

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 1, 2005/Agrahayana 10, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harikewal Prasad, Q.No. 122

[*Translation*]

Punctuality of Trains

+
*122. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the punctuality performance of trains since January 2005, till date;

(b) the reasons for late arrival of trains and the responsibility fixed therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to improve safe movement and punctuality of the trains particularly during foggy season along with the outcome thereof?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c) The overall punctuality performance of Mail/Express trains from January 2005 October 2005 (month-wise) is as under:

	Broad Gauge (%)	Metre Gauge (%)
	1	2
January, 05	84.3	97.2
February, 05	90.5	96.7

	1	2
March, 05	91.9	97.2
April, 05	91.1	96.5
May, 05	90.8	97.6
June, 05	92.0	96.8
July, 05	92.9	96.2
August, 05	93.0	96.9
September, 05	91.7	91.1
October, 05	92.5	97.8
Overall (Jan-Oct 05)	91.0	97.3

The reasons for late running of trains include not only those which are attributable to the Railways such as asset failures, extra time taken for loading and unloading parcels and poor traffic control but also those which are beyond the control of railways such as miscreant activities, natural calamities like cyclonic storms, breaches, Law and Order problems, bad weather, cattle run over and electricity grid failures.

Following steps are being taken by the Indian Railways to improve operations and the punctuality of passenger carrying trains:

1. Intensive, round the clock monitoring of trains at all three levels viz. Divisional, Zonal Head Quarters and Railways Board.
2. Launching of punctuality drives from time to time.
3. Running of trains at maximum permissible speed subject to observance of safety limits and speed restrictions.
4. Improvements in Time tabling to provide clear path.
5. Improvement in standard of maintenance of assets to reduce equipment failures
6. Counseling and motivating staff to ensure punctual running.
7. Liaison with State Government to tackle the Law and Order problems and miscreant activities.
8. Up-gradation of technology of track, rolling stock and signalling.

As a result, constraints notwithstanding punctuality performance of various passenger services has been satisfactory.

During the period, 2394 staff found responsible for unwarranted detention of trains were taken up.

The following steps/precautions are taken during foggy conditions:

- (a) Speed limits are imposed depending on visibility;
- (b) Shunting is avoided as far as possible;
- (c) Whistling;
- (d) Signal Sighting Boards are repainted before the onset of Winter Season.
- (e) At Level Crossing Gates provided with gate signals, luminous signal sighting boards are provided.
- (f) During the fog time, marking across the track at the sighting board is made mandatory.
- (g) Detonators are placed at specified intervals for all train movement to alert the driver of an approaching signal once fog is declared at a station. This is done by calling Railway staff on duty and rest for working as Fog Signalmen who place detonators whenever a train is expected. After the passage of each train detonator is replaced. The location of such detonators are before the stop signals so that drivers are warned of approaching signals. The process is repeated for the duration of the fog.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has replied to my question in the House in a different way. He stated that only 10 percent trains in the country run late and it has been difficult to ensure their timely arrival. Certain trains run late daily and the Government have not been able to bring improvement in their timings. 10 percent broad gauge trains still run behind their scheduled time.

Sir, I do agree that equipment failures and bad weather are responsible for late running of trains. But we can ensure punctuality of trains if we adopt better and modern scientific techniques on the lines of foreign

countries. Foggy weather in winter often causes delay in running of trains.

Sir, while agreeing with the reasons for late running of trains as enumerated by the hon. Minister in his reply, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government have conducted any survey to find out details of trains which often run late and what remedial steps have been taken in this regard and how far these have proved successful?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member for having shown interest in the affairs of the Railways and also for his keenness to know about the ways and means that the Government proposes to improve the punctuality performance of the Railways.

Sir, before I answer that question, I would, very briefly, in two to three sentences, like to talk about the enormity of the problem. Today we are running about 9,000 and odd passenger trains and about 5,000 freight trains. In addition to this, every year we are adding about 175 new trains, both within and outside the Budget and also there have been extension of about 487 trains in the last five years. Frequency of 154 trains has been increased and 949 new trains have been introduced in the last five years totalling to about 1590.

Sir, when we inherited the Railway system from the British we had about 53,000 route kilometres. We have added in these more than five decades about 10,000 route kilometers, which is a growth of about a little over 20 per cent. Our freight traffic, during this period, has increased seven times and our passenger traffic has grown by five times. With the result, all our quadrilaterals, for that matter, all the main routes have been saturated to the level of 150 per cent.

It is impossible for us to ask or think of any kind of leverage that can be introduced. If it is air space, it is all right. It has a kind of leverage. If it is journey by water, it is also all right. Here, I have got only tracks to run trains. With the result, I am unable to improve much more than what I am doing today. On BG lines, the punctuality of trains is 91 per cent and on MG lines, it is 97 per cent. It is remarkable. Further, it is already announced that we are going to have separate freight corridors in the golden quadrilaterals and diagonals. If it happens, much capacity will be there and punctuality will

still increase. When compared to the European or for that matter any country, our punctuality is at a much higher level. In Spain, it is 96.7 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not have that satisfaction. We appreciate that you are trying to do your best and let us hope for the best.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked a simple question whether the Government have conducted any survey to find out the details of trains running late? The detailed reply given by the hon. Minister is before the House. Without going into the details, I would like to ask the hon. Minister what steps the Government have taken to ensure that trains do not get delayed because of fog and the success achieved in this regard. Also, which are the trains which often run late despite strict instruction of the Government to the contrary? As it has been reported in the newspapers that the hon. Minister Shri Lalu ji has said that train timings would be rescheduled, Hon. Lalu ji has said "Badal do railway ki taswir, taki log yad rakhen" and he asked the General Managers to change the face of railway stations and the trains within a stipulated time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If question is brief the reply would automatically be brief.

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: I will answer briefly. We have got three regulatory systems. One is at the Divisional level, the second is at the Zonal level and the third is at the Railway Board. The Railway Board monitors 310 trains daily as regards punctuality, not to speak of the zonal and Divisional levels. We evaluate their performance on a daily basis. As regards punctuality, for your kind information, I would say that action has been taken against about 2400 persons for lack of punctuality. That means, our Managers and other officers are alert to see that we do not lose the punctuality. We are very alert and we see that, at all levels, our trains as evaluated on a daily basis.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not mentioned about non-Railway responsibility.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: The answer given by the hon. Minister is unsatisfactory. The question is about the overall

punctuality of trains which includes mail, express and passenger trains. But the Railway Minister has given reply about the punctuality of only mail and express trains. It is unbelievable that it is more than 90 per cent. Apart from that, it is said in the written reply that one of the steps or precautions taken is that luminous signal sighting boards are provided at level crossing gates. It is very difficult to see these sign boards during foggy season. Accidents are taking place only at the unmanned level crossings during foggy season. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of unmanned level crossings throughout the country. The question is about the safe movement of trains.

MR. SPEAKER: The question includes punctuality of trains also. What is your supplementary now?

DR. M. JAGANNATH: I would like to know from the hon. Minister the position of passenger trains wherein crores of people are travelling. He is bothered only about mail and express trains in which less number of people travel. I also want to know the measures taken at the unmanned railway gates during foggy season.

SHRI R. VELU: To satisfy the hon. Member I will say that we have got about 20,000 unmanned gates. In the foggy season it is very difficult. So far, nowhere in the world have they developed such a technology which would help to steer through the foggy situation. So, what we do today is that we have speed restrictions in all these places. We have got signal boards re-painted before the winter season. Whenever the trains pass, to give a kind of warning to the drivers about the signals, we have got detonators. Special staff is employed for this. These detonators indicate that drivers should be alert about signals. So, there are various things. What I am saying is that we are alert to the situation. We know that we had a major accident earlier because of the foggy situation. We are trying our best to deal with this. In fact, we have asked the RSDO to do certain research on this project to see how best we can deal with the foggy situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Manda Jagannath, if you are not satisfied with the reply given, you can give notice for Half an hour Discussion. I shall consider it. Let some procedures be followed.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the punctuality table provided by the hon. Minister, compliance of punctuality is more in case of meter gauge trains in comparison to broad gauge one. In my opinion, there is a restriction on speed in meter gauge trains whereas, it is less in broad gauge, and so the percentage of punctuality in broad gauge should be more. I would like to know why it is not so?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the metre gauge lines are not heavily loaded. They are sparsely loaded, running few trains. That is why the punctuality is much more in this case. It is 97 per cent. Whereas the broad gauge lines, as I mentioned earlier, are over loaded. The saturation rate is 150 per cent. That is why, the punctuality is much more in Metre gauge and it is much less in broad gauge sector.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Respected Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier the Railways were following split rake system for transporting foodgrains, because of which foodgrains were off-loaded even at small godowns directly. Now, the Railways have introduced the full rake system.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question is on 'punctuality'.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the timing of goods trains is also very important. In this system, the consignment will be off-loaded at one particular big godown only and then it will have to be re-transported to smaller godowns. It affects the transport cost; it affects the workers; and it affects the Public Distribution System.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Railways whether the Government would re-introduce the split rake system.

MR. SPEAKER: To help punctuality. Somehow bring it to punctuality!

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the hon. Member's request will be examined and whatever possible will be done.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that it has been often observed

that trains, especially running from Bihar are given pass and other trains are stopped to enable their passage. I would give an example. Parliament Session was scheduled to commence from 23rd. On the night of 23rd, I started from Varanasi. A Super Fast Express trains arrives in Delhi at 8-8.15. The railway staff told me that I have boarded the wrong train. It won't reach Delhi before 2.00 P.M. My question was at number 2 on 24th, I was worried as to how to reach Delhi in time. But, incidentally the House was adjourned on that day. I would like to know that certain trains. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It was adjourned not for you.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: That is right I was lucky as the House was adjourned. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a special matter. You please look into it. The special train that he has mentioned, that train you better look into.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I will look into. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: That train reached Delhi at 2.50. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We all sympathize with you.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, All the express trains run at their normal speed upto Ghaziabad. Thereafter, they run at slow speed between Ghaziabad and Delhi so that they should not reach before time. Shatabdi Express or Bhopal Express reach Ghaziabad at 9 or 9.15 o'clock but they take one hour and ten minutes to cover the distance, which might be covered within 15 minutes. It robs the passengers of all the pleasure of boarding a good train by the time they reach Delhi.

I want to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for increasing the time of such a good train. Earlier this train used to reach Delhi at 9.30 o'clock. Why has the time of its arrival been increased to 10.10 o'clock now. Earlier, Bhopal Shatabdi used to reach Delhi at 9.45 o'clock but now the time of its arrival has been increased to 11.20 o'clock. The arrival time of these trains has been increased unnecessarily due to which they run at a slow speed. I request the hon. Minister to reduce the arrival time of these trains so that they might maintain their speed and reach Delhi before 10.00 o'clock. Their speed is kept slow so that they might not reach before time and punctuality could be maintained.

I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister as the trains stick to their schedules but it creates problems for the passengers travelling from Ghaziabad to Delhi. Therefore, their time should be reduced. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking for rescheduling of timing. You have no complaint about punctuality.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: The trains move at a very slow speed from Ghaziabad to Delhi. I request the hon. Minister to reschedule their timing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: MPs come by cars from Ghaziabad.

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, he has raises a relevant question. In all the metropolitan cities, there is a restriction on terminals. In the terminals, we do not have adequate facilities now. So, recognising that fact, we are developing the second and third terminals in all the metropolitan cities. There are trains which come in advance or even on time but they could not reach the terminal point because of the restrictions. It is that platforms are not available because there are starting trains; and there are terminating trains. We will sort out this problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is the last supplementary. You have taken 20 minutes.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the Tamil Nadu Express

coming from Chennai daily comes 3-5 hours late to Delhi. The train is put to a halt at Nizamudin Railway Station. But they are permitting other goods trains to enter the New Delhi Station.

The other point is that, from Chennai Division—the Minister is from Arakkonam Constituency—the trains which start from Arakkonam-Chennai and Gummudipondi-Chennai, everyday runs late by half an hour to one hour in the peak hours. In the Chennai Central terminal, we are not able to get back the train. There is a traffic congestion at basin bridge. Is there any special programme to verify the railway station platform? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot do by each and individual train. I am sure, he is very concerned about these things. He cannot look after only to his constituency. he has to look after the entire country.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I will reply very briefly. As regards Tamil Nadu Express, I would like to tell that there is a breach between Bitragunta and Nellore. There are two lines. In one line with temporary arrangement we are running the trains. In the second line a bridge was washed off. It will take a month or two to part it in order. So, that is why the train was late. The reasons is again the same terminal problem in New Delhi.

Coming to that Arakkonam and Gummudipoondi, it is a local train. He is also interested and I am also interested. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow these details to be put into the Question Hour. You cannot have individual matters like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. Nothing will be recorded of Mr. Krishnaswamy.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Q. No. 123—Shri Eknath Gaikwad.

*Not recorded.

Dual Pricing System for Petroleum Products

⁺
*123. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a dual and differential pricing system for petroleum products;

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

(c) the losses suffered by the different oil companies consequent to rising crude oil prices; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the losses suffered by the oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) With the declared intention of moving towards market-determined pricing for petroleum products, Government announced the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) effective 1.4.2002. However, there has been an unprecedented, sharp and spiralling increase in international oil prices, particularly since late 2003, combined with considerable week-to-week and even day-to-day volatility. Therefore, Government, in June 2004, elucidated the principles which would govern its policy of containing the burden of increase in international prices on consumers of sensitive petroleum products. It was decided that the burden should be equitably shared by consumers, the Government and the oil companies. Therefore, the full impact of the international price increase has not been passed on the consumers of sensitive products.

The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) pay to the refineries the prices of sensitive petroleum products namely petrol, diesel, domestic LPG and PDS kerosene on an import parity basis, taking into account the prevalent international prices of these products. But notwithstanding the steep rise in international prices of sensitive petroleum products, OMCs have been modulating the price increase in petrol & diesel besides maintaining the prices of

subsidized products like domestic LPG & PDS Kerosene, in consultation with the Government. In consequence, they have suffered under-recoveries to the tune of Rs. 20,146 crore on sale of these products during the year 2004-05. The under-recoveries continue in 2005-06 and are expected to be substantially larger than in 2004-05. The estimated under-recoveries for the period Apr-Nov'05 in respect of PDS Kerosene & Domestic LPG is Rs. 14,373 crore and for petrol & diesel Rs. 12,353 crore, totalling to Rs. 26,726 crore.

The profits (losses) of OMCs during the first two quarters of the current year are as under:

(Rs. Crores)

Companies	Profit after Tax (As per Published Figures)			
	2003-04	2004-05	Apr-Jun 05	July-Sept 05
IOCL	7005	4891	(-) 54	(+) 949.49
HPCL	1904	1277	(-) 508	(-) 22.03
BPCL	1695	966	(-) 431	(-) 203.4
IBP Co	215	59	(-) 234	(-) 190.5

It can be seen that the public sector OMCs have suffered losses during the first quarter of 2005-06. Further, except IOC, the other OMCs have suffered losses also during the second quarter of the current year.

In order to formulate a long-term pricing policy for petroleum products, the Government have constituted an inter-ministerial committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

The Committee is mandated to look into various aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products with a view to stabilizing/rationalizing their prices, keeping in view the financial position of the oil companies, the investment needed in the sector, the need to conserve petroleum products, and establishing a transparent mechanism for the autonomous adjustment of prices by the oil companies. Taking into consideration the interests of all stakeholders concerned, the Committee will suggest a comprehensive mechanism for pricing and taxation of sensitive petroleum products, and other allied issues.

[Translation]

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prices of petroleum products keep on increasing as per the international market. The prices have been on the rise from September till date. Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister to formulate a scheme for stabilising the prices. Whether any scheme for stabilisation of prices is under consideration of the Government? Whether the hon. Minister is contemplating any scheme of dual pricing system?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please give a specific answer for a specific question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The reply should also be brief.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, the international prices based on our Indian basket of crude oil have, in fact, been decreasing since September, 2005 and not increasing as the hon. Member has suggested. They have come down from \$ 59.74 per barrel on an average in September, 2005 to \$ 56.28 in October to \$ 53.56 up to 25 November, 2005. I am glad to say that over the last one week, there has been a further decline. With regard to the suggestion that has been made, we might have dual pricing or differential pricing. I am sure the Dr. Rangarajan Committee will be looking into all suggestions. Our experience in the past of attempting dual pricing has not been very happy. It has led to a considerable want to black-marketing, adulteration and other malpractices. So, I would not want to encourage it although, perhaps, there will be occasions when we will have to do it and suffer the consequences.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any time limit has been fixed for the Rangarajan Committee. By what time is it likely to present its report? The Government of Kerala has withdrawn sales tax, whether the rest of the State Governments also contemplate to withdraw sales tax.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, according to the Notification of the Dr. Rangarajan Committee, it says that the Committee will complete the work and submit its Report within a period of six months. The Notification was dated the 26 October, 2005.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh—Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has said that prices of petrol and diesel have been falling in the international market for the last two months but the prices have not been lowered here. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that prices were raised here when it was Rs. 70 in the international market but when it has come down to Rs. 50 then why are we not following suit.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, when prices had risen to the level to which they had risen in September, 2005, we took care not to pass on the entire burden to the consumers. Indeed, our calculation was that the burden on the country caused by the increase in international prices, 51 per cent was taken on the shoulders of the oil marketing companies (OMCs), 36 per cent on the Government Budget and only 13 per cent of the total burden was passed on the consumers. So, you will appreciate the marginal decrease in the international prices is not going to be immediately reflected in a decrease in the price of petrol and diesel, both of which still continue to be below the international parity price.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to fix different rates of kerosene for people living below poverty line and general public? If so, whether the Government would consider allocating more kerosene to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other such states which are ridden with poverty and backwardness and where consumption of kerosene is higher?

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, all matters relating to pricing are kept under the constant review of Government. Recently, we have received the Final Report of the NCAER which is the first scientific study ever done of the demand for kerosene in the country, and in the context of studying that Report, I will keep in mind the considerations urged by the hon. Member.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Petroleum Minister whether it is a fact that a huge amount has been accumulated in the Oil Development Fund and whether the Government is agreeable to set up an Oil Price Stabilisation Fund to give some relief to the consumers.

I would also like to know whether the refineries, including the private sector refineries, who accumulate profit as a result of the rise in international prices, will also share the burden of hike of the consumers in the prices of petroleum products.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, all the contributions made by the cess that is collected on the production of crude oil within the country go to the Central Exchequer and in terms of the Act that deals with this, there are a number of industries for the development of which the proceeds thereof can be spent. Among the industries mentioned is fertiliser and given the size of our fertiliser subsidy, it is true that the bulk of the cess that is collected over the last several years has been directed to the fertiliser industry rather than to the oil industry. But that is because the legislation in this regard provides for it.

With respect to the margins of the refining companies, the stand-alone refineries are certainly benefiting compared to those refineries which are also involved in marketing because the marketing companies have to bear a substantial share of the overall burden. What we have done with the stand-alone refineries—and these are both in the private sector as well as in the public sector, I would like to underline that—is, we have arranged with them that they do offer substantial discounts on the sale of their products and the crude oil to our marketing companies.

SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scenario of production of petroleum products in the country is very serious. For the last 10 to 15 years, we

find that the indigenous production of petroleum products is coming down year by year, ranging from 36 per cent to the tune of 27 per cent now. This means, the indigenous production is decreasing every year by 1/2 per cent to 1 per cent and if it goes on like this, within 25 to 30 years we will have no source of oil which can be dug in the country. We have to totally depend on import of crude oil. No doubt Dr. Rangarajan Committee is going to consider the pricing and all that needs to be done regarding import, but it can only be done only on an artificial basis.

Sir, I appreciate the efforts made by the Petroleum Minister particularly for giving incentives for bio-fuels in the country. He has announced a policy of buying bio-diesel at Rs. 25 per litre. So, when the Government is spending almost Rs. 40,000 crore per annum in giving subsidy to petroleum products, I would like to know from the Minister as to how much encouragement he is going to give for increasing the indigenous production of bio-fuels by the farmers and others in the rural areas.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am afraid there are a series of questions brought into one by the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, they are not really related to the main question.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He has also begun his first question with an error. I think he did not mean the output of petroleum products, but he was referring to the output of crude oil in the country. It is true that the current production of crude oil in India is approximately the same as it was—I am sorry to say this—nearly 16 years ago, in 1989-90. Subsequent to that, there was a dip in the output. But we have succeeded in the last five years in recovering the plateau, but yes, it is crucial that we make new discoveries in order to have additional output of crude.

As regards the petroleum products, our output, in fact, has been going up.

I am very glad to, once again, inform the House that our exports of petroleum products have been dramatically rising and last year they amounted to Rs. 28,000 crore. We are considering putting up more refining capacity or possibly new refineries to make India a major export hub for petroleum products.

Now, with regard to the bio-diesel fuel policy, which the hon. Member referred to, the announcement was made only on the 9th of October and I was hoping that I would get the congratulations of the hon. Member since he has been pressing for it, not asking for a revision within six weeks of the issue of that. We will certainly bear in mind the need to make it more and more attractive and I hope the hon. Member will take as much interest in the growers of jetropha as he sometimes seems to take in the growers of sugarcane.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, he if has interest in sugarcane.

Increase in Obscenity on TV Channels

*124. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in obscenity and violence being shown on the television programmes/advertisements by various domestic and foreign channels threatening Indian values and tradition;

(b) if so, the names of the channels who have violated the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government had issued any notice to such channels;

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

(e) the steps propose to check further telecasting of such programmes/advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No such trend can be indicated. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has not made any such study.

(b) The names of the channels who have violated the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under

Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder during the last three years is as per Annexure.

(c) and (d) During 2003, 68 show cause notices were issued to 30 TV channels. During 2004, 7 show cause notices were issued to 7 TV channels. The transmission/retransmission of a satellite channel namely REN TV was also prohibited. Similarly, during 2005 till 28.11.2005, 32 Show cause notices have been issued to 27 TV channels for various violations of the Programme and Advertising Codes.

In 2005, transmission/retransmission of satellite channels namely BlueKiss, BlueKiss Express, BlueKiss Promo, TBL-XXX and Free-XTV was prohibited.

In respect of the channels against whom show cause notices were issued, in 7 cases, channels withdrew the programmes/advertisements on receipt of show cause notice, therefore, no action was taken. In 13 cases, the Inter-ministerial Committee recommended no action. In 31 cases, channels were asked to stop telecasting the said programmes/advertisements. In 17 cases, an advisory was issued. In 6 cases, warnings were issued to the channels for violating the Codes. In 1 case, transmission and uplinking of one channel was suspended for 30 days.

(e) All programmes and advertisements on satellite channels transmitted/re-transmitted through cable networks and DTH networks are required to adhere to the Programmes and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act 1995 and rules framed thereunder. These codes inter-alia prohibit telecast of any vulgar and obscene material. Doordarshan, the public service broadcaster regularly telecasts programmes depicting Indian heritage, art, culture and tradition. DD Bharati is an exclusive satellite channel of Doodarshan dedicated to depiction of Indian heritage.

Action against violation of the Codes can be taken by any authorised officer i.e. DM, SDM or Commissioner of Police or any other officer notified in the official gazette by the Central Government or State Government. The Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into the violations of the Programme and Advertising Codes. The Committee either suo-moto, or on receipt of a complaint, examines cases of violations and appropriate action initiated.

The Government has also set up a Committee comprising of various stake holders to review the existing

Programme and Advertising Code with a view to modifying them to meet contemporary community standards and to make them more specific and reduce scope for subjective discretion while facilitating self-regulation. An order has been issued asking State Governments to set up district level monitoring committees comprising of representatives of local NGOs working for women and children's welfare, women's college principal, academicians/psychologists/sociologists etc. to look into violations of the codes by local cable channels and receive and dispose off complaints relating to content telecast on local channels. The Government is also upgrading and modernising its monitoring set up by creating a facility which will be able to simultaneously monitor hundred television channels.

Annexure

Name of the TV channels who were issued show cause notices for violation of Programme Code and Advertising Code.

Year 2003

Zee TV, Zee Cinema, AXN, B4U, Channel [V], ESPN, HBO, MTV, Star Movies, Star Plus, Star Sports, Star World, Zee News, CNBC, Sony Entertainment, Star TV, Sahara TV, Jaya TV, Raj TV, Vijay TV, ETV Marathi, ETV Bangala, Ten Sports, Udaya TV (Surya TV), Aaj Tak, National Geographic, Alpha Marathi, SABe TV, ETV (Ushakiran TV), Set Max.

Year 2004

MH1, ETC, Channel [V], B4U, Balle Balle, a-Punjabi Channel, Cine World.

Year 2005

ITV, MTV, M/s. Spectra Net Ltd./Trinity Power, Zee News, India TV, Fashion TV, Zoom Channel, Trendz TV (Zee Telefilms Ltd.), Star One Channel, NDTV, Sahara TV, Aastha Channel, Asianet Global, Kairali Channel, B4U Chanel, CNBC Awaaz Channel, SABe TV, Star Utsav Channel, Zee Gujarati Channel, Zee Bangala, Zee Cinema, Zee TV, Jaya TV, Sony Entertainment Channel, Sahara One, In Digital Channel, TEJA TV.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Mr. Speaker Sir, obscenity and violence being shown on the televisions programmes eat up the morality of our valuable culture. Exposure to nudity and obscenity to young generation will distort their vision and destroy the moral fabric of our society.

In spite of so many laws, till now the Government is not able to control this problem. I would like to know whether the Government evolved any permanent mechanism to monitor and take suitable action against it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, insofar as the I&B Ministry's intervention in this matter is concerned, I would like to convey to the hon. Member that yes it is a fact that in the private channels, satellite channels, from within and outside, things have been noticed earlier also that they were violating the guidelines of the Cable Network Act and the provisions in the code of exhibiting those things.

So, things have happened and notices were also given to the private channels. In the year 2003, 32 notices were issued, in the year 2004, seven notices were issued and in the year 2005, 32 notices were issued. One channel, that is, REN TV, was banned and a few channels, after our notices, withdrew their programmes. In most cases some advertisement material, which was treated as obscene and also affected to the dignity of women, were also dealt with firmly and these programmes were withdrawn.

But factually Speaker, Sir, there is no arm at our hand, at the moment, to control the satellite channels which are only accepted by our cable network based on our guidelines. If it is brought to our notice that something is being done, it is immediately brought before the inter-Ministerial Committee and it takes immediate action on that.

Insofar as Doordarshan is concerned, no Programme in Doordarshan is played without reviewing it as per our own broadcasting code. That is all we are doing at the moment. I have already given the information about the number of cases in which we have taken action by this time.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has any system to control the MNCs from showing vulgar advertisements and foreign channels, like Fashion TV, showing nudity on the pretext of fashion in the country.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, as I told you earlier that the satellite channels, like Fashion TV, uplink from abroad, and come here. But, yes, in three cases, we have served notices to Fashion TV Channel also to withdraw a few things. Now, I am actively considering,

as early as possible, to bring in a comprehensive legislation in this regard because the 1997 Broadcasting Bill lapsed due to dissolution of Parliament and the Convergence Bill in the last House could not get the mandate because of the dissolution of the House. Now, Ministry of Communications and ourselves are actively interacting to come for a comprehensive network in this regard to tighten the loopholes so that we can take further more steps in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been observed that obscenity is still very much a part of programmes being shown by various TV channels despite repeated assurances by the Government. Though the Government has served notice to various TV channels, they are flouting the code fixed for programmes.

Whether the Government is taking any action in this regard? Whether the Government propose to make any provision to ban the channels forever which have been found to be repeatedly flouting the code for programmes and advertisements so that other channels might take lesson from them?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: As I told earlier that the Government have banned the satellite channels namely REN TV forever. Similarly, we have also banned nine other channels which were regulated from outside and whose names I would not like to mentioned. In addition, UPA Government is committed to prevent obscenity being shown on Television Programmes. We are conducting a study to plug the loopholes if any, in the existing laws in this direction. I can say it with much satisfaction that the first step that we took after the formation of our Government was that we held a workshop for the state governments to monitor the programmes being shown at the district level so as to check the practice of local cable network in villages and urban areas to show private programmes in between the regular transmission which offend the taste of the public, youth, children and women. Work has been begun in six district of the country in this direction. I feel that if we work at a fast pace, we would be able to cover half the districts of the country in the coming six months. Our review committee which comprises of 32 members from the entire cross section of society and government has begun its work to see whether there is any loophole in the existing laws in this regard. Along with that the UPA Government

is considering to prepare a concrete programme by way of integrating Broadcasting Bill and the Convergence Bill.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, with your permission, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the Government have served several show cause notices to many channels. Despite that, there is no television channel or a place where obnoxious scenes are not shown through the programmes or posters. There is no bus stand or taxi stand that does not have obscene posters. When the children and students pass by those places they are ashamed. Many times they have complained of it and requested the Government not to stick such, at those places as they have to take bus from there. They feel shame because of these posters. That is why, I mean to say that merely serving notices will not serve the purpose. It will be very unfortunate if an able Minister like him fails to check such things. I would like to request the Government to ban such TV channels which are detrimental to our social values and is determined to ruin us. We do not need a cinema which is leaving ill impacts on our social life. The Government should permit only those channels which are good and which serve noble cause. I would like to know the reaction of the hon'ble Minister in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I have already told that it is the mandate of the U.P.A. Government to take strict action against such channels. If there is any loophole in the law that will be plugged. Presently I can inform only this that all such channels have been banned—REN TV, Free-x TV, Bluekiss. ...*(Interruptions)* Along with that, I would also like to submit that the monitoring work of electronic media which was not done earlier, is being conducted effectively. In our construction the freedom of expression and restraints are related with each other in such a manner that we can take any step only after maintaining a balance between the two. However, I can assure that Doordarshan will not do any thing like this, at present Doordarshan is doing well. The efforts are being made by the Government to take strict steps to rein such channels. Chances are that by next year there will be very few such complaints.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, do you want to put a question?

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: My question is over.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, very well, I go to Shrimati Minati Sen, if she is interested.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, whether the Government is thinking of giving more teeth to the Cable TV Network Act, 1995 because, you know, Sir, women are often shown in an indecent way exposing. I also want to know whether any meaningful study had ever been made on the effect of such indecent TV programmes on the society.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I informed you earlier also about the steps that we are contemplating. But I would like to tell the hon. Member, through you, that kissing in film was earlier prohibited. But due to the growing emergence of the electronic media throughout the world, especially in the sub-continent, after careful consideration it has been admitted and permitted. The perception of obscenity is to be judged from time to time by the Members of the Central Censor Board. There is no statutory definition that obscenity means, what violence means except in the Indian Penal Code and in the Cr.P.C. But so far as the films are concerned, what actually is violence or what actually is obscenity is to be studied with careful understanding of art, philosophy and psychology, and that is being studied absolutely by the Censor Board.

Insofar as TV is concerned, I admit that, except Doordarshan, there is no pre-review mechanism. I fully share with the hon. Member that the dignity of women, the right of women and their honour sometimes get inflicted. So, our Government took a decision that we shall not compromise on this anymore. Therefore, I am coming out with a policy very soon in this regard.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that there is no mechanism to check the satellite channels. As you know, our culture and our country's conventions are quite different from the culture of foreign countries.

MR. SPEAKER: We are catching up very fast. You see the newspapers everyday.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, I am sorry that in that way I am very much conservative in thinking. The hon. Minister has stated that the term of obscenity is quite different from one country to another. In order to protect our culture, our conventions and antiquity, will he come forward with a comprehensive Bill so that our culture and conventions are protected and no way we should go ahead with this which will harm our culture?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to convey to the hon. Member, through you, that I have already studied this. I have already stated about the intention of this Government on this matter. Since the hon. Member represents the State of Orissa, I would like to submit to him a very simple analogy. In Indian culture, we preserve old arts, traditions and culture in our own treasury. But the State he represents is one of the ancient States and it has very amazing culture of arts for which we feel proud of. Tourists go to the place called Konark. The Konark art in the philosophical perception is a great art. But if an artists plans to have a film depicting what Konark art theme is and makes a film, somebody could degrade it as obscenity.

MR. SPEAKER: He also goes there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: That way, the balance should be maintained. That is how we should take the whole issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have been there many times.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister said that some efforts are being made by the Government in this regard. It is good to that extent. The hon'ble Minister in his reply, has stated about taking action in this regard, however, it appears that there is laxity in it. At one place it has been mentioned that—

[English]

in 17 cases, advisory was issued. In 31 cases, the channels were asked to stop.

[Translation]

Thus the entire issue is not concerned only with obscenity. There are different types of violence. In several channels the incidents of crime committed in remote corners of

the world by criminals in different styles are being shown on television. Few days back I heard about pay channels so that such channels could be restricted. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to formulate any such policy so that telecasting of such programmes on the television could be blocked effectively. Earlier one such policy was formulated but it is hanging fire. So, I would like to know whether the Government propose to formulate any such policy so as to check the obscenity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us be brief.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is a matter of self-regulation so far as the present policy is concerned. Self-regulation in media and media entertainment is an accepted norm throughout the world.

But within the self-regulation, if something goes beyond the border or line of our own contemporary understanding then we do intervene accordingly. Some of the pay channels have been stopped and I referred to those channels' names. A few more pay channels are operating the design. We shall also take firm action. One thing I can assure, through you, Sir, the hon. Members that pertaining to the honour and dignity of women, the free and fair mind of the children and the teenage growth and development, I am coming out with a comprehensive plan; appealing to the private channels as well as our own Doordarshan to commission more fair programmes that can keep a positive atmosphere in this regard. But exceptions are there and they will be dealt with by the law.

MR. SPEAKER: Lok Sabha channel may provide its scope.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from time to time concern has been expressed in the House regarding the obscenity being shown on the television channels. The hon'ble Members had also given some suggestions in this regard. There are certain channels which are favourite to some people. However, it has been observed that obscenity is shown on almost all channels. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether it is not possible to introduce a separate channel for advertisement only, because the interruptions

caused by advertisement disturb the concentration of the viewers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a workable suggestion. This I can tell you without being a Minister. Shri Ajoy Chakraborty. His is the last supplementary.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: It is not the question of this Government or that Government. On earlier occasions also, former Ministers have assured this august House that no further obnoxious scenes will be shown through TV channels or private TV channels. But nothing has been done. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is the same. Put new supplementary.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: The same thing is going on. The present hon. Minister admits that some private TV channel owners in this country as well as outside the country are showing very obnoxious scenes through serials or advertisements which will affect the minds and are injurious to the minds of the teenagers. Rather they are insult to the women. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: My specific question from the hon. Minister is as to whether there is any provision to take penal action against those TV channel owners. If so, how many cases have been started against those private channel owners? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already given an elaborate written answer.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have answered in detail. Right now, the only provision is under 16 of the Cable Network Act and that provision 16, in my mind, is not enough. That is why I am looking for a comprehensive legislation.

Incidents of Crimes in Trains/Railway Premises

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*125. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of crimes in trains and in railway premises/stations have increased considerably during the recent year;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any study/survey to check connivance of Government Railway Police (GRP) in such crimes;

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

(d) the number of cases reported during 2005, till date and the action taken in respect of those cases;

(e) the number of passengers who fell victim to such crimes alongwith the number of persons killed/injured in such incidents;

(f) the details of compensation and assistance provided to the victims by the Union Government and the State Government during the above period; and

(g) the measures being taken/to be taken to put a check on the incidents of crime in trains and in railway premises/stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) 3 cases have been reported involving 10 Government Railway Police personnel in 2005. All of them have been placed under suspension in addition to registration of cases against them.

(e) A total of 14 passengers were victimised. Out of these, one was injured who had later died in the hospital.

(f) No compensation has been paid by the railways.

(g) Regular coordination meetings are held between the Railways and the State authorities. Cases involving the Government Railway Police personnel are followed up and pursued with the State Governments who are the competent authority in such cases.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister did not give any reply to my question. For example, kindly refer to part (a) of the question. In this part it has been asked whether the incidents of crimes in trains and in railway premises/stations have increased considerably. Further, I would like to know from the Government the number of incidents of crimes occurred in running trains and railway premises in the year 2005 in comparison to 2004. I would like to know the number of incidents occurred in running trains and in railway premises. Apart from this I would also like to know the number of persons killed therein and the number of passengers who were dragged and robbed in the trains and also the role of the Railway police in this regard. The Hon'ble Minister did not say anything about all these things. I would like to know from his about all these points.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked too many supplementaries.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, for the information of the hon. Member, policing is the subject of the State. It is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments to register crimes, investigate them and take action, including law and order problems in relation to the Railways.

A question was asked whether incidents have come down. From April to September, 2004, the number of crimes was 15,928; in the corresponding period this year, it has come down to 14,333. A specific question about murder, etc., has been asked. As regards murder it was 199 last year; it has come down to 178. The number of dacoities was 109 last year and it is now 59. The number of robberies was 297 last year and now it is 92. The number of thefts of baggage, etc., was 8,970 last year and it has now come down to 7,918.

He has asked a question about GRP, the Government Railway Police. It has nothing to do with our RPF. The RPF is meant only to protect the property of the Railways and the property entrusted to the Railways for transportation from one place to another.

Now, by an amendment to the Railways Act, some more teeth is given to the Railway Protection Force, with the result, the RPF can deal with about 29 items of

offences of minor nature like ticketless travel, unauthorised entry into carriages meant for women, chain pulling and so on.

The responsibility mainly lies with the State Governments. We are now having co-ordination meetings from the RPF-police station level, with the local police, and up to the General Manager with Home Secretary level periodically so that the railways could assist in these cases or supplement the efforts of the State Governments in bringing the culprits to book.

If the hon. Member wants more details about the number of cases, I could give them in respect of all of them, category-wise.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that the State Governments have a rule in investigation of such incidents. But I would say that either Hon'ble Minister fail to understand my question or he is dilly dallying in answering it. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister specifically, that RPF is responsible for providing security to the passengers and safety of their luggage, whereas, such incidents take place in its presence. It means RPF has a nexus with the culprits. And in case of investigation, local police or the concerned State police would not be able to investigate the matter. My first question is—will Hon'ble Minister like to get it investigated if RPF's hand is suspected in incidents of loot in running trains or cases of theft in railway's premises?

Secondly, he has referred to the number of persons died. I want to know—whether Railways propose to compensate the persons affected in other incidents?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He had wanted to know about inquiry and compensation.

SHRI R. VELU: I want to repeat that all the IPC cases relate only to GRP and the police of the State Governments. The REP has no role. They are not dealing with cognisable offences. We can only assist them to get things expedited. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that for all complaints and all charges under IPC, the RPF has no jurisdiction.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State Police or GRP will investigate if case is registered. But the way police provides protection to them, the Railways should investigate it. Hon. Minister avoids making any comments on it, answering it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What the hon. Member wants to know is what steps do you take where the RPF is involved.

SHRI R. VELU: Wherever RPF is involved in thefts or looting, we are taking action. In fact, in many a case, we have booked them, demoted them, and dismissed them. It is not that we are mute spectators of such happenings in the Railways.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, if you have any specific case, you can take it up with him.

Mr. Minister, he would send you cases and you can take action..

SHRI R. VELU: All right.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: I would like to tell him one thing specifically, that certain people like beggars and drug-addicts, who find railway platform as heaven of rest for themselves, steal or loot articles of passengers who wait for the trains and misbehave with woman passengers. This sort of incidents mainly take place at small stations in Bihar and UP. The law exists to prevent such elements for using platforms for relaxing or sleeping, but the fact is otherwise. They use platform as heavens of rest with the nexus of police and that is why common men are scared of them. Will the Government make any provision whereby lady passengers, especially travelling during night and also alone, without gents with them, can travel fearlessly. Certain women even cancel their journey if the train is late. Will the Government make a provision for providing protection to female passengers at night or provide them police force, especially lady police to escort the trains,

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is good question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. VELU: As I mentioned earlier, after the amendment of the Railways Act which came into effect from 1st of July, 2004 the RPF can take care of the passengers and the passengers area. As the hon. Member put it that in the railway stations, passengers do stay overnight or take rest in the retiring rooms etc., there the RPF is now taking cognisance of those small thefts and also minor offences committed. They are giving protections also.

For the information of the House, I would like to say that today the Railways are having 1,03,330 people consisting of RPF and GRP; about 66,730 people from the RPF and 36,600 from the GRP either to protect the station area or to protect the running trains.

As far as protection during night hours is concerned we are now recruiting more women police also. We have already got 658 women RPF police. In the recent recruitment, more women police have been inducted so that women passengers can be taken care of during night hours also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It should have been a matter of special attention.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, please give me a chance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, I have noted your name and mere shouting would not help. You please wait. I have got the list with me. I will call them accordingly. Your intervention is only disturbing. You have raised your hand and that is noted. In fact, all hands are noted here.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There has been an increase in the criminal activities in the recent past. We are told in this House that in all the long distance trains, the deployment of RPF would be done. But a large number of vacancies, to the extent of 17,000 vacancies, are lying in the RPF. When there are vacancies in Railways, the South-Eastern Railway, has surrendered 500 posts of RPF. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in order to deploy RPF in all the long-distance trains especially in the night trains, whether the vacancies which are there would be filled up on an urgent basis.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether those vacancies in the RPF would be filled up or not.

SHRI R. VELU: I would like to say for the information of the hon. Member, that there are 12,503 vacancies. Now we have already recruited 10,069. They are undergoing training. We are also in the process of filling up the remaining vacancies. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not keeping the 'hon. Chairman' of the Standing Committee of Railways fully informed.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. VELU: Yes, Sir. I always call him 'Bhishma' of the Railways because he knows very well about the Railways.

As far as escorting of long-distance trains during the night hours is concerned, at present about 2,718 trains are being escorted during the night hours. As and when the position improves, you will definitely see that all the trains in the country are being escorted during the night hours. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What about the surrendering of posts in South-Eastern Railway? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. VELU: We will take care of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has said that he will look into it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Every day more than 11 million people are travelling in the trains. That is why, the Indian Railways have to think of providing safety and security to the passengers. This is their paramount duty.

After the amendment of the Railway Act, we have given powers to the RPF with respect to 25 small crimes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any change in the crime rate after that.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the hon. Member said 11 million. It is not 11 million. We are transporting more than this figure. We are transporting 1.40 crore people through 9,000 trains.

Secondly, after the amendment, I had mentioned how the crimes etc. have come down. Earlier, the figure was 15,928 and now it has come down to 14,333.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already given those figures.

SHRI R. VELU: There is a marked improvement in the number of crimes coming down. We will see that it is further brought down. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I wanted to give you a chance, but you were not there in seat.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Losses/Profits of Oil PSUs

*126. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether Public Sector Oil Companies have assessed their loss/profit position during the first six months of the current financial year;

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

(c) whether various petroleum products are being sold at lesser price than their cost price;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount of losses suffered as a result thereof so far, product-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome the situation without hurting the interest of the common man?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, as detailed below:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Oil PSU	Estimated Profit/Loss during the first half of the year 2005-06
1.	Oil India Ltd.	815.78
2.	GAIL (India) Ltd.	1258.00
3.	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	7457.00
4.	Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.	157.90
5.	IBP Co. Ltd.	(-) 424.50
6.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	(-) 530.00
7.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	25.27
8.	Engineers India Ltd.	77.70
9.	Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd.	381.74
10.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	895.00
11.	Kochi Refineries Ltd.	279.00
12.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	(-) 634.37
13.	Blecco Lawrie Ltd.	0.51
14.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.	117.96
15.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	430.42

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The complexity of the refining process, which involves the distillation, cracking, coking and de-sulphurization of many different products, makes

it difficult to accurately assess product-wise losses and the apportionment of product-wise costs. What is clear, however, is that during the period April-November '05,

the four sensitive petroleum products, i.e. petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG have been sold at prices lower than corresponding international import parity cost. This leads to "under-recoveries". The estimated under-recoveries for the period April-November '05 in respect of the sensitive products are tabulated below:

Products	Estimated Under-recoveries for April-Nov'05
On PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG	14,373
On petrol and diesel	12,353
Total	26,726

(e) The Government is continuously monitoring the price situation. The pricing mechanism attempts to balance the interests of various stakeholders, viz., Consumers, Government and Oil Companies.

With a view to containing the burden of the increase in international prices on sensitive petroleum products, particularly since June 2004, the Government resorted to several measures which inter alia included downward revision in customs and excise duties on sensitive petroleum products and moderate price increases, especially in petrol and diesel from time to time. This has been done with a view to ensure equitable distribution of the burden amongst various stake holders, i.e. Government, oil marketing companies and consumers. Further, the Government has formulated a loss sharing scheme as per which upstream oil companies, namely ONGC, OIL and GAIL share 1/3rd of under-recoveries on sensitive petroleum products. The Government is also considering issue of bonds for under recoveries suffered by PSU oil marketing companies on subsidised petroleum products.

The Government has also constituted a high-powered committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C Rangarajan. This Committee will examine the pricing and taxation structure in respect of petroleum products with a view to ensure stability and rationalisation in pricing of petroleum products.

[English]

Welfare of Disabled

*127. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that Persons with Disabilities (PWD) are discriminated in the area of education, employment, public transportation and access to public buildings and services in all walks of life;

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 in letter and spirit for the benefit of large number of disabled in the country; and

(c) the details of other measures taken for the Welfare of PWD for prevention and early detection of disabilities, education, employment, social security and non-discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 are implemented through a multisector collaborative approach by Ministries/Departments concerned both at Centre and State levels. The major steps taken for implementation of the Act include:

- (i) Central Coordination and Executives Committees at the Centre State Coordination and Executive Committees in all the States have been constituted.
- (ii) Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities at the Centre and Commissioners, Disabilities in the all the states have been appointed.
- (iii) Medical and para-medical staff and Aanganwadi workers are being trained on prevention and early detection of disabilities.
- (iv) Awareness about inclusive education is being created. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been promoting inclusive education. Seventeen lakh children with disabilities have been enrolled in integrated schools.
- (v) Reservation of 3% seats for Persons with Disabilities in Government/Government aided educational institutions is being enforced.
- (vi) Reservation of 3% vacancies for persons with disabilities in identified posts, is being enforced in the Central and State Govt. organizations.
- (vii) Reservation of 3% in all the poverty alleviation schemes is being done in most States.

- (viii) Special schools for children with severe disabilities have been established or are being assisted by Central/State Governments to facilitate education of children with disabilities.
- (ix) Six States have identified posts in all the Groups for persons with disabilities. Nine States have identified posts in C&D categories only. Four States are following identified posts notified by the Central Government in all categories of posts. All the seven U.Ts follow Central list.
- (x) Medical Boards have been constituted in most of the States and Union Territories.
- (xi) Nine States and four U.Ts have provision for unemployment allowance. Twenty three States and five U.Ts provide disability pension for persons with disabilities.
- (xii) Six States and one Union Territory have reported adoption of Model Building Bye Laws containing provisions for barrier free built environment for persons with disabilities. Four hundred and thirty eight urban local bodies in these States/UT have also adopted these bye laws.
- (xiii) Instructions have been issued to all the executing agencies e.g., Public Works Departments of States/UTs, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) etc. to make necessary arrangements for adopting barrier free features on the roads constructed/maintained by them
- (xiv) The facility of Signages for persons with disabilities is being provided at A category and important railway stations.
- (c) The following measures are taken:—
- (i) Immunization programmes for children and pregnant women are undertaken to prevent disabilities. Supporting staff of various programmes are provided necessary training for prevention and early detection of disabilities.
- (ii) Children who are not able to participate in the inclusive education system have various options including special schools, home-based education, open learning etc.
- (iii) Five hundred scholarships for students with disabilities for pursuing professional and technical courses at post matric levels are being supported through the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities.
- (iv) the promote employment for persons with disabilities, vocational training is provided through Vocational Rehabilitation Centres and Vocational Training Centres.
- (v) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation extends loans at concessional rate of interest to persons with disabilities for self-employment ventures.
- (vi) Training of personnel for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities is being taken up by seven National Institutes set up in the disability sector.
- (vii) The Rehabilitation Council of India, a statutory authority regulates and monitors the training of Rehabilitation professionals and personnel, promotes research in rehabilitation and special education.
- (viii) The National Trust for Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple disabilities is implementing Supported Guardianship Scheme and Day Care Centre for the target group.
- (ix) One hundred twenty District Disability Rehabilitation Centres and four Composite Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to provide rehabilitation services at the grass root level.
- (x) Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) manufactures aids and appliances for persons with disabilities.
- (xi) Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase and fitting of aids and appliances (ADIP) provides for free and at concessional rates, aids and appliances to the poor and needy persons with disabilities.
- (xii) Specified income tax concessions are available to persons with disabilities and to their families. So far, Income Tax department required a disability certificate in its prescribed format for getting income tax concessions. Since this led to inconvenience to the disabled persons, that department has now agreed to accept the disability certificate issued under the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

(xiii) Concession in Custom duty is available for import of certain aids and appliances. Concession is also available in excise duties for manufacture of certain items.

(xiv) Concession is available to certain categories of persons with disabilities in air, rail and bus fares.

[Translation]

Survey for Oil Discoveries

*128. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has started survey for oil discoveries work at several places during the current year in the country;

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

(c) the progress made in this regard till date; and

(d) the salient features of new exploration licensing policy formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), a body under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has carried out 24,000 Line Kilometer (LKM) of aeromagnetic surveys covering the states of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh during the current year as on 1.10.2005.

During the same period, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have acquired 1126.9 Line Kilometer (LKM) of 2D seismic, 5023.6 sq. km. of 3D seismic and drilled 40 exploratory wells falling in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal and offshore areas.

In the same period, OIL have acquired 245.16 LKM of 2D seismic, 315.41 sq.km. of 3D seismic and 9 exploration well have been drilled/during drilling in the states of Assam and Rajasthan.

During the same period, Private/Joint Venture companies have acquired 7764 LKM of 2D seismic and 7366 sq. km. of 3D seismic and drilled 27 exploratory wells falling in the states of Assam, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and offshore areas.

Government of India have awarded 20 exploration blocks to consortia/private companies/joint ventures (both domestic and foreign)/National Oil Companies, in the fifth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), wherein 12 exploration blocks are in the State of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, 2 exploration blocks in shallow offshore areas and 6 exploration blocks in deep water areas.

(d) The main features of the terms and conditions of offer of exploration blocks under NELP are:—

- (i) Tax Holiday for seven years from start of commercial production.
- (ii) No customs duty on imports required for petroleum operations.
- (iii) Biddable cost recovery limit upto 100%.
- (iv) The possibility of the seismic option in the first phase of the exploration period.
- (v) No minimum expenditure commitment during the exploration period.
- (vi) Option to amortize exploration and drilling expenditures over a period of 10 years from first commercial production.
- (vii) Sharing of profit petroleum based on pre-tax investment multiple achieved by the contractor and is biddable.
- (viii) Royalty for onland areas is payable at the rate of 12.5% for crude oil and 10% for natural gas. For offshore areas, it is payable at the rate of 10% for oil and natural gas. Royalty for deep water areas will be chargeable at half the applicable rate for offshore areas for the first seven years of commercial production.
- (ix) Fiscal stability provision in the contract.
- (x) Freedom to the contractor for marketing of oil and gas in the domestic market.
- (xi) Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) are subject to the laws of India.

Reservation for SCs/STs in Private Sector

*129. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Group of Ministers constituted to examine the reservation for SCs/STs in the private sector has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard and the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The dialogue with associations of industry and trade regarding affirmative action including reservation in private sector is in progress. No specific time frame can be indicated for completion of the dialogue.

Private Sector Participation in Defence Sector

*130. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme for promoting private industries participation in the defence sector;

(b) if so, whether a scheme has been formulated for allowing the private sector participation in the defence systems;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has examined the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee in this regard;

(e) if so, the details of the recommendations of the Committee accepted by the Government;

(f) the action taken/proposes to be taken by the Government to implement the recommendations accepted by the Government;

(g) whether the Indian private sector has shown interest to work with the Defence Public Sector Units and Ordnance Factories; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (h) In May 2001, in order to promote private sector participation in Defence Production, the Government opened the Defence Industry sector up to 100% for Indian private sector participation with Foreign Direct Investment permissible up to 26%, both subject to licensing.

The Government has examined the recommendations contained in Part-I of the Report of the Kelkar Committee, which was submitted on 5th April 2005. The recommendations contained in Part-II of the Report of the Committee, which was submitted on 10th November 2005, are under examination.

Out of a total of 40 recommendations in Part-I of the Report of the Committee, 26 recommendations have been accepted; 8 recommendations have been accepted with some modifications; and the remaining 6 recommendations require further deliberations. The concerned Wings/Departments/Service HQs have been directed to initiate action on the recommendations accepted by the Government for implementation.

A very large number of Indian private sector companies are already working with Defence Public Sector Undertakings and Ordnance Factories and supplying input materials to them. In addition, Ordnance Factories are manufacturing Stallion vehicles for the Indian Army under licence from M/s Ashok Leyland Limited and LPTA (Lorry Passenger Truck All-terrain) under licence from M/s TELCO. Several other companies in the private sector like M/s Larsen & Toubro Limited, Tata Industries, Volvo India, Tractor India etc., have also shown interest to work with Defence PSUs and Ordnance Factories. Government policy is to encourage such public-private partnerships.

[English]

Funds for Railway Projects

*131. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total funds allocated to Southern Railway for various ongoing projects in the current financial year is inadequate for timely completion of these projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of funds sanctioned for gauge conversion and new railway lines works and the funds required for completion of these projects as on date, project-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) An outlay of Rs. 407.75 crore has

been provided in the current financial year 2005-06 for all the ongoing projects in Southern Railway including projects under Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. The outlay for projects in particular State is done based on a transparent formula having weightage of 15% each for area and population of the State and 70% for throwforward of projects in the State. Project-wise allocation is based on progress of the project, its priority and overall availability of resources. For the projects targeted for completion during 2005-06, Southern Railway has projected some additional requirement of funds during budgetary review.

Project-wise details of outlay provided during 2005-06 and requirement of funds as against that including Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. projects, for new line and gauge conversion projects under Southern Railway is as under:—

Sl.No.	Name of the project	Outlay 2005-06 (Rs. in crore)	Outlay required for completion as on 1.4.2005 (Rs. in crore)
New line			
1.	Karur-Salem (85 Kms)	2	157.22
2.	Angamali-Sabarimala (146 Kms)	1	543.38
3.	Kottayam-Erumeli (43 Kms)	1	198.65
4.	Tanur (Kuttipuram)-Guruvayur (50.23 Kms)	1	129.55
Total		5	1029
Gauge Conversion			
1.	Madurai-Rameshwaram (161 kms)	25	151.76
2.	Trichy-Manamadurai (150 kms)	50	141.97
3.	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur & Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (357 kms)	31	316.93
4.	Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore-Karaikal (156 kms)	4.79	30.14
5.	Villupuram-Katpadi (161 kms)	10	222.87
6.	Thanjavur-Villupuram (192 kms)	50.01	121.66
7.	Cuddalore-Salem via Vridhachalam (191 km)	85	98.02
Total		255.8	1083.35

(d) A number of initiatives have been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of the ongoing project. These include sharing by State Governments, Public/Private Partnership, funding from Ministry of Defence, additional resources for National Projects and non-budgetary initiatives for National Rail Vikas Yojana. Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana has also been announced in 2004-05 which envisages investment of about Rs. 20,000 crore in the next five years. However, the funds for the Yojana are yet to be tied up. With these efforts, it may be feasible to expedite the progress of ongoing projects.

[*Translation*]

Procurement of LPD Warship from USA

*132. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to purchase Landing Platform Dock (LPD) warship from United States of America;

(b) if so, whether talks have been held between the two countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said LPD warship is almost four decades old; and

(e) if so, the reasons for purchasing an old LPD warship?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) A case for acquiring Landing Platform Dock (LPD), which is almost four decades old, from the USA is being processed. Discussions have, however, been held with USA regarding this proposal. A naval delegation has also assessed the LPD and estimated its residual life to be between 12-15 years. The ship could provide the Indian Navy enhanced amphibious capability. In addition, the LPD can be deployed for disaster relief operations. It can also function as a command and control platform during mishaps at sea like offshore oil installation fires and maritime air accidents.

FDI for Modernisation of Airports

*133. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to increase the percentage of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for expansion, renovation and modernisation of major airports of the country including Mumbai and Delhi airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the percentage of FDI is likely to be allowed;

(d) whether the foreign companies are likely to join hands with the Indian private companies or public companies for modernisation of the airports;

(e) if so, the names of the foreign companies which have expressed their desire to go for direct investment in the civil aviation sector; and

(f) the manner in which the Government would permit these companies to invest in this sector?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the extant Policy foreign equity participation of new airports is permitted upto 74% with automatic route and upto 100% with FIPB approval. However, in the international airports at Delhi and Mumbai which are being restructured and modernized through Public Private Partnership Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been capped at 49%.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The following foreign entities are part of consortia, who have submitted their bids for re-structuring & modernisation of Mumbai & Delhi airports.

(i) Aeropuertoso Servicios Auxilliares, (ii) Fraport AG Airport Services Worldwide, (iii) Malaysia Airports (Niaga) Sdn. Berhad, (iv) Tepe-Akfen-Vie Yatirim Yapim Ve Isletme Anonim Sirketi (TAV), (v) Flughafen Munchen GmbH, (vi) Aeroports de Paris Management, (vii) Airports Company South Africa; (viii) The Bidvest Group Limited,

and Macquaire Bank through Macquarie India Airports One Limited and Macquaire India Airports Two Limited.

Further, foreign companies, namely, Siemens and Unique Zurich and Malaysian Airport Holding Berhad are part of the Joint Venture Companies (JVCs) viz. Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) & Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL), which are establishing Bangalore & Hyderabad airports, respectively.

(f) The manner of investment by foreign companies for modernisation of airports would be, inter-alia, dependent on FDI policy, airport specific policy, plans of the foreign companies, and demand and supply side considerations.

Production of Defence Ordnance Factories

*134. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production in ordnance factories as against their installed capacity during the last three years;

(b) whether the production is falling short of their installed capacity;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fully utilize installed capacity of these ordnance factories?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The value of total production in the Ordnance Factories during the last three years was Rs. 7,908.69 crores, Rs. 8,259.68 crores, and Rs. 8,331.75 crores respectively, and the machine utilization in the corresponding years was 74.36%, 75.59 and 74.28%.

(b) to (d)) Production capacity in Ordnance Factories is created based on war time requirement projected by the Defence Forces, whereas actual production is as per their annual requirements which depends on available stocks, training needs and threat perception. Hence, capacity utilization in Ordnance Factories is lower than installed capacity. However, order placement is pursued regularly and constant endeavours made to maximize exploration of installed plant capacities by increasing efficiency.

[English]

Merger of Air India and Indian Airlines

*135. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems faced by Air India and Indian Airlines arising from inefficient operations and growing competition from the other airlines;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to solve these problems;

(c) whether the Government is considering any proposal to merge both the Airlines into one single company;

(d) if so, the details alongwith the present status thereof;

(e) the extent to which the merger would reduce costs, avoid duplication and increase the business and profitability; and

(f) the steps likely to be taken to safeguard the interests of the staff of these undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India and Indian Airlines are operating in a highly competitive market. However, both the airlines constantly endeavour to take measures to improve their product and remain competitive in the market. Besides both the airlines are in the process of acquiring modern aircraft in order to revamp their fleet.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

DTH Channels

*136. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of channels covered under the Direct of Home (DTH) service of Doordarshan;

(b) whether the DTH service of Doordarshan lags behind the other DTH services such as Dishnet, Zee Dish etc. due to less number of channels;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to increase the number of channels under Doordarshan DTH Service;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to formulate any guidelines in this regard;

(f) if so, the time by which these guidelines are likely to be framed; and

(g) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Doordarshan's Direct-to-Home (DTH) service comprises nineteen Doordarshan and fourteen Private TV Channels, besides twelve All India Radio Channels.

(b) No, Sir. "DD Direct+" has proved to be very popular since the launch of the service on 16th December, 2004.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan is in the process of acquiring additional hardware to increase the number of TV channels in its free-to-air DTH service from thirty three to fifty. No final decision has been taken on the modalities of inclusion of private TV channels in this regard. Besides, there is also a proposal from Prasar Bharati to further increase the number of channels to one hundred.

(e) to (g) The participation of private TV channels on the DTH platform of Doordarshan, as and when it is expanded, will be governed by the terms of the formal contractual agreement to be entered into by Doordarshan with private channels in this regard.

[Translation]

Suicides by Jawans

*137. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of suicides among jawans of Armed Forces are increasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such cases reported during the last one year till date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is no definite trend of increase in such cases.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Since January 2005, 93 cases of suicide have been reported.

(d) Proactive approach through better man management techniques is being adopted at different levels. Measures such as identification of high risk category, increased inter personnel relationship and communication between Officers and Jawans, stress management, counselling by professionals, establishment of helpline and increased focus on welfare activities are taken to prevent such incidents.

[English]

Allotment of Non-Profitable Routes

*138. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new private airlines permitted to operate their flights in India;

(b) whether these airlines have also been given loss making/non-profitable routes;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps the Government proposes to take to allot non-profitable routes to private airlines also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Kingfisher

Airlines, Spicejet, Paramount Airways and Go Airlines are the new private scheduled airlines, which have been permitted to operate scheduled domestic air services.

(b) to (d) The Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services to different regions of the country.

It is however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

Dues from Private Airlines

*139. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector airlines owe huge amount of dues to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the private airlines and the amount due from each of them as on date; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the dues from these airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The normal dues (within credit period) outstanding against the major private sector airlines viz., Jet Airways, Sahara Airlines, Air Deccan, Spice Jet and Kingfisher Airlines are Rs. 2959.14 lakhs, Rs. 797.72 lakhs, Rs. 577.89 lakhs, Rs. 62.79 lakhs and Rs. 106.66 lakhs, respectively. The overdues against Jet Airways, Sahara Airlines, Air Deccan, Spice Jet, Kingfisher Airlines, East West Airlines, NEPC, Skyline NEPC, Archana Airways, Mesco, Elbee Air, VIF Airways, Continental Aviation and Jagson Airlines are Rs. 350 lakhs, Rs. 125 lakhs, 1340 lakhs, Rs. 0.00, Rs. 119 lakhs, Rs. 1622 lakhs, Rs. 354.98 lakhs, Rs. 166.10 lakhs, Rs. 39.62 lakhs, Rs. 306.23 lakhs, Rs. 102.96 lakhs, Rs. 24.79 lakhs, Rs. 184 lakhs and Rs. 131.26 lakhs, respectively.

(c) Dues are monitored regularly by Airports Authority of India. Wherever necessary, action is taken through legal/arbitration/public premises act. Besides, interest is levied for overdue period on defaulting airlines. The security deposit is also increased suitably based on the operations.

Maintenance of Aircraft of Air India

*140. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of delays of flights operated by Air India (AI) occurred due to technical snags caused by poor maintenance during the last three months;

(b) whether maintenance of aircraft of AI is not up to the mark causing occurrence of technical snags frequently;

(c) if so, whether delays in arrival/departure of flights of AI has tarnished its image in the international market; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures 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) The details of delays of flights operated by Air India due to engineering delays during the last three months are as under:

Month	Total delays	Engineering delays	Percentage
Aug. 05	501	193	39
Sept. 05	374	160	43
Oct. 05	414	110	27

(b) No, Sir. Air India strictly complies with the maintenance schedule, requirements, directives and guidelines issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation and other regulatory agencies.

(c) No, Sir. Air India's overall technical dispatch reliability was better than the industry average for the 12 months period ending June 2005.

(d) All the technical delays are investigated thoroughly and necessary rectifications/corrective action is taken. A Permanent Investigation Board (PIB) also investigates all incidents and suggests corrective action to the Quality Control & Technical Services Division of Engineering Department, which takes necessary action to prevent recurrence. Besides, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation also monitor, scrutinize and audit the maintenance activities performed by Air India.

*[Translation]***Royalty on Crude Oil**

*141. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

- (a) the royalty paid to the crude oil producing States during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the royalty rates were fixed last;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to increase the royalty on crude oil to the States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Expert Committee constituted for the purpose has submitted its report to the Government;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) A statement indicating the amount of royalty paid to crude oil producing states during each of the last three years is enclosed.

(b) The Government, put in place a new scheme of royalty effective 1.4.1998 and last revised the rates on crude oil on 17.03.2003.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) The Government had set up an Intra-Ministerial Committee on 26.04.2000 under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Exploration), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, to devise a new scheme of royalty on crude oil. The Committee had consulted all stake holders including the crude oil producing States and national Oil companies and had also obtained expert inputs from National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP). Based on the inputs, the Committee had submitted its report on 26.11.2001. The Government had considered the report of the committee and put in place

a new scheme of royalty on crude oil as mentioned in reply to part (b) of the Question.

Statement

Royalty paid to the Crude Oil Producing States during last three years

Amount of Royalty received in (Rs. Crore)

State	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
Gujarat	1130.97	8667.46	887.97
Assam	894.06	703.18	589.13
Andhra Pradesh	77.25	77.29	78.35
Tamil Nadu	102.32	70.64	71.06
Tripura	6.96	5.94	5.75
Rajasthan	2.39	1.43	1.20
Arunachal Pradesh	10.98	20.84	4.51
Total	2224.93	9546.78	1637.97

*[Translation]***Manhandling of VIPs in Punjab Mail**

1270. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some anti-social elements manhandled some VIPs in Punjab Mail near Jhansi recently;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) the corrective action being taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 16.9.2005 around 14.06 hrs, Shri Uma Shankar Gupta, Minister of Transport, Government of Madhya Pradesh was travelling with his family in AC Coaches of train No. 2137 Dn. Punjab Mail from Bhopal to Gwalior. Shri Chatter Pal Singh Yadav, a leader of Samajvadi Party going to Jhansi was also travelling in the said coach. A dispute

took place between the family members of the Hon'ble Minister and Shri Chatter Pal Yadav on the point of accommodation in the coach. The said matter was reported to Government Railway Police/Bina. On arrival of the train at Bina Railway Station, Shri Chatter Pal Singh was detained and necessary security was provided to the Hon'ble Minister to ensure his safe journey up to Gwalior. In repercussion, a mob of 60/70 persons assembled at Lalitpur Railway Station searching for the Hon'ble Minister in the train. They were pacified and persuaded to be calm by the Government Railway Police, Lalitpur. The train was stopped at Bijauli Railway Station by pulling alarm chain and a mob of about 500 persons attacked the said AC coach and damaged window panes with lathi, iron rod etc. They also reportedly opened fire and in retaliation the security personnel also opened fire. Due to this incident, two passengers travelling in the said AC coach and one constable sustained bullet injuries.

(c) On the complaint of the Chief Ticket Inspector of the said AC coach, Government Railway Police/Jhansi has registered a case No. 93/2005 dated 16.9.2005 under sections 147, 148, 149, 307 and 427 IPC and 7 Criminal Law Amendment; 151 & 152 Railway Act against 500 unknown persons. None has been arrested so far. Further, on the complaint of Shri Chatter Pal Singh Yadav, a case vide FIR No. 0155/05 under sections 394, 504 and 506 IPC has been registered at Government Railway Police Station, Jhansi/Uttar Pradesh against the Minister for Transport, Madhya Pradesh, Shri Uma Shanker Gupta and his associates and transferred to Government Railway Police Station, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on the point of jurisdiction. None has been arrested so far in this case.

On the complaint of Shri Satya Narain, brother-in-law the Minister of Transport/Madhya Pradesh to the Government Railway Police, Bhopal, case No. 93/05 under sections 147, 148, 149, 307, 336, 506 and 120-B IPC, has also been registered on transfer at Government Railways Police Station/Jhansi against Shri Chatter Pal Singh Yadav, Shri Pushpender Yadav, Shri Gajender Yadav and Shri Anup and two to three thousands of their supporters. No arrest has been made so far.

(d) Adequate security to the VIP passengers travelling in trains are being provided by the concerned State Governments. Co-ordination is maintained by the Railways with the Government Railway Police authorities. The situation in the trains and Railway premises is being reviewed periodically in the co-ordination meetings. Any assistance by way of RPF personnel or resources required to maintain law and order is being provided by the Railways.

Implementation of Minimum Wages Act

1271. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Wages Act and other Labour Laws are applicable on civilian employees of Border Road Organisation (BRO);

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that BRO is not giving minimum wages to the labourers working under them;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the action taken against the officials found guilty for violating of labour laws; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the implementation of Minimum Wages Act and other labour laws in BRO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is not applicable to regular civilian employees of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). The Workmen Compensation Act, 1923 is however, applicable to them.

(b) Labour is engaged in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on daily or monthly rates of wages depending upon the availability of work and budget with BRO. The daily or monthly rates of wages are fixed by the Chief Engineer in consultation with the local Civil authorities which is not less than the minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Committee on Anglo-Indian Community

1272. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a high level committee to study social, economic and educational status of Muslim Community;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a similar committee for making an extensive study of the problems of the members of the Anglo-Indian community in the country including their education, employment and social security arrangements;

(d) if so, details and composition thereof and the time fixed for the committee to submit its report; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes Madam, The Government has constituted a Seven member high level committee to prepare a report on the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim Community of India under the Chairmanship of Justice Rajender Sachar.

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal.

Training to Bangladesh Personnel at Indian Institute of Petroleum

1273. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to offer training to personnel from Bangladesh at the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun;

(b) if so, whether any agreements have been signed between the two countries in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) According to information received from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, under which the Indian Institute of Petroleum falls, the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun has not signed any agreement with Bangladesh to offer training to the personnel of Bangladesh.

Exploration and Production by GAIL

1274. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL (India) Ltd. proposes to acquire exploration and production companies;

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

(c) the details of investments proposed by GAIL on exploration and production during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) While GAIL have participating interests in a number of exploration blocks, they have not finalized any proposal to acquire exploration and production companies.

(c) GAIL have reported their proposed expenditure on exploration and production during 2004-05 to be Rs. 336.88 crores.

New Rail Line from Howrah to Balurghat

1275. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new rail line from Howrah to Balurghat has been sanctioned;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the funds earmarked therefor; and

(c) the time schedule for completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The new rail line from Eklakhi to Balurghat has already been completed and commissioned. This provides rail connectivity between Howrah and Balurghat via Eklakhi.

Goods Yard in Changsari and Azara Railway Stations

1276. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Assam for starting goods yards in Changsari and Azara Railway Stations to ease congestion in New Guwahati and Guwahati Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, both Changsari and Azara have been notified in the year 1996 and 2004 respectively for dealing of inward goods.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Double-Stack Container Trains

1277. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to run double-stack container trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the routes where these trains would be introduced;

(d) whether this project would be undertaken with external help; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Trial runs and related works are planned to be carried out on Pipavav-Jaipur circuit initially. If the trains are successful, regular run on these routes will be taken up. Extension to other feasible sectors will be considered subsequently. Possibility of running Double Stack Container on the proposed Dedicated Freight Corridor (Delhi—Mumbai and Delhi—Howrah) is also being technically assessed under the Feasibility Report for new lines.

(d) and (e) Trails are being carried out with Indian Railways resources. Pipavav Railway Corporation Limited (PRCL) has been involved in the project assessment stage. External (presumed foreign) help has not been planned for.

New Track between Budge Budge and Falta

1278. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to conduct survey for laying of new track between Budge Budget and Falta;

(b) if so, whether the survey has been completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A survey for a new rail line between Budge Budge and Falta was completed in 2000-01.

[Translation]

Older Persons (Maintenance, Care and Protection) Bill, 2005

1279. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1721 dated August 4, 2005 regarding Care of Old Parents and state:

(a) whether comments have been received from the State Government/Union Territory Administrations on the proposed bill namely "The Older Persons Bill, 2005;"

(b) if so, the present status of the Bill alongwith the details of the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which the legislation is likely to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Comments have been received from 20 State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on the concept paper. Regional consultations have also been held to elicit views of all stakeholders.

(c) It is not possible to indicate a time limit.

[English]

Status of International Airports

1280. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for giving any airport the status of an International Airport;

(b) the names of airports which were given the status of International Airports during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to declare some more airports as international airports;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all the international airports so declared have all the facilities required for such airports; and

(f) if not, the steps taken to provide such facilities in those airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Generally, following preconditions are considered necessary before declaring an airport as international an airport:—

- (i) A firm commitment by a scheduled national/international airline operator;
- (ii) Runway length to be atleast 9000 feet;
- (iii) Availability of customs, immigration, health facilities;
- (iv) Availability of ground lighting facilities, instrument landing system for operation of aircraft at night;
- (v) Bilateral agreement between the States (Nations) under which it may be offered as a point-of-call to foreign carriers for operations.

(b) Srinagar and Nagpur airports have been given the status of international airports during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Declaration of an airport as an international airport, generally depends on the preconditions mentioned in (a) above.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. However, the existing facilities are upgraded/modernised on continuous basis to meet the growth of air traffic.

Charges for Pay Channels

1281. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some TV broadcasting companies have started charging huge amount from the cable operators in the country for the pay channels;

(b) if so, whether they have got any permission from the Government;

(d) if not, the Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) The charges payable by cable subscribers to cable operators and by cable operators to multi system operators/broadcasters and being regulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The charges have been frozen at the levels of 26.12.2003. To allow for inflation, these charges have been allowed an increase upto 7% with effect from 1.1.2005. These ceilings do not apply to pay channels, which have come up after 26.12.2003 or to Free to Air (FTA) channels converted to pay channels after 26.12.2003. However, TRAI has specified that rates of these channels must be similar to the rates of similar channels, as on 26.12.2003 and these must be provided on a stand-alone basis either individually or as a part of new separate bouquets. In terms of the Tariff order of 1.10.2004 the broadcasters of new pay channel(s) that have been introduced after 26.12.2003 or of any channel(s) that was free to air channels on 26.12.2003 and is/are converted to a pay channels subsequently, are required to furnish to the Authority information in respect of charges for these channels.

The TV broadcasting companies have to comply with the requirements of the above Tariff Orders issued by TRAI, from time to time, which are available on its website (www.traigov.in).

[Translation]

Conversion of Pay Channels Into Free Channels

1282. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view of the two types of channels i.e. pay channel and non-payment channels being shown in the country, there is a need to bring all the channels within the scope of free Direct to Home (DTH) system in the interest of consumers as they remain

deprived of the pay channels which earn huge revenue through advertisements even after receiving transmission charges:

(b) if so, whether the Government is making efforts to overcome this problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the pay channels and non-payment channels including the channel-wise fee being charged by them;

(e) whether the Government would lay maximum emphasis on free transmission;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government proposes to convert the pay channel transmission with free channel transmission by adopting special advertisement policy; and

(h) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Currently DTH service in the country is being provided by two service providers. One is DD-Direct (free to air DTH Service) being provided by Doordarshan. The other M/s ASC Enterprises Ltd., private company is a pay DTH service provider. The consumers have choice either to have free service of DD-Direct or the pay service of private service provider or both to see their favourite programmes. A list of channels provided by DD-Direct and M/s. ASC Enterprises Ltd. is enclosed as Statement.

(e) and (f) The Government has already permitted Doordarshan to increase capacity of its free to air DTH service to 50 channels.

(g) No such proposal is being considered.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement

List of channels included in the bouquet of DD Direct Plus

DD Channels	Private Channels	Radio Channels
1. DD National	1. Aaj Tak	1. Vividh Bharati
2. DD News	2. Headlines Today	2. Air FM Rainbow
3. DD Sports	3. BBC World	3. AIR FM Gold
4. DD India	4. Jain TV	4. AIR Hindi
5. DD Bharati	5. Star Utsav	5. AIR Bangla
6. DD Kashir	6. Zee Music	6. AIR North East
7. DD Punjabi	7. Smile TV	7. AIR Oriya
8. DD North East	8. ETV Marathi	8. AIR Gujarati
9. DD Bangla	9. Sun TV	9. AIR Marathi
10. DD Oriya	10. Kairali TV	10. AIR Telugu
11. DD Gujarati	11. Aakash Bangla	11. AIR Tamil
12. DD Sahyadri (Marathi)	12. ETC Punjabi	12. AIR Kannada
13. DD Saptagiri (Telugu)	13. MH-1	
14. DD Chandana (Kannada)	14. TV-9	
15. DD Podhigai (Tamil)		
16. DD Malayalam		
17. DD LS (Lok Sabha)		
18. DD RS (Rajya Sabha)		
<i>Educational Channel</i>		
1. Gyan Darshan		

*Channels Offered by M/s ASC Enterprises Ltd. on its
DTH Platform*

Total Channels = 99

Package	Rates*
Dish Plus Package	Rs. 125/-
1. pogo	
2. Boomerang	
3. HBO	
4. Zee Studio	
5. TCM	
6. VHI	
7. STC	
8. Trace TV	
9. Reality TV	
10. Zee Caf	
Goal TV Package	Rs. 20/-
1. Goal TV One	
2. Goal TV Two	
Dish Bisoscope	Rs. 55/-
1. Zee Premier	
2. Zee Action	
3. Zee Classic	
4. Filmazia	
Dish News	Rs. 60/-
1. CNBC TV 18	
2. Euro News	
3. CNN-Headlines News	
4. Euro Sports News	
5. Zee Business	
6. CNBC Awaz	
7. NDTV 24X7	

Dish Pick

Two Channels = Rs. 30/- per month
 Five Channels = Rs. 50/- per month
 Seven Channels = Rs. 60/- per month
 All Channels = Rs. 100/- per month

Dish welcome bouquet + Dish Hindi/Punjabi or dish Bangla or dish Oriya or dish Gujarati or dish Marathi = Rs. 142/-

Dish welcome bouquet + dish Tamil/Malayalam or dish Kannada or Dish Telugu = Rs. 107/-

Dish Welcome

Movies	Music	English Entertainment
Zee Cinema	Zee Music ETC Music B4U Music MH1 Music Balle Balle The Music	ABC Asiapac CCTV 9
Kids	Fashion	Sports
Cartoon Network	Zee Trendz Fashion TV	ESPN Star Sports Zee Sports
Religious	Regional Entertainment	News
Zee Jagran	ETC Punjabi	Zee News
Aastha	Zee Arabiya	Aaj Tak
GOD TV	NETV	CNN
TCT World	NTV	BBC World
QTV	Akash Bangla	Total TV
3 ABN		Channel 7
International	Hindi Entertainment	
TVS Asia (French)	Zee Smile Siti Channel Play TV	

*Dish Welcome Regional—Complete Your Welcome Bouquet
by Picking any One*

dish Hindi/Punjabi	dish Gujarati	dish Oriya
Zee TV	Zee TV	ETV-Oriya
Sahara One	Zee Gujarati	ZEE TV
Zee Punjabi	ETV—Gujarati	Sahara One
ETV-Rajasthan	Sahara One	ETV—Urdu
ETV—UP	NDTV India	ETV—Bihar

ETV—Bihar	Sahara Samay	Nepal 1
ETV—MP	ETV—Urdu	NDTV India
ETV—Urdu	India TV	Sahara Samay
Geo TV		India TV
Sahara Samay		
India TV		
NDTV India		
The City		

dish Tami/Malayalam	dish Bangla	dish Marathi
Asianet	Zee Bangla	Zee Marathi
Jeevan TV	ETV—Bangla	Zee TV
Jaya TV	Zee TV	Sahara One
NDTV 24x7	Sahara One	NDTV India
ETV—Urdu	ETV—Bihar	Sahara Samay
Indiavision	Nepal 1	ETV—Urdu
SS Music	NDTV India	India TV
DAN Ozhi	Sahara Samay	
DAN Cinema	India TV	
Asianet News		
Asianet Plus		
DAN Music		

dish Telugu	dish Kannada
Zee Telugu	ETV—Kannada
ETV—Telugu	The City
MAA TV	
ETV—Urdu	ETV—Urdu
ETV2 Telugu News	NDTV 24x7
NDTV 24x7	SS Music
SS Music	

*Channels available as part of the Free-to-Air
DD DTH Service*

DD1	DD Sapthagiri	DD Gyandarshan	Akash Bangla
DD India	DD Bangla	Aaj Tak	ETV Marathi
DD News	DD North East	BBC World	Sun TV (Tamil)
DD Sports	DD Gujarati	Star Utsav	Kairali
DD Lok Sabha	DD Sahayadri	Jain TV	(Malayalam)
DD Rajya Sabha	(Marathi)	Headlines Today	TV 9 (Telugu)
DD Kashmir	DD Oriya	Zee Music	ETC Punjabi
DD Punjabi	DD Chandana	MHQ Music	
DD Bharati	(Kannada)	Zee Smile	
	DD Podigai		
	(Tamil)		
	DD Malayalam		

Radio Channels

Punjab Radio	AIR Tamil	AIR Kannada	AIR NE
AIR VBS	AIR Gujarati	AIR Bangla	AIR Punjabi
AIR Telugu	FM Rainbow	AIR Hindi	FM Gold
AIR Marathi			

[English]

**Survey of Chitradurga-Jagalpur-Kottur
New Railway Line**

1283. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey for Chitradurga-Jagalpur-Kottur new railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the project;

(d) the funds allocated during the current year; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a survey for construction of new line from Kottur to Chitradurga via Jagalur has been taken up in 2005-06.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Community Radio

1284. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to start the second phase of community radio operations which will help farmers, students and others;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a)

to (c) Yes Sir. The draft policy is before a Group of Ministers.

Recommendations of Naresh Chandra Committee

1285. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by the Naresh Chandra Committee;

(b) the details of recommendations which have been adopted by the Government; and

(c) the reasons for not accepting the remaining recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The details of the main recommendations made by the Naresh Chandra Committee are as under:—

- Lowering systems costs by introducing liberal fiscal regime—rationalisation of taxes on ATF and AVGAS.
- Allow airlines to source ATF from supplier of their choice and improving coordination with other ministries.
- Provide common hydrant infrastructure at airports for supply of ATF.
- Reduce airport charges to international level.
- Liberalise international air transport segment.
- Join regional/multilateral groups for better international connectivity.
- Allow domestic private airlines to operate international services.
- Liberalise international air charters.
- Restructuring of Indian Airlines/Air India/Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. by disinvestments etc.
- Lower entry barriers for domestic airlines.
- Raise FDI limits in domestic airlines from 40 to 49% and permit foreign airlines to hold equity.
- Encourage regional air services.
- Establishment of Essential Air Services Fund (EASF) to maintain essential but uneconomical air services/airports.
- Maintain essential air services by minimum subsidy bidding and abolish route dispersal guidelines.
- Encourage helicopter operations and announce specific policy and procedures for helicopter operations.
- Encourage general aviation by suitable incentives.
- Unbundle Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- Expedite privatisation of Mumbai and Delhi airports and privatise other airports as well.
- Ensure choice in ground handling services.
- Upgrade computer systems and provide more space at international airports for immigration and other services.
- Separate ATC services from AAI and vest them with a government owned ATC Corporation under the purview of DGCA.
- Establish a separate economic regulator for aviation sector i.e. Aviation Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA).
- Set up mechanism for effective coordination among various agencies.
- BCAS should remain the nodal agency for aviation security.
- Take suitable measures for strengthening the infrastructure for training of Pilots, Engineers and other technical personnel, including commercialisation of IGRUA.
- Legislation of Civil Aviation Security Act.
- Improve Immigration and Customs procedures.
- Restructure of DGCA and split up accident investigation from DGCA to a separate authority.
- Amend the Aircraft Act 1934, Aircraft Rules 1937 and the Regulations for effective regulation of all aspects of aviation.
- Enhancement of Air Space Capacity.
- Airport capacity enhancement.

- Enhancement of Communication, Navigation & Surveillance Capability.
- Development of Helipads and Heliports.
- Take measure to promote Export of indigenous Aeronautical Products.

(b) and (c) These recommendations have been examined & a comprehensive "National Civil Aviation Policy" has been drafted in consultation with the stakeholders in the aviation sector. A draft of the Civil Aviation Policy is under consideration of Government in consultation with concerned Ministries.

[Translation]

Literacy Rate of SCs

1286. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether literacy rate of Scheduled Castes in many districts of the country is less than five per cent;
- (b) if so, names of such districts;
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to increase literacy rate of Scheduled Castes in these districts; and
- (d) the achievements made as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) As per Census of India 2001, there is no district in the country having less than five (5) per cent literacy rate amongst the Scheduled Castes.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Funds for Implementation of NPRPD

1287. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated and released to various States/UTs for the implementation of the National

Programme for the Rehabilitation of Physically Disabled Persons (N.P.R.P.D.) during each of the last three years including the current year, State/UTs-wise; and

(b) the details of achievements made under the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Programme was a State Sector Scheme initiated in the year 1999-2000. The funds were allocated & released to States/UTs during the years 1999-2000 to 2001-02 as central assistance.

Thereafter, no funds have been allocated and released during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

Failure of Interlocking System on Railway Track

1288. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite interlocking system, two trains came on the same track in Panipat during September, 2005;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any investigation of this incident;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof;
- (e) the action taken against the officials found guilty; and
- (f) the steps taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This was on account of interference to interlocking system by Railway maintenance staff on duty at Panipat.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The accident occurred on account of interference to Interlocking by on duty Railway maintenance staff at Panipat.

(e) Action under the Railways (Disciplinary & Appeal), Rules 1968 with a view to impose major penalty has been initiated against the Railway maintenance staff on duty.

(f) All staff have been counselled not to interfere with Interlocking system, in a Safety Drive conducted by Northern Railway. Inspections at supervisor and officer level have been intensified.

Stoppage of Express Trains at Kanhan Junction

1289. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to provide stoppage to some express trains at Kanhan Junction of South East Central Railway near Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any representation has been received from Pravasi Mitra Mandal in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) Kanhan is a roadside station and is being served by 9 pairs of passenger trains. These are considered adequate for the existing level of traffic offering at the station. Stoppage of the Express trains at Kanhan has been examined and has neither been found commercially justified nor operationally feasible. However, the few passengers of Kanhan desirous of travelling by Express trains can do so with a changeover at Nagpur, which is 19 Kms away from Kanhan.

Tenders for Purchase of Stationery

1290. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the JS&CAO, Ministry of Defence has invited tenders for purchase of stationery and other articles by brand names recently;

(b) if so, whether there is any provision in the new GFR, 2005 for calling tenders by brand names;

(c) if not, the action proposed to be taken against the authorities responsible for calling tenders by brand names;

(d) the reasons for not putting tenders on the website;

(e) the steps taken to put them on website forthwith;

(f) whether JS&CAO has called for samples from the vendors whose rates have been selected by them; and

(g) if so, the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Office of Joint Secretary (Trg.) & CAO has invited tenders for purchase of stationery items by generic names to the extent feasible in terms of Rule 160 (vii) of General Financial Rules, 2005. Out of 43 items, only 5 items of low value, such as Ball pen and Refil, etc. were by brand names.

(d) and (e) As the requirement of the Department was on urgent basis, the tenders could not be put on website earlier. However, the same is available on the website, www.caomd.nic.in now.

(f) and (g) Samples were invited from all bidders along with their quotations for the purpose of verifying the quality of the items to be procured.

Filling up of Ex-servicemen Quota

1291. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up the matter of non-fulfilling the Ex-Servicemen quota in re-employment with the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which the Government is intending to take up this matter with the concerned State Governments;

(d) the present status of the proposal for transfer of Army Personnel to Central Parliamentary forces which has been under consideration of the Government; and

(e) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQU): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Defence has been requesting State Governments/U.T. Administrations from time to time for optimum utilisation of the vacancies reserved for ex-servicemen by making provision for carry forward of such vacancies till these are filled up by re-employing them. Last such reference was made to the States/U.Ts in January 2005.

(d) and (e) A working group under the Chairmanship of Adjutant General, Army Headquarters having representatives from Ministry of Home Affairs, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Central Industrial Security Force and National Security Council Secretariat is already seized with the matter relating to the proposal for lateral induction of Armed Forces personnel into Central Para Military Forces. A definite time indication is not possible.

Construction of ROB at Paravoor, Kollam District

1292. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to construct Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Paravoor, Kollam District;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No specific kilometre and level crossing number has been mentioned where Road Over Bridge (ROB) is demanded. Railway construct Road Over/Under bridge in lieu of busy level crossings (LCs) where traffic density is more than 1 lakh Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) otherwise on deposit terms at cost of sponsoring authorities. In both the cases proposal have to be sponsored by State Government/Local Authorities. It is also to mention that there are already 56 numbers of Road Over/Under Bridges sanctioned on cost sharing basis in State of Kerala which is highest number of works sanctioned under the Plan head in any State.

However, a proposal has been received by Railway from State Government of Kerala for construction of ROB in lieu of L.C. No. 554 at Km. 168/7-8 near Paravoor between Paravoor and Kappil Stations in Quilon-Trivandrum Section. The proposal is examined by Railway regarding feasibility, cost, drawing etc. as well as keeping the total number of works already sanctioned and progress made on already sanctioned works, throw forward etc. before considering in the Railway's Works Programme.

[Translation]

Supply of Petroleum Products to Madhya Pradesh by BPCL

1293. SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that petroleum products were not supplied to the Madhya Pradesh by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited due to price hike in petroleum products recently on September 5, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that other companies such as Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited supplied petroleum products on the same day;

(c) if so, whether the Government plans to take steps to tackle this particular problem faced by the BPCL consumers particularly the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have stated that a supply of Motor Spirit (MS)/High Speed Diesel (HSD) to Retails Outlets (ROs) on 06.09.2005, the day of the price hike, were executed in line with the monthly trends to avoid excessive indents for hoarding of products at the ROs.

(c) to (e) In view of this, execution of indents of RO dealers was done keeping in view the daily offtake at the ROs. No dry-outs were reported at ROs during the day of the price hike on 06.09.2005.

*[English]***Terminal Management Systems**

1294. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to commission Terminal Management Systems (TMS) in various railway zones;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be commissioned in all the railway zones?

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

(b) The Terminal Management System is a module of the Freight Operations Information System (FOIS) project. The latest anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 422.79 crore.

(c) the latest target for completion of the project is June 2006.

*[Translation]***Extension of Shivganga Express**

1295. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend the 2559/2560 Shivganga Express upto Balia in view of over crowding and limited number of trains available; and

(b) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]***Air Connectivity with Pakistan**

1296. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been initiated by the Government to improve air connectivity with Pakistan by entering into open sky agreement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No 'Open Sky' agreement has been entered into with Pakistan.

Extension of Express Trains upto Puri

1297. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to extend the Dhauli Express and Lokmanya Tilak Express upto Puri was under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in extending these two trains upto Puri; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Retirement Age for Pilots

1298. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines are facing acute shortage of pilots;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to increase the retirement age of pilots;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this matter;

(e) the extent to which the requirement of pilots is likely to be fulfilled;

(f) whether the Government has also relaxed norms for using expatriate pilots to tie-over the shortage; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) The Government has not increased the retirement age of pilots. However, the Government has permitted services of professional pilots upto the age of 65 years from the existing 61 years provided the aircraft is operated in a multi crew environment and the other pilot is less than sixty years of age.

(f) and (g) The Government has not relaxed the norms for using expatriate pilots. However, the Government has empowered the DGCA to grant validation of foreign pilot's licences for a period of one year.

Availability of Crude Oil

1299. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of availability of crude oil in the country as on date;

(b) if so, the total quantity of crude oil available in the country at the end of November, 2005;

(c) the number of places identified so far having possibility of exploration of crude oil and assessment made regarding quantity of crude oil available at each of these places; and

(d) the present average annual production of crude oil in the country and the possibility of increasing the production during the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Assessment of reserves are made on an annual basis and reported every year as on the 31st March of the year. Based on oil reserves established as on 1.4.2005 as a result of exploration, the Balance Recoverable reserves of oil in the country are estimated at 740.77 million metric tonne (MMT).

(c) The quantum of balance recoverable oil reserves established as on 1.4.2005, state-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The production of oil in the country in 2004-05 was 33.980 MMT. During the last three years, the average oil production was 33.47 MMT.

Statement

State-wise reserves of oil as on 01.4.2005

State/Offshore area	Balance Recoverable Reserve of oil (MMT)
Andhra Pradesh	4.72
Arunachal Pradesh	5.21
Assam	163.68
Gujarat	173.99
Nagaland	2.69
Rajasthan	11.10
Tamil Nadu	8.17
Total Onland	369.56
East Coast	32.53
West Coast	338.68
Total offshore	371.21
Grand Total	740.77

Financial Structure for Prasar Bharati

1300. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a committee to suggest viable capital and financial structure for Prasar Bharati to facilitate the strengthening of its functioning;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the composition thereof;

(c) whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government;

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

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Committee has been appointed by the Government on 30th March, 2005 for suggesting a viable capital and financial structure for the Prasar Bharati to facilitate the strengthening of its functioning. Its composition and 'Terms of Reference' are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Since the collection, collation and compilation of the requisite data from various field units is likely to take time, the term of the committee has been extended for a further period of three months w.e.f. 1st October, 2005, i.e., until 31st December, 2005 for finalisation and submission of its report.

Statement

[1] Composition:

1. Secretary (I&B)	— Chairman
2. Additional Secretary (I&B)	— Member
3. Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser (I&B)	— Member
4. Chief Executive Officer, Prasar Bharati	— Member
5. Member (Finance), Prasar Bharati	— Member
6. Joint Secretary (Broadcasting), I&B	— Member-Convenor
7. Adviser (C&I), Planning Commission	— Member
8. Joint Secretary (Exp.), Min. of Finance	— Member
9. Director-General, Doordarshan	— Member
10. Director-General, All India Radio	— Member

Besides, a noted Cost Accountant has been associated as an Expert on the Committee.

[2] Terms of Reference:

- (a) The Committee shall propose a viable capital and financial structure for Prasar Bharati.
- (b) While proposing such a model, the Committee shall take into account the role of Prasar Bharati as a Public Service Broadcaster and the need to maximize its revenue-earning potential through commercial operations.

Salary Commission for Members of Parliament

1301. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute a Salary Commission to fix and periodically revise salaries, allowances and pension of Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Yes, sir. Such a proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

Jan Kerosene Yojana

1302. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to start "Jan Kerosene Yojana";

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent to implement the said scheme;

(d) whether the Government has identified the States where this scheme is likely to be introduced;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The objective of the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana which has been launched in 417 blocks as a pilot project is to revamp the PDS kerosene distribution network with a view to ensuring that this heavily subsidized product is actually made available in the required quantities at subsidized prices to the intended beneficiaries; and, secondly, to thus cap, reverse and eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS SKO for adulteration.

The principal features of the Scheme for strengthening the PDS Kerosene distribution network are as under:—

- (i) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) will establish at least one Kerosene (SKO) dealership in each of the country's development blocks;
- (ii) In consultation with the District Administration and the wholesale dealer, about 5-10 sub-wholesale points will be located in each block;
- (iii) There will be a dedicated fleet of tanker-trucks (TTs) for transportation of PDS kerosene to ensure widespread public information and transparency as these TTs will prominently display the special logo that is being devised for the dedicated fleet. It will be clearly written on the outside of the TT that it is transporting kerosene meant for the Public Distribution System;

(iv) To bring storage dispensing services at SKO dealerships at par with the modern facilities provided at petrol and diesel outlets by OMCs at their own expense, the Ministry's Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) will fund OMCs to ensure the installation of the following facilities at each of the dealerships covered under the pilot project:

- storage tanks with a minimum capacity of 20 KLs
- calibrated dispensing pumps
- adequate number of barrels, appropriately decorated with the special logo, for the delivery of SKO to sub-wholesale points
- one or more barrel sheds;

(v) Supplies from the depots of the OMCs to the wholesale storages and further up to sub-wholesale points will be made under the direct supervision and responsibility of the OMCs, who will provide an adequate number of barrels, decorated with the special logo, at the sub-wholesale point for the convenient and assured transportation of PDS SKO to the retail points. Similar logos will be displayed on vehicles transporting PDS SKO from wholesale to sub-wholesale points and from there to retail points at Fair Price Shops;

(vi) At each Fair Price Shop, PDS SKO will be stored in barrels with clearly identified logos which the general public can access to determine for themselves the balance availability of PDS SKO at that Fair Price Shop;

(vii) In consultation with State Governments, Panchayats and Gram Sabhas will be empowered to generally supervise the availability of PDS SKO at subsidised prices, and a reporting mechanism will be put in place for Panchayats/Gram Sabhas to report any deficiencies to the State Administration and the OMCs concerned.

The estimated expenditure on the Scheme is Rs. 696 crore.

It has been decided to implement the Scheme to begin with in up to 10% of the blocks of the country on pilot basis for a period of six months. Thereafter, the working of the Scheme would be assessed and based on the experience gained, the Government will consider scaling the Scheme to cover the entire country.

(d) to (f) The pilot project has been launched effective 2nd October 2005. At present, the pilot project is being implemented in 417 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory.

[*Translation*]

Inclusion of Lodhi Community in OBC List

1303. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lodhi community has been included in list of Other Backward Classes in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of States where Lodhi, Lodhi Mahalodh has been included in Other Backward Classes and its number in the Scheduled List;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to include Lodhi community in Central List of Other Backward Classes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) No separate Central List of Other Backward Class has been notified for the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal. The Central List of OBCs for the States of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are also applicable to the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal, respectively. The name of States from which Lodhi, Mahalodh have been included in the Central List of OBCs is given in the enclosed Statement.

No request for inclusion of Lodhi caste/community in the Central List of OBCs for any State/UT is pending.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State	Caste/ community	Entry No. in the Central List of OBCs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Lodhi	98
2.	Assam	Lodhi	24 (64)
3.	Delhi	Lodhi, Maha-lodh	35
4.	Haryana	Lodhi	66
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Lodhi	44
6.	Rajasthan	Lodhi	32
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Lodhi	48

[*English*]

Construction of Railway Under Bridges

1304. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct Railway Under-Bridges (RUBs) at Sharadnagar, Tiptur, Tumkur Districts of Karnataka State;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be cleared;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to redress the grievances of railway passengers of the above Railway Stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No specific kilometre and level crossing number have been mentioned where Road Under Bridge (RUB) is demanded. Railway construct Road Over/Under bridge in lieu of busy level crossings where traffic density is more than 1 lakh Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) otherwise on deposit terms at cost of sponsoring authorities. In both the cases proposal have to be sponsored by State Government/Local Authorities. There are already 39 numbers of Road Over/Under Bridges sanctioned in State of Karnataka.

However, there is only one manned Level Crossing No. 84 at Km. 139/8-9 near Tiptur station which does

not qualify for replacement by Road Under Bridge on cost sharing basis. No specific proposal has been received from state Government/Local Authorities for construction of Road Over/Under Bridge on deposit terms.

(d) All the minimum essential amenities for passengers required have been already provided at the Station. More facilities will be provided as and when required under extant rules.

Compensation to Villagers

1305. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the war rehearsals between India and US, the populous neighbouring villages of Mizoram were disturbed;

(b) if so, whether any compensation paid to the villagers for their removal from the site;

(c) if so, the details; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide help to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Survey of Tamluk-Digha Railway Line

1306. SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of survey of Tamluk-Digha extension rail line upto Jaleswar; and

(b) the amount earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) the survey has not yet been started.

(b) The anticipated cost of the survey work is Rs. 2 lakh and an amount of Rs. 1 lakh has been provided for the purpose in the Budget 2005-06.

Use of Railway Land by Club House

1307. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to Para No. 6.1.2 of the Audit Report No. 8 of Comptroller and Auditor General of India, (2004) wherein it is stated that Railway Club, Mumbai Division Western Railways violating the rules has sanctioned a piece of Railway land worth Rs. 7.06 crore meant for the use of club house to the contractor of club free of cost; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard and the steps proposed to be taken to prevent such incidents of giving property of Railways free of cost to people without the consent of the Government?

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

(b) The premise has already been taken over and disciplinary action also taken against concerned officers. Institutions have been reiterated to All Zonal Indian Railways and Production Units that licensing/leasing of Railway land for purposes not connected with Railway working is not permitted. In exceptional cases, where such licensing/leasing may have to be done, prior approval of the Board should be taken.

Supply of LPG to Private Gas Agencies

1308. SHRI M. APPADURRAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is supplying LPG to private gas agencies for providing gas connections to the people in various states;

(b) if so, the rate at which gas is being supplied to private agencies alongwith the quantity thereof ;

(c) the number of private gas agencies receiving LPG from the Government;

(d) whether all these gas agencies are sending timely payments to the Government; and

(e) if not, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir

(b) to (e) While, the government is not supplying LPG to private gas agencies, private companies are allowed to market LPG under the Parallel marketing System (PMS). Recently, government have also allowed M/s. Reliance industries Limited (RIL) to sell indigenously produced LPG on certain terms and conditions.

Sahara Plane Skid off on Runway

1309. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Sahara Plane skidded off the runway in Mumbai in October, 2005;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the plane, which got stuck in wet ground after overshooting the runway, was not removed for a few days, hurting flights operations of other carriers;

(d) if so, the estimated loss to the Government and other airlines and the manner in which the loss will be recovered from the Sahara Airlines;

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

(f) if so, the findings thereof; and

(g) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) M/s. Air Sahara Boeing 737 aircraft VT-SID on 9th October, 2005, overshoot the available landing distance of runway 27/09 at Mumbai airport and ploughed into the soft ground beyond the runway end.

(c) The runway 27/09 was closed at 1920 hours IST and secondary runway was made operational at about 1950 hours on the same day. Runway 27 was partially

opened at 2315 hours IST on 9th October, 2005 itself. The aircraft was debugged at 0835 hours IST on 13th October, 2005, after the surface was prepared and other arrangements were put in place for pulling out the aircraft. During this period there were corresponding adjustments to the flying operations, some inconvenience to the passengers and losses due to restricted air operations.

(d) There was no substantial loss to airlines in general. Sixty one flights were diverted from Mumbai airport during the period 09-13 October, 2005.

(e) to (g) Enquiry into the incident is under progress and follow up action will be taken on the findings and recommendations made in the investigation report.

Retirement Age of Air Hostesses

1310. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retirement age of Air Hostesses in Indian Airlines and Air India is different;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to rectify the same?

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

(b) and (c) do not arise.

Offloading Cross Holdings

1311. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) have moved a step closer towards offloading their cross holdings in each other;

(b) if so, whether the Government has given an in-principle approval to these oil companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which it will be beneficial to the Government as well as oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Offloading of Cross-holdings of shares held in each other by IOC, ONGC and GAIL would improve their financial position and would enable them to fund their on-going as well as expansion projects. An improvement in their financial position is also likely to benefit the Government through higher dividends and tax realisations.

[Translation]

Flying/Gliding Clubs

1312. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flying/gliding clubs in Delhi and other States as on date;

(b) the amount of subsidy and aid given to each of these clubs during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the status assigned to each of the clubs by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA); and

(d) the details of the achievements of these flying/gliding clubs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As on date there are 39 Flying Clubs and 11 Gliding Clubs in Delhi and other states.

(b) The subsidy to flying/gliding clubs has been stopped w.e.f. 01.04.2001. However, during 2002-03 two Hansa aircraft has been allotted to Kerala Aviation Training Centre, Trivanthapuram and one Hansa aircraft to Madhya Pradesh Flying Club, Indore, during 2003-04 one Hansa aircraft has been allotted to Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation, Hissar and during 2004-05 one Hansa aircraft has been allotted to Haryana Institute of Civil Aviation, Hissar and one Hansa aircraft to Government Aviation Training Institute, Bhubaneswar.

(c) As on date there are 27 Government aided flying clubs and 11 private flying clubs. Apart from these there is the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, an autonomous organisation under this Ministry. There are 5

gliding clubs and 5 gliding wings of the Flying Clubs, besides, a Government Gliding Centre at Pune run by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(d) The flying and gliding clubs train candidates to acquire Private Pilot Licence, Commercial Pilot Licence and Glider Pilot Licences. DGCA have issued a total of 6886 Private Pilot Licence (A), 138 Private Pilot Licence (H), 4640 Commercial Pilot Licence (A), 676 Commercial Pilot Licence (H) and 1064 Pilot Licence (Glider).

[English]

Joint Exercises with Other Countries

1313. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to hold joint military exercises with other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such exercises held by the three wings of the Armed Forces with other countries during the last three years;

(d) the main objectives of the Government in holding such exercises and the benefit accrued therefrom;

(e) whether the Government has done a cost-benefit analysis of these exercises; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) The number of joint military exercises held with other countries during 2003, 2004 and 2005 (till November 2005) is as follows:

	2003	2004	2005
Army	4	4	7
Air Force	1	4	2
Navy	8	5	9

The decisions to hold joint exercises with various countries are taken by the Government keeping in view our national interest. The objectives behind holding joint military exercises is to enhance defence cooperation with various countries. While the expenditure in respect of the joint exercises is met out of the allocated annual budget of the Armed Forces. The benefits derived out of these exercises are given below. These exercises provide valuable exposure to the Armed Forces to keep abreast with the latest developments in equipment, technology, warfare tactics, concepts and doctrines relating to military operations, test the military skills of our Armed Forces in relation to others, and promote mutual understanding and cooperation. Successful participation in a joint military exercise helps evaluating our training standards and operational tactics. Joint exercises also provide an opportunity to promote the image of our Armed Forces in an international forum.

Sulphur in Liquid Energy

1314. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has launched any scheme to convert high quantity sulphur in liquid energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company has find out the areas in the country where such type of coal is available;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to increase such initiatives in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The R&D Centre of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has initiated setting up laboratory infrastructure facilities for Indian coal gasification and liquefaction studies. However, IOC has not so far launched any project for commercial coal (high or low sulphur) conversion.

(e) NTPC-BHEL is implementing a 125 MW Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) demonstration project on coal gasification at Auraiya, Uttar Pradesh, based on low sulphur coal.

[Translation]

Prices of Crude Oil

1315. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the sale prices of petrol and diesel for the consumers were increased in the country in September, 2005 when the international prices of crude oil had gone up;

(b) if so, whether the prices of some petroleum products have come down in the country with the decrease of prices of crude oil in the international market in October-November, 2005;

(c) if so, the details of such specific petroleum products; and

(d) the reasons for not reducing the consumer prices of petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The prices of petrol & diesel have been increased by Rs. 3/litre and Rs. 2/litre respectively from the midnight of 6th/7th September, 2005.

(b) to (d) Since the end of 2003, there has been an unprecedented, sharp and spiralling increase in international oil prices combined with considerable week-to-week and even day-to-day volatility.

Accordingly, since June 2004, Government elucidated the principles which would govern its policy of containing the burden of increase in international prices on consumers of sensitive petroleum products. It was decided that the burden should be equitably shared by consumers, the Government and the oil companies. In line with the increase in international prices as on 6.9.2005, the required increase in the prices of petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG was Rs. 10.79/litre,

Rs. 8.28/litre; Rs. 11.63/litre and Rs. 99.65/cylinder respectively. However, Government, in September 2005, increase the prices of petrol & diesel marginally. There has been no increase in the retail selling prices of PDS kerosene since April 2002 and that of domestic LPG since November, 2004.

In order to partially compensate the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) on account of past under-recoveries suffered on the above products, Government, in principle, has approved issuance of oil bonds.

Though, the international prices of crude and petroleum products have shown downward trend during October-November 2005, the OMCs are still incurring under-recoveries since the prevailing domestic prices of petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG are lower than the current international prices.

[English]

Closure of Food/Tea Stalls at Delhi Station

1316. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that several small food/tea stalls awarded to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes were closed down by the railway authorities at Delhi Junction Railway Station following the introduction of New Catering Policy even before the expiry of their scheduled licensed period;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether similar order was issued in Chandigarh region which was withdrawn after the intervention of the Hon'ble Chandigarh High Court and railway authorities allowed the vendors to continue; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to save Delhi Junction vendors who have been rendered in a helpless situation by the whimsical acts of railway officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Licence fee for all the catering contractors of static units was revised from 5% to 12% w.e.f. 01.07.1999. Majority of the contractors filed suits in different courts against the enhancement of the licence fee. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed an order on 29.03.2005 in favour of

Railways directing the licensees to pay the arrears to the Railways failing which Railway Administration will be at liberty to terminate their contracts in accordance with the law. Therefore, in order to implement the Court's decision 6 units were closed out of which one unit belongs to Scheduled Caste Category at Delhi Junction.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ninety Seven catering contracts on Firozpur Division were closed for not paying the arrear of licence fee. These units were reopened as the catering/Vending Association Firozpur Division filed a contempt petition in Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh for violating the Hon'ble courts order dated 05.10.2000, which had restrained Railways to collect the enhanced licence fee. At present the case is sub-judice.

Private FM Radio Stations

1317. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Private FM Radio Stations functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of such stations opened during each of last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up more such FM Radio Stations in different Universities;

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

(e) The time by which these FM Radio Stations are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) 21 Private FM Radio stations are currently operational in 12 cities as per the following details:

States/UT	No. of Stations	No. of cities
1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	4	3
Maharashtra	5	2
Gujarat	1	1
Karnataka	1	1

1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1	1
West Bengal	4	1
Uttar Pradesh	1	1
Madhya Pradesh	1	1
Delhi	3	1

(b) 22 stations were operationalised in 123 cities on the dates indicated against each:

Name of City	No. of Channels	Date of Operationalisation
Mumbai*	5	29.04.2002
Delhi	3	29.4.2003
Kolkata	4	03.05.2003
Chennai	2	05.05.2003
Bangalore	1	28.06.2001
Indore	1	01.10.2001
Lucknow	1	10.12.2001
Ahmedabad	1	10.12.2001
Pune	1	01.05.2002
Visakhapatnam	1	06.02.2003
Coimbatore	1	07.03.2003
Tirunelveli	1	07.03.2003

(c) to (e) The Government has also permitted Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to set up FM Radio Station at 40 cities of which 17 have so far been operationalized. A statement showing locations of allocated operationalized channels is enclosed. IGNOU has been given time upto June, 2007 to operationalize the remaining stations.

Besides, the Government, in December, 2002, announced a scheme for the grant of licenses to educational institutions including universities and IITs/IIMs for setting up Community Radio Stations: 1. Anna University, Chennai, 2 Sri Manakula Vinayagar Engg. College, Pondicherry, 3. India International Instt of Management, Jaipur, 4. Kongu Engg. College. Erode, 5

MOP Vaishna College of Women, Chennai, 6. Sunbeam English School, Varanasi, 7. Vidya Pratisthan's Instt. of Information Technology, Baramati, Pune, 8. City Montessori School, Lucknow, 9. Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, 10. AJK Mass Communication, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, 11. Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Bansthali, 12. P.G. College, Ghazipur, 13. Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, 14. Erode Sengunthar Engg. College, Erode, 15. Pune University, Pune.

Statement

Location of Allotted and Operationalised Channels of Indira Gandhi National Open University

Sl.No.	Location of Channels	Whether Operationalised
1	2	3
1.	Jaipur	
2.	Cuttack	
3.	Coimbatore	Yes
4.	Tirunelveli	
5.	Kanpur	
6.	Bhopal	Yes
7.	Trichy	
8.	Jabalpur	Yes
9.	Aurangabad	
10.	Varanasi	Yes
11.	Trivandrum	
12.	Mysore	Yes
13.	Kolkata	Yes
14.	Chennai	Yes
15.	Ahmedabad	
16.	Chandigarh	
17.	Shillong	Yes
18.	Delhi	Yes
19.	Mumbai	Yes
20.	Lucknow	Yes
21.	Bhubaneshwar	

1	2	3
22.	Cochin	
23.	Pune	
24.	Jalandhar	
25.	Patna	
26.	Raipur	Yes
27.	Visakhapatnam	Yes
28.	Indore	
29.	Jamnagar	
30.	Agra	
31.	Allahabad	Yes
32.	Bangalore	Yes
33.	Hyderabad	Yes
34.	Madurai	
35.	Ludhiana	
36.	Guwahati	Yes
37.	Nagpur	
38.	Panaji	
39.	Rajkot	
40.	Srinagar	

HIV/AIDS Infection

1318. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of Armed Forces personnel are found HIV/AIDS infected;

(b) if so, the number thereof, Force-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop this epidemic's spread?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) It is not correct that a large number of Armed Forces personnel are found Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency

Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) infected. In fact, the incidence of HIV/AIDS in the Armed Forces is significantly lower than that in the general population. The Armed Forces Medical services have a vibrant HIV/AIDS control programme, which includes the following:

- (i) Health education of the troops and their families.
- (ii) Surveillance of High Risk Groups such as blood donors, patients of sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis patients, ante natal cases, personnel proceeding abroad in peace keeping missions and returning from there.
- (iii) Hundred percent screening of all ante natal cases.
- (iv) Hundred percent screening of all blood/blood products for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis and Malaria.
- (v) Encouraging voluntary counselling and testing.
- (vi) Spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS through audio-visual means.

Inter-State Army Recruitment Racket

1319. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Inter-State Army recruitment racket operating from Hyderabad was busted by the Military Intelligence as reported in *The Hindu* dated October 26, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons recruited on the basis of fake certificates; and

(d) the number of persons arrested so far and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the thorough screening process undertaken at the recruitment rally held at Hyderabad, certain activities of touts came to light.

(c) No recruitment has been made on the basis of fake certificates.

(d) Three persons involved in the reported racket have been arrested by the local civil police.

[*Translation*]

Agreement with China

1320. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether any action plan has been prepared by the Government for strengthening Indo-China cooperation in petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the details of the Indian petroleum companies which are going to sign agreements with Chinese companies; and

(c) the benefit likely to be accrued on account of the said agreements?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Government is engaging China in multilateral and bilateral talks at Government level and at the level of oil companies with a view to strengthening Sino-Indian cooperation in the petroleum sector.

(b) IOCL, OVL, GAIL and OIL are proposing to enter into MOUs with their Chinese counterpart companies which would provide for participating in projects in each other's country, joint pursuit of international opportunities, LNG sourcing, coal gasification projects and petrochemical projects, and expansion of each other's knowledge-base through cooperation in research and development, technology transfer, conservation and efficiency, environment-friendly fuels and commercial and strategic storage.

(c) These MOUs would provide an opportunity to India to enhance its energy security; broaden its business portfolios globally; expand the capabilities of its hydrocarbons-related organizations; and promote commercial and strategic storage.

[*English*]

Oil and Gas Reserves in Andaman & Nicobar

1321. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn any sedimentary basin map for bigger oil and gas reserves in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether any discoveries have been carried out in Andaman and Nicobar islands;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The sedimentary basin map of India shows 26 sedimentary basins covering an area of about 3.14 million sq. kms., which includes 1.35 million sq. km of deepwater area. As on 1.4.2005, total prognosticated resources of 28-32 Billion Metric Tonnes (BMT) (Oil + oil equivalent of gas) have been estimated, out of which, in place geological reserves of 8.28 (O+OEG) has been established by the exploratory efforts of ONGC, OIL and Pvt./JV companies.

(c) and (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), on sole risk/in consortium, have been awarded 4 New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) blocks for exploration in the Andaman deep waters. 2D seismic surveys in these blocks are envisaged to be taken up during 2005-06.

ONGC had drilled 12 exploratory wells in Andaman offshore resulting in one gas find.

[*Translation*]

Import Price of Oil and Natural Gas

1322. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

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

(a) whether the Government had made any assessment on the import prices of oil and natural gas during the current year;

(b) if so, the percentage of the import prices in comparison to the last year; and

(c) the percentage of increase in prices per barrel in comparison to the last year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Government is constantly

monitoring the prices of crude oil and natural gas prevailing in the international market. As per EIA's Short-term Energy Outlook, released on the 8th November, 2005, the prices of crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas are projected to remain high during the remainder of 2005 and through 2006 because of tight international supplies and hurricane-induced supply losses.

(b) and (c) The average international price of crude oil (Indian basket) and products during 2004-05, 2005-06 (April-November, 2005) and percentage of increase are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Prices	Crude Oil (Indian basket) US\$/bbl	Petrol US\$/bbl	Diesel US\$/bbl	Kerosene US\$/bbl	LPG \$/MT
Average 2004-05	39.22	49.01	46.91	49.50	368.52
Average (April-November, 2005)	54.22	64.29	64.52	68.33	442.38
Percentage Increase in April-November, 2005 over 2004-05	38.2%	31.2%	37.5%	38.0%	20.0%

[English]

Permission to Private Airlines

1323. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has permitted Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines to operate its flights on some of the international routes;

(b) if so, the reasons for granting international slots to these airlines without waiting for Aviation Policy;

(c) whether the Government would consider other private domestic airlines for operating their flights on international destinations;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of proposals for grant of permission to new airlines pending for more than Six months; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) As part of its liberalization policy and to improve the utilisation of traffic rights by the Indian side, Government decided to permit private scheduled airlines having continuous 5 years operations in domestic sector and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft to operate on international routes except to UAE, Qatar, Baharain, Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In accordance with this decision, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines have been permitted to operate on international routes. Other airlines will also be considered for allocation of traffic rights on international routes subject to their meeting the stipulated eligibility criteria.

(e) and (f) As per the eligibility condition prescribed only Jet Airways and Air Sahara qualify for international operations amongst the domestic private scheduled airlines at present. These airlines have already been permitted to operate on international routes.

Vayudoot Flights from Kadapa Airport

1324. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot flights which were in operation from Kadapa airport have been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to revive these flights;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to shortage of aircraft, Vayudoot discontinued its operation to/from Cuddapah.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Presently, Indian Airlines has no plans to start operations to Cuddapah due to non-availability of suitable

smaller capacity aircraft and non-suitability of the airfield at Cuddapah for operations with the jet engine type of aircraft in Indian Airlines fleet.

Theft of Lap Top

1325. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Military data gone with laptop" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated October 13, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A case of theft of a laptop at Bathinda has come to the notice of the Government. However, the preliminary report indicates that it did not contain any information on military security value. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to established the facts in this regard.

Expansion of Oil Refineries

1326. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for expansion of some of the oil refineries during Tenth and Eleventh five year plans;

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

(c) the total funds required for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Public Sector Oil Companies have to undertake expansion projects, as per details given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) A amount of Rs. 12,384.18 crore is likely to be spent on expansion of these refineries by the Public Sector Oil Companies.

Statement**Expansion Projects**

Name of the Company	Location of Refineries	Capacity Expansion in Million Metric Tonne Per Annum (MMTPA)
Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	Panipat (Refinery (Haryana)	6 to 12 MMTPA
	Panipat Refinery (Haryana) (Additional Expansion)	12 to 15 MMTPA
	Haldia Refinery (West Bengal)	6 to 7.5 MMTPA
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	Mumbai Refinery (Maharashtra)	5.5 to 7.9 MMTPA
	Visakha Refinery (Andhra Pradesh)	7.5 to 8.33 MMTPA
Kochi Refineries Ltd. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	Kochi Refinery (Kerala)	7.5 to 9.5 MMTPA
	Tatipaka, (Andhra Pradesh)	0.1 to 0.2 MMTPA

[Translation]**Selling of Sub-Standard Water and Food in Trains/
Stations by Vendors**

1327. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any campaign to control the vendors who are selling sub-standard water and poor quality food at railway stations and in trains as appeared in *Rashtriya Sahara* dated August 22, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of vendors found their involvement in such practices and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Improvement in catering service is an ongoing process. A number of complaints were received regarding the quality of food served in various trains. Therefore, special drives were conducted for monitoring and improving catering services.

(c) As a result of these drives, the licences have been warned and fined (in 8 cases) They have been advised to rectify the lapses. Disciplinary action has been initiated in 2 (two) cases.

(d) Zonal Railways have communicated the irregularities detected by them to the base Railway for taking suitable action and preventive measures. Railways and Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have been advised to take corrective and special measures viz., serving of all packed items conforming to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS); Display of Menu and price list; provision of complaint book with pantry car managers; pest control and periodic inspections in pantry cars and static Units by Railways at all levels etc.

Regular and surprise checks are being conducted in trains as well as at stations to remove unauthorised vendors and prevent selling of sub-standard water and food and control irregularities.

Modernisation of Coaches

1328. SHRI D.P. SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for modernization of coaches of Railway Express/ other Mail and Express trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount provided under this scheme; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) For modernization of the coaches so as to improve safety and comfort of passengers, design upgradation is regularly done by Indian Railways. New features found appropriate for adoption

are advised to Production Units and Zonal Railways for incorporation in coaches where appropriate.

Some recent features of modernization of coaches are (i) Introduction of state of the art, modern high speed, stainless steel coaches to Linke Hoffman Busch (LHB) design for Rajdhani & Shatabdi trains, (ii) Introduction of indigenous Jan Shatabdi coaches to provide better service to passengers, (iii) Introduction of modular & controlled discharge toilets for better aesthetics & cleanliness and (iv) Introduction of fire retardant materials in coaches for enhanced fire safety etc.

No separate amount is provided for individual features, as the costs gets incorporated in the relevant batch cost-report.

[English]

Catering Contracts in Trains

1329. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of catering contracts awarded for supplying food in the long distance running trains as per the New Catering Policy of the Government;

(b) the terms and conditions of the new catering contracts and the increase in the contract amount in each case compared to the earlier rate;

(c) whether the Government is aware that a number of catering employees who were employed for the last more than 10 years have become unemployed as the new contractors are not providing employment to the old employees;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Details of catering contracts as per New Catering Policy, 2005 and the comparative figures for contract amount are given in the enclosed Statement. The terms and conditions of mobile contracts as per the new Catering Policy, 2005 are as under:—

- (i) Transparent two packet open tendering system on competitive bidding basis.
- (ii) The tenure of licence will be five years.
- (iii) The minimum licence fee for Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains are 15% of annual sales turnover and for other Mail Express Trains is 12% of estimated annual sales turnover.
- (iv) Concession fee for Rajdhani/Shatabadi Express Trains should be bid as a lumpsum amount over the annual licence fee of 15% for the entire period of contract.

(c) to (e) There is no danger of workers being rendered jobless who are running catering units at Railway Stations as a result of implementation of New Catering Policy. All the licences whose present contracts have expired or are due to expire will be able to participate in the new tenders/selection through application against the existing and fresh licences, subject to eligibility criteria, Employment opportunities will not decrease as catering units are not being closed.

Statement

Details of Catering contract on trains awarded by IRCTC under new Catering Policy are as under:—

Sl.No.	Train No.	Trains Name	Licence Fee Old	Licence Fee Current (New Catering Policy)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1025-26	Pragati Express	9.24	18.01
2.	7617-18	Tapovan Express	4.60	12.00
3.	6331-32	TVC-CSTM Express	2.97	14.00
4.	6217-18	MYS Swarna Jayanti	3.09	8.00

1	2	3	4	5
5.	4083-84	Mahananda Express	9.55	31.00
6.	1061-62	Pawan Express	7.20	42.00
7.	1065-66			
8.	9367-68	Malwa Express	8.43	38.01
9.	8407-08	Hirakund Express	2.94	23.40
10.	2807-08	Samta Express	2.43	27.50
11.	8603-04	Jharkhand Swarna Jayanti	7.97	33.33
12.	2817-18			
13.	2101-02	Janeswari Express	19.30	70.01
14.	2151-52	Samrashtra Express		
15.	2711-12	Pinakini Express	2.93	20.00
16.	2713-14	Sathvahna Express	2.47	11.00
17.	2643-44	Swatantrata Express		
18.	6323-24	TVC-HWH	27.79	93.60
19.	6325-26	Ahilyanagari Express		
20.	6327-28	TVC-BSP Express		
21.	8401-02	Puri-ADI Express	6.99	52.91
22.	8403-04	Puri-Okha Express		
23.	7229-30	Sabari Express	10.24	81.00
24.	7231-32	Sabri Express		
25.	6337-38	ERS-Okha Express	13.31	55.60
26.	8101-02	Muri Express	5.02	25.50
27.	2967-68	JP-MAS Express	5.62	36.00
28.	2715-16	Sachkhand Express	6.11	36.00
29.	2311-12	Kalka Mail	4.99	83.60
30.	6687-88	Navyug Express	3.10	12.90
31.	2801-02	Purshottam Express	16.81	83.50
32.	4257-58	Kashivishwanath Express	10.02	21.51
33.	9045-46	Tapti Ganga Express	4.67	48.19

1	2	3	4	5
34.	9047-48	Tapti Ganga Express		
35.	2703-04	Falaknuma Express	13.59	66.00
36.	2459-60	NDLS-ASR SF	9.98	36.54
37.	4681-82	NDLS-JUC Exp.		
38.	2933-34	Kamavati Express	9.27	37.94
39.	7021-22	Dakshin Express	10.68	60.08
40.	8033-34	ADI-HWH Exp.	17.08	116.22
41.	9007-08	Aravalli Express	7.18	42.42
42.	2955-56	JP-BCT Express	7.18	60.08
43.	2163-64	DR-MAS Express	11.38	115.78
44.	6309-10	ERS-PNBE Express	3.47	31.21
45.	2607-08	Lalbagh Express	8.65	46.80
46.	2675-76	Kovai Express	15.89	64.50
47.	2677-78	CVC-SBC Express		
48.	2617-18	Mangla Exp.	54.28	216.00
Total			366.42	1872.14

Details of Catering Contract on trains awarded by IRCTC under new Catering Policy are as under:—

Sl.No.	Train No.	Train Name	Licence Fee Rlys.	Licence Fee Old of turnover	Concession Fee (New Catering Policy*) (in Rs. lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	2421-22	Rajdhani Exp.	15%	15%	92.00
2.	2309-10	Rajdhani Exp.	15%	15%	113.00
3.	2009-10	Shatabdi Exp.	15%	15%	700.00
4.	2029-30	Swaran Shatabdi Exp.	15%	15%	518.00
5.	2031-32	Shatabdi Exp.	15%	15%	
6.	2433-34	Rajdhani Exp.	15%	15%	203
7.	2007-08	Shatabdi Exp.	15%	15%	360.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	2431-32	Rajdhani Exp.	15%	15%	335.00
9.	2957-58	Rajdhani Exp.	15%	15%	256.00
10.	2005-06	Shatabdi Exp.	15%	15%	176.00
11.	2011-12	Shatabdi Exp.	15%	15%	340.00
12.	2017-18	Shatabdi Exp.	15%	15%	414.00
13.	2015-16	Shatabdi Exp.	15%	15%	81.00
14.	2019-20	Shatabdi Exp.	15%	15%	160.00
15.	2429-30	Rajdhani Exp.	15%	15%	811.11
16.	2425-26	Rajdhani Exp.	15%	15%	5.51
17.	2013-14	Shatabdi Exp.	15%	15%	466.00
18.	2313-14	Shatabdi Exp.	15%	15%	786.00
Total					5816.62

Note *Concession fee is a lumpsum amount payable by licensee in addition to licence fee of 15%.

Renovation of Kolkata Airport

1330. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to renovate/modernize Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the cost involved therein; and

(c) the time by which the renovation/modernization work is likely to be commenced?

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

(b) and (c) Improvement, development and upgradation of infrastructure facilities at the airports is a continuous process and is taken up depending upon traffic demand, availability of land, resources etc. The major works in progress at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport (NSCBI) at Kolkata are construction of Integrated Cargo complex, 2 nos. additional in contact parking bays, 2 nos. additional remote parking bays, and linking of 1st phase apron with existing taxiway at an estimated cost of Rs. 61.43 crores. AAI also has plans to take up modification of International Departure Building

(Phase-I), construction of facilitation lobby, linking corridor for "Circular Railway" from Dum-Dum to NSCBI Airport, extension of secondary runway beyond 19L beginning, resurfacing of secondary runway, construction of cargo apron towards Northern side, 6 nos. of domestic parking stand and RCC canopy at domestic terminal at a cost of Rs. 218.18 crores, during the year 2006.

Subsidy on LPG

1331. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

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

(a) the subsidy being provided by Government on domestic LPG at present;

(b) the estimated losses incurred by the Government during each of the last three years as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the public sector refineries to control the production cost of the petroleum process?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) As per the PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002, at present, the Government provides a flat subsidy @ Rs. 22.58 per cylinder on domestic LPG. The balance of the subsidy is borne by OMCs.

(b) The expenditure incurred by the Government during each of the last three years as a result of the above subsidy is given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. crore)
2002-03	2397.45
2003-04	3635.02
2004-05	1783.64

(c) The various steps taken by the public sector oil refineries to control the production cost are:—

- (i) Optimization of Crude Cost through procurement of high sulphur crude and use of sulphur reducing additive thereby securing savings in differential crude cost.
- (ii) Reduction of crude transportation cost through hiring of Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs).
- (iii) Diversification of crude basket by processing new crudes.
- (iv) Energy conservation/reduction in Fuel & loss/ Yield maximization.
- (v) Reduction or manpower cost through Voluntary retirement.
- (vi) Close monitoring of working capital including Inventory Management.

[*Translation*]

Profit Earned by Oil PSUs

1332. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether all public sector and private sector petroleum companies have earned profits during the first half of the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details of profit of each company separately as compared to the profit of first half of the last year;

(c) whether these companies have increased the production, processing and sales of the products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the percentage of increase in production, processing and sales during the said period as compared to the first half of the last year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The details of profit/loss of public sector oil companies for the first half of the year 2005-06 as compared to the corresponding period for the year 2004-05 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) to (e) The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Oil PSUs	Profit/Loss during the first half of the year 2005-06	Profit/Loss during the first half of the year 2004-05
1.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	7457.00	5692.00
2.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	895.00	2712.00
3.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	(-) 530.03	541.61
4.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	(-) 634.37	468.68
5.	GAIL (India) Ltd.	1258.00	795.00
6.	Oil India Ltd.	815.78	442.08

Statement II

The percentage of increase/decrease of Production/Processing and Sales of the Products of the major oil PSUs for the first half of the year 2005-06 as compared to the first half of the year 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name of the Oil PSUs	Name of the Products	Percentage of increase/decrease of Production/Processing of the Products	Percentage of increase/decrease of Sales of the Products
1.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	Crude Oil	(-) 7.5	(-) 8.04
		Gas	(-) 3.5	(-) 4.2
2.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	Refinery throughput	(-) 1.22	(-) 2.36
3.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	Refinery throughput	(-) 12.99	(-) 4.51
4.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	Refinery throughput	(-) 1.58	(-) 0.48
5.	GAIL (India) Ltd.	LPG	(-) 10.00	(-) 8.00
		Petrochemicals	(-) 8.00	(-) 5.00
6.	Oil India Ltd.	Crude Oil	4.45	4.62
		Natural Gas	18.54	24.12
		LPG	1.66	(-) 1.84

[English]

Schemes for Minorities

1333. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received some complaints that minorities are not being benefited by the schemes implemented for their welfare;

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

(c) the corrective measures taken/to be taken by the Government to check the funds utilization under the schemes and to reach the benefits of the schemes to the minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Price of Petroleum Products

1334. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether the prices of petroleum products in India are higher in comparison to the other countries;

(b) if so, the prevailing price of one litre petrol/diesel in international market as on date; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The prices of petroleum products vary from country-to-country and are determined on the basis of country-specific economic and social factors including the strategy for resource mobilization by the Governments to meet the targeted economic growth, policy for development of the petroleum sector and the need to make available, products of mass consumption such as diesel, SKO & LPG at reasonable prices in the countries concerned. While the prices of petrol & diesel in Delhi are highest as compared to the prevailing prices in the neighbouring countries, the prices of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG are the lowest in Delhi.

(b) The average prevailing price of petrol/diesel in the international market during the month of November, 2005 was as under:

Petrol: US \$ 0.375 per litre (FOB Singapore)

Diesel: US \$ 0.363 per litre (FOB Arab Gulf)

(c) The Government is continuously monitoring the price situation. The pricing mechanism attempts to balance the interests of various stakeholders, viz., Consumers, Government and Oil Companies.

With a view to containing the burden of the increase in international prices on sensitive petroleum products, particularly since June 2004, the Government resorted to several measures which *inter alia* included downward revision in customs and excise duties on sensitive petroleum products and moderate price increases, especially in petrol and diesel from time to time. This has been done with a view to ensure equitable distribution of the burden amongst various stake holders, i.e. Government, oil marketing companies and consumers. Further, the Government has formulated a loss sharing scheme as per which upstream oil companies, namely ONGC, OIL and GAIL share 1/3rd of under-recoveries on sensitive petroleum products. The Government is also considering issue of bonds for under recoveries suffered by PSU oil marketing companies on subsidized petroleum products.

The Government has also constituted a high-powered committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C Rangarajan. This Committee will examine the pricing and taxation structure in respect of petroleum products with a view to ensure stability and rationalization in pricing of petroleum products.

[English]

Refinery by BPCL

1335. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited proposes to set up a refinery in Central India particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the project alongwith its location and cost thereof;

(c) whether any joint venture has been structure for the projected refinery;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have plans to set up a 6 million metric tonnes per annum refinery at Bina (Madhya Pradesh) with crude oil import facilities at Vadinar (Gujarat) and a cross-country crude oil pipeline from Vadinar to Bina. The approved revised cost of the project is Rs. 6,354 crore (as of September, 2001 prices).

(c) and (d) BPCL and Oman Oil Company Limited (OOC) had formed a Joint Venture named Bharat Oman Refineries Limited (BORL) on 23.12.1993 to set up this refinery project. According to the Joint Venture Agreement, the final contribution by BPCL and OOC in the equity capital of BORL was to be 26% each. Later on, OOC desired to limit its contribution to the amount already contributed by them. Accordingly, a supplemental agreement was signed on 9.9.2004 limiting OOC's contribution to the tune of Rs. 75.5 crore and revising their rights accordingly.

(e) Land for the refinery block at Bina and for the crude oil terminal at Vadinar has been acquired. Acquisition of right of user/right of way along the route of the crude oil pipeline has been completed. All major statutory and environmental approvals for the project have been received. As of October, 2005, the total cumulative commitment for the project was Rs. 243.28 crore and the cumulative expenditure was Rs. 165.93 crore. Physical progress of the project is 5.3%.

**Expansion of GAIL Business in
Hydrocarbon Sector**

1336. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) (India) Limited under its globalization drive has entered into a Joint-Venture with China Gas Holdings Limited and Plans to expand its business interest in the hydrocarbon sector in China;

(b) if so, the manner in which this Joint-Venture is going to benefit the Indian economy;

(c) the details of the objectives/targets the company expect to achieve;

(d) whether the company also plans to make any type of import in the energy security sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. GAIL have taken a participating interest in China Gas Holdings Limited, a retail gas company in China. Further, GAIL propose to form a separate Joint Venture (JV) Company with China Gas for undertaking CNG, LPG and LNG business in China as well as Exploration & Production projects in India, China and third countries.

(b) and (c) As a Navaratna Company, GAIL is mandated to globalize its business. Accordingly, the company is globalizing its business activities with the objective of exploring growth opportunities and entering new markets. The opportunities for globalization are being pursued in the major thrust areas of natural gas transportation projects, gas processing projects, exploration and production, LNG projects linked with gas E&P, Compressed Natural Gas for vehicles and city gas distribution infrastructure development and retailing. The natural gas sector in China is growing at a fast rate. As an entry strategy, GAIL made investment in China Gas which is likely to facilitate additional project opportunities for GAIL in China. While this investment may not benefit the Indian economy directly, any growth in GAIL's profits on account of such commercial ventures would benefit its share-holders, including the Government.

(d) and (e) GAIL, along with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), have signed a sale purchase agreement with NIGEC (National Iranian Gas Export Company) for the import of 5MMTPA of LNG from Iran for a period of 25 years beginning the last quarter of 2009. GAIL are also pursuing the possibilities of LNG imports from other sources. GAIL are actively involved in the Iran-Pakistan-India and Myanmar-Bangladesh-India gas pipelines for sourcing gas from Iran and Myanmar respectively.

Ramganjmand-Bhopal Line

1337. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target date fixed for the completion of Ramganjmand-Bhopal Line;

(b) whether the estimated cost of the project has been revised;

(c) if so, the revised cost of the project; and

(d) the steps taken to enhance the allocation of funds for completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No target date for completion of the project has been fixed so far.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) An outlay of Rs. 15 crore has been provided for the work during 2005-06 as per the availability of resources.

[Translation]

**Deployment of Indian Air Force for Relief Work in
Jammu & Kashmir**

1338. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has been deployed for the relief work for earthquake victims in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the number of aeroplanes and helicopters deployed and flights undertaken by Indian Air Force (IAF) for rescue and relief works till date?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Indian Air Force (IAF) has deployed aircraft for the relief work for earthquake victims in Jammu and Kashmir.

The details of the air-efforts provided by the IAF are as follows:

Type of Aircraft/Helicopter	No. of Aircraft/ Helicopters deployed	No. of flights undertaken
Mi-17 Helicopter	6	556
Chetak Helicopter	3	17
Cheetah Helicopter	3	535
AN-32 aircraft	8	162
IL-76 aircraft	3	93
Dornier aircraft	1	2
Boeing-737 aircraft	1	2
Total	25	1367

[English]

ONGC (Videsh) Limited

1339. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government is planning to take away ONGC (Videsh) Limited (OVL) from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely impact thereof on the financial and working aspects of ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

However, Government are considering various measures to strengthen public sector oil companies, including OVL, in their overseas activities in respect of their human, financial technological, and knowledge-base capabilities. This is to equip them to effectively pursue proposals to acquire producing assets and Exploration and Production (E&P) projects abroad.

Agreements on Aviation Sector

1340. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bilateral agreements on aviation sector between India and Singapore;

(b) whether Singapore International Airlines Engineering Company (SIAEC) has recently withdrawn from the Joint-Venture with Indian Airlines on setting up Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Air Services Agreement between India and Singapore was signed on 23rd January, 1968. Since then bilateral air services talks were held from time to time to review the air services matters by signing MOUs/Agreed Minutes, the last round of which was held on 23-24 August, 2005. As per the present air services arrangement between the two countries, the designated airlines of both sides are entitled to operate nearly 16,760 seats/week. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bangalore and 18 tourist destinations in India are available as points of call for the designated airlines of Singapore and Singapore is a point of call for the designated airlines of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Airlinks of Air India

1341. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries with whom Air India has airlinks, country-wise;

(b) the details of income derived by Air India every year from these countries, country-wise; and

(c) the details of annual expenditure of Air India, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India has airlinks with USA, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, UAE, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, China, South Korea, Japan, Kenya and Tanzania.

(b) and (c) Air India compiles route-wise income and expenditure (and not country-wise) for its operations worldwide. The details of route-wise revenue earnings/expenditure during the year 2004-2005 is as under:

(Rupees in Crores)

India/USA	2534.49	2255.94
India/UK	257.51	195.91
India/Europe	218.90	167.07
India/Gulf	2112.79	1569.39
India/E. Africa	68.04	68.22
India/Jakarta	76.60	69.50
India/Singapore	246.44	205.76
India/Hong Kong	84.55	66.51
India/Japan	427.49	307.52
India/China	62.49	64.54

Reservation for Blind Persons

1342. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand to provide reservation to the blind persons; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from the

organizations working for the blind persons demanding 1% reservation for blind. The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides for reservation of 1% of the vacancies in identified posts for persons with visual disability. Thus, the persons with blindness are already given reservation benefits.

[Translation]

Encroachment and Corruption in Deolali Cantonment Board

1343. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents regarding encroachment and corruption in Deolali Cantonment Board have been reported to the Government during the last three years till date;

(b) the action taken by the Government to remove the encroachment and to eradicate the corruption;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the officials of Deolali Cantonment Board had nominated a Office bearer in the Board arbitrarily ignoring the recommendations of local MPs;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to conduct an inquiry in this regard;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) During the last three years, 29 cases of encroachments of Land under the management of Cantonment Board, Deolali were reported. No case of corruption linked with encroachment has been reported during this period.

(b) During last three years, 14 encroachments have been removed. Action under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 has been initiated in the remaining cases.

(c) and (d) The officials of Deolali Cantonment Board have not nominated any office bearer to the varied Board

of Deolali Cantonment. As per provisions of the Cantonments Act, 1924, the Central Government has nominated a civilian member of Deolali Cantonment Board after due consultation with the General officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Investment by ONGC on Exploration and Production

1344. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC plans to invest huge funds in oil exploration and production in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ONGC plans to open new hydrocarbon basins in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)'s total plan outlay for the year 2005-06, which includes expenditure on Exploration & Production, is as follows:

	(Rs. in crore)
Particulars	RE 2005-06
Survey	1,732.29
Exploratory Drilling	2,790.91
Dev Drilling	1,690.10
Capital Projects & Purchases	4,968.27
JV Domestic	833.12
R&D	210.93
Integration	510.00
Plan—ONGC	12,735.62

(c) and (d) ONGC have been carrying out exploration in the form of seismic surveys and exploratory drilling in the basins, viz., Mahanadi, Bengal, Kutch, Saurashtra, Kerala-Konkan-Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar in the states of Orissa, West Bengal and off the West and East coast of India and Frontier Onland basins viz., Satpura-S. Rewa-Damodar, Vindhyan, Ganga Valley and Himalayan Foothills in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

Joint Collaboration with EU on Aviation Safety

1345. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for joint collaboration with European Union (EU) on aviation safety, manufacturing and maintenance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to start academic course in major universities in Master in aviation safety management; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Although there is no immediate proposal of running a Masters course, European Union (EU), under the EU-India Civil Aviation Co-operation Project, has agreed to provide assistance to the Director General of Civil Aviation to provide in-house initial and refresher training to its officers, which will be utilized for training of aviation industry personnel, later on.

Coal Bed Methane Exploration

1346. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, ONGC keen on coal bed methane projects appeared in *Business Line* dated July 9, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of CBM blocks in various States ONGC is holding at present;

(c) whether ONGC has awarded the contract to the drilling companies for exploration of CBM;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which production of CBM is likely to be started and the expected production of CBM per day from these blocks?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of CBM blocks, which ONGC is holding on its own or in Consortium with others is, at present, is as follows:

Name of the State	No. of Blocks
West Bengal	1
Jharkhand	5
Madhya Pradesh	1
Maharashtra	1
Gujarat	1
Total	9

(c) and (d) With reference to the news-item dated July 9, 2005, ONGC has already floated a tender for integrated services involving drilling, testing and creation of gas handling facilities. On finalization of the tender, the work will be awarded to the winning company/consortium in early 2006. A total of 19 vertical and 17 state-of-art horizontal wells have been planned to be drilled in 3 exploration blocks through this contract.

(e) The assessment of commercial viability and production can be made only after completion of the exploration and pilot phase in each CBM blocks. The targeted first commercial production from Jharia block is in 2007. The estimated initial production will be 3 lakhs m³/day which will be increased in a phased manner.

Acquisition of Barak Missiles

1347. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has acquired Barak Missiles from Israel;

(b) if so, whether there were a number of irregularities committed in the process to procure the Barak Missiles;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposed to conduct CBI inquiry into the alleged irregularities; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to book the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) India has acquired missiles for Barak-I Anti Missile Defence (AMD) systems. There has been no allegation of any irregularities in the acquisition of the missiles. However, certain allegations were raised regarding the procurement of Barak-I AMD Systems. Since the acquisition of Barak-I AMD Systems figured in the Tehelka tapes, the case has been referred to CBI for investigation.

[Translation]

Induction of Nag Missile

1348. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nag anti-tank guided missile system is still not ready to be inducted into the armed forces;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which this missile system is expected to be inducted into the Indian armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Capabilities of anti-tank guided missile 'Nag' have been demonstrated successfully through flight trials conducted from 'Nag' missile carrier (Namica).

(c) 'Nag' is planned to be offered for first phase of user trials by March 2006. It would be ready for induction into the Indian Army after completing user trials.

[English]

Synergy on Energy

1349. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Krishnamurty Committee on 'Synergy on Energy' has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendation made by the Committee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The committee has recommended policy and structural changes and also suggested certain management solutions for improved performance of the oil companies in the public sector. Some of the major recommendations are:

1. Merger of Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) may not be advisable for the present.
2. On policy issues there is need for an integrated energy policy, setting up of Cabinet Committee on Energy headed by the Prime Minister and setting up of an Energy Ministry. The Committee has also recommended revamping of the existing framework of supervision and overview by various surveillance agencies like Central Vigilance Commission by setting up of pre-investigation Board with former PSUs chiefs, Government and Private Sector representatives.
3. For empowering Directorate General of Hydrocarbons as an autonomous body with a separate cadre of experts and access to funds.
4. For overseas ventures, to set up a parallel new entity by Oil India Limited. Intense competition in overseas bidding is to be avoided by fixing up a limit related to the production capacity of more than 2 million tonnes of oil equivalent for ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), below which the other new entity would be permitted to bid.
5. Another recommendation of the Committee relates to setting up of a National Shareholding Trust, modelled after Temasek of Singapore and Khazanah of Malaysia, but with a modification. The oil PSUs joining the Trust shall continue to retain their PSU character and the Trust shall function as non-profit Trust set up under the Societies Registration Act or under the

companies Act or a statutory body. The Board of the Trust will comprise eminent personalities from Government, Public Sector and Private Sector. The Committee expects that the greater autonomy to the Trust would ensure synergy in operations.

(c) The recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Transportation of Commodities

1350. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether transportation of commodities particularly foodgrains by the Railways has been declined during the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. While freight transportation of Indian Railways has increased by 9.40% (in terms of tonnes originating) during the first seven months of the current financial year, transportation of foodgrains has declined by 12.70% during the same period.

(b) Reason for less transportation of foodgrains by the Railways is, primarily, reduced demand for railway rakes by the Food Corporation of India.

(c) Ministry of Railways has taken up the issue of less loading of foodgrains with Food Corporation of India/ Ministry of Agriculture & Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. After coordinated efforts and arrival of fresh paddy stocks, loading has already improved substantially.

Production of T-72 Tanks

1351. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the production and overhaul of T-72 Main Battle Tank (MBT);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the low rate of production of T-72 tanks and delay in their overhauling has seriously affected the operational preparedness of the Indian Army; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government of boost the production and overhauling of T-72 tanks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir. Production and overhauling of T-72 tank is being done at Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi, Chennai, according to the targets fixed in consultation with army.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Defence has sanctioned creation of facilities to increase the capacity of overhauling of T-72 tanks from 70 to 120 tanks per annum at Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi, and for establishing facilities for overhauling 50 tanks per annum at 505 Army Base Workshop.

Decline in Freight Earnings

1352. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the freight earnings have declined during first half of current financial year as compared to the last year;

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

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to increase the freight earnings?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railside Warehousing Scheme and Wagon Investment Scheme have been introduced to enhance freight earning capacity of the Railways.

NCC Training

1353. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to impart NCC training to all students;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) In view of the enormous financial and infrastructural requirements and in keeping with democratic ethos, NCC training has been kept on a voluntary basis.

[Translation]

Training Facilities in Tata-Barbil Area

1354. SHRI BAGUN SAMBRUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual income earned by the Government from goods transportation from Tata-Barbil-Banspani Railway Division under Chakradharpur Railway Division;

(b) whether there is any plan under consideration of the Government to provide passenger train facilities in the Railway Zones providing maximum revenue from goods transportation;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to start Barbil-Howrah Express Train and Tatanagar-Barbil MEMU train for providing rail passenger facilities in Tata-Barbil area; and

(d) if so, the progress made to introduce said trains so far; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Sectionwise details of earnings is not mentioned.

(b) Passenger train facilities are provided based on need of passenger traffic. These are not correlated to revenue from goods transportation. Following additional passenger services have been provided for the South Eastern Railway during 2005-2006:

Introduction

1. 1RL/2RL Ranchi-Lohardaga Passenger w.e.f. 05.07.2005.
2. 3RL/4RL Ranchi-Lohardaga Passenger w.e.f. 08.08.2005.
3. Two pairs of Passenger train between Rupsa and Baripada (proposed).
4. Passenger train service on Bankura-Sonamukhi section w.e.f. 18.09.2005 proposed upto Rainagar during 2005-2006.

Extension:

1. 3287/3288 Danapur-Tata portion upto Durg w.e.f. 01.07.2005
2. 8477/8478 Puri-Nizamuddin Kalinga Utkal Express upto Haridwar w.e.f. 09.07.2005.
3. 2983/2984 Puri-Bilaspur Express upto Bhubaneswar w.e.f. 02.07.2005 and further extended upto Puri w.e.f. 03.08.2005.

Increase in frequency:

1. 8003/8004 Howrah-Yesvantpur Express from Bi-weekly to daily and its diversion via Tirupati w.e.f. 01.07.2005.
2. 3403/3404 Ranchi-Bhagalpur Vananchal Express from 4 days a week to 5 days a week w.e.f. 01.07.2005.

Introduction of trains on Indian Railways is a continuous process depending upon operational feasibility, traffic justification and availability of coaches.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

FM Radio

1355. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to permit FM Radio Services in the private sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Presently, twenty one private FM radio stations are in operation in the country. In addition, the Government has issued notice on 21st September, 2005, inviting pre-qualification bids from Indian companies for setting up radio service on 338 FM channels in 91 cities across the country.

[Translation]

Extension of Shakthipunj Express

1356. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any request from Government of Madhya Pradesh to extend 1447/1448 Shakthipunj Express upto Bhopal; and
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

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

(b) Extension of 1447/1448 Jabalpur-Howrah Shakthipunj Express upto Bhopal has been examined but it has not been found operationally feasible.

[English]

Opening of New Gas Agencies

1357. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open new gas agencies for supplying 5 (Five) kg L.P.G. cylinders at rural level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to open new gas agencies exclusively for marketing of 5 kg LPG cylinders by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The distributors appointed by OMCs for supplying 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinders also sell 5 kg cylinders, including those in the rural areas. As a matter of policy, Government have advised OMCs to concentrate their future expansion plans in semi-urban and rural areas.

Review of financial status of Panchayats

1358. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to appoint a national panel to review financial status of Panchayats in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) An empowered Sub-Committee on Financial and Administrative Empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions under the Chairmanship of Minister for Rural Development was set up in March, 2003 by Planning Commission, in pursuance of a decision taken in the National Development Council in this regard. The members of the Committee are Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister of Finance and Company Affairs, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Minister of Tribal Affairs and Chief Ministers of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan. The Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee include, inter-alia, working out the modalities for strengthening the financial domain of the PRIs through transfer of resources from the Centre and State Governments, assessing the capacity of the PRIs to raise revenues and other resources and to develop an action plan in this regard and analyzing the capability of PRIs at different levels to absorb the financial allocation made

to the PRIs under different schemes and to develop a framework to ensure fiscal discipline and financial accountability at different levels of PRIs.

The Empowered Sub-Committee has held two meetings so far. The last meeting was held on 7th August, 2003. The Empowered Sub-Committee has been reconstituted on 14th September, 2005, with the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj as the Chairperson and the Union Minister of Rural Development added as a member of the Sub-Committee. The next meeting of the Sub-Committee is scheduled to be held on 21 December 2005.

[Transation]

Vacation of Land Outside Jodhpur Railway Station

1359. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the land allotted outside the Jodhpur Railway Station in Rajasthan is likely to get vacated;

(b) whether the Government proposes to dispose of the pending case at the earliest; and

(c) if so, the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The party has filed a suit in the Court at Jodhpur against the cancellation of allotment of STD/PCO booth to her which has still not been decided. The Railway administration has gone to the High Court for an early decision of the case and the Hon'ble High Court has passed directions to the lower Court to decide the case expeditiously.

Acquisition of Land

1360. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the acquisition of land for the purposes of cantonment and other defence related activities is done keeping in view of the future prospects;

(b) if so, whether after the completion of acquisition work it is found that a large area of land remained unutilised;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that big bungalows of officers are being constructed on unutilised land to justify the acquisition of land;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government has constituted any board or committee to prepare guidelines for acquiring land; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Acquisition of land for defence related activities is done keeping in view the present and future requirements.

(b) and (c) No land is acquired more than the requirement and authorization. However, since funds for executing various planned projects are not available in bulk, some of the areas which are otherwise zoned for various units/installations remain vacant, possibly giving an impression that the land is being unutilized.

(d) No, Sir. All the constructions on defence land are being done as per "The Scales of Accommodation Rule, 1983".

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Guidelines/norms already exist for acquisition of land for Defence purposes. Requirement of land is established by a board of officers and acquisition is done based on laid down rules and procedures.

[English]

Doordarshan Studios In Tamil Nadu

1361. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Doordarshan Studios presently functioning in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Doordarshan Studio at Madurai has started functioning;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the long pending demand of a full-fledged Production-cum-Transmission Unit at Madurai Studio;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(f) whether it is also proposed to open more Doordarshan and FM Studios in Tamil Nadu;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Three Doordarshan Studios are presently functioning in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan Studio at Madurai was inaugurated on 15th August, 2005.

(d) and (e) Some requests have been received for setting up an HPT at Madurai. HPTs (DD1 & DD News) functioning at Kodaikanal provide coverage to most parts of Madurai and other nearby districts. Also, LPG for relay of DD News channel is functioning at Madurai. There is no scheme to set up additional Doordarshan Studios in Tamil Nadu.

(f) to (h) Doordarshan has no scheme to set up additional studios in Tamil Nadu, whereas AIR has proposed to set up 10 kW FM transmitter with studios at the following places viz. Dharmapuri (with Studios), Tirunelveli (with stereo facilities), Madurai (with stereo facilities), (1 kw FM as interim set-up commissioned), the implementation of which will depend on availability of funds and staff sanction.

Shortage of Staff

1362. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of staff in the Kerwar based project sea-bird;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government sanctions for the creation of 2901 posts for the Naval Base Project at Karwar have been issued.

*[Translation]***Less Gauge Tanks of HPCL in Delhi**

1363. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1592 dated December 9, 2004 regarding less gauge tanks of HPCL Delhi and state:

(a) whether the departmental inquiry has been completed to fix the accountability;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) A committee consisting of senior officials of HPCL was appointed in March 2005 to conduct an inquiry to assess all the relevant aspects in the matter, including determination of any lapses/negligence on the part of their officers. The inquiry committee has completed its investigation and submitted its report to the Management in August 2005, which is under consideration. The outcome and action taken would be decided by HPCL shortly.

*[English]***Entertainment Sector**

1364. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some major changes are contemplated for entertainment sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been constituted for this purpose;

(d) if so, whether the committee has since submitted its report;

(e) if so, the details of recommendations made by the committee; and

(f) the extent in which these recommendations of the committee have been/are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes Sir. In the Broadcasting sector, Ph.II policy for entry of private players into FM radio has been announced recently. The Government has also introduced downlinking guidelines to facilitate regulation of satellite television channels uplinking from abroad. These downlinking guidelines prescribe registration of all private channels downlinking into India for public viewership. Some changes have also been made in the existing policy for uplinking. These are being notified.

(b) The details of the private FM Phase-II policy and downlinking guidelines are available on the website of the Ministry i.e. mib.nic.in.

(c) and (d) The Government is also considering revision of the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable TV Networks Regulation Act, 1995 and the guidelines for certification of cinematograph films, to bring them in line with contemporary community standards and to make them detailed and specific so as to reduce the scope of subjective discretion. A Committee comprising of various stakeholders has been constituted to move recommendations. Committee has been granted three months time to submit its report. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 10.11.2005.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Doubling of Diamond Harbour-Barunpur Rail Line

1365. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to double the existing railway track of Diamond Harbour-Barunpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) On diamond Harbour-Barunpur section, doubling of Barunpur-Magrahat has been taken up. The detailed estimate has been sanctioned and tenders are now being invited.

*[Translation]***Flight from Bangalore to Amritsar**

1366. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any direct flight from Bangalore to Amritsar;

(b) if not, whether the Government proposes to start any direct flight from Amritsar to Bangalore;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines presently does not have any direct service between Amritsar and Bangalore.

The aircraft capacity available with Indian Airlines at present is fully committed in the operation of services in the existing schedule. Indian Airlines, therefore, has no plans to operate direct services between Bangalore and Amritsar.

*[English]***DD News Channels**

1367. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether DD News Channel is facing financial crunch or losing money on large scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to close down DD News Channel;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Doordarshan is a Public Service Broadcaster hence cannot be actuated or adjudged only by commercial considerations.

(c) to (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that at present there is no such proposal.

Upgradation of AIR Stations

1368. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of AIR Stations are proposed to be upgraded during the current Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number of such AIR Stations being upgraded State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to make the broadcasting more effective particularly in the bordering States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At 59 places either transmitters are being replaced by higher power transmitters or additional channel has been proposed at the existing stations. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) As part of the J&K Special Plan, AIR has upgraded transmitters at Srinagar & Kathua and set-up new transmitters at Rajouri, Naushera, Khalsi, Kupwara. Further, 1 kW MW transmitter at Diskit, Nyoma, Drass, Tiesuru & Padum and 200 kW MW transmitter at Kargil are technically ready. During the 10th Five Year Plan, eight new FM transmitters are proposed to be set up in the states of Punjab-(2), Gujarat-(1), Rajasthan-(2) and West Bengal-(3) to strengthen the radio coverage in boarder areas.

Besides, AIR has also proposed a Special Plan for the North Eastern states. However, implementation of all the above mentioned schemes will depend on the availability of funds and sanction of requisite staff.

Statement

State-wise list showing no. of AIR Stations proposed for up-gradation during 10th Plan

Sl.No.	State	No. of stations proposed for up-gradation
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	2
4.	Bihar	2
5.	Chhattisgarh	1
6.	Delhi	1
7.	Gujarat	3
8.	Haryana	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
11.	Jharkhand	1
12.	Karnataka	1
13.	Kerala	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1
15.	Maharashtra	5
16.	Manipur	1
17.	Meghalaya	1
18.	Mizoram	1
19.	Nagaland	3
20.	Orissa	3
21.	Punjab	1
22.	Rajasthan	8
23.	Sikkim	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	3
25.	Tripura	1

1	2	3
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4
27.	West Bengal	1
	U.T.	
	Pondicherry	1
	Lakshadweep Islands	1
	Andaman and Nicobar	1
	Chandigarh	1
Total		59

Allotment of Oil Blocks in Libya

1369. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (Videsh) Limited and Oil India Limited have been allotted oil blocks in Libya;

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

(c) the term and conditions fixed for each of these blocks in Libya?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In the 2nd Libyan Bid Round, 2005, exploration block 81-1 in the Ghandames basin measuring 1809 Sq. Km has been awarded to ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), under Exploration and Production Sharing Agreement (EPSA)-IV.

Earlier, OVL had acquired a 49% stake in two onshore exploration Blocks, NC-188, in the Ghandames Basin, and NC-189 in the Sitre basin in Libya in 2003. The Turkish Petroleum Overseas Co. (TPOC), a subsidiary of the Turkish National Oil Co., holds the remaining 51% PI, and is the Operator of the field.

The consortium of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Oil India Limited (IOL) has been awarded Block 86 (7087 Sq Km) in the Western Sitre Basin in the 1st Bid Round, 2004 and Block 102(4) (2710 Sq Km), which is contiguous to Block 86, in the 2nd Bid Round, 2005.

(c) As per the EPSA for Block 81-1, proposed to be signed by OVL with National Oil Company (NOC) of Libya

in December 2005, OVL is required to complete the work programme consisting of acquisition of 500 Km of 2D and 500 Sq Km of 3D seismic data and drilling of one exploration well in the block over five year exploration phase. OVL is also required to make payment of minimum mandatory signature bonus of US\$ 6 million. The production allocation for OVL's cost recovery would be 11.8%.

As per the minimum work obligations in block NC-188 and NC-189, after acquisition, processing and interpretation of 2D and 3D seismic data, the two wells drilled did not result in any hydrocarbon finds. The TPOC-OVL Joint Venture has sought for three years extension from the Libyan Government for drilling the remaining three wells.

As regards Block-86 awarded to IOC-OIL consortium, the exploration phase is for 5 years with a minimum work commitment of 1000 Line Kilometers (LKM) of 2D seismic survey and 2 wells and a Minimum Financial Commitment of US\$ 17 million.

For Block 102 (4) there is a Signature Bonus of US\$ 3.0 million, and the exploration phase is 5 years with a minimum work commitment of 1000 LKM-2D seismic survey, 500 sq. km. of 3D seismic survey and drilling of one well. The Minimum Financial Commitment is US\$ 17 million.

Dahej-Uran Pipeline Project

1370. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the implementation of the Dahej-Uran Pipe Line project;

(b) the quantity of gas proposed to be supplied to Maharashtra for feeding industrial, power and other projects including the number and nature of project to be fed;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has laid its claims or otherwise requested for additional gas supply; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) GAIL (India) Limited have acquired Right of User (RoU) for the land, obtained permissions for all road/rail crossings and environmental clearance from the authorities concerned for the implementation of the Dahej-Uran Pipeline (DUPL) Project. The project is expected to be completed by February, 2007.

(b) GAIL (India) Limited have signed Termsheet/Heads of Agreement for supplying 7.23 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) of gas to potential industrial consumers in various sectors, viz., Fertilizer, Steel, Ceramics, Petrochemicals, Textiles, etc., in Maharashtra through DUPL Pipeline. Further, Heads of Agreement for transportation of gas, 2 MMSCMD to begin with and increasing up to 5 MMSCMD, have been signed for supplies to the power sector.

(c) and (d) Government of Maharashtra have requested implementation of Dahej-Uran gas pipeline project on fast track and for additional supplies of natural gas to consumers in Mumbai and Pune. They have been apprised of the progress with regard to the different parameters of project.

One Rank One Pension

1371. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 162 dated August 4, 2005 regarding one Rank one Pension and state:

(a) the progress made regarding finalisation of (i) One Rank One Pension (ii) Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR), particularly pre-1996 and (iii) disparity in pension of Officers for General issues; and

(b) the time by which these issues are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) The Group of Ministers, after deliberations, has finalised its recommendations, which are currently under consideration of the Cabinet. The issue of pension of Major General *vis-à-vis* Brigadier is under consideration in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

(b) It is not possible to indicate any time limit.

Purchase of Photocopier Papers

1372. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether JS&CAO has invited tenders for the purchase of photocopier papers during 2005;
- (b) if so, whether samples of the papers were asked;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether JS&CAO has compromised the quality and rates;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (g) the rate at which the bidders were asked to deposit EMD and security amount; and
- (h) the amount collected from the bidders, bidder-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) The Office of Joint Secretary (Trg.) and CAO invited limited tender enquiry for stationery on 17th October 2005. The tender *inter-alia* included Photostat papers. Samples were also asked for each item included in the Limited Tender Enquiry and no compromise has been made on quality and rates.

(g) Each bidder was asked to deposit the EMD of Rs. 25000. The performance security is 5 percent of total value of the supply order excluding Sales Tax/VAT.

(h) There were a total of 5 bids. While no amount was collected from Kendriya Bhandar New Delhi, Rs. 25000 each was collected from other four bidders.

PNG Pipeline in R.K. Puram, New Delhi

1373. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether convenience of the allottees has not been kept in mind while providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) pipe line connection in Government quarters in R.K. Pruum, New Delhi as a result of which many of the quarters remained without this facility; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to provide PNG pipe line connections to those allottees who have been deprived of this facility?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) have been providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connection to Government Quarters in R.K. Puram, New Delhi, on the advice of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD). During 2003-04, CPWD had advised IGL to cover 8545 houses located in sectors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 13 of R.K. Puram. Out of these, IGL have already connected 7847 houses in sectors 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7. Work in the progress in sector 13. During 2004-05, CPWD did not make any recommendations. During 2005-06, IGL have been advised to provide PNG connections to 2482 houses in sector 8 and sector 12 of R.K. Puram. As against this, IGL have already provided PNG connections to 710 houses and work is in progress for connecting the remaining houses.

The houses in the aforesaid sectors of R.K. Puram which have not been provided with PNG connections are those that are lying vacant. Subject to technical feasibility, these houses will be given PNG connections on receipt of requests from the allottees.

Survey for Oil Exploration in Tamil Nadu

1374. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has started Seismic Survey in Tamil Nadu coast to explore the prospects of off shore oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the survey is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) As on 1.10.2005, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have acquired 50,876 Line Kilometer (LK) of 2D and 2254 sq. km. of 3D seismic data offshore the Tamil Nadu coast. During the first three and half years of the Tenth Plan, ONGC acquired 7906 LK of 2D and 2137 sq. km. of 3D seismic

data in the areas operated by ONGC. ONGC plan to acquire 3D seismic data in the Cauvery Offshore deepwater blocks.

(c) In addition, the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) plan to carry out seismic surveys along the East Coast of India during 2005-06 and 2006-07 and 2006-07. Part of this survey will fall on and off the Tamil Nadu coast, and will be completed within a year of the start of survey.

Setting up of New International Airport at Chennai

1375. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal for setting up of a new international airport project in Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has authorised to seek land acquisition for this ambitious project from the Government of Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details of terms and conditions of land deal; and

(e) the various steps recently taken by the Union Government for modernisation of existing International Chennai Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there is a proposal for construction of an international terminal complex with parallel runway and associated infrastructure contiguous to the existing international airport at Chennai.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already requested for acquisition of 583 hectares of land north and contiguous to the existing airport and accordingly State Government of Tamil Nadu is in the process of acquiring the said land. Government of Tamil Nadu is handing over the required land free of cost and free from all encumbrances on ownership basis to AAI.

(e) Various steps taken/to be taken for modernization of Chennai International airport are:

- (1) Expansion and modification to Anna International Terminal Phase-II.
- (2) Extension of canopy on city side of Kamaraj Domestic Terminal
- (3) Construction of Apron for Bay No. 35 and hard stand
- (4) Construction of Aero-link corridor.
- (5) Construction of 5 Nos. Bays and Link Taxi tracks for private Air Traffic Operators.
- (6) Construction of 10 nos. remote parking Bays for AB-321 aircraft and Taxi links for secondary runway.
- (7) Construction of Integrated Cargo Complex Phase-II including internal water supply and sanitary installations.
- (8) Construction of bay nos. 43, 44, 46 & 47
- (9) Construction of shoulders & turning pad for secondary runway 12/30.

Flights from Bangalore

1376. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the frequency of flights to Bangalore;

(b) if so, the time by which the additional flights are likely to be resumed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines presently does not have the resources in terms of capacity and operating crew to consider increase in the frequency of flights to and from Bangalore. Based on traffic demand, additional flights are being operated by Indian Airlines wherever necessary subject to availability of aircraft capacity and operating crew.

Setting up of Training and Research Centres for SCs.

1377. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up more training and research centres for Scheduled Castes in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of new centres proposed to be set up during 2005-2006., State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Illegal Occupation of Seats by Coolies

1378. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the illegal occupation of seats in unreserved coaches by coolies and charging money from passengers for providing seats to them;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received complaints in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of complaints received during the last one year, till date;

(d) the action take by the Government against colliers found guilty; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to stop such illegal practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Cases of unauthorised occupation of seats by coolies in unreserved coaches for charging money from passengers do come to notice from time to time and strict action is taken by the concerned zonal railways against such persons when apprehended. However, no separate statistics is maintained of such cases on the railways.

(e) Following steps have been taken by the railways to stop such illegal activities by coolies:—

(i) Regular checks by Commercial and Vigilance departments in association with Police;

(ii) Generally passenger train rakes are brought from the maintenance siding to the platform with unreserved coaches in locked condition at train originating stations.

[English]

Disabled Quota in NGOs

1379. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that under the revised General Financial Rules the reservation for disabled persons in employment with Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) has been taken away;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the financial aid provided by the Government to the NGOs has been substantially raised compared to disabled persons; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) There was no provision under the pre-revised General Financial Rules for reservation to persons with disabilities in employment with Non-Governmental Organisations and hence the question of taking away this benefit does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Doubling of Railway Lines

1380. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any scheme for doubling of railway lines connecting sea ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of projects under which new lines are to be laid;

(d) the total amount likely to be spent for laying of the said railway lines;

(e) whether the construction work of such lines has been started;

(f) if so, whether the progress of doubling of railway line work is slow;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A non-budgetary investment initiative called National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) has been launched on 15.08.02 which envisages strengthening of rail connectivity to ports/hinterland besides strengthening of Golden Quadrilateral and its diagonals. Under Port Connectivity, 6 New Lines, 12 Gauge Conversion and 8 Doubling projects are included besides three New Line projects to be constructed as private Railway project.

(d) The present anticipated cost of these 6 New Line and 8 Doubling projects is Rs. 2698 crore and Rs. 785 crore respectively. In addition, the total approximate cost of three private Railway New Line projects is Rs. 318 crore.

(e) Construction works have been started on 3 New Line and 7 Doubling projects which are sanctioned.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

India and USA in Aviation Sector

1381. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and USA are contemplating to increase cooperation in the aviation sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any talks have been held between the two countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the decisions taken as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) An Air Services Agreement was signed between India and USA in April 2005 to increase cooperation in the aviation sector. Under this Agreement, both sides can designate any number of airlines for operation of any number of services to any point in the territory of the other country with full intermediate and beyond traffic rights.

Commercial Use of Surplus Land

1382. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified 180 hectares of vacant railway land for commercial development as reported in "The Times of India" dated October 3, 2005;

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

(c) the land developed so far for commercial use in various States; and

(d) the revenue received therefrom, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a), (b) and (d) So far Railways have identified land/air-space on about 195.6 hectares of railway land for commercial development of railway. Zone-wise details of such land and revenue earned so far are as under:

Railway	Approximate land area (in hectare)	Revenue (in Rs. crore)
1	2	3
Central	7.0	2.83
Eastern	23	Nil
East Central	0.57	Nil

1	2	3
East Coast	3.53	Nil
Northern	90.5	Nil
North Central	36.3	Nil
North Eastern	Nil	Nil
Northeast Frontier	3.8	2.0
North Western	1.0	Nil
Southern	6.0	Nil
South Central	2.3	0.33
South Eastern	1.3	0.50
South East Central	Nil	Nil
South Western	2.4	Nil
Western	8.4	Nil
West Central	3.0	Nil
Metro/Kolkata	6.5	1.06
Total	195.6	6.72

(c) State-wise details of land developed for commercial purposes are not maintained by Railway.

Railway Projects

1383. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those railway projects which could not be started due to non-acquisition of land alongwith the reasons therefor, zone-wise;

(b) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to cost and time over-run of such projects due to delay in land acquisition;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Following railway projects could not be started due to land having not been made available by respective State Governments:

Sl.No.	Railway	Railway Project	Reasons in brief
1.	North West	Ajmer-Pushkar New Line	Clearance is awaited from Ministry Environment & Forests
2.	Southern	Angamali-Sabrimala New Line	Resistance from people of the area on the alignment
3.	Northeast Frontier	Dudhnoi-Depa New Line	Resistance by people of the area where land is likely to be acquired
4.	South East Central	Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur New Line	Clearance is awaited from Ministry of Environment & Forests
5.	Central	Baramati-Lonad New Line	Land not handed over by State Govt.
6.	Southern	Tanur (Kuttipuram)-Guruvayoor-Doubling	Due to stiff public resistance
7.	Southern	Kottayam-Erumeli New Line	Due to stiff public resistance

Government of Kerala has recommended to drop the Kottayam-Erumeli New Line project.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Matter has been taken up with respective State Governments.

Violation of Indian Space

1384. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether helicopters of Pakistan and some other countries have violated Indian space in Jammu and Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents occurred during the past few months; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There were 4 cases of violation of the Indian air space in Jammu and Kashmir area since June 2005.

(c) The matter is taken up with the concerned country through the diplomatic channel.

Infiltration of Militant Outfits

1385. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether terrorist training camps are being operated in the Pakistan occupied Kashmir and the terrorists are infiltrated into India from these areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether militant outfits are trying to take advantage of the chaos along LoC after earthquake by stepping up cross-border infiltration as reported in 'The Times of India' dated October 17, 2005;

(d) if so, the number of infiltration attempts by militants reported thereafter; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) As per inputs available from Intelligence agencies, activities have been reported from terrorist training camps located in Pakistan Occupied

Kashmir. Some of the terrorists camps are estimated to have been damaged or destroyed in the aftermath of earthquake of 8th October, 2005.

The overall counter infiltration strategy of the Army envisages a multi-tiered arrangement, including a forward tier of troop deployment, deployment of state-of-the-art surveillance devices, the Line of Control (LoC) fence and second tier deployment after the fence. This has resulted in keeping a check on infiltration/exfiltration. The Army in conjunction with other intelligence and security agencies continuously review its strategy to ensure that infiltration is minimised.

Post earthquake, the Army has fully restored its defensive as well as counter infiltration posture. Adequate measures are in a place and there are no vulnerabilities and gaps that may be exploited by terrorists from across the LoC. There is no increase in the infiltration by terrorists after the earthquake.

Since the earthquake on 8th October 2005, a total of 10 infiltration/exfiltration attempts have been foiled by the Army units deployed on the LoC, killing 25 terrorists.

Appropriate action has been taken by Government to further minimize the infiltration. The trends of infiltration are being constantly monitored at various levels. The LoC fence and integrated surveillance equipment that had been damaged due to earthquake has been completely repaired. The counter infiltration efforts are reviewed periodically at various levels in the State Government and the Central Government to check infiltration.

[English]

Underweight LPG Cylinders

1386. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a racket in existence behind half filled Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders in Delhi as well as other Metro cities of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the current year till date;

(c) whether the Government has inquired into the matter:

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Whenever the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) receive a complaint regarding supply of underweight cylinders, they investigate the same and in case the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the concerned LPG distributors in accordance with the provisions of the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). OMCs have reported 9 established cases of supply of underweight cylinders by their distributors in Delhi during the current year. The erring distributors have been penalized by OMCs in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, the weight and measures departments of the State take legal action against the cases of supply of underweight cylinders.

Entertainment Industry

1387. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether entertainment industry is expected of play an important role in our economy in the coming years; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to promote entertainment industry in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) According to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Pricewaterhouse Coopers Report for 2004-05, on the Indian Entertainment Industry, the Indian film industry is expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 18% to gross Rs. 12,900 crores by the year 2009.

(b) In the overall interest of the development of the film industry in India, the Central Government has taken the following initiatives to bring about changes in this sector:

- Institutional and bank financing are now accessible to the entertainment industry.
- 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permissible in the film sector.
- Government has led participation in global markets with a view to enhancing visibility of film industry.
- Film weeks and festivals are held on reciprocal basis with various countries.
- An audiovisual co-production agreement has been signed with the Republic of Italy and similar proposals from other countries are being explored to expand avenues of finances and markets for the Indian film industry.
- The Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, a sub-committee of the State Information Ministers' Conference (SIMCON), set up to suggest a policy framework for the film industry has recommended reduction of entertainment tax; steps to counter piracy in the film sector, measures to facilitate foreign film shooting in India, etc.
- The National Film Development Corporation, a public sector unit under this Ministry provides limited funding for films and oversees the integrated growth of the film industry in tune with objectives of the national economic policy.

Encroachment of Railway Land in South Eastern Railway

1388. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway land measuring 1,51,931.77 sq metres were encroached resulting a loss of Rs. 49.28 crores to the Government;

(b) whether the South Eastern Railway could not prevent its own serving and retired employees from encroaching the railway land measuring an area of 8.78 acres; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to vacate the land from the encroachers and action against railway officials if found guilty?

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

(b) Some serving and retired Railway employees and some outsiders have unauthorisedly occupied approximately 8.78 acres of Railway land at Kharagpur of South Eastern Railway.

(c) Eviction cases have been filed before Estate Officer and disciplinary action against serving Railway employees has been initiated.

Concessions to Senior Citizens

1389. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has decided to withdraw the concessions being given to the senior citizens in domestic flights;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation from the senior citizens against the proposed withdrawal;

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

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

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Hive off ATC

1390. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air Traffic Control Department under the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is proposed to be hived off into a separate subsidiary very soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it would prove helpful in the matter of divestment of a part of the Government stake in AAI to reduce AAI's burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The draft Civil Aviation Policy, *inter-alia*, covers the policy on Air Traffic Management. However, no action can be taken until the Civil Aviation Policy is finalised.

(c) Government at present has no plans to divest its stake in Airports Authority of India.

[*Translation*]

Indo-Russian Joint Defence Exercise

1391. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the defence forces of India and Russia conducted a joint exercise to counter terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a great loss was averted during an accident that occurred during Indo-Russia joint defence exercise;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(f) if so, the details of recommendations made in the inquiry report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (g) The first ever Indo-Russian Airborne exercise INDRA-06 was held at Agra and Mahajan Field Firing Range from 10-19 October 2005. The joint exercise was based on the theme of Counter Terrorist Operations under a United Nations mandate. Indian para troopers and Russian airborne personnel participated in the exercise.

The Russian Defence Minister Mr. S.B. Ivanov witnessed the exercise on 16th October 2005. During the course of para-drops, one of the loads dropped from an aircraft landed in the proximity to the grand stand put up

for the spectators. This was due to strong upper level winds. No accident occurred during the exercise.

[English]

Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Gas Pipeline

1392. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of officials of Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) recently visited Uzbekistan to assess the feasibility of 1680 km Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) gas pipeline and its onward transmission to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Consultant has been appointed by GAIL for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this issue came up for discussion during Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister's recent visit to Pakistan to discuss Indo-Iran pipeline project; and

(f) if so, the final stand taken by GAIL on TAP pipeline project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. No GAIL team has visited Uzbekistan to assess the feasibility of the TAP gas pipeline and its onward transmission to India. Under its present configuration, the TAP pipeline does not pass through Uzbekistan. GAIL has not appointed any consultants for studying this project.

(e) and (f) During the visit of Minister (P&NG) to Pakistan in June 2005, Pakistan's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources provided Minister (P&NG) with details of the TAP project in which the Indian side expressed interest. Minister (P&NG) confirmed that he would respond positively to an invitation to attend the next Steering Committee Meeting as an Observer. India has been invited to participate in the next Ministerial Steering Committee meeting of the project, scheduled to be held in Ashgabat.

Sharing of Cost of Railway Projects

1393. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has urged the State Government to share the costs of railway projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also urged the States having surplus power to offer electricity at cheaper rates to the Railways; and

(d) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To overcome the constraints of funds, States have been urged by the Ministry of Railways to share the cost of financially unviable new line and gauge conversion projects covered under Remote Area Rail Samparak Yojana which would provide rail connectivity to remote and backward areas of the country, thus providing infrastructure for their overall development. The response has not been received from most of the State Governments.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Railways have been pursuing with concerned State Electricity Boards and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to reduce cost of electric traction tariff.

[Translation]

Backlog of Reserved Posts in IOC

1394. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is backlog of reserved posts in Indian Oil Corporation (IOC);

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

(c) whether any special drive is being launched to fill up the backlog posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) While there are no shortfalls in recruitment of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) against Group 'A' and Group 'C' posts in Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), there is a marginal shortfall in respect of ST and OBC candidates in Group 'D' posts. As on 30.9.2005, the position of shortfall in direct recruitment against Group 'D' posts was as follows:—

STs	—	15 Nos.
OBCs	—	50 Nos.

No direct recruitment is made for Group 'B' categories of posts and these are filled by departmental promotions only.

(c) The shortfall of STs and OBCs in Group 'D' posts is marginal. Generally, recruitment is not made in Group 'D' positions except in cases of employment on compassionate grounds under the Company's rehabilitation scheme. Therefore, IOC do not propose to launch a special drive to fill up the vacant posts reserved for STs and OBCs.

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

[English]

Opening up of Orphanages

1395. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army has any proposal to open orphanages for victims of terrorism living in insurgency affected regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the places where such orphanages are proposed to be opened, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Army is running an orphanage named 'Muskan' for the children who have been victims of terrorism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Currently, 53 boys and 11 girls are being brought up in this orphanage. The Army is also providing assistance to the civil administration of Jammu and Kashmir in running some orphanages. Funds to the tune of Rs. 75 lakhs have been earmarked in the current financial year for undertaking construction of a building at the Government Girls Orphanage at Baramulla.

Appointments under Sports Quota in I.A.

1396. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3542 dated August 18, 2005 regarding 'Appointments under Sports Quota in Indian Airlines' and state:

(a) whether the said matter has been examined by the Government;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The matter is still under examination of the Government. No specific time frame can be indicated since consultations are being held with the Personnel Department of Indian Airlines and the Indian Airlines Sports Control Board.

Integrated Rail-Road Transport System

1397. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for an Integrated Rail-Road Transport System by providing parking facilities at the railway land where the bus stands are away from the railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) At policy level, there is no proposal for Rail-Road integration to provide parking for buses at the Railway Stations. However, local level initiatives by the concerned Zones/Divisions may be in place.

Facilities at Hyderabad Airport

1398. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various airlines including the State owned Indian Airlines and Air India have raised concerns about the deteriorating facilities at Hyderabad airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the facilities at the said airport?

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

(b) During periodical meetings which airlines and other user agencies, some of the airlines have raised concerns about shortage of parking stands, terminal building relating to the shortage of baggage identification area, mixing of international and domestic passengers, lack of space in the international departure lounge, inadequate X-ray baggage machines at international departures, etc. at Hyderabad airport.

(c) In order to meet the requirements of airlines, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated action to improve the facilities at Hyderabad airport such as expansion of apron to increase parking stands, realignment of guideline marking on the apron, expansion of international terminal building to provide additional escalators, elevators, relocation of some of the facilities to improve circulation area, etc.

Allocation of Oil Blocks to NTPC

1399. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has allocated oil blocks for exploration to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether terms and conditions and production sharing contract with NTPC have been made;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the Government/oil companies are likely to be benefited by this contract?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has awarded one exploration block under the fifth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-V) to the consortium of NTPC Ltd., Geopetrol International, and Canoro Resources Ltd. The block is located in Arunachal Pradesh and covers an area of 295 sq. kms.

(c) and (d) The terms and conditions of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) have been negotiated with the consortium. The broad terms and conditions of the proposed PSC are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) If any discovery leads to subsequent commercial production, the Central Government will be benefited from profit petroleum if any, and the State Government will be benefited by royalty.

Statement

- (i) The PSC provides for Production Sharing Contract between the Government and the Consortium.
- (ii) The participating interest of NTPC-Geopetrol International and Canoro Resources are 40-30-30 percent respectively.
- (iii) The Consortium is required to complete the minimum exploration programme under the PSC.
- (iv) The Consortium is required to pay royalty as per the PSC.
- (v) The Consortium will be exempted payment of customs duty on imports to be used for petroleum products.
- (vi) The Consortium is subject to the laws of India.
- (vii) The Consortium is allowed 100% cost recovery.
- (viii) The Consortium has freedom to sell oil and gas at market related prices in India.

Link of Asian Market by Rail Freight Corridor

1400. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the UIC the World-wide association for international railway co-operation intends to link Asian market by rail freight corridors as reported in the 'Times of India' dated October 26, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any proposal in this regard; and

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

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

(b) No, Sir. Union Internationale Des Chemins De Fer (UIC) is a voluntary body of Rail companies/organizations and can only suggest projects for Railway growth.

(c) Does not arise. Ministry of External Affairs under the aegis of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation has held discussions on providing India-Myanmar Rail Link. Government of India is also supporting the United Nations-Economic and Social Commission for Asia & Pacific (UN-ESCAP) initiative of Trans-Asian Railway.

[*Translation*]

Cancellation of Refinery Projects

1401. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cancelled the refinery projects in some States which have announced earlier; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The refineries sector has been delicensed since June, 1998 and a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by private or public sector enterprises depending on the promoters' assessment of

its viability. It is not the Central Government but public and private sector enterprises who consider proposals for setting up refineries.

Illegal Sale of Liquor

1402. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently any incidents regarding illegal sale of liquor and other items from the canteen of Armed Forces have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any action against the officials found involved in those incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) In the recent past, the following incidents of illegal sale of liquor from the Unit Run Canteens of the Armed Forces have come to the notice of the Government where officials have been found to be involved:—

(i) In a case of illegal sale of liquor at 35 Infantry Brigade (Delhi), a Brigadier was Awarded the sentence of "to be cashiered and to suffer Rigorous Imprisonment for nine months".

(ii) In a case of illegal possession of liquor at Bhavnagar by a Naval Officer of the rank of Commander, disciplinary action has been initiated.

(iii) In a case of alleged illegal sale of liquor at 6 Mountain Division (Bareilly), an officer of the rank of Major General has been placed under suspension.

[*English*]

Recommendations of Railway Accidents Inquiry Report

1403. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the recommendations made in the Railway Accidents Inquiry

Report submitted in January, 2005 suggesting to develop some electronic device to assess the flood level at various vulnerable bridges in the country;

(b) if so, whether the recent Andhra Pradesh rail accident could have been averted if the above recommendations were implemented; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the officials found guilty for not implementing the said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No Railway Accident Inquiry Report with such recommendation has been submitted in January, 2005. However, in an earlier accident report relating to an accident in 1987, it was recommended by the Commission of Railway Safety to consider such device which was tried at a number of locations but not found to be workable. This was taken note of by the Commission of Railway Safety.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Rajbhar In SC List

1404. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for inclusion of backward caste of Rajbhar in the list of scheduled castes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal of Government of Uttar Pradesh to include Bhar/Rajbhar in the list of Scheduled Castes has been processed as per approved modalities. No decision has been taken.

[English]

Coal Gasification Project

1405. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has initiated talks with British Petro PLC for setting up Coal Gasification Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ONGC has also in the past initiated talks with the Coal India Ltd. for setting up a Coal Gasification Project jointly; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) ONGC has signed an MOU with Coal India Ltd. on 3.11.2005 at Delhi for taking up a joint project on Underground Coal Gasification (UCG). Through this MOU, CIL and ONGC intend to cooperate in the Service, Operation, Process development and Research related to UCG in the coal-bearing States of India.

[Translation]

Cyber Cafes at Railway Stations

1406. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cleared the scheme of the RailTel to set up cyber cafes at railway stations as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated September 14, 2005;

(b) if so, the names of railway stations identified under the scheme;

(c) whether the proposed cyber cafes are to be given to the private contractors;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be started and completed;

(f) the funds estimated to be spent thereon; and

(g) the length of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid and commissioned till date along with its estimated cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. RailTel has been authorised to plan cyber cafe, on franchise basis at important stations only, in a phased manner.

(b) The names of 82 railways stations identified under the scheme are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The establishment of cyber cafe at railway stations shall be through engagement of franchisee through open tender system on revenue share basis. Offers have already been invited and tenders are under finalization. The franchisees would invest on building up of the infrastructure, RailTel/Ministry of Railways would provide space/land area only at convenient places at the railway stations with internet bandwidth of RailTel.

(e) One such cyber cafe is already in operation at New Delhi and further cyber cafes are being planned on about 51 stations during the current financial year.

(f) No additional expenditure from railway's side is involved since Railway will only provide space and bandwidth and the franchisee has to provide all necessary infrastructure.

(g) Up to September 2005, a total of 27,716 Route Kilometers (RKMs) of Optic Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid, out of which OFC communication has been commissioned over 23,516 RKMs. The present cost of laying of LFC is Rs. 2 lakh per kilometer approximately.

Statement

List of 82 Stations

Sl.No.	Name of the Stations
1	2
1.	Howrah
2.	Sealdah
3.	Asansol
4.	Patna
5.	Gaya

1	2
6.	Dhanbad
7.	Mughalsarai
8.	Bhubneswar
9.	Cuttack
10.	Puri
11.	Vishakhapatanam
12.	Sambalpur
13.	Guwahati
14.	Kharagpur
15.	Tata Nagar
16.	Ranchi
17.	Rourkela
18.	Raipur
19.	Bilaspur
20.	Bareilly
21.	Lucknow (N.E.R.)
22.	Gorakhpur
23.	Varanasi
24.	Amritsar
25.	Jalandhar
26.	Ludhiana
27.	Ambala
28.	Jammu Tawi
29.	Lucknow
30.	Chandigarh
31.	Moradabad
32.	Saharanpur
33.	Haridwar
34.	Dehradun
35.	Shimla

1	2
36.	Kanpur Central
37.	Agra Cantt.
38.	Jhansi
39.	Mathura
40.	Gwalior
41.	Allahabad
42.	Aligarh
43.	Jaipur
44.	Jodhpur
45.	Abu Road
46.	Ajmer
47.	Secunderabad
48.	Hyderabad
49.	Vijayawada
50.	Tirupati
51.	Guntur
52.	Bangalore
53.	Mysore
54.	Hubli
55.	Chennai
56.	Chennai Egmore
57.	Calicut
58.	Coimbatore
59.	Madurai
60.	Tiruchchirappalli
61.	Ernakulam
62.	Trivandrum
63.	Palghat
64.	Lonavala
65.	Nagpur

1	2
66.	Dadar
67.	Pune
68.	Bombay Central
69.	Vapi
70.	Bandra
71.	Surat
72.	Indore
73.	Ujjain
74.	Valsad
75.	Ahmedabad
76.	Kota
77.	Vadodara
78.	Borivili
79.	Boisar
80.	Churchgate
81.	Bhopal
82.	Jabalpur

Policy for Selling of Petroleum Products

1407. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has enforced a selective policy for selling petrol and diesel to consumers by retailers;

(b) if so, the details of the policy and conditions required to be fulfilled for selling petrol and diesel under this policy;

(c) the reasons for imposing these conditions under the said policy; and

(d) the details of conditions withdrawn from the said policy under liberalisation during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) In terms of the Government guidelines issued *vide* Resolution dated 8th March, 2002, a capital investment of at least Rs. 2,000 crore is required in eligible activities for new entrants to get authorization for marketing transportation fuels. This has been done primarily to attract serious investment in the downstream marketing sector, which avoid, fly-by-night operators.

(d) Government have not withdrawn any of the conditions mentioned in Resolution dated 8th March 2002.

[English]

Revision of Airfares

1408. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and Air India have revised air fares and freight rates during the last three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how far it was attributable to increase in prices of aviation fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) While Air India has not revised/raised the air fares and freight rates during the last three months, a marginal adjustment in fuel surcharge is done from time to time depending on cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). Indian Airlines and Alliance Air (a subsidiary of Indian Airlines) have increased domestic freight rate and domestic Rupee fare by 10% effective October, 2005 to offset the increase in the cost of operation due to increase of ATF prices.

Congestion at Delhi Airport

1409. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the study conducted by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) stating that the Delhi Airport is the most congested airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to decongest the Delhi Airport?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Following steps have been taken up by Airports Authority of India to decongest Delhi Airport.

(1) Clearance Delivery Position is established to reduce congestion on tower frequency.

(2) Auto Release Procedures is introduced to make expeditious departures on standards routes.

(3) Decisions have been taken to:-

(i) new high speed exit & parallel taxiways

(ii) introduce Air Traffic Flow Management

(iii) upgrade Air Traffic Control automation system

(iv) instal Advance Surface Movement & Guidance Control System

(v) construct Bays for aircraft, rapid exit taxi tracks, parallel taxi tracks.

(vi) carry out modification/expansion of the building

(vii) construct domestic & international terminals as a part of restructuring & modernisation.

Market Share of I.A. and A.I.

1410. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the estimated loss of market share and revenue for Air India (A.I.) and Indian Airlines (I.A.) with the advent of private airlines in the International market during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): There is no relationship between market share and revenue earning of Air India/Indian Airlines *vis-a-vis* the International operations of private airlines during last three years, as the operations of private airlines of international sector (except SAARC) are not even one year old. However, the details of market share and revenue earning of Air India/Indian Airlines in international sector is as under:

Year	Market Share	Revenue Earned
Air India		
2002-2003	19.9%	5689.88 Crores
2003-2004	19.4%	6322.07 Crores
2004-2005	20.4%	7629.99 Crores
Indian Airlines		
2002-2003	11.4%	1628 Crores
2003-2004	10.9%	1633 Crores
2004-2005	9.7%	1651 Crores

Utilisation of Army Base Workshops Capacity

1411. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army Base Workshops (ABWs) could overhaul only 10 Bofors artillery guns as against the target of 20 Bofors artillery guns per annum;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the ABWs were able to achieve only 32 to 60 per cent of their capacity but reported 100 per cent and even more utilisation of capacity;

(c) if so, whether the Government has inquired the matter to find out the reasons for not using full capacity and to achieve the targets fixed;

(d) if so, the details of the finding thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the working of ABWs and to ensure that the target fixed will be achieved cent per cent?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) 506 Army Base Workshop (ABW) is the only overhaul agency for 155 MM Bofors artillery guns. The Workshop commenced Pilot overhaul of the guns in 2000-2001, which continued till 2002-2003. They took up regular overhaul of the guns from 2003-2004. ABW achieved its target of overhaul of 5 guns in 2003-2004 and 10 guns in 2004-2005.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) The following steps have been taken:

- (i) Modernisation of the Army Base Workshops.
- (ii) Implementation of the Quality Index System, as practised in the corporate sector, for enhancing quality.
- (iii) Institutionalized monitoring mechanism to obviate shortfalls in targets.

Frequency Increase of Bangalore Rajdhani Express

1412. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is persistent demand for increasing the frequency of Bangalore-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Some requests for increase in frequency of 2429/2430 Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Expresss have been received. However, increase in frequency of 2429/2430 Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Improvement of Runways

1413. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of runways are in a dilapidated conditions;

(b) if so, the total amount spent by the Government to maintain the runways during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the pilots have also expressed their concern over it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Most of the runways at operational airports are in good condition. Resurfacing, strengthening or upgradation of these runways are undertaken, periodically, depending upon the traffic demand.

(b) The amount spent by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for maintenance and upgradation of runways and associated pavements at operational airports during the last three years *i.e.* 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is Rs. 66.76 crores, Rs. 95.87 crores and Rs. 164.01 crores respectively.

(c) Neither AAI nor the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has received any complaint from pilots regarding the dilapidated conditions of runways.

(d) Does not arise.

Production of Crude Oil

1414. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of crude oil and other petroleum products in the country has not been increased during the last three-four years as against the investment made in this sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the production of crude oil and other petroleum products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Production of crude oil and other petroleum products in the country for the last four years are given as under:

Year	(Qty. in MMT)	
	Crude Oil	Products
2001-02	32.03	104.3
2002-03	33.04	108.7
2003-04	33.37	117.6
2004-05	33.90	122.7

The details of the investment made during last four years is being collected.

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

(c) Various measures are being taken to substantially accelerate exploratory activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production. These measures include the following:—

- (i) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); Under NELP, 108 exploration blocks have been awarded to National Oil Companies, foreign companies and private/joint venture companies through the International Competitive Bidding process. This includes 18 Exploration Blocks recently awarded in the fifth round of NELP;
- (ii) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes in particular Oil, and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields;
- (iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep waters and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields; and
- (iv) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas;

The refining capacity to produce petroleum products which was 127 MMT as on 1.4.2005 is expected to increase to 138 MMT by next year.

Exodus of Pilots

1415. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has chalked out any plan to rescue Air India and Indian Airlines from the constant threat of pilots leaving their jobs without any prior notice and joining foreign airlines, thus rendering flights grounded and the passengers stranded at the Airports;

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan; and

(c) the concrete 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) to (c) To prevent such eventualities, Government of India has issued C.A.R. (Civil Aviation Requirement) Section 7, Series X, Part-II dated 1st September, 2005, whereby a Pilot intending to resign from an airline is required to give 6 months notice to this employer.

Functioning of Rehabilitation Centres

1416. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the conditions and functioning of the rehabilitation centres are very poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of complaints received during 2005, till date;

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

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to formulate any new policy for the rehabilitation programmes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Rehabilitation Centres for the Persons with Disabilities are monitored for the services rendered by them. These centres are functioning effectively except in a few cases, which are facing problems due to shortage of trained manpower. Training programmes are undertaken to meet the manpower requirement of these centres.

No complaints regarding poor functioning of these centres have been received.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production by ONGC

1417. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plans to boost current output of crude oil by 13 per cent to 30 million-tons by 2009-10 from the current level of 27 million-tons including setting up 2 new refineries in Rajasthan;

(b) whether ONGC also proposes to start production from April, 2006 of its new finds in Krishna-Godavari basin of India's first deep sea gas; and

(c) if so, the details of above mentioned proposals indicating time frame to set up the new refineries, capacity-wise production in million-tons/required investment in each case?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The estimated (R.E.) crude oil production during 2005-06 by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) from the fields operated by them is 25.101 million metric tonne (MMT) and their share from Joint Venture fields is 1.775 MMT. With the development of marginal fields, Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)/Enhanced Oil Recovery. (EOR) measures, redevelopment of fields and putting up new discoveries in production, ONGC plan to enhance the oil production to around 29.085 MMT in 2006-07, which includes their share of 1.735 MMT from JV fields.

ONGC, through its subsidiary, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, (MRPL), have been exploring the feasibility of setting up a well-head refinery in Rajasthan in association with Cairn for processing heavy crude oil discovered by the Joint Venture of Cairn and ONGC.

ONGC also propose to start production from their new finds in Krishna-Godavari basin from April, 2006.

The time-line for the refinery project can be worked out only after the investment decision is firmed up and completion of the detailed techno-economic feasibility study.

[English]

Replacement of Old Railway Tracks

1418. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of old railway tracks in the country, gauge-wise;

(b) whether the Committee on Railway Safety has recommended for replacing of old railway tracks and rolling stocks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to replace the old tracks and rolling stocks as recommended by the Railways Safety Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The total track Kilo Metre as on 31.3.2004 on Indian Railway is 1,08,486 Km (including yards). Out of this 88,547 Km is on Broad Gauge, 16,489 Km on Metre Gauge and 3,450 Km on Narrow Gauge.

Track becoming due for renewal on age-cum-condition basis is sanctioned for renewals. It is a continuous process. As on 31.3.2005, about 12,100 Km track renewal works are sanctioned. Out of this 4,000 Km has been targeted for renewal in the current financial year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The recommendations have been accepted by the Ministry of Railways. A Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF) of Rs. 17,000 Cr. has been created to wipe out the arrears of track and rolling stock etc., which had accrued up to March' 2001. It is planned to complete these works by 31.3.2007.

Assets becoming due for replacement after April' 2001 is to be replaced under Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF).

Visit of Chile's Navy Chief

1419. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navy Chief of Chile has visited India in the first week of November, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Navy Chief of Chile has shown interest to procure military hardware and software; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the discussion held in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Naval Chief of Chile, Admiral Rodolfo Codina visited India from November 6-12, 2005. During the visit, the Chilean Navy Chief has shown interest to procure Missiles, Helicopters, Submarines, Torpedoes, Ships, unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Ammunition, Software for war gaming from India. The discussions held during the visit were general and exploratory in nature.

[Translation]

Exercise of Powers by Women in Panchayat

1420. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that approximately 10 lakhs women are elected representatives in Panchayat and their powers are being exercised by their male counterparts; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the powers delegated to women should be exercised by them only?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No Sir. As per available information, approximately 8,90,605 women are elected representatives in different levels of Panchayati Raj Institutions who are exercising powers as per law and their powers are not being exercised by their male counterparts.

(b) Does not arise. However, the Government supports capacity building training programmes for elected women representatives of Panchayats so that they can effectively carry out their duties and responsibilities as envisaged in the Constitution, to take an active role in the matters relating to their village and taluk.

In order to evolve the National Consensus on the measure to be taken to strengthen Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened Seven Round Table of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj between July, 2004 and December, 2004. At the Round Tables around 150 points for action covering 18 dimensions of Panchayati Raj, were formulated by consensus. *Inter alia*, these include points of action pertaining to both the Centre and the States that concern the active participation of women in PRIs and Gram Sabha. These might be summarised as below:

- (i) The provision of women Component Plans in the budgets of the PRIs;
- (ii) Harmonize linkages with Self Help Groups (SHGs);
- (iii) Adequate training and capacity building;
- (iv) Mahila Sabhas (or equivalent) to facilitate women's concerns and priorities being raised in meetings of Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas (or equivalent sub-Gram Sabha forums);
- (v) Separate quorum for women's participation in Gram Sabhas and sub-Gram Sabha forums.

The full text of the conclusions relating to women arrived at the Third Round Table Conference at Raipur, is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Third Round Table of Ministers in-charge of Panchayati Raj-Raipur, 23-24 September 2004

Ministers in-charge of Panchayati Raj, and their representatives, bearing in mind the spirit of cooperative federation which must inform the effective implementation of Panchayati Raj as set out in Part IX of the Constitution of India are related provisions, agreed to recommend to their respective Governments, for joint acceptance by the Centre and the States, the following points of action:

II. Reservations for Women

- (i) It is clear that women have been able to enlarge their representation beyond the minimum 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % prescribed by the Constitution. In Karnataka, 45% of the elected officers are occupied by women and in Uttar Pradesh, 54% of the Zilla Panchayats Presidents are women. Similarly, in Tamil Nadu, 36% seats of chairpersons of Gram Panchayats are occupied by women.
- (ii) In promoting larger social objectives through PRIs, States may be sensitized to issues of gender empowerment so that the unintended consequences of such policies is not to diminish the role of women in Panchayati Raj.
- (iii) The Constitution does provide for the rotation of seats reserved for women but does not prescribe the number of terms for which seats may be

reserved before rotation. Seats may be reserved for one term or two terms or more depending upon the provisions made by the State Legislature in the State Law. There are different practices being adopted in the different States and there are different practices under contemplation in several States. This being so, the option to reserve seats for more than one-term is open but it is for the State Legislature to decide the number of terms for which seats will remain reserved.

- (iv) The empowerment of women through reservations in the panchayats is a necessary first step but needs to be reinforced by a number of other measures such as:
 - (a) the provision of Women Component Plans in the budgets of the PRIs;
 - (b) linkages with Self Help Groups (SHGs);
 - (c) adequate training and capacity building;
 - (d) encouragement to political parties to put up women candidates;
 - (e) the opportunity to women to serve a full term when they are elected to posts in the PR system;
 - (f) Mahila Sabhas (or equivalent) to facilitate women's concerns and priorities being raised in meetings of Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas (or equivalent sub-Gram Sabha forums);
 - (g) separate quorum for women's participation in Gram Sabhas and sub-Gram Sabha forums.

Reservations to the post of chairperson in the PR system has been challenged in the courts of law, calling for an appropriate defence of the provisions of the court and jurisprudential clarifications of the issues involved.

[English]

Modernisation of Railway Workshops

1421. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV;
SHRI JUAL ORAM;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps for modernisation and expansion of railway workshops during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the funds earmarked for this purpose; and

(c) the amount spent on each workshop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 269.11 crores were earmarked for the first 4 years of Tenth Five Year Plan for this purpose.

(c) A statement giving the details of allocation of funds to the workshops from 2002-03 onwards is enclosed. The amount spent out of the allocation is under compilation.

Statement

(Figures in Rupees thousands)

Location	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Ajmer	—	100	30900	51858	82858
Alambagh	—	—	—	100	100
Amritsar	—	—	1500	3833	5333
Bhopal	5000	12100	21500	2500	41100
Bhusawal	5000	10000	1000	6360	22360
Charbagh	12901	21500	17960	20368	72729
Dahod	—	—	—	500	500
Dibrugarh	14089	45154	21500	1000	81743
Gorakhpur	55010	45000	100000	7000	207010
Harnaut	—	100	150000	300000	450100
Hubli	10900	4500	—	—	15400
Izzatnagar	—	350	2141	7390	9881
Jagadhri	34223	13260	32101	31293	110877
Jamalpur	40695	41219	67632	67848	217394
Jhansi	7103	—	—	—	7103
Jodhpur	5990	10000	88556	34072	138618
Kancharapara	4000	500	500	35000	40000
Kharagpur	39413	26439	5323	10946	82121
Kota	—	150	500	9142	9792
Lallaguda	500	20000	18200	19950	58650

1	2	3	4	5	6
Liluah	52260	65024	51455	38174	206913
Lower Parel	—	1200	41106	89300	131606
Lucknow	10985	4257	5308	5570	26120
Mahalaxmi	—	—	100	19809	19909
Mancheswar	11930	17250	6335	36907	72422
Matunga	37993	10000	8500	43672	100165
Mysore	20000	10100	8900	600	39600
New Bongaigaon	2703	7279	15442	25500	50924
Parel	9368	20000	8000	69550	106918
Perambur	49500	19500	14679	4500	88179
Ponmalai	18780	8500	6080	39637	72997
Raipur	10000	16508	2774	9989	39274
Rayanapadu	73	2574	5017	1000	8664
Royapuram	—	—	—	500	500
Sithouli	10000	5000	4420	39700	59120
Tughlakabad	14137	—	—	—	14137
Total	482553	437564	737429	1033568	2691114

Improvement of Amenities in Trains

1422. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to spruce up all the trains and improve amenities provided by the Railways;

(b) whether the Government is considering to adopt public-private partnership to upgrade amenities being provided in trains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is taking any steps to make grievances redressal mechanism more effective; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The availability and maintenance of amenities as prescribed in "Schedules of amenities" for various classes of coaches are ensured during the primary and secondary maintenance.

Each coach is given periodical overhaul in which condition of the coach is spruced up. Mid-life rehabilitation of some coaches that have completed 12-15 years of life is also undertaken to improve the condition of the coaches. In order to provide comfortable journey to passengers, improvements in design and technology are also undertaken regularly.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Indian Railways have taken the following steps to make grievances redressal mechanism more effective:—

- * To minimize direct contact of staff with public new technologies like internet booking reservation through mobile phones, etc. have been introduced.
- * Particular areas where there are complaints against the frontline staff, they are identified and remedial action taken.
- * To reduce the number of grievances regarding enquiries, Integrated Train Enquiry System have been established.
- * Frontline staff are given training at the Zonal Training Institutes.
- * Punctuality drives are launched to improve punctuality performance of trains. Bad runners are identified and remedial measures taken.
- * During rush period, additional booking windows are opened and additional coaches are attached to the trains to clear the passengers.
- * To improve the cleanliness at stations and on trains, mechanized cleaning has been started at important stations.
- * Refund Rules have been liberalized and refund cases are monitored at officers' levels.

Sanskrit Programme

1423. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals for Sanskrit programmes received by Doordarshan;

(b) whether the Doordarshan has taken any initiative to promote the Sanskrit language in its Millennium programming for the coming years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a)

Doordarshan has informed that no such proposals have been received by them.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that the following programmes in Sanskrit in commissioned category under the Indian Classics series have been approved:

1. 'Uttar Ramacharitam'
2. 'Gatha Saptati'
3. 'Raghuvansham'
4. 'Kumarasambhava'
5. 'Abhigyan Shakuntalam'.

Expansion of Overseas Business by GAIL

1424. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has proposed to expand its operations to overseas in the hydro-carbon sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of projects identified for expansion; and

(c) the revenue likely to be generated through the operation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) GAIL ventured into a number of oil & gas sector projects abroad. Under GAIL's globalization efforts, GAIL have so far secured equity interest in three retail gas companies in Egypt and one retail gas company in China. Further, GAIL has 'farmed-in' with 10% participating interest in two offshore E&P blocks in Myanmar (A-1 & A-3). Gas discoveries have already been made in A-1 block.

GAIL have participated in the Australian bidding round with Indian and International Company partners.

GAIL is pursuing various business opportunities in the gas sector including E&P, LNG, transnational and regional pipelines, gas processing, petrochemicals, PNG/CNG projects in China, Iran, Egypt, Turkey, Russia, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Australia.

(c) GAIL have started receiving dividends from the investments made in Egyptian Companies. At this stage, it may not be possible to project the revenue likely to be generated from the overseas business operations of GAIL.

Hiring of Naval Bases to Private Institutions

1425. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Navy permitted private professional institutions in Naval bases during 1999 without obtaining proper authorization from the competent authority on unduly low rents as compared to the rent in the market;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Navy retained the revenue earned in non-public funds;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the reasons for hiring Naval bases to private institutions unmindful of the security; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Three professional institutions namely Naval Maritime Academy (NAMAC) at Mumbai and Visakhapatnam and Naval Institute of Technology (NIT) at Mumbai were set up by the Navy on Defence land during the period 1996 to 1999. These institutions are running on financially self-sustenance basis and no Government funds are used for this purpose. The income generated is deposited in Non Public Funds of the Navy and used for day-to-day running of the institutes and to continuously upgrade the training infrastructure.

(d) A proposal is under consideration of Ministry of Defence for regularization of these institutes.

Technical Staff of Doordarshan

1426. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that staff working in Doordarshan, specially on the technical side are lured by good money from private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Doordarshan staff suspended and dismissed till now for long absence and taking up private work;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review the human resource management policy of Doordarshan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be reviewed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that 12 employees have been suspended/dismissed for unauthorized absence and 2 for taking up private assignments.

(d) to (f) The current human resource management policy applicable to Doordarshan will remain in operation till it is replaced by the policy adopted by Prasar Bharati for its employees under the provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. No definite time frame can be indicated for the completion of this process.

[Translation]

Rail Line between India and Pakistan

1427. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to open Munabao-Khokharapar railway link route between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether approval of the Government of Pakistan has been obtained for this railway route;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the construction of the above railway link route; and

(e) the time by which the Munabao-Khokharapar train facility is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) and (e) In the Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit of Hon'ble President of Pakistan to India on April 18, 2005, it has been agreed to re-establish the Munabao (India)—Khokhrapar (Pakistan) route by 1st January, 2006.

(d) The estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on restoration of track from Munabao station to International Border between India and Pakistan is Rs. 10.73 crore.

High Speed Train

1428. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for running high speed trains at the speed of more than 160 KMPH announced by the Government has been stalled;

(b) if so, whether the said scheme has been stalled because of financial constraints;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total cost likely to be involved in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways had posed high Speed Rail Link Project between Mumbai-Ahmedabad under Development Study Programme of Japanese Technical Cooperation Programme for the year 2005-06, through the Ministry of Finance. Government have subsequently communicated to Japanese authorities that the feasibility study on the project may not be taken in view of the change of priority of the project.

(d) to (f) Ministry of Railways have got the feasibility study done through Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) for introduction of High Speed Train between Mumbai-Ahmedabad. The estimated capital cost at the time of commissioning (2011-12) was estimated as Rs. 20,352 crore with low financial internal rate of return.

[English]

Kerosene Depot/Retail Outlets

1429. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether 46 per cent of the blocks in the country do not have any kerosene depot/retail outlet;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up at least one kerosene depot/retail outlet in very block;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has prepared any scheme in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (f) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not appointed kerosene wholesale dealers in 2776 blocks out of the total 6050 blocks in the country. Government have recently approved a scheme to strengthen the PDS network in the country. The objective of the scheme which is being run as a pilot project called the 'Jan Kerosene Pariyojana' (JKP) is to revamp the PDS kerosene distribution network with a view to ensuring that this heavily subsidized product is actually made available in the required quantities at subsidized prices to the intended beneficiaries; and, secondly, to thus cap, reverse and eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS SKO for adulteration.

The principal features of the JKP for strengthening the PDS Kerosene distribution network are as under:—

(i) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) will establish at least one Kerosene (SKO) dealership in each of the country's development blocks;

(ii) In consultation with the District Administration and the wholesale dealer, about 5-10 sub-wholesale points will be located in each blocks;

- (iii) There will be a dedicated fleet of tanker-trucks (TTs) for transportation of PDS kerosene to ensure widespread public information and transparency as these TTs will prominently display the special logo that is being devised for the dedicated fleet. It will be clearly written on the outside of the TT that it is transporting kerosene meant for the Public Distribution System;
- (iv) To bring storage dispensing services at SKO dealerships at par with the modern facilities provided at petrol and diesel outlets by OMCs at their own expense, the Ministry's Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) will fund OMCs to ensure the installation of the following facilities at each of the dealerships covered under the pilot project:
- storage tanks with a minimum capacity of 20 KLs
 - calibrated dispensing pumps
 - adequate number of barrels, appropriately decorated with the special logo, for the delivery of SKO to sub-wholesale points
 - one or more barrel sheds;
- (v) Supplies from the depots of the OMCs to the wholesale storages and further up to sub-wholesale points will be made under the direct supervision and responsibility of the OMCs, who will provide an adequate number of barrels, decorated with the special logo, at the sub-wholesale point for the convenient and assured transportation of PDS SKO to the retail points. Similar logos will be displayed on vehicles transporting PDS SKO from wholesale to sub-wholesale points and from there to retail points at Fair Price Shops;
- (vi) At each Fair Price Shop, PDS SKO will be stored in barrels with clearly identified logos which the general public can access to determine for themselves the balance availability of PDS SKO at that Fair Price Shop;
- (vii) In consultation with State Governments, Panchayats and Gram Sabhas will be empowered to generally supervise the availability of PDS SKO at subsidised prices, and a reporting mechanism will be put in place for Panchayats/Gram Sabhas to report any deficiencies to the State Administration and the OMCs concerned.

It has been decided to implement the Scheme to begin with in up to 10% of the blocks of the country on pilot basis for a period of six months. Thereafter, the working of the Scheme would be assessed and based on the experience gained, the Government will consider scaling the Scheme to cover the entire country.

The pilot project has been launched effective 2nd October 2005. At present, the pilot project is being implemented in 417 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory.

Foreign Broadcasters

1430. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign broadcasters are paying very low tax to the Government as compared to the domestic broadcasters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total fund collected from the foreign and domestic broadcasters during each of the last three years;

(d) the names of DTH service providers alongwith their subscribers in the country; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to collect the tax from the foreign broadcasters at par with the domestic broadcasters?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) According to information given by Finance Ministry, foreign broadcasters are taxable in accordance with the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961, service tax, regulations and the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty applicable to them.

(c) Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance has informed that no separate data regarding breakup of service tax paid by foreign and domestic broadcasters is being maintained. However, service tax collected during last three financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is Rs. 90 crores, Rs. 178 crores and Rs. 273 crores respectively.

(d) There is only one pay DTH service provider namely M/s ASC Enterprises Ltd., which has 154684 subscribers as on 31.3.2005.

(e) Ministry of Finance has informed that foreign broadcasting companies are brought under the Income-Tax Act, 1961 by ensuring that they file their returns of income every year and by making appropriate assessments on the basis of these returns. Further, tax is being collected by way of tax deducted at source from payment remitted to them.

Container Transport Policy

1431. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been consistent pressure by global players to allow more competition in container freight business;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to open the container freight business to private players;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to formulate container transport policy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (f) Yes, Sir. It has already been decided to open rail borne container traffic to private players. This business will be thrown open to private players after finalization of detailed policy.

Downlinking Guidelines

1432. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no mechanism to check the antecedents and verify the legitimacy of the owners/distributors of channels downlinking from overseas;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to formulate downlinking guidelines to provide better regulation of satellite television channels which uplink from overseas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the downlinking guidelines are likely to be formulated and notified?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Hitherto, there was no direct control over television channels uplinking from abroad. The only control was on their transmission/retransmission through the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. There was no control on reception *per se* of any television channel uplinked from abroad. In view of this, the Government have recently issued policy guidelines for downlinking. These provide for registration of all TV channels downlinked into India. They also provide that any entity/company desirous of downlinking TV channels will obtain permission from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. Detailed Guidelines are available on the Ministry of I&B's website <http://mib.nic.in>.

The detailed eligibility criteria prescribed in the guidelines for the applicant company seeking permission to downlink TV channel, *inter-alia* provide that:

- It must be a company registered in India under the Indian Companies Act, 1956, irrespective of equity structure, foreign ownership or management control.
- The applicant company must have a commercial presence in India with its principal place of business in India.
- The applicant company must provide details of their Directors and key executives to obtain their national security clearance.

All the existing channels have been given 180 days to comply.

Allotment of Channels

1433. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand its space to take on board at least a hundred channels to Doordarshan's free-to-air platform;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the existing platform and the number out of them airs by Doordarshan and from the private broadcasters;

(d) the number of channels proposed to be allocated to Doordarshan and the private broadcasters after the expansion of space; and

(e) the time by which the expansion projects is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a), (b) and (e) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the number of TV channels in Doordarshan's free-to-air DTH bouquet is envisaged to be increased from the present thirty-three to fifty channels during 2006-2007. Further, there is a separate proposal from Prasar Bharati to enhance its capacity to 100 TV channels.

(c) Doordarshan's free-to-air DTH service provides nineteen Doordarshan and fourteen private channels, in addition to twelve All India Radio Channels.

(d) No decision has been taken in the matter so far.

[Translation]

**Construction of Platform at Kurdwari
Railway Station**

1434. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct another platform at Kurdwari railway station in Maharashtra;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Kurduwadi is a 'D' category station on Solapur Division having two high level island platforms *i.e.* 1/2 & 3/4. Therefore, there are four platforms available for reception/departure and which are sufficient for the existing frequency of trains and level of passenger traffic.

[English]

Repair Work of Approach Roads

1435. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Railway Authorities have decided to take up repair work of the approach roads to all the stations between Barasat-Hasnabad section of Sealdah Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the repair works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Eastern Railway is taking up repairs to approach roads of 9 stations in the Barasat-Hasnabad section *viz.* Champapukur, Malatipur, Madhyampur, Taki Road, Bashihat, Hasnabad, Bahira Kalibari, Sondalia and Harua Road. These works are planned to be completed by May 2006.

Electrification work of Ernakulam-Trivandrum

1436. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far on electrification work of Ernakulam-Trivandrum line in Kerala;

(b) the reasons for non-completion of work within the scheduled time 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) to (c) Electrification work of Ernakulam-Trivandrum rail line (*via* Alleppy and Kottayam) 320 Route kilometre is in progress. 252 Route kilometre have been electrified till March, 2005. The entire section is targeted for completion by Dec., 2005.

(Rupees in crores)

Year	AIR	Doordarshan
2002-03	132.25	553.81
2003-04	141.04	530.23
2004-05	156.39	665.27

Change in Archaic Rules

1437. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to change Archaic Rules for airlines and align them to modern norms followed by Europe and United States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Aircraft Act and the Aircraft Rules are reviewed from time and time and amendments are carried out to keep the provisions abreast with the international standards and developments in the Civil Aviation sector.

Revenue of Doordarshan and AIR through Advertisements

1438. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue earnings of Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR) from telecasting/broadcasting of advertisements have increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the total revenue earned by Doordarshan and AIR during the said period, year-wise;

(c) the percentage of hike in rates of advertisements during the above period; and

(d) the steps being taken to attract more advertisements through Doordarshan and AIR?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the revenue earned by AIR has been increasing constantly. The details of commercial revenue earned by DD/AIR during last three years is as follows:—

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that AIR has revised rates for advertisements in December, 2002 only to rationalize Spot-Buy rate and the value of Free Commercial Time of Sponsored Programmes/Sponsorship of in-house programmes. The percentage of increase was negligible. As regards Doordarshan, a 10% increase in the rates of advertisements was effected in 2003-04 which was withdrawn in 2004-05.

(d) AIR has introduced on line computerized booking system (Central Window Booking) at its Central Sales Unit (CSU), Mumbai which has been linked to all its 15 Commercial Broadcasting Service (CBS) Centres for all advertisers and clients. Besides, All India Radio is in the process of setting-up a new CBS Centre at Guwahati and contemplating the setting up of a new Marketing Division at Thiruvananthapuram. AIR has also introduced 1 : 1 bonus scheme for spot booking to attract more advertisers.

As regards Doordarshan has taken various steps have been initiated with a view to increase revenues. These are as follows:

1. To improve marketing of programmes, Marketing Divisions have been operationalised at Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Delhi, Kolkata and Bangalore.
2. Development Communication Division has been established for securing business and catering to the publicity requirements of various Ministries/ Govt. Depts./PSUs.
3. Ensuring that slots on various channels do not remain vacant.
4. Computerisation of billing system of Doordarshan Commercial Services at Delhi to ensure timely preparation of bills.
5. To promote the programmes of Doordarshan and its brand image, barter arrangements for newspaper publicity.

6. To acquire quality software from various professional software houses.
7. To improve the transmission quality with digitization of signals and cable operators now have been given option to download signals either in Analog mode or Digital mode.
8. The Commercial Rate Card is being constantly reviewed and revised to bring it in tune with market practices.
9. To eliminate large number of non-serious agencies, amount of Bank Guarantee to be submitted by accredited agencies have been increased from Rs. 3.00 lacs to Rs. 25.00 lacs.

Training to Polio Affected Persons by RCI

1439. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the polio affected persons are trained in special education and rehabilitation programme by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government is formulating any scheme/programme to provide training to such polio affected persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Training in special education and rehabilitation programme recognized by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) is given to interested & eligible persons including polio affected persons.

(b) The details of such programmes are available on the website of the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) at www.rehabcouncil.nic.in.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

FM Television

1440. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow FM Television on the pattern of FM Radio run by private sector;

(b) if so, whether proposed FM Television will compete with the Doordarshan;

(c) if so, whether the revenue generated by FM Televisions will be shared with the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has, in August, 2005, made recommendations regarding issues relating to private terrestrial TV broadcast service. No decision has been taken on the same by the Government.

Air Crashes

1441. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of air crashes occurred during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for such mishaps and the details of loss suffered by Indian Airlines as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to avert the recurrence of accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last three years 17 accidents occurred to Indian Civil Registered aircrafts.

(b) The reasons as brought out in the investigation reports are improper decision of the pilots, poor crew co-ordination, mechanical/technical problems, poor maintenance, lack of experience and weather disturbances. No aircraft belonging to Indian Airlines was involved in these accidents.

(c) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) ensures, on a continuous basis, strict compliance of safety norms by all air operators, including private operators by

way of safety audits. Besides, spot checks on maintenance activities are also carried out by the DGCA. DGCA also keeps updating the Civil Aviation Requirements/Circulars to strengthen aviation safety aspect. The provide better airworthiness schedule for enhancement of air safety aspect, Government is running two international training programmes for the officials of DGCA and airlines viz. Co-Operative Development of Operational Safety & Continuing Airworthiness Programme (COSCAP) and European Union-India-Training Programme. Flight Inspector pilots, of DGCA carryout periodic proficiency and standardisation checks of pilots of various operators to ensure that laid down operating procedures are followed.

Employees-Aircraft Ratio

1442. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has a huge surplus manpower in terms of employees per aircraft;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the ratio among the other foreign airlines; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to streamline the employees as per the aircraft ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The employee to aircraft ratio in Air India is 385. Though data with reference to other foreign airlines is not maintained, the employee to aircraft ratio is comparatively higher in comparison to other airlines. While most of the airlines all over the world undertake maintenance jobs to a limited extent only and outsource major maintenance ground handling, passenger/cargo handling etc., Air India undertakes all these activities completely in-house and also performs all ground handling functions for a number of foreign airlines.

Air India has, however, taken a number of steps in order to reduce its staff strength which include (i) freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories; (ii) reduction of staff strength at foreign station; (iii) redeployment/relocation of staff from non-operational to operational categories; (iv) introduction of voluntary retirement scheme; (v) reversion of retirement age from 60 to 58 years; and (vi) outsourcing of non-core activities and establishment of subsidiary companies.

Parameters for Selection of Routes

1443. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new International flights are being envisaged by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the parameters for selection of routes for these flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Traffic rights for operation of international air services are specified in our bilateral Air Services Agreements concluded with various countries and are reviewed from time to time as part of an on-going process depending on traffic demand, balance of benefit to our carriers, over all interest of national economy and diplomatic/political consideration. Actual operations including route selection are, however, left to the commercial judgement of the airlines.

Bilateral Agreements by Air India

1444. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bilateral agreements entered into between Air India and other Airlines;

(b) the details of seat adjustments utilized by Air India and other Airlines during the said period;

(c) whether Air India has lost a large number of seats to other Airlines as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) While, bilateral air services agreements are signed at the Government level, Air India has concluded commercial agreements with 22 airlines in the form of compensation, Code-Share/Blocked Space, Revenue Pooling, Joint Venture agreements.

(b) Air India has concluded seat adjustments under the Code Share/Blocked Space agreements with 12 airlines viz. Aeroflot, Air France, Air Mauritius, Austrian

Airlines, Emirates, Kuwait Airways, Lufthansa, Malaysia Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Swiss International Airlines, Thai Airways and Turkish Airlines.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Training to SCs/STs

1445. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. has been imparting training to scheduled castes/tribes officials both in India and abroad as per the rules;

In India/Abroad**:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
No. of training Programmes	1424/36	1427/29	1840/27
No. of SC officers nominated	1742/10	2395/9	2024/2
No. of ST officers nominated	732/6	713/0	890/0

**IOC does not organize training programmes abroad. The above programmes are organized by external agencies.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

(d) According to information furnished by IOC, SC/ST officials of IOC are being trained in India and abroad according to rules.

[English]

Cases of Stress and Fatigue

1446. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that cases of stress and fatigue leading to violence among Army jawans have been increasing;

(b) if so, the number of training programmes organized for SC/ST officials in India and abroad during each of the last three years;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken for providing training to the SC/ST candidates in India and abroad in accordance with the rules?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of training programmes organized for SC/ST officials in India and abroad during each of the last three years given below:

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) whether the Government has made any study to find out the reasons for such trend among jawans; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The isolated cases of assault and affray, or resorting to other criminal acts of murder or suicide can be broadly attributed to professional stress and not fatigue. The number of such incidents has not been increasing.

(b) The total number of incidents of violence, including assault and affray, reported in the last three years is given below. In the Army, there are 1154108 personnel. The figures-given below should be seen in this context.

Year	Violence including assault and affray
2002	37
2003	25
2004	33
2005 (till date)	18

The total number of murder and suicide cases are as follows:—

Year	Murder	Suicide
2002	6 (Reported)	66 (Reported)
2003	16	96
2004	18	100
2005 (till date)	16	71

(c) and (d) Identification, analysis and prevention of cases of serious offences by troops is an ongoing process. In this regard measures suggested in the report of the study of the College of Defence Management have been widely disseminated to all concerned. Instructions have been issued whereby timely and positive response to the requirements of the troops and sentiments are encouraged.

Manufacturing of Coaches

1447. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai has built stainless steel rail coaches;

(b) if so, the details alongwith cost (per coach) thereof;

(c) whether the Government has worked out any market strategy evaluating its export potential; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Integral Coach Factory (ICF) has manufactured and supplied 11 Metre Gauge air conditioned stainless steel coach shells without bogies and internal furnishing to M/s Hartasuma Sdn Bhd, Malaysia for Malaysian Railway. The order was worth US Dollar 790,170.

(c) and (d) Exploring export market is an ongoing exercise which is undertaken by Ms/ Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) on behalf of Indian Railways. Development of Standard Gauge bogie design is a step towards equipping ourselves for potential export in world market.

[*Translation*]

Open Sky Policy

1448. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated the Open Sky Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the growth of the aviation industry is likely to be enhanced under this policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) While Government has gradually liberalized the traffic entitlements on foreign routes, no 'Open Sky' policy as such has been adopted. Liberalization of traffic entitlements has resulted in enhanced operations between India and various countries.

Radar Facility at Jaipur Airport

1449. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of staff for execution of work in Jaipur Airport;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether secondary radar facility has not been provided at the Jaipur Airport; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide this facility at the Airport?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plan, at present, to provide secondary radar facility at Jaipur airport.

[English]

New Marketing Strategy

1450. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India has planned new marketing strategy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for implementing the new marketing strategy?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

FM Radio

1451. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the second phase of FM Radio;

(b) the number of additional frequencies likely to be allocated, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to include all parts of the country in any one of the FM channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the second phase of FM Radio is likely to be broadcasted?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (e) Pursuant to the notification of policy for private FM radio (Phase II), the Government has, on 21.09.2005, invited pre-qualification bids from Indian companies for setting up 338 radio stations in 91 cities across the country. The state-wise details of locations and number of stations are given in the enclosed Statement.

The Government has also notified the time table of financial bidding for various cities, which has been scheduled for January/February, 2006. The qualified companies would be eligible to participate in the financial bidding process. The successful bidders, after obtaining Letter of Intent, would need to complete various formalities within a maximum period of nine months, upon which they would enter into an agreement titled, "Grant of Permission Agreement" with the Government. The parties would then be required to operationalize the station within one year and latest by 18 months from the date of agreement.

Statement

State/UT-wise details of location of FM Channels for Phase-II

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	City	Category	No. of available Channels
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	A	7
		Vijayawada	B	2
		Vishakhapatnam	B	3
		Rajamundri	C	4

1	2	3	4	5
		Tirupati	C	2
		Warangal	C	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	D	4
3.	Assam	Guwahati	C	4
4.	Bihar	Patna	B	4
		Muzzafarpur	C	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	C	4
		Raipur	C	4
6.	Goa	Panaji	D	3
7.	Gujarat	Surat	A	4
		Ahmedabad	A	5
		Rajkot	B	3
		Vadodra	B	4
8.	Haryana	Hissar	D	4
		Karnal	D	2
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	D	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	C	4
		Jammu	C	3
11.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	C	4
		Jamshedpur	B	4
12.	Karnataka	Bangalore	A	7
		Gulbarga	C	4
		Mangalore	C	4
		Mysore	C	4
13.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	C	4
		Cochin	B	3
		Kozhikod	C	2
		Trissur	C	4
		Kannur	C	4

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Sagar	C	4
		Bhopal	B	4
		Indore	B	3
		Jabalpur	B	4
		Gwalior	C	4
15.	Maharashtra	Sholapur	C	3
		Mumbai	A+	5
		Pune	A	3
		Nagpur	A	6
		Ahmednagar	C	3
		Dhule	C	2
		Jalgaon	C	4
		Kolhapur	C	2
		Nanded	C	4
		Nasik	C	2
		Sangali	C	2
		Akola	C	4
		Aurangabad	C	3
16.	Manipur	Imphal	D	4
17.	Meghalaya	Shillong	D	4
18.	Mizoram	Aizwal	D	4
19.	Nagaland	Kohima	D	4
20.	Orissa	Rourkela	C	4
		Bhubaneshwar/Cuttack	C	4
21.	Punjab	Amritsar	B	4
		Jalandhar	C	4
		Patiala	C	4
22.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	A	5
		Ajmer	C	4

1	2	3	4	5
		Jodhpur	C	4
		Bikaner	C	4
		Kota	C	4
		Udaipur	C	4
23.	Sikkim	Gangtok	D	4
24.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	A+	6
		Tiruchy	C	4
		Tirunelveli	C	3
		Tuticorin	C	4
		Coimbatore	B	3
		Madurai	B	3
25.	Tripura	Agartala	D	4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	A	2
		Kanpur	A	3
		Agra	B	3
		Allahabad	B	4
		Varanasi	B	4
		Aligarh	C	2
		Bareilly	C	4
		Gorakhpur	C	4
		Jhansi	C	4
27.	West Bengal	Kolkatta	A+	5
		Asansol	B	2
		Siliguri	C	4
28.	Delhi	Delhi	A+	6
29.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	C	2
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair	D	4
31.	Daman and Diu	Daman	D	2
32.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	C	3
Total			91	338

Drop in Railway Revenue

1452. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that railways could have lowered the upper class fares to meet the competition from low cost airlines;

(b) if so, the likely impact on the earning of railway revenue due to the falling fare of airlines; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the earning of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Railways are aware of the competition from the Airlines sector particularly due to low cost Airlines. No visible impact is, however, seen on railways passenger earnings which have shown an encouraging growth of over 8% during the first seven months of the current financial year. Railways have taken following steps to increase its passenger earnings:

- (i) By generating additional seating capacity in trains by introducing additional trains and by changing the profile of trains through Passenger Profile Management (PPM) project.
- (ii) By enhancing load of patronised trains to the maximum.
- (iii) By attaching additional coaches to clear waiting list.
- (iv) By improving utilisation of coaching stock so as to ward off the shortage of coaches.

Censor Board

1453. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the Non-Governmental Organizations with regards to censoring of feature films in regional languages alongwith in Hindi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has reconstituted the Censor Board and its Regional Committees;

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

(e) the time by which the Censor Board and its Regional Committees are likely to be reconstituted?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. Only one film was received for certification from a Non-Governmental Organisation.

(b) The film 'Devrai' (Marathi) whose producer and applicant is Schizophrenia Awareness Association and K.S. Wani Memorial Trust was certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) vide CC No. CIL/3/90/2004-CL and was given an 'A' certificate.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Chairperson of the CBFC was appointed *vide* notification dated 13.10.2004 and the Members of the Censor Board were appointed *vide* notifications dated 05.02.2005, 03.03.2005 and 03.06.2005 taking the total number of members to 23. The Advisory Panels were reconstituted for the Regional Offices of Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Delhi and Thiruvananthapuram. The Advisory Panels of Kolkata, Cuttack and Guwahati which were constituted in February, 2004 have not been reconstituted further.

(e) The tenure of the Chairperson and members of the Censor Board are generally for a period not exceeding three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The Advisory Panel members are appointed for a period of two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Fair Competition in Civil Aviation Sector

1454. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in pursuant to Open Sky Policy, a number of private airlines have entered into the civil aviation sector;

(b) if so, the number of private airlines operating in India at present;

(c) whether the private airlines are still to be provided level playing field keeping in view undue protection since

long, being provided to public sector airlines by making mandatory for public servants to travel by public sector airlines only in normal circumstances inspite of attractive discounts offered by private airlines;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to provide level playing field so as to provide fair competition in the best interest of civil aviation sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present 8 Private Airlines are providing Scheduled Air Transport Services in the country.

(c) to (f) Public Sector airlines shoulder the burden of meeting the Government's socio-economic commitments and operate on a number of uneconomic routes in the interest of maintaining connectivity to remote and inaccessible areas. Moreover, the discounted and promotional fares offered by public sector carriers can also be availed of by public servants on first-come-first-served basis. As such, no undue protection is being given to public sector carriers. Public servants can travel by private airlines on sectors that are not connected by public sector carriers.

Operation of Unused Airstrips

1455. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started using unused airstrips keeping in view of the increased inflow of air traffic in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of airstrips became operational after entry of private airlines in the country;

(d) the total loss reduced by the use of these airstrips during 2004-05, till date; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to reduce its expenditure on unused airstrips?

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

(b) and (c) Recently, the Civil Enclaves at Gwalior, Allahabad and Gorakhpur and airports at Jabalpur, Hubli and Belgaum have been made operational.

(d) The total loss has not reduced, rather it has increased by Rs. 28.49 lakhs during the year 2004-05.

(e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has reduced the staff for watch and ward of unused airstrips to the minimum. Besides, concerned State Governments have been offered to take over the unused airstrips on lease basis for aviation purposes.

Review of Railway Projects

1456. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of Secretaries (CoS) has undertaken a comprehensive review of 78 railway projects costing Rs. 100 crores and above;

(b) if so, whether the delay in execution of these projects have resulted in huge time and cost overruns; and

(c) if so, the recommendations made by the CoS and the action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting of the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) was held on 24.8.2005 wherein progress of 139 Railway projects costing above Rs. 100 Crore and above was reviewed.

(b) No, Sir. The concept of time and cost overrun can strictly be applicable only for those projects where the funds are fully tied up at the time of taking up the project and funding is assured. In case of Railways, the funding is decided on year-to-year basis and as such, it may not be possible to define the time of completion of all the projects.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***TV Stations in Tribal Areas**

1457. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Television Relay Stations installed in the country, particularly in the Tribal areas as on date, place-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred on these Relay Stations during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of Relay Stations out of them are not functioning properly; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) It has been informed by Prasar Bharati that of the 1404 transmitters of Doordarshan network in the country, 429 transmitters are located in Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) districts. The State-wise locations of these transmitters are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Expenditure incurred on transmitter projects during the last three years is as under:

Financial Year	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
2002-03	177.37
2003-04	65.38
2004-05	45.81

(c) The performance of transmitters in Doordarshan network is generally satisfactory. Forty-nine Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) are presently giving limited transmission due to non-availability of adequate staff and ten other Very Low Power Transmitters (VLPTs) are non-functional due to faults in equipments, thefts etc.

(d) All out efforts are made by Doordarshan to provide interruption-free transmission and attend to the faults promptly. In case of VLPTs, it takes some time to attend to the faults as these are unmanned installations and the staff has to be rushed from a nearby Maintenance Centre.

Statement*Doordarshan Transmitters Located in Tribal Sub-Plan District*

State	Transmitters
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands (5 Nos.)	
	LPT Car Nicobar
	VLPT Campbel Bay
	VLPT Great Nicobar
	VLPT Katchal
	VLPT Nancowry
Andhra Pradesh (31 Nos.)	
	HPT Rajamundry
	HPT Rajamundry (DD News)
	HPT Visakhapatanam
	HPT Visakhapatanam (DD News)
	HPT Warangal
	LPT Adilabad
	LPT Amalapuram
	LPT Belampally
	LPT Bhadrachalam
	LPT Bhainsa
	LPT Bheemadolu
	LPT Bheemavaram
	LPT Bobbili
	LPT Kakinada
	LPT Kakinada (DD News)
	LPT Khammam
	LPT Kothagudam
	LPT Mandassa
	LPT Nirmal
	LPT Sirpur

1	2
LPT	Srikakulam
LPT	Tekkali
LPT	Tuni
LPT	Visakhapatnam
LPV	Visakhapatnam (DD News)
LPT	Yellandu
VLPT	Chintapalli (RLS)
VLPT	Icchapuram (RLS)
VLPT	Paderu (RLS)
VLPT	Parwatipuram (RLS)
VLPT	Seetampetta (RLS)
Assam (22 Nos.)	
HPT	Dibrugarh
HPT	Guwahati
HPT	Guwahati (DD News)
HPT	Silchar
HPT	Silchar (DD News)
LPT	Bokakhat
LPT	Dhubri
LPT	Dibrugarh (DD News)
LPT	Goalpara
LPT	Gohpur
LPT	Golaghat
LPT	Hatsinghimari
LPT	Jorhat
LPT	Kokrajhar
LPT	Margherita
LPT	Nazira
LPT	North Lakhimpur
LPT	Sonari
LPT	Tezpur

1	2
LPT	Tinsukia
VLPT	Digboi
	Transposer Guwahati
Chhattisgarh (28 Nos.)	
HPT	Ambikapur
HPT	Jagdalpur
HPT	Raipur
HPT	Raipur (DD News)
LPT	Bailadilla
LPT	Bilaspur
LPT	Champa
LPT	Dungargarh
LPT	Kanker
LPT	Kharod
LPT	Konta
LPT	Korba
LPT	Kurasia
LPT	Manindergarh
LPT	Narayanpur
LPT	Pandaria
LPT	Pendra Road
LPT	Raigarh
LPT	Rajhara Jharandili
LPT	Sakti
VLPT	Bijapur
VLPT	Devbhog
VLPT	Jashpumagar
VLPT	Kondagaon
VLPT	Koylibeda
VLPT	Pakhanjore
VLPT	Pathalgaon
VLPT	Sarangarh

1	2
Daman and Diu (1 No.)	
LPT	Daman
Gujarat (33 Nos.)	
HPT	Surat
HPT	Surat (DD News) (interim set-up)
LPT	Ahwa
LPT	Ambaji
LPT	Amod
LPT	Bhabbar
LPT	Bharuch
LPT	Chhota Udaipur
LPT	Dediapara
LPT	Deesa
LPT	Devgadh-Baria
LPT	Dharampur
LPT	Dohad
LPT	Godhara
LPT	Idar
LPT	Jhagadia
LPT	Kevadia Colony
LPT	Lunawada
LPT	Mangrol (Surat)
LPT	Modasa
LPT	Palanpur
LPT	Rajpipla
LPT	Sanjeli
LPT	Shamlaji
LPT	Songarh
LPT	Tharad
LPT	Umargaon
LPT	Vadodara

1	2
LPT	Vadodara (DD News)
LPT	Valsad
VLPT	Kakrapar (RLS)
VLPT	Netrang (RLS)
VLPT	Sagwara (RLS)
Himachal Pradesh (12 Nos.)	
VLPT	Bharmour
VLPT	Chamba
VLPT	Chauri Khas
VLPT	Dalhousie
VLPT	Holi
VLPT	Jahalma
VLPT	Kaja
VLPT	Kalpa
VLPT	Keylong
VLPT	Nichar
VLPT	Tissa
VLPT	Udaipur
Jharkhand (16 Nos.)	
HPT	Daltonganj
HPT	Jamshedpur
HPT	Jamshedpur (DD News)
HPT	Ranchi
HPT	Ranchi (DD News)
LPT	Barharwa
LPT	Chaibasa
LPT	Dumka
LPT	Ghatshila
LPT	Gumla
LPT	Lohardaga
LPT	Mushabani

1	2
	LPT Noamundy
	LPT Saraikela
	VLPT Garhwa (DD News)
	VLPT Simdega
Karnataka (13 Nos.)	
	HPT Mangalore
	HPT Mysore
	HPT Mysore (DD News)
	LPT Bantwal
	LPT Belthangadi
	LPT Chikmagalur
	LPT Koppa
	LPT Medikeri
	LPT Mudigere
	LPT Puttur
	LPT Duipi
	VLPT Sringeri (RLS)
	VLPT Sulya (RLS)
Kerala (19 Nos.)	
	HPT Cannanore (interim set-up.)
	HPT Trivandraum
	HPT Trivandraum (DD News)
	LPT Attappadi
	LPT Cannanore (DD News)
	LPT Changanacherry
	LPT Udukki
	LPT Kalpetta
	LPT Malappuram
	LPT Manjeri
	LPT Pala
	LPT Palghat

1	2
	LPT Shoranur
	LPT Tellicherry
	LPT Thodupuzha
	VLPT Devikolam (RLS)
	VLPT Erattupetta (RLS)
	VLPT Kanjirapalli (RLS)
	VLPT Mundakayam (RLS)
Madhya Pradesh (34 Nos.)	
	HPT Jabalpur
	HPT Jabalpur (DD News)
	HPT Shahdol
	LPT Alirajpur
	LPT Badwani
	LPT Balaghat
	LPT Betul
	LPT Bijaipur
	LPT Burhanpur
	LPT Chhindwara
	LPT Harda
	LPT Itarsi
	LPT Jaora
	LPT Jhabua
	LPT Kelaras
	LPT Khandwa
	LPT Khargaon
	LPT Kukshi
	LPT Lakhnadon
	LPT Malanjkhanda
	LPT Mandla
	LPT Multai
	LPT Murwara

1	2
LPT	Panchmarhi
LPT	Piparia
LPT	Rattlam
LPT	Seoni
LPT	Sheopur
LPT	Sidhi
LPT	Sindhwa
LPT	Singrauli
VLPT	Alot
VLPT	Parasia
VLPT	Singrauli
Maharashtra (53 Nos.)	
HPT	Chandrapur
HPT	Jalgaon (int.)
HPT	Pune
HPT	Pune (DD News)
LPT	Achalpur
LPT	Aheri
LPT	Ahmednagar
LPT	Amalner
LPT	Amravati
LPT	Amravati (DD News)
LPT	Badlapur
LPT	Bhamragad
LPT	Bhusawal
LPT	Brahmapuri
LPT	Chandur
LPT	Daryapur
LPT	Dhadgaon
LPT	Dharmabad
LPT	Dhule

1	2
LPT	Dhule (DD News)
LPT	Digtur
LPT	Garchiroli
LPT	Kirwat
LPT	Malegaon
LPT	Malegaon (DD News)
LPT	Manmad
LPT	Morshi
LPT	Nanded
LPT	Nanded (DD News)
LPT	Nandurbar
LPT	Nashik
LPT	Nashik (DD News)
LPT	Navapur
LPT	Pandharkawada
LPT	Pusad
LPT	Raver
LPT	Sangamner
LPT	Satana
LPT	Shahad
LPT	Shirdi
LPT	Shirpur
LPT	Sironcha
LPT	Umarkhed
LPT	Wani
LPT	Yavatmal
VLPT	Bhokar (RLS)
VLPT	Chikaldhara (RLS)
VLPT	Chimur (RLS)
VLPT	Junnar (RLS)
VLPT	Kurkhera (RLS)

1	2
	VLPT Pimpalner-Sakri (RLS)
	VLPT Sindewahi (RLS)
	VLPT Tivsa (RLS)
Manipur (6 Nos.)	
	HPT Churachandpur
	LPT Ukhru
	VLPT Chandel
	VLPT Kangpokpi
	VLPT Moreh
	VLPT Senapati
Orissa (61 Nos.)	
	HPT Baleshwar
	HPT Berhampur
	HPT Bhawanipatna
	HPT Sambalpur
	HPT Sambalpur (DD News)
	LPT Anandpur
	LPT Baleshwar (DD News)
	LPT Baliapal (DD News)
	LPT Baligurha
	LPT Bargarh
	LPT Baripada
	LPT Bhadrak
	LPT Bhanjanagar
	LPT Birmitrapur
	LPT Bonai
	LPT Boudh
	LPT Brajrajnagar
	LPT Chikiti
	LPT Deogarh
	LPT G. Udaigiri

1	2
	LPT Jeypore
	LPT Joda
	LPT Kabisuryanagar
	LPT Karanjia
	LPT Keonjhar
	LPT Khariar
	LPT Koraput
	LPT Kotpad
	LPT Kuchinda
	LPT Malkangiri
	LPT Mohana
	LPT Navarangpur
	LPT Nuapara
	LPT Padampur
	LPT Padampuram
	LPT Padua
	LPT Parlakhemundi
	LPT Phulbani
	LPT Rairangpur
	LPT Rajgangpur
	LPT Rayagada
	LPT Redhakhola
	LPT Rourkela
	LPT Simliguda
	LPT Sohela
	LPT Sundergarh
	LPT Umarkot
	LPT Bada Barbil
	VLPT Chitrakonda (RLS)
	VLPT Jayapatna
	VLPT Kalampur (RLS)

1	2
	VLPT Kashipur (RLS)
	VLPT Koksara
	VLPT Lanjigarh (RLS)
	VLPT Machhkund (RLS)
	VLPT Paikamal (RLS)
	VLPT Rourkela (DD News)
	VLPT Simlipalgarh (RLS)
	VLPT Subdega (RLS)
	VLPT Thuamal Rampur
	Transport Sunabeda
Rajasthan (22 Nos.)	
	LPT Bansi (DD News)
	LPT Banswara
	LPT Bari Sadri
	LPT Chittaurgarh
	LPT Dungarpur
	LPT Kesriaji
	LPT Kushalgarh
	LPT Mt. Abu
	LPT Nathdwara
	LPT Pratapgarh
	LPT Rawatsar
	LPT Sagwara
	LPT Salumber
	LPT Sirohi
	LPT Udaipur
	LPT Udaipur (DD News)
	LPT Vallabhnagar
	VLPT Amet
	VLPT Bhim
	VLPT Deogarh

1	2
	VLPT Kotra
	VLPT Kumbhalgrah
	VLPT Rawatbhata
Sikkim (8 Nos.)	
	HPT Gangtok
	HPT Gangtok (DD News)
	VLPT Gyalshing
	VLPT Mangan
	VLPT Namchi
	VLPT Rangpo
	VLPT Singtam
	VLPT Zorethang
Tamil Nadu (27 Nos.)	
	LPT Ambur
	LPT Arani
	LPT Arcot
	LPT Attur
	LPT Cheyyar
	LPT Chidambaram
	LPT Cuddalore
	LPT Denkanikotta
	LPT Dharmapuri
	LPT Gudiyatam
	LPT Kallakuruchi
	LPT Krishnagiri
	LPT Neyveli
	LPT Peranampet
	LPT Salem
	LPT Salem (DD News)
	LPT Tindivanam
	LPT Tiruchchirappalli

1	2
LPT	Tiruchchirappalli (DD News)
LPT	Tirupattur
LPT	Tirupattur (DD News)
LPT	Yaniyambadi
LPT	Vellore
LPT	Vellore (DD News)
VLPT	Villupuram
VLPT	Gingee (RLS)
VLPT	Vazapadi (RLS)
Tripura (9. Nos.)	
HPT	Agartala
HPT	Agartala (DD News)
LPT	Amarpur
LPT	Jolaibari
LPT	Kailasahar
LPT	Kailasahar (DD News)
LPT	Teliamura
VLPT	Dharmanagar
Transpower Bellonia	
Uttar Pradesh (1 No.)	
HPT	Lakhimpur
West Bengal (28 Nos.)	
HPT	Asansol
HPT	Asansol (DD News)
HPT	Balurghat (interim set up)
HPT	Kharagpur (interim set up)
HPT	Kurseong
HPT	Murshidabad
HPT	Murshidabad (DD News)
HPT	Shantiniketan
LPT	Baghmandi

1	2
LPT	Balrampur
LPT	Bardhaman
LPT	Basanti (DD News)
LPT	Bishnupur
LPT	Contai
LPT	Darjiling
LPT	Farakka
LPT	Garhbeta
LPT	Jhalda
LPT	Jhargram
LPT	Kalimpong
LPT	Kalna
LPT	Maldah
LPT	Medinipur
LPT	Purulia
LPT	Rayna
LPT	Shantiniketan (DD News)
VLPT	Egra (RLS)

[English]

New Discoveries in Bay of Bengal

1458. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new natural gas deposit areas were found in Bay of Bengal Basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the commercial viability of the deposit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the proposal for exploration of oil and gas in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. the operator of block NEC-OSN-97/2 has made 6 gas discoveries in the Bay of Bengal.

(c) and (d) The operator's assessment of the commerciality of these gas discoveries has been submitted to Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) for review in terms of the provisions of the Production Sharing Contract.

(e) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. holds one acreage in the State of West Bengal. The Contai area was awarded to ONGC on a nomination basis. 3D seismic data acquired in the block is under interpretation.

Security at Kozhikode Airport

1459. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government is invited to the news-item captioned 'Kerala airport raid rips security myth' appearing in 'Hindustan Times' dated November 4, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to tighten security at the Kozhikode International Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) raided the Customs arrival hall on 2-3 November, 2005 wherein a casual worker engaged by the Customs was found in the Terminal Building with expired Airport Entry Pass. The expired Pass has been seized and the worker was handed over to the local Police by CISF. A case has been registered vide crime No. 635/05 u/s 448 IPC and 78A and 161 (l) of Aircraft Act and Rules. Regarding unidentified baggage as mentioned in the news-item, it is reported that on 30.10.2005 one passenger forgot to retrieve baggage on board Air India flight-957 (Bahrain-Doha-Calicut-Kochi) while disembarking at Kozhikode airport. It was detected by the cabin crew when the flight took off from Kochi for Calicut. Matter was reported to commander and the flight returned to Kochi for offloading the baggage. The security personnel on duty have been placed under suspension w.e.f. 4.11.2005 by Air India.

(c) To tighten security at the Kozhikode International Airport, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has instructed Airport Director and Commander, CISF to adhere to security norms strictly in view of the present security scenario and also recommended that services of defaulter may be terminated and his entry to the airport may also be banned.

Indo-Russia Cooperation in Pipeline Projects

1460. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated discussions with the Russian authorities on participation of Indian Oil and Gas Companies in six transnational oil and gas pipeline projects;

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

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Indian petroleum companies are actively engaged in discussions with their counterparts in Russia for taking up projects in India, Russia and in third countries. However, so far no specific transnational pipeline project has been identified for participation.

During the visit of the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, to India in December, 2004, GAIL (India), Ltd. signed a Strategic Cooperation Agreement with the Russian Gas Company, Gazprom, which includes cooperation in pipeline projects in India, Russia and in third countries.

Setting up of Power Plants by IOC

1461. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) proposes to set up power plants in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the IOC proposes to set up Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plants also in collaboration with other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these power plants are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) IOC propose to setup an Integrated LNG Project in Iran along with Petropars, a 100% subsidiary of Naftiran Intertrade Company Limited of Iran. IOC and Petropars have submitted a pre-proposal to the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) seeking their approval in principle for the development of the integrated project jointly by IOC and Petropars on a nomination basis. The integrated project would consist of—

- (i) "Upstream facilities for the production of sufficient feed gas to produce 9.0 Million tones of LNG per year in the related downstream facilities for liquefaction of the gas; and
- (ii) Related downstream Gas Liquefaction facilities ("LNG Facilities").

IOC has committed to lift 4.5 Million Tonnes of LNG per year for 25 years for marketing in India. For the balance 4.5 Million Tonnes per year LNG, IOC have sought the first right of marketing in India or elsewhere, as mutually agreed with NIOC; otherwise, NIOC would market it on its own.

The question of a time-frame for the completion of power plants does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Dues Outstanding against the State Governments

1462. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total dues of the Indian Airlines and its subsidiary airlines outstanding against the tickets issued on credit basis to various State Governments as on October 31, 2005;

(b) whether the Indian Airlines and its subsidiary Airlines have stopped issuing tickets to State Governments on credit basis recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Indian Airlines to realise the outstanding amounts from the respective State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The total dues of Indian Airlines and its subsidiary airlines outstanding against the tickets issued on credit basis to various State Governments as on 30th June, 2005 amount to Rs. 3.38 crores. The figures as on October 31, 2005 are yet to be compiled.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In case of delay in payment, necessary follow up action is taken by the concerned offices of Indian Airlines.

Energy Security

1463. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the situation of energy security of the country especially by the emerging problems of crude oil shortage and its high prices;

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

(c) whether any alternative solution has been worked out in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In keeping with the Energy Security objectives of the National Common Minimum Programme, Government are exploring several options with West Asian countries including long-term contracts for crude oil, mutual investments in the oil and gas sector, and import of natural gas as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) or through trans-national pipelines from gas-rich regions including Iran, Myanmar and, possibly, Turkmenistan. Besides, National Oil Companies such as ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), IOC, OIL and GAIL have been pursuing the acquisition of equity oil and gas abroad, as well as the acquisition of overseas exploration acreages

and producing properties. These companies have Participating Interests (PI) in oil and gas projects located onshore and offshore in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, Libya, Syria, Australia, The Ivory Coast, Qatar, Egypt, Nigeria and Cuba Government have also introduced ethanol blended petrol and bio-diesel with a view to conserving petroleum products. Alternative sources of fuel such as hydrogen, solar, and wind energy are also being encouraged.

With a view to ensuring the supply of petroleum products at a time of short-term supply disruptions, Government have approved the building of Strategic Crude Oil Reserves of 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at Mangalore (1.5 MMT), Vizag (1.0 MMT) and Mangalore or nearby location (2.5 MMT).

Joining of Air Force Personnel in UN Peacekeeping Force

1464. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Air Force has joined UN Peacekeeping Force in Sudan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and conditions applicable to Air Force personnel who joined UN Peacekeeping Force in Sudan; and

(d) the number of Aircraft and personnel sent to Sudan so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) An Aviation contingent consisting of six MI-17 helicopters and 196 personnel (188 Air force personnel and 8 Army personnel) have been deployed in Sudan for a period of one year, as part of the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping operations. This is an ongoing activity and the terms and conditions of the personnel deployed in this Mission are governed by the orders/instructions issued by the UN/Government in this regard.

Shortage of Components

1465. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force is facing acute shortage of requisite components for the maintenance of

its fighter planes and non-availability of special auxiliary aeroplane;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There is no shortage of requisite components for the maintenance of fighter planes. There is no aircraft known as special auxiliary aeroplane in the Indian Air Force.

Fire in Dikom Oil Field

1466. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) whether an incident of fire at Oil India Limited's Dikom oilfield took place during September, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the loss of properties therefrom;

(c) whether the Government has called US Oil free-fighting experts to extinguish the fire;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check and deal with such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. There was an incident of fire at Dikom oilfield of Oil India Limited on 15.09.05.

(b) On 13.09.2005, an uncontrolled release of oil and gas took place from Well no. 15 in Dikom oilfield of Oil India Limited (OIL) in Dibrugarh district in Upper Assam. As a precautionary measure, all the wells connected to Dikom Oil Collection Station were shut-in immediately. While trying to kill/control the well, the well suddenly caught fire on 15.09.2005. The fire in the well was fully extinguished on 05.10.2005. About 1,400 tonnes of crude oil was directly lost due to the incident. A temporary loss to the tune of about 25,600 tonnes occurred due to the temporary closure of the neighbouring wells as a safety precaution.

(c) and (d) Oil India Limited initially requested for the help of ONGC experts to control the well. On ONGC's suggestion, OIL contracted foreign experts M/s Boots and Coots International Well Control Incorporated, USA, who were working with ONGC near Rajamundry controlling a well blow-out/fire at that time. The experts reached the site in Assam on 16.09.2005. The experts of M/s Boots and Coots International Well Control Incorporated, USA chalked out detailed action plan in consultation with ONGC and OIL crisis Management Teams to control the well and extinguish the fire. The well was successfully brought under control and the fire was fully extinguished on 05.10.2005.

(e) OIL took the following steps to check such incidents:—

- (v) Field monitoring of safety aspects of oil oilfield.
- (vi) Safety awareness campaign in operational areas.
- (vii) Onsite and offsite Disaster Management Plan including Mock Drill.
- (viii) Mutual Aid Scheme for Disaster Management with State Government and neighbouring industries.

OIL also took the following steps to deal with such incidents in future:—

- (i) Execution of an MOU between OIL and ONGC for mutual aid for tackling such situation in future.
- (ii) Procurement of a few specialized equipment.
- (iii) Relevant training to Crisis Management Team (CMT) members.

Closure of Newspapers

1467. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of newspapers and their editions which have closed down their publications during the last two years;
- (b) the reasons for the closure; and
- (c) the steps being taken to help the newspapers and to save them from closure?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) As per the ceasing declarations received by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), four newspapers, two each from Delhi and Assam, have closed down their publications during 2004-05. During 2003-04, no newspaper was reportedly closed down.

(b) The reasons for closure of the newspapers have not been mentioned by the publishers in their ceasing declarations received through the concerned District Magistrates by RNI.

(c) Does not arise.

Mandatory Cancer Test

1468. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided for mandatory cancer test for armed forces personnel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has set up the required infrastructure to carry out cancer test in defence establishments;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the time by which such facilities are likely to be made available in all defence medical centres?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government has not decided for a separate mandatory cancer test for the Armed Forces personnel.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Facilities exist in the Armed Forces hospitals to detect cancer and conduct investigation, if required.

(e) In view of (c) and (d) above, question does not arise.

Compensation to Passengers

1469. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether delays/cancellation of flights have become general phenomenon in the recent times, causing inconvenience and financial lose to the passengers;

(b) if so, whether the passengers being a customer is entitled to claim for compensation;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to compensate, besides providing boarding and lodging to the passengers who have suffered financial or opportunity loss due to airlines with no fault of them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, whenever there are delays/cancellations, efforts are made by airlines to keep their passengers' discomfort to the bare minimum by providing food, hotel accommodation, re-routings and re-booking on other airlines, etc.

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

(d) Does not arise.

Wagons for Movement of Iron Ore

1470. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that sufficient number of wagons are not being provided for movement of iron ore to the ports for exports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) There has been a sudden and unexpected demand of export Iron traffic during last two and half years. Loading of export Iron Ore traffic by the Indian

Railways, which was 16.66 million tonnes in the year 2002-03, increased to 26.66 million tonnes in 2003-04 (60% increase) and 38.33 million tonnes in 2004-05 (44% increase). In the first 7 months of current financial year loading of export Iron ore traffic by the Indian Railways has further increased by 13.32%.

Inspite of substantial improvement in loading, there is still unsatisfied demand of export iron ore traffic due to infrastructural constraints including capacity of ports to handle the traffic.

(c) Steps have been taken by the Indian Railways to further improve loading of export iron traffic by increasing capacity and providing better connectivity to ports. Availability of wagons is being improved by procuring more stock and improving turn-round of railway wagons.

Gas from Myanmar

1471. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Myanmar has indicated a well-head price of \$2.52 per Million Metric British Thermal Unit (MMBTU) for gas exports to India;

(b) if so, whether the Government has considered this offer; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) During the visit of the Indian delegation to Myanmar in August, 2005 the Myanmar side had stated that they would be forwarding to the Indian side a draft Heads of Agreement (HoA), covering terms and conditions pertaining to the proposed gas supplies to India through pipeline, by the end of October, 2005. The draft HoA has not been yet received. The Myanmar side has been requested to send it at the earliest so that the matter could be discussed further.

Releasing of Funds for Upgradation of Airports

1472. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has released funds to Airports Authority of India for upgradation/development of various airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of funds released during each of the last three years and the amount actually spent on each airport;

(c) whether the Government has received any reports about the misuse of funds released for upgradation/development of various airports in the country; and

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

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

(b) The amount of fund released by the Government to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) as Budgetary support for development of airports in North Eastern Region, Amritsar and other crucial areas like Leh, Kargil etc. during the last three years *i.e.* 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is Rs. 33.59 crores, Rs. 22.08 crores and Rs. 30.00 crores respectively. Actual amount of fund spent during the last three years is Rs. 54.10 crores, Rs. 37.55 crores and Rs. 38.35 crores respectively. Airport-wise details (in crores of rupees) are as follows:

Agartala (13.96, 10.20, 3.47), Barapani (1.22, 0.31, 0.16), Dimapur (1.07, 2.13, 2.85), Dibrugarh (2.72, 0.01, 0.21), Guwahati (1.20, 0.63, 1.19), Lilabari (4.54, 0.33, 1.53), Imphal (5.27, 5.26, 1.95), Silchar (1.06, 0.05, 1.64), Tezpur (1.86, 0.56, 0.00), Jammu (1.46, 0.00, 2.12), Kargil (2.44, 0.00, 0.00), Leh (1.65, 1.00, 0.89), Srinagar (0.00, 1.48, 3.93), Amritsar (15.65, 15.59, 18.41).

(c) No such report has been received by AAI so far.

(d) Does not arise.

Indigenous Production of Military Equipment

1473. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's needs for military equipment/modernisation is met maximum through imports;

(b) if so, whether India is still not able to make its own production, designing and development of equipment;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is providing the necessary funds for the above purpose;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the schemes/plans formulated for indigenous production of such modern military equipment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) As a matter of policy, priority is accorded to sourcing all defence equipment indigenously. Defence items are only imported where the Armed Forces require items of a particular technology and within a defined time frame and they cannot be sourced indigenously. Even when a decision has been taken to import a defence equipment, its indigenous construction under Transfer of Technology is explored. The decisions to 'buy', 'buy and make' or 'make' is taken by a high powered body in the Ministry after a careful planning process that covers the long-term, medium-term and short term perspectives. Defence Shipyards, Defence Public Sector Undertakings and Ordnance Factories in close coordination with Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and other agencies have been able to design and produce a number of defence equipment/items/warships indigenously.

Government is taking all necessary steps to encourage and assist in the development of indigenous capability to design and manufacture sophisticated defence items. Government efforts range from funding for setting up of various types of facilities to Research & Development (R&D). Amongst the several organizations that the Government have established towards the achievement of this objective are the network of Defence (R&D) laboratories under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

FM Radio

1474. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FM Radio channels presently broadcasted in the country, both AIR & Private, State-wise;

(b) whether more private parties are coming forward to operate FM channels;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposed any new policy on FM Radios; and

(e) if so, the main features of the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has formulated a new policy for expansion of FM radio broadcasting through Private Agencies (Phase-II). The policy, *inter-alia*, provides for One Time Entry Fee (OTEF) to be decided

on the basis of closed tender system, annual fee @ 4% of gross revenue subject to a minimum of 10% of Reserve OTEF, foreign investment including FDI, upto 20% of the paid up equity, continued restriction on broadcast of news and current affairs and a graded penalty regime for violation of Terms and Conditions. The policy also provides for migration of Phase-I operators to Phase-II regime. Further details of the policy are available on Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in.

Pursuant to the above policy, the Government has, on 21st September, 2005, invited pre-qualification bids from Indian companies for 338 channels in 91 cities across the country. A large number of companies have shown interest in setting up FM radio stations.

Statement

State/UT-wise details of existing FM channels

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Channels		
		AIR	Private FM Radio	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	1	10
2.	Assam	5	—	5
3.	Bihar	3	—	3
4.	Chhattisgarh	4	—	4
5.	Delhi	2	3	5
6.	Goa	1	—	1
7.	Gujarat	5	1	6
8.	Haryana	3	—	3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5	—	5
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	—	6
11.	Jharkhand	5	—	5
12.	Karnataka	14	1	15
13.	Kerala	5	—	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	13	1	14
15.	Maharashtra	16	5	21

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Meghalaya	1	—	1
17.	Mizoram	1	—	1
18.	Manipur	1	—	1
19.	Nagaland	1	—	1
20.	Orissa	5	—	5
21.	Punjab	3	—	3
22.	Rajasthan	12	—	12
23.	Tamil Nadu	8	4	12
24.	Tripura	3	—	3
25.	Daman and Diu	1	—	1
26.	Pondicherry	1	—	1
27.	Chandigarh	1	—	1
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	—	1
29.	Uttar Pradesh	8	1	9
30.	Uttaranchal	1	—	1
31.	West Bengal	6	4	10
Total		153	21	174

[*Translation*]

Gujarat Oil Selection Board

1475. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute the Gujarat Oil Selection Board for finalizing the selection of new dealership in the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The erstwhile Dealer Selection Boards were disbanded w.e.f. 9.5.2002. Thereafter, based on certain broad parameters advised

by the Government to the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), the latter have framed their guidelines for the selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products, and have been making selections in terms of these guidelines. These guidelines provide for a detailed procedure to be followed by the OMCs in selecting dealers/distributors. The procedure includes selection committees constituted by the OMCs concerned as and when selections are required to be carried out. In view of this, the question of constitution of any oil selection board by the Government for the State of Gujarat does not arise.

[*English*]

Reserved Vacancies for Disabled Persons

1476. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 provides three percent reservation for disabled persons in Government establishments against the identified posts;

(b) if so, the number of posts lying vacant in respect of disabled persons; and

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information regarding number of vacant posts identified for persons with disabilities is not centrally maintained.

(c) Since the recruitment is a continuous process, no time frame for filling up the vacancies can be fixed.

New Railway Projects in West Bengal

1477. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new and pending rail projects and surveys conducted so far in West Bengal alongwith

the progress made thereon especially during the current year, project-wise;

(b) the time schedule fixed for completion of each of these projects/surveys;

(c) whether these projects are progressing as per schedule fixed therefor;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has received any fresh proposal to conduct survey for construction/conversion of railway lines in West Bengal;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Pending projects are considered as those projects which have been included in the Budget without requisite clearances and clearances are still pending. There is no such pending project in West Bengal. Hon'ble MP is perhaps referring to ongoing rail projects and surveys falling fully/party in West Bengal, whose progress and time schedule of completion wherever fixed are as under. The completion of the works whose targets have been indicated would depend upon the overall availability of resources.

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Anticipated cost (Rs. in cr.)	Outlay 2005-2006 (Rs. in cr.)	Current Status
1	2	3	4	5
NEW LINES				
1.	Iaxminkantapur-Namkhana (47.5 km)	101.15	2.15	Work completed.
2.	Tarakeshwar- Bishnupur with ext up to Kumarkundu bypass connecting Howrah- Bardhaman Chord (85 km)	276	10.00	Land acquisition proceedings have been taken up between Tarakeshwar-Arambagh
3.	Azimganj (Nasipur) Jiaganj up to the Ghats (3 km)	22.78	1.00	Preliminary activities for taking up the work are on hand.
4.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka (130 km)	254.07	10.00	Final Location Survey has been completed. Land acquisition proceedings have been taken up. Work of earthwork, bridges and other activities have also been taken up.

1	2	3	4	5
5.	New Maynaguri-Jogighopa (245 km)	894.38	50.00	Final Location Survey completed. Land acquisition proceedings have been taken up. Earthwork and bridge works from Maynaguri Road-Changrabandha have also been taken up.
6.	Eklakhi-Balurghat and Gazol-Itahar (118 km)	282.74	2.00	Eklakhi-Balurghat completed. Final Location Survey between Gazol-Itahar has been completed.
7.	Tamluk-Digha (87.5 km)	293.97	1.00	Worked completed and section commissioned.
8.	Howrah-Amta and Bargachia-Champadanga (75.3 km)	154.3	2.00	Howrah-Amta section has been completed. Land acquisition between Bargachia-Champadanaga has been taken up.
GAUGE CONVERSION				
1.	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon (415.48 km)	890.83	1.00	New Jalpaiguri-Fakiragram has been completed while Fakiragram-New Bongaigaon is nearing completion. Work of conversion of branch line from Alipurduar to Bamanhat has also been taken up.
2.	Bankura-Damodar River project including extension of new line from Bowaichandi to Khana (198 km)	158.16	20.50	Bankura-Sonamukhi section has been completed. Work on rest of the section has been taken up.
3.	Katihar-Jogbani (including Katihar-Radhikapur) (196 km)	402.98	20.50	Barsoi-Radhikapur targeted for completion in 2005-06. Work on rest of the section has been taken up.
DOUBLING				
1.	Tarakeshwar-Sheoraphulli, Ph-I (Sheoraphulli-Nalikul) (18 km)	38.88	5.00	Sheoraphulli-Diara completed. Diara-Singur targeted for completion during 2005-06.
2.	Gurup-Shaktigarh 3rd line (26 km)	62.09	3.00	Gurup-Pallaroad-Gurup Jaugram-Masagram sections have been completed. Work is under National Rail Vikas Yojana and is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.
3.	Habra-Chandpara (22.25 km)	40.81	2.00	Earthwork and bridges have been taken up.
4.	Sonarpur Canning Ph. I (Sonarpur-Ghutiari Shariff) (29 km)	30.47	3.00	Sonarpur-Champahati has been completed. Champahati-Ghutiari Shariff targeted for completion during 2005-06.
5.	Baruipur-Lakshmikantapur Ph. I (Baruipur-Dakshina Barasat) (17 km)	31.82	1.00	Earthwork and bridgework have been taken up.
6.	Bolpur-Ahmedpur (19 km)	55.07	1.00	Work completed.

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Kaifnarayanpur-Krishnanagar including ext. as GC from Krishnanagar-Shantipur and new line Krishnanagar to Chartala (51 km)	43.39	4.00	Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.
8.	Barasat-Hasanabad doubling with electrification Ph. I (Barasat-Sondalia) (12.12 km)	23.65	0.50	Earthwork and bridgeworks have been taken up.
9.	Bandel-Jirat (20 km)	50.13	5.00	Bandel-Bansberia targeted for completion during 2005-06.
10.	Baruipur-Magrahat (15 km)	30.09	0.01	Tenders have been processed.
11.	Ahmedpur-Sainthia (13 km)	26.76	2.00	Work completed.
12.	Kumarganj-Eklakhi (6 km)	21.57	10.00	Work targeted for completion during 2005-06.
13.	Harishchandrapur-Kumarganj (30 km)	63.22	8.00	Work targeted for completion during 2005-06.
14.	Tikiapara-Santragachi-IV line (5.6 km)	46.42	—	Work is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. under National Rail Vikas Yojana.
15.	Panskura-Haldia Ph. I (16 km)	26.02	10.00	Panskura-Raghunathbari completed. Raghunathbari-Rajgoda section targeted for completion in 2005-06.
16.	Pandabeswar-Chinpai (21.41 km)	56.47	3.00	Preliminary works have been taken up.
17.	Chinpai-Sainthia (29.71 km)	80.00	3.26	New work included in Budget 2005-06. Preliminary arrangements for taking up of the work are on hand.
18.	Chandpara-Bongaon (9.77 km)	27.48	1.00	Preliminary works being taken up.
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT				
1.	Dum-Dum-Garia, Design and construction of Rapid Transit system (22 km)	2624.24	63.00	Work for construction of foundation, sub-structure and super-structure for the elevated track are in progress. Targeted for completion by June, 2007.
2.	Circular Railway including Dum-Dum-Tala electrification (18.5 km)	242.42	45.00	Princepghat to Majarhat completed. Dum Dum to NSCB Airport work has been taken up. Work on Ultadange to Rajaghat (Ph I upto Lake Town only) has been frozen till the Chitpur yard layout is finalized and proposal of East-West corridor is firmed up.
RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION				
1.	Krishnanagar-Lalgola (128 km)	63.83	20.00	Work is targeted for completion by December, 2006.

The details of ongoing surveys falling fully/partly in West Bengal are as under:—

Sl.No.	Name of survey	Length (in Kms.)	Target date of completion
NEW LINES			
1.	Park Circus to Dhamkhali	60	30.06.06
2.	Canning-Sonakhali	20	31.03.06
3.	Digha-Jaleswar	40	31.03.06
4.	Panskura-Chandrakona	80	31.03.06
5.	Budge Budge-Pujali	18	31.03.06
6.	Balurghat-Hili	30	31.03.06
7.	Samsi-Chanchal-Harishchandrapur	25	31.03.06
8.	Raniganj-Bankura	45	31.03.06
9.	Buramara-Chakulia	50	31.03.06
10.	Amta-Bagnan	18	31.03.06
11.	Champadanga-Tarakeswar	12	31.01.06
GAUGE CONVERSION			
1.	Katwa-Ahmedpur	53	31.03.06
DOUBLING			
1.	Santipur-Kalinarayanpur	16	31.03.06
2.	Pandabeswar-Sainthia	53	31.03.06

(e) No fresh proposal during the current year for conducting survey for construction/conversion of railway lines in West Bengal have been received so far.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

LPG Facilities in Rural Areas

1478. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy and action plan formulated in regard to make LPG available in rural areas of each State in the country;

(b) the names of the States including Rajasthan where gas agencies have not been opened despite being included in Gas Agency Marketing Scheme during the last three years;

(c) the time by which the gas agencies are likely to be opened at those places; and

(d) the names of places where alternative arrangements for gas supply have been made and the rates at which gas would be supplied at those places?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) supply domestic LPG through their distribution network and they have the freedom to set up

LPG distributorships at viable locations as per their commercial considerations. The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and it involves identifying of a suitable location, arranging land for setting up of godown and other statutory clearances. In view of this, it is not possible to indicate a specific time frame for setting up of agencies in rural areas of the country, including those in Rajasthan. However, with a view to covering the uncovered blocks/tehsils/mandals, the OMCs have taken initiative in introducing 5 kg cylinders and setting up community kitchens. As a matter of policy, Government have also advised OMCs to concentrate their future expansion plans in semi-urban and rural areas. The details of places where gas agencies are likely to be opened in the near future in the country are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs.

[English]

Merger of DRDA with Zila Parishad

1479. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the merger of DRDA with Zila Parishad was under the consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) In the First Round Table of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj held at Kolkata in July 2004, it was resolved that the role of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) should be reconceived as an important instrument for Panchayati Raj development through the progressive merger of DRDAs with the District Panchayats. The technical expertise and other facilities of the DRDAs should become available to all tiers of the PRIs under the overall responsibility and disciplinary control of the elected authority in the PRIs at the appropriate level. The activities of the reconceived DRDAs with respect to the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system should be patterned on the activity map for the devolution of functions, functionaries and funds so that all the three tiers of PRIs have equitable access to the resources, expertise, facilities and manpower of the DRDAs.

The guidelines of the DRDA Administration Scheme issued by the Ministry of Rural Development do not

prescribe merger of DRDAs with Zilla Parishads as a general policy. However, under the guidelines, the State Governments have been allowed flexibility to operate the DRDAs as a distinct cell in Zilla Parishads with a separate identity. A Committee of Secretaries from various States is under constitution by Ministry of Rural Development to formulate changes in Structure of DRDAs.

(b) In three States, namely, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, the DRDAs have been merged with the Zilla Parishads. The position regarding other States is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

The State-wise status of the Chairman of the DRDAs

Sl.No.	States	Chairman
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Dy. Commissioner
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dy. Commissioner
3.	Assam	Chairman ZP
4.	Chhattisgarh	Chairman ZP (DRDA Cell within ZP)
5.	Bihar	Chairman ZP
6.	Goa	Chairman ZP
7.	Gujarat	C.E.O.
8.	Haryana	Dy. Commissioner
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Chairman ZP
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Dy. Commissioner
11.	Jharkhand	Dy. Commissioner (No ZP)
12.	Karnataka	Chairman ZP (Merged)
13.	Kerala	Chairman ZP
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Chairman ZP (Merged)
15.	Maharashtra	Chairman ZP (DRDA Cell within ZP)
16.	Manipur	Chairman ZP
17.	Meghalaya	} Panchayat Act not applicable
18.	Mizoram	
19.	Nagaland	

1	2	3
20.	Orissa	Chairman ZP
21.	Punjab	Dy. Commissioner
22.	Rajasthan	Chairman ZP (DRDA Cell within ZP)
23.	Sikkim	Secretary RD
24.	Tamil Nadu	Dy. Commissioner
25.	Tripura	Chairman ZP
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Chairman ZP
27.	Uttaranchal	Chairman ZP
28.	West Bengal	Chairman ZP (Merged but with separate account)

[*Translation*]

Safety of Ammunition Depot

1480. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that three high tension cables running at a short distance as against the laid down distance over the 17 Field Ammunition Depot located at Vaddoval of Ludhiana district in Punjab are causing danger to the said Depot;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the preventive measures taken by the Government to ensure safety of the Depot?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Three High Tension Cables are running at a distance of around 250 meters from the 17 Field Ammunition Depot located at Baddoval, Ludhiana, Punjab on the Ludhiana-Firozpur highway, against the laid down distance norm of 1145 meters from the Depot. Therefore, the Depot has taken up a case with the Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB) for realignment of the High Tension Cables.

Following preventive steps have been taken to ensure safety and security of the Depot:—

- (i) Depot regularly updates safety and security instructions.
- (ii) Depot is periodically inspected by a Board of Officers to check adequacy of safety and security arrangements.
- (iii) Fire fighting equipment has been increased and defective equipment repaired.
- (iv) Unserviceable ammunition is being disposed of on priority.
- (v) Additional funds have been allotted for creation of more Explosive Stores Houses for shifting ammunition, presently stored on open plinths under canvas, to augment safety and security.

[*English*]

GAIL's Participation in Telecom Market

1481. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GAIL (India) Ltd. plans to tap telecom market by acquiring the new National Long Distance Operator (NLDO) license for entering the national long distance telephony segment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) GAIL (India) Limited have reported that they intend to migrate from the already held Infrastructure Provider Category-II license to the National Long Distance Operator (NLDO) license in view of the announcement by the Minister of Communication and IT regarding relaxation in the NLD license conditions.

(b) the license would open the total market of enterprise segment, particularly the gas customers and other corporates, and the Government sector, particularly the Government supported I.T. initiatives of e-learning, e-governance and Software Technology Park of India (STPI) connectivity as well as National Long Distance (NLD) traffic of access providers.

[*Translation*]

Irregularities in Purchase of Sleepers

1482. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the irregularities purchase of sleepers by Southern Railways and South Western Railway as reported in 'Punjab Kesari' dated October 19, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received complaints from public representatives in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has constituted/propose to constitute any High Level Committee to investigate the matter;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(c) A reference received from an Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, regarding Rs. 260 crore loss in purchase of concrete sleepers against Railway Board tender No. CS-156/2005 is under consideration of the Ministry of Railways.

(d) No, Sir. The tender is yet to be finalised.

(e) Not applicable.

(f) Most of the counter offers issued to various sleeper manufacturers have not been accepted by them and, therefore, final decision in regard to tenderers responses to counter offers (and so also regarding the said tender) is yet to be taken.

Teheika Incident

1483. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Court Martial (GCM) constituted for hearing Teheika incident has completed

its inquiry regarding alleged payment of bribe by Teheika team to Indian army officers for helping in defence equipment deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the army officers involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) General Court Martial in respect of all the three officers has been completed. Sentence awarded by General Court Martial against one officer has been confirmed and promulgated. The said ex-officer has been awarded the sentence of cashiering and four years rigorous imprisonment by the General Court Martial and the officer was handed over to civil police on 8th April, 2005 for sending him to jail. Of the remaining two officers, regarding one, the sentence has been confirmed but its promulgation is in progress. Regarding the other officer, the sentence is yet to be confirmed before the same is promulgated.

[English]

Dividend Paid to National Exchequer by Oil PSUs

1484. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of performance of Public Sector Oil Companies in terms of yearly turnover and dividend paid to the Government and their Shareholders separately during the last three years; and

(b) the details of dividend paid/proposed to be paid to the National Exchequer during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Oil PSUs	Turnover			Dividend paid to Government			Dividend paid to other Shareholders			Dividend paid to the National Exchequer during the current year
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	35387.00	32927.00	47254.00	3598.10	2736.40	4228.70	679.90	685.60	1475.30	3330 approx. proposed to be paid

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	119884	130203	150677	1022	2012	1964	224	441	431	958 approx. proposed to be paid
3.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	52698.99	56332.57	64689.51	424.41	476.56	330.78	332.51	365.90	249.37	Nil
4.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	48502.35	53448.36	63857.00	297.90	347.55	248.25	152.10	177.45	126.75	Nil
5.	GAIL (India) Ltd.	10641.99	11295.67	12927.07	427.13	455.80	387.94	207.11	220.92	288.56	193.97
6.	Engineers India Ltd.	818.26	1069.53	913.05	13.96	20.30	32.99	1.48	2.15	3.50	38.07
7.	Oil India Ltd.	2896.83	3143.46	3888.04	241.50	315.00	294.00	4.61	6.01	5.61	214.00
8.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	816.42	932.84	1006.16	3.12	3.52	5.54	1.93	2.18	3.42	Nil
9.	Biseco Lawrie Ltd.	20.23	26.50	35.39	Nil						

⊗ The dividend paid during current year has been included in the figure of 2004-05.

Revenue Earnings of Railways

1485. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total earnings of Railways during April-August, 2005 as compared to the corresponding period last year;

(b) whether total earnings were as per the Budget target of the Railways;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) the details of passenger earnings out of the total earnings of Railway; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve it further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details of total earnings to end of August 2005 as compared to the corresponding period last year are as under:

	(Rs. in crores)	
	April-August 2005	April-August 2004
Passenger	6072.72	5647.06
Other Coaching	423.18	361.85
Goods	14165.53	11932.72
Sundries	302.51	298.53
Total Earnings	20963.94	18240.16

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The total earnings up to August 2005 is Rs. 20963.94 crore as against the Budget target of Rs. 20046.80 crore.

(d) The total Passenger earnings up to August, 2005 is Rs. 6072.72 crore which is 28.97% of total earnings of Rs. 20963.94 crore.

(e) In order to increase the Passenger revenue, railways have taken a number of steps, which include running of special trains, attachment of additional coaches for clearing waitlists, intensive ticket checking implementing Passenger Profile Management (PPM) Project etc.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Raitel Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Railtel Corporation of India Limited New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. L.T 2906/05]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. L.T 2907/05]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Railway Welfare Organization, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Welfare Organization, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. L.T 2908/05]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1376 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 2005, under sub-section (3) of section 73 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. L.T 2909/05]

12.01 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Tuesday, the 30th August, 2005 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one Member from Rajya Sabha, to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Jibon Roy, who retired from Rajya Sabha and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, Shri K. Chandran Pillai, Member, Rajya Sabha has been duly elected to the said Committee.'

12.01¹/₂ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Eighteenth Report

[*English*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I beg to present the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (14th Lok Sabha) on "Pilgrimage to Sabarimala-Human Problems and Ecology".

12.01³/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Twenty-Fifth Report

[*Translation*]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Twenty-fifth Report on the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance.

12.02 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD,
CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION**

Eighth Report

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Seventh Report on "Demands for Grants (2005-06)" of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN
DEVELOPMENT**

Eleventh and Twelfth Reports

[English]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, I beg to present the following Action Taken Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development:—

- (1) Eleventh Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation; and
- (2) Twelfth Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventh Report (14th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2005-2006) of the Ministry of Urban Development.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take Special Mentions.

Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South-Delhi): Yesterday as issue of murder of BJP MLA Shri Krishnanand Rai of Uttar Pradesh was raised. I was told that an action will be taken in the regard. ...*(Interruptions)* But so far no action has been taken for conducting an investigation into it by CBI. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a matter of the Central Government.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded. This is a matter entirely of the State Government.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What inquiry the Government have conducted in this regard? The Government should give details in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Central Government have no role in it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me to give my ruling.

Prof. Malhotra. I appreciate your sentiments because your Party's leader was murdered. It was raised. You know very well that it is a State matter. Yesterday we had some references made here. I am sure, all appropriate steps would be taken by the proper Government. That is my ruling.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no doubt about it.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Nothing has been done by the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The Government have not done anything. ...*(Interruptions)*
The Central Government have not taken any action.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): How the Central Government comes into it.
...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The situation has gone worse ...*(Interruptions)* We protest and stage walkout. ...*(Interruptions)*

12.05 hrs.

[At this stage Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members left the House]

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you, please be silent as they have gone out.

[English]

Please take your seats. I have called a lady member. She wants to raise a very important issue. Allow your colleague to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What has happened, why are you so much excited?

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice that yesterday,

houses and shops of minorities in 3-4 districts of U.P. were set on fire at the behest of some influential leaders. Efforts were made to incite communal riots by hook or by crook. ...*(Interruptions)*. It is a serious matter and there have been such attempts.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more. I am sure the appropriate Government will take appropriate action.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: The Government has already taken action.

12.06 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) Re. World AIDS Day

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR (Krishnagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today we are observing International AIDS Awareness Day. First of all I would like to congratulate the UPA Government for taking effective preventive steps to check the spread of AIDS. I want to put forth a few demands before the Government. This disease is assuming epidemic proportions in many countries of the world and India is no exception. The people of our country have lots of misconceptions and myths about this disease like the notion that it is an infectious disease. My submission is that the patient suffering from this disease should be saved from social ostracisation. Safety measures are essential for prevention and cure of the disease. Condoms are being distributed free of cost in several States of the country. One of the important steps for the prevention of this disease is that truck drivers who stop at roadside "dhabas" during their long journey and seek sex workers should be educated and made aware in this regard. Camps should be organized to make them aware about the various safety aspects of the disease because people tend to succumb to bodily pleasures are more likely to indulge in Casual Sex. Simultaneously there is a need to formulate a media policy dealing with the issue of cheap and vulgar programmes of entertainment to save the youth from the epidemic of AIDS. Such patients of the country should be brought under one umbrella for imparting such awareness. This disease has spread quite rapidly over the past few years. Counselling Centres should be opened

*Not recorded.

at several places. Basically, Stress should be laid on educating people in this regard. A joint monitoring committee of various Ministries should be constituted, if necessary, to prepare a strategy for saving the country from this dangerous disease.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notices, appropriately, from a few other Members on this subject and I am thankful to them. They are: Shrimati Minati Sen, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Shri P. Karunakaran and Shri Rajnarayan Budholia. They have all given notices on this matter. I appreciate their initiative. Their names will be recorded as associating with this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to make a point. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No more.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, medical centres should be set up in Bundelkhand region for the treatment of AIDS.

MR. SPEAKER: Allright, your suggestion has been noted.

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Hon. Speaker, Sir, in India the dairy sector is facing an acute crisis. In our country millions are engaged in dairying but in the developed countries very few farmers produce the lion's share of the milk. In contrast, in India small farmers who own 30 per cent of the land hold 60 per cent of the milk cattle. It is the womenfolk who manage cattle. About 50 per cent of the milk produced is consumed domestically. Sixty to seventy per cent of the money earned from consumers goes to the farmers. In 2004-05 india produced 91 million tonnes of milk. In money terms

it works to 23.2 billion US dollars. This amount is larger than the total price of rice and wheat produced in India. This has become possible because of the success of cooperative farming.

The duty component for imported butter now in India is 40 per cent and for milk powder, 60 per cent. Japan imposes duty around 550 per cent on import of butter and 200 to 300 per cent on imported milk powder. In the US and European Union, there still exists 75 to 150 per cent duty for butter import. Though there is a provision to impose an import duty of 300 per cent on milk powder imports, the Government of India has fixed a merger duty of only 60 per cent which helps the multinationals and hits the Indian dairy producers very adversely. In developed countries, governmental assistance through different forms, including subsidies ranging from 50 to 150 per cent, are given.

To equip Indian dairy farmers to face the new situation, the Government should strengthen co-operative societies, if necessary, through mergers so that they can compete internationally. Such products should be exempted from excise duty and sales tax.

Time allotted for developing countries to stop Government assistance for all agricultural products, including dairy products, come to an end in 2005. I urge the Government to address these issues in the WTO Ministerial round of talks to be held in Hong Kong in December.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and particularly that of the Minister of Defence towards districts of Poonch and Rajouri. There is only one bridge on the river Chenab which has been slightly damaged by the recent floods due to which people are facing lots of problems in crossing the river. I request the government to take up the proposal of constructing the second bridge there the process whereof had begun one year ago when tenders were floated and construction work was allotted to a particular firm but later on it was cancelled. Relief work is getting hampered in Rajouri and Poonch after these places were hit by an earthquake. The students are facing lots of problems in crossing the river as they have to come to Jammu for their studies. They have to wait for four long hours on either side of the river before they cross it. These two districts are

situated on the actual line of control. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Defence to kick off the process of the construction of the second bridge without delay getting the tenders floated in this regard.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan University is one of the oldest university. I request the Union Government to grant it the status of a central university. I am putting up this demand because the said university has departments for all the subjects. The level of education imparted here is quite good. The lecturers in the university are experienced and capable. Rajasthan University has never had any problems regarding space. Late Maharaja Mansingh, the ruler of Jaipur, gave away sufficient land for the expansion of the university. I request the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the Union Government to grant Rajasthan University the status of a Central University. I hope the Ministry of Human Resource Development would concede to my valid demand.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava is an ideal Member. He gives his notice, waits for his turn. No disturbance is created and he gets the opportunity.

Shri Prabhunath Singh, in spite of that, I am giving him the opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to listen to the request that I am asking through you, otherwise there is no point in making the request. I want the attention of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: They would listen. All the intimation is sent from here.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have repeatedly requested to include Bhojpuri in the eighth schedule. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you speaking in Bhojpuri?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would do so if I am asked to. If you permit me, I would speak in Bhojpuri.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Probably, there is no interpreter of Bhojpuri.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am capable of speaking Bhojpuri so eloquently that it might hold the country spellbound. If you permit me, I can speak in Bhojpuri.

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak in Hindi.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I raised this issue through a calling Attention Motion also and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs had assured us that Bhojpuri would be included in the eighth schedule. I have also met the hon. Minister of Home Affairs personally to make this request. He has assured that it would be included but no time limit has been fixed in this regard. There are Bhojpuri speaking people in Bolpur parliamentary constituency of West Bengal too. There are a large number of Bhojpuri speaking people in the constituency of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and they are on the voters list too. Bhojpuri speaking people are spread over 9 countries all over the world. 20 crore people all over the world speak this language and almost 16 crore people speak this language in India. There are several universities like BRA University, Muzaffarpur, JP University, Chhapra; Kunwar Singh University, Aara, Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur and Jaunpur University where education is imparted in Bhojpuri right from intermediate level to MA. Apart from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttaranchal, Bhojpuri is spoken in all the metropolitan and industrial cities. Doordarshan and Akashwani Kendras in Patna, Varanasi, Ranchi, Muzaffarpur etc. broadcast programmes like songs and serials in Bhojpuri. Bhojpuri movies have become the mainstay of the film industry. Large number of magazines, newspapers and literature is published in Bhojpuri. This language is so simple that even a person speaking any other language might understand it easily. It is the most popular language of the country. Bhojpuri is the only language of the country which apart from India is spoken by almost 40 to 50 percent of the people of countries, the Mauritius, Surinam, Trinidad, Guyana, Holland, Nepal, Fiji, South America and some islands of West Indies. Even then, Bhojpuri has not been included in the eighth schedule of the constitution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection and through you make this request to include it in the eighth schedule. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is not paying any attention to this request. Bhojpuri is spoken in the area of the hon. Minister also and he seems to be busy

when I am raising issue relating to it, the public would not appreciate it.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I was saying something about Bhojpuri only.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I want to repeat my request as the Government has given this assurance that Bhojpuri would be included in the eighth Schedule of the Constitution. I particularly request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary affairs and Sonia Gandhiji in this regard. This work would be done soon if she gives orders in this regard. I request the hon. Minister to approach the Minister of Home Affairs too; he would get this work done soon.

MR. SPEAKER: Would all the Bhojpuri speaking people vote for him.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: They have been doing so.

MR. SPEAKER: Then it would be done at the earliest.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I expect you too would approach the government in this regard. Then they would show some alacrity in this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We respect all languages. They are very rich. Naturally, there are methods and ways for their inclusion. I am sure and I believe that this is one of the languages which is under consideration.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Pune): Sir, it is a good thing that Pune is becoming an international airport from the 12th December. But unfortunately, the facilities that should have been there for an international airport, are absent. There is no parking space. There is a parking space for just four aircrafts. The Defence Ministry, in spite of quite a few reminders, has not yet cleared about eight acres of land. The Instrument Landing System is not of the proper quality. The building has to be expanded by the Civil aviation Ministry. The question that arises is about sharing of airports by the Civilians and the Defence Ministry people. There should be set rules for movement of aircrafts. Both Defence aircrafts and the civilian aircrafts should co-exist in Defence airports or the civilian airports. The rules should be made for that.

Another international airport is to come near Pune. That also should get started immediately. This is a stop gap arrangement.

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN (Nagaon): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the North East Industrial Policy was announced to create a conducive environment for industrialization and attracting investment in the North-Eastern region in spite of its geographical isolation, inadequate infrastructure and many other factors like the size of the market, law and order situation etc. etc.

Unfortunately, after the extension of this policy to other hilly States like Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh, the industrialisation lost its momentum in the region. According to the policy, the investors who desire to get the benefits like transport subsidy, relaxation in taxes and central excise etc., out of this, have to have their industrial units in declared notified areas only. The other industrial units which do not fall within the notified areas are deprived of the benefits incorporated in the policy.

sir, I am aware that as good as 68 number of proposals are pending with the Ministry of Finance for notification due to non-availability of notified industrial areas. This delay is hampering the pace of achievement in the whole region. It is learnt that a new policy framework is being worked out to declare the entire north-eastern region under the same benefit policy. But the pending proposals are still to be cleared and notified, which in any way will merge into the new policy framework.

Sir, in this regard, the hon. Chief Minister of Assam Shri Tarun Gogoi has written a letter to the Ministry of Finance. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence, Shri Bijoy Handique has also written a letter in this regard but still, the Ministry of Finance has not cleared these proposals. I do not know what is the reason. I would, therefore, request that Government to take all steps to clear all these proposals.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite the instructions of the Reserve Bank and the Finance Minister, all the regional rural banks of the country have been charging hefty rate of interest from the farmers.

The House must be aware of the fact that at the time of independence, agriculture sector used to contribute 52 percent of the total GDP of the country. Today it has gone down to 30 percent. I read it in today's paper itself that the growth of service sector is 12 percent while that of agriculture is only 1-8 percent.

Sir, despite the instructions of the Reserve Bank, rate of interest being charged by RRBs' on CC limit is 13.5 percent while it is only 10 percent in case of nationalized banks. I believe that it is not the intent of the Government to promote agriculture, keeping in view the fact that the rate of interest of the loan provided by the RRBs' is too. The people who set up small cottage industries and small scale industries in agriculture are more than 13.5 percent. Therefore, I request the Government to pay attention towards this and ensure that the RRBs provide loan at the lower rate of interest.

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazariabagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, coal and limestone worth millions of rupees is smuggled from Jharkhand every month and 100-150 people die every year due to illegal mining. 300-350 labourers were working in a mine of CCL in Hazariabagh district on 19 September, 2005. The mine caved in killing 15 labourers including 11 women.

Besides Coal Smugglers, the police officers, other persons and even the Ministers are involved in the illegal mining of coal and coal worth millions of rupees is being smuggled quite openly. It is being done with the connivance with the officials of CCL and Coal India. Coal and other mineral resources are being smuggled. The Union Government and State Government are losing millions of rupees in this way.

Sir, poor people who want a job in coal mining are being deprived of jobs due to illegal mining and the smugglers involved in illegal mining are paying them only 50-60 rupees instead of Rs. 400-500. Labourers are getting exploited. Illegal mining is being done there at a very large scale. State Government has completely failed in stopping illegal mining and the Ministers and officials are making crores of rupees by smuggling coal and other minerals. That is why I made an appeal to the Union Government that it should take effective measures to check illegal mining in Jharkhand and protect the poor miners engaged in this illegal mining by smugglers.

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR (Palamu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hail from the Palamu constituency of Jharkhand which is

a very backward area. Although many Welfare Schemes are being implemented by the Union Government for the development of this area, but unfortunately the guidelines are violated by the local officers owing to which proper benefits do not accrue to the people over there. I have informed the hon. Minister of Rural Development in writing in this regard even on earlier occasion.

Mr. Speaker, through you I urge upon the hon. Minister to get an analysis done of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes by sending an investigating team and to take effective measures so as to extend its benefits to the common man.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bachi Singh Rawat—Not present.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, first of all, you have not given the notice in time. You have to wait, if I can find time. The notice is to be given by 9.30 a.m. But you have given it at 10.00 a.m., and you want priority. How can it be done?

[Translation]

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 10 km. long National Highway No. 80 runs through the State of West Bengal. There is a need to get a bridge constructed on NH-80 near Farakka. Tenders have been floated for this purpose three times and there have been agitations also but the bridge and the road are not being constructed deliberately because the anti-social elements in connivance with the administration and with other persons extort Rs. 200-300 from every public transport operators in the form of Rangdari tax which results in montegommery division of crores of rupees. This road is as good as the economic life line of West Bengal and Jharkhand. All the items of daily use are transported through this route from West Bengal to Jharkhand. In this situation money is extorted high handedly from truck operators, due to which they have left this route.

Mr. Speaker, through you, I urge upon the Government to issue immediate orders to NHAI and concerned department for the construction of a bridge and road and to carry out repairs on NH 80.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, incidents of suicide by farmers are continually being witnessed in the country. The cases of suicide by farmers are front page reports in newspapers these days. This issue and the problem of farmers have been discussed several times in the Parliament despite that necessary efforts do not seem to have been made by either the State or the Union Government to check the suicide by farmers. The State Governments do provide some compensation to the family of the farmers who have committed suicide but I have seen that in reference to some particular places in western Vidarbha, a total of 657 farmers committed suicide during a year. During the last six months, 142 farmers committed suicide in a period of only 150 days. But virtually only 15 families of farmers have been provided assistance during the year. The land of the farmers is hypothecated to the revenue department against the loan taken by them. When they are unable to return this loan they resort to suicide. Today, their situation is such that in absence of work, rest of the family members, those who are students are also committing suicide. A school girl in a village named Asra of Amravati district has committed suicide. In her suicide note she wrote that her parents were not getting any work, there were two other children in the family who were studying but were unable to continue their studies, which prompted her to commit suicide. Today, such incidents are taking place. It is a very serious issue. The entire farmer community is going through a crisis.

There are two very important points. The interest charged by the private money lender is very high, that is why this practice should be banned across the country. The Government needs to take some concrete measures for this purpose.

the second point is that the Government spends crores of rupees in several areas on several works for farmers. Through you, I would urge upon the government that it should take measures to provide interest-free loans to the farmers for their business or for agriculture. It is my contention that the entire House would sympathize with the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly it is a very important issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter

which has been sent to the Union Government through the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms at the level of the Government of Bihar approximately an year back. Eight castes Nonia, Bind, Mallah, Kamar, Barhai, Turaha, Rajbhar and Chandravanshi were recommended to be incorporated in the Scheduled Caste category followed by three castes Nai, Kanu and Tanti by the Government of Bihar. The State Government has given its recommendation to the Union Government to include these Castes in the Scheduled Caste list, but unfortunately the latter has taken no action thereon so far.

These Castes are not being included in the Scheduled Castes list despite repeated requests, owing to which their backwardness and financial condition is going from bad to worse. Through you, I would request the hon. Minister and hon. Prime Minister to take some action in this regard at their level and would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment. I would like to make a special request to the hon. Prime Minister and the Chief of the U.P.A. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to intervene to issue directions for including those 11 Castes in the Scheduled Caste category as recommended by the State Government of Bihar so as to meet out justice to these people. Their financial condition as well as their overall conditions is very poor. They may improve upon their condition availing themselves of this benefit.

Through you, I would again like to urge upon the hon. Madam Sonia Gandhi ji to intervene in this regard, take initiative and play significant role to get the required action taken in this matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav and Shri Raghunath Jha are allowed to associate with it. Although they have not given any notice, considering the importance of the matter, I am allowing them to associate. It is not to be treated as a precedent.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: These are important matters. I am sure the Government of India will look into them.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Thank you, Sir. I am drawing the kind attention of the House about the exploitation of passengers at International Airport at

Calicut, Kerala by a racket functioning inclusive of high officials of Customs Department with the connivance and involvement of some big-shots having connections with some big political leaders. This fact was revealed by the recent CBI raids held at the airport during the last month.

It is reported in the Media that a Customs Inspector was caught red-handed with an unauthorised amount of Rs. 1,14,000 and was taken to custody. As per newspaper reports, this racket is headed by a person nicknamed as the 'Airport Finance Minister'. Whenever any flight lands in the international airport, money, worth lakhs of rupees, and materials are being squeezed by the said gang from the poor passengers who are returning to their homes after long years of hard work in the Gulf countries. It is reported that the racket is having connection with different categories of airport employees and also the intelligence wing.

The reports also say that the racket is working mainly at the air cargo section, duty free shop of ITDC and the export and import sections in the airport for the unauthorised dealings of money, valuable articles and even drugs and foreign liquor for the last several years. Moreover, this is likely to encourage terrorist activities and could endanger national security as well.

In fact, these incidents have tarnished the image of the Customs Department and the Intelligence Wing among the general public. So, I would like to urge upon the Government of India that they may be pleased to initiate a detailed enquiry into this matter and find out the big shots behind this loot.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid—Not present.

Now, hon. Members, we all have decided that initially those hon. Members who have not given notice earlier this week, those hon. Members will be allowed first. Those who have already raised matters during the week, their turn will come later, if there is time. I am calling the names of those Members first who have not been given opportunities earlier. I will try to cover as many names as possible. Therefore, please have little patience and then I shall try to accommodate all the hon. Members because I want more matters to be raised.

You have already raised another matter and so your turn will come later. There is no question of denying anybody. Let us follow some procedure.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, ragging has become a menace which has gone out of all proportions. In that the brutality, cruelty and the vulgarity in many instances is something which has to be looked into very seriously. Recently there has been an incident in Kerala where in a nursing college a student was raped. The authorities tried to shield the matter and the Government also was not taking proper action at the proper time. There are many instances where the students because of mental agony are committing suicide. There are also many cases where poor students are not willing to go to colleges to pursue their higher education. There are instances also where students have discontinued their studies because of ragging.

Sir, this is a matter which needs to be discussed in this House and some kind of a solution to this menace has to be found out. Such acts are against the culture of India. There is a section of people who believes that this is done for the well-being of students, but there could be some other means thought of so that the personality and individuality of a student could flourish, other than this very barbarian method of committing a lot of brutal acts against the students who come to colleges and universities to pursue higher education.

MR. SPEAKER: I appreciate your point.

Shrimati Ranjit Ranjan, you have given a notice on a very important issue. I will allow a Calling Attention on this subject next week and your name will be included in that. I would request the officers concerned to see that her name is included in the Calling Attention on this subject. Shri Sangwan, you have already raised two matters. So, next week, you will not get any chance to speak.

12.39 hrs.

(ii) Re: 'One Rank One Pension' to Ex-Servicemen

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Government about a very old demand of the ex-servicemen of the country for 'One Rank One pension' to the Ex-Servicemen. The Ex-servicemen of the country are agitating for the said demand for many years. Several times they have also met the Minister of Defence in this regard. They have also carried out agitation, but have

not get justice so far. I am very sorry to submit that the ex-servicemen of the higher ranks got the benefit of one rank one pension. However, the lower rank ex-servicemen could not get the said benefit. I raise this issue in almost all sessions of the Parliament, but they have not been meted out justice till date. Besides this, there is rampant corruptions in the Sainik Boards all over the country. The military rest houses are being misused. There is corruption in canteen facilities that have been provided to the ex-servicemen. They do not get anything and other persons are taking advantage of it.

So, though you, I would like to demand the hon'ble Union Minister of Defence that justice should be done to the ex-servicemen who have served the nation and they should not be discriminated against and the facility of one rank one pension should be given to them.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has constituted a Group of Ministers to go into the specifics of particularly one-rank-one-pension scheme. The Group of Ministers is seized of the matter and a decision will be taken soon.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, lakhs of coolies in red uniform work on railway stations all over the country. They remain on railway platforms day and night and provide porter facility to railway passengers. Their services are essential on the stations. However, it is to be noted that neither they have any retiring place at stations nor have any facilities like that of pension etc., under the social security to the unorganized labourers. Their entire life is spent on railway platforms. As per the decision of the Railways, surplus vacant land of the Railways are proposed to be utilized for commercial purposes.

So, in view of the above, I would like to request the Government that it should allocated the surplus vacant land near railway stations in proportion to the colliers working over there and as per their requirements. Where they may make their permanent shelters. Alongwith that pension scheme should be formulated for them under social security to the unorganized labourers by way of

registering them so as to ensure that their future may be got secured.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue regarding the interests of crores of unemployed youth of our country.

Sir, because of unemployment, huge unemployed youth are maintaining their livelihood as street vendors. In 2004, the Government announced a policy for street vendors. As per that policy, the municipalities and corporations will have to rehabilitate street vendors at the rate of 2.5 per cent of the total population of the municipalities and corporations. But this policy announced has not been implemented because this is not being backed by any legislation. So, through you, I request the hon. Prime Minister to introduce a Bill so that the Union legislation can be enacted protecting the interests of street vendors. In this legislation, there should be a provision for financial assistance also to the municipalities and corporations so that street vendors can be rehabilitated. Towns and cities will also be clean and beautiful and at the same time, crores of unemployed youth will earn their livelihood also.

Therefore, this is my earnest request, through you, to the hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Respected, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for the opportunity you have given to me. In my parliamentary constituency there are about 250 kms. of hill ranges. A lot of elephants are causing havoc to the people's lives. They have eaten away *kuruthu*, the tender leaves of coconut trees and other plantations.

MR. SPEAKER: It seems coconuts are very attractive to elephants!

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: In the last one month due to elephants' havoc, four people have died. During the first attack, the elephants killed two persons in Cumbam assembly constituency. It destroyed a lot of plantations, like sugarcane, *koerai thandu*, grape gardens and groundnuts.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot ask you not to plant sugarcane.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: During the second attack, it killed two more persons, including a woman. That happened in Bodi Assembly Constituency, in the down hills of Kombai area.

MR. SPEAKER: The panchayat should look at it.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: People in my constituency are worried about elephants' ransacking their plantations. In two places in Cumbam and at one place in Bodi, the people are very much afraid to come out of their homes in the morning and in the evening. The elephants have destroyed the standing crops. ...*(Interruptions)* They are fearing attack every day. I have already sent a letter to the State Government. A lot of property has been damaged.

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you raising it here?

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: We request the Ministry of Environment and Forests to send a team from here to assess the damage caused to the property and to the plantations. In Periyakulam Constituency, we have to save the precious lives of the people. The mad elephants should be caught or chased away to uphill or they should be shot down on the spot with tranquillisers and send the same to zoo. We have to save the people's precious lives and plantations.

MR. SPEAKER: I am appreciating your concern. But your concern is not for elephants. Your concern should be for elephants also. Both elephants and human beings should be safe.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Adequate compensation should be given to them.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Communications towards the state of Rajasthan. There are 45 thousand villages and 45 thousand hamlets in Rajasthan. But even today there is no communication facilities available there. Earlier it was said that private sector companies will provide telecom services there. However, till today communication facility has not been provided to any village. Today, telecom facility is not a luxury. Thousands of youths of Rajasthan are serving in the military and there are also several businessmen in the state. Through

you, I would like to submit that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited itself should take over this task and should erect towers wherever towers are to be erected. Wherever WL connection is to be made available, work for that purpose should be launched at the earliest. Through you, I would like to appeal the Government that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited should itself take the responsibility of providing communication facility to those villages in Rajasthan which are deprived of such facilities.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problem of power in the state of Jharkhand. Presently, there is acute shortage of power in the State. Adityapur, which is the biggest industrial area of Asia, is located there. Today, the entire industries of this area have been closed as the State Government is not able to supply power to this area. It is on account of this that all the industrialists have come on the streets and are carrying out procession and demonstrations. The present electricity infrastructure which were set up after the independence have become very obsolete and more than half of them have become in operational. Today, bigger industrial houses are signing MoU with the State Government. Bigger multinational companies are coming over here to set up their industrial units. The Government of India should certainly pay attention towards the problem of shortage of power in the State and should act to solve this problem. Thus it will lead to the progress of not only the State but also of the country. There is no scarcity of resources over there. The maximum coal of the State are supplied to NTPC located in other state and that leads to heavy expenditure on transportation of coal. I would like to suggest the NTPC should be set up in the state itself. Huge quantity of uranium is also produced over there. So, I would also like to submit that if an atomic power plant is set up over there it will solve the problem of shortage of power in the state. So, I would like to request the Central Government that it should interfere in this regard in the larger public interest.

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways to the National Highways of Himachal Pradesh. It is known to all that very few new railway lines have been laid in Himachal Pradesh after independence and it is on account of this that transportation in the state is heavily dependent on roadways. In the year 2000 the Government had announced to construct four national highways in the State. Out of those four highways, the condition of one

or two national highways is very pathetic. One National Highways was announced from Pinjore to Swarghat. I would like to say something about that highways. There is a place called Baddi falling in the way of this national highway which is very swiftly evolving as a big industrial area. Major industries from all over the country have got located over there. But the condition of the highway is so bad that potholes have developed on it. The highway is in bad shape particularly for the last three or four years. So, I would like to request the Government that additional fund should be allocated for the said national highways and keeping in view the importance of the said industrial area, special attention should be paid to this national highways. Otherwise, industries will start getting themselves relocated elsewhere. Though many industries do not intend to leave the place, however, several industries are about to get themselves relocated.

Therefore, in view of the significance of the said road additional allocation of funds may be made for it so that it can be got properly constructed of the level of national highways.

12.52 hrs.

(iii) Re: Need to provide reservation for dalits in multi-national companies

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the UPA Government in its Common Minimum Programme had stated that SCs and STs would be provided reservation in MNCs, but considerable time has gone by and no attention has been paid till date by the Government in this regard. There is a backlog of vacant posts meant for SCs and STs in almost all the departments of the Governments of India but the Government are not filling up the said vacancies. Through you, I would like to submit to the Government, while Smt. Sonia Gandhiji and Paswan ji is sitting here, that the backlog of this SC and ST vacancies be cleared and the Government should make a provision for reservation for dalits in MNCs.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have decided to clear the said backlog by 30th December, 2005 and so far as reservation in private sector is concerned, a Group of Ministers has been constituted. The Group of Ministers has submitted its report which is under consideration of the Government. The Ministry of Welfare is coordinating in this regard.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Avinash Rai Khanna—Not present.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (Berhampur-Orissa): Sir, I just want to. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It was raised yesterday very forcefully.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No. We have all associated with the matter that the Government will consider establishment of National Institute of Sciences in as many States as possible. There is no conflict in that between the States.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: Yes, Sir. I want to associate myself. I request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to reconsider and have a centre at Bhubaneshwar.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will be associated. Of course, we appreciate your sentiments.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the States in our country were reorganized on the basis of language being spoken by the people. But our Marathi-speaking people of the Belgaum district have been meted out injustice by its merger with Karnataka. I want that no injustice be meted out to the Kannada speaking people. But injustice has been done over the years to the Marathi speaking peoples as their district has been merged with the state of Karnataka last several years ago. They have been demanding this much only that being Marathi speaking their district should be reverted to Maharashtra. Hence, my submission is that either Belgaum district should be divided into two parts, and Kanada speaking people stay with Karnataka and, the part comprising of Marathi speaking people should be reverted to Maharashtra or Belgaum district should be included in Goa and greater Gomantak State be formed.

I would like to appeal hon'ble Sonia Gandhiji, as she is sitting here, that since our Congress Party is ruling at both the places and the future Governments are also going to be ours, the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka, both should be called here and the matter should be resolved through the good efforts of hon'ble Prime Minister and Sonia ji. I would also urge upon the Hon'ble Speaker to render his help in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have to all remember that it is one country. Unity is important. If there are aspirations of different regions. I am sure everybody can do it. Consider this matter, but in a proper attitude, in a spirit of 'give and take'. Let us not make these issues matters of confrontation between the people of the same country. Of course, everybody knows this.

I am extremely grateful to all the hon. Members for their cooperation. We have exhausted the list today, and also gone against our earlier decision not to allow more than one Member. I think, Mr. Harin Pathak agrees with me, that this is more productive than anything else. In recognition with that and in appreciation, I am giving you more than one hour's time today for lunch!

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.56 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, item no. 9, Matters under Rule 377 may be taken as laid on the Table of the House and they will all form part of the proceedings of the House.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): It happens so always. With great difficulty my name appears in the draw of lots but it again gets missed. Last time also my submission did not figure.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it means when the list of Business is prepared it is taken for granted that the matters under Rule 377 would be laid. Immediately after the business gets started at 2.00 hrs. after lunch the first item allotted by you is the discussion under Rule 193. It means the matter under Rule 377 will be deemed to be laid.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Generally we do as hon'ble Members desire. But today it is being taken up as a special case.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I would obey your orders. I just want to bring it to your notice that we decide to take it up at 2 o' clock whereas lunch hour ends at 2 hrs. so it should be taken up before 2 o' clock. It is not good as you are getting it deemed as laid in a pre-planned manner.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, first I would take up Matters under Rule 377. Azami ji, please take your seat, I have acceded to your demand.

Prof. Chander Kumar.

- (1) **Need to formulate long-term strategy to check receding trend in glaciers and ecological imbalance in Himalayan region**

[English]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): The glaciers have been receding in the Himalayan belt for the last seven-eight years. If this trend continues, the receding glaciers may spell doom for water requirement for the coming 10-15 years, secondly for hydro-power generation, near about 250 small and big glaciers are receding in Lahaul in Himachal Pradesh. This is due to drastic rise in global temperature resulting in large-scale ecological imbalance. The other constant threat to Himalayas is due to large-scale exploitation of forest wealth in the region. I will urge upon the Government to contemplate long-term strategy to meet out this menace of receding glaciers and ecological imbalance in the Himalayan region.

(ii) Need to impose duty on import of silk with a view to safeguard the interest of weavers in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Union Government to the problem being faced by Small Scale Industries, Cotton Industries, Wooden Toys Industry in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, especially Varanasi. Today, in the age of globalization the way MNCs are getting a strong hold of their business in the market and the indigenously produced commodities of our country are trailing in the competition, special attention needs to be paid in this regard. Items manufactured by Varanasi based industries are in great demand not only in India but in abroad as well. But due to resources crunch our industries are lagging behind. Indigenously manufactured products of our country are far superior and durable in companion to foreign products. Due to higher rate of duty on domestic silk made cloths and lower rate of import duty on foreign silk items, products manufactured in Uttar Pradesh are costlier and foreign products cheaper. Therefore, my submission is that the import duty on imported silk items may be increased so that our industry can be provided a level playing field to compete with them. I urge the Government to provide maximum concessions to the industries of the Eastern U.P.

(iii) Need to set up a Bench of High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I represent Ghaziabad-Hapur (U.P.) constituency and I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to the long pending serious problem of the common men of the Western Uttar Pradesh. People of the said area have been demanding for setting up of a Bench of High Court in this area for several years. On earlier occasions, several MPs from western Uttar Pradesh have raised the said demand in the House but no action has been taken by the Government thereon, so far. Meerut, Ghaziabad Agra in Western U.P. have road as well as rail connectivity. Allahabad is about 450 kms away from the said districts of Western Uttar Pradesh. Lucknow, the capital of UP is also 110 kms away from Allahabad. A bench of High court is already located there. With a view to providing cheap and prompt justice as per the hopes and wishes of the people of Western Uttar Pradesh, it has become necessary to set up a bench of Allahabad

High court at one of these three places as going to Allahabad is costly affair to them and also involves a wastage of time. Setting of a Bench at one of these three places would be less expensive and less time consuming for them.

I urge the Union Government to consider this issue seriously and set up urgently a Bench of High Court at one of these three places in the public interest.

(iv) Need to release outstanding instalment of funds to the states under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Swajal Dhara Yojana for early completion of ongoing projects.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Gram Panchayats of various states including Madhya Pradesh have given their share money for various centrally sponsored schemes that include Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Swajal Dhara Yojana. The Central Government has also released one or two instalment of its share. But now the Centre has stopped the release of outstanding instalments of funds. It is on account of this that the said ongoing projects are lying incomplete and Gram Panchayats are in serious financial crisis. Similarly, it is on account of non-release of fund under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana that the construction work of roads is either incomplete or there is slow progress in ongoing road project.

So, I would like to request the Central Government that it should release outstanding instalment of funds to the state under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Swajal Dhara Yojana at the earliest.

(v) Need to connect all the administrative centres in Arunachal Pradesh by road and provide necessary Funds for widening of road between Tezpur and Tawang

[English]

SHRI KIREN RIJU (Arunachal Pradesh): Arunachal Pradesh is the largest State in the North East and situated in the strategically most sensitive location which is bound by Myanmar in the East, China in the North and Bhutan in the West. The road connectivity in the State is the lowest in the country and more than 70 per cent area is still without road linkages. The local people in the border areas still walk for several days to reach their nearest administrative centres in very difficult and inhospitable topography. There is also long pending demand of the

[Shri Kiren Rijju]

State to construct East West highway connecting all the district headquarters of the State.

I would like to request the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to undertake immediate steps to connect at least all the administrative centres in the State of Arunachal Pradesh and provide necessary fund for immediate completion of widening of Defence road from Tezpur to Tawant which is maintained by the Border Roads Organisation.

- (vi) **Need to supply additional power from Central Grid to Madhya Pradesh with a view to solve power shortage in the state**

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain)*: There is need to give top priority to setting up of new power plants to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in the country.

Madhya Pradesh is facing power crisis due to reduction in power supply by the Centre. So, the quantum of power which was being supplied earlier to the State by the Centre should be restored and approval should be given to proposals of power generation in Madhya Pradesh including setting up of proposed 2000 megawatt Atomic power plant at the earliest and the problem of shortage of power should be solved. The present problem of low voltage in Malwa area should be solved by way of supplying power from RAPP as was done earlier.

- (vii) **Need to expedite setting up of a 'Growth Centre' at Kotdwar in Pauri Garhwal district of Uttaranchal**

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the setting up of a 'Growth Centre' at Kotdwar in my Parliamentary constituency district Pauri Garhwal. The Government had given approval for the said growth centre several years ago and the previous Government had also allocated funds for the said purpose. However, no work has yet been started on the ground in this connection and it is on account of this that there is discontent among the people of the area.

So, I urge upon the Government to launch work in this connection at the earliest and to pacify the discontent of the people.

- (viii) **Need to review the decision to repatriate two thousand Group 'A' officers to DOT**

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): The Government has decided to repatriate around 2,000 Group 'A' officers to DOT where there is no work for them to perform and they are to be paid fully pay and allowances out of the Consolidated Fund of India constituted mainly from the tax payer's money. The implication of repatriating these officers has not been evaluated properly. The withdrawal of such a large contingent of highly trained technical officers (at the Government expenses) in one stroke has paralyzed the services of the two major companies of the Government engaged in the public utility services. It is just like disconnecting the lifeline of the country whether it is trade or social utilities. There is hardly any sector of life in the country which has not been adversely affected. If we draw a balance sheet on the debit side of this action on the part of the Government, we have the infructuous expenditure on the salary of these 2,000 officers and near total paralysis of the services of the two companies namely, MTNL and BSNL affecting both present and future. Whereas on credit side there is no entry at all which could be credited. There was no situation warranting such a decision which can be conveniently deferred for a future date when the situation is ripe for appropriately giving pay or pension and to take work from the officers.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: It is very serious matter. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs may please make a note. This is creating total disruption in the telecommunication service. The hon'ble Minister is sitting here. I request him to make note of it. This is the most illogical decision. It does not make any sense. There is total chaos at the ground level.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Samik Lahiri—Not present.

- (ix) **Need to expedite completion of Quilon By-pass in Kerala**

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quillon): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity.

The completion of Quilon by-pass on National Highway 47 is a long standing demand of the people of Kerala in general and Quilon in particular. The work is supposed to be completed in four phases and the first

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Sanskrit.

two phases of the same is already completed. Even though the land acquisition for the third and final phase is over, for the last three decades the work has not started for want of approval from the Central Transport Ministry. Quilon has recently been upgraded into a Corporation and the traffic congestion is a constant problem which is to be addressed sooner rather than later. If the Quilon by-pass becomes a reality, the traffic problem can be solved to a greater extent. The undue delay in the construction has caused discontentment and resentment in the minds of the people. Therefore, I request the Government to take immediate steps for the completion of the project without anymore delay.

(x) Need to take precautionary measures to check spread of Bird Flu in the country

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these days bird flu is headlines in the newspapers. Many countries of the world are affected by it. Birds from Siberia and other countries of the world migrate to our country due to favourable climatic condition. From the recent news items appearing in newspapers it appears that these migratory birds can transport the virus of this disease from one place to another and it is on account of this that there is constant danger of spreading of this disease. Several governments of other countries have taken steps to check this disease. As per the news published in some of the newspapers, the Government have denied the possibility of spreading of this disease. Despite that I would like to submit to the Government that it should constantly monitor the situation so that the spread of any new disease or bird flue could be checked and these migratory birds may also freely move to their desired places.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anirudh Prasad Alias Sadhu Yadav—Not present.

Dr. Dharendra Agarwal—Not present.

(xi) Need to review the standard of qualification fixed for teaching in self-financed Degree Colleges in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the system of higher education in Uttar Pradesh has

collapsed. The reason is that the qualification fixed for teachers of self financing degree colleges is not practical. For example it is essential for teachers to have M.Ed. degree along with NET or Ph.D. The number of teachers having the said qualifications are not even the 10 percent of the total teachers required in the country. As per the norms of the University Grants Commission, the candidates who have completed M.Phil in 1992 and Ph.D. before 2002 are eligible for lecturers.

I would like to request the Government that the qualification of teachers should be reviewed and M.A. and B.Ed. degree or its equivalent should be considered sufficient to teach graduate and B.Ed. classes. Whatever may be the year of getting degree.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil—Not present.

(xii) Need to open a residential school of Railways at Manjhi in Saran District, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Majhi Block headquarter in Saran district, Bihar is located along Bihar and Uttar Pradesh border. Gautam Asthan which is an important tourist spot is located near Manjhi where thousands of tourists visit. Manjhi connects Bihar and Uttar Pradesh through road, waterway and railways. Block headquarter, Police station and hospital etc. all facilities are available in Manjhi. Thousands of Railway staff and retired employees of railways reside in and around Manjhi. Manjhi block headquarter of Saran district is a densely populated area, however, it is on account of absence of any school of railways, the railway employees are forced to send their children to other towns for study and as a result of this they have to bear unnecessary burden.

It is to be noted that Manjhi is located on the bank for river Sarya where 70-80 acre of railway land is lying vacant. The scheme to develop the river bank Saryu near the bridge in Manjhi as an import tourist spot with the estimated cost of nearly Rs. 12-15 crore is under consideration of the Central Government. The proposal to set up Agriculture Science Centre in Manjhi has already been approved.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

If a residential school of railways (like Oak Groove residential school of northern Railways at Jharipani between Dehradun and Mussoorie) is opened in Majhi it will provide a permanent solution to a very serious problem of Railway employees and common people of this area. So, I would like to request the Central Government that a residential school of Railways should be set up at Manjhi in Saran district of Bihar at the earliest.

- (xiii) **Need to upgrade the load bearing capacity of railway tracks in Orissa to 30 tonnes Axle enabling increase in carrying capacity per wagon to 100 tonnes**

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Orissa is on the threshold of major industrial revolution with a number of Steel/Aluminium/Alumina/Thermal Power Plants coming up in different parts of the State. It is expected that by 2016 the generation of additional volume of traffic shall be 200 MTPA which will include raw materials and finished products. In order to cater to such a large volume of traffic, it is absolutely necessary that Rail infrastructure needs immediate attention for upgradation of standards and expansion.

Presently, the track configuration of East Coast Railways as well as most parts of South Eastern Railway is with 22.5 tonne Axle load which enables carrying capacity of raw materials and finished products to a maximum of 58 tonnes wagon. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to him.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Considering the large volume of traffic that will be generated in near future, the present module of rail transportation will not be adequate. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to upgrade the status of the track at least 30 tonnes Axle load for all the new line projects in Orissa enabling increase in carrying capacity per wagon to 100 tonnes. East Coast Rail link from Kharagpur to Visakhapatnam also needs to be upgraded to 30 tons Axle load.

- (xiv) **Need to amend Forest Conservation Act so as to enable disbursement of surplus land amongst the landless people in the country**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, very large number of people

particularly, SCs and STs in our country do not have even an inch of land either for constructing a dwelling unit for living or for cultivation so as to earn a livelihood. Whereas, on the other hand we have about 8 crore acres surplus land in the country. If the said land is distributed amongst landless people by carrying out necessary amendment in Forest Conservation Act, it would not only facilitate proper use of surplus land but it would also provide some space to the poor landless people to construct dwelling units for shelter and also some land for cultivation so as to enable them to earn their livelihood. It would also help poor landless people to rise above the poverty line. Besides, they would be able to join the mainstream of the country to contribute in its upliftment.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to take the required effective measures to carry out necessary amendments in the Forest Conservation Act to facilitate distribution of surplus land in the country amongst the landless poor and dalit communities of the country.

- (xv) **Need to install a statue of former President K.R. Narayanan in New Delhi, besides setting up of educational institutions after his name in Uzhavoor division, Kottayam district, Kerala**

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, it is befitting that the government builds a national monument and erects a statue of former President K.R. Narayanan, without delay. A national educational institution of excellence like a Central agricultural institute or an agricultural university might be set up at Uzhavoor, his native place in Kerala. The Indian Institute of information Technology might also be a befitting monument. The district panchayat of Kottayam, which is the home district of the late K.R. Narayanan has already declared its willingness to give a hundred acres of land for the purpose and the Uzhavoor grama panchayat is ready to give ten acres of land for a Central School to be set up in Mr. Narayanan's honour at Uzhavoor. I request the hon. Prime Minister and the Government to take urgent action to erect a statue of Shri K.R. Narayanan in New Delhi and to set up the educational institutions mentioned above in Uzhavoor division in Kottayam district, Kerala at the earliest.

(xvi) Need to set up Chambal Water Commission for distributing water of Chambal river between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Morena-Sheopur and Bhind districts in Madhya Pradesh get water supply from the Chambal canal enabling lakhs of farmer to irrigate their land. But in absence of timely release of M.P.'s share of 3900 cusecs of water the crops of the farmers get destroyed and the Govt. of Rajasthan does not release water in time.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to constitute a Chambal Committee for the resolution of the distribution of water of the Chambal river.

14.28 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

- (i) Serial Bomb Blasts in Delhi
- (ii) Terrorist Violence in Jammu and Kashmir
- (iii) Naxalite attacks in Jehanabad, Bihar on 13.11.2005
- and
- (iv) Naxalite Attack at Home Guard Training Centre, Girdih, Jharkhand on 11.11.2005

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. members, I have an announcement to make.

The House would now take up discussion under rule 193, as listed. Shri Ajoy Chakraborty was to initiate the discussion. However, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has requested the hon. Speaker that he might be allowed to initiate the discussion. Hon. Speaker has expressed his thanks that Shri Ajoy Chakraborty has kindly consented to allow Prof. Malhotra to initiate the discussion. Shri Ajoy Chakraborty would be called to speak after Prof. Malhotra.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra may now initiate the discussion.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the House is going to discuss

upon a very important issue i.e. internal security. A statement was made by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs in the House on the serial bomb blasts in Delhi, Srinagar and the Maoist and Naxal violence in Jehanabad—on all these three issues along with several other issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement made by the hon'ble Minister on that day be it on serial blasts in Delhi, terrorist incident in Srinagar or Maoist and Naxalite violence in Jehanabad District reflect that it was just a casual or cursory statement.

32 days have elapsed since bomb blasts in Delhi. All of us are aware that serial bomb blasts took place in Delhi at three places just two days before Diwali. Delhi was once again in flames, several markets were set Ablaze and many families lost their near and dear one, rendering several children orphan and many women widowed before the night of Diwali. It resulted in the death of 70 persons and more than 300 people were injured. It was a ghastly carnage and only those with a strong heart could dare seeing the dead bodies. I had seen the dead bodies. There is a need to have a serious look at the situation that is prevailing today after these 32 days and which newspapers have been reporting about. If the hon. Minister had gone through them he could have made a much more sensitive and bold statement. Newspapers reported that 70 persons died in the said blasts and more than 300 got injured, 19 persons are still in hospitals and dead bodies have not been identified so far. Last rites of several dead bodies have been performed by several families jointly as certain dead bodies could not be identified by members of their families or relatives. One newspaper reported that

[English]

even after 31 days the mother does not know where her son has gone.

[Translation]

The mother is injured and she is not aware even now that her son is no more.

[English]

"I have still not told my wife that our child is dead. My wife has finalized a name for her baby. She keeps asking about her and sooner or later I have to tell her that her baby is dead".

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had been to the affected families and had talks with them. Their condition is horrifying. In a family parents and grand parents are dead now. Parents died the same day. The only person, their grandfather who could look after the children fell sick and died. The conditions of Delhi on that fateful day has been described as below.

[*English*]

"the serial explosions that ripped through Delhi leaving 70 dead and more than 100 injured were the biggest terrorists' strike in India outside Kashmir since the Bombay blasts of 1993; unlike the attack on Parliament in 2001 or even in Red Fort in 2000. The Delhi bombings were not directed at the symbols of the State but at the heart of the nation, their targets were not institutions of power but people, average Indians everywhere."

[*Translation*]

It was not the first attack on Delhi, the heart of India. Such incidents have taken place earlier also. As we are aware, prior to festivals, especially such as Diwali, the Government used to push the terrorists to a corner so as to prevent any untoward incident. So far the lasts several years nothing of that sort happened. But this year, no such step was taken by the Government prior to Diwali or Id. It is totally wrong to say that police was on high alert and cameras were installed in any of the markets. The terrorists found that the security was lax. It was revealed by an accused, Dar, who admitted that he was sent by LeT. He himself did the surveillance that at which markets security was lax with no police protection. Therefore, they selected these places for attack. The hon'ble Minister has mentioned that Dar, who was apprehended, had been arrested. But, everybody is well aware that the people involved in 29/10 bomb blasts are absconding. None of the persons who had mercilessly killed so many people has been arrested. The only person who has been arrested is Dar who funded them and hatched the conspiracy. The statement given by him in the court has unfolded many mysteries. This issue is of great concern to us. He narrated as to how Lasher-e-Tayaba engaged him in Jihad, how much money did he get from them, the money given to him by Pakistan and how he was introduced to and interacted with Jihadis in Pakistan. This news item "Dar in court admits Pak hand in Delhi blasts" has appeared in the newspapers. He has clearly stated how Pakistan carried out all these activities.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I said that nobody has been arrested in connection with the bomb blasts. I would like to raise another issue of more importance. Shri Shivraj ji has given a statement in the House that the Police had no prior information about it. I was surprised on hearing this that neither he nor the police department had any information/warning in regard to probable attacks in Delhi. This is an absolutely false statement. All newspapers and the Police have accepted the fact that they had received a prior warning of these bomb blasts. Not only warning, but on 13th October, 2005, newspaper published that

[*English*]

Hyderabad and Cyberabad Police have stepped up security for American companies and US nationals following the alarm out by United States' Embassy on likelihood of terrorist attacks against establishments and citizens in Hyderabad, New Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta.

[*Translation*]

It was published in that day's newspapers and all the Police Officers confessed on the day of blasts that they had the information and that is why they seized a bomb in Chandni Chowk. In my opinion, this is a pure case of Parliamentary privilege as the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had said in the House that no prior warning was received. These kind of apprehensions always exist on the eve of festivals, therefore it would not be appropriate to say that there was no warning or information in this regard before Diwali or that the Home Ministry was not aware about it and the terrorist carried out a sudden attack. American authorities had sent a written warning to their Embassy in the capital about the likelihood of terrorist attacks in Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Kolkata. And, yet, if it is said that the Government were not aware of it, then it tentamounts to sluggish layback attitude and criminal negligence.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, prior to the blasts, intelligence reports were made available to the special cell of the Ministry of Home Affairs, but they were not able to take action. This was the second most severe attack in Delhi after the attack on Parliament which took place on the eve of a major festival and the Government has proved an utter failure in preventing this attack. One way to curb terrorism is to take proactive preventive measures before important occasions like republic day, independence day and the festivals. This year, this policy was not followed and its dreadful consequences are before us. After that

incident the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs and Shri Manmohan Singh ji issued statements, that the Govt. will not allow the terrorists to succeed in carrying out their heinous designs, that terrorism can not frighten us, and it will not be successful. Mr. Speaker, Sir, these statements do not hold water. In the country, where 80,000 people have fallen prey to the bullets of the terrorists and property worth lakhs and crores of rupees has been destroyed, the statement that the terrorist will not be allowed to be successful in their heinous designs does not hold good? India is the most terrorism infested country in the world. In Delhi blasts, 70 people were killed and 300 were injured. They were blown to pieces in bomb blasts and their faces were charred beyond recognition and here is a Government that claims that terrorism is not a success. In fact, terrorism has been successful in its nefarious designs. According to the Prime Minister, terrorism can not frighten us. But the question is whether we can petrify the terrorism, the terrorist or not? The question is not that whether we would be frightened by terrorism or not, but, the question is whether terrorism would be scared of us, whether we can curb terrorism or not. We are aware that terrorism can not defeat us. It is a very obsolete oft-repeated and worn out reaction on the incident to say that terrorist can not frighten us ignoring the bitter fact that terrorists came and killed 70 people and yet, normalcy was restored quickly. Similarly, 60,000 people have been killed in Jammu & Kashmir. It appears that we have not learned any lesson from history. Mohammed Gaznavi came, attacked the went back and we comforted ourselves by saying that, he did no harm to us, just killed a few people, and, yet, we are alive and engage in our daily chores. He came back with a long and then carried out repeated attacks one after the other and we are boasting of not being cowed down by terrorism, of limping back to normalcy, despite killings. This is a very obsolete, destructive and cowardly... * creation. It is being said, we are not afraid of Pakistan. What kind of reaction is this? There is no question of being afraid of Pakistan. Does Pakistan get afraid of us while carrying out these kind of activities? Can we hold straight talks with Pakistan or not? I was astonished when the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs gave the statement, that the needle of suspicion in serial bomb blasts in Delhi points towards our neighbouring country. Is there any problem in naming that neighbouring country? Why is the Government shy? In our society, the elders are not called by their names. Why is the Government hesitant is blaming Pakistan for

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

its involvement. All the people who had been arrested on the charges of carrying out attacks on Ram Mandir Ayodhya, were Pakistanis. At least 200 Pakistanis have been arrested on the charge of involvement in terrorism. RDX has been seized in such a large quantity that whole of Delhi could be devastated and the Government are saying that they will not name that country. If the Government do not take the name of that country, how would it explain Pakistan's role in terrorism before the world? How the Government will say, that Pakistan is sponsoring terrorist activities in our country? We are the only one who are not taking their names. Our Army officers are saying that ISI and Pakistan are sponsoring terrorist activities in our country. Pakistan continues to harbour terrorist activities in India.

In the context of Delhi, this obsolete argument holds no meaning that terrorist are doing all these things in utter desperation. In reality, the incident of Delhi is an example of terrorist's audacity. It is not an example of their desperation, but is a result of their audacity, and a conspiracy. The statement was given on Kashmir in the House in which it has been stated that the day our colleague Shri Azad Saheb's swearing in ceremony as the new Chief Minister of the State was taking place, terrorists gave him gift on this occasion and 12 persons were killed. It had appeared in the newspaper that:

[English]

"Jaish car bomb kills seven a day before Azad took charge in Srinagar". "Hours before Ghulam Nabi Azad was sworn in as new Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir today, a powerful explosion of Srinagar outskirts killed seven people including four civilians. Jaish-e-Mohammed later called a local news agency and claimed responsibility for the blast." "Terror gift for Azad on day one. Suicide Bomb. Five killed."

[Translation]

CRPF camp was attacked. 'Five persons including two terrorists were killed in Kashmir'. The incidents of explosion occurred continuously for three days. 40-50 people were killed. The details of discussion held with Pakistan, have been published in the newspapers. The situation in Kashmir is very grave and what type of statement is being given by our hon. Minister. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs says that whenever there is change of Government in Kashmir, such incidents do occur.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, nothing can be more terrible than this statement that when there is a change in Government such terrorist incidents do take place. When Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad was taking oath as the new Chief Minister, then terrorist incidents occurred there.

[English]

"They have taken their own time."

[Translation]

Before this, when Shri Mufti Mohammad Syed took oath, at that time also terrorist incidents occurred there. Is it proper to give such a reply in Lok Sabha that such incidents occur whenever new Governments come in power. If the Government was aware that whenever there is change in regime such incidents occur and since Mufti was vacating the Chief Ministership for Azad Saheb and the Government was aware that it would lead to such terrorist incidents, then what steps were taken by the Government to check such incidents? Why did the Government fail to check the terrorist incidents despite apprehensions in this regard?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, prior to this there was a very intense earthquake that caused wide spread devastation. It also devastated Kashmir. There was devastation in Pak occupied Kashmir as well. Naturally assistance should have been provided to them and that we are doing as well. We have provided 25 million dollars to Pakistan. We have provided nearly Rs. 100 crores to Pakistan and efforts were made by us to win the confidence of Pakistan by way of opening five posts along the LOC. It should have been done on humanitarian grounds and that we did.

However, what was its outcome? Our high rank Army officers are saying that nearly 400-500 terrorists have infiltrated into Srinagar on account of our opening the border after the earthquake. It could not be possible to prevent this infiltration. Now they are committing acts of terrorism.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it appropriate for Pakistan to take undue advantage of this gesture of humanity? Why are they sponsoring terrorism in India and the incidents of bomb explosion are occurring in Delhi? Who will raise such question and before whom such issues will be raised? I would like to know whether our priority should be to check terrorism or to open the border, the LOC so that they may take undue advantage of it.

Sir, we have given Rs. 100 crore to Pakistan, however no one bothered to know as to for what purpose this amount has spent. It is being reported that the money which is being provided, is not being utilised for providing houses to quake affected people. No one is there to see for what purpose this money is utilised. The members of Parliament from Pakistan have themselves stated in their Parliament that instead of providing assistance to earthquake affected people Pakistan is spending this amount for purchasing arms. Pakistan received 5 billion dollars from foreign countries which is being used for purchasing arms. Pakistan is taking undue advantage of our assistance by way of sending terrorists to our country and execute terrorist activities. Pakistan is not reconstructing those structures which had destroyed during earthquake, rather it is using our financial assistance in reconstruction of destroyed infrastructures of the terrorists camps. Should we not inquire for what purpose these amounts are being spent that we had provided as assistance?

Sir, India had proposed that our people would visit earthquake affected areas and provide assistance to the affected people, however, Pakistan did not allow us and told to provide assistance to them and they would provide this to the affected people. Indians were not allowed. It is known to the entire world that when Gujarat State was affected by earthquake, we had invited one and all to visit the affected area and provide assistance in whatever manner they could. We did not stop any country, however, Pakistan says that we should give assistance to Pakistan government and they would give it to the affected people. They did not allow Indians in their areas.

I would like to submit that the assistance that we are giving to Pakistan for earthquake affected people is being diverted to terrorists. They are reconstructing their infrastructures. Terrorists are taking advantage of the assistance. Have we offered Rs. 100 crores for the reconstruction of terrorists' infrastructures? Have we provided assistance to Pakistan to purchase arms? Why do our Government not talk to Pakistan in this regard? Instead of doing this our Government says that they are holding discussions with Pakistan. Our border, the LOC will be opened as a part of confidence building measures and the talks between India and Pakistan will go on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to quote the statement of an intelligence officer.

[English]

You cannot hold hand with General Musharraf in New York and refuse to castigate Pakistan for its continued support to cross border terrorism except to fight terror in India.

[Translation]

The Government is holding discussion with Musharrafji and after that deny that Pakistan is behind all these terrorist incidents. Then, we expect that our soldiers, armed forces will fight against terrorists in Delhi and eliminate terrorism. I do not understand as to what message do we want to give to them. Whether it is a signal to suppress terrorism or a message of friendship. Pakistan is sponsoring terrorism and we will continue to extend our hand of friendship. If there is such a situation then who will go there and fight them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am reading this statement. It is the statement of Mujamil Jail who is a reporter there—

[English]

"Terror sneaks in through quake cracks—When the devastating earthquake set off a fresh wave of peace and cooperation along the Line of Control, the J-K Police says, foreign militants infiltrated into the Valley in large numbers. Around 125 of them are suspected to have entered Srinagar city which has witnessed a sudden spurt of *fidayeen* and car bomb attacks."

[Translation]

It is the statement of our military, police from Srinagar. Mujamil Jail has given this statement there. Further he said that our General there,

[English]

Col. V.K. Batra said that the Army foiled three to four infiltration bids since the quake. "We killed 21 militants trying to infiltrate. However, some groups might have managed to sneak in taking advantage of the post-earthquake situation," he said. he too put the number of militants operating inside Srinagar city at around 100 as per the figures of various intelligence agencies.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, can there be any country in the world which can take undue advantage of goodwill gesture of its neighbour and start 'jihad' against it? This is the situation there. That is why I have submitted about the situation inside Kashmir and both the statements that were made before us. This is the position about those statements.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an inquiry Commission was constituted in America to investigate the 9/11 incident and it has been stated by that Commission that

[English]

"Pakistan continues to be a sanctuary and training ground for terrorists, a report on the status of recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission on terror attacks in the US has said, asking Washington to put pressure on the Government of Gen. Pervez Musharraf to stop the menace in his country and also in Kashmir. "Pakistan remains a sanctuary and training ground for terrorists," said a report by Mr. Lee Hamilton, the Vice-Chairman of the 9/11 public disclosure project, which examined action taken by the US administration on the recommendations of the Commission that probed..."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has further stated:

"Taliban forces still pass freely across Pakistan-Afghanistan border and operate in Pakistani tribal areas. Terrorists from Pakistan carry out operations in Kashmir. Finally, the results..."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, America have come to the conclusion that Pakistan is encouraging terrorism in Kashmir. But the attitude of America towards terrorism is not positive. On one hand, they say that America will fight against terrorism throughout the world whereas on the other hand it is extending open support to the most terrorist country i.e. Pakistan by giving it financial assistance, by providing arms and also by not putting any pressure on Pakistan for curbing the terrorist activities in Kashmir. For that matter it was America who was responsible for the creation of Taliban and it was America only which was responsible for the emergence of many terrorist organisations in the world but today Pakistan also. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not make running commentary please.

[Translation]

Malhotraji please continue.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had sent it back empty handed from Agra. Unlike you we had not offered them the one third of Kashmir on platter. We forced them to vacate our land ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singh, why are you interfering? Please sit down.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We had not offered them even an inch of our territory whereas they had ceded one lakh kilometer land to Pakistan and China. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nobody has given you the time to speak.

[English]

Mr. Manvendra Singh, please take your seat.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I was mentioning earlier and also as pointed out by some of my communist colleagues that America should have put a pressure and some other things were also referred to in context of America but the issue of Volcker report was not even touched. They supported the issue because it related to America. This Government is the most Pro-America Government so far vis-a-vis all the previous Governments. They have surrendered before America. Military exercises are undertaken with American. Sanctions are imposed on Iran toeing the American line. We sign nuclear treaty falling in line with America. However, we should also ask America for the same ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): They are more Americans than you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: India should have talked to America. But when they themselves do not condemn Pakistan, how they will ask America to do so. But whenever talks are held with America, the first question should be that when the issue relating to Delhi Bomb blast question was discussed in the British Parliament.

[English]

Delhi Bomb blast question was discussed in the British Parliament. It was been stated in the motion 'Attack on one democracy is an attack on all democracies.'

[Translation]

It was stated that everybody should come together to fight terrorism anywhere and in any form and all over the world and that they are prepared to help India. Be it SAARC summit or British Parliament or UNO or France or China with whosoever we hold talks with, they show their willingness to fight terrorism. The entire world has to make a collective effort to fight terrorism but the question is whether the terrorism in India could be curbed by other countries. The question is not that entire world is fed up with terrorism and they like to offer their support but whether we ourselves want to curb terrorism? whether our policies are anti-terrorism or pro-terrorism? My allegation is that we are abetting terrorism. We are letting terrorist go scot free and becoming their soft targets, they come and attack us anywhere, anytime because they knew it that nothing will happen to them. Tell me the name of any country in the world where stringent laws were not enacted against terrorism. Whereas in our country what we have done we had only POTA. Our's is such an unfortunate country which is most afflicted by terrorism where maximum number of people were killed by terrorists. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. Malhotra.

[Translation]

Nothing will go on record.

*... (Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singh, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: it will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The manner in which you are promoting terrorism, the future generations will tell you about your mistakes. You tell about it when your turn will come. Many speakers of your party are going to speak, therefore, there was no need for Mr. Sibal to interrupt. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, there is no need for you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Manvendra ji, please take your seat.

15.00 hrs.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing is to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not even a single word of other hon. Members is to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, British law is ten times stringent than that of ours. Now they are going to enact another law. It is a fact that India is not a police-state, we do not have a

monarchy here but we should understand that ours is a terrorist affected country. We are fighting terrorism. The only law to deal with terrorism has been repealed. Everybody knows that POTA has been repealed. Now it is also being said that no criminal should be hanged. No matter how many people are killed by terrorist, but now they cannot be hanged. Now there exist no law like POTA, in the other hand, terrorists are being glorified. Mr. Gilani has been presented as a hero. Ishrat had been awarded Rs. 1 lakh despite the fact she belonged to a terrorist group.

I do not want to say much in this regard. Third is Naxalism. An attack was made by the naxalites in Jharkhand. The figures have been provided here about the number of people killed during last few years. How many people were affected by naxalites. Till date, the number of naxalite incidents taking place are 1138 in which about 7-8 hundred people have been killed. Till 2003, 25 districts of the country were identified as naxalites affected which have now gone up to 125 districts. Ever since this Government come to power, within six months 200 districts have been affected by naxalites. Naxalism is on rise because at the time of elections you shake hands with them, use them for your help. For winning some seats in elections you take their help and destroy the country. From where these naxalites are coming? They are coming from Nepal. 75 districts of Nepal are naxalite affected. China is not supporting them, in fact they have sent weapons to the king of Nepal. Weapons are being sent to naxalites from India. CPM, CPI, Bengal and Assam all are affected by naxalites. UPA Government is solely responsible for the manner in which naxalism is spreading in the entire country.

I would like to mention one more thing. The Supreme Court is one of its ruling had commented on repealing of IMDT Act. If the Government are having any moral values, then it's head should be hanged in shame after this ruling. The Supreme Court said the Government are not paying requisite attention towards infiltration from Bangladesh. This is a kind of attack on the country. We are endangering our internal security by not paying attention in this regard. The Supreme Court said that political parties and political leadership are causing danger to security of the country by not deporting Bangladeshis and not repealing IMDT Act. Justice Lahoti said that political will is required to curb terrorism and political will is lacking at present. Terrorism cannot be curbed in the absence of political will. If the Supreme Court decision goes against the Government, then the question is not

*Not recorded.

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

what happened or not happened, or who did what at that time, but the question is about the policy. The Government had abolished POTA. People will continue to infiltrate from Bangladesh. The leaders will fight elections with the help of terrorists and naxalites and country's ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): How elections can be fought in connivance? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Their help was sought in elections of Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention that whether it may be a case of naxalites or bomb blast in Kashmir, we should make efforts to make intentions of Pakistan clear before the world. If some problem comes in talks with Pakistan, the ruling alliance start bothering about their minority votes. It should not be so. The steps are not taken against Pakistan for the sake of minority votes. The Government do not take action against terrorist because it may affect its Muslim vote bank. The Government is pushing the country in peril for the votes. ...*(Interruptions)* We want to level allegations against the Government. We want to level allegations against the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh.

(English)

We charge him of betraying the confidence of our nation imposed on him for winning a few seats.

We impeach the Government of betraying the nation for vote bank politics.

(Translation)

Now, the 'vote bank politics' is not played but 'note bank politics' is in vogue which has been highlighted by Volcker report. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to say that

(English)

"The waffling on Punjab and Manipur, the dismantling of the Hurriyat initiative through benign neglect and, finally the over-politicised withdrawal of POTA add up to formidable evidence of a combination of spinelessness and intellectual bankruptcy on issues of internal security. Surely, that is not what Shri

Manmohan Singh wishes to end up with so soon in his tenure."

(Translation)

This Government has totally shattered the internal security of the country within 18 months. Nobody had expected this. If the Government continue to promote Pakistan, naxalites, madrasas and infiltration from Bangladesh for the sake of minority vote, the country's internal security will get shattered and the history of Mir Jafar and Jaychand would be rewritten and the name of this Government's leaders would be remembered with them. Therefore, I would like to urge not to push the internal security of the country in danger.

(English)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir. The subject of discussion arises out of tabling of the four statements made by the hon. Home Minister before this august House. Two statements relate to the naxal attacks and two statements relate to the incidents of fundamentalist militant group's attack. The naxal attack took place on 11th November 2005 at Giridih Home Guard Training Camp and police camp at Jharkhand.

Another attack was effected by the Naxalites on the 15th of November, 2005 at Jehanabad jail and also at other places in Jehanabad in the State of Bihar. Then, another incident of terrorist attack effected by fundamentalist militant groups, took place in the capital of country on the 29th of October this year. A series of terrorist attacks took place on the 14th, 15th and 16th of November this year in the State of Jammu and Kashmir during the time when our former Parliamentary Affairs Minister and our distinguished colleague, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad took oath as the new Chief Minister of that particular State.

Sir, I heard, with rapt attention, the speech of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. He is a very senior colleague of ours. The impression I got from what he said was that he wants a total war to be declared against Pakistan as well as Bangladesh in order to curb this menace of militancy in our country. I would not like to dwell on that point.

Sir, two kinds of attacks are being talked about— one is the attack by the Naxalites and another is the

attack by the fundamentalist militant groups. I would, first, like to refer to the Naxalite attack at Giridih in Jharkhand and at Jehanabad in Bihar. I do not agree with what has been said by Prof. Malhotra in regard to Naxalite activities. He, in his speech, has accused the Government at the Centre saying that for the purpose of winning the last elections in the State, the Central Government had colluded with the Naxalite groups. The Central Government was hobnobbing with the Naxalite groups only for the purpose of winning the electoral battle in the State. That is not the fact.

Sir, we must have to find out the root cause as to why the Naxalite activities are taking place in our country. The Naxalite movements in different States like Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra have started because of some reasons. There are reasons behind it. What are those reasons? The reasons primarily are hunger, starvation and deprivation. It is since 58 years that we have got Independence. At the time of our Independence our leaders promised to the nation that we shall look after the welfare of the poor; we shall look after the welfare of the downtrodden; we shall look after those people who are living in the remote areas of this country, completely detached from the urban areas. But what has happened? Only some sections of people have grown richer by the day and a vast majority of people in this country have become poorer with passage of time.

Sir, who are these Naxalites? They are the people who have been deprived for all these years. They did not get land. Land reforms in the true sense has taken place only in three States, namely, West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura. Though a large number of States in this country have enacted legislation in regard to land reforms but the provisions of the Act has not been implemented in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and such other States. There are in existence the *Kulaks* and the *Zamindars* in different States of our country. The lands are mostly occupied by these classes of *Kulaks* and *Zaminders*. The people belonging to the poorer sections of the society are mostly tribals or aboriginals and most of them belong either to the Scheduled Castes or to the Scheduled Tribes or to the *dalit* community. They are yet to be strengthened by the effect of the land reforms in this country.

Thousands and thousands of acres of land are wasted. Not a single *patta* is given to the tiller of the soil. They have got no land. They have become poorer and poorer day by day. We must go and look into the

root causes of this problem. I think our colleagues will agree with me. Even Prof. Malhotra and his Party will agree with me that no AK-47 or the arms and ammunition or forces like the BSF can deal with the naxalites. They cannot combat the problem. Gun is not the solution to the naxal problem. The solution is that the poor and downtrodden people should be allotted land. They should be given their land back to them and should be given the right of the land which is their ancestral property. Due to poverty, they have sold it out to the landlords or some tillers or *kulaks*. Now the lands are in the hands of the landlords. Even after 57 years of our Independence, no land is distributed to the poor people excepting the States like West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura. No other State has done it. This is the fact. Nobody can deny it.

Who have created the naxal problem? The rulers of the country have created the naxal problem in our country. You go and see the position in big cities like Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi. There are big five star hotels and behind them are the slums. The MPs and Ministers are enjoying their stay in the five star hotels like The Sheraton in Mumbai and Regency in Kolkata. There are big hotels in Delhi also. Behind such hotels are big slums. Poor people are living there. Why?

We are not supporting the political line of the naxalites. The CPI, the CPI (M) and other Left Parties have ideological differences with the naxalites. We do not support the political line of the naxals. But the question is more number of poor people are joining the naxal movement. They believe that this is the path and line they have to follow. They think that this is the line to follow against the people who are exploiting them. They are fighting against their exploiters. I urge upon the Government and the Opposition Parties to please implement the land reforms. They are capturing some State Administrations. I am urging you to eliminate poverty by implementing the land reforms. This is the only way to deal with the naxals. The Chief Minister of West Bengal has declared it and the West Bengal Government has decided to start development works more vigorously in the villages and tribal areas. Our Chief Minister has requested the MPs of West Bengal to utilise the MPLAD funds for the development of the tribal areas. They are undeveloped. No development work has been done there since Independence. It is the duty of the State Government and the Central Government to look after proper implementation of the land reforms, proper development of the downtrodden people of the tribal areas and those who are living in the remote areas of the

[Shri Ajay Chakraborty]

country. It is our duty to bring those people to the mainstream of the country so that they feel that they are living in the mainstream and are not subject to any sort of deprivation and negligence.

Coming to the aspect of fundamental militant group, my distinguished friend, Prof. Malhotra said one point. I may be wrong. If I am wrong, I will be happy. He said that an immediate war should be declared against Pakistan to demolish Pakistan. He narrated some portions. But I say to Prof. Malhotra that humanity is above all these things. Indirectly he has been opposing opening the LOC to render financial assistance to the quake affected areas there.

He is opposing, in another way, to provide relief materials to the earthquake-victims of Pakistan. People of Pakistan are not our enemies. People of both Pakistan and India are friends. The common people of Pakistan want friendship with the people of India. We are Indians. We want friendship with the people of Pakistan. They are not our enemies. No doubt, their rulers create problems in our country. He was targeting Pakistan rulers and its President. I also agree with him. But the question is, who are the people who are pulling the strings from behind the scene. He said, that "I am happy, that the present Government is more pro-American than the NDA Government." I do not know which is more pro-American, whether it is the UPA Government or the NDA Government. I am not going into that matter. But the question is who are the creators of terrorism."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: These names will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: "The terrorism created by the fundamental militant groups is not just affecting India. The day before yesterday there was a serious bomb blast in Chittagong and Gazipur areas of Bangladesh. It had happened in Jordan. It had happened in different countries of the world. It is not the problem of India alone. No doubt, it is the greatest problem of our country.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The names mentioned by hon'ble Member should be deleted.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: This is happening and this has happened in different countries of the world. This had happened in Sri Lanka, in Pakistan, in Bangladesh, day before yesterday, in Jordan, in Egypt, in U.K. and in U.S.A. Who has created terrorism? America has created all these problems. ..."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This will be expunged.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: They demolished Afghanistan. America destroyed Iraq. Is it for President Bush to decide as to who will be the President of Iraq?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not mention the names of our friendly countries in this way. They are our friendly countries. Do not take their names in this way.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, respectfully, I would like to say that American people are our friends.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are mentioning the names.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: "

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not allow this. I will expunge them.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, when America attacked Iraq, a discussion took place in this august House. They indiscriminately attacked Iraq.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak without mentioning names.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: They destroyed schools, colleges and hospitals in Iraq. They are the main terror. Our former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee went to New York and met President Bush and the present hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh also met President Bush. He assured them that they will see to it that Pakistan stops cross border terrorism. The

*Not recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Not recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

American President came here. He met our leaders. He went to Pakistan also. He met Pakistan's President and other leaders. What happened thereafter? Had he sincerely and seriously tried to stop cross border terrorism, he must have warned President Musharaf not to indulge in cross border terrorism in our country, particularly in Kashmir. ...(*Interruptions*)

Who is sponsoring Jaish-e-Mohamad, Lashkar-e-Toiba and Hizbul Mujahideen? No doubt, Pakistan is sponsoring them. Had America been sincere, eager or serious to stop cross border terrorism and destabilising our country, they could have stopped it. They could have warned President of Pakistan not to indulge in any activity that destabilises India.

These things are going on. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech now. I have a long list of speakers with me.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: I am sorry to say, I was the prime mover. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a request. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your party time is only 4 minutes.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I should be given some more time. Actually, I have given the notice. You please see the List. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your party time is only 4 minutes.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: I shall conclude within 3 minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your party time was only 4 minutes but I have given you more than 15 minutes.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I shall always carry out your orders. I shall conclude within 3 minutes.

Regarding the militant and fundamentalist groups, I say our Government should tread cautiously. I had a supplementary question day before yesterday also. Everybody knows what happened in Delhi. More than 60-70 lives had been lost. In one case, the children have lost their parents. Now, they have lost the grandparents

after the assassination of their parents. The children are living under the blue sky. Even their father had taken a loan from a bank for construction of his house. Now, after the assassination of their parents and the death of their grandparents, the bank issued notice to the children to repay the loan taken for that house. Who will repay the loan of the bank?

Sir, I do not know whether the Government has declared *ex-gratia* relief to the victim families of those who were assassinated or were seriously injured. I do not know whether all the people have got the relief. After the intervention of hon. Speaker, I asked the home Minister about this but there was no reply from him. During the course of the inquiry if it is revealed that there was a failure of the Intelligence Bureau or a failure of some police personnel or it was due to the negligent act of some police personnel, due to which that unfortunate happening took place in the heart of Delhi of our country, I urge the Government of India to modernize our police forces not only in Delhi but in other States also.

The Jharkhand Government as well as other States are urging the Government of India to render all possible financial assistance so that they can modernize their own police force and armed forces. As regards Delhi police force, they are equipped with very sophisticated arms and ammunition. But the position of other State Governments is that they are not getting or obtaining any financial assistance for upgrading and modernizing the police forces. I would urge before the Government of India to look into the matter seriously, tighten our security forces, upgrade and modernize all the police forces and boost the morale of the police forces so that they can combat with the militant and terrorist groups.

What happened in Kashmir? This is a new series of incidents which took place on the 14, 15 and 16 November of this year. This is a continuous process. So, we must earn the confidence of the people of the Jammu and Kashmir so that they can consider themselves the people of India. They can consider that they are the citizens of the independent country. If we do not boost the morale and earn the confidence of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, we cannot combat with these militant groups.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Home Ministry, because the Defence Minister is not here, that our Defence Forces, para-military forces, police forces

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

should behave with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in a more friendly way. The people of Jammu and Kashmir should treat our forces as friend. The attitude of Force should be friendly to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We should start a process to earn the confidence and faith of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. They are the citizens of independent India and they should not join the militant groups.

So, I hope the Government of India will look into the matter seriously and deal with the matter. I hope it is not a matter of any one political party or only the ruling party. It is a matter of the whole House. Cutting across party lines, we should come together to fight against the militant groups and save our country from the hands of the militant groups sponsored by the foreign countries.

With these words, I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to intervene in the Discussion under Rule 193 raised by my good friend Prof. Malhotra.

Sir, I was very much saddened but not surprised by the tenor of the debate and the tenor of the comments made by my good friend. He started off by saying, by criticising the Prime Minister of India when he said that "we will not allow terrorism to succeed in India." He took exception to that statement and it is thereby implied that terrorism was successful in India. *...(Interruptions)* When the Prime Minister of India says "we will not allow terrorism to succeed" I hope he is speaking on behalf of the nation and that no political party in this country, no section of any community in this country will allow terrorism to succeed. When a leader of a major political party sitting in the Opposition says that terrorism is successful in India, I wonder what message he is sending to the terrorists in Pakistan. I think that leaders in the Opposition, merely because they are in the Opposition, should be concerned with national interest before they make statements like. They should not give a message to the terrorists that we are a nation divided. *...(Interruptions)* That message should never be given. *...(Interruptions)*

I remember that when terrorists attacked Parliament, when terrorists attacked the Akshardam Temple, when terrorists attacked our pilgrims on the Amamath Yatra,

when terrorists attacked people in Kashmir, when we were in the Opposition, we stood with the Government. So, I take exception to a party and to a leader of a party which calls itself nationalist, which is sending a message as if this is a nation divided. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Shall I show you all the speeches made by your Members? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: We never interrupted you. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You cannot say that you supported us. Shall I show you the speeches made by your party Members at that time? *...(Interruptions)* Shall I bring the speeches of your party Members who were in the Opposition at that time and show you? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am not yielding. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Interruptions are not to be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You do not yield to me. Do not tell here that you supported us and you never opposed us. Do not say like this.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: If you are engulfed by darkness, try and light the lamp. It will give you some light instead of interrupting me. *...(Interruptions)*

Then, my learned friend said we never named Pakistan. What is happening today? There is an investigation going on. The investigation has not yet been completed. The case has not come to trial. No charge-sheet has been filed. Are we to believe that a responsible Government in this country will start naming nations, in particular investigations, before the charge-sheet is filed? That used to happen when they were in power.

When charge-sheets were filed, they used to say their leaders are not at fault even when they were charge-sheeted. It happened in the Ayodhya case. You used to say, "Advaniji is not at fault. He is innocent when a charge-sheet had been filed against him." These are acts of an irresponsible Government and irresponsible leaders. I want to assure this House that we do not want to follow your footsteps of irresponsibility. We are a responsible nation and a responsible Government, and

*Not recorded.

we will name the country and the Government only when we decide to file the charge-sheet and have proof against that country and that Government. I am proud of the fact that my Prime Minister has taken this position. I am absolutely amazed. I remember when they were in power and terrorist attacks were taking place and the '*Lauh Purush*' was the Home Minister of India. I remember the famous statement which I can never efface from my mind. He said that after I have become the Minister, I will follow the policy of hot pursuit against Pakistan. All of us remember that. Now, that policy of hot pursuit was never followed. Then, he said, 'No', I have a proactive policy against Pakistan. Then, that proactive policy was also not followed. Then, it became a reactive policy. And ultimately it is an inactive policy. So, this was a journey from 'hot pursuit' to 'inactivity'. That is your track record on Pakistan and on terrorism. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: If you do not see the light, please light the lamp if you are troubled with darkness and you have the 'Lotus'. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Darkness is before you and nothing else. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The floor will be given to you also. Your Party member will speak Mr. Swain. They can also get time to respond.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I also remember that the then Home Minister also said that we will issue a White Paper on ISI. All of us remember that. The entire five-year term passed, no White Paper was issued on ISI. Why were you not afraid to name Pakistan then? Why were you not afraid to issue the White Paper on ISI and the role of the ISI? You were in power; you were in Government. What prevented you? The problem is when you are in Opposition, you speak in one tone and when in Government, you speak in an absolutely different tone. I am surprised that a man as senior as Mr. Malhotra said on the record of this House and I am pained by that. He said, "America gave birth to the Taliban." These were his words. Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I hope, you strike them out. But, this is what he said. I would like to know from him when they were in

Government—on the record of Parliament—did they ever say that? Did any leader say that in Parliament, outside Parliament, to the United States of America and in international forums? Surely, if America gave birth to the Taliban, then that birth to the Taliban was given much earlier, a long time ago. How is it that during the five-year period, when they were in power, they never said any of this? Why is it that they are saying it now when in Opposition? Mr. Malhotra must explain.

It is because we are not doing politics here when having a debate of this serious nature. We are to stand united to fight against terrorism. Ultimately, who was, in fact, compromising with the Taliban at that point in time? Who took the trip to Kandhar? I would like to know. Who went along with Talibanese? Who ultimately set up terrorist organisations which, in fact, resulted in infiltration and killings of hundreds of innocent people in India? You compromised with them; you went with the Talibanese and handed them over to Pakistan. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Have the courage to speak when you have the time! Less said the better about you because you are vanishing in Maharashtra any way. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kapil Sibal.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Why are you afraid? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, your party Member will also speak. He can reply to whatever he has said. So, I request you not to disturb the speaker.

Mr. Sibal, I request you also to address the Chair, not him.

*Not recorded.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am not addressing him, Sir, not even once.

Sir, I also remember—and this is very important—that the then Home Minister gave a list of 20 terrorists, wrote to Pakistan and said: 'I want these top 20 terrorists who are residing in Pakistan' and the first name in that list was that of Dawood Ibrahim. What happened? Did they achieve any success? Did they raise the issue? Did they tell Pakistan that we would not talk to you till such time you supply at least one of the 20 terrorists? Were steps taken to get Dawood Ibrahim? They knew that he was living in Karachi. They knew the house number. They had intelligence reports. What did they do? Nothing.

They are now blaming the Government for not being vigilant. What happened in Kargil? Infiltrators came in, but there was no information with the Government. Nobody knew about it and ultimately a Minister solemnly said, the Government solemnly said, 'we heard about the infiltration ultimately from the shepherds'. This was the level of vigil that they kept when Pakistani infiltrators and terrorists came into India and occupied our territories and we had to lose almost 800 lives to reclaim our territory. Who was responsible for that? Who kept that vigil? So, before he makes allegations like this, Mr. Malhotra should look at the past, look at the credit that he has for the lack of vigil when their Government was in power.

Sir, I am also very surprised that he has said that they are very happy that help was given during the earthquake and that Rs. 100 crore were given. We are very happy about that. But he has said that the fact of the matter is that that money is now being misused for other purposes and we should monitor it. I do not know what systems there are in international law to monitor when Government give money for relief when human tragedies of this magnitude take place. If there is a system in place, certainly we will be more than happy to take the suggestion from Mr. Malhotra. But he did not make the suggestion as to how this was to be done. He made an allegation and because he is in the Opposition he is bound to make the allegation.

Sir, I remember—and this is speaking from the record—that, in fact, a very serious allegation was made by some Members of the British Parliament when money was sent for the Bhuj earthquake victims in Gujarat. It was said that a large part of that money was diverted for terrorist activities within India and we all know ultimately how that money was used. We, in fact, have to fight two

battles in this country and this Government is determined to fight both, the terrorists without and the terrorists within.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Then you should cross over to this side if you were in agreement with me. Why does walk across the aisle and come over here?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Punea): This is what we are saying. ... (Interruptions) We are comfortable here.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: That is why you cannot be agreement with me because you are comfortable there. He is right. I really marveled at my learned friend's sense of innocence. He understands everything and pretends not to.

This is the sad part. Money was used. Money was sent for earthquake victims, but money was not used by a political party for earthquake victims. Nothing can be greater shame in this country.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Can he yield for a moment?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: No, I am not yielding.

They say that the Prime Minister of India has never protested against Pakistan. He is a student of politics and a practicing politician. My learned friend should know that when the Prime Minister met President Bush he said, "there can be no double standards, one for big powers and one for countries like India". He said that openly. When he went to see President Musharraf, he said the same thing that the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan has not been dismantled and you must dismantle it. Recently, when he went to SAARC, what did he say? He said, "zero tolerance towards terrorism", and he meant it. Not like their Prime Minister who said, "zero" and became zero.

That is the sad part that when you are in the Opposition, you speak a different language. That is why what happened to them in 2004. That is the result of these kind of speeches and these kind of positions. They

*Not recorded.

told us, when we were asking some questions during the Kargil War, that we are pro-terrorists and what are they doing today. They are playing into the hands of terrorists instead of showing to the world that they are standing united as a country.

They talk about British democracy, Volcker Report. as if Volcker is Golvalker. ...*(Interruptions)* They can import fascism into this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Do not get afraid. I want to tell the reality. ...*(Interruptions)*
I would like to tell you yours reality. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

They praise British democracy. When Mr. Tony Blair, the Prime Minister of England, talks about terrorist attacks in Delhi, he says, it is an attack against democracy. Well, if the kind of unity that Mr. Tony Blair is showing, they should at least show in this House. Please show that unity in this House. Mr. Tony Blair, who is not a citizen of India, Prime Minister of another country showing unity towards the Indian Government to fight terrorism. They are citizens of this country, members of a responsible political party, and they are not showing that unity towards the Government of this country. What is the message that the terrorists will get? It is sad, very sad. It is a shame.

They talk about POTA, without reading POTA. This is the problem, Sir. There have been two amendments made in POTA. Let me make it very clear today. What are those amendments? Number one, that you can get bail after one year in custody. Previously, you could not get bail till the public prosecutor was allowed to oppose it and did not agree. Now, you can actually get bail. Number two, a confession to a police officer is not admissible in evidence. That is all. ...*(Interruptions)* There is nothing more.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Yes, that is all. We know that. POTA has been abolished, that is what they say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded, except Shri Kapil Sibal's submission.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Swain, please take your seat.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Now, these are two amendments that we have made. Under the British law, a confession to a police officer is not admissible evidence. Under the British law, you can get bail immediately. So, if you do not know the British law, why do you criticise? In fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know very well that in the debate that took place in Parliament in England recently, they wanted to make the law more stringent. What was the contemplated charge? They wanted to allow the investigating authority to keep the accused in custody for 90 days instead of the regular 30 days. That was rejected by the British Parliament on the ground that it was a violation of human rights. Whereas in India under POTA, you can keep a man in custody for 180 days. Now, if you do not know and you do not again read, what can I do? I cannot help you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I read it. You are not the only person to read it. We also read it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I was just trying to inform you in case you do not know. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whoever speaks without my permission shall not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: POTA represents the most stringent piece of legislation anywhere in the world. It is the most stringent piece of legislation even after the amendment of those two provisions that I have talked about. So, the law is there. The argument was, you have done away with POTA and there is resurrection of terrorism. But when Akshardham was attacked, POTA was in place. When Parliament was attacked, POTA was in place. When the Amamath pilgrims were attacked, POTA was in place. ...*(Interruptions)* What happened? Nothing happened. Action is being taken now. After the investigation, that action will still be taken.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

The point that I am making is that POTA or no POTA, terrorism is a global phenomenon and must be dealt with unitedly together as a nation without any politics. This argument of POTA being effective to tackle terrorism is again only a political argument. It is not a nationalistic response by a responsible political party.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except what Shri Kapil Sibal says.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kapil Sibal, I have already said that your speech will only be recorded and nothing else.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Then, my good friend talked about terrorism. He talked about Jehanabad and Nepal, not knowing Jehanabad is in north Bihar and Nepal is 300 kilometres away. I do not understand what the Jehanabad activity has got to do with Nepal. I can understand the close contact between some political leaders and the North East terrorists. That I can understand. That we all know about. I do not understand the connection between Jehanabad and terrorists somewhere else. That is also a matter of public knowledge. ...*(Interruptions)* So, this is not a partisan issue.

Sir, it happened in my constituency, which is why I stand here and speak today.

A lot of people lost their lives. Young children, and innocent women lost their lives for no reason at all. Most of them were looking forward to the celebrations for Diwali and suddenly this human tragedy befell them. I have to say that members of his political party in my constituency were more responsible than Vijay Kumar Malhotraji. I could see the *rehriwalas*, *dukandars*, neighbours, men and women leaving everything and coming together to save the victims; to help them reach hospitals and not to make incendiary speeches; not to divide the nation. How is it that the BJP workers witnessing the tragedy think differently from Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. Perhaps they are not as political as Malhotraji is. And I pray to God that the citizens of this country, no matter to what political party they belong to, do not inject politics into a debate which requires a national unified response. It is time for

us to think about those victims and how we are to take care of them. It is time to think about ways and means of empowering our enforcement authorities to be able to get enough and sufficient information through technology to be able to help in finding out as to whether such attacks in future can be prevented. It is time for us to realize that this can happen to you and me tomorrow as we walk along the streets not knowing as to what our next step will bring for us. In that milieu, in that crowd and in Chhe Tootee Chowk, people of my constituency were just going about leading their ordinary life, buying sweets not knowing as to what was going to befall them the next moment. Terrorism is a scourge. It has the habit of attacking you and I without any notice under any law. They choose the time, they choose the place and they choose the opportunity. I think that when you are fighting this kind of a battle, you should choose your words before you make a speech of a serious nature in Parliament and try to divide the country. Buy I know the voice of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra will be drowned in the collective wisdom of our people. It is part of every citizen's conscience in this country. His lone voice will never succeed but the nation will and the Government will.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (Burdwan): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while taking part on the statement made by our hon. Home Minister on Internal Security, specially in dealing with the terrorist attacks and the naxalites, I heard Prof. Malhotra with rapt attention. But I am sorry to say that he is nicely repaid by Mr. Sibal. What I want to say mainly is that he—hon. Home Minister—outlined the measures that the Government is going to take in dealing with the extremists. We can understand the case of Jammu and Kashmir where the terrorist activities increase or decrease due to some special reasons; cross border terrorism being the reason in most of the cases. But what about Delhi and North Eastern States?

16.00 hrs.

There is no doubt that there are serious lapses. Vigilance is not up to the required mark. Our hon. Minister of Home Affairs cannot avoid his responsibility telling us that the conspiracies are made outside Delhi. That would not serve our purpose. Lapses in the Intelligence Wing led to mishaps. So, more vigilance and a better intelligence set up are required. At the same time, co-operation of the people is earnestly required to deal with the situation.

16.01 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

May I ask what is happening in Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, and Assam? One officer accompanying us in Kohima made a serious joke. He told us that dual governments ran in their States: one during day hours and one during the hours after dusk sets in. That is the position in the North-Eastern States. We know that the Government is making compromises with divisive forces and making the problems more critical. Those extremists are using or were using the neighbouring countries, especially Myanmar, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Myanmar and Bhutan responded to the call made by India and pushed those extremists to our territory but we are sorry that Bangladesh, our friendly neighbouring country, is not behaving in the same manner.

The hon. Minister of Home Affairs was elaborating on the list of organisations but failed to make any comment regarding the functioning of the KLO in northern parts of West Bengal and some parts of Assam. The KLO, which is doing harm in the northern parts of West Bengal has been omitted in his remarks. Apart from these problems, the most important fact is that now for narrow political gains and to win some seats in elections, many parties are having ties with disruptive and divisive forces. The main partner of the UPA also cannot be spared. What happened in Tripura? The joined hands with anti-nationals to win the elections. That was the policy followed by them. Everyone here is aware of the fact that the naxalite movement is not confined only to Bihar or Jharkhand. The disease is spread over many countries.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, an important discussion is going on and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is not present in the House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): The hon. Minister of State, Shri Gavit is present, but Cabinet Minister is absent. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Nikhilanand Sar.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am on my legs. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, no Cabinet Minister is present in the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Lal Singh ji, what are you doing. You may sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Nothing is going on in the record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, the discussion on such an important topic is going on in the august House and Government's representatives are not present in the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Geete ji, you are senior Member. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Surendra Prakash Goyal, this is not fair. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, discussion on such an important subject is going on and no Cabinet Minister is present in the House. Censor motion should be passed in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a very serious matter. It is a collective responsibility of the Government.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Goyal ji, what are you doing. Go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: If the Government is not serious, there is no use of our participation in the discussion. People are being misled. Therefore, censor motion should be brought. The Government is not serious in this matter. It is not properly represented in the House. The discussion on serious matter like internal security is going on. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ansari, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on in the record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter is very serious. The House is aware the seriousness of the matter. All of you are aware of it. It is a collective responsibility of the Government. The Minister of state is present over here.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, I am on a point of order. The Cabinet Minister should have been there. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY

HANDIQUE): Everything is going on as per the schedule. Only one Minister has gone out and another Minister has come in. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go in the record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go in the record except the speech of Shri Nikhilananda Sar.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: The disease has spread in many States, but it is strange. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Nikhilananda Sar.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR: It is strange that there is no naxalite movement in Bengal from where it started. There is no naxalite movement in Bengal now. How did we tackle it there? As you know, Naxalbari is the name of place in North Bengal. When did it start? It started in 1967. When the Congress misrule in Bengal came to an end, the people had high aspirations and they started the movement. They started grabbing land there. They want to kill the landlords. They started killing constables as if constables were the agents of the landlord and cause of their misery. They burnt the educational institutions. Finally, they started to bring down the statues of eminent persons of Bengal. This thing went on for some time. Our leaders, mainly the Left leaders, dealt with the situation firmly because it was change of Government only and there was no revolution or total change in the country. We fought a hard battle and sacrificed many of our comrades. They were brutally killed by the naxalites. Finally, we were successful to make them realise that there was change of rulers but not the system. So, at present, there is no naxalite movement in Bengal. It was a very hard task. Finally, the common people lost faith in the naxalite movement.

The Congress Party, instead of denouncing their acts, helped them in whatever way they could. Sir, one word 'Conxal' had come up. During daytime, one person was a Congressman and during night, he turned into a

naxalite. As a result, another breed called 'Conxal' came up. That was the situation during those days. Our friends failed to realise the actual situation and helped them in many ways.

Still, stray incidents are taking place there. In the border areas of Jharkhand, they are adopting hit-and-run policy. They are coming there, creating mischief and flee away into Jharkhand. This is the position there. Such incidents took place in two or three districts of Bengal.

Of course, land movement got momentum during the United Democratic Front, UDF regime and especially in Left Front regime, thousands of acres of land, which were grabbed by landlords through court cases, were distributed to the landless and ample credit was given and minor irrigation was developed. For these reasons, West Bengal, which was a deficit State, turned into a surplus State regarding food production. So, there is no room for naxalite movement in West Bengal at present.

I would request the Home Minister that only better weapons cannot solve the problem. We know what happened in Vietnam. America was on the one side and the poor people of Vietnam were on the other. America had to admit defeat. With country-made goods and ordinary weapons, they actually forced America to quit Vietnam. So, you have to take some measures, and especially the land reform measures, to win over people. If you cannot adopt these measures seriously, the discontent will grow further and you cannot check it.

Disparity between the rich and the poor has grown manifold. While only 10 to 15 per cent of our population is enjoying a good standard of life, there are more than 80 per cent of the people of the other side. This economic disparity between haves and have-nots must be minimised. Progressive measures in land reforms should be initiated immediately in all the States.

At the same time, homestead eviction should be stopped forthwith. Tribal people should not be evicted from the forestlands on which they have been living for centuries. Tribal people are facing a new threat of being evicted from their forestland. This should be stopped. The Central Government should take initiative, in consultation with all the States, to do these things at least. Otherwise, the commitment of *Bharat Nirman* of the UPA Government will only remain on paper. The Government has to do these things so that the poor people can realise that they are also members of the

modern society, civilised society. Otherwise, this disparity would bring the country to disaster.

I hope that the Government would realise the present position and take action immediately in the right direction. They may purchase sophisticated arms and ammunition and technical gadgets. At the same time, simultaneously they have to take up pro-people measures so that discontent among the common people can be removed.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, two kinds of problems are being discussed here one is related to terrorism and the other is related to naxalite or maoist movement going on in the country. Both these problems can be tackled in different ways. Respected Malhotraji is not present here. I was listening to him very attentively. All terrorist activities whether it is bomb blast in Delhi or terrorist activities taking place now and then in Delhi are sponsored by our neighbouring country. The people of that country and some misguided youth of our country, who are imparted training over there are involved in it. This problem can be tackled to certain level, but complete solution of this problem is not possible. If a neighbouring country is determined to create unrest, the problem cannot be solved. An opportunity knocked at our door when India could have taken stringent step and world opinion would not have gone against us. That was when terrorist attacked Indian Parliament, I remember, at that time Atalji had called all party meeting in the Prime Minister's House. At that time, I said this is the only opportunity, when terrorism can be completely uprooted and world opinion will not go against us. Otherwise, in today's world, action cannot be taken against any country of the world. It changes the global opinion. They missed the real opportunity. Now, leveling allegation on other people will not work. I was astonished, when he was saying that nobody was having prior information about Delhi blast. I want to submit whether what Shri Kapil Sibalji was saying is not true that thousands of miles of land was under enemy occupation in Kargil and they got information about it from a shepherd. At that time, they were in power. The people of no other country would have tolerated even for single day such type of Government and would have forcibly removed it from the power. Very serious crime was committed by the Government during their regime. I am not defending anyone. However, no Government of any country might

[Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav]

have committed so much carelessness and would have neglected the security of the nation that was committed by their Government. Whatever incidents happened afterward or is happen at present but now situation has completely changed and so we cannot attack our enemy—now situation has become so complex that nothing can be done. However, situation can be controlled by way of holding talks with them and tension can be reduced and situation have also improved. It does not mean that there is comparative decline in terrorist activities. Presently, terrorist activities have increased in Kashmir and they have increased their area of operation up to Ayodhya. In order to tackle the situation there is need to improve intelligence network especially the electronic surveillance as modern equipments have come in the market. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is sitting here. If more fund is required to purchase modern electronic surveillance equipments, more fund should be allocated. Terrorists are causing damage to life and property and their activities can be checked only when the Government are much vigilant. It is very essential as there is no other way out particularly in a terrorist situation which are evolving.

There is only one super power in the world with the emergence of unipolar world scenario. Since then there is no checks and balance situation at the international level. Which so even country has US back up can do mischief anywhere. This country usually act like this. Now the opposition is opposing America, however, it is their party which always supported America. We always pointed out that it is dominating over others. It was on account of its interference in our foreign policy that recently we along with the Marxist and Left parties had to resort to demonstration. We have been pursuing independent foreign policy for a long time, however, suffered a serious blow when we were asked to make reply within half an hour either in support or in opposition. We were asked to reply within half an hour whether we will vote against Iran in favour of U.S. or not. Only big brother can threaten like this and our Government bowed to that threat. However, I would like to remind or Government that our country is the second biggest country of the world in terms of population. Will we yield to that threat? We should learn from Cuba. Cuba lies in close proximity to the U.S. and one can travel from Mumbai to Havana in one hour by boat. It did not bow to the U.S. The population of Cuba is hardly 1.10 to 1.11 crore. We should have learnt something from them. It is against our culture and tradition to yield to any pressure. It is very shameful on the part of our Government to act like this. One

blunder was committed by them and God knows whether present Government will undo it or not. However, in order to tackle terrorism we will have to adopt electronic surveillance, border surveillance and will have to equip our intelligence with sophisticated equipments. That is the only way left. Now we are not in a position to attack any other country and discipline them. We have exhausted that opportunity.

As far as the second part of the question is concerned, whether it is Jahanabad or Giridih or any place in Chhattisgarh or in Uttar Pradesh like Sonbhadra and Chandauli, whatever is happening there is more dangerous.

LTTE had trained PWG in South. Now they have spread their area of operation to Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh border. Then from Jharkhand they penetrated to Bihar. Kapil Sibbalji was submitting that distance does not matter. Maoists have also given training and they have been trained in Nepal as well. Whenever Jaiswalji, who is our Minister of Home Affairs visits U.P. he speaks whatever he likes. His party is in power in the State. There was President's Rule in the State. Jahanabad was cordoned. The police did not fire at all. Had they fired a single bullet it would have certainly hit someone out of the band of those one thousand persons. Buta Singhji is telling that he had information. If he had information then what measures were taken in this regard? I would not like to go in detail in allegations and counter allegations in this regard as it will not solve any problem. It is the problem of the country. The people of the country expect that the Parliament will certainly find out some solution to it either by formulating any legislation or incorporating changes in the system. We will have to go into the root cause of this movement and why the people are forced to take up arms.

Once I was reading an article published in Hindustan Times. It is an old story. Then the Naxal movement had just started. That article was written by one scholar. I do not remember his name. The title of the article was "Roots of Revolution". In that article the author had given an illustration about a tradition prevailing in Santhal Pargana that if anyone takes loan his grandson will have to work for the money lender in order to pay interest. There one person had major parts of land holding and the people of 'an-twenty village in and around used to be landless labourers. The condition was so explosive. If the son of any landless labourer got married, it was mandatory for

his bride to go to the Jamindar's house and oblige him only then she would go to her husband. One young man could not tolerate such injustice and shot the Jamindar dead. It was mentioned in that article after that incident the rate of interest came down from three hundred percent to merely 12 per cent.

[English]

This is the root of revolution.

[Translation]

There are lakhs of crores of people in the country who do not have even single inch of land. In our Sonbhadra people have been tilling thousands of lakhs of acres of land since the days of their forefathers and are still doing the same, however, that land do not belong to them. Now their children are very disappointed. Their future is in dark. When their future is in dark then they will take up arms in protest. I told the Chief Minister that at the time of Dr. Lohia, we used to give a slogan "Jo Dharti Jote-Boye, Wahi Uska Malik Hoye". The land should be allotted to those who are tilling the land in Sonbhadra. He said that he cannot allot them land. It is forest land so if the land is allotted by the Central Government, their problem will be solved. The Chief Minister assured that efforts will be made by him to give ownership rights of the land. Panchayat election was held. District Panchayat elections were held. Naxal incidents that were occurring in Sonbhadra and Chandoli are no longer taking place. All Panchayats participated in the election. Not even a single Panchayat—boycotted the election.

Sir, the people have the problem of unemployment and not the land. Their future is in dark. When they look back they find that they have been working for a long time and are forced to work in future as well. The reason behind this is that the land reform was not properly done. What is the reason, that the movement which begins at Naxalwadi, did not spread over there? Whether any consideration had ever been given towards this fact? Had land reform implemented properly, this might not happened. Land settlement has been properly done in West Bengal. That is why, no problem has arisen over there. The people who have lifted weapons belong to the area which are severely affected by poverty, unemployment and disappointment is prevailing over there. Therefore, yesterday I said, that such movements can never be curbed by police force.

Mao-Tse-Tung wrote when revolution takes place, people take up arms. If people are disappointed, they will rise. How many police forces the Government is having how will you stop them? Therefore, the Government have to take some measures. The Government should do division of land. The hon'ble Speaker himself had visited Chhattisgarh, and said interior regions of the state are inaccessible. Adivasi people live over there, neither the people over there are having any facility of school, education, nor do they possess any land. The Government should open schools over there, if the children there are given education the problem will get solved automatically, the people will get livelihood. Do the division of land. Try to give them employment and training. Bring those people in mainstream. It can be done collectively by Centre and State.

He was saying that there is resource constrain. If the loans write off by the Government, the loan taken by big industrialist and not repayed, is spend on development of the pockets where these movements are going on, then all Naxalite, PWG or Maoists movements in all over India will seized down. But even if ten rupees are outstanding against a farmer, he is put behind the bars and on the other hand if even ten crore rupees are outstanding against an eminent person, he is told that he can take more loan and repay it later on. This policy needs change, because people observe that nobody is there to listen to their vows. They are leading neglected life. They are observing, those who are already having resources are being given all facilities and those who do not have any means are being deprived of facilities. Their life holds no meaning. A person who holds no meaning to life can put his life to risk anytime. This is the reason and there is a need to bring improvement in the system.

The Government's representatives are present here. I earlier said that intelligence network should be rectified, electronic surveillance and all modern equipments should be made available to the police. An effort should be made to make available modern equipments to police. Not even a single working gun was available to constables of Jahanabad jail. They are have 303 gun, which is out dated and had never been used by them, if they try to fire from that gun, they miss the target, that gun never works. This is the situation. There is a need to modernize the police force and made surveillance available to them.

Long time back I said that computers would bring unemployment to the world. Today if I repeat, this, you people may say that he is narrow-minded. Computers

[Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav]

have increased the unemployment. The people can get employment in areas, where computers are not required, the Government should try to give employment to people of backward areas, but the Government are spending 16% of the country's budget on IT and one percent on agriculture. If a total change is not brought in Government's thinking, understanding and working style, all discussion will go futile and we would not be able to solve this problem. Therefore, I would like to urge you to eliminate the root cause of all these incidents whether they are taking place in Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh or any other area, because you may observe that all these incidents do not take place in prosperous areas of the country. If some districts of states are prosperous, no such incident takes place over there. This problem exists only in poverty-ridden areas of the country. Poverty, unemployment and the main thing is division of land. A day when these poor people will own the land, their children will get education, then they too will dream that their children may get employment, may get job in the police force. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): He may give the suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I am suggesting the division of the land. Now, the question arises, how it can be done. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: He is not telling it. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I am saying it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Everybody gives his views over there. The people of all parties express their views. Many people out of them have died. But what is the solution to this problem? You should say that leaders of all political parties should takeover all agricultural land of the country and distribute it. When all people will stick to it then who would be the dictator of land. ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Not only this, the money should also be seized. The money of leaders should be seized and be distributed among the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Money should also be seized. All of them should say so. Would making speech here serve any purpose? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav says.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Manvender ji, Nothing is being recorded, therefore please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: As Laluji has suggested, we have set up land army in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You should talk about the entire country. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: The people sitting on treasury benches can talk about the entire country. This is not prevailing in the entire country. This is not prevailing in the entire country. It is in the states which are more affected by poverty and disparity. Therefore, it has to be done over there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chaudhary Lal Singhji, you please sit down. You please resume your seat as nothing of your speech is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Why can't there be a division? You please appoint me as we have implemented it in our state. We are writing to the Government of India that it should offer us the land of Sonbhadra. The persons who are tilling that land will be the owner of it. If permission for this is granted that would be done, but the land belongs to Delhi Government. The Government are spending money on the land which are lying barren. The Government will give money only to those persons who cultivate the land. When they will be eligible, ownership rights of the land will be given to them. Now, I would like to know whether it is being done or not. ...*(Interruptions)* We are doing this. I am submitting this to Lalujji because it is the State Government that will have to do it. If there is any hurdles in the way of the State Government in implementing it the Central Government will have to provide assistance in this regard.

*Not recorded.

[English]

That is the way. This is my submission.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: With these words, I conclude. Thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, almost in every session we discuss the problem of terrorism in the House. Now it seems that it has become the subject matter of every session. However, neither the Government are learning any lesson from it nor it is affecting the terrorists in any way. I am very sorry to say this. By the way today I was not in a mood to speak. I have only one issue that, through you, I would like to put before the House and the Government. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs has altogether given four statements. Out of that two statements are about the Naxal activities and the other two are regarding the terrorist incidents from across the border. One statement is regarding the serial bomb blasts at Paharganj, Sarojini Nagar Market and Kalka ji in Delhi on 29 October. The other statement is regarding the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir. There is one similarity in both the statements towards which I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the House.

Regarding the bomb blasts in Delhi, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs submits that "during the preliminary investigation it has come to the notice that conspiracy to executive bomb blasts in Delhi was hatched by the terrorist organisations operating from a foreign country. When the hon. Minister of House Affairs mentions the foreign based terrorist organisation, it seems to me that he is pointing towards Pakistan. Regarding the terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs gave a statement and with your permission, I would like to read one paragraph of his statement "Normally the number of terrorist incidents increase with the change in political regime in the state. Similar things had also happened when the earlier Government was formed in November 2002. The terrorists have executed unfortunate terrorists incidents between November, 2002 and January, 2003. which include suicide attack on the Raghunath temple." The reason for the increase in the

symbolic incidents of violence is that the terrorist organisations want to prove that despite the recent earthquake, their striking capability and determination to spread terror have not diminished. Though the number of infiltrators has declined due to fencing along border and measures to check infiltration, however infiltration is going on. The financial assistance to terrorist organisations from across the border is continuing." These are the different statement of the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. Both the above statements indicate only this that these terrorist incidents are taking place in our country and Pakistan is behind all these terrorist incidents.

Sir, Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji has expressed his view, however, his speech has been distorted and he is blamed of suggesting to the Government to attack Pakistan. I would not like to repeat the history of India. You and the House will certainly agree with me that the history of India since the period of kings and emperors is witness to the fact that India never attacked anyone. We were attacked by the Mughals, the Britishers, the French and the Portuguese and several other countries. If the ancient Indian history is set aside and the history of post-independence era is taken into account, be it of the case of four wars with Pakistan including Kargil war or the war with China, the history is witness to it that in every year either Pakistan or China attacked us first. In the Kargil war also it was Pakistan which attacked. We freed our land in the Kargil war. So, our history is witness to it that India did not attack any one at any point of times. And nobody in the House at any point of time has said that we should attack Pakistan. There is no need to attack Pakistan. We do not want to attack Pakistan. I do not admit that Pakistan is our enemy. I also do not buy this idea that the people of Pakistan are our enemy. However, the rulers who have been ruling Pakistan for the last many years have always been enmical to India, have always been against us. They have always ventured to attack India and every time we repulsed their attack quite patiently and defeated them whether it is Pakistan or China. As our hon. colleague Shri Ram Gopal Yadav ji said that in the present scenario we cannot attack any one. Presently, the international scenario has changed so much and the world has become so small that if any wrong step is taken the entire world may stand against us. Today the situation is not such that one can impose one's will on others by way of war. However, I can say one thing with determination that when it comes to the security of our national borders and the nation, we should not at any cost compromise with the national security.

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

We should not compromise with the security of our borders. We need not attack others, however, there is a need to adopt the policy that no matter which Government is there it should not compromise with the security of the nation.

I would like to cite the example before you—when we were in the Government and hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji was the Prime Minister and when the terrorism intensified he announced that combing operation would be carried out to kill all the terrorists in the areas bordering Jammu and Kashmir. However, when the operation actually started, the month of Ramjan happened to fall in between and Atalji made a unilateral declaration for ceasefire saying that we would not resort to armed conflicts during the month of Ramjan. When the issue was taken up for discussion in the House I had opposed this move. I did not oppose it that I have any disregard for Ramjan. Whether it is Islam or any other religion or any of the festival, I do not have any antipathy or disregard for any one of those. However, the ceasefire was announced in the name of Ramjan and maximum bloodshed took place in the month of Ramjan itself. Though our former Prime Minister made a gesture of respect for Ramjan but the terrorists neither follow any religion nor any cult or festival. They have only one thing in their mind and that is how the maximum bloodshed could take place. Therefore, they were successful in shedding maximum blood in the month of Ramjan. And those killed involved army jawans, civilians, elderly and children. At that time also I had opposed the move despite being in the Government and had said that the terrorists do not have any regard for the principles of humanity and they were victimizing humanity each and every day while we had been talking about humanity. The terrorism which was confined to Jammu and Kashmir has pervaded each and every corner of the country today. Bomb explosions have been occurring in every state and no metro city is bereft of terrorist activities. Therefore, it is not a matter of humanity and the terrorists should be treated in the same manner and methodology which they have been following themselves. Therefore, the Government whether it is of NDA, UPA or any other political party should adopt such kind of mindset and will power to swiftly take decision and to take stringent action against the terrorists and to send this message across the terrorist that the Government of India would not tolerate terrorism. The only way by which we can send this message is by formulating tough laws to deal with the problem of terrorism.

When the bill regarding POTA was passed in Lok Sabha it could not be passed in the Rajya Sabha and the joint session of the Parliament was called to ensure the passage of this bill. I am repeating this thing because I want to underline the fact that there is a need to enact the stringent laws like POTA to deal with the problem of terrorism especially in context of the fact that every time the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs comes out with the statements like the involvement of Pakistan in every attack and affirmation of the fact that terrorists are being trained in Pak occupied Kashmir.

Recently, earthquake struck parts of Kashmir and more than 30,000 people were killed in the Pak occupied Kashmir. At the time when our army tried to seek the permission of Pak authorities to extend their help for saving the lives of people, Musharraf Shahib denied our helicopters any access to land there. Though they want our help either in form of financial assistance or foodgrains, they do not want to permit our people and jawans to enter their land. I do not know what was the reasons behind it. Slightly afterwards, Kashmir border was opened at certain places. I am mentioning all these things to bring home the point that though we try to extend our helping hand in the name of humanitarianism, their rulers do not accept it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not deviating from my subject. I would conclude within few minutes. I would like to submit that the Government should adopt the strong will to tackle this problem and there is a need to formulate stringent laws in this regard. The Government have to send this message that we will not tolerate any terrorism further. Though we do not want any war and definitely would not resort to attack. However, at the least a law can be formulated. The Government has already done away with one of such stringent law POTA. I would like to know why was it done. When the attack on Parliament took place, in the ensuing debate I had asked as to how did the five terrorists managed to enter the premises of Parliament and who were people guilty of providing shelter to them. ...*(Interruptions)* Accepted, that it was an intelligence failure but who were the persons behind it. The conspiracy did not come out of thin air. The terrorists stayed in Delhi for years. I would like to know who provided them shelter. Are not those people equally guilty of the crime who had provided them shelter. However, whether we have handed over any punishment or taken any action against those who provided financial help, shelter, vehicles to travel them and helped them to get equipped with RDX. All those who rendered this much

help to those terrorists were Indians. I would like to know as to what action the Government is taking against those people and whether those people harbour any kind of fear of the law? Bomb explosion took place in Mumbai and nothing happened against the guilty. They do not have even an iota of fear of the Government of India. I would like to say that they should be afraid of the Government. But this fear can only emanate from stringent laws.

One cannot commit the crime of theft in Dubai because he knows that his limbs would be amputated if found guilty. Similarly, one cannot dare to outrage the modesty of women there because he is aware that he would be shot dead in full public view. There exists the fear of administration and law and order. But our Government lacks any such courage. If one of the Government tries to enact any stringent laws, the other Government do away with such laws. What kind of message are we sending to the terrorists through these activities. But we ourselves are responsible for this mess.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Of what your Government was afraid of?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am talking about my Government also. I am not saying all this in support of any Government.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded except Shri Anant Geete's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, please take your seats.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: How can the terrorists be afraid of us until they have any fear of the Government in their mind. And why would they be fearful of Government unless they do not face any challenge from the law. I am of the opinion that unless stringent

laws are formulated by the Government and the Government do not give any evidence of its strong will power to deal with the problem of terrorism it can not be weeded out. We do not need to attack Pakistan but certainly need to show strong will power to fight the terrorism.

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today discussion on a very serious and sensitive subject is taking place in the House under the rule 193. Sir, I also got the opportunity to go through the statement of the Hon'ble Minister of State of the Ministry of Home Affairs that was laid on the table of the House.

Sir, the discussion is also taking place in regard to the various terrorist attacks one that took place on 18th October in Jammu and Kashmir, 29th October in Delhi, 11th November attack on homeguard police line of Giridih in Jharkhand and that on 13th November on the Jahanabad Police Line and Jail in Bihar. I hail from the Jahanabad constituency. These are not the initial incidents rather these events have been taking place in the past also.

17.00 hrs.

But what are we doing to prevent these incidents? What our Government and administration are doing? We the people sitting in the House, forget the incident after its occurrence simply by discussing it in the House. We should rise above the party lines to evolve consensus to check such incidents as we defend the country whenever there is an attack on its security. There is need for a total consensus to check the ghastly incidents that are taking place one after another.

The second point I would like to contend is that the hon. Members of the NDA, were during their speech criticising the hon. Prime Minister and were casting aspersions on him instead of giving any constructive suggestion. But they will have to remember their period of governance when conspiracy had been hatched to attack the Parliament. The Parliament and the parliamentarians were saved by the bravery and vigilance of the security personnel guarding its premises. I would like to respond to their criticism contending that it is useless.

Many people had been killed in the incidents that had taken place in Delhi. Such incidents along with the subsequent incidents took place at crowded places. These

[Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh]

incidents were reported to be triggered through the foreign terrorists. We have many such incidents occurring in Jharkhand and Bihar. The terrorists involved over there are reported to be of PWG and Maoists. Whether the Government have tried to ascertain where exactly they belong to? These Maoists start their activities from Andhra Pradesh. They cross over from Nepal and come to Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar. They roam around all the areas including Bihar and Jharkhand and then carry out their operations. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government particularly towards the incident of Jahanabad as apart from both the Government and administration we too owe some responsibility. The hon. Minister for Home Affairs has said in his statement that three to four hundred terrorists have got entry into Jahanabad district. Sir, this is not true. I belong to that area and I reached there in the morning of the day the incident took place. The eye-witness citizens account is that by 7.30 to 8.00 p.m. the terrorists had taken hold of the Jahanabad town completely and their number was not three-four hundred but around 2 thousand and were equipped with weapons—with rifles and bombs. The terrorists were throwing an open challenge to the Government and to the police administration. They were moving in jeeps and were announcing on mike the warning that any person seen venturing out on road will have to face dire consequences. I saw there a huge bomb planted at the square of that main road where the district court is located. That area is quite crowded. Bombs were planted on the main road and in front of the police line also. How did they reach all these places? Due to fear the public could not come out. But what were the police doing? It was said that the police fought with bravery. Sir, you would be surprised to hear that this is not a new incident in a place like Jehanabad. You might be remembering that the events of Baathe, Sinari, Mianpur, Naunhi, Nagawan, Parasvighaha and Dohia have taken place in Jehanabad itself. I wonder whether there is rule of the Union Government or of the Election Commission over this country as the whole police machinery had been shifted out from such a sensitive area to another area to hold elections. The Naxalites were in a lurk. They were in search of the opportunity as their supreme leaders were incarcerated in the Jehanabad jail. They got to know that the police force were not present there. In such a situation they made a concerted attack. There is a need to get through the truth. The Chief Secretary, the Home Secretary and the GDP—all the three have themselves admitted that they knew about the impending incident

beforehand. Such an information was not available from 2-3 days but it was known from 4-5 months that the terrorists might attack the police line and the official buildings. The negligence was uncalled for. This is a matter of investigation that why the police force was removed. The hon. Minister for Home Affairs is not present here. I want the matter to be investigated as to how many police personnel were present there. I would like to point out the untruth enshrined in the report. Only eight police personnel were present there. If such a situation was prevailing there from the last six months, then why necessary precautions were not taken? If one had a glimpse of the police line, one would know that there were no security arrangements. There were no boundary-walls with barbed fencing at the top. Some days back some light barbed fencing has been done over there but that is also quite porous. There were huge weapons kept at the police line with magazine and arsenal. Fortunately, nothing could be looted out of that.

Similar is the condition of the jail. It is situated at such a place around which no security arrangements are available. Shifting the jail at some other place and fortifying it is being discussed for years together. Changing its shape in view of security was also proposed. But no action thereon could be taken. The jail was having two stairs of raw bamboos each of 15-16 feet. The Naxalites sued those stairs to enter inside. There were eight police personnel inside the jail. They were having quite a number of weapons. The naxalites looted all those weapons. They scared the inmates away. Ajay Kalu was imprisoned in that jail itself. All the people of Bihar know that Ajay Kalu is the main leader of PWG and of Maoists. Their objective was to set free Ajay Kalu. They disappeared after fulfilling their objective. Had there been enough police personnel, they would have certainly given the terrorists a chase. The incident took place at nine p.m. and nobody was available during the whole night to take care of anybody to ascertain their situation. Had they been chased even after half an hour, an hour or even after two hours, huge number of naxalites could have been apprehended within a range of 2-4-5 kilometers. But nothing of that sort happened. Ultimately, what's the reason behind it? The reason is quite substantial. Ranveer Sena, Bhumi Sena are also active in that area. These senas and the Maoist organisations have all along been in conflict with each other. Whenever any innocent is killed by any other side, reaction thereto occurs and revenge killings take place. One side kills four and the second one slaughters two and this sequence goes on. Much vigilance is required

there because in the same jail there are activists of Ranveer Sena as well as of Maoist organisations. As such activists and supporters of both the sides assemble in the jail to meet the inmates. That's why they were aware of the conditions which led to such an incident. No more horrifying and bigger incident could have taken place than this. The incident occurred in Jharkhand also. Even there the police line was looted. Despite the police force being large in number with quite a number of weapons in the training centre of the police line, why was it looted? Jharkhand is being talked about. From the time, Jharkhand has been carved out and a BJP Government took the charge, extremism in Jharkhand has all the more increased. They talk about Bihar. I acknowledge that the State Government failed and the administration failed even when there was President's Rule. How the State could be run in this manner? Police line and the Government buildings are being looted. When policemen are being killed, how will they protect the common public? Even today there is terror in those areas of Jharkhand and Bihar. It is not a new incident. You might be remembering that prior to this one serious incident had occurred on 23 June in Madhubani area. In one go seven places were looted. Not only the police line, police stations and police posts of that area but the residence of hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Sita Ram Singh was also attacked. However, was any terrorist arrested? Wrong information was given that one terrorist was captured. The person who is really a terrorist who spreads terror and has executed the terrorist incident cannot be captured.

I would like to submit that such terrorists incidents are occurring not only in Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh but gradually started occurring all over the country. Earlier it was said that terrorists were born in Noakhali in West Bengal in third decade of independence. From there they spread all over the country, however, today there is no terrorism at all in Bengal. We will have to go in depths of the matter and will have to find out the solution to it. I feel that the Government will have to be as determined to deal with terrorists as the terrorists are determined to destroy the system.

I believe and suggest that the existing administrative system will also have to be streamlined. Honest, hard working and efficient police officers will have to be posted in such areas who may introduce transparency in the functioning. Along with that through you I would also like to submit that the somehow social and economic reasons

are also responsible for spread of terrorism all over the country. The economic reason is that those who have money have plenty got similarly those who have land have ample land while those who are poor are dying of starvation. Nobody is there to take care of them. So through you I would like to submit to the Government that it should strictly implement the existing Ceiling Act in an effective way at the earliest.

Second thing is related to development. Our government also admit that it has sent thousands of crores of rupees for the poor people so that they may get benefit of it. However it should be investigated where the said funds reached to the target group or not.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government will have to educate those poor people, and will have to set-up schools in their villages and provide drinking water and road connectivity to their villages. If the Government and the opposition agree, the infrastructure can be developed there. There is no border roads from Nepal to Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand to Bihar, Orissa to Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh to Jharkhand. So it is easy to cross border and go from one state to other so there is a need to construct border roads at such places and will have to monitor it. We all know that occurrence of any incident can be checked only when we have prior information in this regard. The Government will have to equip our intelligence system and police administration with sophisticated gadgets and arms.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is the condition of police station today? They do not have their own building or own phone connections. If they have phones it remains disconnected due to non payment of bills. Besides this police stations do not have even jeeps keeping in view the above there is need to provide funds in this regard. The Government will review the Sam Vikas Yojana whereas the scheme is not being implemented at some places. So the special funds are required to be allocated for such places to protect the interests of the poor. If their interests are protected they will not be lured by terrorists and will not be abetted by them.

[English]

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me this opportunity to speak on a very important issue.

*Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you given a notice to speak in Punjabi?

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: I have given the notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to make arrangement for translation.

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA: I have given the notice.

What are the reasons for these violent movements? Poverty, illiteracy and the Governments that perpetrate injustice on people, give rise to militancy.

17.23 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman Sir, in Punjab, militancy and terrorism were fuelled by Congress party. Militancy started in Punjab around 1978 and thousands of people lost their lives in terrorism related violence. Even one of our party presidents was assassinated by terrorists. Rajeev-Longoval accord was signed but it was not implemented. The non-implementation of this accord further boosted the ranks of terrorists. Punjab suffered due to this. At present, terrorism is a scourge that plagues not only India but the whole world. Earlier, the two superpowers USA and Soviet Union wanted to establish their hegemony in the entire world. USA trained ultras like Laden in Afghanistan. But a time came when these terrorists turned against the US like Frankenstein monster. Then the USA realised that terrorism is a menace. In Punjab, there was unemployment, poverty and illiteracy. The young men were swayed by sentiments and took to guns. The Pakistani intelligence agency ISI fished in troubled waters. It trained the militants. Punjab suffered as a result. In Jammu and Kashmir too, terrorism reared its ugly head. There was trouble in the State ever since 1947. Thousands of young men became victims of terrorism. Thousands of people were displaced and had to migrate from Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the present Central Government must play its role to check the menace of terrorism. It must shoulder its responsibility. Illiteracy has to be removed. In the border areas of Punjab, education is a casualty. Scores of posts of school teachers are lying vacant. Students are not getting education due to this.

When children are uneducated and illiterate, they are bound to be swayed by the call of gun. In the border areas of Punjab, the landless agriculture workers are facing a lot of problems. They are ploughing the fields but they do not own the land. The poor people want that the land they are ploughing should belong to them. This is only possible if the Central Government passes a law to this effect that the land must belong to the person who ploughs it. Only then can the poor landless agriculturists benefit from it. Mr. Chairman Sir, unemployment is another problem. Earlier, the youths of Punjab used to get recruited in army in a big way. But later on, the Central Government passed a law, which restricted the recruitment of Punjabi youths in the Indian army to just 2%. We should do away with such discriminatory rules. Those young men who are physically fit should be recruited in the army. It will reduce unemployment.

Sir, I fully agree with this thesis that after India became independent, the gulf between the rich and the poor has been increasing. The rich have become richer while the poor have become poorer. Until and unless we bridge the divide between the rich and poor, we cannot rein in the menace of terrorism and naxalism. Sir, the need of the hour is to fill this gap between the rich and the poor. Until and unless we do something concrete for the poor farmers and labourers, we cannot check the scourge of terrorism and naxalism. The naxalite movement cannot be crushed only by guns. We must remove the problems and causes that give rise to these movements. We cannot escape these violent movements until we remove their root causes. Sir, we must put our heads together and fulfil the needs of the poor people of the areas where terrorism and naxalism have gained foothold. We will have to use all sources at our command. Only then can we hope to control these movements. Stringent laws should also be framed. The erstwhile NDA Government had framed POTA but sadly the Congress Government abolished POTA. But we have to be strict in our approach at times. Those who perpetrate mindless violence should be dealt with sternly.

Sir, we the people of India as well as the Government of India want to improve bilateral relations with Pakistan. But the ruling establishment in Pakistan is anti-Indian. It does not want mutual relations to improve. Recently, there was loss of life and property in the earthquake that rattled Pakistan and India. India wanted to help Pakistan in various ways. But Pakistan refused to seek help from

India. Now, various points have been opened at line of actual control in Jammu and Kashmir. So, Mr. Chairman Sir, we must deal firmly with these anti-national forces.

Sir, in Bihar, naxalites attacked the town and jail of Jehanabad. What are the reasons for it? The problems of the poor people have to be solved. The police force should be strengthened by providing it with modern weapons. Intelligence inputs need to be bolstered. We should not support and encourage such extremist elements just for seeking votes during elections. Only then can we solve these teething problems.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the 1991 elections in Punjab, terrorism was still a force to reckon with. At that time, 27 members of our party were killed by terrorists and elections had to be cancelled. When elections were held again in January 1992, not a single Congress member was killed. Things were under control. So, we must not compromise with terrorists just to gain power in Centre or States. We should not win elections at the cost of lives of members of other political parties. We must fight unitedly against forces that threaten our country. We must take up this issue not only with Pakistan but also with Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Political will is needed to overcome these forces and to solve these problems.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri B. Mahtab, you speak only for ten minutes.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to participate in the discussion on the Statements on four specific incidents or issues which have been given in this House.

The first issue deals with the bomb blasts which occurred in Delhi on 29th October evening. In fact, there were three bomb blasts on that day. The second issue deals with the terrorist activities which have increased with the change of Government in Jammu and Kashmir. The third issue deals with People's War Group or CPI (Maoist) violence which is spreading its tentacles in different parts of the country. But I am sorry to say that another major terrorist activity centre is in the North East. I think this House will take that up during this Winter Session in due course of time. We have to take the whole nation and view it when we discuss as to what type of terrorists activities are occurring in our country. That has to be discussed specially in this august House. Of course, the House in its wisdom has taken up these

three major issues of terrorist activities. I would distinguish these three activities in three different ways. First is the bomb blast in Delhi. It is also a terrorist activity. It is the most heinous type of terrorist activity which does not discriminate any one and which targets a group of people, a large group of people irrespective of their faith, belief, religion, colour and creed. Here, the terrorist mindset is to create terror, to create fear and to create disharmony in the society. This is one type of terrorist activity which is occurring. This group at one point of time was believing in bullets and it was targeting individuals. As was told by my previous speaker, the individuals were targeted and bullets were used. But now bombs are being used. By placing bombs, a large section of population is being targeted and killed so that disharmony occurs in the society; communal violence occurs in the society. That was the major intention. It was just before when the whole country was going to celebrate Diwali, Eid and Gurupurab. This was the basic idea to create disharmony among the communities.

The second type is when we talk of Jammu and Kashmir. They are the group of people who are supported by a larger group who are on the other side of the borders. They are getting full support. They create module in different parts of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. They create havoc. They target individual people. They barge into Minister's house or MLA's House. They also kill the people. The individuals are being targeted in the Valley and also in Jammu. That is a different type of terrorist activity.

The third aspect is the one which occurred in greed. It is just to loot arms and ammunition from a Home Guard Institute. This occurred on 11th and 13th of November where more than 500 or 600 attacked the district headquarter; or what we saw or what we heard or what we read in the newspapers was that more than thousands of people attacked a district headquarter. They cut down the electricity light and tried to barge into the police line. One naxalite met with an accident there. But the idea was to attack the jail and to free certain Maoists only; not only that but also to capture the Ranveer Sena people and eliminate them. This is a different type of terrorist activity. When we talk of Maoist terrorist activity or the Naxalite or the People's War Group, in the last one and a half years or two, all of them have combined and most of them have been named as CPI (Maoist). We call them the Maoists. It is Maoist terrorism. CPI (Marxist) Party is totally against them. In West Bengal also, they have been targeted.

[Shri B. Mahtab]

It was in the news some six months ago. One or two office bearers had been targeted and they had to move away from the place where they were stationed. It had happened in two or three districts in West Bengal. Nobody is free from the clutches of these terrorists. Their tentacles are spreading. That is the greatest danger to the body politic of our nation. I might be allowed a little more time when I go through these three aspects.

I would say that the explosion in Delhi was to create panic by killing people and destroying property. Secondly, it was meant to create ill will among communities and whip up communal passion and also to create confusion in the society. The people at large rose to the occasion and foiled the design. The political leadership of this country, cutting across party lines, rose to the occasion and saw to it that no political party took mileage from these bomb blasts. That is the greatest thing that this country achieved. It is not only the leaders of the Ruling Party but also the leaders of the Opposition Parties who saw to it that no communal passions were permitted to rise. For all concerned, the utmost priority was to maintain peace and tranquility in this capital city. The common masses who also rose to the occasion saw to it that daily life was restored in the next two or three days. Shops were opened and people came out in large numbers to the streets. That was a fitting reply through which the people could foil the designs of the perpetrators of those terrorists activities.

It is not for the first time that bomb blasts have occurred in Delhi. It had been happening earlier also. As I said earlier, violence as such is an act of cowardice. It exposes the terrorist motives. I would appreciate if the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs could communicate what I am stating before this House. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs had, on October 31, in a Press statement to the media said: "Do not pressurise to disclose information". The media was pestering the Government to know what type of information the Government had got. Even today, a number of hon. Members have mentioned about this. He was at that time very categorical in saying, "Do not pressurise to divulge information". I am not asking the Government to give information now. We do not need information. The country does not need information. What we need is action. We need information on what action has been taken, what is the result and how long it would take to catch the perpetrators of this crime.

We all know that these blasts were timed to create disaffection during a festive season. Dhwali was just three days ahead; Eid was following; Gurupurab was just two weeks later; and the International Trade Fair was three weeks later. On these four occasions, people from all over the country came to Delhi and participated. That is why I congratulate the people of this country. Similarly, the Government also needs to be given credit. I do not deny that. The country has successfully shown that we cannot be cowed down by these types of terrorist activities. At the same time, I should also mention that our national resolve should be to fight terrorism and it must be apparent in our action and policy.

The bomb blasts in Delhi have demonstrated that India is very much in the radar of terrorists. One may say that because we are fighting shoulder to shoulder with United States against Pan-Islamic terrorism, India is being targeted. I do not know whether some hon. Members have said it or not in this House, but this is discussed outside that because we are fighting the Pan-Islamic terrorism shoulder to shoulder along with United States, we are being targeted. I do not subscribe to this view because India has been targeted much earlier, much before United States was targeted by the Pan-Islamic terrorists' organisations. India is an island between two Islamic blocks and India is being targeted by the Pan-Islamic terrorists' organisations. I will just name two. Especially, the entire US bogey which harps on the US thing is without any sense.

Sir, you are very much aware with your experience and your wisdom. Since the French Revolution, terrorism was shown as a useful means for political change. Revolutionaries like Italian Carlo Pisane and thinkers like Karl Marx have also said this. The Russian "Populists" followed by "Anarchists" and "Communists" unleashed a reign of terror which was targeted against a particular class of people but not against commoners. This is history. The world witnessed State-sponsored terrorism in Nazi Germany, in Fascist Italy and Stalinist Russia. But there also the targets were not the whole of people. The most dreaded terrorists network of all time consists of militant Pan-Islamic terrorist group, this is, Al-Qaeda was established by Osama-bin-Laden in 1990. Jaish-e-Mohammed was founded by Maulana Masood Azhar in Pakistan in 2000. There is a number of other Islamic organisations which have cropped up. But all these started when Israel was created and it was a reaction to that. Arms were taken up by a group of people and they

wanted to create a situation so that indiscriminate killing can give them a right to power. That is why, as I have stated earlier, intelligence network has to be increased, investigation capability to be doubly geared up. At the same time, as the time is short, I would only like to make one submission on this aspect. ...(*Interruptions*) I have just covered the first aspect. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 15 minutes more. Please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I will only mention that when such types of disaster strikes, disaster management mechanism should also be put in place. We cannot forget on that eventful evening when scores of people were being brought by ambulances to different hospitals. The doctors, the para-medical staff, the Union Minister of Health, the Union Secretary of Health, Delhi Administration were all geared up to meet that challenge.

We cannot forget that. The whole country saw how our Health Ministry, our medical colleges came forward, and paramedical officers were also there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yogi Aditya Nath.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, please give me some more time.

This type of disaster management activity should also be geared up so that at the time of eventuality, people can get relief and support, and succour. ...(*Interruptions*)

Regarding Jammu and Kashmir aspect, I have mentioned. I will come to the last two incidents. Before I come to that, at the same time, I should also mention that during the last six months, naxalite incidents have cropped up in two more districts of Orissa, that is, Sambalpur and Deogarh. More than nine people have been killed. ...(*Interruptions*) I will just explain that because hardly the Central Government, the Home Ministry comes to know about the details. Nine people have been killed. One of them was a police personnel. Seven of them were of BPL category. One person had got money and was supported by Indira Awas Yojana. Just because he was unwilling to share a part of that money of Rs. 25,000 with those Maoists, he was killed. The Maoists are envisaging this type of class war. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Yogi Aditya Nath.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 17 minutes.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: What is the fun in discussing this if I am confined to five or ten minutes? If I am talking irrelevant, then I should be stopped. ...(*Interruptions*) Nine districts have been identified as naxalite affected districts in Orissa. In these two districts naxalite movement has cropped up within the last one year. They come under red corridor from Nepal to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In these two districts also, general people and common people are being targeted.

At the time when Jehanabad incident occurred, one of the foremost literateure Shrimati Mahasweta Devi came out in support of this type of class struggle. This has actually hurt us to a great extent. This is really unfortunate. I do not deny the manner in which this class struggle or caste struggle is occurring in Bihar. The State failed in Bihar to protect the law. At the same time, mass attack on targeted group had also happened in Jehanabad. A similar thing had occurred in Orissa also last year. In Koraput which is the district headquarters and scores of naxalites from Andhra Pradesh came in to attack, but the police of Orissa could foil that and send them back because of a good Government there. I would only add here. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Please help me.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I understand your constraint, but I would conclude only with these two lines. There is no ideology in this struggle. It is only to extract money to have a parallel system in the society. Even *Palle Sabhas* are being targeted. It happened in different other places. People were looking at Andhra with the hope that some change was going to take place in the last 18 months. However, the situation has gone from bad to worse. The commitment that was given before the election was also withdrawn.

I would conclude by saying that if you do not have a specific policy to deal with this type of terrorist activity, the Indian population will not spare you. One should bear in mind that there is nothing that the people of India punish more strongly than poor governance or soft State.

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing over the statement of the hon'ble

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

Minister of Home Affairs given in the House regarding the major terrorist incidents occurred during the last three months. The statement is concerned mainly with four incidents namely terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir occurred within last four months, bomb explosion in Delhi two days before Dipawali, attack on home guard training center in Giridih, Jharkhand and Naxalite attack in district headquarter Jahanabad, Bihar. However the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has not included some of the major incidents, for example a well coordinated attack in Assam in the month of September in his statement. Efforts are being made to consign north-eastern India to separatism. There is no mention about that racial violence. When the people of Jammu and Kashmir were suffering from natural calamity like earthquake, 12 Hindus were slaughtered in the state. There is no mention about that incident in the statement. The discussions should have been held on various incidents whether it is incident of Mau District, U.P. or the incidents happened in various parts of the country which are in no way less important than any terrorist or extremist incidents. However, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that I am well aware about the reasons why those incidents could not be discussed. So today when we are holding discussion, I am very sorry to say that this discussion will be as incomplete as our discussion on internal security held in the last monsoon session. At that time too discussion were held on terrorist attack on Ram Janam Bhoomi on 5 July 2005 and the terrorist attacks in various parts of the country. That discussion proved to be quite fruitless and the extent of seriousness on the part of the Government regarding the discussion is being exposed by the poor presence of the Members of treasury bench and the absence of the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. It seems to me that this discussion would not serve any purpose. I would like to draw your attention. ...*(Interruptions)* He is the Minister of State. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): The Minister of State for Home Affairs is sitting here. The Cabinet Minister is in Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I know that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

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

THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): We are maintaining discipline. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yogi Aditya Nath, you continue with your speech. Do not bother about the comments.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: The incidents that took place during the last four months are very unfortunate. When we hold discussion about internal security, four points come to light—first, the hon'ble Minister has given statement in regard to Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan sponsored Islamic terrorism is being spread by Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI, not only in Jammu and Kashmir, but the whole country has fallen prey to it. This is terrorism. Secondly, there is communist terrorism, which can be seen as Maoism and Naxalism. In last one and a half year one-third of India has got affected by it. As per figures of March 2004, naxalism was limited to 54 districts of 8 States, but in last one and a half year it has spread in more than 200 districts of 15 States. The way terrorism is getting political protection and it is being protected for getting political mileage, the terrorist havens are being set up in the country's Capital and various areas to carry out terrorist activities, the possibility of curbing terrorism seems to be remote. The incident of Jahanabad is an example as to how extremists and naxalites took control of Jahanabad Districts Headquarters for 10 hours. Jahanabad is 45 kilometers away from Patna, the State Capital of Bihar. A strategy should have been formulated against these extremists. Armed forces should have been sent over there to crush them, an effective action should have been taken keeping in view the way they attacked the jail and taking various police officers as hostage, but it could not be executed. It clearly shows that political will is lacking somewhere and even today Indian politicians intend to gain political mileage from such elements. This is the reason that we have not been able to combat terrorism and extremism. Thirdly, we have the case of north-eastern states of the country. We hold discussion about Kashmir, we also discuss killing of innocent citizens due to bomb blasts in various parts of the country, But I do not know as to why we forget north eastern States. I had mentioned about Assam where the castiest violence took place in September. The hon'ble

Home Minister has not made a mention of it anywhere. More than hundred people were killed over there and violence continued for more than one month. Before that, Naga extremist organizations had carried out economic blockade from 17 June to July end, the Union Government did not took any effective action there for 45 days. How serious the Government is about these sensitive issues? The north-eastern States are being grossly ignored. The Assam Governor constantly appraises Union Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are continuing, you can conclude it tomorrow.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: If given a chance, I can conclude my speech just now. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 2, 2005/Agrahayana 11, 1927 (Saka).

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