services be fivedoff from the current jurisdiction of Airports Authority of India (AAI), in line with the international trends, and be constituted as a separate corporate entity. This is under consideration.

Joint Venture of Manufacture Locomotives and Coaches

661. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Rolling Stock presently Railways are producing;

(b) whether the Railways has evolved a strategy to set up joint ventures to manufacture locomotives, coaches etc.; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Railways to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of locomotives and coaches in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details of production of rolling stock for year 2006-07, from the Railway's production units are as under:

Production Unit	Production
Integral Coach Factory, Chennai	1251 coaches
Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala	1319 coaches
Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi	186 diesel locomotives
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan	150 electric locomotives
Diesel loco Modernisation Works, Patiala	86 loco rebuilding

(b) To meet anticipated increase in demand of traffic, all organizational and functional structures and avenues for manufacture of locomotives and coaches are being explored.

(c) To meet the enhanced requirements of rolling stock and components, works have been approved to increase production capacities in locomotives and coach building production units at Diesel Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Integral Coach Factory & Rail Coach Factory. In addition, the Ministry of Railways, are setting up a Rail Coach Factory, a Diesel Locomotive Factory, an Electric Locomotive Factory & a Wheel Manufacturing Plant.

LPG Connections in Tamil Nadu

662. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections provided for commercial use to Tamil Nadu during the last three years; and

(b) the number of applications in the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have provided 78,571 LPG commercial connections during the last three years, upto 1.07.2007 in the State of Tamil Nadu. The year-wise break-up is given below:

Year	Number
2004-05	12287
2005-06	27841
2006-07	32154
April-June, 2007	6289

(b) As on 30.6.2007, there is no waiting list with the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for release of LPG commercial connections.

Accountability and Responsibility for Rail Accidents

663. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that accountability and actual responsibility for rail accidents has been attributed to "human error" quite often instead of investigating into actual causes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of rail accidents occurred during the last three years and out of these accidents, inquiry into how many cases have been completed and how many cases are still pending;

(d) whether the Railways are aware that due to slow progress of inquiry into the accidental cases, the issues begin to blur and fade and investigations become secretative and human error actually become specific individual; and

(e) if so the details thereof with corrective measures to set responsibility on actual cause for the accident not just individual?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Responsibility for the Railway accident is fixed only after the detailed inquiry into the cause of the accident. The findings of the inquiry report first establishes the cause of the accident before attributing the responsibility for the same.

(c) to (e) During the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, a total of 663 consequential train accidents took place on Indian Railways. Out of which, 67 were inquired into by the Commissioners of Railway Safety and balance 596 were inquired into by the departmental committees. Inquiries into these accidents have been completed except in one case of the year 2006-07 which is still under investigation by the Commissioner of Railway Safety. Most of the accident inquiries are completed within the target time frame and only in exceptional cases it may get delayed due to unavoidable circumstances. However, even such delays cannot be said to result into blurring or fading of the facts as findings are

based on the factual material and evidence before the Committee during investigation into the circumstances leading to the occurrence of the accident. The outcome of the inquiry report is further subject to acceptance by a competent authority.

Recommendations of GoM on Civil Aviation Sector

664. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Group of Ministers (GoM) have been assigned the task of looking into various aspects in civil aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is going ahead for setting up of a Flying Institute at Gondia and Cargo Hub at Nagpur in Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether recommendations of GoM are needed for setting up Flying Institutes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The National Civil Aviation Policy is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM).

(c) and (d) A new flying training institute at Gondia is proposed as a Joint Venture under the aegis of Airports Authority of India (AAI).

An MOU has been signed on 18.12.2006 between Government of Maharashtra/Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd. and Ministry of Civil Aviation/Airports Authority of India to hand over Nagpur airport to Joint Venture Company for establishing multi modal international passengers and cargo hub.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Air Service to Kuwait

665. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has agreed to the proposal from Kuwait to increase the number of seats per week by carriers from Kuwait and India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is beneficial for both the countries?

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

(b) During the air services consultations between India and Kuwait held on 28-30 June, 2007, the capacity entitlement for each side has been enhanced from 8320 seats/week to 12000 seats/week.

(c) The enhanced operation by the designated airlines on India Kuwait route would be beneficial for the travelling people.

Shortage of LPG

666. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

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

(a) whether there has been shortage of LPG in the country particularly in rural area;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to streamline supply;

(c) whether any consideration is being given to appoint new distributors on a large scale keeping in view the increasing number of consumers in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. However, OMCs have reported a backlog of one to seven days in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala and Tamil Nadu due to natural calamities, strike by Kerala Petroleum and Gas Workers Union and delay in arrival of bulk LPG. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in these States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

(c) and (d) Government have given freedom to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining independent distributorships. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 841 locations for setting up LPG distributorships

mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identifying of a suitable location, arranging land for setting up of godown and other statutory clearances.

World Heritage Sites

667. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of heritage sites in India being proposed for nomination as world heritage sites during 2007, 2008 and 2009, category-wise;

(b) the details of the monuments declared as world heritage sites in India, state-wise;

(c) the details of the efforts made by the Government for inclusion of other monuments of the country in the list; and

(d) the benefits available to the monuments included in the UNESCO list?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The following heritage sites in India have been proposed for nominations as World Heritage sites:

Cultural Sites

2007	Red Fort Complex, Delhi (already inscribed)
2008	(i) Majuli Island,
	(ii) Kalka-Shimla Railway

Natural Site

2009	Western Ghats (serial nomination)
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(b) State-wise details of the monuments/sites declared as World Heritage sites in India are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) As per the guidelines laid down by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, 15 sites under the Cultural category and 4 sites under the Natural category in India have already been included in the UNESCO Tentative List. Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Monuments inscribed on the World Heritage List attain international status. This increases visitors' flow, both domestic and foreign, which contributes to the economic growth of the region and the monument receives special attention in terms of management, conservation and protection etc.

Statement-I**World Heritage Sites in India**

Sl. No.	State	Name of site
Cultural Sites		
1.	Bihar	Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya (2002)
2.	Delhi	Humayun Tomb, Delhi (1993)
3.	Delhi	Qutb Minar complex, Delhi
4.	Delhi	Red Fort complex (2007)
5.	Goa	Churches & Convents of Goa (1986)
6.	Gujarat	Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park (2004)
7.	Karnataka	Group of temples, Pattadakal (1987)
8.	Karnataka	Group of monuments at Hampi (1986)
9.	Maharashtra	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004)
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Group of temples, Khajuraho (1986)
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Buddhist monuments at Sanchi (1989)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Prehistoric Rock shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)
13.	Maharashtra	Ajanta Caves
14.	Maharashtra	Ellora Caves (1983)
15.	Maharashtra	Elephanta Caves (1987)
16.	Orissa	Sun Temple, Konarak (1984)
17.	Tamil Nadu	Group of monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)
18.	Tamil Nadu	Great Living Chola temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram (1987 & 2004) Mountain Railways of India (Extension) (2005)
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra Fort (1983)
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Taj Mahal (1983)
21.	Uttar Pradesh	Group of monuments, Fatehpur Sikri (1986)
22.	West Bengal	Mountain Railway of India (1999, 2005)
Natural Sites		
1.	Assam	Kaziranga National Park (1985)
2.	Assam	Manas Wild Life Sanctuary (1985)
3.	Rajasthan	Keoladeo National Park (1985)
4.	Uttaranchal	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988, 2005)
5.	West Bengal	Sunderban National Park (1987)

Statement-II

*List of Cultural Sites from India included in the Tentative List approved by
UNESCO World Heritage Committee (up to March 15, 2006)*

Sl. No.	Name of Monument/sites	Name of State
Cultural Heritage Sites		
1.	Ancient Buddhist Site at Sarnath	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Buddhist Monastery Complex known as Alchi Chos-kor at Alchi (Leh)	Jammu & Kashmir
3.	Harappan City at Dholavira, Distt. Kuchchh	Gujarat
4.	Golconda Fort, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Group of Monuments at Mandu, Distt. Dhar	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Hemis Gompa	Jammu & Kashmir
7.	Mattancherry Palace, Ernakulam	Kerala
8.	Rani-ki-Vav (Queen's stepwell) at Patan, Distt. Mehsana	Gujarat
9.	River Island of Majuli in midstream of river Brahmaputra	Assam
10.	Temple at Bishnupur	West Bengal
11.	Tomb of Sher Shah Suri at Sasaram	Bihar
12.	Shri Harimandir Sahib, Amritsar	Punjab
13.	Kalka Shimla Railway	Haryana/Himachal Pradesh
14.	The Matheran Light Railway (Extension to the Mountain Railways of India)	Maharashtra
15.	Chandigarh modern architecture (Le Corbusier)	Chandigarh
Natural Heritage Sites		
16.	Kangchendzonga National Park	West Bengal
17.	Wild Ass Sanctuary	Gujarat
18.	Namdapha National Park	Arunachal Pradesh
19.	Western Ghats (with 7 sub clusters)	
	1. Western Ghats - Agasthyamalai sub cluster (with 5 site elements)	Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat
	2. Western Ghats - Periyar sub cluster (with 6 site elements)	
	3. Western Ghats - Anamalai sub cluster (with 7 site elements)	
	4. Western Ghats - Nilgiri sub cluster (with 6 site elements)	
	5. Western Ghats - Talacauvery sub cluster (with 6 site elements)	
	6. Western Ghats - Kudremukh sub cluster (with 5 site elements)	
	7. Western Ghats - Sahyadri sub cluster (with 4 site elements)	

Gas Requirement of Andhra Pradesh

668. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government evolved any mechanism to allow the Reliance Industries Limited to take gas out of

Andhra Pradesh only after meeting the requirements of the State:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) M/s Reliance Industries Limited and Niko signed Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with the Government for exploration of the Block KG-DWN-98/3 in the year 2000. As per the terms of the PSC, the contractors have the freedom to market natural gas in Andhra Pradesh and rest of the county.

Flouting of Norms by Airlines

669. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the norms set by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) are mostly flouted by various airlines and our flights are like killer blues as reported in the Hindustan Times dated July 20, 2007;

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

(c) whether the pilots of several flights are unable to fly planes in rainy conditions; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No such reports have been received. Directorate General of Civil Aviation issues circulars from time to time requiring that only pilots who have been cleared for monsoon operations be deputed for such flights and all expatriate crew shall undergo monsoon checks before being rostered for flying during the monsoon period.

Runways of Airports

670. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several runways in the various airports are short of the required length and also there has been reports of water loggings at the ends of runways in some of the airports;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any initiative to identify such faulty runways to prevent mishaps due to such faults; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Runway length is provided as per the Category of aircraft. Runway extension work is being undertaken at Madurai, Trichy, Surat, Akola, Dehradun, Pantnagar, Udaipur, Jaipur, Varanasi and Kolkata airports. Water logging has been experienced at some of the airports during heavy rains like at Dimapur, Mumbai and Vizag

due to drainage problem of surrounding areas. AAI is undertaking measures to overcome the problem.

[Translation]

New Railway Line from Gugali Station to Nautanwa

671. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had sanctioned a new rail line from Gugali Station to Nautanwa via Maharajganj in 1988 and 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount of fund sanctioned for the said project;

(c) whether the Railway Board has conducted any survey for the said rail line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, a survey had been conducted for Anandnagar-Ghughuli via Maharajganj in 1998-99. The proposed line could not be considered due to unremunerative nature of the proposal, heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and constraint of resources.

Processed Food Items

672. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise details of value of the processed food items produced in the country during the last three years;

(b) the value and names of processed food items imported;

(c) the names of processed food items on which import duty of 30-35% is levied; and

(d) the incentives currently provided for export of processed food items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) A statement-I indicating details of value of processed food items produced in the country is enclosed.

(b) Statement-II indicating the value and names of processed food items imported is enclosed.

(c) A list of items on which import duty of 30-35% is levied is enclosed as Statement-III.

(d) The incentives currently provided for export of processed food items is given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement-I

State-wise principal characteristics of Registered Food Processing Units based on Third Census of SSIs 2001-02

(Value in Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State Name	Number of units	Employment	Gross Output
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	2341	8903	80839
2.	Himachal Pradesh	3997	7508	42613
3.	Punjab	5838	35951	289541
4.	Chandigarh	59	434	6757
5.	Uttaranchal	3693	8911	67140
6.	Haryana	4524	23883	276492
7.	Delhi	152	1660	44646
8.	Rajasthan	7908	23394	290875
9.	Uttar Pradesh	29486	89584	269385
10.	Bihar	8087	21416	19843
11.	Sikkim	67	344	956
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	99	365	677
13.	Nagaland	90	544	1449
14.	Manipur	836	3013	1750
15.	Mizoram	331	1024	637

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Tripura	253	7119	6226
17.	Meghalaya	469	2264	5206
18.	Assam	3293	16145	61852
19.	West Bengal	5978	35998	124748
20.	Jharkhand	1509	4817	3783
21.	Orissa	3765	20404	136693
22.	Chhattisgarh	2618	11158	32168
23.	Madhya Pradesh	15026	33889	239786
24.	Gujarat	6236	26094	73830
25.	Daman and Diu	45	384	7278
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9	79	2901
27.	Maharashtra	7866	63196	755447
28.	Andhra Pradesh	15867	102825	594634
29.	Karnataka	20482	83283	217911
30.	Goa	607	4141	9481
31.	Lakshadweep	18	71	126
32.	Kerala	26505	97145	226160
33.	Tamil Nadu	20587	109403	272953
34.	Pondicherry	326	2253	20897
35.	Andaman ad Nicobar Islands	102	302	820
All India		199067	847902	4186502

Statement-II

Values and Names of Processed Food Items Imported

(Values in Rs. Lakhs)

S.No.	Commodity	2005-2006	2006-07 (Apr-Dec)
1	2	3	4
1.	Meat And Edible Meat Offal.	198.33	131.54
2.	Fish and Crustaceans, Molluscs and Other Aquatic Invertabrates.	9,906.54	8,919.45
3.	Dairy Produce; Birds' Eggs; Natural Honey; Edible Prod. of Animal Origin, Not Elsewhere Spec. or included.	4,108.05	9,611.50
4.	Products of Animal Origin, Not Elsewhere Specified or included.	5,374.53	6,267.53
5.	Live Trees and Other Plants; Bulbs; Roots and The Like; Cut Flowers and Ornamental Foliage.	1,796.33	2,295.49

1	2	3	4
6.	Edible Vegetables and Certain Roots and Tubers.	282,303.78	338,865.62
7.	Edible Fruit and Nuts; Peel or Citrus Fruit or Melons.	348,468.03	285,691.06
8.	Coffee, Tea, Mate And Spicis	84,551.55	61,830.63
9.	Cereals	3,045.67	139,509.51
10.	Products of the Milling Industry; Malt; Starches; Insulin; Wheat Gluten.	3,707.69	4,803.05
11.	Oil Seeds and Olea Fruits; Misc. Grains, Seeds and Fruit; Industrial or Medicinal Plants; Straw and Fodder.	32,050.88	28,883.82
12.	Lac, Gums, Resins and other Vegetable Saps and Extracts.	24,130.98	26,037.78
13.	Vegetable Plaiting Materials; Vegetable Products Not Elsewhere Specified or included.	1,491.89	1,558.02
14.	Animal or Vegetable Fats and Oils and their Cleavage Products; Pre. Edible Fats; Animal or Vegetable Waxex.	1,015,169.75	804,956.92
15.	Preparations of Meat, of Fish or of Crustaceans, Molluscs or Other Aquatic Invertebrates	804.04	430.12
16.	Sugars and Sugar Confectionery.	78,386.67	8,072.46
17.	Coco and Cocoa Preparations.	11,286.53	8,568.83
18.	Preparations of Cereals, Flour, Starch or Milk; Pastrycooks Products.	12,511.91	10,324.63
19.	Preparations of Vegetables, Fruit, Nuts or Other Parts of Plants.	9,720.45	9,728.22
20.	Miscellaneous Edible Preparations.	10,769.02	8,272.87
21.	Beverages, Spirits and Vinegar.	96,753.10	36,735.68

Statement-III

Names of processed food items on which import duty of 30-35% is levied.

Sl. No.	Item Description	Prescribed Basic customs duty
1	2	3
1.	Frozen fish, Fish fillets, Other fish meat, Dried, salted or fish in brine, Labsiters, Shrimps, Prawns (fresh, chilled, frozen)	30
2.	Milk and cream (not concentrated, nor containing added sugar or other sweeteners), Cheese, curd, yoghurt	30
3.	Assorted canned vegetables, Dried vegetables, whole, cut, sliced, broken or in powder	30
4.	Dried dates, figs, avocados, guavas, mangoes	30
5.	Wheat/meslin flour, other cereal flours, malt, specified starches	30
6.	Prepared/preserved meat (other than or gallus domesticus), prepared/preserved fish, caviar, crustaceans and mollusks	30
7.	Surar Confectionary	30
8.	Cocoa and its preparations	30

1	2	3
9.	Nakt extracts, Pasta, corn-flakes, paws, breads, cakes, pastry, biscuits, rusks etc.	30
10.	Fruit juices, jams, fruit jellies, marmalades, fruit or nut puree and fruit or nut pastes, Fruits and nuts, prepared or preserved, Mushrooms, vegetables, prepared or preserved	30
11.	Instant tea or coffee, roasted chicory or other coffee substitutes	30
12.	Sauces, soups and ice creams	30
13.	Mineral water and aerated water, lemonde, soya milk drinks, fruit pulp or fruit juice based drinks	30
14.	Vinegar and its substitutes obtained from acetic acid	30

Statement-IV*Incentives currently provided for export of processed food items*

APEDA is providing the following incentive components:-

Schemes for Assistance upto Rs.10 lakhs
Market Development including assistance for participation in trade fair.

Scheme for Infrastructure Assistance upto Rs.25 lakhs
Development

Scheme for Quality Assistance upto Rs.50 lakhs
Development

Scheme for Research Assistance upto Rs.10 lakhs
and Development

MPEDA is providing the following incentive components:-

Opening/Hiring of Warehouses in US

Display in International Departmental Stores in US

Publicity Campaign – giving ads in popular US magazines etc. Maximum eligible assistance per exporter per year is Rs.50 lakh

Participation in Trade Fairs/Buyers-Seller Meets in US

Assistance for reverse visit of prominent buyers from US.

[English]

**International Cargo Service
by Air India**

673. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has started its international cargo operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of aircrafts engaged for such operations;

(d) whether Air India had discontinued their cargo operations in the earlier;

(e) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for the success of cargo operation this time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Air India has commenced its international cargo operations from 27 June, 2007 with one A310F aircraft operating four flights per week from India to Europe. With the induction of the second cargo aircraft on 2nd August, 2007, the flights have now been increased from four to seven per week.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Air India had discontinued the operation of freighter aircraft which were taken on lease almost a decade ago. The operations were discontinued due to high lease costs of freighter aircraft and revenue loss.

(f) Air India has converted two of its A310 passenger aircraft into dedicated freighter aircraft, which would help the airline tap the air cargo business effectively.

Demand and Supply of Petroleum Products

674. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:

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

(a) the gap between demand and supply of various petroleum products in the country as on date;

(b) the extent to which demand of such petroleum products are met, product-wise, from domestic production; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the domestic production of petroleum products to meet the present demand and also the future requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The details of demand, domestic production and surplus/deficit of major petroleum products for 2006-07 (Provisional) are given below:

(figures in Thousand Metric Tonnes)

Product	Demand	Production	Surplus Deficit (+/-)
LPG	10855	8454	-2401
MS	9295	12536	3241
Naphtha	13784	18176	4392
SKO	9474	8621	-853
ATF	4008	7850	3842
BSD	42884	53676	10792
FO/LSHS	12578	15524	2946
All Products	119845	139969	20124

The country is self-sufficient on overall basis to meet the demand. However, there was shortfall in domestic availability in LPG and SKO during 2006-07. The shortfall in availability from domestic sources is met through imports.

As against the total installed capacity of 148.97 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA), an additional refining capacity of 92 MMTPA is expected to be added during the 11th Plan.

With the indigenous production of crude oil not keeping pace with the domestic requirements, the import dependence of crude oil has reached about 73% in 2006-07. Following steps are being taken to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities in the country to meet the growing demand:

- i) Carving out and placing on offer more and more areas for exploration under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.
- iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.
- iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

- v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.
- vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.
- vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional sources of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

[Translation]

Construction of Greenfield Airports

675. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is operating a Greenfield Airport scheme;
- (b) if so, the details of the airports to be built under the said scheme, state-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to allow 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment under the said scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the companies which have shown their interest in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Policy on Airport Infrastructure, 1997 provides the necessary framework for development of Greenfield airports. New Greenfield airports are under construction at Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) and Bangalore (Karnataka) as joint ventures. Government have also accorded "in principle" approval for new Greenfield airports at Mopa (Goa) and Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra).

- (c) Yes, Sir. The extant policy provides for 100% Foreign Direct Investment in airport development.
- (d) No proposal has been received so far which envisaging 100% Foreign Direct Investment for setting up a new Greenfield airport.

Exclusion of Medicines from Controlled List

676. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has excluded certain medicines from the declared controlled list to provide medicines at low rates;
- (b) if so, the details of medicines which were earlier included in said list but were subsequently excluded from it; and
- (c) the reasons for exclusion of such medicines from the list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUÉ): (a) to (c) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) was promulgated on 6th January, 1995. 76 bulk drugs, as mentioned in the First Schedule of DPCO, 95 were kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986,' announced in September, 1994.

Subsequently a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary (C&PC) to look into various representations received by the Government in regard to inclusion of certain drugs including Mefenamic Acid and Amikacin Sulphate in the First Schedule of DPCO 1995. The Committee found that there was no monopoly situation in the case of both these bulk drugs on the basis of which these were included in the First Schedule of DPCO 1995. Based on the recommendation of this Committee both these bulk drugs were excluded from the DPCO, 95 vide S.O. 626(E) dated the 2nd September, 1997.

[English]

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Airlines

677. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- whether the Union Government proposes to review the existing civil, aviation norms and hence to allow the foreign airlines to acquire a state in domestic airlines;
- if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- to what extent the domestic airlines are likely to be affected from such foreign airlines; and
- the growth rate expected in the civil aviation sector of the country?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Currently the domestic civil aviation sector is growing at a rate of about 37% and international sector at a rate of about 16%.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Petroleum Products

678. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Committee and asked for its suggestion to do away with the subsidy being given on the petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the date on which the Committee was constituted and the names of its members;

(c) whether the representatives of the consumers have also been included in the Committee;

(d) if so, the number of representatives of consumers and Government in the Committee; and

(e) the time by which the Committee is likely to give its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) In order to formulate a long term pricing policy, the Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, which also examined the issue of petroleum subsidy.

(b) to (d) The Committee was constituted on 26.10.2005. The composition of the Inter Ministerial Committee is given in the enclosed Statement. The Committee comprised of Government officials and eminent experts in equal number.

(e) The Committee submitted its report on 17.2.2006.

The composition of the Inter-Ministerial Committee is as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| (i) Dr. C Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister | Chairman |
| (ii) Dr. Kirit S. Parikh, Member, Planning Commission | Member |
| (iii) Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas | Member |
| (iv) Dr. Ashok Lahiri, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance | Member |
| (v) Shri Saumitra Chaudhuri, Chief Economist, ICRA, New Delhi | Member |
| (vi) Prof. B. H. Dholakia, Director, IIM, Ahmedabad | Member |

[English]

Shortage of LNG

679. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe scarcity of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in the country;

(b) if so, the position of the demand and availability of LNG as on date; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the growing demand of LNG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) One of the sources of natural gas is Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which is imported in liquid form and then regasified before use. The demand for Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) is not assessed separately. It depends on the total demand for natural gas in the country. The Working Group on Petroleum & Natural Gas Sector for the XI Plan has projected the demand of natural gas for 2007-08 at 179.17 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD). The average availability of natural gas in the country in 2006-07 was around 96 MMSCMD, including 23 MMSCMD of RLNG. The shortfall in availability compared to demand of natural gas could be made up, inter alia, by import of LNG. During 2006-07, about 6.95 MMT LNG was imported which is equivalent to about 23 MMSCMD of RLNG.

(c) There is a large gap between demand and supply of natural gas in the country. The Government of India has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to augment gas supplies and bridge the gap between supply and demand for the domestic market through:

- (1) Intensification in domestic E&P activities;
- (2) Exploitation of unconventional sources, like coal bed methane;
- (3) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation.
- (4) Import of gas through transnational gas pipelines.
- (5) Import of gas as LNG

To increase the import of LNG, additional LNG infrastructure is being created in the country. Dahej LNG terminal would be expanded from current 5 MMTPA capacity to 10 MMTPA. Dabhol LNG terminal is expected to be completed by end of March 2008; this terminal will become fully operational after completion of breakwater facilities in May 2010. Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) is taking up 2.5 MMTPA capacity Kochi LNG terminal with provision of expansion upto 5 MMTPA.

In addition to the existing supplies of LNG, the supply of 2.5 MMTPA of LNG from RasGas Qatar will commence in 2009. Further, PLL and GAIL are in active discussion with various potential suppliers for long-term tie up of LNG.

Gauge Conversion between Ahmedabad and Udaipur

680. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request for gauge conversion work between Ahmedabad and Udaipur; and

(b) if so, the present status of the project?

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

(b) State Government of Gujarat and Rajasthan have been requested to share cost of the project. The proposal has been processed for necessary approvals.

[Translation]

Subsidy to IFFCO

681. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had paid the remaining amount of subsidy to Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for making immediate payment to IFFCO?

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): (a) to (d) The release of subsidy to the manufacturers/importers is a continuous process. At the end of 2006-07, there was a total carryover liability of Rs.8788.37 crore including the pending dues of IFFCO of Rs.1737.82 crore. Out of this, an amount of Rs.1733.38 crore has already been released to IFFCO. The balance will be released after reconciliation of Proforma-B. Apart from the carryover liabilities, the current bills are being paid regularly to all the fertilizer companies including IFFCO. The pending bills in respect of all companies including IFFCO are mainly current dues, which are disbursed after following the due procedure.

Computerised Reservation Centre at Kounch Station

682. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal for providing computerized reservation facility at Kouch Station in Jalaun District of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Provision of Computerised Passenger Reservation System alongwith Unreserved Ticketing System (PRS-cum-UTS) has been sanctioned for Kouch (Konch) station.

[English]

LPG Connections

683. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

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

(a) the details of the application for new LPG connection both domestic and commercial pending with various oil companies in each State particularly in Kerala, as on June 30, 2007;

(b) the measures being taken to clear these pending applications;

(c) whether the application for second cylinder is not being entertained by the oil companies in the States for a long time;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time limit by which such requests are expected to be entertained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported a waiting list of 64934 in the country, including 31974 in Kerala, as on 30.06.2007 for release of new domestic LPG connections with their LPG distributors due to inadequate supply of cylinders by the cylinder manufacturers. The State-wise waiting list for release of new domestic LPG connections as on 30.6.2007 is given in the enclosed Statement.

There is no waiting list pending with the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) for release of new LPG commercial connections as on 30.6.2007.

(b) Intimation letters have been sent to all the waitlisted persons as on 30.6.2007 for availing new LPG connections. Advertisements have also been released in local and national newspapers of the States advising the public that they should approach the distributors for availing the same. Further, Government has advised IOC to make alternate arrangements for supply of cylinders through other suppliers on a priority basis.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Statement

State-wise Waiting List for Release of LPG Connections as on 30.6.2007 in the Country

Name of the State/UT	Number
Uttar Pradesh	9461
Chhattisgarh	962
Madhya Pradesh	990
Andhra Pradesh	8854
Kerala	31974
Lakshdweep	74
Pondicherry	50
Tamil Nadu	12569
Total	64934

Losses to Oil PSUs

684. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether Public Sector Oil Companies are likely to incur a loss of Rs. 50,000 crore in the current fiscal year on selling fuel below cost;

(b) the loss being incurred by IOC per day at present price level on the sale of petrol, diesel, LPG and Kerosene;

(c) whether public sector oil companies have asked the Government to allow them enhance price on all petroleum products; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The estimated gross under recoveries of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies on sale of sensitive petroleum products, i.e. petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG for the 1st quarter of 2007-08 are given as under:

	(Rs./Crore)
Under-Recovery*	Apr-Jun'07 (Prov.)
Petrol	1,553
Diesel	4,633
PDS Kerosene	4,028
Domestic LPG	2,898
Total	12,912

* Gross under-recoveries without considering refinery discount, oil bonds and upstream assistance.

Based on the above, the gross under recoveries of Public sector oil marketing companies may be estimated to be more than Rs. 50,000 crores in the current fiscal year.

(b) IOC has informed that the loss being incurred by IOC per day at present level on the sale of petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG is as under:

Product	Under realization per day net of Govt. subsidy (Rs./ Crores)
Petrol	6.64
Diesel	40.12
PDS Kerosene	30.55
Domestic LPG	15.90

(c) and (d) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have sought another revision in the prices of sensitive petroleum products. Government has been taking all possible measures to ensure that there is no hardship to common man on account of price rise. Government has adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing amongst three stakeholders, namely, the consumers, the PSU oil companies and the Government to protect the interest of the common man and the vulnerable sections of society. The Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

Selling of Reserved Tickets through Post Offices

685. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have finalised the proposal for selling of Railway Tickets through post offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of post offices so far selected for issue of Railway tickets in the country;

(d) whether the railways have any plan to introduce the said system for Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 31st July, 2007 between Ministry of Railways and Department of Posts, Government of India for sale of reserved Railway tickets through Post Office. Department of Posts will realize the following service charges from the passengers in lieu of issue of tickets:-

S. No.	Category	Service charge per ticket (Rs.)
1.	II class sleeper and II class sitting (2S)	15*
2.	III AC and AC chair Car	20*
3.	II AC, I AC and First class	30*
4.	Cancellation Charges (for all classes)	10*

*Note: charges are inclusive of service tax.

(c) So far, 28 Post Offices have been selected for this purpose.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Introduction of New Aeroplanes

686. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether new aeroplanes have been introduced in fleet of Air India and Indian Airlines recently;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the total expenditure incurred/proposed to be incurred;

(c) the total number of aeroplanes thus in operation;

(d) the proposed addition of aeroplanes if any in the coming future;

(e) the average age of aeroplanes which are in operation;

(f) whether old aeroplanes would be removed from operation due to purchase of new aeroplanes; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Both airlines are in the process of inducting new aircraft in their fleet. Air India has signed a purchase agreement with M/s Boeing for the purchase of 68 aircraft comprising 8X B777-200LR, 15X B777-300ER and 27X B787-8 for Air India Limited and 18 X B737-800W for Air India Charters Limited (a subsidiary of Air India) at a cost of Rs.34,615 crores. Similarly, Indian Airlines Limited has signed an agreement with M/s Airbus Industries and CFM International for procurement of 43 Airbus aircraft, comprising 19 A319, 4 A320 and 20 A321 at a cost of Rs. 10,169 crores.

(c) Currently, Air India and Indian Airlines including their subsidiaries have 52 and 76 aircraft respectively.

(d) Out of 68 aircraft ordered by Air India and its subsidiary, 11 aircraft have been inducted and 57 aircraft are to be inducted by 2011. In respect of Indian Airlines, out of the 43 aircraft ordered, it has taken delivery of 3 aircraft and 40 aircraft would be delivered by April 2010. Indian Airlines (including Alliance Air) also plans to add 5 aircraft on lease basis.

(e) The average age of aeroplanes of Air India and Indian Airlines are 15.4 years and 18.1 years respectively.

(f) and (g) The fleet expansion programme envisages induction of aircraft in a phased manner alongwith phasing out of some of the older aircraft. While Indian Airlines proposes to phase out 3 A300, 11 B737-200 and 2 Domier DO-228 aircraft operated by Alliance Air, Air India proposes to phase out 6 A310-300 and 2 B747-300 aircraft.

Collision of Vehicles at IGI Airport

687. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether accidents in the Indra Gandhi International Airport (IGI) has been increasing in the recent past;
- (b) if so, whether there is any traffic plan at the airport;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of vehicles ply inside the airport daily; and
- (e) the time by which the Government will prepare and implement traffic plan for the said airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) and (e) The number of accidents at the Indra Gandhi International (IGI) Airport have not increased in the recent past. Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has undertaken the following steps for the safety of passengers/drivers etc. on the apron:

1. Use of speed gun to monitor/control vehicular movement.
2. Deployment of airside monitoring and inspection jeeps for enforcement of apron rules and regulations.
3. Restriction of speed in some "accident prone areas" i.e. from 30 kilometer per hour to 15 kilometer per hour.
4. Installation of additional information signs regarding speed limit.
5. Fencing of critical equipment parking areas to control entry/exit of vehicular/equipment.
6. Redesigning of apron layout to reduce vehicular movement.

(d) 1693 Airport Driving Permits for motorized vehicles have been issued at IGI Airport. However, all these vehicles do not operate daily at the same time.

[Translation]

Induction of AC Coaches as per Montreal Environment Convention

688. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have formulated a policy to phase out 10 thousand AC coaches following the Montreal Environment Convention;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways have considered the possibility of converting the existing AC coaches into such coaches that may be run by environment friendly R-134A gas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Railways have already planned to phase out/modify 780 Air Conditioned (AC) coaches by using R-134a refrigerant to replace R-12 refrigerant by 2010, to comply with Montreal Protocol. After 1994 Railway have already switched over to manufacturing AC coaches with environment friendly refrigerant R-22, use of which is permitted up to 2040 as per Montreal Protocol and the present population of such coaches is about 4200.

[English]

Privatisation of Trains Operation

689. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are planning to privatize some of the suburban trains in some cities of the country through Public-Private Participation (PPP) mode as reported in 'The Times of India' dated July 7, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details of trains/sectors and cities identified for this purpose; and
- (c) the reasons behind privatizing or inviting private participation in the running of suburban trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Survey of Monuments in Andhra Pradesh

690. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any scheme to conduct survey of monuments in Andhra Pradesh under National Manuscripts Mission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Conducting survey of monuments in Andhra Pradesh does not come under the purview of the National Manuscripts Mission. However, National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities with Archaeological Survey of India as the nodal agency has the mandate to survey and set up a national level database for the monuments found all over India including Andhra Pradesh.

Security at Airports

691. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in spite of threat by terrorists and repeated warnings from Indian Security agencies, the airlines continue to cut costs on security bills with impunity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has not taken effective steps to provide adequate security at various airports; and
- (d) if so, the plans formulated to provide enough security at airports to meet the threat perceptions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Compliance of all recommendations for aviation security by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is mandatory for all airlines. BCAS monitor the compliance through regular audits and inspections.

(c) BCAS by way of formulating procedures and measures on aviation security in compliance with the National Aviation Security Programme approved by the Government, has taken adequate and effective steps to regulate aviation security.

(d) The following plans are formulated to provide adequate security at airports to meet the threat perceptions:-

- (i) Contingency Plan to deal with unlawful interference with the civil aviation operations has been circulated to all airports in

the country for keeping up their preparedness against any unlawful interference at all time;

- (ii) Counter Terrorist Plan has also been prepared to effectively deal with any contingencies;
- (iii) BCAS also prepares National Aviation Security Quality Control Plan every year.

[Translation]

Valuable Books and Manuscripts

692. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the ongoing terrorism in the Kashmir Valley for the last two decades rare and invaluable books and manuscripts, which are the part of our culture heritage have been destroyed as reported in 'Jansatta' dated May 18, 2007;

- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any concrete steps to preserve them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No survey has been conducted by the Government to estimate the extent of loss of manuscripts in the Kashmir Valley due to terrorism.

(c) and (d) National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), under Ministry of Culture, has collaborated with Directorate of State Archaeology, Archives and Museums to locate and document the manuscripts in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The Mission has collected information on more than 22,000 manuscripts in 163 manuscript repositories in the State, which has been incorporated in the National Database of the Manuscripts of the Mission. In order to protect the knowledge contained in manuscripts for long term preservation, the Mission has started a programme for digitization of manuscripts under which more than 14 lakh folios of rare manuscripts from the State of Jammu & Kashmir have already been digitized. Public awareness programmes are also organized by the Mission to train owners of repositories on the methods of preserving their manuscript collections.

[English]

National Culture Policy

693. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Committee has been constituted to formulate a National Culture Policy;
- (b) if so, the terms of reference given to the Committee;
- (c) whether the Committee has submitted its Report; and
- (d) if so, the salient features proposed in the Policy?

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

- (b) The Draft of Terms of Reference as follows:
- (i) Study the extent and role of the Govt. in the various areas of culture.
- (ii) Assess the mandate of the various institutions and examine the necessity of realigning them with changed scenarios and priorities.
- (iii) Study the potential areas of linkages with other sector.
- (c) No Sir.
- (d) Question does not arise.

Scholarship Scheme for SCs/STs Students

694. SHRI ADHALARAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has approved a scholarship scheme for higher education for students of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes as reported in 'The Hindu' dated August 01, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria fixed therefor;
- (c) the amount provided to each student under this scholarship scheme and the number of students likely to be benefited therefrom; and
- (d) the time by which the said scholarship scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has announced new Scholarship Schemes for the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs) for pursuing higher studies beyond 12th class. The schemes have been made

applicable from the current academic year. SC/ST students who secure admission in the notified institutions and whose total family income is Rs. 2.00 lakhs per annum, will be awarded the scholarship to meet the cost of (i) tuition fee and other non-refundable charges, (ii) boarding & lodging expenses, (iii) books & stationery and (iv) a latest computer with all required accessories. In the first year of implementation of the schemes, 1220 SC students and 635 ST students are likely to be benefited under the new schemes.

Replacement of Old Aircraft

695. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the old Aircraft in Air India are facing accident occasionally;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents; and
- (c) the time by which those aircraft are proposed to be replaced and how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, as the aircraft get older, some snags develop on the components and structural members of the aircraft due to wear and tear and the cyclic load subjected on them. From time to time, the manufacturers prescribe maintenance requirements for each type of aircraft. DGCA ensures that the operators strictly follow the manufacturers instructions for maintenance of their aircraft. Thus, every aircraft of Air India is maintained as per manufacturers instructions and is considered airworthy and safe for operations.

For modernization of its fleet, Air India is in the process of inducting new aircraft in their fleet and has signed a purchase agreement with M/s Boeing for purchase of 68 aircraft. The above fleet expansion programme envisages induction of aircraft in a phased manner by 2011 and also for phasing out of some of their older aircraft.

[Translation]

Corruption in Allotment of Petrol Pumps

696. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding corruption in allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has banned functioning of various dealer selection boards in view of allegations of corruption; and
- (d) if so, the details of the selection boards whose functioning has been banned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Complaints regarding irregularities, etc. against selection/allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products are received by the Government from time to time.

After dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1.4.2002, based on certain broad parameters laid down by the Government, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), frame their guidelines for the selection/appointment of retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships, and have been making selections in terms of these guidelines. These guidelines, which are objective and transparent in nature, provide for a detailed procedure to be followed by the OMCs in making selection of dealers/distributors and also provide for a grievance redressal mechanism.

Prior to dismantling of APM, selection of dealers/distributors was done by the erstwhile Dealer Selection Boards (DSB). Post-APM DSBs were disbanded in May, 2002 and the selection of dealers/distributors is now done by the Dealer Selection Committees consisting of officers of concerned OMCs. The Committee for conducting interviews is not permanent and is nominated for a particular selection.

[English]

Status of Jammu-Katra Rail Line

697. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned level crossings on the Pathankot-Jammu-Udhampur rail line and the steps taken to eliminate any possible mishaps at these crossings;

(b) the status of Jammu-Katra and Baramula-Uri rail lines as on date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are 11 unmanned level crossings on the Pathankot-Jammu-Udhampur rail line. The Railway has taken the following safety measures to eliminate any possible mishaps at these crossings:

1. Maintaining proper road surface.
2. Maintaining proper road gradients.
3. Provision of speed breaker on approaches.
4. Providing road warning sign boards.
5. Manning of unmanned level crossings as per criteria.

(b) and (c) The rail line from Jammu to Udhampur has already been commissioned. Udhampur-Katra rail line work is targeted for completion by December, 2008. Baramula-Uri is not a sanctioned work.

Increase in Crude Oil Production by ONGC

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

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) proposes to increase crude oil production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current level of crude oil production of ONGC;

(d) the extent to which it will be increased; and

(e) the annual target fixed by the ONGC for crude oil production?

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

Crude oil production plan of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) for the next three years is given below:

Year	Crude oil Production Plan in Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)
2007-08	27.160
2008-09	28.001
2009-10	29.033

(c) Crude oil production of ONGC in the year 2006-07 was 26.051 MMT. In the first quarter of year 2007-08 (April-June, 2007) the crude oil production was 6.379 MMT.

(d) The extent of increase in crude oil production in the next three years with respect to last year's production (2006-07) is given below:-

Year	Envisaged increase in Crude Oil Production w.r.t. year 2006-07 in MMT
2007-08	1.109
2008-09	1.950
2009-10	2.952

(e) The annual target of crude oil production of ONGC for the year 2007-08 is 27.160 MMT.

**Problems of Commuters of
Local Trains in Mumbai**

699. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are operating local trains in Mumbai;
- (b) if so, whether any effort has been made to find out the woes of the commuters there; and
- (c) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken by the Railways to address these woes?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. To cope up with the problems being faced by commuters in Mumbai, Railways are regularly increasing the frequency of suburban trains and converting the 9-Car EMU trains into 12-Car EMU trains in Mumbai area.

The Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra both have already taken steps to revamp the Mumbai Suburban Railway System through implementation of Rail Component of Multi-Modal Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP). The main objectives behind this system are as under:

- (i) to bring down the over crowding on peak hour peak direction 9-Car train to 3000 passengers as against existing around 5000 and (ii) segregate the suburban train operation from the main line passenger and freight services.

Multi-Modal Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) Phase-I was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 3125.20 crores. The benefits which MUTP Phase-I is providing are as follows:- (i) 550 new trains - 25% increase in total trains per day. (ii) On fast line, all trains will be of 12-Cars. On slow line. 20% of trains will be of 12-Cars. (iii) Vehicle Kms. per day will increase by 33 % (iv) Over crowding during peak hours peak direction will come down from existing over 5000 commuters to 3600 commuters per 9-Car rake.

**Rail Over Bridge on National
Highway-4 in Haveri**

700. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of construction of Railway Over Bridge (ROB) on railway parallel line in 321 and 328 km on NH-4 in Haveri District, Karnataka;
- (b) the reasons for delay; and
- (c) the time by which the work on the said is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Two Road over bridges (ROB) are being constructed on National Highway (NH 4 at NH chainages 311 & 328 in lieu of level crossing (LC) No 234 & 222. No ROB is being constructed at km 321.

(b) These works are being executed by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) inclusive of Railway portion. It is learnt from NHAI that contracts for these works had to be terminated due to contractual problem. Tender have been re-invited and works will be taken up after awarding thereof by NHAI.

(c) NHAI officials have advised of their completion in about a year after award of contracts.

TRIPS Agreement

701. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering any steps related to data protection in accordance with Article 39.3 of TRIPS agreement;
- (b) whether providing data exclusivity in agrochemicals is being considered by the Government; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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): (a) to (c) As suggested by Department of Commerce, an Inter-Ministerial Consultative Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals was constituted by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals on 19.2.2004 to look into the steps to be taken by the Government in the context of the provisions of Article 39.3 of the TRIPS Agreement for the protection of undisclosed information in respect of agrochemicals and Pharmaceuticals. The Report has since been submitted to the Department of Commerce on 31.5.2007 and the same is also available on the Website of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals www.chemicals.gov.in.

Increase in Prices of Petroleum Products

702. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the oil marketing companies have again sought another revision of the prices of petroleum products;
- (b) if so, the details along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the heavy burden on the part of the consumers due to earlier revision of the prices of petroleum products; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect

the interests of the consumers and for putting a moratorium on the hike in the prices of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have sought another revision in the prices of sensitive petroleum products namely petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG due to increase in international oil prices of these products. Based on the increase in international oil prices, the OMCs are suffering under recoveries on the marketing of these products. The estimated gross under recoveries of oil marketing companies on sale of sensitive petroleum products for the 1st quarter of 2007-08 are as under:

	(Rs./Crore)
Under-Recovery*	Apr-Jun'07 (Provisional)
Petrol	1,553
Diesel	4,633
PDS Kerosene	4,028
Domestic LPG	2,698
Total	12,912

*Gross under-recoveries without considering refinery discount, oil bonds and upstream assistance.

(c) and (d) Since passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in steep increase in the domestic prices, the Government has been taking all possible measures to ensure that there is no hardship to the common man on account of price rise. The Government has adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing amongst three stakeholders, namely, the consumers, the PSU oil companies and the Government to protect the interest of the common man and the vulnerable sections of society. The Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

[Translation]

Opening of Petrol Pumps

703. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) the details of petrol pumps being opened in the country by Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL);

(b) whether this refinery limited propose to open petrol pumps in Maharashtra;

(c) the guidelines issued by this company in regard to petrol pumps; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) As on 31-07-2007, Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) has set up 74 Retail Outlets (R.Os) in the country. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) At present, NRL does not have plans for setting up ROs in the State of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) NRL follows a transparent and uniform dealer selection procedure which is in line with the guidelines and procedures being followed by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). The detailed guidelines and procedures being followed by NRL for award of R.Os are well publicized and are available on NRL's web site www.nrl.co.in.

Statement

Details of Retail Outlets (R.Os) set up by
NRL in the Country as on 31.07.2007

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of R.Os
1.	Assam	21
2.	Meghalaya	13
3.	Nagaland	2
4.	Manipur	5
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
6.	West Bengal	2
7.	Orissa	1
8.	Andhra Pradesh	2
9.	Bihar	1
10.	Haryana	8
11.	Delhi	1
12.	Rajasthan	10
13.	Uttar Pradesh	6
14.	Uttaranchal	1
Grand Total		74

Funds for Construction of Old Age Homes

704. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sent proposals to the Union Government for running old age homes and day care centres and also for constructing buildings for old age homes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposals for running old age homes and day care centres have been received from some State Governments during the year 2007-08 as per details given in the Statement. The receipt of proposals and their consideration in consultation with the integrated Finance Division is a continuous process.

Statement

Details of proposal received from State Government during 2007-08

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Proposal		OAH	DCC
		Ongoing Projects	New Projects		
1	West Bengal	8	7	11	2
2	Haryana	15	14	11	15
3	Tamil Nadu	48	3	42	5
4	Rajasthan	3	7	9	1
5	Mizoram	0	4	0	4
6	Orissa	92	22	48	62
7	Karnataka	21	4	23	1
8	Maharashtra	8	0	2	4
9	Gujarat	0	8	5	0
Total		195	69	151	94

Profit Earned by HPCL and BPCL

705. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the net profit earned by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) during the last three years;

(b) whether the net profit of these two companies have come down during the year 2005-06;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for increasing revenue and profit of the above said two companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) The details of net profit after tax earned by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The net profit of these two companies have come down during the year 2005-06 due to steep increase in international oil prices without corresponding increase in domestic selling prices of sensitive petroleum products, viz. petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG.

(e) The Government has issued oil bonds for increasing revenue and profit of the above said two companies.

Statement

Profit earned by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) during the last three years, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

S.No.	Name of the OMCs	Profit After Tax (Rs. in Crores)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	HPCL	1277.33	405.63	1571.17
2.	BPCL	965.80	291.65**	1805.48**

** includes Kochi Refinery (KRL) in pursuant to the merger of KRL with BPCL.

[English]

Technology for Security at Airports

706. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to introduce high technology method for effective security at all domestic and international airports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the necessary steps being taken by the Government to implement the above methods at all airports in the country; and

(d) the estimated cost likely to be incurred on the implementation of high technology methods in the entire country?

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

(b) and (c) Security equipments and systems based on new technology like Explosive Detectors, Bomb Disposal equipment, perimeter Intrusion Detection System (PIDS), Smart card and Bio-metrics based access control system, Integrated X-ray baggage screening System etc. are recommended for mandatory installation and commissioned by the airport operators at all operational airports. The Security System are also integrated and interfaced with Close Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance. Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) have issued Technical Specifications for the security equipments and systems recommended by them, keeping in view the threat perception for each airports. All concerned Airport Operators/agencies have been directed to take immediate necessary action to upgrade security technology accordingly.

(d) In-Line X-BIS:- Value of order placed for international airports is estimated at Rs.45 crores.

Explosive Trace Detector:- Order placed for Rs. 91.00 crores approximately including existing Customs Duty.

The other security equipments being installed and their likely cost is as under:-

CCTV - Rs. 70 Crores. (approx.)

X-ray Baggage Inspection System - Rs.140 crores. (approx.)

Report of National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM)

707. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the detailed recommendations made by the Commission;

(c) whether the Government has not initiated any action;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the report is likely to be made public and recommendations suggested to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The recommendations of the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities are under consideration of government.

Hydrogen Fuel Based Technology

708. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has envisaged road maps for development of Hydrogen fuel based technology;

(b) if so, by which time the entire country would be covered with hydrogen fuel cells based automotive systems; and

(c) if so, the detail of the proposals with private-public partnerships in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) A National Hydrogen Energy Road Map for development of Hydrogen Energy in India has been prepared under the guidance of the National Hydrogen Energy Board constituted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The Road Map has envisaged gradual introduction of hydrogen fuelled vehicles in the country and about one million hydrogen-fuelled vehicles are expected to be on the Indian roads by 2020. Most of these vehicles are expected to be based on internal combustion (IC) engine technology. Fuel Cell based automobiles are too costly at present and may, therefore, take a longer time before they become cost-competitive.

(c) The National Hydrogen Energy Road Map has identified public-private partnership mode for implementation of the research, development and demonstration projects. The first project for public-private partnership relating to introduction of hydrogen-CNG blend in vehicles is planned to be undertaken by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy during 2007-2008 through the Society of Indian Automobile

Manufactures (SIAM) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited. Five major automobile companies would be participating in this project. As more projects for public-private partnership are developed by the industry/industry associations, these may be considered for implementation.

Amendment to PWD Act, 1995

709. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the process of amending the "Persons with Disabilities Act, (PWD) 1995";

(b) the reasons for delay in making amendments in the Act; and

(c) the action plan chalked out to expedite it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) As indicated in the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, process for consultation with stakeholders for amendment to the Act has commenced. Two consultation meetings have been held in Patna and Chennai. On the demand of NGOs in the disability sector, the process was kept in abeyance till the UN Convention was finalized. The process has been resumed after India signed the convention. The third consultation meeting has been held on the 14th August, 2007 in Delhi.

Adulteration of Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene

710. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI PUSP JAIN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that petrol and diesel are being adulterated on large scale in the country due to nexus of petrol pump owners and high officials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that incidents of catching fire in running vehicles have increased due to the adulteration;

(d) if so, the effective steps/new technologies adopted by the Government to check adulteration in petrol, diesel and kerosene; and

(e) the number of cases of adulteration in petroleum products have been reported during the last three years and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel. Government is not aware

of any nexus of petrol pump owners and high officials of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in this regard.

(c) Oil Marketing Companies have reported that they do not have any reports regarding increase in incidents of fire in running vehicles due to adulteration.

(d) To check adulteration in auto fuels and diversion of PDS Kerosene, Government has asked Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps to contain the menace of adulteration:-

(i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have requested the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take steps to control adulteration.

(ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(iii) Government has taken the initiatives to expedite the installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) to monitor the movement of tank trucks.

(iv) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en-route adulteration by transporters.

(v) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

(vi) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

In order to check adulteration the Government has recently taken a number of additional initiatives which are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The number of cases of suspected adulteration

and number of Retail Outlets (ROs) terminated due to adulteration by OMCs during last three years are as under:

Year	Number of cases of suspected adulteration	Number of ROs Terminated due to adulteration
2004-05	225	19
2005-06	229	38
2006-07	187	79

Statement

Details of New Initiatives taken to check adulteration of petrol/diesel and streamlining PDS kerosene distribution

Checking adulteration is a continuous process and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has been reviewing steps taken to curb adulteration from time to time. In the process, several technological and institutional measures have been taken to contain adulteration. The recent steps taken by the Ministry are summarized below:

1. **Automation of Retail Outlets:** In order to monitor the activities at retail outlets by adopting the latest technological improvements, automation of retail outlets is being implemented. MOP&NG has directed the oil marketing companies to complete automation of retail outlets selling more than 200 KL per month.

2. **Third Party Certification of Retail Outlets:** OMCs have been directed to complete third party certification of all the retail outlets selling more than 100 KL per month.

3. **Monitoring of movement of Tank Trucks through Global Positioning System(GPS):** In order to prevent adulteration during transportation, OMCs have been directed to install GPS for complete monitoring of the movement of all the company owned/dealer owned/contractor owned tank trucks.

4. **Marker System in Kerosene:** To check adulteration in auto fuels, Government has asked public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps, including introduction of marker in adulterants. OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the new system, Marker is being put in kerosene in all depots. This system heralds the introduction of world class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. With the marker's presence, adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected. MS/HSD Control Order, 2005, SKO Control Order, 1993 and MDG 2005 have been amended for making provision regarding introduction of marker system in Kerosene to check adulteration, A committee has been set up in the Ministry to monitor the progress of the marker system. Oil Marketing Companies in the Private sector have

also been simultaneously asked to introduce marker in Kerosene as is being done by Public Sector OMCs.

5. **Revising the Marketing Discipline Guidelines:** The Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) under which the oil marketing companies take penal actions against the erring dealers have been revised during August 2005 making the penal actions more stringent. As per MDG, 2005, a dealership would be terminated in the first instance of adulteration itself.

6. **Jan Kerosene Pariyojna:** To streamline the PDS Kerosene distribution system and contain diversion of kerosene for adulteration and other unauthorized usages, Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP) had been launched initially for a period of 6 months on a pilot basis in 414 blocks with effect from 2.10.2005. The Pilot scheme has been further extended upto 31.08.2007.

7. **Smart Card Scheme:** With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry has proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementation of the Pilot.

[Translation]

Chhatrapati Shivaji Station

711. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had sent any proposal to Railways for development of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal Railway Station on September 19, 2003;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra also offered additional land for such development;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Railways thereon?

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

(b) No, Sir. No land has been offered by the Government of Maharashtra for such development.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) For developing this area as new modern station building on P.D. Mellow Road, Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation (MRVC) was appointed as the agency for carrying out

market feasibility study. Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation (MRVC) has since completed the study and will submit the report to Railway for consideration.

[English]

Renaming of Nanded Railway Station

712. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request to change the name of "Nanded" Railway Station as "Hazoor Saheb-Nanded" Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Some requests have been received regarding renaming of 'Nanded' Railway Station as 'Hazoor Saheb-Nanded' Railway Station.

(c) Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for approving renaming of railway stations based on the request by the State Government concerned and seeking views of various agencies including Ministry of Railways. No request has been received from Ministry of Home Affairs so far in this regard.

Promotion of Tourism Schemes in Foreign Countries

713. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to promote schemes like "Medical Tourism", "Beach Tourism", "Heritage Tourism", "Pilgrimage Tourism" and "Desert Tourism", abroad before the commencement of Commonwealth Games in 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount earmarked for promotion of tourism activity before the Games?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism promotes a number of themes including Medical Tourism, Heritage Tourism, Pilgrimage Tourism and Desert Tourism in the overseas market through print, TV, Internet and Outdoor Media. In addition, information is regularly hosted in the official website of the Ministry for worldwide promotion and disseminated through the Indiatourism Offices in the country and abroad.

(c) The amount earmarked for overseas promotion during the year 2007-08 is Rs.165 Crore. The allocation for subsequent years in the 11th Five Year Plan has not been finalized.

Construction of Goods Shed

714. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amounts budgeted for the construction/extension of goods sheds by the East Coast Railway in different Railway Stations under its control during the last three years;

(b) the details of the amount sanctioned against each Railway Station during the above period, item-wise, and

(c) the details of funds spent for these projects in each Railway Station during the above period?

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

Year of Sanction	No. of Works	Total amount sanctioned (in 000s of Rs.)
2005-06	10	91543
2006-07	06	187792
2007-08	02	138554
Total	18	417889

(b) and (c)

(Amount in 000' of Rs.)

S.No	Name of the Station	Year of sanction	Estimated cost	Budget allocation			Expenditure up to Mar' 07
				2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Bargath Road	2005-06	24808	10000	10000	14000	10424
2.	Jeypore	2005-06	30229	10000	10000	14000	15776
3.	Rayagada	2005-06	23600	10000	10000	12220	11380

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Srikakulam Rd	2005-06	20200	10000	10000	10000	10000
5.	Nergundi	2005-06	41020	15000	15000	22355	18665
6.	Jagdapur	2005-06	24036	10000	10000	10000	13023
7.	Mandirhasaud	2005-06	24646	10000	10000	9094	13200
8.	Cuttack	2005-06	30974	15000	10000	19177	11796
9.	Haridaspur	2006-07	12646	0	50000	7646	5000
10.	Hindoi Road	2006-07	13920	0	50000	8920	5000
11.	Baghuapai	2007-08	7942	0	0	4200	0
12.	Kapilas Road	2007-08	23493	0	0	4200	0
13.	Jajpur	2005-06	1201	543	500	100	0
	Keonjhar Road						
14.	Hirakud	2005-06	2836	1000	1000	100	808
15.	Rajathgarh	2006-07	4545	0	1000	1000	1188
16.	Bhadrak	2006-07	2587	0	100	100	0
17.	Nayagarh*	2006-07	4919	0	0	100	0
18.	Mahasamund	2006-07	1534	0	192	1342	192
Total			295136	91543	187792	138554	116452

* Nayagarh work has been subsequently taken up and completed.

[Translation]

Electrification of Railway Line

715. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway lines planned for electrification during the year 2007-08 by the Government; and

(b) names of the railway lines of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal proposed for electrification and renovation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 11 numbers of railway lines/sections consisting of 500 Route kilometres are planned for electrification during 2007-08.

(b) The proposal for electrification of railway lines in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal are as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Section	Route kilometers	State	Remarks
1.	Kanpur-Jhansi	220	Uttar Pradesh	Under examination.
2.	Varanasi-Janghai-Unchachar including Phaphamau-Prayag-Allahabad	207	Uttar Pradesh	Under examination.
3.	Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati	809	Partly falls in Bengal and Bihar	Under examination.

[English]

Financial Assistance for Monuments, Tamil Nadu

716. SHRIMATI K. RANI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally protected monuments in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of proposals received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for financial assistance for conservation of monuments;

(c) the details of the progress made so far on restoration of each monument in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the complete details of the works to be under-

taken in this year for conservation of historical/cultural monuments in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The details of centrally protected monuments in Tamil Nadu are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) No proposal from the State Government of Tamil Nadu has been received for financial assistance for conservation of protected monuments.

(c) There are 413 centrally protected monuments in the State of Tamil Nadu which are in a fairly good state of preservation. Conservation of monuments is a continuous process. The repair work to the monuments is attended regularly as per the priority and resources available.

(d) Details of special repair works identified at selected protected monuments for 2007-08 are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

List of the Centrally Protected Monuments in Tamil Nadu

Sl.No.	Name of the Monument/Sites	Location	District
1	2	3	4
Chennai Circle			
1	Fort St. George	Chennai	Chennai
2	Tomb of David Yale and Joseph Hymner	Chennai	Chennai
3	Old Town Wall	Tondiarpet	Chennai
4	Muruganathasvami Temple	Tirumurugan-Poondi	Coimbatore
5	Nithisvarasvami Temple	Srimushnam	Cuddalore
6	Chennaraya Perumal Temple Together With Adjacent Lands	Adiyamankottai	Dharmapuri
7	Hill Fort	Krishnagiri	Dharmapuri
8	Hill Fort	Rayakkottai	Dharmapuri
9	Fort On Rock	Dindigul	Dindigul
10	Jain Temple	Mettupudur	Erode
11	Sugrisvara Temple and Tank	Sircar Periyapalayam	Erode
12	Iravatanesvara Temple	Kanchipuram	Kanchipuram
13	Jvaraharesvara Temple	Kanchipuram	Kanchipuram
14	Matangesvara Temple	Kanchipuram	Kanchipuram
15	Muktesvara Temple	Kanchipuram	Kanchipuram
16	Pirvatanesvara Temple	Kanchipuram	Kanchipuram
17	Munkudmisvara Temple	P.V. Kalathur	Kanchipuram
18	Dhenupurisvara Temple	Madambakkam	Kanchipuram
19	Large Siva Temple (Apathsahaesvara Temple)	Tenneri	Kanchipuram
20	Arjuna's Penance	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
21	Arjuna's Ratha	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram

1	2	3	4
22	Bhima's Ratha	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
23	Dharmaraja Ratha	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
24	Dharmaraja rock cut Throne	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
25	Dolotsava Mandapa	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
26	Draupadi's Bath	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
27	Draupathi Ratha	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
28	Eight Stone on a Masonary Platform Known as The Seven Pidaris	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
29	Huge Stone images of the Lion, Elephant and a Bull	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
30	Olakkanesvara Temple	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
31	Kotikal Mandapa	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
32	Krishna Mandapa	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
33	Krishna's Butter Ball	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
34	Large Unfinished Rock Sculpture Similar To Arjuna's Penance	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
35	Mahishamardini Rock Cut Mandapa	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
36	Mahishasura Rock Standing In The Sea To The North of Shore Temple	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
37	Mukundanayanar Temple	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
38	Rock Cut Ganesa Temple	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
39	Rock Cut Varaha Temple containing Varaha and Vamana incarnation of Vishnu	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
40	Rock cut Sculpture representing the group of Elephants, Monkey and Peacock	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
41	Royagopuram (Unfinished)	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
42	Sahadeva's Ratha	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
43	Shore Temple	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
44	Small Monolithic Temple known as Valayankuttai Ratha	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
45	Stone Sculpture representing The Group of Elephants, Monkeys	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
46	Triple Celled Rock-Cut Shrine With Gopi's Churn in front of it	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
47	Two Rock Cut Temples at North East Corner of The Koneri Pallam Tank	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
48	Two small-carved rocks to the south of the Shore Temple	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram

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49	Two small monolithic temples known as Pidari Amman Ratha	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
50	Unfinished Ratha and Stone Couch	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
51	Unfinished Rock Cut Cave Temple North of Krishna Mandapa	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
52	Old Siva temple known as Dharmesvara Temple	Manimagalam	Kanchipuram
53	Vaikuntaperumal Temple	Kanchipuram	Kanchipuram
54	Ruined Dutch Fort and Cemetery	Sadras	Kanchipuram
55	Kailasanatha Temple	Salabogam	Kanchipuram
56	Tiger-Headed Rock Cut Temple	Salvankuppam	Kanchipuram
57	Two Inscribed Rocks	Salavankuppam	Kanchipuram
58	Rock Cut Shiva Temple With Three Lingas	Salavankuppam	Kanchipuram
59	Lesser Siva Temple (Kanthalingesvasatemple)	Tenneri (Madavilaam)	Kanchipuram
60	Nityakalyana Bhuvareha Temple	Tiruvidanthai	Kanchipuram
61	Orukkal Mandapam	Tirukalliku-nram	Kanchipuram
62	Venkatesaperumal Temple	Tirumukkudal	Kanchipuram
63	Vaikuntaperumal Temple	Uttiramerur	Kanchipuram
64	Tirupulisvara Temple	Vayalur	Kanchipuram
65	Head Sluice Periaivoikal Nattuvoikal	Musiri	Karur
66	Korangunatha Temple	Srinivasanallur	Karur
67	Rock (Kullithalai)	Vaigainallur	Karur
68	Alagarmalai cavern with Panchapandava beds midway between Algarmaliai and Kidampatti	Melur (Alagar koil)	Madurai
69	Jain statues rock inscription and Panchapandava beds on the hill	Kalluthu	Madurai
70	Rock cut bas relief and beds and a mutilated jain stone image	Karadipatti	Madurai
71	Rock-cut bas relief of jain images with inscription in Ammanarmalai or Samanar Malai	Keelakuilkudy	Madurai
72	Panchapandava Beds, Jain Statues and Brahmi and Vatteluttu (Inscriptions on the Panchapandava)	Kilaiyur Kilavalavu	Madurai
73	Rock cut beds under natural rock shelter in Amanarmalai or Samanar Malai	Melakuilkudy	Madurai
74	Cave In Sitharmalai	Mettupatti	Dindigul
75	Cavern with Panchapandava beds on the western slope of the hills and similar beds, behind the Sikandar Mosque on top	Tiruparankunram	Madurai

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76	Rock-Cut Cave and Inscription	Tiruparanku-nram	Madurai
77	Ramapada Mandapam	Kodiakkadu	Nagapattirram
78	Inscribed Stone	Kodiyakarai	Nagapattinam
79	Town Gateway	Tranquebar (Tarangambadi)	Nagapattinam
80	Hill Fort	Namakkal	Namakkal
81	Ranganatha temple and Narasimha Temple	Namakkal	Namakkal
82	Brihadisvara Temple	Gangaikonda Cholapuram	Perumbalur
83	Jain Statue Built of Granite	JayankondaCholapuram	Perumbalur
84	Jain Statue Called Paluppar	Jayankonda Cholapuram	Perumbalur
85	Fort	Ranjankudi	Perambalur
86	Shamshkhan's Mosque	Vallapuram	Perambalur
87	Siva Temple	Valikantapuram	Perambalur
88	Jain Tirthankara Image	Alangudipatti	Pudukkpttai
89	Jaina Image	Alathur	Pudukkottai
90	Whole Cave with Two Jain Figures carved on the rock over it and Damaged Inscription	Ammachatram	Pudukkottai
91	Whole of Minakshi Sundaresvara Temple and The Inscribed Stone in the Front Mandapam	Ammankurichi	Pudukkottai
92	Two Jain Tirthankara images in a Coconut Plantation	Annavaasal	Pudukkottai
93	Siva Temple	Ariyur	Pudukkottai
94	Jain Tirthankara Image and Inscribed Stone	Chettipatti	Pudukkottai
95	Ruined Jaina Temple	Chettipatti	Pudukkottai
96	Sarangadesvara (also known as Tiruvagnisvara) Temple	Chittur	Pudukkottai
97	Rock-Cut Siva Shrine	Devarmalai	Pudukkottai
98	Kalabhamudaiyar Temple	Irumbanadu	Pudukkottai
99	Siva Temple and Lion Pillar	Irumbanadu	Pudukkottai
100	Soundararaja Perumal Temple	Irumbanadu	Pudukkottai
101	Stone Idols of Ganesa and Anjaneya	Irumbanadu	Pudukkottai
102	Jain Tirthangara Idol	Kannangara-kudi	Pudukkottai
103	Jain Image, Stone Lion and Foundations of a Jain Temple	Kannangudi	Pudukkottai
104	Balasubrahmanya Temple	Kannanur	Pudukkottai
105	Siva Temple	Kilayur (Kaliyapatti)	Pudukkottai

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106	Uttamadanisvara Temple	Kilattaniyam	Pudukkottai
107	Uttamanathaswami Temple	Kiranur	Pudukkottai
108	Muchukundesvara Temple and The Tank in front of it	Kodumbalur	Pudukkottai
109	Muvar Koil with surrounding sub-shrines stone enclosures etc.,	Kodumbalur	Pudukkottai
110	Remains of Aivar Koil	Kodumbalur	Pudukkottai
111	Remains of Structural Temples and Antiquities	Kodumbalur	Pudukkottai
112	Amman Shrine	Kudumiyam-malai	Pudukkottai
113	Natural cavern with drip line on the western side of the Kudumiyamalai	Kudumiyam-malai	Pudukkottai
114	Musical Inscription	Kudumiyam-malai	Pudukkottai
115	Rock-Cut Shrine called Melakkoil With Mandapa in Front	Kudumiyam-malai	Pudukkottai
116	Sikkanathaswami Temple	Kudumiyam-malai	Pudukkottai
117	Eight Natural Caverns, Jain Idols and Inscriptions In Kudagumalai, Aladiperumal Paraika	Kulathur	Pudukkottai
118	Ruined Siva Temple	Kulathur	Pudukkottai
119	Rock-cut Siva cave-temple, hall of hundred pillared mandapam or car mandapam with wheels in front part of the plinth	Kunnandar- koil	Pudukkottai
120	Jain Idols and Remains of the Jain Temple	Letchumanpatti	Pudukkottai
121	Idols in the southern bund of Teppakulam or Urani	Madarapatti	Pudukkottai
122	Rock-Cut Siva Temple (Pallava 8th-9th century AD.)	Malayadipatti	Pudukkottai
123	Rock-Cut Vishnu Temple (Pallava 8th-9th century AD.)	Malayadipatti	Pudukkottai
124	Two Rock-Cut Siva shrines on the eastern and southern slopes of the hill	Malakkoil	Pudukkottai
125	Jain Temple Site	Mangathevanpatti	Pudukkottai
126	Ruins of Jain Temple	Mangathevanpatti	Pudukkottai
127	Siva and Pillayar Temple	Mangudi	Pudukkottai
128	Jain Tirthankara (ayyanar) and Devi Idols	Marudur	Pudukkottai
129	Menandar Pillayar Temple	Melanilaiva-yal	Pudukkottai
130	Stone circles, Prehistoric burials slab of Jain Tirthankara idol and relics of old Jain Temple	Melur	Pudukkottai
131	Vishnu Idol	Melur	Pudukkottai
132	(i) Jain Tirthankara Image (ii) Remains of The Temple (iii) Ganesa Image (iv) Nandi With Inscriptions	Mailapatti	Pudukkottai

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133	Tiruperumanadar Temple called Madthukovil	Nangupatti (Madattukkoil)	Pudukkottai
134	Jain Idol, two Durga idol, One Vishnu Idol and Inscribed Stone Slab	Nanjur	Pudukkottai
135	Amman Koil (Melaikadambar Koil and the Siva Temple to its west)	Narthamalai	Pudukkottai
136	Rock-Cut Siva Temple	Narthamalai	Pudukkottai
137	Vijayalayacholisvaram and the group of sub-shrines around it	Narthamalai	Pudukkottai
138	Rock-Cut Vishnu Shrine	Narttamalai	Pudukkottai
139	Jain Image and the Inscription to the south of it on the summit of the Sadayaparai	Nathampannai	Pudukkottai
140	Siva (Valamadisvara) Temple	Nirpalani	Pudukkottai
141	Siva Temple	Panangudi	Pudukkottai
142	Vishnu Temple	Panangudi	Pudukkottai
143	Rajendracholisvara Temple	Ponameravati	Pudukkottai
144	Jaina Thirthankara Image	Puliyur	Pudukkottai
145	Jain Image and the surrounding temple site locally called Mottai Pillayar Koil	Puttambur	Pudukkottai
146	Rock-Cut Shrine of Pushpavanesvara	Puvalakkudi	Pudukkottai
147	Stone Sluice With Nandipottan's Inscription	Rajalipatti	Pudukkottai
148	Stone Idols of Vishnu and Devi and Siva Temple	Rasipuram	Pudukkottai
149	Jain Mound, Jain Images, Other Idols and Lion Pillars	Sembattur	Pudukkottai
150	Natural Cavern called Andarmatam	Sembuthi	Pudukkottai
151	Vishnu and Sridevi Idols	Sengirai	Pudukkottai
152	Sri Bhumisvarasvami Temple	Sevalur	Pudukkottai
153	Natural Cavern With Stone Beds and Brahmi and Old Tamil Inscriptions Called Eladipattam	Sittannavasal	Pudukkottai
154	Rock-Cut Jain Temple	Sittannavasal	Pudukkottai
155	Tiruvilangudy Siva Temple	Suriyur	Pudukkottai
156	Siva Temple	Tennangudi	Pudukkottai
157	Jain Tirthankara Image Seated On Apedestal to the east of The Bund	Thekkattur	Pudukkottai
158	Sanctum of old Siva Temple	Tirukalambur	Pudukkottai
159	Sundaresvara Temple with seven sub-shrines	Tirukkattalai	Pudukkottai
160	Rock-Cut Siva Temple (Satyamurti shrine)	Tirumayam	Pudukkottai

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161	Rock-Cut Vishnu Temple (Satyagirisvara Temple)	Tirumayam	Pudukkpttai
162	Stone and Brick Fort	Tirumayam	Pudukkottai
163	Cholisvaramudaiyar Temple	Tiruppur	Pudukkottai
164	Jain Image in waterspread of Pudukulam	Tiruppur	Pudukkottai
165	Siva Temple	Thodaiyur	Pudukkottai
166	Jain Tirthankara image and inscribed stone	Valavambatti (Valavanpatti)	Pudukkottai
167	Siva Temple (Agatisvara Temple)	Varappur	Pudukkottai
168	Siva koil on the western bund of Enadikulam	Varpet	Pudukkottai
169	Jain Tirthankara Image	Veerakkudi	Pudukkottai
170	Agastisvara Temple	Vellanur	Pudukkottai
171	Kailasanatha Temple	Vellanur	Pudukkottai
172	Two lion pillars in the Vahana mandapam of the Subrahmanya temple	Viralimalai	Pudukkottai
173	Siva Temple	Visalur	Pudukkottai
174	Remains of hill fort with buildings therein	Attur	Salem
175	Fort and temple on the hill	Sankaridrug (Chinna Kavandanur)	Salem
176	Boulder stone bed and brahmi inscriptions on the hill and rock-cut temple with inscription at the foot of the hill	Kunnakudi	Sivaganga
177	Airavatesvara Temple	Chatram Darasuram	Thanjavur
178	Big Gun (Rajagopaul Cannon) in the first rampart and the bastions in ts no 608 of Wardlii	Thanjavur	Thanjavur
179	Schwartz Church	Thanjavur	Thanjavur
180	Sivaganga Little Fort enclosing the Big Temple	Thanjavur	Thanjavur
181	Karuppannasvami Rock and Jain Sculpture	Uttamapala-yam	Teni
182	Fort Gateway and Preston's battery	Tiruchchirappalli	Tiruchchirappalli
183	Rock Fort, 1) Lower Cave; 2) Path leading to the site in front of the lower cave; 3) Path leading to the upper cave; 4) Site in front of the lower cave; 5) Upper Cave.	Rock Fort, Trichy	Tiruchchirappalli
184	Erumbisvara Temple	Tiruverumbur	Tiruchchirappalli
185	Fort and Cemetry	Pulicat	Thiruvallur
186	Svayambunatha Temple	Kilputhur	Thiruvanamalai
187	Rock-Cut Shrine	Kuranganilmuttam	Thiruvanamalai

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188	Rock Cut Caves, Sculptures and Inscriptions.	Mamandur	Thiruvanamalai
189	Rock Cut Cave	Narasamagalam	Thiruvanamalai
190	Chandramouliswara Temple	Nattery	Thiruvanamalai
191	Rock Cut Temple and Sculptures	Siyamangalam	Thiruvanamalai
192	Jain rock cut caves, sculptures and mandapas with paintings	Tirumalai	Thiruvanamalai
193	Natural Cavern known as Virupakshi guha & Skandashram and path leading from Ramnasharam.	Tiruvannamali	Thiruvanamalai
194	Adjoining Building to the Masjid and two Ponds.	Arcot	Vellore
195	The Cannon	Arcot	Vellore
196	Delhi Gate	Arcot	Vellore
197	Masjid and Two Ponds to the West of the fort	Arcot	Vellore
198	Ranganatha Temple	Erukkampattu	Vellore
199	Monolithic Rock Cut Temple	Mahendravadi	Vellore
200	Choleswara Temple	Meipadi	Vellore
201	Somanatha Temple	Melpadi	Vellore
202	North eastern corner of the outer rampart of the old fort at arcot	Muppaduvetti	Vellore
203	Rock inscription in the right flank of the Sholinghur tank	Sholinghur	Vellore
204	Konar Temple	Tirumalaipur	Vellore
205	Subramanya Temple	Vallimalai	Vellore
206	Jain Sculptures and Inscription	Vallimalai	Vellore
207	Fort	Vellore	Vellore
208	Old Mosque in The Fort	Vellore	Vellore
209	Jalakanteswara Temple	Vellore	Vellore
210	Rock, Sculptures & Caves	Vilapakkam	Vellore
211	Brahmapurisvara Temple	Brahmadesam	Villupuram
212	Patalisvara Temple	Brahmadesam	Villupuram
213	Rock Cut Pallava Temple	Dalavanur	Villupuram
214	Alagiya Narasimha Perumal Temple	Ennayiram	Villupuram
215	Fortress comprising of hill fort on the Rajagiri, the inner and lower fort and lines of the fortification connecting Rajagiri, Kishnagiri and Chakkilidurgam.	Gingee	Villupuram
	i) Minor and Lower forts with structures like inner fort, Venugopala Temple, a Granary, a Gymnasium, Kalyanamahal, Stables, Barracks, Idols of Kamalakanni Amman and Hanuman etc.		

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	ii) Old jail near the ondy gate and two persian inscriptions on the outer face of the two last bastions.		
	iii) Saad-at-ullah Khan mosque with persian inscriptions, inscription in perian in Pondy gate		
216	Two Granaries, a Magazine, a Flag Staff, temples of Ranganatha and Kamalakkani amman, a Big cannon, a Sacrificial slab, the Audience hall on the Rajagiri and the treasury	Gingee	Villupuram
217	Two Granaries, Well for Storing of Ghee, Well for Storing Oil, Two Temples and an Audience Hall on the Krishnagiri.	Gingee	Villupuram
218	Venkararamana Temple with Inscription in Tamil, Prisoners Well (Ab)	Gingee	Villupuram
219	Pallava Rock-Cut Shrine	Kilmavilangai	Villupuram
220	Rock Cut Pallava temple	Mandagapattu	Villupuram
221	Outside the Fort-Pattabhirama Temple and 12 Pillared Mandapa	Narasingara-yananpettai	Villupuram
222	Talagiriswara Temple and a Cave containing an image of Durga and Pallava Inscription	Panamalai	Villupuram
223	Apatsaheyeswara Temple	Sendamangalam	Virudhunagar
224	Twenty four Jain Figure in two rows, A Standing Nude Figure, Two Fragments of a Sitting Figure and Two Inscriptions on Tirunathankunru.	Sirukadambur	Villupuram
225	Vinnamparai Rock Containing Pallava Inscriptions	Tondur	Villupuram
226	Tirumalai Nayaka Palace	Srivilliputtur	Virudhunagar
227	Megalithic cists and cairns (survey no. 222)	Agaram	Kanchipuram
228	Megalithic cists and cairns (survey nos. 111&116)	Agaram	Kanchipuram
229	Urn burials	Alattur	Kanchipuram
230	Megalithic cists and cairns	Amur	Kanchipuram
231	Megalithic cists and cairns	Anur	Kanchipuram
232	Megalithic cists and cairns	Araiypakkam	Kanchipuram
233	Megalithic cists and cairns	Attcharavakkam	Kanchipuram
234	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Ayyanjeri	Kanchipuram
235	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Echchur	Kanchipuram
236	Megalithic cists and cairns	Edakunram	Kanchipuram
237	Megalithic cairns and cists	Eluchur	Kanchipuram
238	Megalithic cairns and cists	Erumaiyur	Kanchipuram
239	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Gudalur	Kanchipuram

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240	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Guduvan-cheri (Vallamjeri)	Kanchipuram
241	Megalithic cists and cairns with bounding stone circles	Guduperumbedu	Kanchipuram
242	Cairns at The Foot of Perambair Hills	Kadmalaiputhur	Kanchipuram
243	Chromlechs	Kadmalaiputhur	Kanchipuram
244	Group of cairns	Kadapperi	Kanchipuram
245	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Kalanipakkam	Kanchipuram
246	Megalithic cists and cairns	Kalathur	Kanchipuram
247	Megalithic cists and cairns	Kalvay	Kanchipuram
248	Cists and cairns	Kanakapattu	Kanchipuram
249	Excavated remains and buddhist vihara and temple, Pallanan̄svaram	Melaiyur	Nagapattinam
250	Megalithic cists and cairns with bounding stone circles	Kandalur	Kanchipuram
251	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Karanaithangal Perinjambakkam	Kgnchipuram
252	Megalithic cists and cairns	Kattamputtur	Kanchipuram
253	Megalithic cists and cairns	Kilampakkam	Kanchipuram
254	Megalithic cists and cairns	Kottamedu	Kanchipuram
255	Megalithic cists and cairns	Kumili	Kanchipuram
256	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles on the hill	Kunnattur	Kanchipuram
257	Megalithic cairns and cists	Kunnavakkam	Kanchipuram
258	Megalithic cists and cairns	Kuruvanmedu	Kanchipuram
259	Megalithic cists and cairns	Madayathur	Kanchipuram
260	Megalithic cists and cairns	Maganiyam	Kanchipuram
261	Megalithic cists and cairns	Mailai	Kanchipuram
262	Megalithic cists and cairns	Malaipattu	Kanchipuram
263	Megalithic cists and cairns	Malaivaiyavur	Kanchipuram
264	Two unfinished excavations near the Light House	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
265	Unfinished excavations near Triple Celled rock cut shrine	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
266	Unfinished Excavations South of Draupadi Rath	Mamallapuram	Kanchipuram
267	Megalithic cists and cairns	Mampattu	Kanchipuram
268	Megalithic cists and cairns	Manamai	Kanchipuram

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269	Large group of Megalithic cists and cairns	Melkottaiyur	Kanchipuram
270	Megalithic cists and cairns	Moosavakkam	Kanchipuram
271	Megalithic cists and cairns	Naduvakkarai	Kanchipuram
272	Megalithic cists and cairns	Nandambakkam	Kanchipuram
273	Megalithic cists and cairns	Nandivaram	Kanchipuram
274	Group of cairns	Nanmangalam	Kanchipuram
275	Megalithic cists and cairns	Nattam	Kanchipuram
276	Megalithic cists and cairns	Nedungunram	Kanchipuram
277	Megalithic cists and cairns	Nallikuppam	Kanchipuram
278	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Olalur	Kanchipuram
279	Megalithic cists and cairns	Ottivakkam	Kanchipuram
280	Megalithic cists and cairns	Ottiyambakkam	Kanchipuram
281	Megalithic cists and cairns	Padur	Kanchipuram
282	Megalithic cists and cairns	Palayasivaram	Kanchipuram
283	Megalithic cists and cairns	Pallavaram	Kanchipuram
284	Megalithic cists and cairns	Palliyagaram	Kanchipuram
285	Megalithic cists and cairns	Paranur	Kanchipuram
286	Megalithic cists and cairns	Perumbakkam	Kanchipuram
287	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Perunagar	Kanchipuram
288	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Perungalathur	Kanchipuram
289	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Ponmar	Kanchipuram
290	Megalithic cists and cairns	Porundavakkam	Kanchipuram
291	Megalithic cists and cairns	Pudupakkam	Kanchipuram
292	Megalithic cists and cairns bounded with stone circles	Pulippakkam	Kanchipuram
293	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Pundi	Kanchipuram
294	Megalithic Cists Circumscribed by Stone Circles	Rajakulipettai	Kanchipuram
295	Megalithic Cists and Cairns with Stone Circles	Rayalpattu	Kanchipuram
296	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Sanur	Kanchipuram
297	Megalithic Cists and Cairns in Virgin State	Sastirampakkam	Kanchipuram
298	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Sembakkam	Kanchipuram
299	Group of Cairns	Sembakkam	Kanchipuram
300	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Senkunram	Kanchipuram
301	Megalithic Cists and Cairns intact with Stone Circles	Settipunliyam	Kanchipuram

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302	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Setupattu	Kanchipuram
303	Megalithic Cairns with Stone Circles and Sarvophagi	Sikkarayapuram	Kanchipuram
304	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Sirudavur	Kanchipuram
305	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Sirukunram	Kanchipuram
306	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Sittalapakkam	Kanchipuram
307	Urn Burial and Megalithic Site	St. Thomas Mount	Kanchipuram
308	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Tandalam	Kanchipuram
309	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Tattanur	Kanchipuram
310	Group of Cairns	Tiruneermalai	Kanchipuram
311	Megalithic Cist	Tiruneermalai	Kanchipuram
312	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Tirupporur	Kanchipuram
313	Sarchopagusand urns; cists and circles	Tirusulam	Kanchipuram
314	Megalithic Grave Yard	Tiruvadisulam	Kanchipuram
315	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Unamanjeri	Kanchipuram
316	Dolmen Intact	Uttiramerur	Kanchipuram
317	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Vadakkuppattu	Kanchipuram
318	Megalithic cists and Cairns and stone circles	Vadamangalam	Kanchipuram
319	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Vaiyavur	Kanchipuram
320	Megalithic Cists	Vandalur	Kanchipuram
321	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Vedanarayanapuram	Kanchipuram
322	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Vembedu	Kanchipuram
323	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Vengur	Kanchipuram
324	Megalithic Cists and Cairns with stone circles	Venkitapuram	Kanchipuram
325	Megalithic cairns and cists	Venpakkam Village No.69	Kanchipuram
326	Megalithic cists and cairns with circles	Venpakkam Village No.273	Kanchipuram
327	Megalithic cists and cairns with stone circles	Venpakkam Village No. 186	Kanchipuram
328	Megalithic cists and cairns	Virapuram	Kanchipuram
329	Kambarmedu	Melaiyur	Nagapattinam
330	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Karai	Perambalur
331	Dolmens and Cairns	Amburapatti	Pudukkottai
332	Prehistoric Burial Site known as Kurangapattarai	Ammachatram	Pudukkottai

1	2	3	4
333	Prehistoric Burial Site, Stone Circle, and Menhirs	Annavasal	Pudukkottai
334	Dolmens	Chokkanpattai	Pudukkottai
335	Dolmens	Kilaiyur	Pudukkottai
336	Prehistoric Burial Site	Melur	Pudukkottai
337	Dolmens	Muttampatti	Pudukkottai
338	Prehistoric Burial Site	Narangiyar Patti	Pudukkottai
339	Prehistoric Dolmens	Perungulur	Pudukkottai
340	Prehistoric Dolmens	Peyal	Pudukkottai
341	Dolmens and Ayyanar Images	Poyyamanai and Virudupatti	Pudukkottai
342	Prehistoric Burial	Puttambur	Pudukkottai
343	Prehistoric Burial Sites	Satyamangalam	Pudukkottai
344	Cairns and Urns	Sendakudy	Pudukkottai
345	Dolmens and Urns	Sengalur	Pudukkottai
346	Dolmens in Annavasal Vattam	Sittannavasal	Pudukkottai
347	Dolmens (Known as Kurangupattarai)	Tayinipatti	Pudukkottai
348	Prehistoric Burial Site	Thekkattur	Pudukkottai
349	Kalasakkadu Burial Sites	Tirukkattalai	Pudukkottai
350	Group of Dolmens	Tiruppur	Pudukkottai
351	Prehistoric burial sites	Vadugapatti	Pudukkottai
352	Prehistoric burial sites	Vathannakurichi	Pudukkottai
353	Prehistoric burial sites	Vilapatti	Pudukkottai
354	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Amirthamangalam	Tiruvallur
355	Virgin Group Containing many Burrows	Attanhangal	Tiruvallur
356	Megalithic Cists	Chedalpakkam	Tiruvallur
357	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Neyveli	Tiruvallur
358	Urn Burials	Palavakkam	Tiruvallur
359	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Pammadukulam	Tiruvallur
360	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Panchali	Tiruvallur
361	Megalithic Cairns with bounding Stone Circles	Pandur	Tiruvallur
362	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Pondavakkam	Tiruvallur
363	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Pottur	Tiruvallur

1	2	3	4
364	Prehistoric Settlement Site (Megalithic Period)	Pulal	Tiruvallur
365	Cairn Site	Sengarai	Tiruvallur
366	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Sirukalattur	Kanchipuram
367	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Siruvadu	Tiruvallur
368	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Tadipadi	Tiruvallur
369	Megalithic Cists and Cairns with Bounding Stone Circles.	Vanmali	Tiruvallur
370	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Virakuppam	Tiruvallur
371	Prehistoric Site	Mottur	Tiruvanamalai
372	Megalithic Cists and Cairns	Nedungal	Tiruvanamalai
373	Megalithic Cists	Tellur	Tiruvanamalai
374	Megalithic Cists	Tetturai	Tiruvanamalai
375	Megalithic Cists	Venkunnam	Tiruvanamalai
376	Prehistoric Site	Adichanallur	Tuticorin
377	Prehistoric Site	Kalvoi	Tuticorin
378	Prehistoric Site	Karungulam	Tuticorin
379	Urn Burial Site	Kadagambattu	Villupuram
380	Megalithic Cairns and Stone Circles	Sengamedu	Villupuram
381	Megalithic Stone Circles	Tiruvakkarai	Villupuram
382	Dolmens Near Palamalai	Adukkam	Dindigul
383	Mandapakkadu (Structure with Mound)	Chettipalayam	Coimbatore
384	Prehistoric Site (Known as Pandava Graves)	Kanyampundi	Coimbatore
385	Dolmens Near Machur Reserved Forest	Panaikkadu	Dindigul
386	Dolmens Near Machur	Panaikkadu	Dindigul
387	Dolmens Near Talayar River On top of the Hill	Panaikkadu	Dindigul
388	Dolmens	Panaikkadu	Dindigul
389	Arsenal	Chennai	Chennai
390	Apsidal	Chennai	Chennai
391	Big Warehouse	Chennai	Chennai
392	Big Warehouse	Chennai	Chennai
393	Big Warehouse	Chennai	Chennai
394	Garrison Engineer's Depot	Chennai	Chennai
395	Garrison Engineer's Depot	Chennai	Chennai
396	King's Barrack	Chennai	Chennai

1	2	3	4
397	Last House on the left of 'Snob's Alley'	Chennai	Chennai
398	Nursing Sister's House	Chennai	Chennai
399	Old British Infantry Officer's Mess	Chennai	Chennai
400	Rampart, Gates, Bastion, Pavilions with vaulted Chambers and water Cisterns underneath: Moat and Defence walls all round with Glacis to The Extent of the Existing Barbed Wire Fence	Chennai	Chennai
401	St. Mary's Church	Chennai	Chennai
402	St. Mary's Church	Chennai	Chennai
403	Wellesley's House	Chennai	Chennai
Thrissur Circle			
404	Vivekanand Rock Memorial	Kanya Kumari Beach	Kanyakumari
405	Rock-cut cave temple	Tirunandikara	Kanyakumari
406	Bhagvathi Temple	Chitral	Kanyakumari
407	Fort	Vattakottai	Kanyakumari
408	Parthasarathy and Krishna temple	Parthivapuram	Kanyakumari
409	Bhaktavatsala temple	Cheranmahadevi	Kanyakumari
410	Two rock cut temples with inscriptions in Varanchimalai	Tirumalapuram	Kanyakumari
411	Valliswara temple	Tiruvaliswaram	Kanyakumari
412	Ancient Site	Kunnattur	Kanyakumari
413	Group of sculpted dolmens	Banagudi Sholai	Kanyakumari

Statement-II*Details of special works to be undertaken in the current financial year (2007-08) in Tamil Nadu*

Sl.No.	Name of the Monument/Sites	Allocation of funds (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Pataliswara Temple, Brahmadesam Vilupuram	10.00
2.	Agastisvara Temple, Vellanur, Pudukkottai	7.00
3.	Rock cut Siva Temple (Kadambarkoil), Narthamalai, Pudukkottai	3.00
4.	Nithsvaraswamy Temple, Srimushnam, Cuddalore	8.00
5.	Siva Temple, Gingee	10.00
6.	Shore Temple, Mamallapuram, Kanchipuram	15.00
7.	Ruined Dutch Fort and Cemetery, Sadras, Kanchipuram	10.00
8.	Uttamadanisvara Temple, Kilattaniyam, Pudukkottai	20.00
9.	Sivaganga Little Fort enclosing the Big Temple, Thanjavur	20.00

1	2	3
10.	Hill Fort, Namakkal	5.00
11.	Megalithic sites and cairns at Sanur, Kanchipuram	7.00
12.	Clive's House, Chennai	12.00
13.	Sikkanathaswamy Temple, Kudumianmalai, Pudukkottai	20.00
14.	Group of Monuments on the hillock, Mamallapuram, Kanchipuram	5.00
15.	Fort and Temple on the hill, Chinnakavandanur, Salem	10.00
16.	Airavatesvara Temple, Darasuram, Thanjavur	25.00
17.	Brihadisvara Temple, Thanjavur	25.00
18.	Brihadisvara Temple, G.K.C. Puram, Perambalur	25.00
19.	Fort, Veilore	28.00
20.	Fort. St. George & Rampart Wall, Chennai	20.00
21.	Providing Luminaries (Group of Monuments), Mamallapuram, Kanchipuram	10.00
22.	Stone and Brick Fort, Tirumayam, Pudukkottai	20.00
23.	Rajagiri Fort, Gingee	10.00
24.	Rock cut Cave, Narasamangalam, Thiruvannamalai	10.00
25.	Apathasahayesvara Temple, Sendhamangalam, Villupuram	20.00
26.	Sri Parthasarathy Temple, Parthivapuram	0.50
27.	Rock cut Cave, Thirunandikkare	0.75
28.	Sri Bhagawati Temple, Chitral	2.00
29.	Vattakkottai Fort	4.00
30.	Sri Valiswara Temple, Thiruvallswaram	1.50
31.	Sri Bhakthavatsala Temple, Cheranmahadevi	2.00
32.	Rock cut Cave, Thirumalapuram	0.50
33.	Ancient Site, Kunnathur	1.00
34.	Sri Bhakthavatsala Temple, Cheranmahadevi	10.00
35.	Sri Valiswara Temple, Thirualiswaram	10.00
Total		387.25

Legislation for Reservation in Private Sector

717. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any SC/ST organisation in the country has submitted a memorandum demanding legislation for reservation in private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring legislation for reservation in private sector in view of losing employment opportunities of the SC/ST people due to privatization and globalization in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Demands have

been raised in the media and by people's representatives for legislation for reservation in the private sector. However, there is no proposal to bring such legislation.

[Translation]

Alternative Fuel in the Form of LPG for Backward and Hilly Areas

718. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made efforts to explore an alternative fuel in the form of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the country specifically backward and hilly areas of the country and Himachal Pradesh to preserve and to check deforestation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which Government will consider and explore it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) LPG is a clean and environmental friendly fuel. Use of LPG has progressively increased to cover nearly 48.6% of the country's population as on 31.3.2007. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are serving 9.43 crore (approx.) LPG customers as on 31.3.2007, out of whom 2.15 crore (approx.) are in rural areas. In Himachal Pradesh, OMCs have 12.10 lakh LPG customers, covering nearly 99% of the population based on the 2001 Census.

OMCs have also introduced 5 Kg domestic LPG cylinders with effect from August 2002 in order to meet the demand of low-income groups in urban, semi-urban and rural pockets and also extend the reach of LPG to the hilly terrain and interior areas in the country, including Himachal Pradesh, on account of convenience in transportation. As on 30.06.2007, there are 3.86 lakh LPG customers of such cylinders in the country including 0.11 lakh in Himachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Airport at Devanahalli

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

(a) whether complying with suggestions from the Union Government, the Bangalore International Airport Limited has initiated works on a canopy as part of the terminal building of the upcoming Greenfield Airport at Devanahalli;

(b) if so, whether the canopy was part of the original plan and the cost component, is yet to be worked out;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has shown its apprehension on two technical and one aesthetic aspects of the Airport, set to start operations in April 2008; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Canopy was not part of the original plan. The cost of the component is yet to be worked out.

(c) and (d) It has been brought to the notice of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) that the stair-case and escalators that one has to take to ascend towards aircraft boarding area are very close to each other and their realignment might be necessary. BIAL has been further advised to improve storm water drainage so as to obviate flooding during any freak rain. BIAL has also been advised to improve general aesthetics of the terminal building.

BIAL has informed that the suggestions given by the Government are being implemented and has assured to make the airport of world class in all respect.

[Translation]

Conversion of Satellite Diesel Shed into Diesel Home Shed

720. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Satellite Diesel Shed of South Central Railway situated at Purna into Diesel Home shed which may be more economical to the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Considering the traffic flow pattern and other operational requirements besides the existing diesel sheds in the area, the need for conversion of earlier satellite diesel shed to full-fledged diesel shed at Purna has not been found justified.

[English]

Food Street

721. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to set up a 'food street' in certain cities across the country;

(b) if so, name of the cities selected for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the scheme and also to ensure that the surroundings of food street are hygienic and clean by providing public utilities and waste disposal system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Under the scheme for "Upgradation of the Quality of Street Food", Government has planned to upgrade streets in 25 cities of tourist importance across the country as Food-Street during the Eleventh Five Year Plan Period, subject to obtaining formal approval of the Competent Authority. The scheme is to be implemented through urban local bodies & the state governments.

The designing and planning of the scheme is at a preliminary stage. Cities have not yet been selected for the purpose.

Steps will be taken by the Government to implement the scheme once the formal approval is obtained. With the active participation of Urban Local Bodies and the state governments, proper care will be taken to ensure that the surrounding of food street are hygienic and clean by providing public utilities and waste disposal systems.

ID Cards for Passengers

722. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether carrying of ID cards by the passengers has been made mandatory for the air passengers for security reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has relaxed the norms for the frequent travellers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New Railway Inquiry System

723. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have started common country-wide Enquiry Number for enquiring all basic informations; and

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In view of making the facility of rail telephone enquiry available to maximum number of users, Integrated Train Enquiry System is being set up consisting of both Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) and manual enquiry provisions for dissemination of information on train running status, reservation status, availability of accommodation alongwith other value added services. Any passenger in the telecom circle desiring to make enquiry will dial a universal number 139 as a local call without prefixing any STD code and get connected to Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). Even for manual enquiry, he will be guided through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). This system has already been inaugurated for Northern region for Basic Enquiry Services and will be gradually extended throughout the country in the current financial year 2007-08.

Modernisation of Arabaghatta Railway Station

724. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway have received any proposal from the Karnataka Government regarding upgradation of Arabaghatta Railway Station in Chitradurga District, which includes extension of platform, installation of manned gates and providing solar light at Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details of the said proposal; and

(c) the present status thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Road Overbridge at Rangpur Road In Kota

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

(a) whether a road overbridge at crossing No. 109 Rangpur Road in Kota (Rajasthan) is under construction by Railways;

(b) if so, the present status of the construction of the bridge alongwith the expenditure incurred on it so far; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to complete the work?

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

(b) Sub-structure deck slab & girders for Railway portion of work (bridge proper across tracks) have been constructed. Work of wearing coat and Pathway is in progress. Railway has incurred an expenditure of Rs 5.00 Cr so far.

(c) Railway portion of work will be completed by Sept. 2007.

Quality of Catering Service in Trains

726. SHRI VASANTRAO MORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have administrative control over catering services provided during rail journey;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are also aware about sub-standard quality of food served by the catering service in trains;

(c) whether the Railways are also aware that prices of tea, breakfast and food items served by catering service are charged at exorbitant rates leading to resentment among passengers;

(d) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during 2006-07 and 2007-08 and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to improve catering service in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Catering services provided through private licensees at D, E and F category stations, are directly administered by Zonal Railways. Catering services at A, B and C category stations and in trains are provided by private licensees and departmental staff of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a wholly owned company of Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) Railways provide hygienic food to the passengers at stations and in trains. Regular inspections are conducted by Railways as well as IRCTC officials to ensure the quality of services. Appropriate action is taken against staff/licensees found overcharging the passengers.

(d) During 2006-07, a total of 2656 number of complaints were received. Position for the period 2007-08 cannot be furnished at this point of time. Appropriate actions like warning, fine, termination, counseling etc. have been taken on the complaints found substantiated.

(e) As an ongoing process, catering services of Indian Railways receive constant attention of the Zonal Railways and IRCTC. IRCTC is setting up multi-cuisine state-of-the-art Food Plazas, Automatic Vending Machines to dispense hot and cold beverages, and modernizing railways' existing base kitchens. Regular monitoring of catering services is done by Railways and IRCTC officials. IRCTC has engaged independent food audit agencies to ensure quality of food being supplied to the passengers of Indian Railways. All good practices like, progressive ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and HACCP (Hazard

Analysis and Critical Control Points) certification of catering units are being followed by Railways through IRCTC. In addition, dedicated quality inspectors have also been engaged for constant monitoring of quality of food.

[English]

Financial Assistance to Gujarat

727. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted tourism project proposals to the Union Government for approval as well as release of adequate financial assistance under infrastructure/destination development scheme; and

(b) if so, the action taken on these project proposals so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The following project proposals have been received from the State Government of Gujarat for Central Financial Assistance under the Product/Infrastructure Development for destinations and circuits:

Sl. No.	Name of the project
1.	Development of Ambardi Wildlife interpretation Centre at Dhari, District Amreli
2.	Destination development of Tarnetar
3.	Integrated development of tourist facilities at Devni-Mori
4.	Destination development of Champanwer, Pavagadh
5.	Integrated development of tourist facilities at Patan
6.	Integrated development of tourist facilities at Ambaji, District Ambaji
7.	Rural Tourism project at Nageshwar, Dist. Jamnagar
8.	Rural tourism project at Kanakpura, District Anand
9.	Development of Gandhi Centre at Navagam, District Kheda
10.	Development of tourist facilities at Dandi, District Navsari
11.	Development and upgradation of tourist facilities at Zinzuwada
12.	Development of tourist facilities at Sasangir District Junagadh
13.	Rural tourism project at Dholavira, District Kutch
14.	Integrated development of tourist circuit on Juna-gadh-Veraval-Porbandar-Dwarka

Project proposals, which are complete in all respect, are appraised as per guidelines and processed on the basis of inter-se-priority and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head during the concerned financial year.

Promotion of Tourism in Assam

728. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tourism promotion project proposals have been submitted to the Union Government by the Government of Assam and other States in the North-East;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the pending proposals; and

(c) the financial assistance provided during the last three years including current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The project proposals received from the North East States including Assam for Central Financial Assistance is given in the enclosed Statement.

Project proposals, which are complete in all respect, are appraised as per guidelines and processed on the basis of inter-se-priority and funds released, subject to the availability under the respective head during the concerned financial year.

(c) Details of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) sanctioned is as under:

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Assam	836.75	2076.03	2453.39	-
Arunachal Pradesh	1041.69	1963.94	1755.30	856.06
Manipur	78.10	57.30	793.29	-
Meghalaya	994.98	5.00	1312.00	-
Mizoram	1101.37	1614.41	2613.38	-
Nagaland	2275.69	1733.97	2340.32	766.50
Sikkim	585.81	2712.89	2609.42	3976.72
Tripura	10.00	711.33	291.27	-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Statement

Project Proposal received from North East States for 2007-08.

Sl.No.	State	Project
1	2	3
1.	Assam	Development of Tourist circuit (Western Assam) at Dhubri-Mahamaya-Barpeta - Hajo
2.	-do-	CFA during 2007-08 under the Scheme of Destination Development "Development of Guwahati as Major Tourist Destination"
3.	-do-	CFA during 2007-08 under the Scheme of Tourist Circuit Development "Barak Valley and Two Hill (Southern Assam)"
4.	-do-	CFA during 2007-08 under the Scheme of Tourist Circuit Development "Kaziranga - Sivasagar - Majuli - Jorhat" (Eastern Assam)
5.	Sikkim	Construction of Flower Show Pavilion at Namchi in South Sikkim
6.	-do-	Beautification and other Tourist Infrastructure at Tsamgo in East Sikkim
7.	-do-	Development of Artificial lake at Uttarey in West Sikkim
8.	-do-	Development of Water garden and Community Park at Bojey in West Sikkim

1	2	3
9.	-do-	Construction of Culture Village at Tharpu in West Sikkim
10.	-do-	Construction of Pony Track and other Infrastructure at Hanuman Tok, Tashi view Point and Ganesh Tok, Gangtok in East Sikkim
11.	-do-	Construction of narrow Gauge Toy train from Ganesh Tok to Tashi View Point in South Sikkim
12.	-do-	CFA during 2007-08 under the Scheme of Tourist Destination-cum-Pilgrimage Centre at Tashiding in West Sikkim
13.	-do-	Construction of Interpretation Hall, Meditation Hall, Reception and Tourist Amenity Block, Landscaping Parking Site investment (Buddha Statue and Garden at Rabong in South Sikkim)
14.	-do-	Development of Trekking route from Kabi to Tamzey including High altitude trek of Damboche, Jakthang and Thangu-Phu in North Sikkim
15.	-do-	Development of Nathula-Memencho-Kupup-Gnathang Tourist Circuit in East Sikkim
16.	-do-	Construction of view Tower at BaJwakhani and Food Trail around Gangtok in East Sikkim
17.	-do-	Construction of Tourist Heritage Center at Tek in South Sikkim
18.	-do-	Tourist Reception Centre at Rangpo in East Sikkim
19.	-do-	Development of Budang Gadi (Fort) at Central Pendam in East Sikkim
20.	-do-	DPR's for Development of Buddhist Circuit along Chochen Pheri in East Sikkim
21.	-do-	Construction and Development of Paryatan Bhawan at Gangtok
22.	Nagaland	Project for the year 2007-08 Tizu Kukha & Adventure Destination
23.	-do-	Development of Destination at "Khensa" under the CSS for the year.2007-08
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	Development & Improvement of Geyakar Sinyi Lake near Itanagar
25.	-do-	Construction of Tourist Complex at Mayudia Lower Dobang Valley
26.	-do-	Development of Tourism Circuit in A P. at Itanagar, Ziro-Daporjio Basar
27.	Mizoram	Purchase of Tented Accommodation for Mizoram (Adventure) Tourism like Trekking and River rafting
28.	-do-	Development of Southern Tourist Circuit Phase-II Lunglai-Saichho-Thenzawi-Si-alsuk-Hmuifang
29.	-do-	Destination Tourism Development Sakawrdi
30.	-do-	Destination Tourism Development of "Kanhmun"

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board

729. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to constitute Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board;

(b) if so, the details and its proposed functions thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to set up a Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas excluding production of crude oil

and natural gas so as to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country and to promote competitive markets and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(c) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has been set up w.e.f. 25.06.2007 under the PNGRB Act, 2006.

Creation of New Railway Zone

730. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that people of North-Eastern Region have been demanding bifurcation of Alipurduar Zone and creation of a new zone with Maligaon and Dibrugarh Railway Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said zone is likely to be created; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) The issue has been raised in a memorandum handed over by all Congress Members of Parliament from Assam State to Hon'ble Prime Minister. Indian Railway does not have any Zone namely, Alipurduar Zone. Hence the question of any bifurcation of Alipurduar Zone does not arise. Moreover, a Zonal Railway namely, "Northeast Frontier Railway" with headquarters at Guwahati already exists to cater to the needs of the region.

Development of Unused Airports through PPP

731. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to develop a large number of unused airports all across the country through Public Private Partnership (PPP);

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

(c) whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to identify such airports, examine their

commercial viability and submit report thereon to the Union Government;

(d) if so, the reaction of the various State Governments thereto; and

(e) the time by which the work of development of such airports is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir, However State Governments are being encouraged to develop these airports.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Entry of Dow Chemical

732. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been trying to facilitate the entry of Dow Chemical, now the parent company of Union Carbide into the country as reported in 'The Asian Age' dated July 18, 2007;

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

(c) whether the Government has made some demands to the Dow Chemical to clear up the contaminated factory site in Bhopal;

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of the Dow Chemicals thereon;

(e) whether the Government has taken action to ensure justice to the victims of Bhopal gas disaster and fulfil their legitimate demands; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) to (d) The entry, facilities and operations of foreign companies in India are governed by the rules of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and relevant Acts applicable and the same applies to the Dow Chemical Company. In the Writ Petition No. 2802 of 2004 (Alok Pratap Singh Vs Union of India and others) pending before the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, an application has been filed by the Government of India requesting the High Court to direct the Respondent nos. 4 to 6 i.e. Dow Chemical Company, Union Carbide Corporation, USA and Eveready Industries India Limited,

Kolkata to deposit an amount of Rs.100 crore as advance for environmental remediation of the former Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) Plant site at Bhopal, in terms of Rule 16 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules,1989 in pursuance of the principle of 'polluter pays'. The matter is sub-judice. The High Court has set up a Task Force for monitoring the removal/disposal of the toxic wastes lying in and around the former UCIL plant site at Bhopal under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

(e) and (f) In compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court for disbursing compensation to the victims of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster, an amount of Rs. 1546.65 crore as original compensation has been disbursed to 5,73,686 claimants, by the end of July, 2007. In addition an amount of Rs.1501.48 crore has been disbursed as pro-rata compensation to 5,60,499 claimants whose original claims have been settled, as on 4th August, 2007. Further, the Ministry of Urban Development had released money under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for a project for providing safe drinking water to 14 localities located around the UCIL plant site by laying of the pipelines. The Planning Commission has released Rs. 10.00 crore to the Government of Madhya Pradesh as Additional Central Assistance for construction of a memorial at the UCIL plant site at Bhopal. The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has constituted a Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of a Joint Secretary for implementation of the various schemes/programmes of the Government of India and Government of Madhya Pradesh for the welfare and rehabilitation of the Bhopal Gas Victims and their families.

[Translation]

Development of Tourism

733. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Central Budget allocated and spent for development of tourist places and places of historical importance during the last three years;

(b) the percentage of Central Revenue earned through tourism sector during the above period; and

(c) the funds allocated State-wise by the Central Government under various schemes for development of tourism during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Details of budgetary allocation and expenditure under the schemes for development of tourist places including places of historical importance during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) As per the Tourism Satellite Account the contribution of Tourism Sector to GDP (direct and indirect) in India is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Contribution of Tourism Sector to GDP (direct and indirect)
1.	2002-03	5.83%
2.	2003-04	5.90%
3.	2004-05	6.11%

As per the Tourism Satellite Account, the Foreign Exchange earned during the last three years is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Foreign Exchange earned
1.	2004	4769 US \$ million
2.	2005	5731 US \$ million
3.	2006	6569 US \$ million

(c) The details of the funds sanctioned and released to States/UTs for the tourism related projects during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Budgetary Allocation and Expenditure under the Schemes of Ministry of Tourism for Development of Tourist Places including places of Historical Importance for the period from 2004-05 to 2006-07

Year	Total Budget	Allocation for infrastructure development	Allocation as percentage of total budget	Expenditure under schemes for infrastructure development	Expenditure as percentage of allocation for infrastructure development
2004-05	503.50	300.00	59.58	282.35	94.12
2005-06	786.00	481.00	61.19	473.48	98.44
2006-07	800.00	459.70	57.46	459.70	100

Statement-II*State-wise Tourism Projects sanctioned during the last three years of tenth five year plan*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
		No of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	16	2827.19	2240.68	7	2615.82	1700.00	3	1540.56	1195.44
2.	Assam	8	986.03	766.22	10	2,140.00	1698.45	9	2453.39	1813.21
3	Arunachal Pradesh	9	1325.50	927.96	10	2240.16	1655.21	12	1887.80	1497.24
4.	Bihar	7	1901.43	1527.71	3	1212.23	722.49	2	1937.29	974.59
5	Chattissarh	6	1117.94	897.93	7	1775.59	1436.54	16	3540.17	2491.12
6	Goa	3	110.00	38.00	1	10.00	8.00	0	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	2	138.93	111.14	5	2011.58	1169.04	7	443.65	359.51
8	Haryana	6	693.55	513.64	7	639.71	515.77	5	1836.16	902.39
9	Himachal Pradesh	12	2680.00	2161.00	6	1645.00	921.00	8	1871.00	1226.13
10	Jamm and Kashmir	5	819.25	699.04	22	6,656.01	5320.31	29	5233.82	3392.90
11	Jharkhand	2	945.91	756.72	5	1227.27	697.76	3	956.35	769.99
12	Karnataka	12	2461.76	1937.37	8	1706.52	1001.21	4	1323.89	1081.81
13	Kerala	10	2283.63	1820.33	13	4858.88	3889.90	18	4474.02	3441.61
14	Madhya Pradesh	11	1595.19	942.21	12	3047.39	2419.54	10	3668.47	2797.75
15	Maharashtra	10	1620.62	925.30	9	2075.04	1662.99	13	2839.05	2278.46
16	Manipur	0	0.00	0.00	2	49.80	39.84	9	939.35	649.48
17	Meghalaya	2	963.30	807.91	1	5.00	4.00	9	1435.29	1149.93
18	Mizoram	6	1086.35	382.38	10	2273.41	1687.29	9	2613.38	2044.80
19	Nagaland	7	2250.69	1413.40	9	2528.97	1873.17	8	2340.32	1862.51
20	Orissa	8	1320.74	1059.38	10	2309.61	1586.44	13	2826.84	1974.66
21	Punjab	7	724.68	581.47	5	1437.67	1150.13	13	3223.37	1968.68
22	Rajasthan	13	2516.61	1375.07	7	2591.87	2086.40	8	953.84	763.06
23	Sikkim	8	660.81	531.33	14	2844.56	2213.74	13	2609.42	1647.77
24	Tamil Nadu	7	1308.92	705.83	19	4264.62	3007.68	11	1866.41	1496.87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25	Tripura	1	20.00	16.00	3	716.26	569.43	4	291.27	96.01
26	Uttaranchal	7	2199.98	1750.73	13	2738.00	2193.18	16	1907.50	1434.34
27	Uttar Pradesh	9	1044.93	831.19	18	3905.23	3126.03	7	3329.06	2663.24
28	West Bengal	10	513.04	407.43	5	989.35	792.48	10	2978.32	2195.35
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	0.00	1	6.25	5.00	0	0.00	0.00
30	Chandigarh	3	467.00	373.60	1	13.70	13.70	2	15.00	14.00
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0.00	2	29.79	25.92	0	0.00	0.00
32	Delhi	8	628.85	511.00	2	20.00	17.00	5	2400.09	1209.54
33	Daman and Diu	0	0.00	0.00	4	262.28	208.61	0	0.00	0.00
34	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	1	7.00	5.60
35	Pondicherry	2	451.00	360.00	2	469.39	375.51	1	500.00	400.00
Total		217	37663.83	27371.97	253	61316.96	45793.76	278	64241.08	45797.99

Note- This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Projects, Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) Projects, IT, Event, Fair & Festivals Projects.

New Fertilizer Policy

734. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country requires a new fertilizer policy for increasing the production of chemical fertilizers in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted dialogue with the fertilizer manufacturing industry for deciding the new policy; and

(d) if so, the details of suggestions given by the industry for the proposed policy; and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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): (a) and (b) The pricing policy for new and expansion projects in urea sector has been notified by the Government in January 2004. The existing policy has not been successful in attracting investments in this sector. Moreover, the availability of gas, which is the critical feedstock for production of urea, has been a major constraint in attracting investments in this sector.

In view of the projected improvement in availability of gas in future and the limitations of the existing policy, the

review of existing policy is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The fertilizer industry is being consulted to decide upon the broad contours of the new investment policy. The fertilizer industry through FAI has suggested a new investment policy based on import parity price for brownfield/ Greenfield plants as well as for expansion through revamp of existing units. The Government is examining all possible options including the above option as suggested by the fertilizer industry for finalizing the new investment policy.

[English]

Setting up of Petrol Pumps and Gas Agencies

735. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) the criteria for setting up of petrol pump and gas agencies in the country;

(b) whether the Government has received requests from various States to set more petrol pumps and gas agencies during 2007 so far;

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

(d) the action taken by the Union Government on the requests received from various States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) After dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1.4.2002, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have freedom to set up retail outlets (RO) dealerships and LPG distributorships as per their commercial consideration based on feasibility and economic viability of the selected locations. Further, RO dealerships/LPG distributorships are set up as per norms prescribed by the local/Government authorities, etc., after obtaining statutory approvals from various competent statutory authorities.

(b) to (d) Requests have been received by the Government from various quarters, from time to time, for setting up of RO dealerships and LPG distributorships at specific locations. Such requests are forwarded to the OMCs for conducting feasibility/economic viability of the proposed location. If found feasible, the locations are included in marketing plans of OMCs.

Crimes in Trains and at Stations

736. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of train dacoity and other criminal incidents committed in trains and at stations during the current year;

(b) the details of casualty and damage to railway property occurred in each incident and the number of erring persons caught and punished; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Red Fort as a World Heritage Site

737. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Heritage Committee has taken a decision to include Red Fort on the list of World Heritage list recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the further steps being taken/proposed to be

taken by the ASI for proper maintenance and development of surroundings of the Red Fort to maintain the monument's credibility;

(d) the names of other historical monuments/sites included in the World Heritage List; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for the better management of these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The UNESCO World Heritage Committee during its 31st session held at Christchurch (New Zealand) from 23rd June to 2nd July, 2007, has inscribed Red Fort Complex, Delhi on the World Heritage list due to its outstanding universal value represented by flourishing Mughal architecture built upon local traditions, as a symbol of power since the reign of Shahjahan, and as the place where Indian Independence was first celebrated and is still celebrated today.

(c) The buffer area surrounding the Red Fort has been developed by appropriate landscaping and the day to day maintenance of the monument is carried out as part of a continuous process. Further, a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan has been prepared, which addresses both short and long term conservation strategies to maintain the credibility of the monument.

(d) The list of the Indian sites already inscribed on the World Heritage list is enclosed as Statement.

(e) A management system is in position in the World Heritage sites and requisite conservation measures are taken as per the resources available.

Statement

World Heritage Sites in India

Sl.No.	Name of site	State
1	2	3

Cultural Sites

1.	Ajanta Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
2.	Ellora Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
3.	Agra Fort (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Taj Mahal (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Sun Temple, Konarak (1984)	Orissa
6.	Group of monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)	Tamil Nadu
7.	Churches & Convents of Goa (1986)	Goa

1	2	3
8.	Group of temples, Khajuraho (1986)	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Group of monuments at Hampi (1986)	Karnataka
10.	Group of monuments, Fatehpur Sikri (1986)	Uttar Pradesh
11.	Group of temples, Pattadakal (1987)	Karnataka
12.	Elephanta Caves (1987)	Maharashtra
13.	Great Living Chola temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram (1987 & 2004)	Tamil Nadu
14.	Buddhist monuments at Sanchi (1989)	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Humayun Tomb, Delhi (1993)	Delhi
16.	Qutb Minar complex, Delhi	Delhi
17.	Mountain Railway of India (1999, 2005)	West Bengal & Tamil Nadu
18.	Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya (2002)	Bihar
19.	Prehistoric Rock shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)	Madhya Pradesh
20.	Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park (2004)	Gujarat
21.	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004)	Maharashtra
22.	Red Fort complex (2007)	Delhi

Natural Sites

1.	Kaziranga National Park (1985)	Assam
2.	Manas Wild Life Sanctuary (1985)	Assam
3.	Keoladeo National Park (1985)	Rajasthan
4.	Sunderban National Park (1987)	West Bengal
5.	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988, 2005)	Uttaranchal

Occupancy in Garib Rath Trains and Super Fast Trains

738. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No.5854, dated May 17, 2007 regarding performance of Garib Rath trains and state:

(a) the reasons for such a low occupancy in almost all Garib Rath trains;

(b) the average occupancy of other super fast express trains in the country; and

(c) the measures taken/to be taken to improve the percentage of occupancy in Garib Rath trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Occupancy of the Garib Rath trains from the period April 2007 to June 2007 has been more than 80% in almost all the services. Occupancy was low on certain sectors when they were initially started.

(b) The average occupancy of most of the super fast express trains varies between 50% and more than 100%.

(c) With a view to improve the utilisation of Garib Rath Trains further the steps which have been taken, include changing of route, redistribution of reservation quota etc.

Shortage of Cooking Gas

739. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in certain parts of the country there is acute shortage of cooking gas, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to over this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) At present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. However, OMCs have reported a backlog of one to seven days in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala and Tamil Nadu duetto natural calamities, strike by Kerala Petroleum and Gas Workers Union and delay in arrival of bulk LPG. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in these States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and by extended hours of working.

Bogibeel Bridge Project

740. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been delay in finalization of the contract concerning works pertaining to Bogibeel Bridge construction under North-Eastern Railway and as a result

thereof the construction has been delay one year and is there likelihood of further delay;

(b) if so, details thereof with the reasons for such delay;

(c) the cost of the project, funding patterns, amounts spent so far on the project; and

(d) the plan finalised for timely completion of the project and steps taken to avoid escalation of cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The Contract for sub-structure and well foundation of the main bridge could not be finalized and has been discharged twice.

(c) and (d) The cost of Bogibeel Rail-cum-Road bridge was estimated as Rs. 1767.38 crore as per 2002-03 estimate. The expenditure upto March 2007 is Rs.700.99 crore. The project has been declared as a National Project with the stipulation that the funding would be decided by the Hon'ble Prime Minister for which the matter has been processed.

The project is planned for completion by 2011-12 subject to availability of resources. The escalation in project cost normally takes place due to modifications in the scope of the work as per site conditions and general price rise during the implementation stage.

Non-Availability of Space at Hyderabad and New Delhi Airports

741. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the inconveniences caused to the passengers due to non-availability of space in the airports of Hyderabad and New Delhi;

(b) if so, the action being taken to improve the situation;

(c) whether there has been heavy loss of time and money due to flights hovering around Hyderabad and New Delhi due to non-availability of landing facility at the airports;

(d) if so, the details of the loss incurred during the last six months; and

(e) the steps being taken to avoid such losses?

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

(b) At Hyderabad Airport, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken the augmentation of capacity of existing Terminal Buildings by expanding the security hold area and international arrival lounge apart from expansion of the

aprons to accommodate 13 regular parking stands and 5 night parking stands at a time. This has significantly improved the situation.

At Delhi Airport, to meet the near future passenger demand, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) is building a new Domestic Departure Terminal which will be completed by mid -2008. DIAL is also expanding the Domestic Arrival Terminal.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, some airlines do not maintain details of delays due to landing restrictions which lead to additional fuel burn. It is, therefore, difficult to work out the loss on fuel consumption due to traffic congestion.

(e) Corrective steps taken in this regard at Delhi airport include simultaneous use of both runways during the peak period, improved Air Traffic Control (ATC) procedures, restriction on general aviation aircraft movement, commissioning of rapid exit taxiways and parallel taxiways etc. As regards Hyderabad, a new Greenfield airport is under construction which would be operational in April 2008. Hence further expansion of the existing airport is not being considered.

Strategic Crude Oil Storage

742. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
ADV. SURESH KURUP:
DR. R. SENTHIL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has finally decided to build "Strategic Crude Oil Storages" of five million tones;

(b) if so, the locations identified where such huge storages would be built and total expenditure/investment involved;

(c) whether the private sector participation has been envisaged to build such strategic crude oil reserves;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of annual consumption of crude oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The locations identified are Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur. The estimated expenditure/investment involved is Rs. 11,267 crore, excluding the cost of filling the storages.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The annual consumption of crude oil for refining in the country for 2006-07 is as under:

Details	Qty (MMT)
Indigenous	30.160
Imported	111.304
Total	141.464

Additional Flights in Summer

743. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to severe air traffic congestion at some of the major airports in the country, the Government was forced to decide against additional flights in the summer schedule;

(b) if so, whether this has caused any revenue loss;

(c) if so, the total quantum of the loss incurred; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. However, attempts were made to distribute traffic during non peak hours so as to avoid congestion.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Automatic Ticket Vending Machines of Railways

744. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the railways propose to set up automatic ticket vending machines in Malls, Universities and offices under 'Ticket Apake Dwar' scheme with a view to reduce the long queues at the railway ticket counters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the locations selected for installation of such machines initially alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tourism Offices Abroad

745. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is need to strengthen the tourism offices abroad to boost the tourism;

(b) the steps taken by the Government in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the success achieved by the Government with the steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) In order to boost tourism and to strengthen the offices, the Ministry of Tourism regularly reviews the functioning of its 13 overseas India Tourism Offices and allocates funds accordingly. The Ministry of Tourism, through its Indiatourism Offices abroad has undertaken a series of promotional activities in tourist generating markets overseas. These activities include advertising, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organising seminars, workshops and road shows, publication of brochures, joint advertisement support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

(c) Details of foreign tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings for the last three years is given below:

Year	Foreign tourist arrivals	Foreign exchange earning (Rs. in crore)
2004	3.46 Million	21603.00
2005	3.92 Million	25172.25
2006	4.43 Million	29603.56
2007 (till July)	2764361	18258.57

[English]

Setting up of X-Ray Machines at Stations

746. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have identified stations to be targeted by terrorist in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to set up X-ray machines at such stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of other steps taken by the Railways to check such activities in trains?

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

(b) 185 Railway Stations including 17 metro stations

over Indian Railways have been identified as vulnerable where security systems are proposed to be upgraded.

(c) Yes, Sir. X-Ray machines are proposed to be installed at very important railway stations.

(d) Procurement process has been started for installing X-Ray machines for screening luggage/baggage of passengers at very important Railway Stations. One such machine has been installed at Kolkata Terminal Railway Station (Chitpur) and another Machine has been procured for platform No. 18 at Delhi Main station. Moreover, procurement of 29 numbers of X-Ray machines are under process with Zonal Railways.

(e) Security Arrangements over Indian Railways:

- Number of trained sniffer dogs in the existing Railway Protection Force Dog Squads is being increased.
- Bomb Detection and Disposal equipments, Close Circuit Televisions, Hand Held Metal Detectors, Door Frame Metal Detectors are being provided at sensitive Railway stations for anti-sabotage checks.
- Intensive publicity is being made through public awareness campaigns alerting and educating passengers/public to remain vigilant against any unidentified/unclaimed suspicious objects lying on platforms, other premises or coaches and to report to Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police/Railway staff available nearby.
- Close co-ordination with GRP, State Police and Central Intelligence agencies is maintained to ensure regular exchange of intelligence.
- The rake of trains is being thoroughly checked before drawing the same to the platforms. Trains are escorted from the yards to the platforms.
- Sensitive trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police personnel.

Import and Export of Petroleum Products

747. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) the quantity of various petroleum products imported during 2007-08;

(b) the quantity of various petroleum products exported during the said period;

(c) whether the Government proposes, to increase the export of petroleum products;

(d) if so, the details of the targets fixed by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the details of foreign exchange earned by the Government from such export during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):
(a) and (b) The quantity of petroleum products imported and exported during 2007-08 (April-June'07 – Provisional) is as given under:

Details	Qty (MMT)
Import	4085
Export	9496

(c) and (d) No target has been fixed by the Government for export of petroleum products. However, after de-regulation of refining sector, the oil companies are enhancing their refining capacity to enable export of more and more petroleum products, after meeting the domestic requirement.

(e) The amount of foreign exchange earned from export of petroleum products during 2007-08 (April- June) is US\$ 5734 Million (provisional).

[Translation]

Ban on Indian Flights

748. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries have prohibited or set a deadline for the operation of any Indian flights into their territory recently;

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

(c) whether the Union Government held talks with them to sort out the differences and to solve the hardships faced by the passengers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether India had, signed bilateral agreement in the field of aviation with these countries; and

(g) if so, the measures provided therein to meet such contingencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kuwait set a deadline for operations of designated airlines of Kuwait and India to each others territory to resolve the pending civil aviation issues between the-two sides.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The new agreement reached between India and Kuwait during bilateral air services talks held on 28-30 June 2007, interalia, provides for enhancement of traffic entitlements on the direct India-Kuwait route with addition of 3 points of call in India for the Kuwaiti Airlines.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The Air Services Agreement signed between India and Kuwait on 4th January 1989, interalia, provides that in case of any dispute, the two sides would endeavour to settle it by negotiations in the first place.

[English]

Touts Menace at Airports

749. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the general complaints of the passengers being cheated by touts at major airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the touts are reportedly acting in connivance with the taxi operators, trolley retrieving staff, loading agents and other staff;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any enquiry has been got conducted in this matter;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) the follow-up action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The problem of touts is encountered most at metro/big airports. The touts basically operate outside the Terminal building or in the visitor's area.

(c) and (d) Usually, touts are acting in connivance with the taxi operators, trolley retrieving staff, loading agents and other staff employed by the airlines for ground handling operations. CISF helps the local police in taking action against the touts by getting them fined through Airport Manager and by handing them over to the local police.

(e) to (g) Regular efforts are made by the local police to enquire into such incidents whenever reported and necessary action is taken to improve surveillance at the airport to curb all kinds of undesirable activities including the tout menace.

Promotion of Non-Fossil Fuel

750. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government is considering to prepare a comprehensive policy to promote non-fossil fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) As per Allocation of Business Rules, 1961, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is the nodal Ministry for formulation of National Policy on Bio-fuels. They have drafted the 'National Biofuel Policy' which outlines the strategy to achieve energy security through sustainable production, conversion and application of bio-fuels as these are major renewable energy source and are significantly more environmental friendly vis-a-vis petroleum products, which is awaiting the approval of competent authorities.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

11.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

14.0½ hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

(i) **Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation with United States**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen. I beseech you. I am not denying any hon. Member's right on the issue that you have been trying to raise, of course, contrary to the procedure. But the hon. Minister of External Affairs wishes to make a statement. Please let us first hear his statement.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, the hon. Members, in the

morning, raised certain issues in respect of the deal with the US on the authority of the nuclear test. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of External Affairs is making a statement and you do not want to hear him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: We did not have any authentic version of the statement of the spokesperson of the State Department of USA. But as the hon. Members raised this matter on the basis of the media reports, I think, I should clarify the position and I am doing so now.

India has the sovereign right to test and would do so, if it is necessary in the national interest. The only restraint is our voluntary unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing, declared by the previous Government and being continued by the successor Government. There is nothing in the bilateral agreement that would tie the hands of a future Government or legally constrain its options. A decision to undertake a future nuclear test would be India's sovereign decision, resting solely with the Government of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

14.01 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Nowhere – I repeat, nowhere – in the bilateral agreement on Cooperation for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy with the United States of America, is testing mentioned. The bilateral cooperation agreement contains elaborate provisions in Articles 5 and 14 to ensure the continuous operation of India's reactors. These include fuel supply assurances, the right to take corrective measures, and a strategic fuel reserve for the lifetime of India's reactors in case of cessation of cooperation. Thank you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you tomorrow to raise the matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you tomorrow to raise it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let us go to item no. 2, Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

14.02 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6685/2007]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 13 of the National Commission of Minorities Act, 1992:-
 - (i) Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
 - (ii) Action Taken Memorandum on the recommendations contained in the Annual Report of the National Commission for Minorities, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
 - (iii) Review by the Government of the working of the National Commission for Minorities, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6686/2007]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and

- English versions) of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, for the year 2005-2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6687/2007]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6688/2007]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2005-2006.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6689/2007]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, for the year 2005-2006.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6690/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Railways (Punitive charges for overloading of wagon) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.435(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th June 2007 under section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6691/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.462(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd July 2007 together with explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 so as to increase the Customs duty rates on wines, vermouths and other specified fermented beverages mentioned therein from 100% to 150% under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6692/2007]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

14.04 hrs.

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th August, 2007 agreed without any amendment to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14 May, 2007."

14.04¼ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILL AND RESOLUTION**

Twenty-ninth Report

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to present the Twenty-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

14.04½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Nineteenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first Reports

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Defence (2006-07):

- * (i) Nineteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) on 'Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Sixth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Procurement Policy and Procedure'.
- * (ii) Twentieth Report (Hindi and English versions) on 'Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Defence Ordnance Factories'.
- * (iii) Twenty-First Report (Hindi and English versions) on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in their Ninth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Defence Public Sector Undertakings'.

14.05 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD CONSUMER
AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

Twentieth Report

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRAPRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Twentieth Report** (Hindi and English versions) on 'Consumer Movement in the Country' of Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

* The Reports of the Standing Committee on Defence were presented to hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha and hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 20th July, 2007.

** The Report was presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 30 July, 2007, when the House was not in session, in pursuance of direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

14.05¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

Twenty-second Report

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Twenty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour on "The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2007".

...(Interruptions)

14.05½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

One Hundred Twenty Eighth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the One Hundred Twenty-eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

...(Interruptions)

14.06 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Evidence

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

...(Interruptions)

14.06½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TOURISM AND CULTURE**

**One-Hundred and Twenty-first and One Hundred and
Twenty-second Reports**

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture:

- (i) One Hundred and Twenty-first Report of the Committee on the National Waterway (Talcher-Dhamra Stretch of Rivers Geonkhali-Charbatia Stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra Stretch of Matai River and Mahanadi Delta Rivers) Bill, 2006; and
- (ii) One Hundred and Twenty-second Report of the Committee on the National Waterway (Kakinada-Pondicherry Stretch of canals and the Kaluvelly Tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry Stretch of River Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayavada Stretch of River Krishna) Bill, 2006.

14.07 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER – *contd.*

- (ii) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in Fifteenth Report of Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on "National Backward Classes, Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)" pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations/ observations contained in the Fifteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the Direction 73-A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha published in Bulletin – Part-II dated 1st September, 2004.

...(Interruptions)

The Fifteenth Report of the Standing Committee was presented to the Lok Sabha on 16.5.2006. The report related to 'National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)'.

Action Taken Report on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Report of the Committee was presented to the Lok Sabha on 18.12.2006.

The Committee had made 19 recommendations. These recommendations pertain to National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation. The Ministry had submitted replies to all the recommendations to the Committee. Out of these, replies on 8 recommendations in paras 1.19, 1.31, 2.4, 3.17, 3.19, 4.21, 5.10 and 5.11 in the

Report were accepted by the Committee and remaining 11 recommendations in paras 1.17, 1.18, 1.30, 1.32, 3.18, 3.20, 4.17, 4.18, 4.19, 4.20 and 5.12 were included in its 21st Report. Final Action taken Notes on these 11 recommendations have already been submitted.

The status of implementation on all the 19 recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out the contents of the Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would allow you to speak tomorrow after 12.00 noon.

...(Interruptions)

14.07½ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS – GENERAL – 2007-08

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6693 A/2007]

14.08 hrs.

STATE BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2007*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I introduce the Bill.**

...(Interruptions).

* Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6693/07

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2 dated 16.08.2007.

** Introduced with the recommendations of the President

14.09 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: STATE BANK OF INDIA
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE-2007

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007.

...(Interruptions)

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 6696/2007]

14.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 are treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to release funds to the Government of Maharashtra for maintenance & repair of ponds in the State.**

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, the condition of the farmers in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra has become very pitiable due to lack of adequate irrigation facilities. The State Government is also showing its apathy in making such facilities available to these farmers as Forest Conservation Act is coming in their ways. Due to the lack of irrigation facilities and no guarantee of agricultural production, farmers depending on rain water are committing suicide because of indebtedness. Today, almost all ponds have become useless for irrigation as their maintenance and repair is not being undertaken. Farmers are compelled to see their crops wither away due to non availability of irrigation as per capacity.

If any permanent facilities for maintenance and repair of these five thousand ponds situated in Chandrapur, Gardhchiroli, Gondiya, Bhandara and Nagpur districts of Vidarbha region are made available, the farmers of the region can be benefited a lot. In view of acute apathy of State Government and paucity of financial resources, I demand from the Central Government to prepare a special plan alongwith allocation of funds for maintenance and repair of these ponds in Vidarbha region by intervening in the matter.

* Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (ii) **Need to release the pending funds earmarked for cleansing of Jal Mahal in Jaipur, Rajasthan**

SHRI GIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, the Government of India had taken a decision to provide approximately Rs. 12 crore for the development and beautification of Jal Mahal situated in Jaipur and assured to set up a plant for the treatment of dirty water collected in this Mahal. The Government of India have provided meagre funds to the Government of Rajasthan due to which on going work is being hampered.

I demand from the Central Government to release the remaining funds and expedite the installation of water treatment plant.

- (iii) **Need to place sufficient order in defence Ordnance Factories.**

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur): Sir, there are nearly 39 defence ordnance factories of public sector in the country and many of them are manufacturing uniforms, ammunition and vehicles to meet the needs of Army. They are facing the problems of sluggishness. These institutions proved their mettle by standing by Army in hostile conditions and worked shoulder to shoulder with them. The reason for sluggishness in these institutions is not poor quality of their products but is those policies under which institutions of private sector have been accorded the status of 'Udhyog Ratna' to compete with these institutions. It is not that such institutions are scared of competition but the reality is that they are not getting work order as per their set up. For example, if an institution having the capacity of manufacturing 1000 vehicles per year is allowed to manufacture only 500 vehicles per year, evidently its costover run per vehicle will be higher in view the expenditure incurred to maintain such set up of the institution. Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are being weakened by not providing them sufficient work orders thereby winding them up for forever. Sir, through you, I would like to say that keeping in view the credibility and quality of these ordnance factories they should be awarded sufficient work order to save their existence.

- (iv) **Need to increase the quota of Notaries from 625 to 1000 in the State of Gujarat**

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): As per the rule-8 of the "The Notaries Rules" – 1956, the quota of Notaries in the State of Gujarat has been decided. According to that, in the State of Gujarat, the quota of 625 Notaries is allotted to the Central Government and the quota of 625 Notaries is allotted to the State Government. The State of Gujarat has appointed 595 Notaries till 2006. Also, 524 Notaries are working at present from the State of Gujarat. The population has increased, the District Courts and Tehsils Courts, Banks and

Co-operative Societies are also being increased day by day. So the work of Notaries has also increased in the State of Gujarat. The number of Districts and Tehsils have also increased due to the division of Districts. In order that the people can get the facility of the Notaries at every Tehsil place, I urge upon the Government to enhance the quota of Notaries from 625 to 1000.

(v) Need to provide a special Central assistance package for strengthening & upgrading facilities to the State police in Arunachal Pradesh

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU (Arunachal West): Arunachal Pradesh is strategically very important and sensitive State but the State police is very poorly equipped and trained. It is receiving least support from Union Government amongst the North-East States for procuring weapons and machineries. The State police do not have vehicles to provide escorts and security protection to the VIPs. Even the State capital has only two patrolling vehicles to cover large areas for days and nights. I, therefore, strongly urge the Union Minister for Home Affairs to provide special financial package for strengthening and providing better facilities to State police force.

(vi) Need to expedite the completion of Bareilly Bypass on N.H. 24 In Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, Bareilly is a major city of U.P. located at National Highway No. 24 between Lucknow-Delhi. The process for construction of Bareilly Bypass is going on since last 10 years. The land acquisition and DPR work have been completed but the construction work has not started so far. I have just learnt that this construction work has been earmarked to be started in phase-III-B though it should have been started during phase-III-A. I request Ministry of Surface transport, through your good self, that this work should be immediately started in the public interest by incorporating this bypass work in phase-III-A. In this respect it is necessary to know why this work is pending since last 5 years and what are the causes of undue delay on the part of the department.

(vii) Need to give adequate representation to the State of West Bengal in the recently re-constituted Jute Advisory Board and Jute Development Council

[English]

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): Government of India has recently reconstituted Jute Advisory Board and Jute Development Council. Out of 28 members in Jute Advisory Board, the majority of members belong to non-jute growing and product manufacturing States which have no presence in jute map in India. We strongly apprehend that

the interest of synthetic group is being served through constitution of such Advisory Board, which does not have even Secretary level representation from State Government of West Bengal, the biggest jute growing and product manufacturing State in India. Similarly in 32 members of reconstituted Jute Development Council no genuine representative from jute growers have been nominated from West Bengal. In the workers representative category, there is no representative from jute workers of the State, where major jute product manufacturing industries exist.

This is nothing but a move to doom environment friendly jute industry in the country. I, therefore, strongly oppose such attitude of the Government against the biggest jute growing and product manufacturing State of West Bengal and urge upon the Government to immediately reconstitute these Committees through inclusion of genuine representatives from jute growers and workers.

(viii) Need to undertake periodical maintenance of National Highway No. 47 between Walayar and Mannuthy in Kerala

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): National Highway No. 47 is an important National Highway in South India connecting Cochin to Salem. It has been selected as a Corridor of National Quadrilateral Project, a part of the Bharat Nirman making it as an Express Highway. But unfortunately the condition of this important National Highway is very bad because of the absence of periodical maintenance for the last four years. Due to heavy rains of the on-going monsoon, this National Highway is completely in dilapidated condition and damaged severely. Due to this bad condition, the road accidents have increased manifold by 200 times. Especially, the area between Walayar and Mannuthy is facing acute problem. The National Highway Authority of India is not sanctioning adequate funds for the periodical maintenance. Now, the local people are agitating for the immediate repairs of this dilapidated National Highway.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to consider this as a serious matter and give necessary instructions to National Highway Authority of India for the immediate and periodical maintenance of this important National Highway No. 47 between Walayar and Mannuthy at the earliest.

(ix) Need to set-up an L.P.G. out-let in Salempur, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the residents of Salempur under my parliamentary constituency are bound to buy Gas Cylinder from black market at higher rates in the absence of any LPG Gas agency in the area. Therefore, crisis of LPG remain there as this Nagar Panchayat is densely populated. Salempur is headquarters

of tehsil as well as it is headquarters of block development and a railway junction. There are a dozen of institutions from primary to college level. There are about half a dozen Commercial banks and almost equal offices of various departments. There are two petrol pumps in this Nagar Panchayat area but irrespective of written communication made at various levels during last many years, no gas agency has been established while there are many a small places in the district Deoariya where gas agencies are already operating. On behalf of the citizens of this area I request the Government to kindly take effective measures to establishing a gas agency immediately in Salempur adopting impartial and practical approach.

- (x) **Need to change the terms of conditions of wages under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme with a view to provide daily wages to the workers engaged under the Scheme**

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV (Jaunpur): Sir, Employment Guarantee Scheme is being run in many a Districts of Uttar Pradesh. The labourers are assigned a full day work under the scheme. Accordingly the Government provides funds under the scheme. But the labourers could not get the work done in a day while Gram Panchayats are bound to pay them wages for the full day. Therefore, the Gram Panchayats are bound to pay more than the amount sanctioned for the said work under Employment Guarantee Scheme. At present Rs. 100/- have been fixed as wages by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. If we ask the labourers to complete the work and are not able to make payments in time, they make complaints that we are exploiting them. In this way, it becomes difficult to get the work done with the amount sanctioned under the scheme.

Therefore, it is my humble request in public interest, through the House, that the policy of said scheme may kindly be changed and the wages being paid to labourers may kindly be paid on daily basis.

- (xi) **Need to take immediate steps for creation of Konkan Development Board for the Konkan region of Maharashtra**

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Through this House, I draw the attention of the Union Government on the Maharashtra Government's proposal for creation of separate Konkan Development Board for the Konkan region of Maharashtra. Sir, this proposal is pending with the Central Government for the last several years. The formalities asked by the Union Government have been fulfilled by the State Government of Maharashtra, but still no action for creation of Konkan Development Board has been taken

by the Union Government. Sir, I, therefore, request the Union Government to take immediate steps for creation of Konkan Development Board.

- (xii) **Need to include Cuttack in J.N.N.U.R.M and devolve the powers to local bodies for improving basic urban amenities**

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sudden downpour of 330mm within a span of only 10 hrs. in Cuttack, last week has inundated large parts of the city and displaced lakhs of its inhabitants. This downpour broke 74 years record. Cuttack, known as the millennium city needs extra attention and allotment of funds from Union Government to make it livable. As such, there is an urgent need to invest more in urban areas. Six decades of central planning has not made our habitations livable. We all knew that rural India wallows in extreme poverty but even urban India is not exactly a Garden of Eden. All the basic amenities of life, such as, water supply, public health, functioning of schools, sewerage and traffic condition are in a state of disrepair. A continuous rainfall of 3 to 4 inches in Delhi, puts life in turmoil. So is the case in Mumbai, Bangalore and Kolkata. Therefore, there is an urgent need to meet the requirements of the urban amenities.

The task of providing basic amenities such as, roads, water supply, public health, sanitation, waste management, slum development, street lights etc. are assigned to urban bodies. Although it is mandatory as per the Constitutional Amendment of 1993, State Governments are extremely reluctant to devolve functions, finances and functionaries to local bodies. Unless this is done, life will be as miserable as it is now. I urge upon the Government to impress upon all State Governments to devolve power to the local bodies at the earliest in a time bound manner so that ultimately they will be held responsible for the basic amenities that they are supposed to provide. Then only we can make our place livable. I would also urge the Government to include Cuttack in JNNURM and restore the glory of the millennium city.

- (xiii) **Need to open a Computerized Railway Reservation Counter at Aruppukottai, Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu**

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): The municipality of Aruppukottai comes under my Sivakasi constituency. At present the laying of Broad Gauge Railway Line between Virudhunagar and Manamadurai and the Aruppukottai Railway Station has been closed temporarily. Moreover, the train ticket Reservation Counter has also been closed. So the passengers in and around Aruppukottai have been affected. As a solution to this, a computerized ticket Reservation counter can be provided to the passengers.

I, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Railway to take steps to open the new facility with immediate effects.

(xiv) Need to construct a railway line from Thalasserry to Mysore, with a view to benefit the people of Malabar region in Kerala

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): There is no direct rail link from cities like Calicut, Kannur and Mangalore on Malabar Hills to cities like Hyderabad, Thirupathy and Howrah. On persistent demand of the people of the area, late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, then Railway Minister had publicly declared 50 years ago that the proposal to construct railway line from Thalasserry to Mysore had been accepted. Thereafter, three surveys were conducted to carryout the proposal but no follow up action has been taken to meet the aspirations of the people of Malabar region. The proposed new railway line will reduce distance between Kannur and Bangalore from 708 Kms to only 339 Kms. Similarly, the distance from other places on Malabar side to Chennai, Hyderabad and Howrah will come down drastically. Moreover, these will be easier access to southern and eastern parts of the country from Mangalore which is coming up fast there. The petro-products could be transported more economically through the new route. The economy of the entire Malabar region will get a boost by opening up of the area through this route.

Therefore, I urge the Hon'ble Railway Minister to take up the project expeditiously.

(xv) Need for re-financing of loans by NABARD to the extent of 70% of the total loans advanced by the Primary Agricultural Co-operatives in Ernakulam and Palakkad districts of Kerala

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): The National Agricultural Commission has recommended to give agricultural loans to farmers @ 4% per annum. NABARD is the only agency for giving financial assistance and refinance to the State agricultural sector. Nevertheless, NABARD refinances only 35% of the loan issued to agriculture segment. District Co-operative Banks in Kerala State are meeting the balance 65% from their resources mobilized with higher rate of interest and advancing the same with minimum level of interest. This method of financing is not desirable and unhelpful for the development of agriculture in the State. NABARD has always refinanced based on the eligibility of the Kerala State Co-operative Bank. While doing so, NABARD should consider the eligibility of District Co-operative Banks also. NABARD should also provide refinance to the extent of 70% of the total agricultural loans advanced by the Primary Agricultural Co-operatives.

NABARD had denied refinance for Ernakulam and Palakkad districts of Kerala, for the reason that the DCB's have deposited funds in Government Treasury. This is unjustifiable, as the State Government has given interest on these deposits to the DCB's.

Government shall issue necessary instruction to NABARD on these matters to help the agricultural sector of Kerala State.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item Numbers 19 and 20, namely Statutory Resolution and State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, will be taken up later.

...(Interruptions)

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Situation arising out of floods in various parts of the country – contd.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item No.21 regarding discussion on floods in various parts of the country.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The matter regarding flood is very important. I would request the hon. Members for their cooperation.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, will you speak? Will you speak on this discussion?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry – Not present.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Anwar Hussain -Not present.

Shri Nikhil Kumar – Not present.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody is present.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sita Ram Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the hon. Members, it is a very important matter dealing with the flood situation in the country. If you do not allow it, it shows utter irresponsibility on the part of the Members.

[Translation]

SHRI SITARAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Speaker, the matter of flood and rain are being discussed here. The

members are participating in this discussion. On such an occasion I. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

14.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 17, 2007/Sravana 26, 1929 (Saka).

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