

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, February 23, 2006/Phalgun 04, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour. The President of United States of America Mr. George W. Bush, while addressing the Asia Society yesterday, said that India should conform to safeguards with regard to separation of civilian nuclear programmes...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I've given a notice for suspension of Question Hour. ...*(Interruption)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First of all, auspicious ritual of administering oath will be performed and Shri P.A. Sangma will take oath.

11.01 hrs.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Purno Agitok Sangma (Tura)

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may speak one by one. Malhotraji, you may speak first.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very unfortunate, atrocious and preposterous incident took place in this country. Such incident has never taken place in India's history. Yesterday, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the Government do not interfere with functioning of the CBI, the Government have no hand in defreezing Quattrochi's accounts. It has been reported in the newspapers today and it is also a fact the Prime Minister's office has asked the CBI to explain in writing as to why a case is not being framed against Advaniji. *(Interruptions)*. On the one hand, CBI is protecting Quattrochi, on the other CBI is being used to implicate the Leader of the Opposition. Emergency was imposed by Smt. Indira Gandhi and now Smt. Sonia Gandhi...*(Interruptions)* wants to reimpose emergency by misusing the CBI to implicate the Leader of the Opposition. It cannot be allowed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not show the paper.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sit down please. First listen to me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Advaniji is being implicated...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't show the papers.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, Mr. George W. Bush, while addressing the Asian Society, has stated that the Government of India should conform to IAEA safeguards in regard to separation of civilian and military nuclear activities...(Interruptions)

11.06 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ashok Pradhan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, Mr. George Bush has also linked the nuclear agreement with India's support to the United States of America in regard to voting on Iran Nuclear Issue. So, the United States of America is putting pressure on the Government of India to accept certain conditionalities. This is an insult to our nation. The Government of India should clarify its stand. ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, it was agreed in the Leaders' meeting that the business will not be disrupted till the reply of the hon. Prime Minister on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11.30 a.m.

11.08 hrs.

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

11.30 hrs.

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

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given notice on a very important subject. Kindly allow me to speak. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Nothing except this issue will be taken up... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Shall the House be conducted as per your dictates?... (Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Tourist Spots

*82. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourist spots in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government is providing financial assistance to the State Governments for the development/maintenance of the said tourist spots;

(c) if so, the financial assistance provided to the States during 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(d) whether the State Governments are fully

utilizing the amount being provided by the Union Governments;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the revenue earned from the tourist spots during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) India offers an array of tourist destinations including World Heritage Sites all over the country that attracts travellers from all over the world. The list of 26 such World Heritage Sites is enclosed as Statement I.

(b) and (c) Development, maintenance and management of the tourist spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Govt./UT Administration. Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to the State Govts/UTs for development of tourist sports/sites based on their prioritized proposals. The financial assistance provided to the States during 2004-05 and 2005-06 is enclosed as Statement-II. The maintenance and management of the assets created with central financial assistance is the responsibility of the State/U.T. Govts.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Tourism releases 80% of the sanctioned amount as 1st installment and balance amount of 20% is released after receipt of Utilisation certificate and Completion Certificate. The sanctioned projects are constantly reviewed and monitored.

(f) Tourism earnings for the year 2004 and 2005 are enclosed as Statement-III.

Statement

Statement Showing the World Heritage Sites in India

Cultural

1. Agra Fort
2. Ajanta Caves

3. Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi
4. Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park
5. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus)
6. Churches and Convents of Goa
7. Elephanta Caves
8. Ellora Caves
9. Fatehpur Sikri
10. Great Living Chola Temples
11. Group of Monuments at Hampi
12. Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram
13. Group of Monuments at Pattadakal
14. Humayun's Tomb, Delhi
15. Khajuraho Group of Monuments
16. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya
17. Mountain Railways of India
18. Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi
19. Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka
20. Sun Temple, Konark
21. Taj Mahal

Natural

1. Kaziranga National Park
2. Keoladeo National Park
3. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks
5. Sundarbans National Park

Statement-II

**Statement of State-wise Tourism Projects Sanctioned and Funds Released
during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 of the Tenth Plan**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2004-05			2005-06 as on 13.02.2006		
		No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released	No. of Projects Sancd.	Amount Sancd.	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	2827.89	2315.68	4	2505.82	1604.50
2.	Assam	6	956.03	741.42	8	2125.00	1686.45
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	1285.70	905.52	10	2240.16	1655.21
4.	Bihar	7	1901.43	1527.71	1	768.12	614.50
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	1117.94	884.85	5	1252.87	1002.56
6.	Goa	3	110.00	38.00	1	10.00	8.00
7.	Gujarat	2	138.93	111.14	3	1253.31	562.64
8.	Haryana	6	693.55	562.3	5	612.45	506.51
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	2680.00	2152.00	4	1635.00	908.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	878.45	707.16	22	6656.01	5320.91
11.	Jharkhand	2	945.91	756.72	3	11.70	9.36
12.	Karnataka	12	2459.76	1937.37	6	1648.23	969.57
13.	Kerala	9	2233.63	1780.33	11	4829.88	3865.30
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10	1547.19	1204.19	11	3037.39	2419.54
15.	Maharashtra	9	1650.69	1189.28	8	2070.04	1657.99
16.	Manipur	2	78.10	77.45	1	25.00	20.00
17.	Meghalaya	2	963.30	807.91	1	5.00	4.00
18.	Mizoram	4	1086.35	377.88	9	2268.41	1686.29
19.	Nagaland	6	2235.69	1401.40	9	2528.97	1873.17

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Orissa	7	1339.18	1050.03	8	1200.47	960.37
21.	Punjab	5	714.68	587.00	2	10.00	8.00
22.	Rajasthan	9	2387.5	1812.23	5	2084.69	1680.66
23.	Sikkim	5	650.81	520.33	14	2844.56	2213.74
24.	Tamil Nadu	7	1308.92	1050.72	18	4144.08	2976.06
25.	Tripura	1	20.00	16.00	3	716.26	569.43
26.	Uttaranchal	6	2184.98	174.23	12	2723.00	2178.18
27.	Uttar Pradesh	9	1044.93	831.69	15	3124.22	2497.92
28.	West Bengal	10	513.04	408.43	2	975.00	780.00
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	2	462.00	370.60	0	0.00	0.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	000	2	29.79	25.92
32.	Delhi	7	613.85	501.00	2	30.00	24.00
33.	Daman	0	0.00	0.00	3	182.70	144.95
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	3	462.73	370.56	2	469.39	375.51
Total		193	37493.04	28740.76	210	54017.52	40809.24

Note— This includes the projects relating to Circuits, Destinations, Large Revenue Generating Projects, UNDP Rural Tourism (Software and Hardware) Projects, IT, Event, Fair and Festival Projects.

Statement-III

Statement Showing Foreign Exchange Earnings in Rupees and in US\$ during the year 2004 and 2005

Foreign exchange earnings (in Rs. crore)

Month	2004	2005*	% change 2005/04
1	2	3	4
January	2084.59	2326.20	11.6

1	2	3	4
February	2049.70	2343.18	14.3
March	1811.71	2210.62	22.0
April	1368.42	1649.96	20.6
May	1133.82	1452.75	28.1
June	136376	1637.29	20.1
July	1776.60	2048.78	15.3

1	2	3	4
August	1651.69	1898.03	14.9
September	1478.71	1764.06	19.3
October	1906.36	2185.34	14.6
November	2388.71	2671.88	11.9
December	2588.93	2984.19	15.3
Total	21603.00	25172.28	16.5

*Provisional

Foreign exchange earnings (in US\$ Million)

Month	2004	2005*	% change 2005/04
1	2	3	4
January	460.67	532.19	15.5
February	452.6	536.07	18.3
March	400.37	505.74	26.3
April	304.77	378.8	24.2
May	252.51	333.15	31.9
June	303.72	375.47	23.6
July	384.87	470.08	22.1
August	57.80	435.49	21.7
September	320.33	401.83	25.4
October	423.97	497.63	17.4
November	531.25	597.50	12.5
December	575.78	667.33	15.9
Total	4769.00	570.86	20.2

*Provisional

*[English]***FM Radio**

*83. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

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

(a) the number of FM radio frequencies of All India Radio and private broadcasters in operation, at present;

(b) whether the Government has recently offered some more FM radio frequencies across the country;

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

(d) the time by which these are likely to be operational; and

(e) the details of revenue earned by the Government on account of one time entry fee from various broadcasters during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) Presently, 159 AIR FM Transmitters and 21 Private FM radio stations (Phase I) are broadcasting in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has offered 337 FM radio frequencies in 91 cities across the country (Phase II)

(c) The state-wise details showing number of frequencies offered in the country are enclosed as statement.

(d) The bidding for these 337 FM frequencies has been concluded only on 3.2.06. Out of 337 frequencies, successful bids have been received for 280 frequencies. The successful bidders are required to complete various formalities within nine months and sign the agreement with Government of India. The FM stations have to be operationalised within 12 months from the date of signing of agreement.

(e) There was no provision of One Time Entry Fee (OTEF) in Phase-I of private FM radio broadcasting and the broadcasters were to pay Annual License Fee arrived at through open auction process. The details of Annual License Fee received during last three years are as under:

Year	(Rs. in crores)
2002-03	113.64
2003-04	93.92
2004-05	65.98
2005-06 (dues upto 31.3.05)	47.37
Total	320.91

In Phase II of private FM radio broadcasting, one time entry fee has been introduced. The Government has earned a revenue of Rs.1157.35 crore as on date.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	No. of Channels Offered
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	4
4.	Assam	4
5.	Bihar	8
6.	Chhattisgarh UT	2
7.	Chhattisgarh	8
8.	Daman and Diu	2
9.	Delhi	6
10.	Goa	3
11.	Gujarat	16

1	2	3
12.	Haryana	6
13.	Himachal Pradesh	4
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	7
15.	Jharkhand	8
16.	Karnataka	19
17.	Kerala	17
18.	Madhya Pradesh	19
19.	Maharashtra	42
20.	Manipur	4
21.	Meghalaya	4
22.	Mizoram	4
23.	Nagaland	4
24.	Orissa	8
25.	Pondicherry	3
26.	Punjab	12
27.	Rajasthan	25
28.	Sikkim	4
29.	Tamil Nadu	23
30.	Tripura	4
31.	Uttar Pradesh	30
32.	West Bengal	11
Total Channels		337

Aircraft Accidents

*84. SHRI K.S. RAO :
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of aircraft and helicopters met with accidents during 2005 and 2006, till date;

(b) the loss of lives and property suffered as a result thereof and compensation paid in each case;

(c) whether each accident has been investigated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken on each investigation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) A total number of 13 aircraft and 8 helicopters of the Defence Forces have crashed during the period from January 2005 upto 31st January 2006.

There was no loss of civil property in the accidents except the accident which took place on 13.12.2005 in which paddy crop was damaged in the open field. The compensation case for the same is under process as per rules.

A total number of 13 Defence personnel and one civilian have been killed in these accidents during this period. Compensation to the next of kin of the Defence personnel have been paid as per the service norms. An Ex-gratia payment of Rs. One lakh to the only civilian killed in the accident which took place on 8.3.2005 (involving MiG-21 Bis aircraft of the Indian Air Force) has been paid.

Each aircraft accident in the Defence Forces is investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial actions according to the recommendations of the Court are taken. Besides, a continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Defence Forces to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) both indigenous and

foreign are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Rail Density in Various States

*85. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the rail density in various States of the country;

(b) whether there is any specific programme to increase density in the areas/Stages having very low density; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by the Government to increase rail density in those States where it is very low as compared to other States?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) The rail density (rail route kilometres per 1000 square kms. of area) in various States of the country is given below:—

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Route kilometres per 1000 square kilometres of area
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	18.92
Arunachal Pradesh	0.02
Assam	31.95
Bihar	35.89
Chhattisgarh	8.52
Delhi	137.71
Goa	18.64
Gujarat	26.96
Haryana	36.12

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	5.12
Jammu and Kashmir	0.62
Jharkhand	24.35
Karnataka	15.55
Kerala	27.02
Madhya Pradesh	15.93
Maharashtra	17.96
Manipur	0.06
Meghalaya	0.07
Mizoram	0.78
Nagaland	14.64
Orissa	41.64
Punjab	17.06
Rajasthan	32.07
Tamil Nadu	6.14
Tripura	6.14
Uttar Pradesh	35.82
Uttaranchal	6.45
West Bengal	43.45
Union Territory	
Chandigarh	67.89
Pondicherry	22.56

Note: (i) The remaining States/Union Territories have no railway line.

(ii) Route kilometers is as on 31.03.2005 (latest available) and area of States taken from the publication 'India 2005' by Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(b) and (c) Planning and execution of Railway projects for expansion of the network is done in an integrated and need based manner keeping the national perspective in views Geographical boundaries of a State, per se, do not form a criterion for determining Railway investments, especially in a scenario where many Railway projects span across more than one State. However, a number of new line projects have been taken up throughout the country which on completion would add to the route kilometres in various States.

Migration of Pilots

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

(a) the estimated expenditure incurred on training of pilots of Government owned airlines during each of the last three years and till date;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the pilots of these airlines are lured by private airlines with lucrative offers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the Government owned airlines from this menace and also to protect the interests of the pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) (a) An expenditure of Rs.29.14 crore was incurred during 2002-03, Rs.29.69 crores during 2003-04, Rs.37.47 crores during 2004-05 and Rs.25.21 crores during April - December, 2005 by Indian Airlines Limited whereas Air India Limited has spent Rs.14 crores during 2003, Rs.20 crores during 2004 and Rs.9 crores during 2005 on training of its pilots.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. During the last three years there has been no significant exodus of pilots from Indian Airlines and Air India. However, 79 Pilots of Airlines Air

and 16 Pilots of Air India Express have resigned during the last three years.

(d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a Civil Aviation Requirement (Section 7 Series "X" Part 1) in September, 2005 making it mandatory for pilots to give a notice of six months to the employer. Both Air India and Indian Airlines insist on bank guarantee/surety bond from the pilots to cover the cost of training and also to retain them in the organisation.

Besides provided job security, both Air India and Indian Airlines have also taken steps to improve the service conditions of the pilots on regular basis in order to keep it at a competitive level in the market.

Modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai Airports

*87. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some officials of Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airports Authority of India expressed serious concern over the evaluation process of bids for modernisation and privatisation plan of Delhi and Mumbai airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there have been complaints about short-listing of bidders and the matter was referred to an Expert Committee;

(d) if so, whether the Expert Committee reviewed the whole process;

(e) if so, the details alongwith the findings thereof;

(f) the details of bidders who have been finally selected and allocated the work alongwith terms and conditions stipulated in the contracts;

(g) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on modernisation of these airports and percentage of FDI involved in this regard; and

(h) the time by which these airports are likely to be handed over to the selected bidders alongwith time schedule fixed for completion of works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Different views expressed during the deliberations of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) regarding the evaluation done by a composite group of Consultants.

(c) The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) constituted for this purpose referred the matter to a Committee of Secretaries, who further referred the matter to a Group of Eminent Technical Experts.

(d) The Group of Eminent Technical Expert reviewed and moderated the scores of all bidders and submitted their recommendations accordingly.

(e) The Group inter-alia pointed out that only one bidder is technically qualified and their financial bids should be opened for both IGI Airport, Delhi and CSI Airport, Mumbai.

(f) GMR Consortium consisting of GMR Infrastructure Limited, GMR Energy Limited, GLV Investments Pvt. Limited, Fraport AG Airport Services World-wise, Malaysia Airports (Niaga) Sdn. Berhad and India Development Fund has been selected as Joint Venture Partner for Delhi airport and GVK Consortium consisting of GVK industries Limited, Airports Company South Africa and Bidvest Group Limited for Mumbai airport. The Joint Venture Companies (JVCs) will be operating, managing and developing Delhi and Mumbai airports for a period of 30 years with an option of extension of the term for an additional 30 years. The JVC are required to submit Initial Development Plan for a period of 20 years, master plan over a period of 20 years and also to maintain certain service quality requirements. Non-compliance of these requirements will attract suitable penalties.

(g) It has been estimated on preliminary basis that the capital investment to the extent of Rs.7961 crores and Rs.6131 crores will be required for Delhi and Mumbai airports, respectively over a period of 20 years in 4 stages of 5 years each. The Joint Venture Companies will be

subject to a 49% maximum permissible limit of Foreign Direct Investment.

(h) Within three months from the date of execution of Operation Management and Development Agreement subject to fulfilling the conditions precedent, the Joint Venture Companies will be in possession of Delhi and Mumbai airports. Mandatory Capital Projects of Delhi and Mumbai airports are likely to be completed on or before 31st March, 2010. It may also be pointed out that one of the bidders has filed a case in the Delhi High Court against the bidding process and the matter is presently sub-judice.

Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

*88. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

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

- (a) the present status of the Indo-Iran Gas pipeline project;
- (b) whether a team of Indian officials recently visited Iran to discuss the pipeline issue;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether a tripartite meeting of the Joint Iran-Pakistan-India Working Group has also been held with regard to the feasibility of the said project;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof indicating the precise alignment and the cost thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (c) As the domestic availability of gas is not adequate to meet the country's demand, we have been pursuing import of gas, both as liquefied natural gas (LNG) and through transnational pipelines. One of the pipeline projects under consideration is the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline project which envisages a pipeline of about 2000 kilometres length from Assaluyeh

in Iran to the India-Pakistan border. To finalize the details of this project, two separate Secretary-level bilateral Joint Working Groups (JWGs) have been set up by us with Pakistan and Iran. So far, three meetings each of these JWGs have been held in which various technical, commercial, financial, legal and other project-related issues have been discussed. The issues under discussion include gas pricing, project structure and the tripartite Government-to-Government Framework Agreement. The Indian side has appointed their financial and technical consultants who are advising the Ministry on various aspects of the project. The Pakistan side has also recently appointed their consultancy consortium.

The project was discussed in Tehran, in October 2005, during the second JWG meeting. After this, the project was discussed with the Iranian side, during the third JWG meeting in New Delhi, in December 2005. At the end of this meeting, it was *inter alia*, agreed that there would be tripartite meetings at the technical, official and Ministerial levels in the coming months.

A tripartite meeting of the technical teams from the three countries was held in New Delhi, in January 2006, to discuss various technical parameters of the project. Later, the progress of the project was reviewed at Ministerial-level during the visit to India of the Pakistani Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources, on 17th February, 2006. At these discussions, it was agreed that the second meeting of the technical officials would be held in Pakistan in the first week of March 2006. The two sides also agreed to have a tripartite meeting at the official level in Tehran in mid-March 2006, to be followed by a tripartite Ministerial-level meeting in Tehran in mid-April 2006.

(d) No, Sir. It is scheduled to be held in Tehran in March 2006.

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

Rail Container Transport Policy

*89. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Railways have recent announced the policy to allow private players in the rail container freight business;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether some private companies have evinced interest in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this policy of the Railways is likely to affect the labour force in the Railways; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Railways to protect the interest of these labour force?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme is open for all registered Indian public/private sector companies/persons either individually or in joint venture. It will include Indian Registered companies of foreign entities. All applicants who deposit the requisite registration fee and fulfill the minimum criteria of experience and financial capability as per the policy will be permitted. The registration remained open from 16.1.2006 to 15.2.2006 in the current year.

(c) and (d) Following companies have registered themselves for the permission.

(i) Pipavav Rail Corporation Ltd.

(ii) Gateway Distripark Ltd.

(iii) Container Corporation of India Ltd.

(iv) United Liner agencies of India (P) Ltd. and J.M. Baxi and Co.

(v) Hind Terminals Pvt. Ltd. and MSC Agency (India) Pvt. Ltd.

(vi) Reliance Infrastructure Engineers Pvt. Ltd. and Sonata Investment Limited.

(vii) ETA Engineering Pvt. Ltd. and Dinesh International Ltd.

(viii) India Infrastructure and Logistics Pvt. Ltd..

(ix) Mundra International Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd.

(x) South India Corporation (Agencies) Ltd.

(xi) Delhi Assam Roadways Corp. Ltd.

(xii) Adani logistics and Gujrat Adani Port Ltd.

(xiii) Central Warehousing Corporation

(xiv) Bothra Shipping Services and M/s. Bagadiya Brother Pvt. Ltd.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Reservation for SCs/STs in Private Sector

*90. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN :

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

(a) whether the Group of Ministers (GoM) appointed by the Government to draw the roadmap for extending job reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the private sector has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Installation of CAT-III-B System at Airports

*91. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various airlines flights delayed/cancelled due to fog in various parts of the country during this winter season;

(b) the details of loss of revenue suffered by Indian Airlines/Air India;

(c) whether despite the newly installed Cat-III-B system at Delhi Airport, a large number of flights was delayed/cancelled;

(d) if so, whether the Government has examined the reasons for such delay/cancellation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to avoid such delay/cancellation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Number of flights delayed/diverted/cancelled due to fog during this winter season, airlines-wise is as under:

Indian Airlines-351, Air India-72, Jet Air-227, Sahara Airlines-64, Air Deccan-805, Kingfisher Airlines-43, Spicejet-72 and Go Air-06.

(b) the estimated loss of revenue suffered by Indian Airlines due to flight delay/cancellation etc. is Rs. 1.83 crores. The loss of revenue suffered by Air India is being collected.

(c) No, Sir. Only flights of those airlines whose pilots are not trained on Cat-IIIB operations and aircrafts which are not equipped with Cat-IIIB Avionics on board, were delayed/cancelled due to fog.

(d) and (e) The main reasons for the delay/cancellation of flights due to fog may be attributed to lack of training to pilots of various airlines particularly those of private airlines and also the non-installation of Cat-IIIB Avionics on board some of the aircraft.

(f) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has prescribed qualification/experience and training for pilots operating domestic airlines to undergo training for Cat-II/IIIA and B operations. Only DGCA approved pilots are authorised to operate under Cat-III conditions during fog. Pilots operating foreign airlines who are trained for Cat-

IIIB operations by their State, can also operate flights under Cat-IIIB conditions during fog. Only DGCA approved pilots are authorised to use ILS during fog. Various airlines are coordinated from time to time and impressed upon for expeditious training of their pilots for use of Cat-II/III A and B operations. Besides, each year, Ministry of Civil Aviation reviews our Fog Preparedness with the representatives of DGCA, AAI, Meteorological Department, various airlines and other concerned agencies such as Customs, Immigration etc.

Promotion of Rural Tourism

*92. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government to promote rural tourism;

(b) the details of proposals received and sanctioned by the Union Government to promote rural tourism in various parts of the country during the last one year;

(c) whether the Union Government plans an exchange programme for foreign youths to understand and promote the rural life of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) The creation of infrastructure in Rural areas having potential for tourism is being supported under the existing scheme of Destination Development, while community participation and capacity building, including skill up-gradation in such rural areas, are being supported through GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project. The objective is to showcase rural life, art, culture and heritage at rural locations and in villages, which have core competency in terms of crafts/handloom/textiles/culture etc.

(b) The funds under the scheme are sanctioned and released to the Collector of the area based on the proposals received from the State/UT Governments for infrastructure development at rural sites. Financial assistance released during the last one year for

infrastructure creation is enclosed as Statement-I and central assistance extended for capacity building etc. under UNDP project is enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism has initiated preliminary

steps for the Gurukul process whereby the overseas visitors could stay in the village and learn the local art, craft or dance forms through identified master trainers belonging to the site.

Statement-I

Statewise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the last one year under Rural Tourism (Infrastructure Development) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism are as follows

(Rs. in lakh)

State	Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction.	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	1.	Development of Puttaparthi, Ananthpur Distt.	2004-05	49.50	39.60
	2.	Development of Chinchinada, East Godavari Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
	3.	Development of Srikalahasti, Chittoor Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	4.	Development of Tourism at Village Rengo, Distt. East Siang.	2005-06	49.62	39.69
3. Assam	5.	Dehing-Patakai Kshetra, Distt. Tinsukia	2004-05	44.33	35.46
	6.	Rural Tourism at Sualkuchi in Kamrup Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
	7.	Rural Tourism Project at village Asharikandi, Distt. Dhubri	2005-06	48.97	39.17
4. Chhattisgarh	8.	Development of Kondagaon, Distt. Bastar	2005-06	50.00	40.00
5. Jammu and Kashmir	9.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Drung, Distt. Baramula	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	10.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Surinsar, Distt. Jammu	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	11.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Gagangir, Distt. Srinagar	2005-06	50.00	40.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
	12.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Pahalgam, Distt. Anantnag	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	13.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Jheri, Distt. Jammu	2005-06	50.00	40.00
6. Kerala	14.	Development of village Balrampur in Thiruvananthapuram Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
7. Madhya Pradesh	15.	Rural Tourism Project at Orchha, Distt. Tikamgarh	2005-06	50.00	40.00
8. Orissa	16.	Development of village Pipli in Puri Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
	17.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Khiching, distt. Mayurbhanj	2005-06	50.00	40.00
9. Sikkim	18.	Development of village Lachen in North Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
10. Tamil Nadu	19.	Development of Devipattinam Navbhashnam in Ramnathpuram Distt.	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	20.	Thirukurungudi, Distt. Tirunelveli	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	21.	Thiruppudaimaurthur, Distt. Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu	2005-06	49.50	39.64
11. Uttaranchal	22.	Rural tourism project in Agora Village (Dodital) Uttar Kashi Distt.	2005-06	48.50	38.80
	23.	Development of Hub Village at Mottad and its satellite station	2005-06	48.05	38.44
	24.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Chekhoni Bora, Distt. Champawat	2005-06	44.20	35.28
	25.	Development of Rural Tourism at village Koti, Indroli	2005-06	47.10	37.68
	26.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Mana, Distt. Chamoli	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	27.	Development of Rural Tourism (Eco-Tourism) in Devriyatal at Village Sari, Distt. Rudraprayag	2005-06	45.14	36.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
12. Uttar Pradesh	28. Development of Rural Tourism at Bhitara Gram, Distt. Rae Bareilly.	2005-06	49.52	39.62	
	29. Development of Rural Tourism at Village Mukhrai, Distt. Mathura	2005-06	45.89	36.00	
13. West Bengal	30. Development of village Sonada, Distt. Darjeeling	2004-05	50.00	40.00	
Total				1470.37	1175.38

Statement-II

Statewise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the last one year under GOI-UNDP Endogeneous Tourism Project (Capacity Building) Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism are as follows

(Rs. in lakh)

State	S. No.	Name of the Project	Name of Distt.	Year of Sanction.	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	1.	Pochampalli	Nalgonda	2004-05	20.00	16.00
2. Assam	2.	Srikalahasti	Chittoor	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	3.	Durgapur	Golaghat	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	4.	Sualkuchi	Kamrup	2004-05	19.95	15.96
3. Bihar	5.	Nepura	Nalanda	2004-05	20.00	16.00
4. Chhattisgarh	6.	Chitrakote	Bastar	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	7.	Nagarnar	Bastar	2004-05	20.00	16.00
5. Gujarat	8.	Hodka	Kachchh	2004-05	20.00	16.00
6. Haryana	9.	Jyotisar	Kurukshetra	2004-05	20.00	16.00
7. Himachal Pradesh	10.	Naggar	Kullu	2004-05	20.00	16.00
8. Karnataka	11.	Banavasi	Sivaganga	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	12.	Anegundi	Koppal	2004-05	20.00	16.00
9. Kerala	13.	Kumbalangi	Ernakulam	2005-06	20.00	16.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	14.	Amamula,	Pathanamthitta	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	15.	Kalady (Spice Circuit)	Ernakulam	2005-06	10.00	08.00
	16.	Anakkara (Spice Circuit)	Idukki	2005-06	10.00	08.00
10. Madhya Pradesh	17.	Pranpur	Ashok Nagar	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	18.	Chaugan	Mandla	2004-05	20.00	16.00
11. Maharashtra	19.	Sulibhanjan-Khultabad	Aurangabad	2004-05	20.00	16.00
12. Orissa	20.	Raghurajpur	Puri	2004-05	20.00	17.60
	21.	Pipli	Puri	2004-05	20.00	16.00
13. Punjab	22.	Rajasansi	Amritsar	2004-05	20.00	16.00
14. Rajasthan	23.	Neemrana,	Alwar	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	24.	Samode	Jaipur	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	25.	Haldighati	Rajsamand	2004-05	19.32	15.45
15. Sikkim	26.	Lachen	North Distt.	2004-05	20.00	16.00
16. Tamil Nadu	27.	Kazhugumalai	Thoothukudi	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	28.	Karaikudi	Sivaganga	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	29.	Kombai (Spice Circuit)	Theni	2005-06	10.00	08.00
	30.	Thadiyankudisai (Spice Circuit)	Dindigul	2005-06	10.00	08.00
17. Tripura	31.	Kamlasagar	West Tripura	2004-05	20.00	16.00
18. Uttaranchal	32.	Jageshwar	Almora	2005-06	20.00	16.00
19. Uttar Pradesh	33.	Mana	Chamoli	2004-05	20.00	16.00
20. West Bengal	34.	Bhaguwala	Saharanpur	2004-05	19.75	15.50
	35.	Ballabhpur Danga	Birbhum	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	36.	Mukutmonipur	Bankura	2004-05	20.00	16.00
Total				679.02	544.51	



Setting up of Satellite Hub

*93. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have set up a Satellite Hub for Freight Operation Information System (FOIS) for providing connectivity to remote and inaccessible locations;

(b) if so, the details alongwith locations thereof, Zone-wise; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Railways on the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) and (b) No Sir, the Railways have not yet set up their own Hub for Satellite Hub services for Freight Operation and Information System. However, Indian Railways plan to set up its own Satellite Hub with over 200 locations at a cost of Rs.7.42 crore. The Zone-wise details are given in the enclose statement.

(c) As the physical activity on the project has not yet started, no expenditure has been booked so far.

Statement

List of 203 Zone-wise Locations

Sl.No	Zonal Railway	No. of Locations
1	2	3
1.	Central	01
2.	Eastern	08
3.	East Central	23
4.	East Coast	26
5.	Northern	19
6.	North Central	05
7.	North Eastern	01
8.	Northeast Frontier	07
9.	North Western	09

1	2	3
10.	Southern	03
11.	South Central	16
12.	South Central	34
13.	Southeast Central	35
14.	South Western	03
15.	Western	12
16.	West Central	01
Total		203

Train Accidents

*94. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP :

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of train accidents reported since November, 2005, till date;

(b) the *prima-facie* cause of each such accident and responsibility fixed therefor;

(c) the loss of lives and property therein and compensation/*ex-gratia* relief provided to the kith and kin of the deceased and to the injured passengers, accident-wise;

(d) the details of inquiries ordered and the outcome thereof, accident-wise;

(e) the action taken/to be taken against the officials/ persons found guilty for such train accidents, accident-wise; and

(f) the measures taken/to be taken to curb accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) :

(a) to (d) There have been 61* consequential train accidents during the period from November 2005 to January 2006. Accident wise details are enclosed as statement.

Type wise, cause wise, number of casualties, ex-gratia relief paid to the victims/their families, loss of railway property and enquiry ordered, are given below:—

Cause of Accidents	Collisions	Derailments	Manned level crossing accidents	Unmanned level crossing accidents	Fire in trains	Total
Railway staff failure	5	23	2	—	2	32
Other than railway staff failure	—	5	1	18	—	24
Equipment failure	—	2	—	—	—	2
Cause not established	—	1	—	—	1	2
Under Investigation	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total	5	32	3	18	3	61
Casualty						
Killed	9	16	2	32		59
Injured	33	3	5	31		72
Ex-gratia (in Rs.)	932500	15000	2500	5500	—	955500
Compensation* (in Rs.)				Nil		
Cost of damage (in Rs.)	96899160	54411665	113783	287494	239283	151951385
Inquiry						
Commissioner of Railway Safety Inquiry	2		1			3
Departmental Inquiry	3	32	2	18	3	58

(*Figures are provisional).

- * Compensation is paid after a claim is filed in the Railway Claims Tribunal and a decree is awarded. So far, no compensation claim has yet been filed by the victims or their families. Compensation will be paid when the victims file their claims and Railway Claims Tribunals give their award.

(e) Out of the above 61 consequential train accidents, 58 have been enquired by departmental inquiry committees, out of which 57 have been finalized. Out of the 3 consequential train accidents under purview of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, final report has been received in two cases and preliminary report has been received in one case. Action against the

responsible officials has been initiated as warranted by the findings.

(f) Safety is the prime concern on Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken to prevent accidents. These measures include safe drives to check on upkeep of assets, observance of safety norms, and to inculcate safety consciousness amongst the staff. Social awareness programmes are also undertaken to educate road users.

Statement*Consequential Train Accidents during the period from November 2005 to January 2006*

Sl. No.	Date of accident	Type of accident	Train(s)	Railway	Section/Station	Brief Particulars	Killed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	3.11.2005	Derailment	DMT goods	West Central	New Katni-Singrauli	Four wagons derailed	—
2.	3.11.2005	Derailment	677 Passenger	Northeast Frontier	Katihar-Tejnaraipur	Train engine and one coach derailed	—
3.	5.11.2005	Unmanned level crossing	3 LL Passenger	Northern	Phillaur-Lohian Khas	One school van dashed against the train engine.	2
4.	6.11.2005	Derailment	VZP BCX goods	Central	Sewagram station	Six wagons derailed	—
5.	7.11.2005	Manned level crossing	JWO-SSB goods	North Wester	Phulera-Rewari	One truck dashed against the train engine.	—
6.	8.11.2005	Side Collision	AP Express and Light engine	North Central	Jhansi Station	While AP Express was starting, light engine side collided with a train	—
7.	9.11.2005	Side Collision	619 Passenger and LHM goods	East Central	Barwadih Station	While 619 was starting from platform LHM goods side collided	9
8.	10.11.2005	Derailment	340 Passenger	North Western	Suratgarh-Bhatinda	Seven coaches derailed	—
9.	11.11.2005	Derailment	4743 Express	Northern	Patel Nagar Station	Three coaches derailed	—
10.	12.11.2005	Unmanned level crossing	485 Passenger	North Western	Jaipur-Sikar	One auto rickshaw dashed against the train engine.	1

Injured	Ex-gratia paid	Prima facie cause	Inquiry	Findings/ outcome	Action taken against responsible Railway officials	Cost of damage
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
—	—	Rail fracture	Departmental	Cause of rail fracture could not be established.	DAR under process	1200000
—	—	Sudden destruction of vacuum by passengers unauthorisedly.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	0
3	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	2000
—	—	Track and wagon defect.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	DAR under process	20000
3	2500	Gate not closed.	CRS	Failure of Railway staff	DAR under process	40500
—	—	Overshooting of signal by the driver of light engine.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	DAR under process	222000
26	929000	Overshooting of signals by the goods driver as a result of interference in brake power off the train by outsiders.	CRS	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	92343960
—	—	Multiple rail fracture.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	DAR under process	600000
—	—	Axle breakage.	Departmental	Equipment failure	DAR under process	37500
—	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	14.11.2005	Unmanned level crossing	1018 Express	North Western	Tumkur-Arsikere	One auto rickshaw dashed against the train engine.	2
12.	14.11.2005	Unmanned level crossing	340 Passenger	North Western	Jodhpur-Merta Road	One tractor trolley dashed against the train engine.	1
13.	14.11.2005	Fire	3074 Express	Northern	Moradabad- Lucknow	Rear SLR caught fire.	—
14.	15.11.2005	Derailment	WFD goods	South Central	Wadi-Raichur	Six wagons derailed.	—
15.	15.11.2005	Derailment	DMT goods	Western	Khijadiya- Veraval	Eight loaded departmental wagons derailed.	—
16.	16.11.2005	Derailment	1123 Mail	Northern	Lucknow station	While the train was entering, six coaches derailed.	—
17.	17.11.2005	Derailment	261 Passenger	North Eastern	Thawe-Chhapra	Train engine derailed.	—
18.	17.11.2005	Fire	8616 Express	South Eastern	Ranchi Station	Smoke in one coach noticed while the train was entering Ranchi Station.	—
19.	23.11.2005	Manned level crossing	362 Passenger	South East Central	Durg-Bilaspur	One truck dashed against the train engine.	—
20.	24.11.2005	Derailment	HOM goods	South Central	Gooty- Reningunta	Eight wagons derailed.	—
21.	25.11.2005	Rear end Collision	K-112 EMU and 8006 Express	South Eastern	Kharagpur- Howrah	8006 collided in rear of K 112 which was standing at Home signal of Panskura station	—
22.	25.11.2005	Unmanned level crossing	402 Express	North Eastern	Gorakhpur- Paniyahwa	One tractor trolley dashed against the train engine.	3

9	10	11	12	13	14	15
—	—	Negilience of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	14569
—	—	Negilience of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	500
—	—	Waste materials in the open panel caught fire from Bidi/Cigarette	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	DAR under process	500
—	—	Weld failure	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	DAR under process	1032547
—	—	Over speeding by driver.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	DAR under process	7000
—	—	Rail fracture.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	DAR under process	1500
—	—	Heap of ballast on track in the approach of train		Failure of Railway staff	DAR under process	0
—	—	Electrical spark from the ceiling of the coach.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff	DAR under process	33783
—	—	Negilience of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	73283
—	—	Rail fracture.	Departmental	Equipment failure.		1550000
2	1000	Overshooting of automatic signal by the driver of 8006.	CRS	As per the preliminary report: Failure of Railway staff	DAR under	2653200
2	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	16200

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	25.11.2005	Derailment	7595 Express	South Central	Pakala station	while the train was entering, its train engine two coaches derailed	—
24.	25.11.2005	Fire	2715 Express	Northern	Ludhiana Station	While the train was leaving smoke was noticed in rear SLR.	—
25.	26.11.2005	Derailment	KR-5 Passenger	Central	Diva station	While the train was starting its train engine derailed.	—
26.	26.11.2005	Manned level crossing	BSF Special	Northern	Ganaru station	One car dashed against the train engine.	2
27.	28.11.2005	Derailment	TDLE goods	Northeast	Lumding- Guwahati	Fourteen wagons derailed	—
28.	29.11.2005	Derailment	311 Passenger	South Western	Hubli station	While entering Hubli station one coach derailed.	—
29.	4.12.2005	Derailment	SPRD goods	East Coast	Sadashibpur Station	Eight wagons derailed	—
30.	5.12.2005	Derailment	RSP-4 goods	South Eastern	Kiriburu- Bimalgarh	Locomotives and thirty wagons derailed.	16
31.	6.12.2005	Derailment	SOG goods	North Western	Hanumangarh- Suratgarh	Six wagons derailed.	—
32.	8.12.2005	Derailment	3413 Express	Eastern	Bhagalpur Station	While entering station, one coach derailed.	—
33.	9.12.2005	Derailment	BWN goods	South East Central	Nagpur-Durg	One wagon derailed.	—
34.	9.12.2005	Unmanned level crossing	572 Passenger	South Central	Mahboob Nagar- Secunderabad	One auto rickshaw dashed against the train engine.	1
35.	11.12.2005	Unmanned level crossing	2 TB Passenger	South Eastern	Bahalda Road- Tata Nagar	One Tata sumo dashed against the train engine.	—

9	10	11	12	13	14	15
—	—	Track defect.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	0
—	—	One moped, which was not decanted fully, caught fire.	Departmental	Cause of fire could not be established.	—	205,000
—	—	Overshooting of signal by the Driver.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	0
2	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	0
—	—	Rail fracture.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	4907343
—	—	Train taken two road.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	100
—	—	Over speeding.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	8723000
3	15000	Driver could not control the train.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	13175000
—	—	Wagon defect	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	600000
—	—	Coach dashed with infringement of one uprooted (by miscreants) letter box kept near the edge of the platform.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	25000
—	—	Over speeding.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	120000
3	5000	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	0
4	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	8025

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
36.	12.12.2005	Unmanned level crossing	4633 Express	Northern	Amritsar-Pathankot	One tractor trolley dashed against the train engine.	2
37.	12.12.2005	Derailment	BCN empty goods	East Central	Khagaria station	While being drawn from goods shed three wagons derailed.	—
38.	16.12.2005	Unmanned level crossing	1346 Passenger	Central	Miraj-Pandharpur	One truck dashed against the train engine.	1
39.	19.12.2005	Derailment	4307 Express	Northern	Masit station	Train engine and one coach derailed.	—
40.	24.12.2005	Derailment	251 Passenger	South Western	Chikjajur-Bellary	Train engine derailed.	—
41.	24.12.2005	Unmanned level crossing	10 BS rail bus	East Coast	Salur-Bobbili	One tractor trolley dashed against the train engine.	—
42.	01.01.2006	Derailment	2501 goods	East Central	Kiul-Danapur	Ten coaches derailed.	—
43.	03.01.2006	Derailment	MTHP goods	Western	Okha-Rajkot	Eight wagons derailed.	—
44.	05.01.2006	Unmanned level crossing	3020 Express	North Eastern	Gonda-Gorakhpur	One tractor dashed against the train engine.	1
45.	06.01.2006	Derailment	NBQ Goods	Northern	Chanethi station	While the train was passing through, seven wagons derailed.	—
46.	10.01.2006	Side Collision	2815 Express and coaching pilot.	East Central	Mughalsarai station	While 2815 was being received on platform, coaching pilot disregarded shunt signal and collided with the train.	—
47.	11.01.2006	Unmanned level crossing	BCN empty goods	Northern	Panipat-Rohtak	One bus dashed against the train engine	—
48.	12.01.2006	Side collision	4888 Express and LHM goods	Northern	Dhablan station	4888 side collided with LHM goods which was standing in loop line infringing main line.	—

9	10	11	12	13	14	15
—	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	0
—	—	Obstruction on track by heap of ballast.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	1225
3	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	151000
—	—	Non securing of points by station staff	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	0
—	—	Track defect.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	DAR under process	75000
—	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	Nil	40000
—	—	Rail fracture.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	2050000
—	—	Rail fracture.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	—	510000
—	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	0
—	—	PWI was doing maintenance work without protection.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	210000
—	2500	Overshooting of signal by the driver of coaching pilot.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	190000
—	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff.	—	200
—	—	Run through signal was given to 4888 by station staff without ensuring complete arrival of LHM goods	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	1490000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
49.	12.01.2006	Derailment	449 passenger	North Eastern	Ghughuli station	Train engine derailed.	—
50.	12.01.2006	Derailment	KKC goods	South Eastern	Barsuan- Bondamunda	Three wagons derailed.	—
51.	12.01.2006	Unmanned level crossing	2973 Express	North Western	Sawai Madhopur - Jaipur	One tractor dashed against the train engine.	1
52.	12.01.2006	Unmanned level crossing	6044 Express	South Central	Nidadavolu- Bhimavaram Tanaku-Attil	One auto rickshaw dashed against the train engine.	3
53.	15.01.2006	Unmanned level crossing	1077 Express	Northern	Pathankot- Jammu Tawi	One Tata sumo dashed against the train engine.	3
54.	17.01.2006	Derailment	662 passenger	Southern	Mettupalayam- Udagamandalam	Train engine derailed.	—
55.	17.01.2006	Unmanned level crossing	5631 Express	East Central	Barauni- Katihar	One tractor dashed against the train engine.	4
56.	18.01.2006	Derailment	DHN Goods	Northern	Bhatinda- Jakhai	Nine wagons derailed.	—
57.	18.01.2006	Derailment	2053 Express	Northern	Mohanlalganj station	Train engine derailed.	—
58.	23.01.2006	Unmanned level crossing	178 Passenger	North Eastern	Ashbagh- Sitapur	One tractor dashed against the train engine.	1
59.	25.01.2006	Unmanned level crossing	3163 Express	Eastern	Azimganj- Katwa	One Tata Sumo dashed against the train engine.	6
60.	25.01.2006	Derailment	Hatia goods	South Eastern	Muri-Hatia	Eleven wagons derailed.	—
61.	26.01.2006	Derailment	BOX N empty goods	East Central	Garwa Road- Barkakana	Five wagons derailed.	—

9	10	11	12	13	14	15
—	—	Overshooting of signal by the driver.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	450
—	—	Sabotage.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff.	—	655000
—	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	30000
—	500	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	0
—	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	0
—	—	Track defect.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	DAR under process	0
—	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	5000
—	—	Under investigation.	Departmental	Under investigation	Awaited.	Awaited
—	—	Authority to pass defective signal at 'ON' was given by station master without clamping and padlocking the point.	Departmental	Failure of Railway staff.	DAR under process	Awaited
—	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	20000
—	—	Negligence of road user.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	0
—	—	Sabotage.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	12821000
—	—	Bomb explosion by miscreant.	Departmental	Failure of other than Railway staff	—	6900000

Uplinking Guidelines for News Channels

*95. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has formulated new uplinking guidelines for news channels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for proper implementation of the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) No, Sir. Uplinking guidelines were issued from time to time on different aspects. The existing uplinking guidelines have been partially revised and all the existing guidelines have been consolidated into one consolidated guidelines and issued on 2.12.2005.

(b) and (c) The consolidated uplinking guidelines have been notified on 2.12.2005 (statement) which are also available on the Ministry's website ([http:// www.mib.nic.in](http://www.mib.nic.in)) and since then all new applications are being received in the prescribed proforma and processed under these guidelines only.

Statement

Guidelines for Uplinking From India

New Delhi

Dated: December 2, 2005.

Preamble

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India notified the "Guidelines for uplinking from India" in July 2000. This was followed by "Guidelines for Uplinking of News and Current Affairs TV Channels from India" in March 2003, which were amended in August 2003, "Guidelines for use of SNG/DSNGs" in May 2003 and addendum dated 1.4.2005 to the

uplinking guidelines. The Government has, on 20th October 2005 further amended these guidelines. It has now been decided that all these guidelines should be consolidated into one set of guidelines and notified. Accordingly, in supercession of all previous guidelines, the Government hereby notifies the following consolidated uplinking guidelines. These shall come into effect from today the 2nd December 2005 and would be applicable to existing channels as well.

General

The applicant seeking permission to set up an uplinking hub/teleport or uplink a TV Channel or uplink facility by a News Agency should be a company registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956.

1. Permission for Setting up of Uplinking Hub/Teleports.

1.1 Eligibility Criteria.

1.1.1 In the applicant company, the foreign equity holding including NRI/OCB/PIO should not exceed 49%.

1.1.2 The Company should have a minimum Net Worth as prescribed below:

Item	Required Net Worth
Teleport for single channel capacity	Rs. 1.00 Crore
Teleport for 6 channel capacity	Rs. 1.50 Crore
Teleport for 10 channel capacity	Rs. 2.50 Crore
Teleport for 15 channel capacity	Rs. 3.00 Crore

1.2 Period of Permission.

1.2.1 Permission shall be granted for a period of 10 years.

1.3 Fee.

1.3.1 The applicant with pay an amount of Rs. Ten thousand as processing fee.

1.3.2 After being held eligible, the applicant company shall pay a permission fee at the rate of Rs. Five Lakhs per teleport.

1.4. Special Conditions/Obligations.

1.4.1 The company shall uplink only those TV channels which are specifically approved or permitted by the Ministry of I&B for uplinking from India

1.4.2 The company shall stop uplinking TV channels whenever permission/approval to such a channel is withdrawn by the Ministry of I&B.

1.4.3 The applicant company shall abide by the general terms and conditions laid down in Para 5 below.

2. Permission for uplinking a Non-News & Current Affairs TV Channel.

[Note : For the purpose of these guidelines, a non-News & Current Affairs TV channel means a channel which does not have any element of news & current Affairs in its programme content.]

2.1 Eligibility Criteria.

2.1.1 The applicant company, irrespective of its ownership, equity structure or management control, would be eligible to seek permission.

2.1.2 The Company should have a minimum Net Worth as prescribed below:

Item	Required Net Worth
TV channel	Rs. 1.50 Crore
For each additional TV channel	Rs. 1.00 Crore

2.2 Period of Permission.

2.2.1 Permission shall be granted for a period of 10 years.

2.3 Fee.

2.3.1 The applicant will pay an amount of Rs. Ten thousand as processing fee.

2.3.2 After being held eligible, the applicant company shall pay a permission fee at the rate of Rs. Five Lakhs per channel.

2.4 Special Conditions/Obligations.

2.4.1 The applicant company shall obtain registration for each channel, in accordance with the procedure laid down under the Downlinking Guidelines notified by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting separately.

2.4.2 The applicant company permitted to uplink shall operationalize the channel within a period of one year from the date the permission is granted by the Ministry of I&B; failing which the permission is liable to be withdrawn, after affording an opportunity of being heard.

2.4.3 The sports channels/sports rights management companies having TV broadcasting rights shall with immediate effect share their fee with Prasar Bharati for national and international sporting events of national importance, held in India or abroad, for terrestrial transmission and DTH broadcasting (free-to-air) under the following conditions:

- (i) The events of national importance shall be determined by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in consultation with Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Prasar Bharati and the concerned sports channels/sports rights management companies. In case of cricket events, these shall include all matches featuring

India and the semi-finals and finals of international competitions.

- (ii) The above conditions shall apply to all future events including those covered by existing contract of broadcasting rights. However, in the case of cricket events whose broadcasting rights have been obtained by sports channels/right management companies prior to the issue of the notification in the matter the rights holders will be obliged to share the feed for all matches featuring India and finals of international competitions.
- (iii) Prasar Bharati shall transmit the feed, free to air, on its terrestrial channel and carried through the terrestrial network and/or the satellite/DTH mode.
- (iv) The marketing of the events' rights (terrestrial as well as satellite/DTH) will be decided through mutual negotiations between Prasar Bharati and the rights holder. The marketing rights should go to the party which offers to maximize the revenue.
- (v) Revenue sharing formula of 75:25 in favour of rights holders without any minimum guarantee/opportunity cost, should be applied.

In the event of any dispute, the matter shall be referred to an arbitrator to be appointed by Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice out of the approved panel of arbitrators.

2.4.4 The applicant company shall abide by the general terms and conditions laid down in Para 5 below.

3. **Permission for uplinking a News and Current Affairs TV Channel.**

[Note : For the purpose of these guidelines, a News and Current Affairs TV channel means a channel which has any element of news and current Affairs in its programme content.]

3.1 **Eligibility Criteria.**

3.1.1. Foreign Equity holding including FDI/FII/NRI investments should not exceed 26% of the Paid Up equity of the applicant company. However, the entry making portfolio investment in the form of FII/NRIs shall not be "persons acting in concern" with FDI investors, as defined in Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997. The Company permitted to uplink the channel shall certify the continued compliance of this requirement through its Company Secretary, at the end of each financial year.

3.1.2 Permission will be granted only in case where equity held by the largest Indian shareholder is at least 51% of the total equity, excluding the equity held by Public Sector Banks and Public Financial Institutions as defined in Section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956, in the New Entity. The terms largest Indian shareholder, used in this clause, will include any or a combination of the following:

- (1) In the case of an individual shareholder.
 - (a) The individual shareholder.
 - (b) A relative of the shareholder within the meaning of Section 6 of the Companies Act, 1956.
 - (c) A company/group of companies in which the individual shareholder/HUF to which he belongs has management and controlling interest.
- (2) In the case of an Indian company.
 - (a) The Indian company.
 - (b) A group of Indian companies under the same management and ownership control.

For the purpose of this Clause, "Indian company" shall be a company, which must have a resident Indian or a relative as defined under Section 6 of the Companies Act, 1956/HUF, either singly or in combination holding at least 51% of the shares.

Provided that in case of a combination of all or any of the entities mentioned in Sub-Clause (1) and (2) above, each of the parties shall have entered into a legally binding agreement to act as a single unit in managing the matters of the applicant company.

- 3.1.3 While calculating foreign equity of the applicant company, the foreign holding component, if any, in the equity of the Indian shareholder companies of the applicant company will be duly reckoned on pro-rata basis, so as to arrive at the total foreign holding in the applicant company. However, the indirect FII equity in a company as on 31st March of the year would be taken for the purpose of pro-rata reckoning of foreign holdings.
- 3.1.4 The company shall make full disclosure, at the time of application, of Shareholders Agreement, Loan Agreements and such other Agreements that are finalized or are proposed to be entered into. Any subsequent changes in these would be disclosed to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting within 15 days of any changes, having a bearing on the foregoing Agreements.
- 3.1.5 It will be obligatory on the part of the company to intimate the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the changes in Foreign Direct Investment in company, within 15 days of such change. While effecting changes in the shareholding patterns, it shall ensure its continued compliance to Clause 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 above.
- 3.1.6 The applicant shall be required to intimate the names and details of all persons, not being resident

Indians, who are proposed to be inducted in the Board of Directors of the company.

- 3.1.7 The company shall be liable to intimate the names and details of any foreigners/ NRIs to be employed/ engaged in the company either as Consultants (or in any other capacity) for more than 60 days in a year, or, as regular employees.
- 3.1.8 At least 3/4th of the Directors on the Board of Directors of the company and all key Executive and Editorial staff shall be resident Indians.
- 3.1.9 The representation on the Board of Directors of the company shall as far as possible be proportionate to the shareholding.
- 3.1.10 All appointments of key personnel (executive and editorial) shall be made by the applicant company without any reference on from any other company, Indian or foreign.
- 3.1.11 The applicant company must have complete management control, operational independence and control over its resources and assets and must have adequate financial strength for running a news and current affairs TV channel.
- 3.1.12 CEO of the applicant company, known by any designation, and/or head of the channel, shall be a resident Indian.
- 3.1.13 The Company should have a minimum Net Worth as prescribed below:

Item	Required Net Worth
Single TV channel	Rs. 1.50 Crore
For each additional TV channel	Rs. 1.00 Crore

3.2 Period of Permission.

- 3.2.1 Permission shall be granted for a period of 10 years.

3.3 Fee.

3.3.1 The applicant will pay an amount of Rs. Ten thousands as processing fee.

3.3.2 After being held eligible, the applicant company shall pay a permission fee at the rate of Rs. Five Lakhs per channel.

3.4 Special Conditions/Obligations.

3.4.1 Permission for usage of facilities/infrastructure for live news/footage collection and transmission, irrespective of the technology used, will be given to only those channels which are uplinked from India. To ensure immediate compliance of this policy in respect of permissions/licences given/to be given for utilization of VSAT/RTTS/Satellite Video Phone and similar other infrastructure, which lends itself for use in uplinking/point to point transfer of content for broadcast purposes, separate guidelines will be issued by the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology.

3.4.2 The channel/company will ensure that its news and current affairs content provider(s), if any, are accredited with the Press Information Bureau. Such accredited content provider(s) only can use equipment/platform for collection/transmission of the news/footage.

3.4.3 The channel/company should ensure that it uses equipment, which is duly authorized and permitted by the competent authority, or its content provider(s), if any, use equipment duly authorized by the competent authority.

3.4.4 It will be obligatory on the part of the company to intimate the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, the changes in Foreign Direct Investment in the company, within 15 days of such change. While effecting changes in the shareholding patterns, it shall ensure its continued compliance to Clause 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 above.

3.4.5 The company/channel will be liable to intimate to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting the details of any foreigners/NRIs employed/engaged by it for a period exceeding 60(sixty) days.

3.4.6 The applicant company shall abide by the general terms and conditions laid down in Para 5 below as well as Paras 2.4.1 to 2.4.3 above.

3. Permission for uplinking by Indian News Agency**4.1 Eligibility Criteria.**

4.1.1. The applicant company should be accredited by Press Information Bureau (PIB).

4.1.2. The applicant company should be 100% owned by Indian, with Indian Management Control.

4.2 Period of Permission.

4.2.1 Period of Permission shall be as per WPC license.

4.3 Special Conditions/Obligations.

4.3.1 The company shall use uplinking for news-gathering and its further distribution to other news agencies/broadcasters only.

4.3.2 The company shall not uplink TV programmes/channels for direct reception by public.

4.3.3 The applicant company shall abide by the general terms and conditions laid down in Para 5 below.

5. General Terms and Conditions.

5.1 The company can uplink either in C or Ku Band. Uplinking in C Band would be permitted both to Indian as well as foreign satellites. However, proposals envisaging use of Indian satellites will be accorded preferential treatment. On the other hand, uplinking in Ku Band would be permitted through Indian satellite only, subject to the condition that this permission is not used to run/operate DTH service

without proper license, to which separate guidelines apply. Satellite to be used should have been coordinated with Insat System.

- 5.2 The company shall comply with the Programme & Advertising Codes, as laid down in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed there under.
- 5.3 The company shall keep record of the content uplinked for a period of 90 days and produce the same before any agency of the Government, as and when required.
- 5.4 The company shall furnish such information, as may be required by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, from time to time.
- 5.5 The company/channel shall provide for the necessary monitoring facility, at its own cost, for monitoring of programmes or content by the representatives of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting or any other Government agency as and when so required
- 5.6 The company shall permit the Government agencies to inspect the facilities as and when required.
- 5.7 The company shall comply with the terms and conditions of Wireless Operational Licence to be issued by the WPC Wing, Ministry of Communications & IT.
- 5.8 The company shall ensure its continued eligibility as applicable through out the period of permission and adhere to all the terms and conditions of the permission, failing which the company shall be liable for penalty as specified in Para 8 below.
- 5.9 The Government of India, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting shall have the right to suspend the permission of the company for a specified period in public interest or in the interest of national

security to prevent its misuse. The company shall immediately comply with any directives issued in this regard.

- 5.10 It will be obligatory on the part of the company to take prior permission from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting before effecting any change in the CEO/Board of Directors.
- 6. Permission for use of SNG/DSNG Equipments in C Band and KU Band.**
- 6.1 The use of SNG/DSNG would be permitted to News and Current Affairs channels uplinked from India for live news/footage collection and point-to-point transmission.
- 6.2 PIB accredited content provider(s) if any, to the permitted News and Current Affairs channel(s) can use SNG/DSNG for collection/transmission of news/footage.
- 6.3 Entertainment channels who are uplinking from their own teleport, can use SNG/DSNG for their approved channels, for transfer of video feeds to the permitted teleport.
- 6.4 All Foreign channels, permitted entertainment channels uplinked from India and companies/individuals not covered in 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 as above will be required to seek temporary uplinking permission for using SNG/DSNG for any live coverage/footage collection and transmission on case to case basis.
- 6.5 Only permitted teleport operators and Doordarshan may offer/hire out SNG/DSNG equipments/infrastructures to other broadcasters who are permitted to uplink from India.
- 6.6 The uplinking should be carried in encrypted mode, so as to be receivable only inclosed use group. The signal should only be down linked at the permitted teleport of the licensee and uplinked for broadcasting

through permitted satellite through that teleport only.

6.7 Each company/channel desiring to use SNG/DSNG would have to apply to Ministry of I&B and get permission before doing the same.

6.8 Uplinking from SNG/DSNG should be in SCPC mode only (only single feed can be uplinked from the SNG/DSNG at a time).

6.9 The channel would also give an undertaking that the feed collected through SNG/DSNG shall conform to Programme and Advertisement Codes.

6.10 The use of SNG/DSNG would be permitted only in those areas/regions/states which are not specifically prohibited by MHA.

6.11 The company would submit the purchase documents of SNG/DSNG terminals and inform Minister of I&B about placement of these terminals at the various locations.

6.12 Period of Permission:

- (a) For teleport owners – co terminus with teleport licence.
- (b) For permitted News and Current Affairs channels – for the period of the Channel permission.
- (c) For content providers to permitted channels– for the period of the channel permission.
- (d) For other broadcasters having temporary uplinking permission – for periods as specified in the temporary uplinking permission.

6.13 The Company permitted to use SNG/DSNG shall apply to WPC for frequency authorization of WPC. It should be renewed yearly in time and a copy should be submitted to this Ministry by the company every year.

6.14 The permitted company shall maintain a daily record of the location and the events which have been covered and uplinked by SNG/DSNG terminals and down linked at their main satellite earth station and produce the same before the licensing authority or its authorized representative, which will include officers of Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of I&B, as and when required.

6.15 The permitted company shall not enter defence installations.

6.16 The equipment should not be taken in the areas cordoned off from security point of view.

6.17 The company/channel desiring to use SNG/DSNG would give an undertaking that it would be used for live newsgathering and footage collection for captive use only.

6.18 Violations of any of the aforementioned terms and conditions would lead to revocation/cancellation of the permission to use the SNG/DSNG.

6.19 The permitting authority may modify the conditions laid down or incorporate new conditions, as and when considered necessary.

6.20 SNG/DSNG in Ku Band will not be used for DTH operation, directly or indirectly. Any such use would lead to the termination of licence/permission.

6.21 Uplinking Dish used for SNG/DSNG operation in Ku Band shall not exceed 2 meters.

7. Permission for Temporary Uplinking.

7.1 The use of all equipment/platforms for collection of footage/news by channels uplinked from outside for specific programme(s)/event(s) of temporary duration will be entertained on recommendation from the PIB and permitted on a case to case basis, in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and other Ministries/Departments concerned.

7.2 Foreign news channels/agencies may be granted permission upto one year at a time for temporary uplinking from time to time through a pre-designated teleport, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The applicant is accredited with the Press Information Bureau, Government of India.
- (b) The applicant undertakes to conform to the Programme and Advertisement Codes.
- (c) The applicant has a binding agreement with the relevant teleport for the period of permission.
- (d) The applicant pays a processing fee of Rs. 10,000/- and temporary permission fee of Rs. 50,000/- per year.

The news/footage so uplinked shall be primarily for the usage abroad by the foreign news agency/channel and shall not be broadcast in India without downlinking permission and registration of the channel.

8. Offences and Penalties.

- 8.1 In the event of a channel/teleport/SNG/DSNG found to have been/being used for transmitting/uplinking any objectionable unauthorized content, messages, or communication inconsistent with public interest or national security or failing to comply with the directions as per para 5.9 above, the permission granted shall be revoked and the company shall be disqualified to hold any such permission for a period of five years, apart from liability for punishment under other applicable laws.
- 8.2 Subject to the provisions contained in para 8.1 of these guidelines, in the event of a permission holder violating any of the terms and conditions of permission, or any other provisions of the

guidelines, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting shall have the right to impose the following penalties:

- 8.2.1 In the event of first violation, suspension of the permission of the company and prohibition of broadcast/ transmission upto a period of 30 days.
- 8.2.2 In the event of second violation, suspension of the permission of the company and prohibition of broadcast up a period of 90 days.
- 8.2.3 In the event third violation, revocation of the permission of the company and prohibition of broadcast upto the remaining period of permission
- 8.2.4 In the event of failure of the permission holder to comply with the penalties imposed within the prescribed time, revocation of permission and prohibition of broadcast for the remaining period of the permission and disqualification to hold any fresh permission in future for a period of five years.
- 8.3 In the event of suspension of permission as mention in Para 5.9 or 8.2 above, the permission holder shall continue to discharge its obligations under the Grant of Permission Agreement including the payment of fee.
- 8.4 In the event revocation of permission, the fees shall be forfeited.
- 8.5 All the penalties mentioned above shall be imposed only after giving a written notice to the permission holder.
- 9. Procedure for Obtaining Permission.
- 9.1 The applicant company can apply to the Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, in the prescribed format "Form 1" alongwith all requisite documents including a demand draft

for an amount equal to processing fee wherever prescribed, payable at par at New Delhi, in favour of the Pay & Accounts Officer, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

- 9.2 On the basis of information furnished in the application form, if the applicant is found eligible, its application will be sent for security clearance to the Ministry of Home Affairs and for clearance of satellite use to the Department of Space (wherever required).
- 9.3 As soon as these clearances are received, the applicant would be asked to furnish a demand draft for an amount equal to the processing fee, wherever prescribed, payable at New Delhi, in favour of Pay & Accounts Officer, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. Further, the applicant company in respect of Para 1, 2 or 3 above would be required to sign an agreement titled as "Grant of Permission Agreement", in the format "Form 2", which is being prescribed separately.
- 9.4 Thereafter, the Company would be issued a formal permission to enable it to obtain requisite license/clearances from the WPC Wing, Ministry of Communications & IT or approach a teleport service provider in case of TV channels/uplinking by a Indian news agency.
- 9.5 The applicant will pay the licence fee and royalty, as prescribed by WPC Wing from time to time, annually, for the total amount of spectrum assigned to Hub/Teleport station, as per norms & rules of the WPC Wing. Besides, the Hub/Teleport station owner will inform WPC Wing the full technical and operations details of TV channels proposed to be uplinked through his/her Hub/Teleport in prescribed format. (This clause is applicable for teleports/uplinking by a Indian News Agency.

[Translation]

Construction of Additional Runways

*96. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a constant increase in the number of aircraft after the issuance of aviation license to private companies owing to which incidents of jam has increased at the airports;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to construct additional runways at the major airports for smooth landing/take-off operations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken alongwith the funds allocated/proposed to be allocated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Increase in air traffic has created shortage of runway capacity and aircraft parking capacity at various airports, particularly at Delhi and Mumbai airports.

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken action to increase parking stands at Delhi, Mumbai and other non-metro airports to meet the increased requirements of parking stands. Action has also been initiated for construction of rapid exist taxiways and parallel taxiways at Delhi and Mumbai airports to increase the runway capacity. Besides, incentives have been offered to new airlines for operating their services from bases at other non-metro airports. Action is also underway for construction of new runway and extension of existing runways at Mangalore, Vishakhapatnam, Bhubaneshwar, Coimbatore, Jaipur, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Raipur, Jammu, Trichy and Madurai airports to accommodate operation of bigger type of aircraft.

(d) Funds allocated for development/modernization works at various airports for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively airport-wise (in crores of rupees) are as under:

Trichy (8.55, 16.1), Madurai (7.01, 8.10), Coimbatore (7.61, 1.60), Amritsar (22.05, 30.25), Hyderabad (16.2, 8.33), Vishakhapatnam (32.94, 39.85), Ahmedabad (13.78, 16.5), Surat (7.46, 17.71), Vadodara (0.00, 0.10), Khajuraho (0.82, 1.00), Bhopal (5.00, 3.10), Nagpur (0.1, 6.00), Calicut (13.00, 20.00), Mangalore (8.10, 12.00), Bangalore (1.00, 1.50), Dehradun (1.25, 3.00), Srinagar (16.81, 22.61), Chandigarh (0.01, 0.01), Gaya (7.5, 2.00), Silchar (6.00, 4.5), Dibrugarh (7.1, 28.1), Jaipur (1.85, 5.00), Udaipur (4.10, 6.50), Jaisalmer (0.05, 0.2), Jodhpur (2.5, 4.00), Lucknow (0.01, 0.01), Varanasi (0.10, 0.11), Agatti (0.3, 2.00), Goa (0.00, 0.1), and Pune (5.10, 8.10).

Requirement of Natural Gas to Fertilizer and Power Plants

*97. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total requirement of natural gas in fertilizer and power sectors in the country;

(b) whether natural gas is being supplied to these sectors as per their demand;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of fertilizers and power sectors?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) While the requirement of natural gas of the existing gas based fertilizer units in about 35 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD), the normative gas requirement for gas based power plants at 90% PLF is about 50 MMSCMD.

(b) to (d) As against the total availability of natural gas of around 92 MMSCMD, including 18 MMSCMD of imported regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG), the estimated demand of natural gas in the country is around 150 MMSCMD. Natural gas is available at APM (Administered Pricing Mechanism) price and at market related prices. The APM price is applicable to the gas produced from the existing fields of ONGC and OIL given to them on nomination basis. While APM gas has been allocated to various units by the Government, the consumer units have to tie up with the gas suppliers directly for non-APM gas.

As against the APM gas allocation of about 117 MMSCMD, the availability under this price at present is about 55 MMSCMD. In accordance with the government policy, all available APM gas is supplied only to the power and fertilizer sector consumers against their existing allocations alongwith the specific end-users committed under court orders as well as small scale consumers having allocations upto 0.05 MMSCMD. The APM gas allocations for the power and fertilizer sectors are about 42 MMSCMD and 30 MMSCMD respectively. As against these allocations, the average gas supply to these sectors under APM during the third quarter of 2005-06 was about 27 MMSCMD and 20 MMSCMD respectively. In addition, 19.6 MMSCMD RLNG was supplied to the power sector and 6.60 MMSCMD RLNG to the fertilizer sector.

The steps taken to increase the availability of natural gas in the country include efforts for increasing domestic gas production under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and import of natural gas as LNG or through transnational pipelines.

Agreement for Oil and Gas Import

*98. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :

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

(a) whether some countries have backtracked on the agreements entered into with them by India for the import of oil and gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, country-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Increase in Air Passengers

*99. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is expected to carry 70 million air passengers a year by 2010, as per the study conducted by the Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA);

(b) if so, whether the Government has prepared any blue print in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) As per the current traffic forecast of Airports Authority of India (AAI), the total passenger traffic handled by all Indian operational airports will increase from 59.3 million in 2004-05 to 76.2 million in 2006-07 and will increase to 109.2 million passengers by 2010-11 including domestic and international passengers

(b) and (c) Improvement upgradation and modernization of infrastructure facilities at airports is a continuous process and is taken up in a phased manner depending upon the traffic demand and availability of land resources etc. Government has decided to restructure and

modernize the Delhi and Mumbai airports through joint venture route with public private participation. Government has also decided to develop and modernize city side of 35 non-metro airports in the country in phases to world class standards. AAI had appointed Global Technical Advisor (GTA) and Indian Financial Consultant (IFC) to prepare detailed project report (DPR) for development works for first phase of 10 airports and second phase of 15 airports. The report for first phase of 10 airports has been submitted by the Consultants. Appointment of GTA and IFC is likely to be made for third phase of 10 airports. The 35 non-metro airports are proposed to be developed and modernized by the year 2010 taking into account the recommendations of the GTA and IFC.

[Translation]

Committee on Functioning of AIIA

*100. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has constituted a committee for bringing improvement in the functioning of Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA);

(b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government;

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

(d) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) The Government reviews the performance of AI/IA on a regular basis and encourages/supports the management in taking various measures for improvement. However, no committee has been constituted specifically for this purpose.

Prasar Bharati

*101. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :

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

(a) the present financial status of the Prasar Bharati, the public television and broadcast corporation;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make Prasar Bharti into a commercially viable enterprise, and;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/ being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) Prasar Bharati switched over from the Government budgeting system to a new accounting system with effect from 1st April, 2000. Pursuant to this, Prasar Bharati receives financial support from the Central Government in the form of Grants-in-aid to cover part of its revenue expenditure (Plan and Non-Plan) and loans to cover part of its capital expenditure (Plan). The revenue earnings, which were required to be credited into the Consolidated Fund of India prior to its delinking from Government budgeting system, are now retained by Prasar Bharati. A part of Prasar Bharati's expenditure both under the Plan and Non-Plan schemes is met by it through its revenue earnings i.e., Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR).

The funding pattern during the last two financial years is given in the Table below:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Grant-in-Aid			Loan	IEBR	Total
	Non-Plan	Plan	Total			
2003-04	910	119	1,029	71	568	1,668
2004-05	924	92	1,016	92	717	1,825

(Note:— Figures provisional)

(b) and (c) The role of Prasar Bharati is different from other private broadcasters as it is not driven or motivated solely by the commercial considerations. The Government has constituted a Committee to suggest a viable capital and financial structure for Prasar Bharati to strengthen its functioning. The ten member Committee is headed by Secretary (I&B) and represented by senior-level officer of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as well as Prasar Bharati, Advisor (C&I), Planning Commission and the Joint Secretary in the Department of Expenditure under Ministry of Finance. The Committee's recommendations are awaited.

[English]

Oil Pipeline Blown in Assam

527. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil-Pipeline at Moran (Assam) was blown up by militants in January, 2006;

(b) if so, the number of casualties occurred and the extent of damage to pipeline and other infrastructure caused thereby;

(c) whether attacks on oil companies and oil infrastructure was intensified in January this year; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to provide adequate security in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINESH PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The details of incidents which took place at oil installations in Assam during January, 2006 are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The security of oil installations in Assam is looked after by the security staff of the Oil Companies, the Central Industrial Security Force and Assam Police. The security status is reviewed on a regular basis in coordination with the State Government through a Onshore Security Co-ordination Committee (OSCC) headed by the DGP, Assam and oil companies, DCs, SPs as members. The Inspector General of Police (Security) reviews the security arrangements of Oil Sector Refineries, Pipelines and Installations on a quarterly basis in the Intelligence Sub-Committee Meetings.

Statement

The Details of Incidents

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)

- (i) A blast took place on 15.1.2006 on the Guwahati-Siliguri Pipeline near Palasbari in Chirang District. No casualty was reported.
- (ii) On 20.1.2006 at around 6.45 P.M., there was a grenade attack on security personnel in front of the Guwahati Refinery main gate, causing injuries to 9 security personnel, 2 contract labour and one IOC employee. Besides these, on the next day a dead body of a contract driver was discovered bearing splinters in the head.

- (iii) On 22.1.2006 at about 8.40 P.M., there was another blast on 8" Digboi-Tinsukia Product Pipeline.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

- (i) On 22.1.2006 at about 1635 hours, the Christmas tree of well no. 409 connected to GGS-II, Lakwa was damaged by way of a powerful explosion.
- (ii) On 24.1.2006 at about 1940 hours, a blast created a hole in the north west corner of the boundary wall of GGS-IV, Rudrasagar
- (iii) On 24.1.2006 at about 2130 hours, fire was noticed on the top manhole of the oil storage tank at Safari Early Production System (EPS). Fire was brought under control at about 2155 hours by ONGC fire tenders.

Indo-Bangladesh-Myanmar Gas Pipeline

528. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the present status of India-Bangladesh-Myanmar gas pipeline project; and
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) In January 2005, the then Minister (P&NG) participated in a meeting in Yangon between the Oil Minister of Bangladesh, Myanmar and India to discuss various aspects of the Myanmar-Bangladesh-India gas pipeline project. In pursuance of the trilateral Joint Press Statement released after that meeting, a Techno-Commercial Working Committee (TCWC) of the representatives of the three countries was constituted to take further steps in respect of the project. The first meeting of the TCWC was held in Yangon on 24th-25th February, 2005. The TCWC prepared a draft MoU to be signed by the three Oil

Ministers after the approval of their respective Governments. However, it has not been possible to sign this MoU so far on account of differences between India and Bangladesh over one preambular paragraph in the draft MoU in which Bangladesh has made references to some of its bilateral issues with India, which are not related to the project. An alternative pipeline route through the north eastern territory of India, thereby bypassing Bangladesh, is being explored and discussions with Myanmar side for importing their gas are continuing.

Vikrant War Museum Project

529. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.220 dated November 24, 2005 regarding Vikrant War Museum Project and state :

(a) the detailed plan and programme of the Union Government regarding Vikrant War Museum Project;

(b) whether Phase-I work like grouting of the ship and setting up of the museum has been started;

(c) if so, the progress made so far and the time by which the Phase-I is likely to be completed;

(d) the time by which the Phase-II work like setting up of revenue generating activities on board is likely to start;

(e) whether, after release of Rs.5 crore in June, 2003 for maintenance of Vikrant War Museum, any further financial assistance has been provided by the Union Government for the project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (f) The Government of India has approved the conversion of Indian Naval Ship Vikrant as museum on 25th January, 2005. An Apex Coordination Committee comprising representatives from the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra has

been constituted for this purpose on 10th August, 2005. The Committee held its first meeting on 23rd September, 2005 and recommended *inter alia* the appointment of Project Management Consultants (PMC) for implementation of the museum project. The advertisement for the appointment of the PMC has been given in January, 2006. A definite time-frame alongwith phases of implementation can be specified only after a PMC is appointed and an assessment of the project is done by the PMC. A sum of Rs.42 crore has been approved by the Government of India for setting up of the museum.

Revision in Tickets Cancellation Charges

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

(a) whether the Railways have revised the charges on rail ticket cancellation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and its impact on the common man; and

(c) the steps taken to make the Railways passenger-friendly?

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

(b) In order to cover the increase in cost involved in processing the cancellation of tickets, the clerkage charge levied on cancellation of unreserved, Reservation against cancellation (RAC) and waiting list tickets has been increased by Rs.10 for all classes, except for second class unreserved tickets where no increase has been made. Besides, the minimum flat cancellation charge on reserved tickets has also been increased for all classes ranging from Rs.10 to Rs.30, depending upon the class. Keeping the common man's interests in mind, while clerkage charge on second class unreserved tickets has not been increased, the increase in flat cancellation charge on second class reserved tickets has been kept at the minimum (Rs.10).

(c) Refund rules are being revised, whenever feasible, to make them passenger friendly. In recent past, computerization of coaching refund scheme was introduced and amount of duplicate ticket charges were made refundable at destination.

Exemption of Films from Certification Requirement

531. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to exempt the films which are included in the film festivals from the requirement of certificate from Central Board of Film Certificate;

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

(c) whether the exemption would include the foreign films also?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) The Government has taken a policy decision to support film festivals by according exemption from certification to certain categories of films. However, this is subject to a formal application to the Ministry of I&B and fulfillment of some prerequisites.

(b) and (c) A broad-based Committee comprising academicians, officials and members of the film industry was constituted to look into the matter regarding exemption from the process of certification of films entered into the various film festivals. The Committee's report was accepted by the Government and it was decided that all films entered into various film festivals in India, including foreign and Indian films, would be considered for exemption from the process of certification under Section 9 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 provided they are confined to delegates and the festival is non-commercial in nature.

Permission to Private Companies for Oil and Gas Exploration

532. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private oil and gas companies granted permission for oil and gas exploration during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of oil/gas discovered by these companies during the said period; and

(c) quantum of revenue earned by the Government thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) The Government have signed production sharing contract under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) with 7 private companies either on their own or as consortium for 6 onland blocks during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05. The State-wise details are given below:—

State	No. of Blocks	Private Companies
Bihar	1	Cairn Energy Petroleum India Ltd. Caim Energy Search Ltd.
Gujarat	3	Jubilant Enpro Pvt. Ltd. Geoglobal Resources (Barbados) Inc., Prize Petroleum Co. Ltd. Caim Energy Gujart Block-I Ltd.
Tamil Nadu	1	Enpro Finance Pvt. Ltd.
Tripura	1	Enpro Finance Pvt. Ltd.

(b) and (c) The above blocks are in the initial phase of exploration and no oil and gas discovery has been made till now in these blocks. Since, there are no discoveries in these blocks, the question of revenue to the Government does not arise.

[Translation]

Modern Torpedoes

533. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the torpedoes being used by the Indian Navy are old and out dated; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide modern technology light weight torpedoes to the Indian Navy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Indian Navy has adequate number of active torpedoes to arm its operational submarines, ships and aircraft.

Demand of Kerosene in States

534. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

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

(a) the monthly requirement of kerosene in each State particularly Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) the actual quantity of kerosene released to each State during each of the last three years;

(c) whether some State Governments have demanded for increase in their kerosene quota; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

PATEL) : (a) and (b) Allocation of kerosene is made to the State Governments/Union Territories (UTs) on quarterly basis for further distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS) network. The details of quantity of PDS kerosene allocated to the States/UTs during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Various State Governments have been requesting for increase in their kerosene allocation. With a view to assessing the genuine demand requirement of kerosene in different States/UTs, the Government commissioned in December 2004 a comprehensive study of the subject through the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). NCAER have submitted their report in October 2005. It is being examined with a view to rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene amongst States/UTs.

Statement

Quantity in Mts.

Name of States/ Union Territories	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
1	2	3	4
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5816	5725	5907
Andhra Pradesh	517158	505057	531838
Arunachal Pradesh	9257	9257	9447
Assam	258007	251714	254128
Bihar	647430	631639	637221
Chandigarh	13067	13067	13229
Chhattisgarh	146938	143354	145042
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2782	2782	2853
Daman and Diu	2118	2118	2194

1	2	3	4
Delhi	168484	168484	178756
Goa	18212	19212	20469
Gujarat	743759	743759	760542
Haryana	145619	142068	146857
Himachal Pradesh	50537	50537	53134
Jammu and Kashmir	76044	75487	79526
Jharkhand	211175	211175	213399
Karnataka	461478	461478	480157
Kerala	216308	211033	224243
Lakshadweep	795	795	874
Madhya Pradesh	488609	476691	486619
Maharashtra	1276876	1253530	1300780
Manipur	19907	19907	20233
Meghalaya	20401	20401	20597
Mizoram	6217	6217	6457
Nagaland	13312	12712	12890
Orissa	314977	307295	311165
Pondicherry	12257	12058	12856
Punjab	237192	232813	250329
Rajasthan	398913	39650	406152
Sikkim	5582	5283	5881
Tamil Nadu	558929	545297	561660
Tripura	30832	30093	30621
Uttar Pradesh	1241772	1211485	1232633

1	2	3	4
Uttaranchal	89849	85959	93346
West Bengal	752103	748228	763727
Total	9163712	9013210	9275762

[English]

Payment of Outstanding Amount

535. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge amount of arrears of expenditure incurred by the Government of Maharashtra on Railway police is due from the Railways.

(b) if so, the outstanding amount payable to Government of Maharashtra as on December 31, 2005; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways to clear the outstanding amount?

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

(b) The outstanding amount payable to Government of Maharashtra as on December 31, 2005 is Rs.36.73 crore only.

(c) The outstanding is mainly on account of excess operation of posts by State of Maharashtra and non-submission of Accountant General's Certificate. The Railway have standing instructions to pay all clearly admissible bills after necessary internal check.

Special Allowance to Soldiers Serving under UN Peacekeeping Mission

536. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some special allowances are being

paid to the soldiers participating in United Nations (UN) peacekeeping mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rules and regulations being followed at the time of death of a soldier participating in UN peacekeeping mission?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The soldiers participating in the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Missions are entitled for the overseas allowances at the following rates:—

Officer	US \$ 2200 Per month
Junior Commissioned Officers	US \$ 1650 Per month
Other ranks	US \$ 1000 Per month

In addition, the troops are also paid daily allowance and recreation leave allowance. Military officers deployed in the UN Missions as Observers are paid subsistence allowances directly by the UN in accordance with the guidelines of the UN.

(c) A 'Notices' (Notification of Casualty) is initiated by the Mission Headquarters in the event of death of a soldier. Based on the Noticas, the unit of the soldier prefers a claim on the UN through the Permanent Mission of India (PMI), New York. The UN awards compensation of one time lump-sum amount of US\$ 50000/- in each case of death attributable to service in UN Peacekeeping Mission operations and the amount is paid to the Government of India through the PMI. On receipt of the amount, the payment is made to the Next of Kin of the deceased soldier in accordance with the extant guidelines.

[Translation]

Tax Rebate to Refineries

537. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is formulating any policy to provide tax rebate to new refineries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Presently under sub-section (9) of section 80-IB of the Income Tax Act, 1961, undertakings which being refining on or after 1.10.1998 are eligible for 100% tax holiday for a period of initial seven consecutive assessment years.

[English]

DTH Service in Remote Areas

538. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Direct to home (DTH) telecast regime is presently under implementation throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether television viewers residing in remote areas, including the Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Minicoi Islands would be able to access DTH;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir. There are two DTH service providers in the country at the moment. One is pay DTH of ASC Enterprises and the other is the Free to Air Service of Doordarshan DTH called "DD Direct Plus".

(b) to (d) Transmission of "DD Direct Plus" signals can be received in various parts of the country, including Lakshadweep Islands, with the help of small sized dish

receive units. However, these signals of DD Direct Plus can not be received in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Services of the lone Private DTH service provider M/s. ASC Enterprises are also available in remote areas and it has subscribers in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

Development of Tourist Spots

539. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to develop the tourist spots to attract foreign tourists and sports lovers during the Commonwealth Games;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has issued any direction to the State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (e) Government of India will focus on both development of infrastructure and promotion and marketing of India as a tourism destination during the Commonwealth Games. The strategy in this regard involves upgradation of tourist infrastructure of Delhi and surrounding areas and augmentation of tourism accommodation facilities in the region.

Development of Tourism in West Bengal

540. SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals are pending with the Union Government for the development of tourism in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT Administration. However, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified and prioritized in consultation with them every year under the schemes Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure & Destination Development and Large Revenue Generating Projects.

Project proposals that are complete in all respect, as per guidelines, are processed on the basis of their inter-se priority, merit and availability of fund under the respect head.

The details of projects sanctioned for development of tourism in West Bengal during the current financial year are as under:—

S. No.	Name of the project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Redevelopment/Restoration of Kalighat Complex/area at Kolkata for 21st Century	500.00
2.	Development of Tourism at Cooch-Bihar City (Distt. Cooch Behar)	475.00

[Translation]

Survey of Gauge Conversion

541. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have conducted any survey of gauge conversion work of Gwalior-Syopur - Kalan rail line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stretches of rail routes in Jhansi Division awaiting gauge conversion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) A survey for gauge conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan with extension upto Kota was conducted in 1996-97. As per survey report, the cost of the project had been assessed as Rs.363.92 crore. The project could not be taken up due to heavy throw forward of projects, its unremunerative nature and constraint of resources. However based on the demands, updating survey for gauge conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan with extension upto Kota has been taken up.

(c) In Jhansi Division, Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan, Dholpur-Sirmuttra and Mohari-Tantpur sections are yet to be converted into broad gauge.

[English]

Journalists Welfare Fund

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

(a) the total amount in the Journalists Welfare Fund as on date; and

(b) the number of journalists/families of journalists benefited during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) An amount of Rs.6,29,69,617/- is available in the Journalists Welfare Fund, as on date.

(b) The number of journalists/families of journalists benefited during the last three years is as under:

Year	No. of beneficiaries
1	2
2003	1

1	2
2004	0
2005	6

Facilities for Tourists at Hampi

543. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hampi in Karnataka has become the World Heritage Centre;

(b) if so, whether the tourists, both foreign and domestic, arrival have increased to a great extent; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to increase the facilities for the tourists visited in Hampi?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) yes, Sir. Hampi has been recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

(b) Yes, Sir. The number of tourist arrivals both domestic and foreign who visited the State of Karnataka are as under:

Year	Domestic	Foreign
2002	86,78,670	59,545
2003	111,75,292	249,908
2004	271,94,178	530,225

(c) Development of tourism infrastructure in the country is a continuous process. Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance on the basis of project proposals prioritized in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations every year. The following projects during the 10th Plan period have been sanctioned for development of Hampi:

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Year	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Development of Hampi as a Destination	2002-03	506.10
2.	Hampi Festival	2003-04	15.00
3.	Construction of Minor Nodes at Hampi	2003-04	307.01
4.	Sound and Light Show at Hampi	2003-04	176.00
5.	Celebration of Hampi Festival	2004-05	5.00
Total			1009.11

**Entry of Unreserved Passengers
in Reserved Coaches**

544. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in most of the express trains, passengers on the enroute stations entered into the reserved sleeper and AC coaches even to the protest of reserved passengers;

(b) if so, whether the TTEs and other security personnel behave as mute spectators to such unlawful acts and never discharged their duties in their respective coaches;

(c) if so, the number of cases of unauthorised entry of passengers in reserved coaches reported during the last one year, till date and the amount recovered as penalty therefrom;

(d) the details of the action taken or proposed to be taken against the Railway staff for such inactions of duty;

(e) whether the Railways have drawn any specific

mechanism to prevent such unlawful sneaking of passengers into reserved coaches causing inconvenience and apprehensions of theft etc. to the passengers travelling in reserved coaches; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) passengers found travelling unauthorisedly in reserved coaches are apprehended. All out efforts are made by the ticket checking and other staff to curb entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches. However, sometimes it becomes difficult to handle situations arising out of adverse law and order conditions.

(c) and (d) No separate statistics regarding number of cases of unauthorised entry of passengers in reserved coaches is maintained. However during January to December 2005 (latest available), 50.43 lakhs cases of ticketless/irregular travel including the cases of unauthorised travelling in reserved coaches had been detected and Rs.184.99 crore realized as railway dues. Railway Staff, if found responsible in such cases are suitably taken up under Discipline and Appeals Rules.

(e) and (f) The penalty for irregular travel has been increased from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 250/- Besides, regular/surprise checks are conducted in association with police to prevent unauthorized entry of passengers in reserved coaches.

[Translation]

DTH Service

545. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan have started Direct to Home (DTH) service throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that set top box of Doordarshan DTH service is not functioning properly;

(c) if so, whether the Bureau of Indian Standard has fixed any standard and technical norms for the set top boxes;

(d) if so, whether the standard and technical norms fixed by Bureau of Indian Standard are being followed; and

(e) if not, 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Doordarshan does not provide set top boxes for reception of its DTH service. These are available in the open market. However, Set Top Boxes provided by Doordarshan in certain uncovered areas for demonstration purposes are reported to be working satisfactorily.

(c) to (e) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has laid down standards and technical norms for the set top boxes for the reception of pay DTH service, which are being followed by the lone pay DTH service provider. However, no separate standards have been laid down by Bureau of Indian Standards for free to air DTH set top boxes. Doordarshan has approached BIS for extending facility for certification of STBs.

[English]

DTH Service

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

(a) whether Direct to Home (DTH) telecast service has been benefited following the successful launching of INSAT-4A;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to increase the number of free to air channels under DTH Television (T.V.) service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) No significant impact has been felt on Doordarshan's DTH service as they primarily use the NSS VI Satellite.

(c) and (d) Number of TV channels on free-to-air DTH service of Doordarshan "DD Direct Plus" is envisaged to be increased from present 33 to 50 during the year 2006-07.

Construction of Overbridges

547. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is heavy traffic at the level crossings near Neemuch, Mandsaur and Jaora railway stations on the Ratlam-Chittaur section of the Western Railway;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested for the construction of over-bridges at these crossings; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the railway thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) There are total 5 level crossings (LCs) in and around Neemuch, Mandsaur and Jaora Railway stations. Traffic density at these locations is given as under:

Station	L.C. No	Traffic density Train vehicle units (TVUs)	Year of census
1	2	3	4
Neemuch	120/A	26247	Oct. 2002
Mandsaur	152/A	22661	March 2004

1	2	3	4
Jaora	173/C	23994	May 2002
Jaora	176/A	103716	May 2002
Jaora	177/A	54435	Feb. 2006

Traffic density at LC No. 177/A has come down to 54,435 Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) as per fresh census taken on this level crossing in Feb. 2006. The reduction in traffic density at this level crossing is due to restriction imposed on the movement of heavy vehicles passing through this level crossing by Jaora city authorities since last one year. Chief Engineer (PWD) Bridge Construction Circle/Bhopal had submitted a proposal in March 2005 for construction of Rail Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of LC No.177/A on cost sharing basis but due to traffic density less than qualifying limit of one lakh TVU, work can be considered on deposit terms. State Government has been advised by zonal railway accordingly. No other proposed for Road Over Bridge at other level crossing has been received by the Railways.

[Translation]

Setting up of Military Station at Averi

548. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3625 dated August 18, 2005 regarding setting up of Military Station at Averi and state the progress made regarding setting up of Military Station at Averi in Himachal Pradesh so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : The Forest Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh have taken up the case for transfer of the forest land measuring 261 Bighas 10 Biswas with the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India for according final approval.

Rs. 170.51 lakhs have been deposited with the Himachal Pradesh Electricity Board for realignment of

66.16 KVA high tension power line. Concrete bases for erection of power line have been constructed and balance work is in progress.

Stoppage of Trains at Chhata Station

549. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to provide stoppage for Mahakoshal Express, Malwa Express and Udyan Abha Toofan Express at Chhata railway station in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh;

(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. However, 3008 Sri Ganga Nagar-Howrah Udyan Abha Toofan Express is stopping at Chhata station.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Stoppage of 1449/1450 Nizamuddin-Jabalpur Mahakaushal Express, 9367/9368 Indore-Jammu Tawi Malwa Express and 3007 Howrah-Sri Ganga Nagar Udyan Abha Toofan Express at Chhata has been found neither operationally feasible nor commercially justified.

Taxes on LPG

550. SHRI MUNSHI RAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) the actual price of domestic LPG;

(b) the percentage of import duty, excise duty and sales tax etc. being charged on LPG from the consumers;

(c) the subsidy being given on each LPG cylinder of 14.2 kg.;

(d) the loss likely to be born by the Government in case the tax and subsidy on LPG are discontinued;

(e) whether the Government proposes to discontinue subsidy on LPG; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the policy being adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) The retail price of domestic LPG at Delhi is Rs.294.75 per cylinder of 14.2 kg.

(b) The taxes applicable on LPG (domestic) are indicated below:—

Custom duty	Nil
Excise duty	Nil
VAT (at Delhi)	12.5%

(c) During the year 2005-06 (April–December), Government provided a subsidy of Rs.22.58 per cylinder and the oil companies provided a subsidy of Rs.124.36 per cylinder.

(d) The excise and custom duties on LPG (domestic) have already been made nil since 1st March, 2005. As such no loss would accrue to the Government due to discontinuation of these taxes.

(e) and (f) In order to formulate a long term pricing policy, Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to examine different aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products including domestic LPG. The Committee submitted its report on 17.2.2006. The report is under examination by Government.

Electrification of Katni-Naini Railway Route

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

(a) whether the Railways have accorded approval for electrification of Katni-Naini railway route under Jabalpur Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started and completed?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Withdrawal of First Class Coaches

552. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have withdrawn first class coaches from various trains particularly those trains running in Malabar region of Kerala state;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are aware of the difficulties faced by daily commuters holding 1st class season tickets;

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Railways in this regard;

(e) whether the Railways propose to allow first class season ticket holders to travel in three tier Air-conditioned compartments or second class reserved compartments subject to availability of seats; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Production of First class coaches have since been stopped and the existing first class coaches are withdrawn on age-cum-condition basis.

(c) and (d) On specific sections where there is sufficient demand for first class season tickets and first class coaches are not available in trains, the zonal railways attach AC chair coaches, if available, for use of first class seasons ticket holders.

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

Regional Recruitment Office

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to open a Regional Recruitment Office to make recruitment to the class IV posts under the Western Central Railway Zone;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be opened?

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

(b) and (c) A recruitment cell is being opened on each Zonal Railway with the creation of suitable number of posts headed by Deputy Chief Personnel Officer/ Recruitment.

Railway Reservation Centre at Port Blair

554. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railways propose to set up another Railway Reservation Centre at Port Blair;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Regularisation of Contractual Workers of ONGC

555. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Regional Labour Commission (RLC) was appointed to verify the workmen working in prohibitory categories of works in ONGC, KG Basin, Rajahmundry Asset;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Regional Labour Commissioner;

(c) whether the Honourable High Court of Andhra Pradesh has ordered ONGC to regularize the services of contractual workers in ONGC of Rajahmundry Asset; and

(d) if so, the action taken by ONGC to regularize the services of contractual workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per the directives of Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh, the Regional Labour Commissioner (RLC) verified the details of workmen working in ONGC Rajahmundry in the year 1998.

(b) Regional Labour Commissioner indicated that all the 161 members of M/s. Gowthami Educated Unemployed Welfare Society were working in prohibited categories of employment.

(c) and (d) As per the order of Hon'ble High Court dated 24/09/1998, ONGC absorbed 126 members of M/s. Gowthami Educated Unemployed Welfare Society who possessed the requisite qualifications under the recruitment and Promotion (R&P) Regulations of ONGC. The remaining 35 members were given job opportunities as casual workers as they did not possess the minimum prescribed qualifications under the R&P Regulations of ONGC.

Bogibeel Bridge Project

556. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Bogibeel Bridge and Rangia-Murkongselek Gauge conversion projects;

(b) the total allocation made and amount spent so far on these projects, separately; and

(c) the targets set for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) The details are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Details of the Project	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure upto March'05	Outlay during 2005-06	Status and Target wherever fixed
1.	Rail-cum-Road bridge over river Brahmaputra near Bogibeel with link lines on North and South banks	1767	294.72	107.00	Land acquisition, earthwork and bridgeworks taken up. 486 hectare of land out of 505 hectare acquired and 77 lac cubic meter earthwork out of 146 lac cum completed. Work of minor and major bridges is in various stages of progress. Tender for sub-structure of the main bridge under process. The project is targeted for completion by 2009-10 depending upon availability of resources.
2.	Rangia-Murkongselek along-with link fingers (510.33 k.m.)	915.70	0.00	7.96	Final Location Survey for Rangia-Rangpara North completed and detailed estimate prepared. Soil exploration, finalisation of drawings of major bridges etc. taken up. The work would be progressed and completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Haj

557. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of flights operated for Haj pilgrims during the current year; and

(b) the amount spent by the Government per person on subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) A total number of 402 flights were operated by Air India, Indian Airlines and Saudi Arabia Airlines for Haj pilgrims during the Haj 2006, Phase I.

(b) As per revised estimates, the amount of subsidy is likely to be around Rs.28,000 per person.

[English]

Rail Connectivity between New Delhi and Hanoi

558. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the technical feasibility study for the proposed rail connectivity between New Delhi and Hanoi, agreed during the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) countries in June, 2003;

(b) the estimated schedule of completion of the study; and

(c) the salient features of the proposed rail link alongwith the details of benefits expected to accrue to the people of the countries when so linked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Ministry of External Affairs as a first step for Delhi-Hanoi Rail Link had commissioned RITES to carry out a feasibility study for India-Myanmar Rail Link. This study has been completed. The feasibility study suggested the following alignments:

In India:

- (i) Constructions of new rail link between Jiribam-Imphal-Moreh at a cost of Rs.2941.08 Crore.

In Myanmar:

- (ii) Construction of a new rail link between Tamu (Moreh) - Kalay-Segyi at a cost of Rs.1339.05 Crore and rehabilitation of existing line from Segyi-Chaungu Myohaung at a cost of Rs.283.959 Cr.

The link will provide substantial benefit to bilateral trade between India and Myanmar.

[Translation]

Replacement of Equipment in Doordarshan Kendras

559. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

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

(a) whether the television cameras and other equipment in many Doordarshan Kendras have become outdated;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to replace such outdated equipment and cameras by modern equipment?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that replacement of old ageing cameras and other equipment at Doordarshan Kendras with new modern equipment is a continuous process and schemes in this regard are formulated and implemented from time to time. As part of the 10th Plan, old cameras and other equipment at various Doordarshan Kendras have been replaced/are under replacement by new modern equipment.

Fixation of Prices of Food-Items

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

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether new snacks bars have been set up at airports;

(b) if so, the details alongwith criteria for fixing the prices of items being sold at these snacks bars;

(c) whether the food-items are being sold at rates which are three times higher than their normal price;

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

(e) the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) At almost all the airports, facility of snacks bars is available through Star Hotels. The prices of the eatable items, other than branded items are fixed and revised with the approval of Airports Authority of India from time to time keeping in view the prevailing market trend for similar kind of facility at other important places including Star Hotels and the snacks bars available in the down-town.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Complaints as and when received are dealt as per the terms of the licence agreement.

Construction of ROB on Gomo Junction

561. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct overbridge at Gomo Junction located at Kolkata-Delhi rail route;

(b) if so, the funds sanctioned for the project; and

(c) the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Additional Facilities at Hyderabad Airport

562. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hyderabad Airport is fully prepared to meet the heavy rush of foreign dignitaries in connection with the 39th Annual General Meeting of Asian Development Bank taking place at Hyderabad in May, 2006; and

(b) if so, the additional facilities proposes to be provided at Hyderabad Airport in this regard?

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

(b) Additional facilities proposed to be provided at Hyderabad airport include additional parking bays, extension & modification of both domestic and international terminal buildings, provision of escalator, additional immigration and customs counters and modification/ expansion of existing car park.

[Translation]

Harassment to Traders/Public at Delhi/New Delhi Railway Stations

563. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware to the increasing incidents of harassment to the traders/public coming from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar by GRP/RPF and TTEs inside the trains and Delhi Police at Delhi/New Delhi railway stations;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) No such incident of harassment to the traders/public coming from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar by Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force was reported inside the trains, and by Delhi Police at Delhi and New Delhi Railway Stations.

As regards harassment by Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs). Station-wise specific information is not maintained separately.

(c) However, if any case of harassment is reported, strict action is taken against the recalcitrant staff as per the Rules.

[English]

Wage Agreement of IA Employees

564. SHRI M. APPADURAI :

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wage agreement of group III and IV employees of Indian Airlines has been pending since 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the wage agreement is likely to be settled?

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

(b) Wage revisions upto 31.12.1996 in respect of all categories of employees in Indian Airlines had been completed in 2001. Further, Productivity Linked Incentive (PLI) had been introduced in 1994, revised in 1996 and further revised in respect of all categories of employees from the year 2001. There has been substantial increase in emoluments consequent to payment under the PLI

Schemes based on improvement in pre-determined productivity parameters. The PLI settlement in respect of non-technical categories of employees was last signed on 23.03.2004.

(c) Indian Airlines had taken a decision in December, 1999 that considering the financial position of the company and increasing competitive pressures, there was no justification for increase in wages at that stage. The position still remains the same. As such, no time-frame can be set. However, there has been a substantial increase in emoluments consequent to payment under the PLI schemes which are in a way surrogate wage revisions.

[Translation]

Misbehaviour of Officials with Passengers

565. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the incidents of misbehaviour of officials with the passengers and forcible recovery of money from them during train journeys;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last three years, till date;

(c) the action taken/to be taken against the officials found guilty;

(d) whether an incident of throwing out of students from Magadh Express occurred during January, 2006;

(e) if so, the details of the incident and compensation given to the victims; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (f) No separate statistics are maintained regarding incidents of misbehaviour and

forcible recovery of money. However, complaints received with respect of specific details are inquired into and the staff wherever found responsible are taken up under Disciplinary Rules. One passenger fell down from train No.2402 Dn., Magadh Express at Patna Sahib on 02.01.2006 and got injured. No railway staff was found responsible for the incident and also no claim for compensation has been filed by the passenger.

[English]

Konark Sun Temple

566. SHRI B. MAHTAB :
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Technical Committee constituted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found cracks and structural weaknesses in Konark Sun Temple;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps for repairing the temple; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) The technical committee constituted by the Archaeological Survey of India visited Sun Temple Konark on 16.1.2006 and observed that there is some distress at lower most row of the superstructure. However there is no threat to the structural stability of the temple.

(c) and (d) Steps are being taken to arrest the deterioration of exterior surface of the monument. These include removal of salt by paper pulp treatment, fungicidal treatment to contain micro-vegetational growth, consolidation of weathered stones and water repellent treatment, besides routine maintenance.

The cantilever members of the Super structure (Jagmohan) are supported with tubular scaffolding and stainless steel pins are used to consolidate the architectural members.

ASI is also consulting the Central Building Research Institute for expert guidance for providing necessary reinforcement.

[Translation]

Ethanol Blended Petrol

567. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

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

(a) whether oil companies have assessed the demand of ethanol-blended petrol in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ethanol is available as per the demand in the country;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government for fully implementation of ethanol-blended petrol programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (e) The Government had notified vide GSR 644 (E) dated September 12, 2002 introduction of 5% ethanol-blended petrol programme in 9 States and 4 Union Territories w.e.f. 1.1.2003. However, the programme faced problems on account of high prices of ethanol and its erratic availability particularly in the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

In consideration of the issues related with availability of ethanol and its high price, Government has notified vide GSR 705 (E) dated 27.10.2004, that 5% ethanol-blended petrol programme as per Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications, shall be sold in 10 notified States and 3 Union Territories if the price of sourcing indigenous ethanol is comparable to the price of indigenous ethanol for alternative uses and the delivery price of ethanol at that location is comparable to the import parity price of petrol at that location and the indigenous ethanol industry is able to maintain the availability of ethanol for ethanol-blended petrol at such prices.

In terms of the said notification dated October 27, 2004, the oil marketing companies (OMCs) have invited tenders for purchase of ethanol. Till now, Public Sector Oil Companies have finalized the contracts for purchase of one year requirement of ethanol for Uttar Pradesh approx 73 TKL, for Punjab approx 35 TKL, for Tamil Nadu (only 9 districts) approx 19 TKL, for 8 Industry locations in Andhra Pradesh (except 2 districts) approx 41 TKL and for Karnataka approx 42 TKL.

With a view to have committed and sustained supply of ethanol at reasonable prices, oil marketing companies have also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA).

The position of implementation of the ethanol-blended petrol programme is being constantly reviewed in the Ministry.

Air Connectivity with Small Cities

568. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH :
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to connect small cities with air services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has also sought proposals from the State Governments in this regard;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) 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 in different regions of the country including North East Region. Airlines are free to provide air services to any place depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability and subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines. Indian Airlines' subsidiary, Alliance Air has plans to operate regional air services on routes with low to medium traffic density with 50 seater ATR aircraft and also on short haul routes in order to promote connectivity within the country subject to availability of aircraft, crew and engineers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

New Runway at Mangalore Airport

569. SHRI M. SHIVANNA :
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new runway at Mangalore Airport will be readied for commissioning by March 31, 2006;

(b) if so, the total expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the details of the new air routes to be started from this Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Construction of new runway at Mangalore airport will be completed by March 31, 2006. However, the runway would be commissioned after the relocation and calibration of Instrument Landing System (ILS) on the new runway.

(b) The estimated cost of the project is Rs.55.26 crores.

(c) No new air routes are proposed to be started from Mangalore airport.

Protest against Privatisation of Airports

570. SHRI MILIND DEORA :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

DR. K. DHANARAJU :

SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY :

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to hand over the Delhi and Mumbai airports to private management;

(b) if so, whether the employees of Airports Authority of India protested and went on strike against privatisation of airports;

(c) if so, the details of demands made by the employees; and

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

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

Government has selected GRM Consortium and GVK Consortium as the private partners for formation of Joint Venture Companies (JVCs) with Airports Authority of India (AAI) for restructuring and modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports respectively.

(b) to (d) Some employees of AAI had recently agitated against the restructuring and modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports. The matter has since been resolved amicably through discussion.

[Translation]

Supply of Gas to Dhaulpur Power Plant

571. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the GAIL (India) Ltd. has chalked out any programme for supply of gas to Dhaulpur power plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the steps being contemplated by the Government to provide gas for the said plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (d) ONGC has signed a Gas Sales Agreement (GSA) with Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) on 31.10.2005 for supply of 1.5 MMSCMD gas ex-Hazira for their 330 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Dholpur. The agreement is for a period of 12 years with review of gas quantity and price every three years with effect from 1.8.2007 or commencement of actual supply whichever is later.

GAIL and Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL) have entered into a Heads of Agreement (HoA) for transmission of gas to the proposed Dholpur plant of RRVUNL.

[English]

Rail Freight Corridors

572. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether RITES Ltd. has submitted the Feasibility Study report of the proposed dedicated rail freight corridors on Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The feasibility study of developing Dedicated Multimodal High Axle Load Freight Corridors with Computerized Train Control System on Western and Eastern routes has been completed. The cost of project is estimated at Rs.21140 crore. The projects have been considered by the Expanded Board and sent to the Union Cabinet for approval.

Cleaning of Railway Stations and Trains

573. SHRI UDAY SINGH :

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have introduced a standardized system of cleaning railway stations and trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the railway stations and trains remain dirty inspite of upgrading the cleaning system;

(d) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed if cleaning system is not found upto the mark; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) With a view to improve the standard of cleanliness, Railways have been providing washable aprons (Ballast less track) on platform lines at railway stations with jet cleaning arrangements. A system of mechanized cleaning of trains enroute called 'Clear Train Stations System' has been developed for certain nominated stations. So far it has been made operational at five stations and is likely to be implemented at other specified stations.

(c) to (e) Cleanliness is a continuous process and all endeavours are made by the Railways to maintain the standard of cleanliness on Indian Railways. Regular checks regarding cleanliness are conducted by the officers/supervisors and corrective action is taken as deemed fit. Suitable action is taken against the staff/contractors who are found wanting in the performance of their duties for maintaining proper cleanliness at railway stations and trains.

[Translation]

Damage to Railway Properties

574. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of incidents reported causing damage to railway lines/railway stations and Railway properties by the terrorists/naxalites during the last three years, till date;

(b) the loss of lives and property in such incidents, incident-wise;

(c) the details of inquiries ordered into such incidents and the outcome thereof;

(d) the action initiated by the Government on the basis of inquiry reports; and

(e) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to curb such incidents and also for the protection of the railway properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the details of incidents causing damage to Railway lines/Railway stations and Railway properties due to the terrorists/naxalites attacks alongwith loss of lives, reported during the last three years, i.e. 2003, 2004 and 2005 is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) The cases of such crimes on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police of the Concerned States. All these cases have been registered by the Government Railway Police.

(e) Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Police, thus, the State Police have a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to Law and Order on the Railway, and as such. Ministry of Railways has to depend on them for controlling the crime Indian Railways. However, to provide better Security to the traveling passengers, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 (except sabotage related offences under Sections-150 to 152) have been amended to enable the Railways, through RPF, to

effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The objective was to ensure that the Government Railway Police could utilize available manpower for handling heinous offences including sabotage. At the same time, Railways have taken the following measures through RPF for protection of Railway Properties, particularly in vulnerable sections prone to terrorist/naxalite attacks:—

- (i) During Bandh/Agitation/Rail Roko events, Railway Protection Force personnel are being deployed in vulnerable sections for protection of Railway Properties, as a precautionary measure.
- (ii) Joint patrolling by Tower Wagon has been introduced in various vulnerable sections prone to terrorist/naxalite attacks.
- (iii) The Security of affected Railway Stations, trains and other vital installations has been enhanced by deploying additional Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) personnel for protecting the Railway property and Railway Passengers against terrorist and naxalite attacks.
- (iv) Apart from maintaining close liaison with Civil Police and Intelligence Authorities, surveillance at various Railway Stations is being monitored through Close Circuit Televisions (CCTVs).

Statement

Incidents Reported Causing Damage to Railway Lines/Railway Stations and Railway Properties by the Terrorist/Naxalites during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005

Railway	Brief Fact of the Incident	Number of Persons Killed	Cost of Property Damaged (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
Central	On 13.3.2003, one case of bomb blast took place in an EMI Train at Mulund Railway station	11	5,00,000

1	2	3	4
Eastern	On 25.3.2003, bombs were hurled in the station building of Simultala Railway station causing damage to the communication system. Railway cash Rs. 9,307 was looted.	—	Railway Cash Rs. 93,307
East Central	On 09.02.2003, Bombs were exploded in Kosiara Railway station.	—	11,55,000
	On 1.4.2003, explosion took place between Hindegir and Koley Railway station.	—	—
	On 22.7.2003, railway track was blown up between Dumri Bihar and Dania Railway station.	—	—
	On 22.7.2003, railway track was blown up in Barkaka-Barwadih section	—	—
	25.7.2003, Engine no.23068 WAG-5 was set ablazed at Mongra Railway station.	—	25,15,000
	On 31.3.2003, bomb exploded in station building of Nadual Railway station.	—	—
	On 8.1.2004, bomb blasted on Railway track between Japala and Haidamagar Railway stations.	—	80,000
	On 5.2.2004, bomb exploded in station building of Gomoh railway station	—	2,98,000
	On 26.2.2004, bomb exploded in station building and Cabin of Ankoraha Railway station.	—	12,55,000
	On 27.2.2004, bomb exploded in between Kasta and Paraiya Railway stations.	—	—
	On 6.1.2004, station building of Ramana was blasted.	—	—
	On 8.1.2004, Engine No. 31047 was set afire between Kechaki and Mangra railway stations.	—	—
	On 21.10.2004, station building of Latehar Railway station was blasted.	—	—
	On 23.12.2004, bomb exploded on railway track near Gurpa Railway station.	—	—

1	2	3	4
	On 09.03.2004, north cabin of Jehanabad Railway station was blasted.	—	—
	On 23.03.2004, bomb exploded in Sleeper Coach no. S-10 of train no. 2303 Up Howrah – New Delhi Poorva Express.	—	—
East Coast	On 29.3.2004, the station building of Gumuda Railway station was blasted.	—	6,01,668
	On 17.3.2004, bomb exploded in the station building of Darliput Railway station.	—	29,500
	On 25.12.2005, RPF Cash Escorting Party was attacked and 4 RPF personnel were killed in Train No.471 Passenger at Kureru Railway station. Railway cash Rs.4,47,600 and arms and ammunition of RPF Party were looted.	04 RPF Personnel	Railway Cash Rs.7,47,600
Northern	On 26.10.2003, 06 coaches derailed between Sambha and Ghagwal Railway stations due to bomb blast on Railway track.	—	18,72,220
	On 4.8.2003, bomb exploded in RMS Coach attached to train No.3005 Howrah-Amritsar Mail between Milakh and Rampur Railway stations.	—	—
	On 28.7.2005, explosion took place in a General Compartment of Train No.2391 Rajgir-New Delhi Shramjeevi Express between Harpalganj and Koiripur Railway stations.	—	1,20,000
Northeast Frontier	On 26.4.2003, bomb exploded on Railway track between Sapekaiti and Bhoju Railway stations.	—	54,000
	On 25.8.2003, bomb exploded on Railway track between Safrai–Lakwa Railway stations.	—	8,86,266
	On 20.6.2003, bomb exploded on Railway track between Fakiragram and Kokrajhar Railway stations.	—	9,57,000
	On 20.1.2003, bomb exploded on Railway track between Nailalong and Diphu Railway stations.	—	1,77,000

1	2	3	4
	On 26.8.2004, two bombs exploded on Railway track near East Cabin of New Guwahati Railway Station.	2 (1 GRP and 1 Home Guard staff)	71,653
	On 2.10.2004, bomb exploded at Dimapur Railway Station.	16	2,40,000
	On 7.3.2004, bomb exploded on railway track between Bhojo and Safrai Railway Stations.	—	3,50,000
	On 19.6.2004, bomb exploded on railway track between Makum and Tingrai Railway Stations.	—	9,40,266
	On 19.5.2005, bomb exploded on railway track between Gossaigaon-Choutara Railway Stations.	—	40,000
	On 10.8.2005, bomb exploded on railway track between Tihu and Kaithalkuchi Railway Stations.	—	—
	On 25.9.2005, bomb exploded on railway track between Mirza and Chaygaon Railway Stations.	—	2,000
South Central	On 9.4.2003, bomb exploded in Agent Room of Guddipudi Railway Halt station.	—	10,000
	On 6.5.200, bomb exploded in Station Master's Room of Pullampet Railway Station.	—	15,16,000
	On 1.5.2003 bomb exploded in Station Master's Room of Chigichirla Railway Station.	—	17,07,000
	On 7.2.2004, Chinnakuntapalle Railway station was blasted.	—	3,05,000
	On 4.3.2004, Control Panel was set afire and telephones were damaged at Makudi Railway station.	—	1,15,000
	On 22.3.2004, Station records of Rechini Road Railway station were set afire.	—	14,00,000
	On 15.5.2004, Level Crossing lodge of Gate No.46 between Reddigudem and Sattenapalli Railway stations was blasted.	—	2,00,000
	On 16.1.2005, Communication System of Tarlupadu Railway station was damaged and burnt. Railway earnings Rs.3,200 was looted.	—	23,600

1	2	3	4
	On 6.3.2005, Panel Board, Signal Equipment and records of Annavaram Railway station was damaged and burnt.	—	6,25,000
South Eastern	On 04.10.2004, Goods train No. E/BCN derailed between Kurkura and Pukra Railway stations due to removal of Fish Plates from Railway track.	—	—
	On 25.01.2006, Goods Train No. E/BCN/ hatia derailed between Kita and Gautamdhara Railway Stations due to blowing of Railway track.	—	1,23,92,456
	On up 25.01.2006, railway track between Harubera and Gola Road Railway Stations was blown up.	—	20,000
	On 06.02.2006, running room at Karampada Railway station was set afire.	—	—
South Western	On 7.4.2003, the station building of Narayanpura Railway station was blasted.	—	10,00,000
	On 14.1.2004, the station building of Shri Satya Sai Prashanti Nilayam Railway station was blasted.	—	7,00,000

[English]

**Integration of Rail and Road Systems
in Kerala**

575. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to integrate the rail and road systems in Kerala;
- (b) if so, whether the State Government has submitted any proposal in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Operation of Private Airlines on Indo-US route

576. DR. RAJESH MISHRA :

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL :

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether United States of America (USA) has not allowed some private airlines to operate on Indo-US route on account of dubious underworld links;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any investigation in the matter;

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

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which investigation is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (e) A reference was received from the Government of United States of America seeking certain information/clarification about an airline designated by the Government to operate to USA. The matter has been referred by the Government for comments of the concerned agencies.

Delegations to Foreign Countries

577. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any tourism delegations from Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and other Central Indian States had been sent abroad to United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA) and other European countries during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 for soliciting and eliciting tourist interest and wooing foreign tourists to the tourist attractions in these States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the success achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) The Ministry of Tourism does not sponsor tourism delegations from States/UTs overseas. The State Governments themselves send their own delegations to promote the tourism potential of their states.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New Tourism Zones

578. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any plan to establish new tourism zones in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects for the development of tourism industry pending with the Government; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be approved and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Identification and Development of tourism sports including those in the tourism zones in the various parts of the country is primarily the responsibility of States/UTs.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism, every year, priorities tourism projects in consultation with the States/UTs and thereafter releases Central Financial Assistance subject to inter-se priority of projects, availability of funds and receipt of project proposals complete in all respects from State/UT Governments.

Medicine Facilities for Ailing Passengers

579. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector airlines aircraft are equipped with tele-medicine facilities to attend to the ailing passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether these airlines propose to introduce this facility in the flights or connect the flying aircraft with video conferencing to attend to patients to provide them with required medical aid; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) The

existing aircraft in Air India and Indian Airlines fleet are not equipped with Tele-medicine facilities.

(c) and (d) Air India has signed an Agreement with M/s. Boeing Co. for purchase of 50 aircraft viz. 8 x B777-200LR, 15 x B777-300ER and 27 x B787-8 aircraft. These aircraft will have two way tele-communication facility with ground and internet connectivity which would enable the crew on board to contact the doctors on ground in case of medical emergency on board and get details on tackling the emergency.

[Translation]

Concrete Sleeper Plant at Sitamarhi

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

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to set up a concrete sleeper plant at Sitamarhi in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(d) the locations identified for the establishment of such sleeper plants in the country?

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

(b) Tender for the same has been opened on 14.3.2005 and is under consideration for suitable decision.

(c) As per tender conditions, 18 months time would be allowed for setting up of new plant after the necessary order is placed.

(d) The other locations identified for setting of sleeper plants in the country are as under:-

(i) Chak Sikander (East Central Railway)

(ii) Dauram Madhepura (East Central Railway)

(iii) Wena (East Central Railway)

(iv) Roza (Northern Railway)

(v) Sultanpur (Northern Railway)

(vi) Dhillwan (Northern Railway)

(vii) Kathua (Northern Railway)

(viii) Aunrihar (North Eastern Railway)

(ix) Bhangra (North East Frontier Railway)

(x) Palghat (Southern Railway)

(xi) Bitragunta (South Central Railway)

(xii) Harihar (South Western Railway)

(xiii) Mandagere (South Western Railway)

(xiv) Yelahanka (South Western Railway)

[English]

Vacancies of Functional Directors in Air India

581. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some posts of Functional Directors on the Board of Air India are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. One post of Functional Director (Commercial) on the Board of Air India Limited is lying vacant. Public Enterprises Selection Board has held a selection exercise to fill up the vacancy and action on its recommendation is under process for obtaining the approval of the competent authority.

Induction of Akash Missile into Armed Forces

582. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Akash missile have been test fired successfully recently; and

(b) if so, the time by which these missiles are likely to be inducted into the armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Three Akash missiles were successfully flight tested in last week of January 2006.

(b) Akash missile system is expected to enter production and induction phase only after the user's trials scheduled in second half of 2006.

Upgradation of Rail Passengers

583. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have introduced a new scheme for upgradation of rail passengers to the next higher class;

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

(c) the name of trains and classes in which the facility is to be provided initially;

(d) the benefits accrued to the railways and rail passengers therefrom;

(e) whether the Railways propose to extend this facility in all trains; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (f) With a view to optimise the utilisation of available accommodation in train,

a scheme to upgrade full fare paying passengers to the next higher class against the available vacant accommodation has since been extended to all Mail/Express trains having sleeping accommodation w.e.f. 24.02.2006. The salient features of the scheme are given below:—

- (i) The scheme is applicable to only full fare paying passengers, free of charge.
- (ii) It is applicable only in those trains having sleeping accommodation.
- (iii) The passengers for upgradation will be selected on random basis by the System at the time of preparation of reservation charts.
- (iv) Upgradation of passengers will be done as under:—

Sleeper to 3-AC or First Class

3 AC to 2AC

2 AC to 1 AC
- (v) Upgradation will not be done for block booking transactions.
- (vi) Upgradation will not be done only to the extent of clearance of the combined waiting list of all classes. If there is no waiting list, no upgradation will take place.
- (vii) If a passenger, who has been upgraded, cancels his ticket, cancellation charges of original class only will be payable.

Commissioning of Railway Crossing Points

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

(a) whether the Railways are aware that due to non-availability of crossing points in the Barasat-Hasnabad

section of Sealdah Division under Eastern Railway, local trains do take an enormous time to cover only 70 kms. distance from Hasnabad to Sealdah;

(b) if so, whether the authorities of the Eastern Railway had written to the Railway Board several times recommending for commissioning of three railway crossing points in that section;

(c) if so, whether the Railways are taking any steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. Speeds of the trains on Barasat-Hasnabad section are comparable to the speeds of suburban trains of any other single line section on Indian Railways.

(b) to (e) Eastern Railway had proposed through Preliminary Works Programme (PWP) - 2005-06 and PWP-2006-2007 for conversion of Halt stations at Madhyampur, Malatipur and Labutala into Crossing/Block stations. The conversion of Halt Stations to crossing stations is not operationally justified.

[Translation]

Shortage of Doctors

585. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of Doctors in the Railway hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to recruit the Doctors in their hospitals?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Recruitment of doctors is done through Union Public Service Commission every year. Till the regular doctors are made available by UPSC, Contract Medical Practitioners are also recruited on contract basis for the posts lying vacant in Railway hospitals.

Separate Fund for the Development of Indigenous Technology

586. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to make a provision for setting up of a separate fund for the development of indigenous technology in view of increasing import of military equipment etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this fund is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) One of the recommendations made by the Kelkar Committee relates to creation of a Fund to be used by Small and Medium Enterprises to carry out design and development work either directly or through Industry Champions/Defence PSUs/Ordnance Factories. The recommendation has been accepted in principle. However, keeping in view the guidelines/instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance on creation of Reserve/Corpus Funds, modality for achieving the same objective through budgetary allocation is under examination.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

[English]

Damage to Railway Tracks in Jharkhand

587. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Railway Tracks were blown up in Jharkhand on Republic Day this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the loss to the railways there from; and

(c) the measures taken to protect the Railway properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the incidents of blowing of railway tracks in Jharkhand on Republic Day, 2006 are as under:—

1. On 25.1.2006 at about 23.00 hours, thirteen wagons of goods train No.E/ECN/Hatia while passing between Kita and Gautamdihara Railway stations got derailed and capsized due to a bomb blast on the Railway track. Cost of damage caused to the Railways has been estimated at Rs.1,23,92456/- approximately. In this connection a case vide Crime No.11/06 dated 26.1.2006 under section 3 & 4 of Explosives Act, 17 Criminal Law (C.L.) Act and 427 Indian Penal code has been registered at Angaraha Police station against unknown persons.
2. On 25.1.2006 at about 21.20 hours, patrol man of Harubera—Gola Road section reported about the sound of a blast beyond Km. No.377 towards Gola Road. On 26.01.2006 during joint enquiry by police and Railway Protection Force (RPF) at Km No.378/-5, it was found that 1.40 metres of track fittings and about one half of two sleepers were blown off due to the explosion. The Over Head Equipment (OHE) contact wire was also damaged in the blast. Cost of damage caused to Railways has been estimated at Rs.20,000/- approximately. In this connection, a case vide crime No.7/06 dated 20.1.2006 under section 3 & 4 Explosives Act, Section 151 of the Railways Act, 1989 and 17 C.L. Act has been

registered by Local Police of Gola against unknown persons.

3. On 26.1.2006 at Km. No.171/24 - 171/06 in between Mckluskiganj and Mahumilan railway stations, a bomb blast took place on the Railway track resulting in stoppage of goods train No. 3934/3947 Down (empty) in the section. Extremists threatened and snatched away two (2) walkie-talkies sets from the possession of the train guard and the driver. Cost of damage caused to the Railways has been estimated at Rs.78,00,000/- approximately. In this connection, a case vide crime No.13/06 dated 26.1.2006 under section 147, 148, 149, 379, 427 of Indian Penal Code, 3, 4 of Explosives Act and 17 of C.L. Act has been registered by Local Police of Chandwa.
4. On 26.1.2006 at about 00.15 hours extremists blasted the railway track at Km. 68/3-4 in between Dania and Jogeshwar Bihar railway stations. Cost of damage caused to Railways has been estimated at Rs.3,500/- approximately. In this connection, a case vide crime No.03/06 dated 26.1.2006 under section 121A, 123, 124A, 147, 148, 149, 353 of Indian Penal Code and 3, 4 & 5 of Explosives Act has been registered by the Local Police/ Dumri.

(c) 'Policing' being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in the Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Police. However, the security of stations, trains, passengers and railway staff have been geared up by deploying additional Police and Railway Protection Force personnel in vulnerable sections in consultation with Police authorities as precautionary measures to prevent any act of violence/sabotage etc.

[Translation]

Social Security to Senior Citizens*

588. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to bring a proper legislation for providing social security to senior citizens of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposed legislation is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Bill is under preparation. However, it is not possible to indicate time frame.

Training to Security Personnel

589. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are providing training to security personnel for handling of new equipments/ techniques;

(b) if so, details of such training provided to them during the last one year; and

(c) the improvements in their performance due to such training?

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

(b) The Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel have been imparted training for handling new equipment/ techniques from time to time. The courses conducted include training in all Zonal Railways such as Wireless Communication (Very High Frequency/Ultra High Frequency-

15) Computer awareness course, Anti-theft wireless alarm system, Electronic surveillance through Close-Circuit Television System, Motor driving, Capsule course on explosives & Bomb detection course, Networking & E-security course, Mob disposal course, Intelligence, Motor accident cases and Bomb detection by Dog squad. This process will continue in future also.

(c) The performance and efficiency of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel have improved due to above courses.

Ban on Indian TV Channels in Pakistan

590. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :

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

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan has banned the transmission of some Indian TV channels in their country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has taken up the issue with Government of Pakistan on several occasions, including during the Cultural Secretary level talks on Promotion of Friendly Exchanges held in New Delhi in August, 2004 and in Islamabad in July, 2005 under the Composite Dialogue framework. It was conveyed to Pakistan that its ban on the telecast of Indian TV channels has only resulted in widespread piracy by cable operators in Pakistan.

[English]

Extension of AIR and Doordarshan Services to Border Areas

591. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA" : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIR and Doordarshan Services are not accessible to people in several areas along the border of India particularly North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details of places where AIR and Doordarshan services are still not available; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to extend the services of AIR and Doordarshan to such areas?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) to (c) While majority of the areas along the borders of India, particularly in the North-Eastern Region, are covered by both A.I.R. and Doordarshan services, their coverage of the many high mountain areas and inaccessible hilly areas in the North-Eastern Region, Jammu and Kashmir and other border areas may not be adequate. However, short-wave covers all these areas but the quality of short wave reception is again variable depending upon atmospheric conditions.

As regards the coverage of Doordarshan, with the launch of the Ku band (DTH Free-to-Air mode) transmission service of Doordarshan from 16th Dec. 2004, the areas hitherto uncovered have been provided with its multi-channel coverage. Its bouquet consisting of thirty-three T.V. and twelve A.I.R. channels can now be received throughout the country (except Andaman and Nicobar Islands) including North-Eastern States and other border areas, with the help of a small sized dish receive unit.

In order to strengthen the coverage of both A.I.R. and T.V. in the North-Eastern Region, a Special Package (Phase II) for the N.E. States (including Sikkim and Island Territories) is under consideration.

[Translation]

Import of LNG from Iran

592. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of GAIL (India) Ltd. visited Iran in January, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the said delegation discussed the import of an additional 2.5 MMTPA of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG); and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A delegation led by Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and including representatives from Gail (India) Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), visited Tehran on 13-14 January, 2006, to discuss the terms and conditions for import of an additional 2.5 MMTPA of LNG from Iran. Various commercial and contractual issues, including pricing formulation, were discussed. The discussions remained inconclusive and the outstanding items will be pursued at subsequent meetings.

New LPG Connections

593. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government has restarted the allotment of LPG connections;

(b) if so, the number of new LPG connections likely to be provided during 2006-07;

(c) the losses being incurred by the companies every year due to the present rates of LPG gas cylinders; and

(d) the steps likely to be taken by the Government to compensate the losses of the companies?

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

PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) had suspended release of new LPG connections during the period September-November, 2005 due to temporary shortage of LPG in the country. With the improvement in the availability of LPG, OMCs have resumed release of new connections with effect from 1st December 2005.

(b) During the year 2006-07, approximately 60 lakh new LPG connections are expected to be released by OMCs.

(c) The profitability of the OMCs has been adversely affected due to non-revision of prices of sensitive petroleum products in line with international prices. As against profit of Rs. 5222.84 crore recorded during April-December, 2004, the OMCs registered a combined loss of Rs. 2897.55 crore, during the corresponding period this year.

(d) In order to formulate a long-term pricing policy, the Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to examine different aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products. The Committee submitted its report on 17.2.2006. The Committee has recommended raising the price of domestic LPG by Rs. 75/cylinder immediately and gradual elimination of subsidy thereafter. The report is being examined by the Government.

Government has also decided in principle to issue oil bonds of Rs. 11,500 crores to the OMCs to share the subsidies.

[English]

Price of Petroleum Products

594. SHRI RANEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether petroleum prices have been witnessing frequent and considerable increase in the international market since sometime past;

(b) if so, the details of trends of prices both in terms of US Dollar and Euro as prevailed in the international market during the last twelve months and in January, 2005; and

(c) the details of on-going import contracts with oil producing countries which are unaffected by the escalation in price?

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

(b) Trends in international prices during the last twelve months including January, 2006, are given in enclosed statement.

(c) Oil companies enter into term contracts with national oil companies of oil producing companies at Official Selling Price (OSP). These contracts provide only for assurance of supplies but the prices are linked to variations in the international market.

Statement

Trend in the international oil prices

Months	Crude oil (Indian Basket) \$/bbl	Petrol \$/bbl	Diesel \$/bbl	Kerosene \$/bbl	LPG \$/MT
1	2	3	4	5	6
Feb'05	42.58	53.70	50.09	52.24	369.20

1	2	3	4	5	6
Mar'05	49.27	58.72	59.83	63.74	380.00
Apr'05	49.43	60.23	61.36	69.00	416.80
May'05	47.02	53.37	56.45	61.09	421.80
June'05	52.72	58.38	65.61	66.98	394.80
July'05	55.01	63.43	66.89	67.75	399.80
Aug'05	60.03	72.52	68.09	73.42	403.60
Sept'05	59.74	78.93	71.78	75.70	438.2
Oct'05	56.28	67.91	67.97	71.33	517.0
Nov'05	53.31	59.48	57.69	60.91	547.0
Dec'05	55.05	59.90	60.23	66.99	536.00
Jan'06	60.61	65.42	64.95	72.85	581.00
Feb'06 (upto 14th)	60.12	63.26	62.45	73.38	625.00
Average (Apr'05 to 14th Feb'06)	55.39	63.84	63.95	69.09	480.09
Percentage Increase in international prices in April'05 to 14th Feb'06	137.6%	141.5%	174.8%	191.9%	147.5%
Percentage Increase in current retail price over Mar'02	—	63.8%	83.54%	0.78%	22.58%

(Delhi retail Prices considered)

*At current conversion rate 1Euro = US\$ 1.1926.

The composition of Indian Basket of Crude represents Average of Oman and Dubai for sour grades and Brent (Dated) for sweet grade in the ratio of 58:42.

[Translation]

Pending Railway Projects

595. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending railway projects as on January 31, 2006, Zonewise;

(b) whether the Railways have made any assessment regarding cost escalation of the pending railway projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) As per Pink Book 2005-06, there were 321 on-going projects out of which 81 have already been completed and balance 240 are in various stages of progress. Further 6 more projects have been included in Supplementary Budget 2005-06. Zone-wise number of projects is as under :—

Sl.No.	Railway	No of on-going projects
1.	Central	9
2.	Eastern	18
3.	East Central	27
4.	East Coast	15
5.	Northern	19
6.	North Central	16
7.	North Eastern	14
8.	Northeast Frontier	15
9.	North Western	11
10.	Southern	26
11.	South Central	16
12.	South Eastern	7
13.	South East Central	11
14.	South Western	13
15.	Western	11
16.	West Central	1
17.	Railway Electrification	10
18.	Metropolitan Transport Project (MTP)	7

(b) and (c) Ongoing railway projects are progressing as per the availability of funds on year to year basis. Projects have undergone cost escalation on account of various reasons like change in technology and the standards of construction, scope of work, inflation, etc. In the absence of assured matching funds at the time of taking up of a project, evaluation of time and cost overrun are not feasible. There was a throwforward of about Rs. 47,000 crore as on 1.4.2005.

[English]

Vikravandi Railway Station

596. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vikravandi Railway Station in Chennai-Villupuram section has been functioning as a goods station;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to convert the said station into a passenger-cum-goods yard station;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Vikravandi station was closed for goods traffic with effect from 1.3.1981.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Shortage of Staff

597. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that a number

of T.V. transmitters could not be started due to shortage of staff;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate staff to enable to start these T.V. transmitters?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) to (c) While a majority of the TV transmitters installed during the 10th Plan have been operationalised, there are fifty-three transmitters which could not be made fully operational due to the non-availability of complement of staff for operational and maintenance purposes. These have, however, been commissioned through redeployment of staff and are currently in operation for limited duration. Efforts are being made to secure the required staff expeditiously.

[English]

Fires in Ordnance Factories

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

(a) whether ammunitions on large scale has been destroyed in a spate of fires in Ordnance depots;

(b) if so, the value of ammunitions destroyed thereby during 2005 and 2006, till date; and

(c) the steps taken to modernize all the CODs to prevent further loss of ammunition?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) As many as 12 incidents of fire have been reported in the Ordnance/Ammunition depots in the past 10 years. However, only one incident of fire at Central Ammunition Depot Pulgaon (Maharashtra) has occurred during 2005-2006. Various types of fuzes associated with ammunition worth Rs. 22.20 crores were destroyed in the fire.

(c) Central Ordnance Depots are to be modernized in a phased manner and, to begin with, modernization of Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur, which is at an advance stage of completion, has been taken up. Government has also approved modernization of security and fire prevention systems in one Central Ammunition Depot, Pulgaon, one Field Ammunition Depot and one Ammunition Company at an estimated cost of Rs. 49.89 crores in the pilot phase.

Procurement of Vessels to Detect Sea Mines

599. SHRI RAYAPTI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to procure vessels to detect sea mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

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

(b) It is proposed to induct 8 Mine Counter Measure Vessels in the Indian Navy through indigenous construction.

(c) The estimated cost of induction is about Rs. 6000 crore.

(d) The vessels are likely to be inducted from 2010 to 2017.

Beautification of Airports

600. SHRI MOHD. MUKEEM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total funds sanctioned to provide green cover to Airports of Delhi, Mumbai, Rajasthan and their Offices

during the last two years and the actual amount spent thereon; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to beautify and provide green cover to the above Airports/Offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) The fund provided and amount spent during the last two years to provide green cover to airports in Delhi, Mumbai and Rajasthan (in lakhs of rupees) are as under:—

2003-04: Delhi (94.45, 94.33). Mumbai (15.70, 6.58), Rajasthan (1.70, 1.05)

2004-05: Delhi (98.91, 85.40), Mumbai (22.05, 9.81), Rajasthan (1.10, 0.69)

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated action for development and maintenance of garden, lawn and plant etc. in new Air Traffic Service Complex and the office of Regional Executive Director (RED) at Palam and Safdarjung Airport. Providing green cover at Delhi and Mumbai airports is a continuous process.

Encroachment Around Protected Monuments

601. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that encroachments in and around protected monuments have been increasing day by day;

(b) if so , the details thereof;

(c) the details of those monuments which have come to the notice of the Union Government during each of the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government is also aware that State Governments are not providing any assistance

to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for removing such encroachments; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to remove the encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) There are instances of encroachments in the centrally protected monuments and a detailed list (State-wise) is enclosed as statement.

(d) and (e) Assistance in containing and removing encroachments is sought from the respective State Government and where there are no fruitful results, actions is initiated against the encroachers by filing cases in the court of law

The Superintending Archaeologist of Circles have been vested with the powers of an Estate Officer to issue eviction notices/orders to the encroachers under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. They are also authorised to issue show cause notices under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules 1959 followed by an order to the District Collector/ Magistrate by Director General of Archaeological Survey of India to remove such encroachment under section 19(2) of the Act and Rules 38(2) of the Rule.

Statement

List of Centrally Protected Monuments (State-wise) Which are Under Encroachment

Sl.No	Name of the Monument/Site
1	2

ANDHRA PRADESH: Hyderabad Circle

1. Ruined Fort, Dharanikota, Guntur District
2. Rock-Cut Caves, Mogalrajapuram, Vijayawada. Krishna District

1	2
3.	Buddhist Site, Neelavati, Vizianagaram District
4.	Sri Bheemeswara Swamy temple, Daksharama, East Godavari District
5.	Buddhist Remians, Kotturu village, Yelamanchili Mandalam, Visakhapatnam District
6.	Buddhist Remains at Salihundam, Salihundam Village, Gara Mandalam, Srikakulam District
7.	Sri Mukuteswara Temple and Old Vishnu temples, Peddamudium, Kadapa District
8.	Sri Sowmyanadha Swamy temple, Nandalur, Kadapa District
9.	Sri Kodanda Rama Swamy temple, Vontimitta, Kadapa District
10.	Gateway and Bastion of Old Fort, Krmool
11.	Sri Umamaheswara Swamy temple, Yaganti, Kurnool District
12.	Temple including the sculpture of Subramanya, Nandavaram, Kurnool District
13.	Sri Venkateswara Vishnu Temple, Srinivasamangapuram
14.	Sri Buggarameswara Swamy temple, Tadipatri, Ananthapur District
ASSAM: Guwahati Circle	
1.	Sri Suryapahar Ruins, Distt. Goalpara, Assam
2.	Cachari Ruins, khaspur, Distt. Cachar, Assam
BIHAR: Patna Circle	
1.	Sher Shah Suri's tomb, Rohtas, Sasaram, Bihar
2.	Buddhist Stupa at Kesariya, East Champaran, Tajpur Deur, Bihar

1	2
CHHATTISGARH: Raipur Circle	
1.	Danteswari temple, Dantewada, Distt. Dantewada
2.	Chaiturgarh Fort, Lepha, Distt. Korba
3.	Kotmi Fort, Kotmi, Distt. Bilaspur
4.	Ram Chandra Temple, Rajiom, Distt. Jaipur
5.	Sita bengra caves, Ramgarh Hill, Udayapur
6.	Jogimara Caves, Ramgarh Hill Udayapur
NCT OF DELHI: Delhi Circle	
1.	Qudasia Mosque inside Qudsia Garden, Delhi
2.	Tughlaqabad
3.	Lothian Road Cemetery
4.	Portions of City Wall at Kashmeri Gate
5.	Tomb of Razia Sultan
6.	Purana Qila
7.	Sarai Shahji
8.	Begumpuri Mosque
9.	Sunehri Masjid, near Red Fort
10.	Neeli Masjid, Hauz Khas
11.	Lal Gumbad, (Chirag Delhi)
12.	Raipur (Mutiny Cemetery, Old Raipur Cantonment North Distt.
13.	Ancient Mosque, Palam
14.	D'Eremao Cemetery Kishanganj
GUJARAT: Vadodara Circle	
1.	Malik Alam's Mosque, Ahmedabad

1	2
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2. Saiyed Usman Mosque
3. Small Stone Mosque, Paldi, Ahmedabad
4. Dariyakhan Tomb, Ahmedabad
5. Achyut Bibi's Mosque, Ahmedabad
6. Ruined Hindu temple and Jain temples on the top of Hill, Pavagadh, Distt. Godhra
7. Nawab Sardar Khan Roza with its compound wall, Ahmedabad
8. Mir Abu Turab Tomb, Ahmedabad
9. Bhadra Tower, Ahmedabad
10. Great Mosque, Sarkhej, Distt. Ahmedabad
11. Bahlol Khan Mosque at Dholka
12. Ancient Site Gohilwad Timbo, Amreli Distt.
13. Tomb of Queens of Ahmed Shah, Ahmedabad

HARYANA: Chandigarh Circle

1. Ancient Site, Rakhigarhi, District, Hissar
2. Ancient Site, Theh Polar, Siwan, Distt, Kaithal
3. Raja Karan Ka Qila, Village Mirzapur, Distt. Kurukshetra
4. Ancient Site, Khokra Kot, Distt. Rohtak
5. Ther Mound, Sirsa, Distt. Sirsa
6. Ancient site know as Jarasandh Ka Qila, Asandh, Distt. Karnal.

HIMACHAL PRADESH: Shimla Mini Circle

1. Gauri Shankar Temple, Nagar Kullu
2. Narbadeshwar Temple, Sujampur

1	2
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JAMMU & KASHMIR: Srinagar Circle

1. Ancient Fort and Samadhi of Queen of Raja Suchet Singh, Ramnagar, Distt. Udhampur
2. Ancient Palace, Ramnagar, Distt. Udhampur
3. Pathar Masjid, Srinagar
4. The Gates in rampart of the fort (a) Kathi Darwaza (b) Sangeen Darwaza, Srinagar
5. Buddhist Monastery at Alchi

KARNATAKA: Dharwad Circle

1. Ali Shaheed Peer Mosque
2. Allapur Gate
3. Ambar Khana
4. Badikaman
5. Bahamani Gate
6. Bathulla Khan's Mosque
7. Fort wall (Manguli Gate to Bahamani Gate)
8. Gol Gumbaz & Other structures
9. Hazi Hassan Saheb's tomb
10. Manguli Gate & Fathe Gate
11. Moats of the fort wall (from Bahamani Gate to Manguli Gate)
12. Mubarak Khan Mahal
13. Mustafa Bad Gun
14. Mustafa Khan Mosque
15. Nagthana Gate
16. Nav Gumbaz

1	2
17.	Padshapur Gate
18.	Water Pavilion to the North of Mubarak Khan's Mosque
19.	Water Tower No. 114 with inscriptions to the south of Asar Mahal
20.	Water Tower No. 115 to the south of Chinch Didi Mosque
21.	Water Tower No. 142 to the north west of Nov Gumbaz and to the west of Kawas Khan's Mahal.
22.	Water Tower No. 147 to the south of Badikaman
23.	Water Tower No. 286 to the north east of Mecca Masjid
24.	Sanda Burz
25.	Shapur Gate
26.	Jorapur Gate
27.	Mecca Gate
28.	Gun Firangi Shahi Burz
29.	Sarv ad Didi Mosque
30.	Land Khasaba Gun
31.	Small Pavilion in front of Asar Mahal
32.	Water Pavilion
33.	Ariquilla Moat
34.	Chinch Didi Mosque
35.	Andu Masjid
36.	Ibrahim Old jami Mosque
37.	Gummat Bavadi

1	2
38.	Sikandar Shah Tombs
39.	Yakub Dabuli's Mosque
40.	Ikhlas Khan's Mosque
41.	Shah Navaz Khan's tomb/mosque
42.	Moti Darga
43.	Hyder Khan's tomb
44.	Nitya Navara Mosque
45.	Tomb No. 47
46.	Sonari Masjid
47.	Tomb No. 22 near Chand Bavadi
48.	Masjid at Katijapur
49.	Aqueduct Running from Bhat Bavadi south-west of Torvi village to Taj Bavadi
50.	Chand Bavadi
51.	Mulla Mosque
52.	Zanjari Jahan Begham's mosque
53.	Malik Sandal Mosque
54.	Fort Gulbarga
55.	Khan Barid Tombs
56.	Bidar Fort (Inner and Outer)
MAHARASHTRA: Aurangabad Circle	
1.	Kotla of Twelve Imams, Ahmednagar
2.	Mucca Masjid, Ahmednagar
3.	Ancient Site locally known as Ladmod, Newasa, Ahmednagar

1	2
4.	Bibi-ka-Maqbara, Aurangabad
5.	Ancient Site at Paithan, Distt. Aurangabad
6.	Ellora Caves, Ellora, Distt. Aurangabad
7.	Grishneshwar Temple, Ellora, Distt. Aurangabad
8.	Devi Temple, Patna, Distt. Jalgaon
9.	Changdeo Temple at Changdeo, Distt. Jalgaon
10.	Balapur Fort, Balapur, Distt. Akola
11.	Achaleshwar Temple, Chandrapur
12.	Mahakli Temple, Chandrapur
13.	Fort wall with Ruins of Palace and gateway at Ballarsha, Distt. Chandrapur
14.	Group of temple at Markandadeo, Tq-Chamorshi, Distt.Gadchiroli
15.	Taponeshwar Temple, Tapona, Distt. Yeotmal
Mumbai Circle	
16.	Solapur Fort, Solapur
17.	Ardhnari Nateshwar Temple, Velapur, Distt. Solapur
18.	Yamaidevi temple, Mahalung, Distt. Solapur
19.	Dilawar Khan's Tomb, Rajgurau Nagar, Distt. Pune
20.	Bhuleshwar temple, Malsiras, Distt, Pune
21.	Raigad Fort, Distt. Raigad
22.	Kolaba Fort Alibag, Distt. Raigad
23.	Mound locally know as Sonar Bhat, Nalasopara (Gas), Distt. Thane

1	2
24.	Hemadpanthi Temple, Mahalung, Distt. Solapur
25.	Revdenda Fort, Agarkot Dist. Raigad
26.	Hirakot Old Fort, Alibag Dist. Raigad
27.	Kopeshwar Mahadev Temple, Khirdrapur Distt. Kolhapur
28.	Jogeshwari Caves, Mumbai
29.	Bassein Fort, Vasai, Distt. Thane
MADHYA PRADESH: Bhopal Circle	
1.	Gond Fort called Satkhanda and the tower on Rajghat called Shahburz & the temples there in at Mandla, Distt. Mandla
2.	Pre-historic Rock Shelters at Bhimbetka, Distt. Raisen
ORISSA: Bhubaneswar Circle	
1.	Khandagiri and Udayagiri Cave, Bhubaneswar
2.	Barabati Fort, Cuttack
3.	Sisupalgarh, Bhubaneswar
4.	Vaital Deul, Bhubaneswar
5.	Paramuguru Temple, Bhubaneswar
6.	Choudwar Fort, Cuttack
7.	Makeswar temple
PUNJAB: Chandigarh Circle	
Mound known as Mud Fort, Abohar, Distt. Firozpur	
RAJASTHAN: Jaipur Circle	
1.	Chittorgarh Fort
2.	Ranthambor Fort

1	2
	TRIPURA: Guwahati Circle
	Chaturdas Devata Temple, Udaipur, South Tripura Distt. Tripura.
	UTTAR PRADESH: Lucknow Circle
1.	Small high mound at Bara, District Allahabad
2.	Ruined Fort of Samudra-Gupta and Hansagupta at Jhusi, Distt. Allahabad
3.	Extensive mound called hatgauha Dih at Shivpur, Distt. Allahabad
4.	Large brick strewn khera being the ruins of an apparently Buddhist city at Chardah or Chandra, District Bahraich
5.	Tomb of Salar Saifuddin, District Bahraich
6.	Tomb of Rajab Salar Alias Hatila Salar, District Bahraich
7.	Jama Maasjid, District Banda
8.	Monuments in memory of General White lock's force, District Banda
9.	Extensive brick strewn mound, at Asotha, District Fatehpur
10.	Bagh Badshahi at Khajuha, District Fatehpur
11.	Hathikhana mosque or Jaichandi mosque at Hathgaon, District Fatehpur
12.	Circular mound, the site of a temple at Khairai, District Fatehpur
13.	Extensive mound called Garhi, District Fatehpur
14.	Tiksariya extensive mound and a group of Hindu sculptures, District Fatehpur
15.	Kurari Four temple, District Fatehpur

1	2
16.	Aphui mound called Chowki, District Fatehpur
17.	Square sand stone pillar bearing an inscription of Mahipal deva dated samrat 974 in the Municipal Garden attached to the Town Hall, District Fatehpur
18.	Tomb of Bahu Begaum, District Faizabad
19.	Tomb of Shuja-ud-Daula (Gulab Bari), District Faizabad
20.	Tomb of hazi Iqbal, District Faizabad
21.	Tomb of Nawab Sadar Jahan at Pihani, District Hardoi
22.	Memorial Tomb at Khasaura, District Hardoi
23.	Gandwa, Brick mound locally called Bankar Garh, District Hardoi
24.	Jain temple mounds at Sumerpur, District Hamirpur
25.	Rani Laxmi Bai Mahal, at Jhansi
26.	Mound at Bithur, District Kanpur City
27.	Memorial well Garden, District Kanpur City
28.	Sawada Kothi, District Kanpur City
29.	Subedar ki Talab, District Kanpur City
30.	Three images and a Gupta Pillar in the compound of a temple at Behta, Ghatampur, District Kanpur Dehat
31.	Karra Fort attributed to Jay Chandra, District Kausambi
32.	British monument at Aurangabad, District Kheri Lakhimpur
33.	Bundela temple at Banpur, District Lalitpur
34.	Ganesh Khera at Banpur, District Lalitpur

1	2
35.	Jain temple at Banpur, District Lalitpur
36.	Pali Khera at Banpur, District Lalitpur
37.	Large temple in front of Panch Marhia Madanpur, District Lalitpur
38.	Jain temple and a Torana or gateway at Siron Khurd, District Lalitpur
39.	Cemetery near Kaiser Pasand near Kaiserbagh Bus stand District Lucknow
40.	Kalan-ki-Lat at Aminabad, District Lucknow
41.	British Cemetery at Chiria Jheel at Sapru Marg, District Lucknow
42.	Two Cemeteries at Lucknow Faizabad Road, miles 4.5, District Lucknow
43.	Tome of Janab-e-Aliya, District Lucknow
44.	Bara Imambara/Asaf-ud-Daula's Imambara, District Lucknow
45.	Asafi Masjid, District Lucknow
46.	Maqbara, Shahnajaf or Tomb of Ghazi-ud-Din Haider, District Lucknow
47.	Rauza-e-Kazmain/Kazmain building, District Lucknow
48.	Picture Gallery, District Lucknow
49.	Jama Masjid at Hussainabad, District Lucknow
50.	Chhota Imambara/Tomb of Mohammad Ali Shah, District Lucknow
51.	Tahsin Ali Masjid, District Lucknow
52.	Amjad Ali Shah's mausoleum, District Lucknow
53.	Sher Darawaza/Neil's Gate, District Lucknow
54.	Kaiserbagh Gate, District Lucknow

1	2
55.	General Wali Kothi, District Lucknow
56.	Karbala Talkatora, District Lucknow
57.	Dargah Hazrat Abbas, District Lucknow
58.	Dianut-Daula Karbala, District Lucknow
59.	Malka jahan Karbala, District Lucknow
60.	Nasir-up-din Haider's Karbala Dailganj, District Lucknow
61.	Nagram Mound, District Lucknow
62.	Paharnaga Tikuria mound, District Lucknow
63.	Sikchewali Kothi, District Lucknow
64.	Jama Masjid, District Mahoba
65.	Lake of Kirat Sagar, District Mahoba
66.	Lake of Madan Sagar, District Mahoba
67.	Lake of Vijay Sagar, District Mahoba
68.	A flat roofed temple at Urvara, District Mahoba
69.	Large tank at Pathari Kadin, District Mahoba
70.	Isauli Mosque, District Sultanpur
71.	Large Dih Called Majhangaon with brick towers on four comers, District Sultanpur
72.	Mound known as Kutti Satruhan Das, District Sravastinagar
73.	Small round shaped mound, Tandwa, District Sravastinagar
74.	Tomb of Qurban Mohammed at Banger Mau, District Unnao
75.	Old Nawabi Mosque, District Ambedkar Nagar

1	2
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Agra Circle

76. Buriya-ka-Taal, Itmadpur, Agra
77. Jama Masjid, Agra
78. Kankali Tila, Mathura
79. Kota mound, Mathura
80. Gateway and Sarai, Ekdil, Etawah
81. Jama Masjid, Itmadpur, Agra

Patna Circle

82. Dharahra Mosque, Varanasi, U.P.
83. Msnmahal, Varanasi
84. Choukhandi Stupa, Varanasi, Samath, U.P.
85. Tomb of Abhiman, Meh Nagar, Distt. Azamgarh (U.P.)

UTTARANCHAL: Dehradun Circle

1. Gopeshwar Temple, Gopeshwar, Distt. Chamoli
2. Pandukeshwar Temple, Distt. Chamoli
3. Mahashu Temple, Hanol, Chakrata, Dehradun
4. Temples at Gangolihat, Distt. Pithoragarh
5. Adibadri Group of temples, Adibadri, Distt. Chamoli

*[Translation]***Under Measurement of Petrol/Diesel**

602. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of under-measuring of petrol/diesel in most of the petrol pumps have come to the notice of the Government;

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

(c) the number of such petrol pumps against whom action has been taken by the Government, State-wise;

(d) whether any strategy has been made by the Government to check the under measurement of petrol/diesel in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (c) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that there were 465 established cases of short delivery of petrol/diesel during April-December, 2005. State-wise details of short delivery cases during April-December, 2005 is enclosed as statement. Action is taken by OMCs against the erring dealers based on the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/ Dealership Agreement.

(d) to (e) Regular/surprise inspections of petrol pumps are carried out by officials of OMCs at various levels. In addition, the Weights and Measures Department of the State Government also carry out surprise checks to detect short delivery and take appropriate action.

Statement

Name of States/UTs	April to December, 2005
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
Andhra Pradesh	50
Arunachal Pradesh	0
Assam	0
Bihar	6

1	2
Chandigarh	0
Chhattishgarh	3
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
Daman and Diu	0
Delhi	6
Goa	0
Gujarat	3
Haryana	21
Himachal Pradesh	5
Jammu and Kashmir	1
Jharkhand	6
Karnataka	10
Kerala	11
Lakshadweep	0
Madhya Pradesh	19
Maharashtra	31
Manipur	0
Meghalaya	0
Mizoram	0
Nagaland	0
Orissa	6
Pondicherry	2
Punjab	41
Rajasthan	66
Sikkim	0

1	2
Tamil Nadu	52
Tripura	0
Uttar Pradesh	91
Uttaranchal	10
West Bengal	25
Total	465

Setting up of Ordnance Factory

603. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any plan has been chalked out for setting up of an ordnance factory in Bariyardihi in Kodarma district of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any report has been submitted in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon;

(e) whether land has been acquired for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the reasons for not commencing the work till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAOINDERJIT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Running of Locomotive on CNG Fuel

604. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM :

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to run locomotives on CNG fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost savings on the introduction of locomotives on CNG fuel;

(c) the time by which the CNG locomotives are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. However, trials are being conducted to run one Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) on Northern Railway.

(b) to (c) Operating cost of Compressed Natural Gas based Diesel Multiple Unit is expected to be 25% less in financial terms than diesel based Diesel Multiple Units. Its further proliferation depends on success of trials.

Inter-Island Helicopter Service

605. DR. P.P. KOYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce an Inter-Island helicopter service to connect all the inhabited Islands of Lakshadweep with Kavarati especially during south west monsoon season when boat services are not possible in operation;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to involve the private players to run the helicopter services in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures being taken to introduce helicopter service in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has provided a Dauphin

helicopter to the Lakshadweep Administration on long term lease basis. This helicopter is dedicated to the Administration, who are utilising the helicopter as per their requirements.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) PHHL provides helicopter services to the users on need basis subject to availability of helicopters. If Lakshadweep Administration requires additional helicopters, the same can be considered on the basis of availability.

Executive Petroleum Economic Zone

606. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up an executive petroleum economic zone for service providers in the oil and gas industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to be gained therefrom; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Government to become a global sourcing hub in the petroleum sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (d) In view of India's export earnings of over Rs.28,000 crore from petroleum products in 2004-05, Indian Oil Corporation Limited was asked to prepare a detailed feasibility study on making India as an investment destination for refineries, in particular export-oriented refineries, aimed at promoting India as the refining hub of South Asia/South-East Asia. The study was carried out by IOC alongwith M/s. Shell Global Solutions International B.V. IOC has submitted the feasibility report.

As per the study, an economically feasible Super Site Concept has been developed based on a Paradip type as nucleus. The concept derives competitive strength from world-class scale, integration, specialisation and long term national and site planning.

In view of the delicensing of the refinery sector since June, 1998, it is now for the Boards of Oil PSUs to take a decision on setting up of more Petroleum infrastructure, based on economic considerations.

[Translation]

Joint Naval Exercise

607. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any joint naval exercise by the Naval Forces of some of countries was held in Andaman and Nicobar during January, 2006;

(b) if so, the number of days during which the said exercise was held and the objectives there; and

(c) the details of the countries participated in the above exercise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Indian Navy hosted an interactive naval meeting "MILAN" from 9th to 14th January, 2006 at Port Blair to promote mutual cooperation and friendly relations between the navies of Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Thailand. A joint naval exercise was also held on 14th January, 2006.

[English]

Rail Reservation in Gurgaon

608. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of computer terminals installed at Gurgaon for reservation of rail tickets are inadequate to cope with the rush of passengers; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to overcome the situation?

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

(b) At present, at Gurgaon Railway station, 4 Reservation Counters are functioning in two shifts each from 08.00 hrs. to 20.00 hrs. However, to deal with the summer and peak rush, 2 more reservation counters have been planned.

In addition, one new Passenger Reservation center has been sanctioned, away from Gurgaon railway station. State authorities have been requested to provide built-up site free of cost at a suitable place to commission the center.

Private Passenger Trains

609. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to start private passenger trains on intercity route;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Committee has been set up by the Railways to examine utility of such trains service;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(f) if so, the recommendations given by the Committee;

(g) the reaction of the Railways on the implementation of said recommendations;

(h) the measures to be taken for overall improvement in the speed of freight and passenger trains; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, any private party can book a special train on any route on Full Tariff Rate (FTR) basis.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (i) Do not arise.

Flight Frequency in North East India

610. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of flights from Delhi to the capitals of the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government would consider to increase at least one more direct flight per week between Delhi and Imphal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) 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 in different regions of the country including North East Region. Airlines are free to provide air services to any place depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability and subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines.

Due to shortage of aircraft, crew and engineers, Indian Airlines has no plan to increase direct flight between Delhi and Imphal at present.

Migration of Oil PSUs Employees

611. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many

senior level employees of the Public Sector Oil Companies are being lured by the Private Sector Oil Companies on a large scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the migration of employees by the Private Sector Oil Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) As intimated by the major oil Public Sector Undertakings, the details of senior level officers who have resigned during the last three years are as under:—

Name of the Oil Companies	Number of Senior level officers resigned
ONGC	32
OIL	26
GAIL	74
IOC	16
BPCL	5
HPCL	13
IBP	6

The oil companies are unable to confirm whether all of these officers have indeed joined Private Sector Oil Companies.

(c) The various steps initiated by the oil Public Sector Undertaking to retain talent inter-alia include:—

(i) recognition of talent

(ii) adequate career growth opportunities

(iii) specialized training for development of business skills

(iv) development of new competencies/capabilities

- (v) empowerment and proper placement for better commitment and motivation.

Re-structuring of Officers' Cadre

612. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-upgradation of ranks, lack of adequate promotional avenues and restricted career progression has led to decline in interest and motivation among youth towards Defence services; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to re-structure officers' cadre to make Defence services more attractive?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) With economic progress and opening up of new avenue of employment, there are various easier options available to the youth, other than employment in the Defence services. Defence services are also receiving increasing competition from the corporate world due to higher remuneration and easier working conditions offered by them.

(b) Orders relating to Non-Select Ranks and restructuring of the officers cadre of the Armed Forces have been issued:—

- (i) Grant of substantive ranks to Captain and equivalent at 2 years, Major & equivalent at 6 years and Lieutenant Colonel & equivalent at 13 years of service.
- (ii) Grant of rank of Colonel (Time Scale) and equivalent on completion of 26 years of service.
- (iii) Upgradation of 750 posts of Lieutenant Colonels.

Opening of Sainik Schools

613. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for opening of Sainik Schools in tribal areas in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

[Translation]

Airport at Allahabad

614. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop the airstrip of Airforce and convert it into a full-fledged airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the existing airstrips of Iradat Ganj and Fafamau near Allahabad are likely to be used for air services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) The airport at Bamrauli, Allahabad belongs to Indian Air Force and is an operational airport. Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains a Civil Enclave. M/s. Air Sahara operates scheduled flights thrice a week to Delhi and Kolkata.

(c) The airstrips at Iradat Ganj and Fafamau near Allahabad belongs to Ministry of Defence. AAI has no plans to develop the airstrip at Iradat Ganj and Fafamau near Allahabad.

[English]

VAT on PNG

615. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumers of Piped Natural Gas in Delhi are required to pay 20 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) on their bills;

(b) if so, the guidelines with regard thereto;

(c) whether the Government is aware that this extent of VAT is the highest for any item and the consumers have to suffer a lot;

(d) if so, whether the CNG supplier Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) has also represented for lowering the VAT on PNG; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This is as per the provisions contained in the Fourth Schedule to the Delhi Value Added Tax Act, 2004 read with Section 4 of the Act.

(c) The highest rate of VAT is 20%.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. IGL has represented to the Government of N.C.T. of Delhi. No decision has been taken so far by the Delhi Government in the matter.

One Rank One Pension

616. DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Group of Ministers constituted to go into the issue of 'One Rank One Pension' has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Group of Ministers;

(c) the steps taken to implement the recommendations; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to submit the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With effect from 1.1.2006, pension of pre-1.1.1996 retirees of all ranks of Personnel below officer rank (PBOR) in Army, Navy and Air Force be revised with reference to the maximum of post-1.1.1996 pay-scales. In addition, the weightage of Sepoy, Nail and Havildar ranks for past as well as future retirees be enhanced from 5 years to 10, 8 and 6 years respectively subject to a maximum qualifying service of 30 years. However, if any person is getting a qualifying service of more than 30 years with the existing weightage, he would continue getting that.

(c) Government letter to implement the above recommendations of the GOM has been issued on 1.2.2006.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Assistant to Families of Martyrs

617. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the families of martyrs which have been provided assistance under the various schemes during the last two years and current year so far;

(b) the number of the families of the Kargil martyrs which have been provided assistance;

(c) whether the families of more than one thousand martyrs are still running around for the compensation and the Government assistance;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU) : (a) to (e) Details of the families of martyrs provided assistance under the various schemes during the year 2004, 2005 and 2006 are as follows:-

Name of Scheme	2004		2005		2006 (upto January)	
	No. of beneficiaries	Amount paid (in crores of rupees)	No. of beneficiaries	Amount paid (in crores of rupees)	No. of beneficiaries	Amount paid (in crores of rupees)
Financial Assistance from Army Central Welfare Fund/National Defence Fund	415	1.86	463	1.47	29	0.11
Children Education Scholarship (govt. fund)	825	0.71	1300	1.22	Nil	Nil

2. Financial assistance has also been provided to the Next of Kin of martyrs from Army Welfare Corpus (non govt. fund) as indicated below:-

Year	Beneficiaries for Education Scholarship	Beneficiaries for Daughters marriage	Beneficiaries for Self-employment
2004	186	37	78
2005	07	19	48
2006	—	—	—

3. A total number of 816 families of martyrs (Officers/Junior Commissioned Officers/Other Ranks) have been provided assistance from Army Group Insurance Fund with effect from 1st January 2004 till date.
4. **Benefits extended to the families of Kargil martyrs:**

Wives/Next of Kin of Kargil martyrs (barring in one case which is subjudice) have been paid ex-gratia amount of Rs. 10 lakh each and have been sanctioned liberalised family pension equal to the last pay drawn by the deceased soldiers. They have also been given Rs. 5 lakh for housing and Rs. 1 lakh per child and

Rs. 2 lakhs per family for education of children from National Defence Fund. Oil product agencies to the 452 dependents of Kargil martyrs who had applied for the same have been approved by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

5. Liberalised family pension, ex-gratia and amount from the Army Group Insurance Scheme, as admissible are paid to the families of the martyrs on completion of necessary formalities. Families of 3 martyred officers and 56 families of martyred Junior Commissioned Officers/Other Ranks could not be paid amount due to them from Army Group Insurance Scheme mainly for pending court cases (19) and for want of requisite documents from the families (40 cases).

Modernisation of Nagarsul Railway Station

618. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Railways propose to modernise Nagarsul railway station keeping in view the heavy rush of passengers there;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the action is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Nagarsol is a 'B' category station and all the Minimum Essential Amenities as per norms have been provided at this station. Keeping in view the importance of station as a pilgrimage centre, Rs. 13.50 lakh have been spent during 2005-06 for improvement of Waiting Hall and circulating area and works costing about Rs. 16.00 lakh are taken up for providing cover over platform. The works are targeted for completion by June, 2006.

[English]

**Upgradation of Transmitters of Kokrajhar
Doordarshan Kendra**

619. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the low power transmitter installed at the Kokrajhar Doordarshan Kendra to a high power one;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the cost and time-schedule for implementation thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) to (c) Currently, there is no scheme to upgrade the existing Low Power Transmitter (LPT) at Kokrajhar to a High Power Transmitter (HPT). However, a scheme of conversion of existing LPT to HPT under the Phase-II of the Special Package for improvement of AIR and Doordarshan's services in the North-East Region subject to the approval and availability of resources is under consideration.

[Translation]

Subsidised LPG

620. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the subsidised LPG provided during 2004-05 and 2005-06, till date in the country;

(b) the percentage of total population in rural areas provided with subsidised LPG;

(c) the consumption of subsidised LPG in urban areas;

(d) whether the amount of subsidy has been fixed for rural and urban areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) The sales of domestic LPG during 2004-05 was 9.577 MMT and the sales during April-Dec'05 was 6.993 MMT.

(b) to (e) Subsidy is provided uniformly to all consumers of domestic LPG on all domestic cylinders supplied in rural and urban areas. There is no specific quantum of subsidy fixed for rural or urban areas.

[English]

**Electrification of Chennai-Howrah Trunk
Rail Route**

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

(a) the present status of electrification of Chennai-Howrah Trunk Rail Route;

(b) the estimated cost of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Electrification of Chennai-Howrah Trunk Rail Route has already been completed.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Airport in Jharkhand

622. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has identified any place to construct a new airport in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also any proposal to upgrade or modernise any airport in Jharkhand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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 a proposal to expand and modify the existing Terminal Building at Ranchi airport to cater 250 arriving and 250 departing passengers at a time and also has a proposal to expand existing apron to accommodate parking of more aircrafts.

Testing of Dhanush Missile

623. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dhanush Missile was tested successfully;

(b) if so, time by which the said missile is likely to be inducted; and

(c) the time by which India is likely to become self reliant in deployment of indigenous missile?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Dhanush, the Naval variant of

India's indigenously developed PRITHVI Missile has completed all development trials successfully.

(b) Indian Navy has cleared the weaponisation of Dhanush Weapon System. Limited series production is in progress at M/s. Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad. Induction process of Dhanush Missile is also in progress.

(c) India has acquired high degree of self-sufficiency in development and deployment of indigenous Missile Systems.

[English]

Commemoration of 400th Death Anniversary of Akbar the Great

624. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has formulated any programme to commemorate the 400th Death Anniversary of the Mughal King 'Akbar the Great'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Normally, the commemorative programmes are formulated in case of celebrations of Birth Anniversaries/Centenaries.

Loading Facility at Karad Railway Station

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

(a) whether the Railways are planning to improve the facilities of loading and unloading at Karad railway station and to repair the godowns for better functioning of loading system in the monsoon season; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Project Priyadarshini

626. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has started a scheme named 'Project Priyadarshini' for the women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be received by the women from the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) 'Project Priyadarshini' is an initiative taken by Ministry of Tourism under the existing scheme of Capacity Building for Service Providers to develop capacities of women. It is envisaged to train identified women in various trades related to tourism sector including tour guides and taxi operation etc.

[English]

Insurance Scheme for Journalists

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any insurance scheme for journalists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which journalists are benefited therefrom;

(c) the category of journalists covered under the scheme;

(d) whether the journalists in the category of reporters or correspondents who discharge their duties round the clock are covered under the said insurance scheme; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to include this category under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Doordarshan Kendra at Bellary

628. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up a Doordarshan Kendra at Bellary in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) There is no scheme at present to set up DDK at Bellary.

Screening of Indian Films in Pakistan

629. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan has agreed to allow the screening of Indian feature films in Pakistan;

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

(c) whether the Government of Pakistan has also sent any request to the Government of India for releasing Pakistani films in India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) According to information received from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), screening of Indian feature films is not permitted in Pakistan. There have been press reports from time to time to the effect that the Government of Pakistan will consider screening of Indian feature films on a case-to-case basis. However, no public screening has taken place till now. This issue has been taken up by MEA with the Government of Pakistan.

(c) and (d) There is no restriction on the import of feature films to India. Further, MEA has also informed that no specific request has been received from Pakistan for release of Pakistani films in India.

Under Reporting of Train Accidents

630. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware that there is under reporting of cases of accidents by Zonal Railways to Railway Board;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Commission of Railway Safety has enquired only 5 to 6 per cent of such cases despite to enquire into all accidents;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the recommendations given by various Committees have been implemented;

(f) if not the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

train accidents are reported by the Zonal Railways to the Railway Board.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Commission of Railway Safety is not supposed to enquire into all accidents. As per Section 114 of The Railways Act, 1989, Commissioners of Railway Safety conduct statutory inquiry into serious accidents to train carrying passengers resulting in loss of human life or grievous hurt causing total or partial disablement of permanent nature to a passenger or serious damage to railway property. Other consequential train accidents are enquired into by Enquiry Committees of Railway officers.

(e) to (g) Railway Safety Review Committee, which was set up in 1998 under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna, retired Supreme Court Judge, has, inter alia, reviewed the recommendations of earlier Committees and suggested measures for further improvement in the safe running of trains.

The majority of recommendations made by the Committee pertaining to issues concerning Railway safety, including adoption of technical aids have been accepted. More than 70% of the accepted recommendations have already been implemented. Balance recommendations are at various stages of implementation.

*Figures are provisional.

Installation of Equipment

631. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) have installed equipment worth Rs. 143 crore for 34 projects under Direct To Home (DTH) but are unable to utilize it due to lack of trained manpower;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether there has been a wide gap between desired number of trained manpower and the existing strength; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken or being taken by the Government to provide trained staff to operate the equipment?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Doordarshan's Ku band (Free-to-Air DTH) transmission service 'DD Direct Plus' was approved with a capital cost of Rs. 53.80 crores (Works-Rs. 2.80 cr., Equipment-Rs. 51.00 cr.). Out of which till now Rs. 19.26 crores have been incurred on this project. Its bouquet comprising thirty-three TV and twelve Radio channels has been made fully operational since its launch on 16th Dec. 2004 with the existing trained manpower.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There exists a gap between the desired number of trained manpower and the existing staff strength, all-out efforts are being made to secure the required staff. However, where there has been a shortage of manpower for operational and maintenance purposes, this has been overcome by resorting to redeployment of the existing staff from nearby centres.

Sale of Land of Kota Airport

632. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has agreed to sell the land of Kota Airport and construct a new airport outside the city with the funds received from this sale;

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

(c) the amount expected from the sale proceeds of the land?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Railway Stations under Jabalpur Division

633. SHRI GANSEH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for the development of railway stations under the Jabalpur Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds provided for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the development work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c) Large numbers of works are being carried out at various railway stations in Jabalpur Division. The details of major works (costing more than Rs. 50 lakh each) are given below alongwith target of completion:—

S.No.	Station	Detail of the work	Target of completion
1	2	3	4
1.	Sakaria	Construction of Sakaria crossing station.	March, 2007
2.	Baghai Road	Provision of one down loop line and construction of rail level platform at the station.	June, 2007

1	2	3	4
3.	Marwas Gram and Bharsendi	Conversion of Marwas Gram and Bharsendi crossing stations into B class station.	December, 2006
4.	Niwaroad and Deoragram	Provision of loop line for crossing of trains.	September, 2006

Apart from the above, number of small works with cumulative cost of Rs. 346 lakh approx. are in progress at various stations and all such works are targeted for completion by March, 2007.

[English]

Child Adoption Racket

634. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether operation of some child adoption rackets in different parts of the country have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the name of adoption of abandoned children, they have actually been sold in foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in the matter; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to check illegal adoption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) Media reports from time to time have indicated that some adoption agencies are indulging in illegal activities like procurement and transfer of children for adoption.

(c) No, Sir. It has not come to the notice of this Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Central Adoption Resources Agency (CARA) and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have been impressing upon the State Governments/UT Administrations the need to maintain a strict vigilance on the activities of these agencies in order to curb these malpractices. Government of Andhra Pradesh has banned inter-country adoption since 2001. CARA had derecognised an adoption agency based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on the basis of the findings of a joint inspection conducted by it with the State Government in 1999.

Vacant Reservation Posts

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

(a) whether thousands of Group 'D' posts most of which are reserved posts in Jabalpur, Bhopal and Kota division of Western Central Railway are lying vacant;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have taken any steps to fill up these vacant posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) The vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) lying vacant in Group 'D', as on 31.3.2004, on West Central Railway was assessed as 51 SCs and 88 STs.

(b) and (c) In pursuance of Govt.'s Common Minimum programme, a Special Recruitment Drive has been launched to wipe out the backlog vacancies of SCs and STs existing as on 31.3.2004 on all the Zonal Railways including West Central Railway. The above mentioned backlog vacancies has been identified by West Central Railway for clearance through the on going Special Recruitment Drive.

(d) The panel of 88 ST candidates has since been received from Railway Recruitment Board/Chennai, the formalities of issuing of offer of appointments to the selected candidates would be over by 31.3.2006. The panel of '51' SC candidates through Railway Recruitment Board/Mumbai is expected to be received by 31.3.2006. Every efforts are being made to complete the recruitment drive expeditiously.

Development of Eco-Tourism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

636. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is facing any problem in providing tribal land for developing Eco-Tourism and evolving local communities in tourism activities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in developing Eco-Tourism in the Islands?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) No proposal has been received by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration seeking use of tribal land for Eco-tourism.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the non-tribal area like Radhanagar, Havelock, which is near the sea, the Directorate of Tourism, Andaman and Nicobar puts up eco-friendly tents during fair season

and the same are removed during off season. Recently, ANIIDCO, a corporation of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has ventured in setting up some eco-friendly tents at the Goodwill Estate for promoting Eco-friendly tourism.

Norms for Operating Helicopters

637. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to tighten the norms for operating helicopters in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for proper compliance of such norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has already issued norms for safe operations of helicopters through Civil Aviation Requirements. DGCA has taken a number of measures for closely monitoring helicopter operations in the country; stipulated regulations for training of helicopter pilots and norms for operating from unapproved heliports.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) DGCA ensures compliance of the regulations through regional offices and regular surveillance.

Repair/Renovation of Jama Masjid

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

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Saudi Arabia has offered to repair/renovate the Jama Masjid in Delhi;

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

(c) whether the Government has examined the said offer of Saudi Arabia; and

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

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

(b) The embassy of Saudi Arabia has informed MEA that the Govt. of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to contribute through Government of India for repair works of Jama Masjid in Delhi including erection of shades, maintenance of places of ablution and renovation old electrical wiring.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has examined the offer in detail. The Archaeological Survey of India is carrying out requisite conservation works at Jama Masjid since 1955. The Hon'ble High court has also directed that Archaeological Survey of India would undertake necessary repairs in consultation with the Delhi Wakf Board.

As necessary repairs are being undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India, there is no need for requirement of foreign contribution for this purpose.

[Translation]

Decongestion of Jaipur Station

639. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are considering the proposal for providing stoppage to trains passing through Durgapura, Gandhinagar and Sanganer railway stations of Jaipur to decongest Jaipur station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Stoppage of 9777/9778 Jaipur-Agra Fort-Gwalior Express at Gandhinagar-Jaipur station has been provided from 1.1.2006. Express trains i.e. 2465/2466 Jodhpur-Sawai Madhopur Ranthambore Express, 2979/2980 Jaipur-Bandra (Terminus)

Express, 2973/2974 Indore-Jaipur Express & 2955 Mumbai Central-Jaipur Express have stoppage at Durgapura and 4311/4312 Bareilly-Bhuj Ala Hazrat Express, 4059/4060 Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Jodhpur/Barmer Express, 4853/4854/4863/4864 Jodhpur-Varanasi Marudhar Express, 9771/9772 Jaipur-Amritsar Express & 2413/2414 Jammu Tawi-Jaipur Express have stoppage at Gandhinagar-Jaipur. 3 pairs of passenger trains are stopping at Sanganer. However, there is no proposal to provide stoppage of any other train at Durgapura, Gandhinagar-Jaipur and Sanganer.

[English]

Schemes for SCs/STs and OBCs for Higher Studies

640. SHRI K.S. RAO :

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

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

(a) whether the Government is implementing any scheme for the benefits of Scheduled Castes (SCs)/ Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) for pursuing higher studies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the allocation of funds made thereunder during each of the last three years and current year;

(c) the number of SCs/STs and OBCs students benefited thereunder and the amount of assistance extended to each such student during the said period alongwith the criteria adopted for their selection;

(d) whether the Government proposes to ensure jobs for successful students after completion of their higher studies; 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) The

Government is implementing following schemes for SCs, STs and OBCs for pursuing higher studies:-

- (1) National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Caste etc. candidates.
- (2) National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe etc. candidates.
- (3) Post Matric Scholarships to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes.
- (4) Post Matric Scholarships to the students belonging to Scheduled Tribes.
- (5) Post Matric Scholarships to the students belonging to Other Backward Classes.

The details of the schemes relating to SC and OBC students are available in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment's website and that for ST students are available in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' Annual Report for the year 2004-05.

Central assistance released and students covered under the National Overseas Scholarships schemes

during last three years including the current financial year are enclosed as statement. In case of other Post-Matric Scholarships Schemes, the number of students covered and funds released include all Post-matric courses and no separate data is maintained for higher studies courses.

Besides the above schemes Two New Central Sector Schemes namely 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' (RGNF) for Scheduled Caste Students and 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' for Scheduled Tribe students for pursuing higher studies leading to M. Phil and Ph. D have been introduced during the current financial year 2005-06. Any student belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category admitted to M. Phil/Ph. D degree in a University or academic institution will be eligible for the award of the Fellowship. The Fellowship is on the same scale as the University Grants Commission (UGC)'s Scheme of Junior Research Fellowships (JRF).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b&c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 640 dated 23.2.2006 regarding 'Schemes for SCs, STs and OBCs for higher studies'.

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06 (As on 20.02.06)	
		Amount released	No. of students covered	Amount released	No. of students covered	Amount released	No. of students covered	Amount released	No. of students covered
1.	National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Caste etc. candidates	50.00	*	70.00	*	90.00	**	71.69	#
2.	National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe etc. candidates	19.85	*	25.45	*	27.59	#	nil	\$

* No selection was made during these years. Expenditure incurred is on the candidates selected earlier and who were studying abroad.

** 20 candidates have been selected and are at various stages of their study/admission.

Selection for candidates in under process.

\$ Advertisement for selection of candidates is yet to be released.

Missiles Found in Sea

641. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some missiles were found in the sea near Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted to know to whom these missiles belonged;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether these missiles have been removed from the sea; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to remove these missiles from the sea?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) No missiles have been found in the sea near Visakhapatnam. However, a metallic object was found entangled in the nets of a fisherman while trawling off Vishakhapatnam. The metallic object, while being cut by an Oxy Arc flame by the scrap dealer, caught fire and propelled forward for some distance. As a result, one girl child was killed and a few persons were injured. It also created panic among the residents. The matter was investigated by the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team of the Indian Navy and the object was found to be a used anti-submarine rocket projectile fired by the Indian Navy during its exercises. The practice projectiles are routinely fired by the Indian Navy ships and these sink to the bottom of the sea on completion of their flight. It is not possible to recover the used rocket projectile from the sea-bed due to its small size. It is a rare phenomenon that the used projectile gets entangled in a fisherman's net. However, as these practice projectiles do not carry warhead/high explosives, the used projectiles are not harmful provided these are not subject to excessive heat. To avoid recurrence of such incidents in future, the fishing community along the coastline is being advised through

State Governments/Union Territories, local media and police that if they recover such objects during fishing, the Indian Navy should be informed immediately and they should not attempt to dispose off such objects themselves.

Permission to Private Airlines for International Routes

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

(a) the criteria laid down for any airline to operate in the international routes;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the Indians settled in Arab countries are facing a lot of hardships due to inadequacy of flights particularly in the Arab sector;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to relax the rules to facilitate the private operators to run on the international routes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Under the existing guidelines Indian scheduled Carriers having experience of continuous operations of 5 years in the domestic sector and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft are permitted to operate on international routes, except to Gulf countries of UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

(b) At present, the traffic entitlements available for Indian as well as foreign carriers under India-Gulf countries bilaterals, is far in excess of the requirements of the India-Gulf route. During the off peak period, most of the flights operates with a seat factor of approx 60% leaving a large number of seats available and during the peak periods, airlines operate extra section flights to meet the demand. Apart from it, during the recently held bilateral consultations

with Oman, Qatar and UAE, the capacity entitlement has been liberalized considerably.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

(e) The existing guidelines for the international operations by the scheduled Indian carriers has been stipulated keeping in view, inter alia, the smooth operations on international routes together with ensuring compliance of existing safety norms and also to ensure that the airlines concerned have all necessary infrastructure and facilities in place before commencement of international operations.

[Translation]

Giridih-Kodarma Rail Project

643. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the progress made so far on the Giridih-Kodarma Rail Project;
- (b) the total fund allocation made for the project alongwith the expenditure incurred so far on payment of compensation for land acquisition and on developmental works; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to complete the project within the fixed time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Final Location Survey and land acquisition has been completed. Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up. About Rs. 74.50 crore has been spent on land acquisition and forestry clearance. An expenditure of Rs. 94.22 cr. has been done upto 31.03.2005. An outlay of Rs. 6 crore has been made for the project from Railway funds during 2005-06. State Government of Jharkhand is sharing 2/3rd cost of the project. The work is being progressed as per overall availability of resources.

[English]

Medical, Religious and Water Tourism

644. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to encourage Medical, Religious and Water Tourism;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;
- (c) the estimated number of pilgrims visiting Sabarimala in Kerala each year; and
- (d) the steps taken to provide facilities and security to the pilgrims visiting Sabarimala?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism sanctions Central Financial Assistance to State Governments/Union Territories for promotion and development of tourism products including Medical, Cultural and Water Tourism products based on the priorities decided in consultation with State Governments/Union Territories.

- (c) It is estimated by the Travancore Devaswom Board that more than 50 lakh pilgrims visit Sabarimala every year.
- (d) Based on the proposal received from the State Government of Kerala, the Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned Rs.104.89 lakh (in 1998-99) for construction of Pilgrim Facilitation Complex at Erumeli for use of tourists on their way to Sabarimala.

Shortcoming Noticed in Arjun Tanks

645. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned, "31 years on, Arjun still

not battle ready" appearing in the *Time of India* dated December 21, 2005;

(b) if so, the shortcoming noticed by the Army in Arjun Tank; and

(c) the steps taken to rectify these shortcomings?

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

(b) During the preparatory tests in summer 2005 before the comparative trials of the five Arjun production tanks, observations on two sub-systems like Gunner's Main Sight (GMS), Gun Control System (GCS) noticed.

(c) These observations have been analysed and necessary rectification and ruggedisation of the two sub-systems were carried out to withstand peak abnormal temperature. Preparatory trials and evaluation of the tank is under process for comparative trials by Army in summer of 2006.

Guidelines for TV Programmes

646. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :

SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to frame guidelines for TV programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check on nudity, glamorizing use of drugs, smoking, alcohol, etc. in TV programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) to (c) All the advertisements/programmes of satellite TV channels

transmitted or re-transmitted through cable service are required to adhere to the provisions of the Advertising Code and Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code inter alia prohibits carriage of any programme that is obscene or denigrates women. The Advertising Code Rule 7(2) (viii) prohibits carriage of advertisements that promote directly or indirectly production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products, wine, alcohol, liquor or other intoxicants.

The Central Government has constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Act to look into the violation of the Programme Code and Advertising Code. The Committee either suo-moto or on receipt of complaint, examines cases of violation of the Code. Show cause notices are issued in the first instance to TV channels for telecasting objectionable programmes/ advertisements in violation of the codes and in suitable cases TV channels are directed not to telecast/re-telecast the programme which are found to be in violation of the codes. Further action is taken as per rules.

The Government has constituted a Committee on 03.10.2005 for reviewing the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder and the Guidelines for certification of films prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952. This Committee consists of representatives from film industry, music industry, Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI), Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Centre for Media Studies (CMS), Vidya Sagar Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (VIMHANS), Consumer Council and representatives from NGOs and some Government Departments/Ministries. The terms of reference of the Committee inter alia are to revise and harmonise

the CBFC Guidelines and Cable Television Programme/Advertising Codes and AIR Code in accordance with contemporary community standards and the laws in force ant to amplify the provisions of the Guidelines/Codes with a view to enable the Film/TV/Radio industry to use them for self-regulation and minimise the scope of their subjective interpretation, on the lines of OFCOM/Australian codes.

Different Colours for Domestic and Commercial LPG Cylinders

647. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA :
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

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

(a) whether the Government is considering separate colours for domestic and commercial Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders to prevent diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for unauthorised use;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The proposal in this regard is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Timing of Kaifiat Express

648. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have received some requests from public representatives to change the timings of Kaifiat Express and extending it upto New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The matter is being examined and will be implemented if found feasible.

[English]

Five Star Hotels

649. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) recently to set up Five Star Hotels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) to (c) Government of India has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the hotel industry from NRIs as well as foreigners, as such the NRI entrepreneurs are free to set up hotels in the country. Ministry of Tourism has approved the following two 5 Star hotel projects recently, where NRIs are also the promoters among others or are on the Board of Directors:—

1. Laguna Kumarakom Resort Pvt. Ltd. is setting up a 58 room 5 Star hotel at Kumarakom, Kerala.
2. IHHR Hospitality Pvt. Ltd. is setting up a 160 room 5 Star hotel project at Hyderabad.

Phasing out of AC Coaches

650. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to phase out its fleet of more than 10000 Air conditioned coaches

keeping in view the Montreal Protocol on environment of which India is signatory;

(b) if so, whether the Railways are seeking United Nation Development Fund (UNDP) for assistance on phasing out its AC coaches;

(c) if so, the time schedule fixed for the purpose;

(d) the details of the alternative sources explored to arrange large number of AC coaches for the Railways;

(e) the fund required for procurement of AC coaches;

(f) whether Railway Coach Factories are in a position to produce such a large number of AC coaches in a very short time; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir. Railways have already planned to phase out/modify 780 Air conditioned (AC) coaches with R-12 refrigerant manufactured before 1994. After 1994 Railways have already switched over to manufacturing AC coaches with environment friendly refrigerant (R-22).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) R-12 refrigerant has to be phased out by 2010. About 300 coaches out of 780 would complete their service life by 2010 & will be phased out in normal course. The balance 480 coaches shall be converted by 2010 with environment friendly gas R134a. Work in this direction has already started.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Funds required for manufacturing of AC coaches are provided through Railway Budget.

(f) and (g) Railway Coach Factories are manufacturing about 350 AC coaches every year to meet its requirement on additional & replacement account.

[Translation]

Shortage of Technical Staff

651. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is huge shortage of Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs), personnel in fire, engineering and various other departments in different airports in the country as against the increase in air traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the employees and the adverse affect on the air traffic; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government of fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India has a sanctioned strengths (all categories) of 1753 persons in the Air Traffic Controller (ATC) discipline. However, the actual persons in position are 1313.

In Executive Grade the sanctioned strength, actual strength and shortage are as under:-

General Manager (20, 18 & 2); Additional General Manager/Deputy General Manager (124, 120 & 4); Assistant General Manager/Senior Manager [Regular] (342, 334 & 8); Senior Manager (Flexible Complementary Scheme/Manager (539, 636 & 176); Assistant Manager/Junior Executive Trainee [OLD] (268, 315 & -47); Junior Executive [Air Traffic Controller] (192, 71 & 121); Total (1485, 1221 & 264).

In Non Executive Grade the sanctioned strength, actual strength and shortage are as under:-

Senior Superintendent/Senior Assistant (268, 92 & 176); Grand Total (1753, 1313 & 440).

Recently 88 candidates (in 7 batches) selected for the post of Junior Executive (ATC) have been deputed for training to Civil Aviation Training Centre (CATC), Allahabad. The first batch started in April, 2005 and the 7th batch on 2.1.2006. Recruitment action for filling up 88 more posts of Junior Executive (ATC) is in hand.

Inducted batch of ATCOs after completing their statutory training will be put on the job training before inducting into regular independent operations.

It is mentioned that, in spite of constraints in filling up the vacancies, there is no compromise on aviation safety. The ATC services in the country are provided as per ICAO norms and guidelines.

Gauge Conversion from Gwalior to Thyopurkala

652. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for gauge conversion of railway line from Gwalior to Thyopurkala under Jhansi Division of North-Central Railways;

(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) and (b) A survey for gauge conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan with extension upto Kota was conducted in 1996-97. As per survey report, the cost of the project has been assessed as Rs. 363.92 crore. The project could not be taken up due to heavy throwforward of projects, its unremunerative nature and constraint of resources. However based on the demands, updating survey for gauge conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan with extension upto Kota has been taken up.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Call Centres

653. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :
SHRI GANESH SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up call centres for customer care;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated expenditure involved therein;

(c) the time by which such centres are likely to be set up;

(d) whether the Railways propose to hand over such centres to private parties; and

(e) if so, the relative gain to the Railways therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (e) Integrated Train Enquiry System (ITES) will be set up by providing call centres throughout the country. Two call centres at Patna and Bangalore have already been made operational on trial basis. The main features of the call centres would be:-

(i) A universal telephone number 139 will be provided without prefixing any Subscriber Trunk Dialing (STD) code to get connected to the call centre.

(ii) Both Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) and manual enquiry will disseminate information on train running status, Reservation status of Passenger and availability of accommodation

Commissioning of remaining call centres is likely to be completed during 2006-07. These call centres are to

be based on a self-sustainable model to the extent possible.

[Translation]

Upgradation of Railway Stations

654. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railways stations which were identified by the Railways for extension, upgradation as well as computerisation during 2004-05;

(b) the details of the Railway stations on which these works have since been completed; and

(c) the time by which the works on the remaining stations are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) There are more than 8000 railway stations on Indian Railways. Upgradation of railway stations which includes extension/expansion, renovation, improvement works, computerization etc. is a continuous process and the same is undertaken every year at large number of stations in accordance with the laid down norms based on traffic growth and inter-se priorities. Works of upgradation of railway platforms and computerization are taken up under plan head 'Passenger Amenities' and 'Computerisation'. The details of such works are shown under respective plan heads in the 'Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme', Part II, presented every year in Parliament alongwith Budget documents. In addition, a number of works are taken up every year under General Manager's powers of sanction at zonal railway level.

Out of the above, 319 stations were identified for development as model station till 2004-05 where higher level of amenities were to be provided. The works at 110 stations, have since been completed as per norms. The

work at remaining stations are expected to be completed by March 2008.

'Railway-wise' list of stations developed as model stations

Railway	Stations
1	2
Central	Akola, Mumbai CST, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Kalyan, Bhusawal, Nagpur, Pune, Chanderpur, Dadar, Nasik Road, Thane, Gulbarga, Solapur & Wardha
Eastern	Nil
Northern	Delhi, New Delhi, Hazrat Nizamudin, Ludhiana, Jammu Tawi, Haridwar, Amritsar, Bareilly, Beas, Ferozpur, Jalandhar City, Pathankot, Varanasi & Lucknow
North Eastern	Gorakhpur, Gonda, Lucknow Jn., Chhapra Jn., Manduadih, Izatnagar, Kathgodam, Badshahnagar, Rawatpur, Pilibhit & Basti
Northeast Frontier Railway	Nil
Southern	Chennai Central, Coimbatore, Erode Jn., Salem Jn., Palghat Jn., Trivandrum Central, Madurai, Calicut, Cannanore, Chennai Egmore, Mangalore Jn., Katpadi, Mambalam, Quilon, Chennai Beach & Tiruchchirappalli Jn.
South Central	Vijayawada, Guntur, Nanded, Hyderabad, Kacheguda, Kakinada Town, Nellore, Rajamundry, Secunderabad, Tirupati & Warangal

1	2
South Eastern	Adra, Tamluk
Western	Chittorgarh, Okha, Nimbahera, Dharangao & Bamaniya
East Central Railway	Dhanbad & Patna Jn.
East Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur, Berahampur, Cuttack, Puri, Vishakhapatnam, Bhadrak, Khurda Road, Jajpur Keonjhar Road & Titlagarh
North Central Railway	Allahabad, Gwalior, Jhansi, Kanpur Central, Agra & Mathura
North Western Railway	Jaipur & Jodhpur
South East Central Railway	Bilaspur, Durg & Raipur
South Western Railway	Bangalore City, Hubli, Mysore, Vasco-da-gama, Hospet & Toranagallu
West Central Railway	Habibganj, Bhopal, Hoshangabad, Jabalpur, Katni Jn., Satna & Kota
Konkan Railway Corpn.	Madgaon

[English]

AIR on DTH

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

(a) whether All India Radio is launching 24 hour channel service on the Direct to Home (DTH) platform;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 'News on phone' service is being provided in the selected urban areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to extend this telephone service to the other areas?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) All India Radio has already launched 12 channels of 24 hours duration on DTH Platform, namely : (i) Bengali (ii) FM Gold (iii) FM Rainbow (iv) Gujarati (v) Hindi (vi) Kannada (vii) Marathi (viii) North East (Hill Services) (ix) Punjabi (x) Tamil (xi) Telugu and (xii) Vividh Bharati.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. At present, 'News on Phone' service is available in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Patna. The installation work is in progress at 10 more capital cities at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Guwahati, Imphal, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Raipur, Shimla and Thiruvananthapuram.

Manufacturing of Aircraft

656. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the aeronautical factories in the country;

(b) the number of aircraft manufactured yearly in the country, brand-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up more such factories in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is the premier company in India for aeronautical products, having sixteen production units and nine design centers.

(b) On an average, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited produces 25 to 30 aircraft annually.

(c) There are no plans to set up additional aircraft manufacturing factories at present at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Wastage of Natural Gas

657. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

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

(a) whether natural gas is being wasted without any use of it in some of the gas producing areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to stop such wastage of gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Presently, 0.98 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of natural gas is being flared by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/Joint Venture (JV) companies in the country. The main reasons for gas flaring are fluctuation in demand by consumers, production of associated gas alongwith crude oil in isolated areas and technical flaring to maintain pilot flares for avoiding escape of unburnt hydrocarbon into atmosphere.

(c) The following measures have been or are being taken by ONGC, OIL and Private/JV companies to reduce flaring of gas:-

(i) Installation of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for effective control of gas system.

(ii) Getting new fields connected to the gas network immediately.

(iii) Incorporation of capacity control in gas compressors and installation of gas holders to negate the surging effect.

(iv) Supply of low pressure gas from marginal fields directly to low pressure systems.

(v) Further de-bottlenecking of existing gas transportation lines.

(vi) Boosting of low pressure gas at isolated fields through gas compression.

(vii) Identification of small consumers near isolated fields where gas is being produced at low pressure in low quantities.

(viii) Urging consumers of natural gas to uplift committed quantity of gas as there are no fall back customers.

(ix) Installation of low pressure booster compressors.

Charging of Fee from Private Airlines

658. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fee or a particular amount is charged from the Private Airlines for their domestic flights;

(b) if so, the grounds on which the said amount is charged and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the Private Airlines against whom the amount is outstanding at present;

(d) the rules for realising outstanding amount; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to realise the outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are no separate airport charges for private airlines for their domestic flights. However, there are separate schedule of charges for domestic and international airports which are applicable to all airlines.

(c) Dues on December 31, 2005 from various private airlines (Rupees in lakhs) are as follows:-

Jet Airways-2120.20, Sahara Airlines-746.94, Air Deccan-1584.23, Spicejet-94.88, Kingfisher-347.38, East West Airlines-1622, NEPC Airlines-354.98, Skyline NEPC-166.10, Archana Airways-39.62, Mesco Airlines-306.23, Elbee Air-102.96, VIF Airways-24.79, Continental Aviation-184, Jagson Airlines-131.26.

(d) and (e) Dues are monitored regularly by Airports Authority of India and action through Legal/Arbitration/Public Premises (PPE) Act is taken wherever necessary. Besides, interest is levied for the overdue period on defaulting airlines and they are put on operation on Cash and Carry basis.

[English]

Increase in Prices of Kerosene and LPG

659. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

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

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government in regard to the losses of the companies involved in marketing of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Kerosene;

(b) if so, the total estimated amount of losses during 2005-06, till date;

(c) whether these losses are likely to be made up by increasing the prices of LPG and Kerosene; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is constantly monitoring the under-recoveries suffered by the oil marketing companies in marketing PDS kerosene and domestic LPG. The profitability of the oil marketing companies has been adversely affected due to non revision of prices of sensitive petroleum products in line with international prices. As against profit after tax of Rs. 5222.84 crore recorded during April-December 2004, the oil marketing companies registered a combined loss of Rs. 2897.55 crore, during the corresponding period this year.

(c) and (d) In order to formulate a long term pricing policy, Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to examine different aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products. The Committee submitted its report on 17.2.2006. With regard to pricing of domestic LPG and PDS kerosene, the Committee has suggested as follows :-

- (i) Restrict subsidized kerosene to BPL families only;
- (ii) Raise the price of domestic LPG by Rs. 75/cylinder;
- (iii) Discontinue the practice of asking upstream companies to provide upstream assistance, but instead collect their contribution by raising the OI DB cess from the present level of Rs. 1,800/MT to Rs. 4,800/MT; and (iv) Government to meet the balance cost of subsidy from the budget.

The report is under examination by Government.

Setting up of Aerospace Technology University

660. SHRI M. SHIVANNA :
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a university for aerospace technology;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has assured the Union Government to provide all cooperation and support including allocation of land to set up the said university in Bangalore;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Ministry of Civil Aviation has no proposal for setting up of Aerospace Technology University.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Indo-Russia Cooperation in Petroleum Sector

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

(a) whether any discussions were held between India and Russia in the field of gas and oil exploration during the Prime Minister's visit to Russia recently; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) (a) and (b) Prime Minister of India visited Moscow on 4-6 December 2005 to attend the Annual Summit Meeting with Russian President. During the visit, the Prime Minister also held discussions with the Russian Energy and Industry Minister on matters relating to mutual cooperation in energy sector, including oil and gas. During the visit, the priority tasks for further development of the Indo-Russian Strategic Partnership were identified, which included the decision to continue bilateral energy dialogue, concentrate on ways to enhance energy security, pursue opportunities for improving the process of

diversification of energy supplies, and strengthening commercial energy partnerships in already identified and prospective oil and gas projects in India, Russia and third countries.

[Translation]

Allotment of LPG Agencies in Rural Areas

662. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :

DR. K. DHANARAJU :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to make some changes in the exiting rules for allotment of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) agencies in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there is heavy demand of LPG in rural areas;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to open LPG agencies in rural areas during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (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 in different parts of the country as per their commercial considerations.

However, taking into consideration the growing demand of LPG in rural areas, OMCs have taken initiative in introducing 5 kg. cylinders and setting up community kitchens with a view to covering the uncovered areas. 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 LPG distributorships pending for commissioning by OMCs as on 1.1.2006 in

various markets including rural areas of the country are available with Directors (Marketing) of OMCs.

[English]

**Entry of Short Distance Passengers in
Reserved Compartments**

663. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware that reserved compartments of long distance trains are generally vacant whereas the general compartments are jam-packed;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have any proposal to allow short distance passengers in reservation compartments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Reserved compartments of long distance trains are occupied by the passengers holding reserved and Reservation against cancellation (RAC) tickets, and therefore, they seem to be relatively less occupied than the general second class coaches which are occupied by passengers holding unreserved second class tickets and season tickets.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Joint Venture for Gas Exploration

664. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GAIL (India) Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. propose to undertake joint gas exploration projects in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the oil and gas bearing blocks identified for the purpose;

(c) the estimated gas available there;

(d) the progress so far made in this regard;

(e) whether the joint venture also proposes to undertake such gas exploration projects in Assam, Tripura and other States in the North-eastern regions; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) GAIL (India) Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 16th November, 2005 to jointly identify and pursue oil and gas exploration and production (E&P) opportunities in India and abroad. However, at present they do not have any proposal for gas exploration in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(e) For the present, there is no proposal of gas exploration projects in Assam, Tripura and other States in the North-eastern regions.

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

Integrated Programme for Older Persons

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of older persons is increasing year after year;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for their care and protection;

(c) whether any scheme namely 'Integrated Programme for Older Persons' is implemented by the Government;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme and the budgetary allocations made thereunder during 2005-06; and

(e) the details of the services being provided to the older persons thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had formulated the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), covering all aspects such as financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter/housing, protection of life and property and welfare of elderly. The progress is monitored by the Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) and National Council of Older Persons (NCOP).

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Under the scheme of "Integrated Programme for Older Persons" financial assistance upto 90% of the project cost is decided to the Government Organisations for establishing and maintaining old age homes, day care centres, mobile medicare units and to provide non-institutional services to older persons. The budgetary allocation for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 19.80 crore.

Increase in Employment Opportunities

666. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE :
SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target to generate employment opportunities for educated unemployed youths in tourism sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The objective mentioned in Tenth Five Year Plan is to integrate tourism with the socio-economic objective of the plan by

generating 3.6 million jobs a year through implementation of various tourism schemes.

(c) As per Tourism Satellite Account developed for 2002-03, the contribution of tourism both directly and indirectly has been 38.80 million jobs or 8.3% of total employment. The corresponding figure for 2003-04 is 41.85 million.

Schemes for Promotion of Culture

667. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has chalked out any scheme for promoting culture in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for promotion and development of Indian culture in the country?

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

(b) and (c) The mandate of the Ministry is to preserve and promote all forms of art and culture. To this end, the Ministry of Culture undertakes activities that follow from the subjects allocated under the Government of India's Allocation of Business Rules 1961.

The functional spectrum of the Ministry is rather wide, ranging from generating cultural awareness at the grassroots level to promoting cultural exchanges at an international level. Alongwith programmes for the preservation of India's ancient heritage, the activities of the Ministry encourage and disseminate a variety of contemporary creative arts as well. The Ministry's aim is to develop ways and means through which the basic cultural and aesthetic sensibilities of the people remain active and dynamic.

The activities are carried out through the attached/subordinate offices and autonomous institutions under the Ministry.

Computer Reservation Centres at Hyderabad and Secunderabad

668. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways are aware that many computer reservation counters at Hyderabad and Secunderabad remain closed all the time causing inconvenience to the commuters;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have received complaints in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the erring officials; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure that all the computer reservation counters at Hyderabad and Secunderabad remain opened for the full prescribed period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) At Secunderabad and Hyderabad, sufficient number of reservation counters to meet the demands are kept open throughout the day. Generally, 21 and 12 counters are operational for Public at Secunderabad and Hyderabad respectively. There is additional spare provision of 15 and 7 counters at the two centers respectively, which are opened depending upon extra rush during peak season and special occasions etc. Additionally, there are 27 PRS counters working at 12 satellite locations in the twin cities.

(b) No representation in this regard has been received during the last one year.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Restoration of Flight between Delhi and Goa

669. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has stopped its direct flights between Delhi and Goa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to restore the direct flights on the said route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. Indian Airlines has been operating a daily flight on the Delhi-Mumbai-Goa and vice versa route since March, 2002.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Losses to Oil Companies

670. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :

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

(a) whether public sector oil companies posted losses in the third quarter of the current financial year;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies registered net losses during October-December, 2005, which are as under :-

Name of the Oil Companies	Net Loss (October-December, 2005) (Rs. in crore)
1	2
IOCL	6.00
BPCL	1024.17

1	2
HPCL	1077.75
IBP	96.33

This is mainly due to higher under recoveries on account of sale of petrol, diesel, kerosene (PDS) and LPG (Domestic) consequent to non-revision of retail selling prices in line with international oil prices.

(c) In order to formulate a long-term pricing policy, the Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to examine different aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products. The Committee submitted its report on 17.02.2006. The report is being examined by the Government. Government has also decided in principle to issue oil bonds of Rs. 11,500 crore to the oil marketing companies to share the subsidies.

Establishment of MRO Facilities

671. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Boeing Airplane Company for establishing Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) As a part of fleet acquisition by Air India, M/s. Boeing have committed to invest upto US\$ 100 million for creation of MRO facilities for Boeing aircraft in India.

Guwahati Airport

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for the modernisation and expansion of Guwahati Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the modernisation and expansion work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated civil work for installation of two Passenger Boarding Bridges (PBBs) at Guwahati airport. Its probable date of completion is August, 2006. AAI has also plans to construct new apron with associated taxiways to accommodate five AB-320 and six ATR-72 type of aircraft at a time in the proposed new international terminal building of Guwahati airport, likely to be taken up during 2006-07.

Construction of ROB/RUBs in Andhra Pradesh

673. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Railway Over Bridges (ROBs)/Railway Under Bridges (RUBs) constructed at the railway crossing in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether any request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh is pending with the Railways for the construction of ROB; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Total 10 Road Over/Under Bridges (ROB/RUBs) have been completed on cost sharing basis in State of Andhra Pradesh during last three years. The year-wise break up is given as under:-

Year	No. of ROB/RUBs completed	
2002-03	—	1
2003-04	—	3
2004-05	—	6
Total	—	10

In addition, 5 ROB/RUB works have been completed in 2005-06 upto Jan. 2006.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway Projects in Maharashtra

674. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of no-going projects relating to laying of new rail lines, doubling of rail lines and converting the existing rail lines from metre gauge to broad gauge and

electrification of railway lines being undertaken in Maharashtra at present;

(b) whether many of the projects have been going behind the schedule;

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

(d) the details of cost escalation of those projects due to delay in execution; and

(e) the steps being taken to complete these projects at the earliest and the time by which these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a), (d) and (e) : A statement is attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(a), (d) and (e) The details of ongoing projects alongwith expenditure incurred, present position and targets wherever fixed are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Details of the ongoing projects	Km	Anticipated cost	Expenditure upto March 2005	Outlay during 2005-06	Present position of the project and likely date of completion wherever fixed.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

New Lines.

1.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vajjnath	261.25	353.08	13.31	10.38	Final location survey completed. Land acquisition completed in 15 km. length (Ahmednagar-Narayandoh section) where 71% earthwork, 1 major and 10 minor bridges completed.
2.	Amravati-Narkher	138	284.27	128	17.00	Contracts for minor and major bridges awarded. Earthwork taken

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						up. Section from Amravati to Chandur Bazar (44 kms.) completed.
3.	Baramati-Lonand	54	138.48	11.50	7	Final Location Survey completed. Land papers for Lonand-Phalton (27 Km.) submitted to State Government. Bridge works taken up.
4.	Panvel-Karjat	28	137.96	130.58	3	Work completed and commissioned.
5.	Puntamba-Shirdi	16.6	48.78	27.12	5	Final Location survey completed. Land acquisition and minor bridges taken up.
Gauge Conversion						
1.	Akola-Purna	210	245.5	38.74	25	Earthwork and bridge work in progress.
2.	Jabalpur-Gondia including Balaghat Katangi	285	511.86	148.61	25.00	Gondia-Balaghat (42 km.) section has been commissioned. Earthwork and bridge work taken up in balance length.
3.	Miraj-Latur	374	515.57	220.46	35	The work is being progressed in phases. Kurdwadi to Pandharpur (52 km.) and Latur-Latur Road (33 km.) completed. Earthwork and bridges taken up between Kurdwadi and Latur. Work has also been taken up between Miraj-Pandharpur.
4.	Mudkhed-Adilabad	162	220.00	102.42	30	Adilabad-Kinwat (45 km.) completed. Work on balance section is in various stages of progress and likely to be completed during 2006-07.
5.	Secunderabad-Mudkhed and Jankhampet-Bodhan	269	382.69	296.96	21.06	Project completed.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Solapur (Hotgi)-Gadag	282	342.7	260.83	15	Solapur to Bijapur (110 km.) section completed and commissioned. On Bijapur-Basavana Bagewadi (45 kms.) track linking completed. Track work on Basavanabagewadi-Bagalkot taken up and likely to be completed during 2006-07.
Doubling						
1.	Diva-Kalyan	11	70	48.70	17.30	Earthwork and bridge work etc. in progress and likely to be completed during 2006-07.
2.	Pakni-Mohol	17	81.74	10	10	Work taken up.
3.	Pakni-Solapur	16.28	38.52	4.51	7.42	Formation & bridges taken up and to be completed during 2006-07.
4.	Panvel-Jasai-JNPT	28.5	53.25	13.03	25	Works of formation & bridges in advanced stages. and to be completed during 2005-06.

The works are being progressed as per availability of resources. The concept of time and cost overrun can strictly be applicable only for those projects where the funds have been fully tied up at the time of taking up of 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 specify the date of completion of all the projects. A number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources for expediting progress of projects.

The projects which have been completed but appearing in the Budget for residual work and financial adjustments have not been shown above.

Setting up of New Airports

675. SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new airport to decongest the existing airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Government has approved the proposal of State Governments for construction of new airports of international standards at Bangalore, Hyderabad and Goa. The construction work at Bangalore and Hyderabad airports is in progress and is likely to be completed by the year 2008. There are proposals from the State Governments

of Maharashtra, Kerala and Sikkim to set up airports in Navi Mumbai, Kannur and Pakyong respectively which are being examined.

[Translation]

Terrorists Attack on Train

676. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a train at Koneru railway station was attacked by the terrorists as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated December 26, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the incident;

(c) the loss of lives and property therein;

(d) whether the Railways have taken any special steps to make arrangement for the security of trains and to prevent the occurrence of such incidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 25.12.2005 at about 12.08 hours, about 20 to 25 Left wing extremists of Peoples' War Group suspected to be of Srikakulam Division of Andhra Pradesh – Orissa Border Special Zone Committee of CPI (Maoist) attacked the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Cash Escorting party of Waltair Division in train No. 471 (Vijayawada-Rayagada) Passenger at Koneru Railway Station in Vijayanagram District of Andhra Pradesh. The above RPF Cash Escorting party was detailed for escorting of Railway cash meant for disbursement of salaries of Railway employee at different Railway stations in between Rayagada Railway Station (RGDA) to Parvatipuram (PVP) Railway Station of Waltair Division.

(c) Four (4) Railway Protection Force personnel were killed and Railway cash worth Rs. 7,47,600/-, seven .303 Service Rifles with 180 rounds and one .38 Revolver

with 30 rounds issued to Railway Protection Force personnel were looted by the extremists.

(d) and (e) 'Policing' being a State subject, prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Police. Security of stations, trains, passengers and railway staff have been stepped up in consultation with Civil and Police Administration. Salary disbursement through cheques is being made in Naxalite infested sections to avoid such incidents in future. Security arrangements of RPF Armories in affected section have been reviewed and adequate measures have been taken for the security of the arms and ammunition kept in armories. RPF is also being modernized by equipping them with Bullet proof jackets/helmets, dragon search lights etc. Professional skill of RPF staff is being upgraded by imparting appropriate training and system of sharing of Intelligence with Civil Police and Intelligence authorities is also being strengthened.

[English]

Funds for Upgrading Tourism Related Infrastructure

677. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Tourism has urged the Planning Commission to request each Union Ministry to set aside certain portion of plan expenditure for upgrading tourism related infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the response of the Planning Commission thereto;

(c) whether the Ministry of Tourism has also approached the Ministry of Finance for waiver of import duty on equipment related to adventure tourism; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Ministry of Finance in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Ministry of Tourism has taken up with Department of Road Transport and Highways and with Planning Commission the issue of giving priority to projects providing road connectivity to major tourist destinations.

(b) Planning Commission has responded favourably to the request.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism has also taken up with Ministry of Finance, the issue of reliefs to be provided to adventure tour operators.

Performance of Dhruv Helicopters

678. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dhruv helicopters are being used by armed forces in the country;

(b) if so, whether performance of these helicopters have been found satisfactory;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) the names of the countries to whom these helicopters have been exported till-date alongwith the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export?

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

(b) to (d) Though the fleet has been grounded since November 2005 consequent to force landing of a Dhruv helicopter, the performance of the helicopters has been satisfactory barring certain defects/component failure. These have been communicated to M/s. HAL for taking appropriate corrective measures.

(e) Two Dhruv helicopters were supplied to Government of Nepal under Government of India Friendship Aid Package under concessional terms. The export earning on account of this supply is Rs. 76.36 crores. Another one helicopter was supplied to Israel aircraft Industries (IAI). Israel on lease basis in 2005 for a period of five years. As per the contract, a fixed amount of 67,500 USD per month and an additional amount of 650 USD per flight hour is being paid by IAI, Israel.

(f) HAL and Indian Air Force have jointly demonstrated the capabilities of Dhruv helicopters at Air shows in Singapore, Dubai and Chile. In addition, Dhruv helicopter was exhibited on INS Viraat during her goodwill visit to Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. Assistance from Indian Missions abroad is being taken to promote the export of Dhruv and to follow up the proposals for sales/demonstrations.

[Translation]

Complaint Against LPG Distributors

679. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT :

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE :

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :

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

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government against the LPG distributors regarding alleged irregularities during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by the Government against the distributors found indulged in such irregularities;

(c) whether the Government has cancelled distributorships on the basis of these complaints during the said period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Since 1.4.2003 and upto January 2006, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have received 3509 complaints against their LPG distributors across the country. The State-wise details are enclosed as Statement-I. Action against erring distributors has been taken by OMCs in terms of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement.

(c) and (d) During the period from 1.4.2003 to January 2006, OMCs have terminated 24 LPG distributors based on the complaints received against them. The State-wise details are enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement-I

The details of complaints received by OMCs against LPG distributors during the last three years

States/UTs	Number of complaints
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	364
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	4
Bihar	21
Chhattisgarh	19
Delhi	315
Goa	5
Gujarat	230
Haryana	88
Himachal Pradesh	5
Jammu and Kashmir	20
Jharkhand	9

1	2
Karnataka	44
Kerala	243
Madhya Pradesh	112
Maharashtra	209
Manipur	—
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	—
Nagaland	—
Orissa	36
Punjab	116
Rajasthan	98
Sikkim	—
Tamil Nadu	1011
Tripura	—
Uttar Pradesh	365
Uttaranchal	54
West Bengal	131
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—
Chandigarh	8
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—
Daman and Diu	—
Lakshadweep	—
Pondicherry	—
Total	3509

Statement-II

The details of LPG distributorships terminated by OMCs during the last three years

States/UTs	Number of complaints
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	3
Arunachal Pradesh	—
Assam	1
Bihar	1
Chhattisgarh	1
Delhi	2
Goa	—
Gujarat	3
Haryana	—
Himachal Pradesh	—
Jammu and Kashmir	—
Jharkhand	1
Karnataka	1
Kerala	1
Madhya Pradesh	—
Maharashtra	5
Manipur	—
Meghalaya	—
Mizoram	—
Nagaland	—
Orissa	—

1	2
Punjab	1
Rajasthan	—
Sikkim	—
Tamil Nadu	—
Tripura	—
Uttar Pradesh	2
Uttaranchal	1
West Bengal	—
Andaman and Nicobar	—
Chandigarh	1
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—
Daman Diu	—
Lakshadweep	—
Pondicherry	—
Total	24

[English]

Manned and Unmanned Level Crossings

680. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of manned and unmanned level crossings in the country, State/Zone-wise;

(b) the measures taken by the Government for manning of these unmanned level crossings;

(c) the details of unmanned level crossing manned/ to be manned during 2005-06, location-wise;

(d) whether the Railways have any proposal to

close down all unmanned level crossings to prevent accidents for reasons of insufficient traffic;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Railways have sought the consent of the State Governments to implement the proposal; and

(g) if so, the reaction of the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) to (g) No, Sir. Only a certain number of level crossings where there is meagre/no traffic or traffic can be diverted through nearby level crossing/bridges, have been identified for closure. State Government authorities are regularly approached by Railways for their consent for closure of such level crossings. Only on receipt of the consent, the level crossing are closed following the laid down procedure.

Statement

(a) to (c) There are 16603 manned and 18490 unmanned level crossings (excluding 'D' class cattle crossings and canal crossings) in the country. As per extant rules, in case an unmanned level crossing provided initially and maintained at the cost of the railways needs manning/upgrading/posting of additional gatekeeper due to increase in road traffic, the cost both initial as well as recurring and maintenance has to be borne by the State Government/Road Authority concerned. However, keeping in view the grave consequences of accidents at unmanned level crossings, Railways have decided to man vulnerable level crossings based on the traffic volume and visibility conditions at the unmanned level crossings for which railways have laid down certain criteria. Manning of such level crossings is being done progressively. Further, planning for manning is fixed Zone-wise and not Location

wise/State-wise. Total number of level crossings Zone-wise and number of unmanned level crossings manned during 2005-06 (Upto 31.12.2005) is as under :-

Railway	Manned*	Unmanned*	Level Crossings Manned upto 31.12.2005
Central	932	503	1
Eastern	912	379	0
East Central	983	862	7
East Coast	437	985	19
Northern	2333	2021	17
North Central	1009	625	0
North Eastern	987	1750	10
Northeast Frontier	673	1092	1
North Western	1323	1501	5
Southern	1680	1368	18
South Central	1241	1373	30
South Eastern	414	979	2
South East Central	438	870	8
South Western	617	913	11
Western	1744	2904	22
West Central	880	365	1
Total	16603	18490	152

*Excluding 'D' class cattle crossings and canal crossings.

Development of Tourism in Lakshadweep

681. DR. P.P. KOYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether sufficient infrastructure is available in Lakshadweep to attract and entertain the international tourists;

(b) if so, the number of inhabited and un-habited islands in Lakshadweep opened to the international tourism;

(c) the number of tourist operators given permission to operate tourist centres in Lakshadweep; and

(d) the details of the tourism proposals pending with the Ministry and the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) Development and promotion of tourism infrastructure is the responsibility of the UT Administration. However, Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance on the basis of project proposals prioritized in consultation with them every year under the following schemes:-

- (i) Tourist Circuits
- (ii) Product Infrastructure & Destination Development
- (iii) Large Revenue Generating projects
- (iv) Fairs and Festivals

Project proposals that are complete in all respect, are processed on the basis of inter-se-priority and funds released, subject to availability under the respective heads.

(b) The uninhabited Island of Bangaram has been opened to the International tourists. Inhabited Islands of Agatti and Kadmat are also opened to the international tourists.

(c) Three Tour Operators as under have been given permission by the UT Administration to operate tourist centres in Lakshadweep:-

- (1) M/s. Hotel and Allied Traders Pvt. Ltd. Kochi

(2) Society for Promotion of Nature Tourism and Sports

(3) Shri T. Muthukoya of Amini Island

(d) No project proposal, complete in all respect, as per guidelines, is pending with the Ministry of Tourism.

Strike by Railway Staff

682. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH :

MS. INGRID MCLEOD :

SHRI MILIND DEORA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railway employees all over the country have served a notice to the Railways administration to go on an indefinite strike w.e.f. 1.3.2006, in case, their demands are not fulfilled by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the charter of their demands; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) Notices had been served by both Federations of Railways to go on an indefinite strike from 6 AM on 1st March, 2006. This was as per the decision taken by the Joint Council Action of Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) Constituent Organisations of Central Government employees to resort to indefinite strike from 1st March, 2006 in support of a common Charter of Demands. Charter of demands is enclosed as statement.

(c) Consequent to the dialogue initiated by the Government with the Joint Council Action of Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) Constituent Organisations of Central Government employees, and the decision of the Government to constitute the VI Pay Commission, it has been decided by them to defer the strike.

Statement

(b) *The details of Charter of Demands are as under*

1. Constitute VI Central Pay Commission (CPC) and grant interim relief.
2. Merge 50% Dearness Allowance (D.A.) with Basic Pay w.e.f. 01-07-2002 instead of 01-04-2004.
3. Withdraw downsizing schemes, stop surrendering of posts, stop outsourcing of activities, lift ban on recruitment and fill all vacancies.
4. Withdraw new Contributory Pension Scheme.
5. Implement the agreement (signed on 11th September 1997) for the rectification of V CPC anomalies and remove hurdles in processing them before the Arbitrator.
6. (a) Grant 50% merger of D.A. to the Gramin Dak Sewaks, provide social security benefit and concede their demand for consideration of their pay scales and service conditions by the VI CPC.
(b) Increase the allowance, including Hourly Rate of Incentive Bonus to the Workshop staff and Special Compensatory (Hill) Allowances etc. consequent on merger of 50% D.A. with Basic Pay.
7. Grant accumulation and encashment of 300 days' Earned Leave (E.L.) for the Defence and other industrial workers.
8. Increase interest rate on the General Provident Fund (G.P.F.)
9. Remove ceiling of 5% quota in respect of compassionate ground appointment.
10. Ensure regular functioning of the Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) fora as per JCM scheme.
11. Implement pending Arbitration Awards on House Rent Allowance (H.R.A.) arrears, pay scales of Accounts and Audit, Night Duty Allowance etc.
12. Implement the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) decision on restructuring of the Central Secretariat cadre.
13. Implement agreement of 11th September 1997 and grant pay scale of Rs. 5000-8000 to the Master Craftsman of the Defence Establishment.
14. Count Casual Labour (temporary status) service in full for all purposes, including pension and other retirement benefits.
15. Create additional posts for the maintenance of new assets created and new service introduced without imposing any restrictions.
16. (a) Reject Kelker Committee Recommendations on Ordnance Factories etc. and Income Tax Department.
(b) Scrap report of the Running Allowances Committee, 2002.
17. Review Hours of Employment Regulations (HOER), reduce duty hours of the Running staff and other Safety categories staff in the Railways.
18. Grant Cadre Restructuring and upgradation of left out categories in the Railways.
19. Remove discrimination amongst the Central Government employees working in the N.E. region by granting Special Duty Allowance to all Group 'C' & 'D' employees.
20. Improve Career opportunities of the Group 'D' employees in the Railway.

Shifting of Ammunition Dump

683. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any representations regarding shifting of Ammunition Dump from Vallah (Amritsar) to some other place;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The following representations have been received regarding shifting of Ammunition Dump from Vallah (Amritsar) to some other place:-

- (i) Demi-official letter dated 19th July 2004 from Dr. Ratan Singh Ajnala, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).
- (ii) Letter dated 20th August 2004 from Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) forwarding representation from the Welfare Association of Village Vallah (District Amritsar).
- (iii) Petition on the subject-matter addressed to the Chief of the Army Staff received in October 2004.
- (iv) Petition from (Retd.) Captain Rajesh Chandok, District Secretary, All India Human Rights Society received in October 2004.
- (v) Petition dated 14th February 2005 from Shri Sohan Lal, Secretary, Ex-servicemen Protection Forum.
- (vi) Petition dated 11th December 2005 from the Fruit and Vegetable Merchant Union, Mewa Mandi, Amritsar.
- (vii) Demi-official letter dated 14th December 2005 from Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).

A Gazette Notification declaring a clearance zone of 1000 yards of land in the vicinity of Vallah Ammunition Dump, District Amritsar had been issued on 11th

November, 2004. The Government in response to the representations has apprised that the ammunition dump at Cantonment Vallah (Amritsar) stocks vital ammunition and explosives. Due to its strategic location, the ammunition dump is very important from an operational point of view. As also, its location assists quick mobilization of forces.

Requirement of Commercial Pilots

684. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of commercial pilots serving in India at present;
- (b) the shortfall in the number of commercial pilots at present;
- (c) the projected requirement of commercial pilots in the next five years; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of the commercial pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issues licences/ratings to pilots after ascertaining the requirements as laid down in Aircraft Rules, 1973. DGCA has issued a total of 2300 Commercial Pilot Licences and 1500 Airlines Transport Pilot Licences and it does not maintain any record regarding employment of pilots.

- (b) At present there is a shortfall of 880 commercial pilots.
- (c) The projected requirement of commercial pilots in the next five years as given by airlines is 4800 pilots.

(d) To meet the demand the Government proposes to set up a new flying training institute at Gondia in Maharashtra and upgrade Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi at Raebareli and strengthen the flying clubs in

the country. Further the maximum age limit for pilots has been enhanced from 60 to 65 years subject to medical fitness.

[Translation]

Defence Communication Network System

685. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the defence communication network system has become outdated as reported in the *Asian Age* (The Business Age) dated February 4, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the modernization of defence communication network system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Defence Services have a number of networks for various specific purposes. These networks are upgraded periodically depending upon operational necessity and life of systems. This is an ongoing and continuous process and carried out in a phased manner keeping in view the requirements of maintaining our war fighting capability and keeping pace with advancement in technology.

Deployment of Army Personnel in Jammu and Kashmir

686. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has reduced the number of army personnel deployed in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of attacks by the terrorists at the public places and military installation during the last two years and current year so far;

(d) the number of infiltration incidents reported during the above period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) The quantum of troops deployed in the State of Jammu & Kashmir is continuously assessed and reviewed by the Army based on threat perception.

The number of violent incidents, infiltration bids eliminated by the Army on Line of Control (LoC) and assessed infiltration during 2004, 2005 and January, 2006 is as under :-

	2004	2005	January, 2006
Violent incidents	2565	1990	91
Infiltration bids eliminated by the Army on LoC	68	52	01
Assessed infiltration	349	335	16

The Army has adopted a comprehensive counter infiltration strategy in Jammu and Kashmir, comprising of a multi-tiered arrangement, including a forward tier of troop deployment, deployment of state-of-the-art surveillance devices, the Line of Control (LC) fence and a second tier deployment in conjunction with the fence. This has resulted in substantial drop in successful infiltration/exfiltration by the terrorists. The Army, in conjunction with other intelligence and security agencies, continuously review its strategy to ensure that infiltration is minimized.

Air Service from Nasik

687. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to introduce air service from Nasik to Hyderabad, Bangalore and Delhi;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the time by which it is likely to be started?

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

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

[English]

Majuli River Island

688. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of TOURISM
AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any special package has been granted
by the Government for the development of the Majuli River
Island recently; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE
(SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) No special package
has been granted by this Ministry, for development of
Majuli River Island Assam, recently. However an amount
of Rs. 382.25 lakh was sanctioned for an Eco Tourism
Resort Project at Majuli Island during 2002-03 and an
amount of Rs. 325.21 lakh was released to the Assam

Tourism Development Corporation on 28.03.03 for the
purpose.

Gauge Conversion in Tamil Nadu

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

- (a) the present status of no-going gauge conversion
projects in Tamil Nadu;

- (b) whether the Gauge Conversion Project between
Tiruchi-Karaikal, Kumbakonam-Villupuram, Villupuram-
Pondicherry and other sections are running behind the
schedule; and

- (c) if so, the estimated cost of the projects, reasons
for delay and expected time of completion of these
projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Details of the on-
going gauge conversion projects falling full/partly in the
State of Tamil Nadu indicating anticipated cost, expenditure
incurred upto March, 2005, outlay provided during 2005-
06 and status alongwith target date for completion
wherever fixed is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Anticipated cost	Expenditure Upto March, 2005	Outlay 2005-06	Status alongwith target date for completion wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6

(Rs. in Crore)

Gauge Conversion

1.	Madurai-Rameshwaram (161 kms.)	243	66.24	25	Madurai-Manamadurai (48 kms.) has already been completed. Work on Manamadurai-Mandapam (96 kms.) section is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
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1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Trichy-Manamadurai (150 kms.)	213.14	21.17	50	Earthwork, bridgeworks and ballasting have been taken up. Work on Tiruchchirappalli-Pudukottai (52 kms.) section is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
3.	Quilon-Tirunelveli- Tiruchendur and Tenkasi- Virudhunager (357 kms.)	462.61	176.68	31	Virudhunagar-Tenkasi has been completed. On the balance portion, works on Quilon-Punalur (45 kms.) section is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
4.	Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore- Karaikal (156 kms.)	172.69	137.76	4.79	Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur section has already been completed. Thanjavur-Thiruvavur (54 kms.) section is targeted for completion during 2005-06.
5.	Villupuram-Katpadi (161 kms.)	239.23	6.36	10	Earthwork bridgeworks, ballast supply and station building works have been taken up. No target date for completion is fixed.
6.	Thanjavur-Villupuram (192 kms.)	231	59.33	50.01	This project is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL). Thanjavur-Kumbakonam (39 kms.) section has already been completed. Work on Kumbakonam-Mayiladuturai (32 kms.) section is targeted for completion during 2005-06 and Mayiladuturai-Villupuram (122 kms.) section is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
7.	Cuddalore-Salem via Vridhachalam (191 kms.)	261	77.98	85	Vridhachalam-Cuddalore (54 kms.) has been completed. Work on Vridhachalam-Salem is under implementation by RVNL where Vridhachalam-Attur (83 kms.) section is targeted for completion during 2005-06 and balance during 2006-07.

These projects are being progressed as per the availability of funds, their operational priority and other considerations. Gauge conversion of Villupuram-Pondicherry

has already been completed. The progress of some of these works are affected due to delay in supply of concrete sleepers, heavy monsoon rains etc.

**Construction of Another Railway Bridge on
River Yamuna**

690. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Northern Railway is planning to build another railway bridge near the old bridge over Yamuna in Delhi as reported in *The Times of India* dated February 2, 2006;

(b) if so, whether any survey/study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir. A new Railway Bridge over river Yamuna on Delhi-Shahdara section of Northern Railway is under construction near the old bridge site.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, Necessary surveys like physical survey at site, Soil investigations and hydraulic model studies were done before taking up the work at site.

(d) The construction of the new Bridge is likely to be completed in 2008-09.

[Translation]

**Construction Work at New Delhi
Railway Station**

691. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of platforms at New Delhi Railway Station on which there are no shades;

(b) the number of platforms and foot over-bridges which are under construction at the New Delhi Railway Station; and

(c) the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Nil.

(b) 4 new platforms faces (two island platforms) are under construction alongwith the corresponding extensions of existing Foot Over Bridges.

(c) The target for completion is December, 2006.

[English]

**Anomaly in Age Limit for
Senior Citizens**

692. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the age limit for availing the senior citizens benefit in Indian Airlines is 65 and 63 plus for males and females respectively;

(b) if so, the reasons for discrimination in fixing different age limit for male and female; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove the anomaly?

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

(b) The age criteria of 65 years was uniformly applicable to male and female senior citizens at the time of introduction of this scheme in 1994. The criteria of age was relaxed in case of female passengers with effect from 29th August, 2000 with the approval of the Board of Directors of Indian Airlines to project Indian Airlines as customer friendly airlines as also to boost the utilisation of senior citizen discount on the domestic network.

(c) Since the decision to reduce the age limit to 63 years in case of female citizens was taken with a view to encourage traveling by senior female citizens, there appears to be no anomaly.

ONGCs Power Plants

693. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power plants of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) functioning in the country;

(b) whether ONGC has any plan to set up a power plant in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) Other than captive power plants for consumption by operational units, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) do not have power plants anywhere in the country.

(b) and (c) ONGC has reported that a gas based power plant, which is at a conceptual stage is planned to be set up for catering to the captive needs of their Mangalore based projects.

**Establishment of Generating Facility
Centre at Dharwad**

694. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received

any requests from the Government of Karnataka for establishment of a full-fledged programme Generating Facility Centre at Dharwad, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Construction of Roads by BRO

695. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of roads constructed during the last one year by Border Roads Organisation (BRO);

(b) the amount sanctioned and spent on each project;

(c) the present status of each project; and

(d) the time fixed to complete the pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Works on 86 roads were taken up by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) during 2004-2005.

(b) to (d) A statement is attached.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Project	States involved	No. of roads taken up during 2004-2005	Amount sanctioned for each Project (Rs. in Crs.)	Amount utilized for each Project (Rs. in Crs.)	Present status	Time set for completion of roads in the Project
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Himank	J&K (Ladakh)	10	120.75	120.54	Under construction	2005-06 to 2015-16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Beacon	J&K (Kashmir)	12	150.41	144.25	Under construction	2005-06 to 2014-15
3.	Sampark	J&K (Jammu)	05	82.40	84.18	Under construction	2005-06 to 2012-13
4.	Deepak	Himachal Pradesh & Uttaranchal	16	115.48	116.90	Under construction	2005-06 to 2011-12
5.	Chetak	Rajasthan & Punjab	11	70.15	66.72	Under construction	2005-06 to 2007-08
6.	Hirak	Maharashtra Andhra Pradesh & Chhattisgarh	01	80.63	80.63	Under construction	2005-06 to 2017-18
7.	Dantak	Meghalaya, Sikkim, Assam & Bhutan	02	101.46	94.07	Under construction	2005-06 to 2008-09
8.	Vartak	Arunachal Pradesh & Assam	07	136.51	138.63	Under construction	2005-06 to 2016-17
9.	Udyak	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Nagaland	05	86.63	81.57	Under construction	2005-06 to 2008-09
10.	Sewak	Manipur & Nagaland	03	81.79	70.79	Under construction	2005-06 to 2007-08
11.	Setuk	Tripura & Meghalaya	08	177.50	158.29	Under construction	2005-06 to 2008-09
12.	Pushpak	Mizoram	06	72.59	74.21	Under construction	2005-06 to 2008-09
Total			86	1266.30	1230.78		

**Construction of ROB/RUBs in Kota,
Rajasthan**

696. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rail Over Bridges (ROBs) and Rail Under Bridges (RUBs) are being constructed on the

different roads in Kota Parliamentary Constituency in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of present status, amount earmarked and spent thereon; and

(c) the time limit fixed for the construction of these ROBs and RUBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Statistics regarding Road over/under bridges are not maintained Constituency-wise, instead such data is maintained zonal Railway wise. However, in and around Kota there are two works sanctioned, one Road Over Bridge (ROB) and one Road Under Bridge (RUB). In case of cost sharing work Railway construct the bridge proper of ROB i.e. bridge across the railway tracks and approach work by State Government.

ROB in lieu of Level Crossing No. 109 at Rangpur is sanctioned on cost sharing basis and presently work on railway portion is in progress (70%). In the current year budget an amount of Rs. 28.41 lakhs have been allocated. Total Rs. 336 lakhs have been spent on Railway portion of this work till now.

Road Under Bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 108/A at Kota was sanctioned in 2004-05. An amount of Rs. 91.42 lakhs has been provided for this work in 2005-06.

The work of construction of ROB/RUBs involve joint working and co-ordination between Railways and road authorities hence no time limit are fixed by Railways. However, in all cases Railways make all efforts to complete their portion alongwith the approach work by road authorities.

[Translation]

Setting up of Firing Zone

697. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Firing Zone of Army at Majhgava tehsil in district Satna of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise, in view of reply in (a) above.

[English]

Dilapidated Conditions of Railway Quarters

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the quarters allotted to staff under the West Central Railway Zone are in dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to repair the quarters;

(d) whether any irregularities in the Railway Hospital under the said Zone has come to the notice of the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. Quarters allotted to railway staff are not in dilapidated condition.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Necessary repairs of quarters is being carried out from time to time on need basis.

(d) No irregularity has come to the notice of Railway administration.

(e) Does not arise.

LPG Filling Plants

699. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of LPG filling plants in the country as on January 31, 2006, State-wise alongwith the capacity thereof;

(b) the details of new LPG filling plants sanctioned/ approved during the last three years and present status of each of them, State-wise; and

(c) the details of new LPG filling plants proposed in the country particularly in West Bengal during 2006-07 alongwith the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) As on 1.1.2006, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 174 LPG bottling plants with a capacity of 7978 Thousand Metric Tonnes Per Annum (TMTPA) in the country. The State-wise details are enclosed as statement.

(b) During the last three years, OMCs have sanctioned/approved 10 LPG bottling plants in the country as per details below :-

Sl.No.	State	Number of bottling plants
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Gujarat	2
3.	Kerala	1
4.	Karnataka	1
5.	Maharashtra	2
6.	Tamil Nadu	1
7.	Uttar Pradesh	1
Total		10

Out of above, 7 have been commissioned and three are under various stages of commissioning.

(c) OMCs have proposed 5 bottling plants in the country during 2006-07. No new LPG bottling plant has been proposed by OMCs in West Bengal during the year 2006-07.

Statement

Details of LPG Bottling Plants in the Country as on 1.1.2006

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Number of bottling plants	Capacity (in TMTPA)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	618
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	5
3.	Assam	7	210
4.	Bihar	4	135
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	44
6.	Delhi	2	220
7.	Goa	2	66
8.	Gujarat	10	528
9.	Haryana	6	462
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	44
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	91
12.	Jharkhand	4	142
13.	Karnataka	11	508
14.	Kerala	5	260
15.	Madhya Pradesh	7	352
16.	Maharashtra	18	1124
17.	Manipur	—	—
18.	Meghalaya	—	—
19.	Mizoram	—	—
20.	Nagaland	1	5

1	2	3	4
21. Orissa		4	196
22. Punjab		5	396
23. Rajasthan		12	364
24. Sikkim		1	5
25. Tamil Nadu		17	713
26. Tripura		1	5
27. Uttar Pradesh		23	944
28. Uttaranchal		3	66
29. West Bengal		10	458
30. Andaman and Nicobar		1	5
31. Chandigarh	—	—	—
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
33. Daman Diu	—	—	—
34. Lakshadweep	—	—	—
35. Pondicherry		1	12
Total		174	7978

Flying Experience for Air India Pilots

700. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Air India Pilots are not fully holding the flying experience as stipulated in Civil Aviation Rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) All pilots in Air India hold the required flying experience as laid down in the DGCA Civil Aviation requirements.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Radar Facility at Cochin Airport

701. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cochin Airport is being accorded further facilities of Radar and terminal expansion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Cochin International Airport at Nedumbassery, Cochin belongs to Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), a private limited company. Airports Authority of India provides Air Traffic Services at CIAL and is considering to provide terminal area RADAR. CIAL has informed that major expansion of the terminal building is under execution. The arrival block has already been completed and the same is in operation from 19.10.2005.

Strategic Crude Oil Reserve

702. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI UDAY SINGH :

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE :

SHRI GANESH SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government has cleared the proposal to construct strategic crude oil reserve to enhance the energy security of the country;

(b) if so, the concept and objectives behind the construction of strategic crude reserve;

(c) the details of the proposal and the site identified for the purpose; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and how the funds are proposed to be mobilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In order to enhance the energy security of the country and to safeguard against short term supply disruptions, Government have approved setting up of 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) strategic storage at three locations, viz. Vizag (1.0 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT), Mangalore or nearby location (2.5 MMT). The release of crude oil will be in the event of any natural calamity or disruption in supplies or any unforeseen global event leading to scarcity of supplies/abnormal increase in prices. The proposal involves a capital cost of approximately Rs. 2,400 crore and crude oil cost of Rs. 8,870 crore (at an average crude oil cost of \$55/bbl) besides operation and maintenance cost of Rs. 90 crore per annum. The capital cost which will be required during the first 5 years would be met from the existing funds available with OIDB. Thereafter, in case funds are not available from the existing OIDB cess collection for the filling of the crude oil, an incremental cess of Rs. 1,000 would be adequate to generate about Rs. 3,000 crore per annum based on current volumes of domestic crude oil. Alternatively, based on the crude cost at \$55/bbl, 2% increase in customs duty would generate about Rs. 3,000 crores per annum. A combination of both these options could also be used to generate the required quantum for crude oil filling.

Rangarajan Committee Report

703. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR :

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

(a) whether the Inter-Ministerial Committee set up under the chairmanship of former Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Dr. C. Rangarajan to formulate a long term pricing policy for petroleum products has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government; and

(d) if not, the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Rangarajan Committee report on pricing and taxation of petroleum products was submitted to the Government on 17.2.2006.

The main recommendations of the Committee are as follows:-

1. On pricing of petrol and diesel:

- (i) Shift to a trade parity pricing formula for determining refinery gate as well as retail prices;
- (ii) Government to keep at arms length from price determination and to allow flexibility to oil companies to fix the retail price under the proposed formula; and (iii) Reduce effective protection by lowering the customs duty on petrol and diesel to 7.5%.

2. On pricing of domestic LPG and PDS kerosene:

- (i) Restrict subsidized kerosene to BPL families only; (ii) Raise the price of domestic LPG by

Rs. 75/cylinder; (iii) Discontinue the practice of asking upstream companies to provide upstream assistance, but instead collect their contribution by raising the OJQB cess from the present level of Rs. 1,800/MT to Rs. 4,800/MT; and (iv) Government meeting the balance cost of subsidy from the budget.

3. On restructuring excise duties:

Shift from the present mix of specific and ad-valorem to a pure specific levy and calibrating the levies at Rs. 5.00/litre of diesel and Rs. 14.75/litre of petrol.

The Committee has recommended that each of the first two sets of recommendations should be implemented as integrated packages.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Committee are under examination of the Government.

Setting up of ATMs at Stations

704. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to provide space for setting up of Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) of various banks at the railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions fixed with banks in this regard;

(c) the details of railway stations selected in this regard so far, zone-wise; and

(d) the criteria fixed for selection of railway stations for setting up of ATMs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) have been installed at various stations over Indian Railways.

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

Train Service between Munabao and Khokhrapar

705. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether train service between Munabao (India) and Khokhrapar (Pakistan) has been re-established;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to check illegal activities on this route; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be re-established?

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

(b) An agreement between the Government of India and Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to run "Thar Express" a weekly broad gauge Express passenger train between Munabao (India) and the Zero Point Railway Station near Khokhrapar (Pakistan) with effect from 18.2.2006 has been signed on 31.1.2006. The train service has started on 18.2.2006.

(c) Due precautions have been taken to check illegal activities on this route.

(d) Does not arise.

Training to Pilots

706. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :

SHRI AJIT JOGI :

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

SHRI ASAQUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private airlines are utilising the

services of pilots not well versed with the CAT-III-B instrument landing system during foggy season;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any order for mandatory training of CAT-III-B instrument landing system for the pilots of private airlines;

(c) if so, whether any time-limit has been prescribed to get such training; and

(d) if so, the reaction of private airlines thereto?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, the airlines are counselled from time to time to train their pilots for operations in low-visibility conditions to improve efficiency. They have also been told that if they take no steps to train their pilots in this direction, their winter schedules may get effected.

Shifting of Cantonment Boards

707. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to shift the Cantonment Boards in view of the rapid urbanization around various Cantonment Boards in India;

(b) if so, whether some proposals have been received from State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether conflicts between civilians and defence personnel are on the rise in and around cantonment areas thus causing law and order problems;

(d) whether Municipal Corporations around Cantonment Boards are finding it difficult to extend these services beyond the areas of Cantonment Boards due to hurdles put by the boards; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir,

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The civic services inside the Cantonment areas are provided by the Cantonment Board.

[Translation]

Autonomous Status to ASI

708. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR :
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Archaeological Survey of India as Scientific and Technical Institute;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to accord autonomous status to Archaeological Survey of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to accorded autonomous status?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) and (b) Archaeological Survey of India has been declared as Scientific and Technical Department w.e.f. 1.05.1989 vide Notification dated 27.10.1989.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Question does not arise.

Jan Kerosene Pariyojana

709. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE :

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

(a) the number of blocks in the country where the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana has been introduced, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has carried out any review of the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to allow the oil companies to distribute oil directly to the wholesale oil-traders; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The Jan Kerosene Pariyojana has been launched with effect from 2nd October 2005 in 413 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory. State-wise details of the blocks are given in enclosed statement. Government has been carrying out review of the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana from time to time and taking necessary actions as a continuous process. Further, diagnostic and impact studies are also being conducted through National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and their reports are expected in the month of March 2006 on diagnostic study and in the month of May 2006 on impact study.

(d) and (e) Under the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) supply kerosene to the wholesale dealers on delivered supply basis and take the responsibility of transportation and delivery of the product into the underground storage tanks at wholesale dealers' premises.

Statement

The State-wise details of blocks where Jan Kerosene Pariyojana has been introduced

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of Blocks
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	87

1	2	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6
3.	Assam	34
4.	Chhattisgarh	11
5.	Goa	1
6.	Gujarat	24
7.	Haryana	6
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	12
9.	Jharkhand	10
10.	Kerala	17
11.	Madhya Pradesh	23
12.	Maharashtra	30
13.	Manipur	4
14.	Meghalaya	4
15.	Mizoram	3
16.	Nagaland	6
17.	Orissa	26
18.	Punjab	6
19.	Rajasthan	13
20.	Sikkim	2
21.	Tripura	5
22.	Uttar Pradesh	47
23.	West Bengal	35
24.	Andaman and Nicobar	1
Total		413

Inclusion of Castes in OBCs List

710. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

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

(a) whether National Commission for Backward Classes has recommended to include several castes and sub-castes in the Central list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of castes included in the Central list of OBCs on the recommendations of the Commission, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) The State/UT-wise names of castes/communities/sub-castes/synonyms for which National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has sent advice for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs during the last two years and the current financial year is enclosed as statement.

(c) 42 castes/communities/sub-castes/synonyms from different States/UTs have been included in the Central List of OBCs on the advice received from NCBC during the afore-said period.

Statement**Advises received during 2003-04**

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Name of the caste/community/ sub-caste/synonym recommended by NCBC for inclusion in the Central List of OBCs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Sikdigar

1	2	3
		Siddula
2.	Gujarat	Jagri
		Khavas
		Sagar
		Dhangar
3.	Maharashtra	Twashtha Kasar
		Kansar

Advises received during 2004-05

1.	Bihar	Bakho (Muslim)
		Thakurai (Muslim)
		Kurmi
2.	Daman and Diu	Rana
3.	Goa	Bhandari Naik
4.	Karnataka	Aryakshatriya
		Sarige
		Hindu Sadaru
5.	Maharashtra	Kurmi
		Yellam/Yelam
6.	Orissa	Asini Patara/Aswini
		Ashwini Patara
		Rangini Hansi
		Kapala Velame
		Kapulu Elama
		Koppala Elama
		Kappula Elama

1	2	3
	Kupala Velama	
	Kapala Elama	
	Kapala Elage	
	Koppala Velama	
	Tamuli	
7. Pondicherry	Melakarar	
	Kammalar (Kamsali, Viswav-Brahman and Viswa Karma, Kauruvaw)	
	Kosavans	
	Kulalar	
	Kummari	
	Pandithar (Anpattan, Pronopakari and Nasivan)	
	Elhura	
	Thiyyas	
	Vanniakula Kshatriya including Vanniar or Vanniyar Gounder, Kondar or Vannia Gounder and Vannikandar (other than Vella Gounder belonging to Vanni Vanniya-kula Kshatriya Caste)	
8. Uttar Pradesh	Barai	
	Chaurasia	
	Kurmi-Sainthwar/Kurmi-Mall	
	Unai Sahu	

1	2	3
<i>Advices received during 2005-06</i>		
1	Uttaranchal	Rai-Sikh (Mahatam)
2	A&N Islands	Karen

[English]

Sale of Kerosene in open Market

711. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue licenses to dealers in Delhi and other places exclusively for sale of kerosene in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (c) The Central Government do not issue licenses to dealers in Delhi and other parts of the country for sale of kerosene. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) are marketing both PDS and non-PDS kerosene. The genuine industrial and non-domestic customers having requirement of more than one Tank Lorry load at a time are being supplied directly and the requirement of small customers having requirement less than full Tank Lorry load is being met through the existing SKO-LDO dealership network at the non-subsidized rate.

Under the provisions of Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, Government have recently permitted Oil Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemical Limited (MRPL) and Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) to market their

indigenously produced kerosene, after meeting the demand of PDS kerosene in full, to non-PDS customers.

Upgradation of Mangalore Airport

712. SHRI M. SHIVANNA :

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been persistent demands for upgrading the Mangalore Airport to International Status;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are demands from various Members of Parliament and other agencies for declaration of Mangalore airport as an International airport.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up construction of a new runway for operation of A-310 type of aircraft. Work is likely to be completed by March, 2006. AAI has a proposal for construction of a new integrated terminal building with all modern facilities near the beginning of the new runway, likely to be taken up after handing over of the additional required land by the State Government free of cost and free from encumbrances alongwith the approach road. Declaration of Mangalore Airport as an International Airport is contingent on completion of the above project.

Indo-US Defence Cooperation

713. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Defence officials of India and United States (US) have held extensive consultations in line with the long term Defence framework agreement;

(b) if so, whether the two sides also focused on the importance of service to service ties and took note of the successful joint exercises held by the Armed Forces of the two countries;

(c) if so, whether the Defence Policy Group (DPG) has reviewed reports of the four sub-groups; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to implement the DPG's recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) India and the United States have held extensive consultations during the 7th India-US Defence Policy Group (DPC) meeting held in Washington DC from November 21-23, 2005. The 7th DPG meeting follows the signing of the 'New Framework on US-India Defence Relationship' in June 28, 2005.

(b) The two sides took note of the wide ranging service to service ties, including holding of a large number of joint exercises. Both sides acknowledged that defence cooperation should be more broad based.

(c) the DPG reviewed the reports of the four sub-groups, viz., Military Cooperation Group, Joint Technical Group, Senior Technology Security Group and Defence Procurement and Production Group.

(d) The DPG's recommendations are followed up by the sub-groups under it. The process for implementation of DPG's recommendations are ongoing and is monitored by the Defence Organisations of the two countries.

[Translation]

Opening of LPG Agencies

714. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Government for opening of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) agencies in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh during the last one year;

(b) the number of applications on which decision has been taken so far, and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken on rest of the applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (c) LPG distributorships are set up by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) allocations on commercial considerations after technical evaluation/survey. The commissioning of LPG distributorships depend upon various factors such as identification of viable locations, release of advertisements, conducting interviews, issuing LOI, obtaining statutory clearances etc. Any request received by the Ministry for opening of LPG distributorship is also forwarded to the OMCs for examination and appropriate action at their end.

The details of commissioning of LPG distributorships at various stages in the country, including Uttar Pradesh, are available with the Directors (Marketing) of OMCs.

[English]

Training to NCC Cadets

715. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Territorial Army (TA) were raised as auxiliary manpower among students and youth trained to face emergency situations;

(b) the number of students received NCC training and people joined TA alongwith funds allocated to the respective wings during each of the last three years;

(c) whether keeping in view the growing threats from weapons of mass destruction to the civilian society, in particular, any special training is being imparted to NCC cadets TA members for disaster management in such eventuality; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The National Cadet Corps (NCC) came into existence in 1948 with a view to provide opportunities for the all-round development of youth to inculcate in them commitment, dedication, self-discipline and moral values, so that they become good leaders and useful citizens.

The Territorial Army aims to raise a part-time citizens Army of gainfully employed Indian nationals to assist the regular Army in case of emergency. They are provided two months military training in a year. Their role is primarily to relieve the Regular Army from static duties and assist the civil administration in dealing with natural calamities and maintenance of essential services in emergent situations.

The year-wise details for the last three years of students who received NCC training and those people who joined Territorial Army as well as funds allocated are enclosed as statement.

No special training is being imparted to NCC cadets or Territorial Army members for disaster management in the event of use of weapons of mass destruction. However, they assist the civil administration in dealing with natural calamities like disaster relief, floods, cyclones and maintenance of essential services.

Statement

Details of the number of students who received National Cadet Corps (NCC) training and the number of persons who joined Territorial Army (TA) alongwith funds allocated to the respective wings during the last three years

1. National Cadet Corps (NCC):

Year	No. of students received NCC training
2003	1105978
2004	1192259
2005	1209371

Allocation of Funds:

Year	Amount
2003-2004	Rs. 288.20 Crores
2004-2005	Rs. 305.05 Crores
2005-2006	Rs. 331.71 Crores

2. Territorial Army (TA):

Year	No. of persons joined TA
2003-2004	1729
2004-2005	6085
2005-2006	4590

Allocation of Funds:

Year	Amount
2003-2004	Rs. 200.45 Crores
2004-2005	Rs. 217.10 Crores
2005-2006	Rs. 237.19 Crores

Shifting of Petroleum Depots

716. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of petroleum depots are located in the thickly populated areas in various parts of the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to shift these depots to safe places, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)

generally select sites for Petroleum Depots away from populated areas. However, because of the growth and expansion of cities/towns, a few of these depots are now located in populated areas in various parts of the country. The position is being constantly reviewed by the OMCs and action is taken either to resite or to close down such Depots. The list of depots that have been closed/resited/supplies shifted in the recent past in the State of Andhra Pradesh by IOC, BPCL and HPCL is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Oil Marketing Company (OMC)	Depots Closed/Resited/Supplies Shifted
1.	IOCL	Sanathnagar*
2.	IOCL	Rajahmundry
3.	IOCL	Tadepalli
4.	IOCL	Warangal*
5.	BPCL	Rajahmundry
6.	BPCL	Nizamabad
7.	HPCL	Sanathnagar
8.	HPCL	Tadepalli
9.	HPCL	Guntakal

*Note—

1. SANATHNAGAR—Situated in industrial/railway area. Part of the supplies shifted to Ghatkesar. Balance will be shifted to IBP Chertlapalli Depot which is undergoing major revamping.
2. WARANGAL—Situated near the Station. Depot has been resited to Ramagundam (outside the town limit). Old Warangal depot will be closed by June 2006.

NOC for Expansion of New Terminal Building at Dabolin Airport

717. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay in granting 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) for expansion of new terminal building at Dabolin Airport, Goa thereby causing serious set back in tourism industries; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to grant NOC expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No proposal for grant of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for expansion of new terminal building at Dabolin Airport in Goa has been received by the Government and therefore, the reasons for delay in granting NOC do not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

Private Airlines to Pakistan

718. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some private airlines have evinced interest to operate to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to permit these private airlines to fly to Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of the Pakistan Government thereto?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Outstanding Dues of Prasar Bharati

719. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

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

(a) the outstanding dues to be recovered by the Prasar Bharati from various Ministries/Departments of the Union Government as on date; and

(b) the steps taken by the Prasar Bharati to recover these dues?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that the outstanding dues of AIR and DD to be recovered from various Ministries/Departments of the Union Government are Rs. 17.14 crores and Rs. 3.25 crores respectively.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the matter is being pursued with the Ministries concerned for recovery of the above amounts.

[English]

Emergency Landings due to Technical Snags

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

(a) the number of occasions, the aircraft of Indian Airlines (IA) or its subsidiary Alliance Air had to be grounded or had to make emergency landings due to various technical snags specially during the last six months;

(b) whether any indepth investigation into the causes of emergency landings has been conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the losses suffered by IA and Alliance Air due to emergency landing of its flights;

(e) whether any case for the use of spurious material in the maintenance of aeroplanes have come to the notice of the authorities; and

(f) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No Indian Airlines and Alliance Air aircraft made emergency landing due to technical snags during the last six months. There have however, been eleven major groundings of Indian Airlines aircraft during the last six months. There was no major unscheduled grounding of ATR-42 and B-737 aircraft operated by Alliance Air.

(b) and (c) Since there have been no emergency landings during the last six months, no investigations were required. However, all aircraft incidents involving Indian Airlines aircraft are investigated by Permanent Investigation Boards (PIB) at respective aircraft bases, as per the guidelines of Directorate General of Civil Aviation and corrective measures are taken on the recommendations made by PIB.

(d) No losses were suffered by Indian Airlines or Alliance Air as there were no emergency landings during the last six months.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of New Airport at Mathura

721. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct a new airport at Mathura;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the Government policy on Airport Infrastructure, no Greenfield airport is normally allowed

within an aerial distance of 150 km. from an existing airport. The existing airport at Agra is about 50 km. from Mathura.

[English]

Agreement with Saudi Arabia

722. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently any agreements has been signed between India and Saudi Arabia in the information and broadcasting fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

FDI in Domestic Airlines

723. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to open up the aviation sector to foreign airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) would be permitted in domestic airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the extent of investment that would be permitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Airlines of foreign countries operate to/from India under the terms of bilateral Air Services Agreements (ASAs) India has with the respective foreign countries. ASAs 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. At present India has bilateral agreements with more than 100 countries.

(c) and (d) As per the extant policy, the ceilings on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in respect of Air Transport Services (Domestic Airlines) are as under:-

49% through automatic route.

100% by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) through automatic route. (No direct or indirect participation by foreign airlines is allowed).

[Translation]

Setting up of Recycling Plants

724. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up recycling plants for the recycling of ammunitions lying in the depots of Armed Forces as reported in *Rashtriya Sahara* Dated December 19, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal for setting up of recycling plants for the recycling of ammunitions lying in the depots of the Army, Navy and the Air Force, as reported in *Rashtriya Sahara* dated December 19, 2005. There is however a proposal for a plant for disposal of unserviceable/rejected ammunitions in the Ordnance Factory Board at Ordnance Factory, Khamaria.

Modernisation of Airports

725. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI :

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to modernise some other airports on the lines of Delhi and Mumbai airports;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government wishes to modernise Chennai and Kolkata airports and various other airports across the country, whereas some proposal are at planning stage, other are getting executed.

[English]

Leasing of Luggage Vans in Trains to Private Contractor

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

(a) whether the Railways have leased out some of the luggage vans in trains to private contractors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private contractors are charging much higher amount than the charges fixed by the Railways and the passengers/small traders are facing a lot of difficulties; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (d) With a view to

maximise the utilisation of Brakevans and thereby increase earnings, Railways had launched a scheme for leasing of parcel space in Brakevans (SLRs). Under the scheme, parcel space in Brakevans (SLRs) of passenger carrying trains is leased out to private operators by inviting bids through open tenders. Parcel space in Brakevans (SLRs) of approximate 200 trains has been leased out so far. The leaseholder, whosoever offers highest bid over and above the reserve price, is awarded the leasing contract for parcel space in the Brakevans (SLRs). Further, leaseholders provide door-to-door service to their customers including road-bridging from party's premises to his godown and from his godown to railway station. The leaseholder collects remuneration from his customers for providing additional value-added service to his customers. Passengers/ small traders can book their consignments through Railway at railway parcel offices, which is cleared in the rear Brakevans (SLRs) of trains, which have not been leased out.

Sale of Tickets

727. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tickets sold for the Republic Day Parade and Beating the Retreat ceremonies during 2004, 2005 and 2006 and amount realized therefrom, separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that the sale of tickets for these ceremonies has been declining; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The details of number of tickets sold for the Republic Day Parade and Beating the Retreat ceremonies and the amount realized therefrom during 2004, 2005 and 2006 are enclosed as statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Year	Republic Day Parade		Beating Retreat Ceremony	
	Number of Tickets Sold	Amount Realised (Rs.)	Number of Tickets Sold	Amount Realised (Rs.)
2004	22009	11,20,980.00	2857	53,010.00
2005	21614	12,48,110.00	2079	92,370.00
2006	23538	15,23,980.00	2930	1,28,410.00

Fastest Train in Delhi-Agra Route

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

(a) whether the Railways have decided to introduce fastest train between Delhi and Agra;

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

(c) whether the Railways propose to introduce such trains on other routes also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The speed of regular Bhopal Shatabdi Train has been increased to 150 kmph between Delhi-Agra section w.e.f. 16.2.2006.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In Indian Railway Modernisation Plan (IRMP), it is contemplated to introduce 150 kmph trains in Delhi-Patna-Howrah and Delhi-Chennai section.

Acquisition of Warships on Lease

729. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether USA has agreed to provide warships to the Indian Navy for surveillance purposes on lease basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these ships could be built indigenously;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to build these ships?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Issue of Complimentary Passes by IA/AI

730. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down by the Indian Airlines (IA) and Air India (AI) for issuing complimentary passes/tickets for travelling in India and abroad;

(b) the number of complimentary passes/tickets issued for the journey in India and abroad by the IA and AI separately during each of the last three years and current year category-wise; and

(c) the loss incurred on this account by these Airlines during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) As per the Industry practice, complimentary passages/tickets are issued by the Air India and Indian Airlines in their commercial interest to get direct publicity for various marketing initiatives/schemes, which helps in promoting new stations/destinations/routes as well as increasing revenue generation at no cost. These complimentary passages are being issued to tour promoters, travel writers, media personnel, important commercial contacts and prominent personalities to encourage and promote travel in its flights.

(b) The number of complimentary passes issued by Indian Airlines and Air India during the last three years and current year are as under:-

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Indian Airlines	678	505	506	204
Air India	1051	1150	2059	1873

(c) The benefit for issuing complimentary tickets is almost at no cost and these tickets are used only in the lean seasons when there is no displacement of revenue passages and against seats that would have otherwise gone empty. Hence, there is no financial outgo and it is at hardly any cost to the company.

Commissioned Rank to Military Nursing Service

731. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Commissioned Rank given to nurses of Indian Military Nursing Service are being withdrawn by the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present grade and status of nurses working in the Indian Military Nursing Service;

(d) whether the Government has received representations to uphold the Commissioned Rank; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (e) The Military Nursing Service (MNS) is a cadre comprising of female nurses, who are employed under the provisions of the Indian Military Nursing Service Ordinance 1943. As per Section 5 of the said ordinance all members of the Indian Military Nursing Service shall be of commissioned rank and appointed as officers of the Indian Military Nursing Service by the Central

Government by notification in the Official Gazette and they continue to be so appointed. The Military Nursing Service has the following ranks and pay scales:-

Rank	Pay Scale (Rs.)
Lieutenant	8000-300-9500
Captain	9400-300-12100
Major	11200-300-14800
Lieutenant Colonel	12800-300-15200
Colonel	13400-300-15500
Brigadier	14700-300-16200
Major General	16400-400-20000

A Committee was constituted by the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) to examine the grievances of the Military Nursing Service (MNS) officers. The Committee included the senior most officer of the MNS cadre. The Committee in its report submitted to the COAS in July 2005, has made recommendations for improving the organizational structure and cadre management of MNS including redesignation of the MNS rank structure. The Government has received various representations to uphold the commissioned rank alongwith other grievances of Military Nursing Service officers. The Government has sought the views of the COAS.

Indo-China Cooperation in Hydrocarbon Sector

732. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI UDAY SINGH :
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

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

(a) whether a high level delegation had visited China recently;

(b) if so, whether any consensus has been reached between India and China regarding cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector to ensure the energy security for the two Asian giants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the benefits likely to be accrued to India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A memorandum for Cooperation in the field of Oil and Natural Gas between the National Development & Reforms Commission of the Peoples' Republic of China and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of the Republic of India was signed on 12th January, 2006. In addition, GAIL (India) Ltd. have signed three MOUs with SINOPEC, CNOOC (International) Limited and Beijing Gas Company Ltd., respectively, while the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons has signed an MOU with the Research Institute of Petroleum Exploration and Development (RIPED) of China to enhance cooperation on oil and gas related issues of mutual interest and to exchange information on the development of policy on oil and gas exploration and production. Again, OVL have signed an agreement with CNODC Ltd., the international arm of the National Oil Company, CNPC Ltd., for co-operation in the field of E&P activities in third countries.

(c) and (d) The details are given at statement enclosed.

Statement

The areas of cooperation envisaged in the Memorandum of Cooperation entered into between the two Governments are as follows:-

(i) promote cooperation between the companies and organisations of both countries in oil and natural gas production, execution of large engineering projects, and manufacturing,

up-gradation and supply of drilling equipment and petrochemical processing units;

- (ii) encourage bilateral cooperation for undertaking joint exploration and production initiatives for oil and natural gas resources in third countries;
- (iii) encourage cooperation on basic and applied R&D;
- (iv) encourage bilateral cooperative relationship in the areas of crude oil trade and transportation and to study the development of the Asian crude oil and oil products markets, and the measures required to stabilize the Asian oil markets with the aim of enhancing the influence of both nations in the world crude oil pricing mechanism and promoting a stable supply and demand mechanism in the Asian energy market;
- (v) encourage exchange of information and experience on commercial stockpiling of oil between the companies and organizations of both countries;
- (vi) encourage collaboration between the companies and organisations of both countries in heavy oil;
- (vii) encourage cooperation in areas such as coal bed methane, underground coal gasification and gas hydrates; and
- (viii) exchange of information on policies and programmes on the sustainable development of oil and natural gas industries.

The memorandum provides for the setting of a Joint Working Group at official level to identify and pursue these areas of cooperation.

On the basis of the bilateral Government-to-Government MOU and the company-to-company MOUs which have

been finalised or are presently under consideration, India and China, as principal consumers of hydrocarbon resources in Asia, have committed themselves to a long-term and substantial partnership to enhance each others' capabilities and resources and to jointly pursue their interests at the international, regional and bilateral fora. In this endeavour, the two countries are bringing together their technical, financial and human resources in order to obtain their common interests of serve their national energy security interests.

The specific areas in which this cooperation will manifest itself in the coming years are:-

- (i) participation in upstream and downstream projects in each others' countries;
- (ii) pursue investment opportunities in third countries by submitting joint bids for equity participation in oil producing fields or seeking E&P contracts;
- (iii) enhancing domestic capabilities and resources through joint pursuit of R&D proposals particularly in the areas of increased oil recovery and enhanced oil recovery in order to boost domestic production;
- (iv) mobilise national capabilities in the areas of Engineering and Petroleum services through joint ventures both in each others' countries and in third countries;
- (v) bring together their significant position in the international oil market by exploring the possibility of joint purchases of crude oil and gas;
- (vi) pursue studies jointly to bring about important changes in the organisation and functioning of the Asian Oil Markets in order to make them more transparent and more reflective of the realities of the contemporary oil scenario in which Asian consuming countries are the consumers of the bulk of Asian oil production and yet have to function in a market environment that is non-transparent and iniquitous;

- (vii) pursue research and technology development projects in the area of un-conventional energy resources such as the development of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) and Gas Hydrates;
- (viii) participate in transnational oil and gas pipelines projects to transport hydrocarbon resources from Asian producing centres to the principal Asian consuming countries; and
- (ix) pursue joint projects in the areas of conservation and development of environment friendly fuels.

The proposed cooperation between India and China in the hydrocarbon sector is wide ranging and promises to yield enormous benefits to the two countries on account of their pulling together their formidable resources and acting jointly in pursuit of their common interests.

Airport at Greater Noida

733. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to construct an international airport at Greater Noida;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) The matter is at a preliminary stage.

Visakhapatnam Airport

734. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Airports Authority of India proposes to construct a new terminal building and a runway at the Visakhapatnam Airport;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith cost of the project; and

- (c) the status of the construction work as on date and the time by which work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c) Various development works including construction of a new runway of 10,000 feet at the cost of Rs. 158.21 crores have already been initiated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in coordination with Indian Navy and State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The two third of the work has been completed and the probable date of completion of entire work is December, 2006. AAI has also initiated work for construction of a new integrated terminal building for 800 passengers at the cost of Rs. 94 crores. The work commenced in February, 2006 and its probable date of completion is July, 2007.

[Translation]

Creamy Layer amongst SCs

735. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce the concept of creamy layer amongst Scheduled Castes (SCs) for providing reservation benefits to them on the lines of Other Backward Classes (OBCs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the measures taken by the Government to ensure that the benefits of reservation should go to the economically backward people amongst SCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) The income criteria prescribed under various schemes being implemented by the Ministry for the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes ensures that

benefits reach the poorer section among the Scheduled Castes.

Deficiency in Arms and Ammunition

736. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain deficiencies have been detected in the arms and ammunition manufactured by the ordnance factories in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Armed Forces have also rejected such arms and ammunition;

(d) if so, the facts in the regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the quality of arms and ammunition manufactured in the ordnance factories in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The army has reported certain deficiencies in some batches of 5.56mm INSAS rifle, 5.56mm INSAS Light Machine Guns, Small Arms Ammunition, Tank Ammunition and Delay Igniters, supplied by Ordnance Factories.

(c) and (d) Armed forces have segregated affected quantities of arms and ammunitions for investigation/repair. Detailed statement is enclosed.

(e) Some of the steps being taken by ordnance factories to ensure better quality and avoid such recurrences include:-

- (i) Adopting Total Quality Management concept and continuously updating quality monitoring techniques.
- (ii) Upgrading Plant and Machinery for achieving built in quality.
- (iii) Quickly investigating deficiencies in association with the armed forces.
- (iv) Imparting specialized training to workmen and supervisory staff.
- (v) Modernising Proof testing equipments to record accurate proof and test parameters.
- (vi) Interacting regularly with the users.
- (vii) Handing over quality control of input materials and vendor development activities to Ordnance Factories, so as to have better control over the quality chain.

Statement

Sl.No.	Items	Remarks
1	2	3
1.	5.56mm INSAS Rifle	Problem of Oil Spray noticed. Periodical maintenance instructions are being amended besides, exploring the feasibility for minor modification in design.
2.	5.56mm INSAS Light Machine Gun	Bullet lodging in some LMGs noticed during firing. Necessary modification in design is being carried out.
3.	125mm High Explosive Ammunition	Burning particles found during firing, due to use of Triple Base Propellant. Repair of segregated ammunition has been started and likely to be completed within 3 years.
4.	125mm High Explosive Anti tank Ammunition	
5.	125mm Fin Stabilized Armour Piercing Discarding Sabot	

1	2	3
6.	Igniter 4 Sec. Delay	The igniter, which is used for hand and rifle grenades, was found to have problems during storage at the depots. Design improvement has been carried out and a new variety has been offered to the army for trial evaluation.
7.	Small Arms Cartridge 7.62mm	Some ammunition became rusted during storage. The majority of this segregated ammunition has been repaired.
8.	Small Arms Cartridge 5.56mm	A small quantity of this ammunition was segregated due to material design defects and is being investigated.

[English]

Indo-Russia Cooperation in Defence

737. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-Russia Cooperation in Defence has taken big strides during the Prime Minister's visit to Russia in December, 2005;

(b) if so, whether any agreements has been signed between the two countries in the Defence field; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Prime Minister visited Russia in December 2005 and during the visit Indo-Russian bilateral relations including defence cooperation were reviewed at summit level talks.

(b) and (c) The following documents relating to Defence were signed during the visit:-

- (i) An agreement between India and Russia on Reciprocal Protection of Intellectual Property Rights in the Field of Military Technical Cooperation.
- (ii) Protocol proposing amendment to the Agreement

on Programme of Military Technical Cooperation between India and Russia till the year 2010.

Foreign Tourist

738. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited India during 2005 and how does it compare with the figures of 2003 and 2004;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to attract foreign tourists to India;

(c) whether the Government has sanctioned Rs.50 lakh each for infrastructure development in 55 rural tourism destinations across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) The number of foreign tourists visiting India for the last three years is as follows:

Year	Total Arrivals	Increase from Previous year
1	2	3
2003	2726214	14.3%

1	2	3
2004	3457477	23.5%
2005*	3915324	13.2%

*Provisional

(b) The Ministry of Tourism through the Indiatourism offices overseas, undertake a series of promotional activities in tourist generating markets overseas for increasing the number of foreign tourists visiting India. These include advertising, participation in fairs and

exhibitions, organizing seminars, workshops and road shows, publication of brochures, joint advertising support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry. In addition, major centralized publicity campaigns are also taken up in important source markets.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs.50 lakh each to 68 identified rural sites for tourism infrastructure development based on the proposals received from States. The details regarding the same are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Statewise Tourism Projects Sanctioned during the 10th Plan under Rural Tourism Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism Till date are as follows

((Rs. in lakh)

State	Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	1.	Development of Pochampalli, Nalgonda Distt.	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	2.	Rural Tourism at Konaseema Village, East Godavari Distt.	2003-04	50.00	50.00
	3.	Development of Puttaparthi, Ananthpur Distt.	2004-05	49.50	39.60
	4.	Development of Chinchinada, East Godavari Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
	5.	Development of Srikalahasti, Chittoor Distts.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	6.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Rengo, Distt. East Siang	2005-06	49.62	39.69
3. Assam	7.	Development of Rural Tourism at Durgapur, Distt. Golaghat	2002-03	46.83	14.04
	8.	Dehing-Patakai Kshetra, Distt. Tinsukia	2004-05	44.33	35.46
	9.	Rural Tourism at Sualkuchi in Kamrup Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
	10.	Rural Tourism Project at village Asharikandi, Distt. Dhubri	2005-06	48.97	39.17
4. Bihar	11.	Rural Tourism Project, Nepura Village, Distt. Nalanda	2003-04	50.00	40.00
5. Chhattisgarh	12.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Chitrakote, Distt. Bastar	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	13.	Development of Rural Tourism at Chitrakote	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	14.	Development of Rural Tourism at Champaran, Distt. Raipur	2003-04	50.00	15.00
	15.	Rural Tourism at Nagarnar, Distt. Bastar	2003-04	48.00	38.40
	16.	Development of Kondagaon, Distt. Bastar	2005-06	50.00	40.00
6. Delhi	17.	Rural Tourism at Kotla Mubarakpur	2003-04	09.78	09.78
	18.	Rural Tourism at Nangli, Razapur, Delhi	2003-04	36.30	36.30
7. Gujarat	19.	Development of heritage village at Tera	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	20.	Rural Tourism at Hodka, Distt. Kachchh	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	21.	Development of Navagaon and Malegaon Rural Tourism, Distt. Dang	2003-04	92.70	27.81
8. Haryana	22.	Rural Tourism at Jyotisar, Distt. Kurukshetra	2003-04	50.00	40.00
9. Himachal Pradesh	23.	Rural Tourism at Nagar, Distt. Kullu	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	24.	Rural Tourism Paragpur, Distt. Kangra Valley	2003-04	50.00	15.00
10. Jammu and Kashmir	25.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Drung, Distt. Baramula	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	26.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Surinsar, Distt. Jammu	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	27.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Gagangir, Distt. Srinagar	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	28.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Pahalgam, Distt. Anantnag	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	29.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Jheri, Distt. Jammu	2005-06	50.00	40.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
11. Karnataka	30.	Rural Tourism Project at Kokkare Bellur, Distt. Bellur	2002-03	50.00	15.00
	31.	Development of Attiveri Bird Sanctuary as a rural tourism project, Distt. Uttara Kannada	2003-04	60.00	18.00
	32.	Rural Tourism at Banavasi Distt., Uttara Kannada	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	33.	Rural Tourism project in Anegundi, Distt. Koppal	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	34.	Rural Tourism project in Coorg, Distt. Kodagu	2003-04	50.00	40.00
12. Kerala	35.	Development of Kumbalangi as Rural Tourism Destination, Distt. Ernakulam	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	36.	Development of rural tourism at Amamula, Distt. Pathanamthitta	2003-04	20.00	16.00
	37.	Development of village Balrampur in Thiruvananthapuram Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
13. Madhya Pradesh	38.	Rural tourism in Hatwa village, Distt. Siddhi	2002-03	44.00	13.20
	39.	Rural tourism at Chaugan, Distt. Mandla	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	40.	Rural tourism project at Pranpur, Distt. Ashoknagar	2003-04	48.00	38.00
	41.	Rural Tourism Project at Orchha, Distt. Tikamgarh	2005-06	50.00	40.00
14. Maharashtra	42.	Rural Tourism at Sulibhanjan-Khultabad Distt. Aurangabad	2003-04	50.00	40.00
15. Nagaland	43.	Rural Tourism at Mopunchupket, Distt. Mokokchung	2002-03	50.00	40.00
16. Orissa	44.	Rural Tourism project at Raghurajpur, Distt. Puri	2002-03	50.00	40.00
	45.	Development of village Fipli in Puri Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00
	46.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Khiching, Distt. Mayurbhanj	2005-06	50.00	40.00
17. Rajasthan	47.	Rural tourism at Neemrana, Distt. Alwar	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	48.	Rural tourism project Samode Village, Distt. Jaipur	2003-04	50.00	40.00
18. Sikkim	49.	Development of village Lachen in North Distt.	2004-05	50.00	40.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
19. Tamil Nadu	50.	Development of Kazhugumalai Under rural tourism, Distt. Thoothukudi	2003-04	48.66	38.94
	51.	Development of Theerthamalai, Distt. Dharmapuri	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	52.	Rural tourism at Karaikudi, Chettinadu, Distt. Sivaganga	2003-04	50.00	40.00
	53.	Development of Devipattinam Navbhashnam in Ramnathpuram Distt.	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	54.	Thirukurungudi, Distt. Tirunelveli	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	55.	Thiruppudaimaarthur, Distt. Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu	2005-06	49.55	39.64
20. Tripura	56.	Rural tourism at Kamlasagar, Distt. West Tripura	2002-03	42.92	13.48
	57.	Rural tourism at Jampui Hills, Distt. North Tripura	2003-04	50.00	15.00
21. Uttaranchal	58.	Rural tourism project at Jageshwar, Distt. Almora	2002-03	50.00	40.00
	59.	Rural tourism project in Agora Village (Dodital) Uttar Kashi Distt.	2005-06	48.50	38.80
	60.	Development of Hub Village at Mottad and its satellite station	2005-06	48.05	38.44
	61.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Chekhoni Bora, Distt. Champawat.	2005-06	44.20	35.28
	62.	Development of Rural Tourism at village Koti, Indroli	2005-06	47.10	37.68
	63.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Mana, Distt. Chamoli	2005-06	50.00	40.00
	64.	Development of Rural Tourism (Eco-Tourism) in Devriyatal at Village Sari, Distt. Rudraprayag	2005-06	45.14	36.00
22. Uttar Pradesh	65.	Development of Rural Tourism at Bhita Gram, Distt. Raebareli	2005-06	49.52	39.62
	66.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Mukhrai, Distt. Mathura	2005-06	45.89	36.00
23. West Bengal	67.	Development of Rural Tourism Centre at Ballabhpur Danga, Distt. Birbhum	2003-04	50.00	15.00
	68.	Development of village Sonada, Distt. Darjeeling	2004-05	50.00	40.00
Total				3317.56	2389.33

[Translation]

Ticket Issuing ATMs

739. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have installed ticket issuing Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) at railway stations;

(b) if so, the details of railway stations where such machines have been installed;

(c) the name of the banks with which contract have been signed in this regard;

(d) whether the Railways propose to instal such machines at other stations; and

(e) if so, the name of stations selected for provision of such facility and the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) The facility of issuing season tickets through State Bank of India's Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) has been installed at Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) station of Central Railway on trial basis.

(d) and (e) Other Banks have also been approached to provide ticket issuing ATMs at important stations. Specific stations have not been finalized..

[English]

Committee on Airports Infrastructure

740. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government's plans to spend Rs. 40,000 crore investment for improving airports

infrastructure and developing ground facilities as the existing infrastructure and ground facilities at the airports are inadequate to meet growing demands of air travel and cargo;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also planning to upgrade 30 small airports in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government has appointed a Committee of Technical and Financial Consultants to prepare a detailed project report on each of these airports;

(e) if so, whether the Government has received the recommendations of the Committee;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Improvement/upgradation of airport infrastructure and ground facilities at airports is a continuous process and is taken up by Airports Authority of India (AAI) based on the traffic demand, availability of land, resources etc. However, Government has decided to restructure and modernize Delhi and Mumbai airports through joint venture route by public private participation. Government has also decided to develop and modernize city side of 35 non-metro airports in the country in phases to world class standards. The estimated expenditure for development of these airports is Rs. 4662 crores.

(d) to (f) AAI had appointed Global Technical Advisor (GTA) and Indian Financial Consultant (IFC) to prepare detailed project report (DPR) for development works for first phase of 10 airports and second phase of 15 airports. The report for first phase of 10 airports has been submitted by the consultants. Appointment of GTA and IFC is likely to be made for third phase of 10 airports.

(g) The 35 non-metro airports are proposed to be developed and modernized by the year 2010 taking into account the recommendations of the GTA and IFC.

Market Share of Indian Airlines

741. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the market share of Indian Airlines has eroded during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the comparative share of Indian Airlines and other major private airlines in the matter of passengers and revenue earning during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Market share of all airlines, excepting the relatively new airlines, have declined over the last three years. The details are as under:-

Airlines	Market Share (%)		
	2003	2004	2005
Indian Airlines	39.8	37.9	31.0
Jet Airways	47.7	43.8	39.8
Sahara Airlines	12.2	14.1	12.6
Air Deccan	0.4	4.2	10.4
Kingfisher Airlines	—	—	2.8
Spice Jet	—	—	3.1
Paramount Airlines	—	—	0.06
Go Air	—	—	0.23

As regards comparison of revenue earnings, this information is not maintained in the Government.

Installation of FM Transmitters in A & N

742. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the places identified in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for installation of new FM Transmitters during the current financial year; and

(b) the progress made so far in installation of transmitters in Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b) A10 kW FM transmitter, approved during the Tenth Five Year Plan period for installation at Port Blair, has been commissioned on 22.06.2005.

Participation of Voluntary Organisations in Cultural Schemes

743. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of cultural schemes in which the charitable/voluntary organisations are participating;

(b) the amount allocated and spent on these schemes during each of last three years and current year; and

(c) the manner in which the implementation of these schemes is being monitored?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : (a) The following schemes are being implemented by this Ministry for promoting Culture through Voluntary Organisation:-

- (i) Financial Assistance for Preservation and Development of Buddhist/Tibetan Culture and Art.
- (ii) Grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations/societies for development and maintenance of national memorials.
- (iii) Celebration of Centenaries of important Personalities.
- (iv) Financial Assistance for Preservation and

development of the cultural heritage of the Himalayas.

- (v) Financial Assistance for Promotion and Dissemination of Tribal/Folk Art and Culture.
- (vi) Financial Assistance for Research Support to Voluntary Organisations engaged in cultural activities.
- (vii) Financial Assistance for Building and equipment grants to voluntary cultural organization.
- (viii) Financial Assistance for Promotion and strengthening of regional and local museums.
- (ix) Financial Assistance to Professional Groups and individuals for specified performing art project.

(b) For implementing these schemes, the expenditure incurred during the last three years and during current financial year is as under:-

(figures in thousands of Rs.)

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
2002-03	18,65,30	6,96,73	25,62,03
2003-04	23,90,66	4,57,40	28,48,06
2004-05	24,02,58	4,77,85	28,80,43
2005-06 (B.E.)	74,60,00	5,20,00	79,80,00

(c) The implementation of the schemes is monitored as per provision of Rules made for giving grant-in-aid to Charitable/Voluntary Organisations. Besides, time-to-time officers of the Ministry are inspecting these organisations.

Container Freight Station in Chennai

744. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a container freight station in Chennai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Container Corporation of India is already operating a Rail Linked Container Freight Station at Tondiarpet (Chennai). Hence there is no proposal to set up another Container Freight Station in Chennai.

(b) Does not arise.

Transfer of Catering work in Railways

745. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Vendors' Association has requested the Railways to scrape the proposal to transfer catering work to bigger contractors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (c) Some Catering/Vending licences associations have represented. There is no such proposal on Railways to remove small contractors.

Occupation of Land/Building on Rental Basis

746. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of land/buildings in Hyderabad belonging to Government of Andhra Pradesh under occupation of Defence Authorities on rental basis as on date;

(b) whether any mutual agreement has been reached between Government of Andhra Pradesh and Defence officials, Secunderabad to hand over the defence land to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in exchange of building and its appurtenant land; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The land/buildings belonging to Andhra Pradesh Government which have been held on hire with the Defence Department are as follows:-

- (i) An area measuring 285 acres 14 guntas of forest land owned by Government of Andhra Pradesh forming a part of Survey No. 1172/1 situated at Chilkur, Taluk and District Hyderabad.
- (ii) Forest land measuring 2094 acres situated at Immarat Forest Block.
- (iii) Andhra Pradesh State Public Works Department Building No. 220 "Abbey House", General Land Register (GLR) Survey No. 149 including land to an extent of 13.6 acres.

(b) and (c) A mutual agreement has been reached between the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Ministry of Defence only with respect to exchange of Abbey House including 13.6 acres of appurtenant land with Defence land measuring 12.86 acres at Secunderabad Cantonment. In principle approval of this exchange has been accorded by Ministry of Defence.

[Translation]

Attachment of Additional Coaches in Trains

747. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to attach additional coaches in mail and express trains as reported in the *Dainik Jagran* dated January 18, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress made thereunder;

(c) the name of trains identified for the purpose;

(d) whether any estimate with regard to the proportionate increase in number of passengers against additional coaches attached has been made;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the work for attachment of additional coaches in trains is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (f) Augmentation of trains in Indian Railways is an ongoing process depending upon traffic pattern, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

[English]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps

748. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding irregularities in allotment of petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received during each of the last three years, State-wise/company-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any new policy regarding allotment of petrol pumps;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of petrol pumps likely to be opened during 2006-07, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) to (c) The Government receive complaints from time to time against selection of retail outlet dealers (petrol pumps). Such complaints are inquired into through the oil marketing companies (OMCs)/Chief Vigilance Officers of OMCs and remedial action taken, wherever necessary. During the last three years, i.e., 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, the public sector OMCs, viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation

Limited (BPCL) and IBP Co. Limited (IBP), had received 943 complaints with regard to selection/appointment of retail outlet dealers. OMC-wise break-up of the number of complaints is as under:-

Year	IOCL	BPCL	HPCL	IBP	Total
2002-03	30	13	6	2	51
2003-04	103	36	61	6	206
2004-05	352	80	159	95	686

State-wise details of the complaints are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned.

(d) and (e) Based on certain broad parameters advised by the Government to the public sector OMCs, the latter have framed their guidelines for the selection of retail outlet dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships, and have been making selections in terms of these guidelines. These guidelines, which are objective and transparent in nature, provide for a detailed procedure to be followed by the OMCs in making selection of dealers/distributors. The procedure includes selection of dealers/distributors by the selection committee of the OMC concerned on the basis of evaluation of the suitability of the candidates vis-a-vis certain laid down parameters and weightages. Further, the guidelines provide for grievance redressal mechanism and any complaint/grievance related to the selection of dealers/distributors is dealt with by the OMCs as per this mechanism. At present, no change in policy in the matter of allotment of retail outlets, is contemplated.

(f) The aforesaid four OMCs tentatively plan to set up 3,111 retail outlet dealerships in the country during the year 2006-07. However, it is not possible to indicate the exact number of such outlets that would be commissioned during that year since the job depends on various factors like selection of dealers, procurement of suitable sites, obtaining of 'no objection certificates' and other statutory approvals, construction of outlets, etc. State-wise details

are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned.

[Translation]

Drug Addiction among Juveniles

749. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the menace of drug addiction amongst children living in Juvenile homes;

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken to control the growing menace of drug addiction;

(c) whether there has been an increase in the number of cases of children missing or running away from Juvenile homes; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of the possibility of children living in Juvenile homes being affected by drug menace. State Governments/ UT Administrations have been advised to avail of the services of Drug De-addiction and Counselling Centres set up across the country under the Ministry's Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse for these Juvenile Homes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

New Channels

750. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the status of the new channels launched in the last two years in the country;

(b) whether there has been resource crunch and shortage of manpower in these channels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the problems?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : (a) to (d) During the last two years, two channels namely DD Lok Sabha and DD Rajya Sabha have been launched by Prasar Bharati in December, 2004.

These are currently operational only for the duration when both Houses of Parliament are in Session. These channels are presently being operated through redeployment of Doordarshan's personnel. This arrangement will continue till such time their operations are taken over by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the staff deployed by the latter for the purpose.

Aurangabad Airport

751. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any representation from the Members of Parliament to develop Aurangabad as International Hub for handling export goods as also for international passenger traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) No current request is received giving International status to Aurangabad Airport and modernisation of the same. However, Aurangabad airport has been included for development in the second phase of developmental plan of selected Non-metro airports.

[Translation]

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scholarship Scheme for SC/ST Students

752. SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE :

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether the Government has approved a new central scheme called Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) for providing fellowship to Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe students to pursue higher education;

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

(c) the total annual expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government on the scheme during 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(d) the number of students to be awarded fellowship under the said scheme during 2005-06 and 2006-07.

(e) whether provisions under the said scheme are also applicable to the students of minority community in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the opportunities available to the students of minority community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Two New Central Sector Schemes namely 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' (RGNF) for Scheduled Caste Students and 'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship' for Scheduled Tribe students for pursuing higher studies leading to M. Phil and Ph. D have been introduced during the current financial year 2005-06.

(b) Any student belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes category admitted to M. Phil/Ph. D degree

in a University or academic institution will be eligible for the award of the Fellowship. The Fellowship is on the same scale as the University Grants Commission (UGC)'s Scheme of Junior Research Fellowships (JRF). The tenure of Fellowship will be for five years, two years for Junior Research Fellowship and three Years as Senior Research Fellowship subject to satisfactory progress of Research work. The distribution of fellowships amongst different States/UTs would primarily be in the proportion of SCs/STs population in the respective States/UTs.

(c) Actual expenditure will depend upon response of students towards the scheme.

(d) A total of 2000 fellowships (1333 for SCs and 667 for STs) have been sanctioned but actual number of students who will get awards during Tenth Plan Period will depend upon the response of students to the scheme.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) There is no scholarship/fellowships scheme for students of minority community.

Indo-Iran Gas Project

753. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

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

(a) whether in the wake of recent developments in certain parts of Pakistan, the proposed Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project is likely to be adversely affected;

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

(c) whether there is any shift in the already decided route of the above pipeline;

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

(e) the concrete measures likely to be undertaken by the Government in order to complete the project within the schedule timeframe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The route of the pipeline is yet to be finalized.

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

(e) Two sets of separate Secretary-level bilateral Joint Working Groups (JWGs) have been set up with Pakistan and Iran for pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline. So far, three meetings each of these JWGs have been held, in which various technical, commercial, financial, legal and other project related issues have been discussed.

The issues under discussion include gas pricing, project structure and framework agreement for the project. The Indian side have appointed their financial and technical consultants who are advising the Ministry on various aspects of the project.

The progress of the project was reviewed by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources, Government of Pakistan during the latter's visit to New Delhi on 17th February, 2006. A tripartite meeting at officials' level is proposed to be held in Tehran, in mid March 2006, to be followed by a tripartite Minister-level meeting at Tehran in mid April 2006.

[English]

Upgradation of Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft

754. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any contract for upgradation of IL 38 Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft for the use of Indian Navy was concluded with Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total expenditure involved therein; and

(c) the time schedule for delivery of the said Aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) A contract for Mid Life Upgrade of five IL 38 Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft at a cost of US \$ 144.5 million was concluded with Russia. The upgrade includes improved avionics and weapon/sensor package. The first of the upgraded Aircraft was delivered to the Indian Navy in December 2005. The remaining four upgraded Aircraft are likely to be delivered by March 2007.

Global Tie up Aerospace

755. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is making big strides in aerospace and is open to global tie-ups with industry and research bodies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. DRDO is making steady progress in aerospace oriented programmes, like Light Combat Aircraft, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Engine for Light Combat Aircraft (KAVERI), Electronic Warfare Suite, Airborne Early Warning System, etc.

In order to expedite the development pace, on need basis, from time to time, the Organisation has been entering into global tie-ups.

Pilferage of Kerosene

756. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints about pilferage of kerosene from tankers;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during 2005;

(c) whether the Government has decided to monitor the movement of Kerosene tankers from storage tanks to wholesalers in sub-divisions through satellite to check pilferage of kerosene; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL) : (a) and (b) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPC) and IBP Ltd. have not received any complaints about pilferage of kerosene from tankers. However, a news report on Star News channel in mid-December, 2005, reported pilferage of kerosene from tank trucks at Jabalpur. IOC looked into the matter but allegation could not be substantiated.

(c) and (d) Government have approved an innovative pilot project for radically revamping the PDS kerosene distribution network with the primary objective of ensuring that this heavily subsidized product is actually made available in the required quantities at subsidized prices to the intended beneficiaries; and secondly, to this cap reverse and eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS kerosene for adulteration. One of the salient features of this scheme is that supplies to the sub-wholesale points will be made under the direct supervision and responsibility of the OMCs. The scheme has been launched from 2nd October, 2005.

With a view to checking diversion/pilferage of subsidized kerosene and in order to monitor the movement

of Tank Trucks transporting kerosene under the Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP), the Government have advised the OMCs for installing Global Positioning System (GPS) based vehicle tracking system on the tank trucks carrying kerosene under JKP in phased manner. The essential features of the system is that the vehicle carrying PDS SKO is fitted with a device and can be tracked on real time basis from the time it leaves the supply location and till it reaches the destination.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands As adjourned to meet again at 12.00 noon.

11.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Twelve of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILLS AS FURTHER AMENDED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Messages from Rajya Sabha.

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 20th February, 2006, agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd December. 2005, in

the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2005:-

CLAUSE-26

Page 12, for lines 23 and 24, substitute—

"26. In section 30 of the Principal Act, Amendment of section 30.

- (a) in sub-section (1), the words "and a copy of such regulations shall be sent to each member of the Institute" shall be omitted;
- (b) in sub-section (2),-
 - (i) in clause (g), the words "the Council and" shall be omitted;
 - (ii) in clause (j), for the word "clerks" occurring at both the places, the word "assistants" shall be substituted;
 - (iii) in clause (r), the word "and" shall be inserted at the end;
 - (iv) clause (s) shall be omitted."

I am further to inform that the Rajya Sabha has made the following further amendments to the Bill:-

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-sixth", the word "Fifty-seventh" be substituted.

CLAUSE-1

That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2005", the figure "2006" be substituted.

CLAUSE-19

That at page 9, lines 29 and 31, for the figure "2005" occurring at both places, the figure "2006" be substituted.

I am, therefor, to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 115

of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendments be communicated to this House.'

- (ii) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 20th February, 2006, agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd December, 2005, in the Cost and Works Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2005:-

CLAUSE-30

Page 12, for line 32, *substitute-*

"(ii) In sub-section (2),-

(a) in clause (h), the words "the Council and" shall be omitted;

(b) clause (t) shall be omitted;

(iii) sub-section (5) shall be omitted."

I am further to inform that the Rajya Sabha has made the following further amendments to the Bill:-

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-sixth", the word "Fifty-seventh" be *substituted*.

CLAUSE-1

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2005", the figure "2006" be *substituted*.

CLAUSE-20

3. That at page 9, lines 39 and 41, for the figure "2005" occurring at both places, the figure "2006" be *substituted*.

I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill

in accordance with the provisions of rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendments be communicated to this House.'

- (iii) "I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 20th February, 2006, agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd December, 2005, in the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2005:-

CLAUSE-30

Page 12, for line 36, *substitute-*

"30. In section 39 of the Principal Act,- ^{Amendment of section 39.}

"(i) In sub-section (2),-

(a) in clause (a), for the word, brackets and figures "items (1), (3)", the word, brackets and figure "item (2)" shall be substituted;

(b) in clause (d), the words, brackets and letter "clause (a) of" shall be omitted;

(c) clause (g), clause (1) and clause (q) shall be omitted;

(d) in clause (i), for the word, brackets and letter "clause (j)", the word, brackets and letter "clause (g)" shall be substituted;

(e) in clause (i), for the word, brackets and letter "clause (i)", the word, brackets and letter "clause (h)" shall be substituted;

(f) in clause (k), for the words, brackets, letter and figures "clause (k) of sub-section (2) of section 15", the words, brackets, letters and figure "clause (f) of section 15A" shall be substituted;

(ii) sub-section (4) shall be omitted."

I am further to inform that the Rajya Sabha has made the following further amendments to the Bill:-

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Fifty-sixth", the word "Fifty-seventh" be substituted.

CLAUSE-1

2. That at page 1, line 2, for the figure "2005", the figure "2006" be substituted.

CLAUSE-20

3. That at page 9, lines 46 and 48, for the figure "2005" occurring at both places, the figure "2006" be substituted.

I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendments be communicated to this House.

2. Sir, I also lay on the Table the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2006, the Cost and Works Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2006 and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2006 as returned by Rajya Sabha with further amendments.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, item no. 4 — Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar) : Mr.

Deputy Speaker. Sir, you had called my name ... (Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go back to your respective seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not show the papers.

(Interruptions)

12.01½ hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Central Advisory Committee for National Cadet Corps

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 12 (1) (i) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps, for a term of one year from the date of election, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 12 (1) (i) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps, for a term of one year

from the date of election, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(Interruptions)

12.02 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House and these will form part of the proceedings.

- (i) **Need to make it mandatory for every eligible person to vote in General Elections**

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul) : Our nation has the pride as the biggest democratic Republic country with the largest voting population in the world. So far there were about 14 general elections to the Lok Sabha and many elections to the state assemblies during the last half century.

It is distressing to note that only an average of 59.58% of voters have voted in various general elections to Lok Sabha and in 2004 elections only 57.14% of voters have exercised their franchise. Hence, it is evident that more than 40% of the total voters mostly from educated circle have want only not turned out to vote and exercise their rudimentary right and duty to elect representatives. The result is the non voters rights is grappled by undesirable elements. Therefore, they create false and bogus voters in the name of those who fail to discharge their constitutional duty. A voter of this country has got an obligation to elect a right representative and for that purpose exercise his or her franchise.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

The Representation of the Peoples Act of 1951, and the Constitution of India and our Founding Fathers have not provided any provision for the mandatory voting in the elections while the Constitution has not provided any sanction to those who do not exercise their franchises without any valid reason.

Now a time has come when we have to think of a remedy to this lapse and make voting right not only a full fledged right to exercise. I, therefore, urge upon our Honourable Prime Minister and this August House to examine this situation arising out of non voting by certain citizens and bring amendments to the representation of Peoples Act and if necessary to adopt steps to amend the Constitution of India to take penal action against any citizen who does not vote without proper reason.

- (ii) **Need to set up an Ordnance Factory in Himachal Pradesh with a view to generate employment opportunities in the region**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the hon'ble Defence Minister to Himachal Pradesh and submit that highest number of people in proportion to its population, are employed in the armed forces of the country and, thus the number of retired defence personnel is also of the same number. A large number of ex-servicemen are living in Himachal Pradesh, but the Ministry of Defence has not set up any defence related industry in the state so far.

Sir, it is needless to mention about the sacrifices of the people of Himachal Pradesh in protecting our borders as maximum number of its young men fought bravely in each war and laid their lives. Therefore, I urge the hon'ble Minister of Defence to set up a large ordnance factory in the state so that ex-servicemen of the state and other unemployed persons could get employment opportunities.

(iii) Need to include Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir largest spoken language of the world, Bhojpuri, is spoken by 16 crore people spread over approximately 70 thousand square kilometer of area. It is widely spoken in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. It has a broad base in 27 countries including foot-hills of Nepal. It is spoken in Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad, Thailand, Netherlands Malaysia and Singapore. Maharishi Vishwamitra has made a mention of the word, Bhoj in Rigveda, where from Bhojpuri originated. This word also finds a place in various religious scriptures including Mahabharata. The history of Raja Bhoj of Malwa, Bhoj of Ujjain, Pratihara Bhoj, Bhoj Kings of Kashi and Dugraon are testimony to its broad-based archaic character.

Hundreds of saintly literary legends and thinkers such as Choranginathji, Goraknathji, Bhrarihari, Kabir Das, Dharama Das, Paltudas, Bheekha Saheb have used it in their folk lores, folk-songs and proverbs from one generation to another and from one person to another. Intellectuals like Rahul Sankritayan, Dr. Bhagawat. Sharan Upadhyay and as Chaturi Chacha took Bhojpuri prose-literature to its new heights.

Sir, as we are aware, initially only 14 languages were placed in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Later it was amended and Sindhi, Konkani, Nepalese, Mainpuri, Maithili, Dogri, Santhali and Bodo was also included in it. Bhojpuri language has not been included in it so far.

Entire Bhojpuri area was involved in the 1942 movement. The British rulers were greatly annoyed at Chura Chauri and Balia incidents. But now we are independent and have our own Government, but, Bhojpuri language is yet to get its rightful place.

Sir, taking into account the sentiments of 16 crore people, I urge the Government to include Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule at the earliest.

(iv) Need to increase supply of SIM cards of BSNL in Bellary, Karnataka and improve the Mobile Services in sub-urban and rural areas of the State

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary) In Karnataka especially in Bellary, quantity of BSNL cards supply is very short and demand for the same is very high, which causes great problem to users. Because of this short supply, SIM cards are being sold in black-market which causes heavy loss to public and private players are getting benefits by this.

The cost of this SIM card has been increased from Rs. 1,000/- to Rs. 3,000/- for getting connection on demand which middle income group people cannot afford.

The network of BSNL is very poor and whenever we call from BSNL to BSNL phone, we get reply of "Network busy" and BSNL to other network, we rarely get connected. Since, BSNL is a profit-making company, I don't know why the Company does not rectify this problem.

I urge upon the Government to increase supply of BSNL-SIM cards, increase network capacity and install more number of towers, especially in medium towns and Villages.

(v) Need to expedite setting up of Regional All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the poverty and constant increase in the population in our country, and the fact that various dreaded diseases like AIDS, cancer T.B., heart and kidney ailments take the toll in alarming proportions, as also with a view to control them and facilitate better diagnosis and treatment of the said diseases, the Central Government

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

had taken an important decision to set up hospitals on the lines of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi at several places in various States. In furtherance of this cause, a hospital was decided to be set up at Bhopal. Foundation stone of the said hospital was also laid. It made people of the state happy and cheerful. But it is quite sad that two years have elapsed and no further action has been taken in this regard. Therefore, I urge the hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare to issue necessary directions for expeditious completion of the said institute, in larger public interest, in accordance with its announcement, so that the common man may have easy access to the best consultation and treatment.

(vi) Need to take over M/s. Synthetic and Chemicals' Limited located at Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh with a view to protect the interests of labourers working in the factory

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that due to lack of farsightedness and mismanagement of the managers of the M/s. Synthetic and Chemicals Limited, the largest synthetic rubber manufacturing factory of Asia located in Bareilly is lying closed since 15 July, 1999. Around 3000 permanent workers and more than 1000 daily wage workers are employed in it and around 10,000 families are affected by it. The said factory being the only factory which manufactures synthetic rubber earns a lot of foreign exchange.

Though the management had compelled the employees to go on paid leave, but the employees have not been paid their salary and other dues since February, 1999. All employees are going through severe financial crisis due to false promises made to them.

This factory has gone to BIFR and no outcome has yet emerged due to non-adoption of appropriate procedure by the managers. Despite continuous efforts no positive measures have been taken.

I would like to urge the Government to take over this important institute and revive it in public interest and ensure that outstanding dues and salaries of employees are paid on priority basis.

(vii) Need to provide funds to Madhwalia Gosadan working for the welfare of sick cattle in Maharajganj district, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY (Maharajganj, UP) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my parliamentary constituency Maharajganj, UP is lacking cow shelters, availability of fodder and facilities like ambulance for ferrying sick stray cattle. In the absence of the said facilities, usually stray cattle get injured in road accidents and die on roads. The corpses of the cattle lie on road for hours which not only make the place dirty but also pollute the atmosphere. There is a 'Madhwalia Gosadan' in this district, but due to lack of essential facilities, sick and stray cattle do not get proper care.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to make funds available for construction of cow shelter in Madhwalia Gosadan, availability of fodder, medicines and essential facilities like ambulance to carry sick cattle, so that cattle dying on roads could be saved and timely medical treatment be could provided to them.

(viii) Need to formulate policies for the welfare of farmers in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of suicides committed by farmers in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra during the last few months, owing to non remunerative prices in proportion to their cost inputs, continuous increase in agricultural inputs, increase in burden of debt on farmers due to high interest rate, destruction of crops every year, floods and drought, farmers hit by famine and rise in hardships faced by farmers due to the failure of Maharashtra Government and Union Government in checking these suicides, following measures are need to be taken in the interest of the farmers:-

1. Waiving off electricity bill.
2. Making available enough irrigation resources.
3. Do waiving off loans of farmers of Vidarbha.
4. Bringing the interest rate down to 6 per cent.
5. Increasing subsidy to reduce agricultural inputs.
6. Introducing Social Medical Insurance Schemes for cancer and ailments related to heart and kidney.

(ix) Need to release funds for doubling of broad-gauge rail track on Madurai-Dindigul sector

[English]

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : The doubling of broadgauge rail track in Madurai-Dindigul corridor has become a work item to be carried out at once for the over all development of Tamil Nadu.

The passenger as well as goods traffic bound for south from all sides in the north have to invariable pass through this single existing broad gauge line. Similarly equal number of trains and goods carrier from South for North have to pass through this strip. Therefore unmanageable traffic density always persist in this sector. That apart running all seasonal special trains to Nagercoil as well as container carriers to Tuticorin further adds up this traffic congestion.

Further there is a good number of places of summer resorts and temples which are certain to increase the travellers to many folds.

In the industrial front Koodankulam Atomic Power Plant, Nanguneri EPZ, Tuticorin Major Port Container Corporation and Sethu Samuthram project are bound to increase the traffic density in Madurai-Dindigul sector.

From the foregoing, it becomes imperative that another broad-gauge line parallel to the existing one between

Madurai and Dindigul has to be laid assigning top most priority within a short period utilizing the entire allocation of Rs. 96 crores which government should release forthwith in one go.

(x) Need to reduce the exorbitant charges for to and fro flight between Kerala and Gulf Countries

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon) : In spite of repeated requests from the entirety of Kerala, no favourable action has been taken by the Government to bring down the exorbitant to and fro air travel pricing from Kerala to Gulf Countries.

Even Kerala Legislative Assembly has unanimously resolved to request the Central Government and Civil Aviation authority to reduce the higher rates of air travels to Gulf countries to and fro Kerala. In comparison to other National and International the pricing for air travel is quite exorbitant and unjust. This unscrupulous activity resorted to by airlines operating in Gulf Sector has been criticized by NRIs living in Gulf Countries and they have appealed to the Central Government and concerned authority but in vain. I urge upon the Central Government and the Civil Aviation authority through you Sir to consider the request of the NRIs as well as the unanimous resolution of the Kerala Legislative Assembly to reduce the exorbitant flight charges.

(xi) Need to set up a Granite polishing industry in Gaya district, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI (Gaya) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are mountains of granite stone in Gaya district of Bihar and illegal mining of granite is going on for many days there. If a granite polishing industry is set up there, the local people will get employment and the Government too will earn revenue.

Therefore, I request the Government to set up a granite polishing industry in Gaya district of Bihar.

(xii) Need to include Nilgiri Block in Orissa under National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak) : In the State of Orissa 18-economically Backward Districts have been identified by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. To provide income security to the poor and bridge the rural poverty gap. Unfortunately the District of Balasore in the state is not included in the list. But amongst the 12 Blocks of the district, Nilgiri is one of the Blocks where 65% of the population are scheduled Tribes and Poor. In this Block Tribal sub plan is in force since 1975 for their economic development. Due to non inclusion of the District in the list, 65% of the Tribal people in this Block will not get such benefits due for them under the Act.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to consider favourably for the inclusion of the Nilgiri Block in the district for the implementation of the Act. For the upliftment of the Tribal people living in the Block of the State of Orissa.

(xiii) Need to provide three crossing points on the Barasat-Hasnabad Section of railways under Sealdah Division for the benefit of local commuter

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : the Barasat-Hasnabad Section under Sealdah Division in Eastern Railway is the gateway to to Sundarbans and the main link to Kolkata, the State capital.

The distance from Hasnabad to Sealdah is only 52 KMs but it takes hours for the local trains to cover the small distance. A great portion of the vegetables of entire Kolkata metropolitan goes through this line besides thousands of students, office employees, industrial

workers, patients and others commute through this section daily.

The time taken by the local trains can easily be cut short to a great extent provided that at least three crossing points are made by the railway authorities.

The Eastern Railway authorities have already sent a well-directed proposal in this regard to Central railway Authorities long back.

Therefore, I would like to request Hon'ble Railway Minister to take necessary measures so that this work of creating three crossing points in the Barasat-Hasnabad section is taken up without further delay for the benefit of the local rail users.

(xiv) Need to ensure proper implementation of rural development schemes in Chidambaram Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram) : Ministry of Rural Development implements a number of programmes through the State Government for poverty alleviations, employment generations, development of infrastructure and development in rural areas of the country. Most of the schemes are not implemented properly in my Chidambaram constituency. Central Government is providing more than 15,000 crore to State government annually to achieve the goals but how far these schemes are reaching the rural people especially the poor, is still remaining a question mark. Hence I honestly feel that steps should be taken by the Government to ensure that these programmes are executed properly as States are not sincerely implementing the schemes. Sir, My constituency consists of nearly 1400 villages. I request the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development to take steps to ensure that the schemes are reaching the rural poor of our country, by periodical dedicated monitoring squads besides giving real power to the Members of the Parliament of the Constituency to participate in the implementation.

(xv) Need to implement 'Food for Work' and 'Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme' in East Singhbhoom district in Jamshedpur Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Potka, Dumuria, Musabani, Dhalbhoomdadh, Ghatsila and Chakulia blocks of Singhbhoom district in my parliamentary constituency, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand are Adivasi dominated blocks. The people living in these blocks are having no source of income, due to which the poor people are migrating to other states like Punjab, Gujarat and Assam in search of employment. In the absence of work the young people are drifting towards extremism. Due to this the Adivasi areas of these blocks have been badly hit by extremism and naxalism. Most of the areas is comprised of plateaus. Some years ago people were engaged in copper mining and other industries, but gradually copper mines and other industries here have been closed. Due to this, the rural population has been rendered jobless and people are not having any means of livelihood. This district ranks fifth in respect of Adivasi population and agricultural production rate is also very low.

In view of all these factors, I, through this House would like to urge the Government to implement 'Food for Work' programme and 'Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme' for 100 days in East Singhbhoom district in Jamshedpur Parliamentary Constituency so that people may be able to eke one a living for their families.

(xvi) Need to bring Calicut Medical College in Kerala at par with All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut) : Calicut Medical College has sprawling Campus of 250 acres of land and has enough free space which can easily be developed for further expansion. It has all the clinical

facilities in better position than in any other institute in Kerala. It caters to six districts of North Kerala which have almost 30% of the population of the state. In the year 2003, 1.6 lakh persons were treated as inpatients and 5.25 lakh persons as outpatients. Around 2600 patients are admitted yearly in the Department of Medicine. So the Medical College, Calicut fulfills all the requisites for up gradation to the level of an Institute of all India importance on the pattern of All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi. Government has announced opening of six medical institutes all over the country on the pattern of AIIMS, Delhi. Calicut Medical College is centrally located as compared to Trivandrum Medical College which is in extreme south and has better infrastructure. Trivandrum is already having a number of Medical Institute like Sree Chitra Institute, Regional Cancer Centre, Regional Institute, Regional Cancer Centre, Regional Institute of Ophthalmology etc. At present, people of North Kerala are required to go to Trivandrum for advanced medical treatment. It will also be economical costwise to make use of the infrastructure available at Medical College, Calicut rather than building a new Institute of national importance in Southern States. So, I strongly urge the Government to upgrade Calicut Medical College to the level of All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

12.03 hrs

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we take up item no. 6—Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Hon. Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I, on behalf of my Government, rise

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

to join the hon. Members in conveying our sincere thanks to the hon. Rashtrapatiiji for his Address to Parliament. I also thank the hon. Members for their valuable comments. I assure the House that we will take note of the many genuine concerns raised regarding the Government's policies and programmes. I am also grateful for the many valuable suggestions made on how we can improve governance and address the concerns of our people. I greatly value these suggestions and we will try and address as many of these concerns as possible.

...(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President's Address to Parliament is the most important statement of policy that the Government places before this august House at the beginning of every year. It is a statement in which the policies and priorities of the Government are outlined. It is not an exhaustive account of every concern that we have, nor a statement on every issue. However, it offers a comprehensive survey of the Government's policies and priorities.

I do believe that the hon. Rashtrapatiiji has presented before us an important statement that should make every Indian proud and reassured. Proud, because India is once again on the march, as a secular Republic, as a self-confident nation. Never before have our prospects been as bright as they are today. Reassured, because this march is not just of a few, but of all. Our pledge to ensure that our growth process is inclusive, caring and equitable has imparted a new sense of belonging to all sections of our society.(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Government came to power on a pledge to care for the *sarv sadmi*, on a pledge to make India shine, but shine for all. Each of the development and employment-oriented programmes we have launched has this single objective in mind. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the Mid-Day Meal programme, the ICDS programme, Bharat Nirman covering rural

roads, drinking water, irrigation, electricity, housing and telecom, the National Rural Health Mission, the Jawaharlat Nehru Urban Renewal Mission, the initiatives we have taken in infrastructure development, in reviving the manufacturing sector, in reviving agricultural growth — every initiative has been aimed at ensuring that while we accelerate growth, we do so in an equitable, fair and just manner.

This was the essence of the President's Address. If some of the hon. Members sitting in the Opposition have difficulty in appreciating this, I do not blame them. During their tenure in office, they were unable to present such a comprehensive account of development and better governance. Their focus was on a socially divisive agenda, on a non-developmental agenda, on an agenda that mired the country in a low growth syndrome and an agenda that was backward looking.(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even now, they continue to raise issues of no consequence to the people in this vital debate. Every now and then, a question is raised about Prime Ministerial authority as if we live in some totalitarian system, in some fascist State, where authority has to be visibly asserted to command compliance. That may be the culture and outlook of those who keep raising this issue of authority. Sir, India is a proud democracy. Ours is a Parliamentary Democracy. There is Parliament. There is a Council of Ministers and there are other institutions of democratic governance. There are political parties. The Prime Minister functions within a set of rules and a framework of governance. Maybe, those who raise this issue are unaware of this framework. Maybe, they think other parties function like theirs, allowing shadowy organizations to interfere in the work of elected Governments. That has not been the culture of the Congress Party.(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this issue of strength and weakness is raised to deflect public attention from the real issues that concern our people. This Government has delivered eight per cent growth. We are seeing the highest savings rate of 29 per cent ever seen in our

history and a record investment rate of 31 per cent. The country is on the verge of crossing an eight per cent growth rate this year. If we sustain this for the next few years, it is possible that we can eliminate poverty, ignorance and disease which afflict millions of our people. This Government has economically and socially empowered Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, religious and linguistic minorities, farmers and the working class, the unemployed and the poor. This Government has revived investment and generated employment. This Government has ensured that India stands tall in the comity of nations. This Government has charted a new path. It is the progress along this path that has been spelt out in the President's Address. My authority derives from this record of performance. I secure my strength from my work.
...(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly join the hon. Members who have expressed their thanks to the Rashtrapati. Sir, several Members have drawn our attention to the importance of proper implementation of various programmes we have launched, especially the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. I am grateful to them for emphasizing the importance of implementation. Our Government will pay utmost attention to the proper implementation of welfare schemes and ensure that intended beneficiaries, in fact, do benefit from these schemes. I must draw the attention of the House to the fact that it is precisely with this objective in mind, and to empower citizens and civil society groups that we have enacted the Right to Information Act, 2005. I hope this power will be exercised in the right spirit to ensure better governance at the grassroots. We will be closely monitoring the implementation of these programmes and work closely with State Governments to achieve this.

Sir, many Members have raised the issue of regional imbalances. Our Government will ensure that the least developed districts and backward regions of the country get the attention and the investment they require. The Backward Regions Grant Fund which will be coming into

operation this year, I must point out that most of the programmes and schemes that we have launched, are biased in favour of the more backward areas in their design. This is of course as it should be so that these regions can catch up with the relatively better off neighbours in a short period. Shri Prabhunath Singh has mentioned that the Sam Vikas Yojana has in involvement of people's representatives. The RSVY is being subsumed under the Backward Region Grant Fund which will be implemented through the Panchayati Raj Institutions.
...(Interruptions)

Sir, just as important is the issue of having equitable development and ensuring that all sections of society enjoy the benefits of growth. The Bill to give land rights to tribals in forest areas, the filling of the backlog of government jobs for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the range of legal measures for women's rights — these are all steps towards ensuring the empowerment of all marginalised and weaker groups.

Sir, many hon. Members, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and others, have drawn attention to the difficulties being faced by farmers in different parts of the country. Our Government has given top priority to agriculture and farming and a number of steps have been taken which will show results in years to come. While the flow of agricultural credit has improved, I do recognise that credit to farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers is still a matter of concern. We have a problem of both excessive indebtedness and dependence on moneylenders for a high proportion of credit. I believe that the existing institutional arrangements are possibly inadequate in their current form to address the problems afflicting farmers fully. We are committed to finding a solution to this vexing problem. We will try to improve access to credit at a lower cost to farmers. The Minister of Finance will be addressing this matter in his budget speech. Shri Prabhunath Singh has raised the issue of giving the fertiliser subsidy directly to farmers. That is an idea worth considering. I have asked

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

the Minister of Agriculture to prepare a package for addressing the problems of marginal farmers.

Several Members have expressed concern about rising prices. Let me assure the House that we are monitoring the price situation closely. As *Rashtrapatiji* said in his Address, we have been able to keep prices under check despite unprecedented pressure on account of rising world oil prices. On pricing of petroleum products, we will continue to pursue a judicious policy keeping in mind the needs of the consumer, the requirements of energy security and the health of our public sector oil companies. I must assure hon. Members that the decision to import wheat was taken as a precautionary measure and to ensure that we maintain a minimum level of bufferstocks. This decision will benefit consumers without hurting farmers. We do not need lessons from the NDA on how to care for our farmers! ...*(interruptions)*

A suggestion has been made by Shri Basu Deb Acharia in favour of the universalisation of the public distribution system. I sincerely believe that it is the duty of any Government, faced with the constraint of resources and the limitations of administration, to ensure that the genuinely poor across the country benefit from our public distribution system. It is only after we are able to address the needs of the poor that can we examine the universalisation of PDS. As for food security, that is being addressed through the Rural Employment Guarantee, the universalisation of the Mid Day Meal and the ICDS programmes and expanding the number of Antodaya cards. Over the last years, an additional 1.8 lakh ICDS centres have been sanctioned, 12 crore children are being provided mid day meals and an additional one crore Antyodaya cards have been issued. These are important milestones in ensuring food security.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some hon. Members have commented that Bharat Nirman is a repackaging of existing schemes. Sir I beg to differ. I urge the hon. Members to apprise themselves of this initiative. Never before has

such a concerted and planned initiative been launched for rural infrastructure development. Bharat Nirman is a governmental initiative that derives its inspiration from the Rashtrapatiji's PURA vision. I sincerely believe that through Bharat Nirman, we will be able to transform our rural economy.

Sir, some hon. Members have raise questions regarding the selection of cities for the National Urban Renewal Mission. Let me assure the hon. Members that rational criteria have been adopted for selection of cities. These cities fall into three categories – cities with a population of over four million, between one and four million and other State capitals and cities selected for their importance as heritage and tourist destinations. States are free to change cities in the last category as per their priorities....*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President's Address gives a detailed account of the important steps taken by our Government to improve the quality of infrastructure in the country. It is this effort that has contributed to the unprecedented increase in the rate of investment in the economy in the last two years. The rate of investment is at an all-time high of 31 per cent of the GDP. The figures in individual sectors speak for themselves. Roads, railways, airports and airlines, ports and shipping, telecommunication – each and every sector is on a high growth path, buzzing with activity. I am sure, all this contribute to a further acceleration of income and employment growth...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the House to the remarkable turnaround achieved by the Indian Railways in the last two years under the leadership of my colleague Shri Lalu Prasad. They have improved their physical and financial performance through excellent operational management – capable of adding 100 million tonnes of capacity with existing rolling stock. He will be apprising the House of these in his Budget speech. Under his dynamic leadership, Indian Railways have entered a new era of progress, modernisation and growth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a number of hon. Members have voiced concerns about FDI in retail. I would like to assure the House that we will not act in haste in this matter. So far, only FDI by single brand chains has been allowed. This is in extremely narrow category which, in any case, is present in the country through franchises. The larger issue is FDI in any form of retail. We will examine this issue in all its dimensions including its effect on livelihoods and discuss this widely before taking any decision. There is no hurry on this front....(*Interruptions*)

Sir, the issue of the dissolution of the Bihar Assembly and the subsequent judgment of the hon. Supreme Court has been raised by the hon. Members. There have been comments on the role of the Governor. I would not like to go into the merits of the judgment and we respect the wisdom and decision of the hon. Supreme Court in arriving at the conclusion it did. Having said that, I will only say that on the issue of the unconstitutionality of the dissolution, the Court did not arrive at a unanimous verdict. Three judges were of the view that the proclamation dissolving the Assembly was unconstitutional whereas two judges held a different view. Therefore, it is obvious that in this complicated case, there could be an honest difference of opinion. This has to be kept in view in arriving at a conclusion about the conduct of the Governor or the Union Cabinet.

After the judgment of the hon. Supreme Court, the Governor decided to tender his resignation out of his own volition. In any case, the subsequent elections to the Bihar Assembly and the formation of a stable Government have made the debate infructuous.

Sir, many hon. Members have expressed concerns about unemployment. I must add here that the overall impact of all our initiatives will be to generate more and more employment and to modernise the economy. The NREGA alone will be a major initiative. In addition, the huge investments we are facilitating in infrastructure development and industry will create jobs. Our Government is deeply committed to the welfare of all our working people, not just members of the organised trade unions

but also working people in the unorganized sector, in rural and urban areas. Some Members may have a greater concern for organised workers, but our Government is equally committed to all workers, in all sectors of the economy....(*Interruptions*)

I would like to take this opportunity to once again re-assure our people that our Government is committed to the welfare of all our citizens. I welcome the concern expressed during the debate on the status of women. Our Government condemns the practice of female foeticide. We are also committed to one-third reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures.

Many hon. Members have raised the issue of internal security situation in the country. The Rashtrapati's Address has given a detailed account of the measures being taken by our Government in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East. We are firm in our conviction that violence of any kind is not in consonance with the principles of our democracy and way of life, and will be dealt with firmly. Terrorism will not be given any quarter and will be treated with a firm hand. At the same time, we are willing to engage in a dialogue with all groups inside and outside the electoral system in all parts of the country if they are willing to abjure violence and come to a peaceful resolution of issues. Our history, our culture and our legacy provide adequate space for such peaceful resolution. Results of this are visible in Jammu and Kashmir where not only has violence come down substantially, but there is a ray of hope in the eyes of the people — hope about a peaceful and prosperous future. The Development Plan for Jammu and Kashmir is under implementation and we will see a power surplus, dynamic and vibrant economy in the State in the years to come....(*Interruptions*)

Even in the case of naxalism, we are committed to dealing with violence firmly while addressing the root causes of disaffection arising out of poverty, landlessness and deprivation.

As for the North-East, Shri Konyak, Shri Bwiswmuthiary and others have raised issues regarding the development

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

of the region. This region has immense potential, but it has yet to be realised. We are investing in the infrastructure of the region. We have started work on the first ever coal-based thermal power projects in the region in Assam and Tripura. We are building railways as national projects, connecting Manipur as well. There is a special roads programme underway for the North-East. A new Industrial Policy has been prepared and shall be approved shortly. Better infrastructure and connectivity will lead to the industrialisation of this region, resulting in more jobs and faster growth....(Interruptions)

Shri Owaisi, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and others have drawn attention to the problems of Muslim minorities. I would like to once again reiterate our commitment to the welfare of our minorities, particularly the Muslim minorities. The creation of a Ministry of Minority Affairs is to ensure that their problems get focused attention. No less, no more. And for any reasoned discourse or debate on the subject of their development, we need to have reliable, accurate data on their economic and social status. This is what the Justice Sachar Committee has set out to do. The Committee will complete its work and we will discuss it in the House in detail. It is unfortunate that an academic exercise, which will ensure better targeting of development programmes, is being given an unfortunate tilt.

Let me assure the Members of this House that the Armed Forces will continue to be Apolitical, secular, professional and merit based. I urge the hon. Members to make a distinction between empowerment and appeasement. Our Government, as indeed any democratic Government, is committed to the empowerment of all and the appeasement of none.

As for the Aligarh Muslim University, we are committed to retaining its minority character.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the specific issue of certain disparaging cartoons appearing in some publications

abroad. I share the concern expressed in the House. Our Government is deeply concerned about the growing controversy over the publication of cartoons that have offended the Muslim Community worldwide. At the time these offending cartoons were first published, our outrage at this had been conveyed to the Danish Government both in New Delhi and through our Ambassador in Copenhagen in October 2005 itself. While expressing our distress over such lack of sensitivity to the religious sentiments of people, we urged that the concerned newspaper should express its apologies, and the Danish Government should ensure that such actions did not happen again.

We condemn all actions which hurt the religious sentiments of any community, and are of the view that such activities be dealt with seriously and firmly. We have the greatest regard and respect for all faiths, and are committed to protecting their rights and beliefs, to preserving and strengthening the secular nature of our society...(Interruptions)

India's commitment to religious harmony and tolerance is unshakeable, and actions that cause hurt to the sentiments of any section of our people are not acceptable. I also urge all our political and religious leaders to exercise utmost restraint and not inflame public opinion. We must uphold our proud tradition as a democracy of conveying our point of view in a reasonable manner...(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been considerable comment in the debate in this House on our foreign policy orientation. I have had several opportunities in the last one year to speak at length on many of these issues. I urge hon. Members to appreciate the fact that by and large we have had a rational consensus on our foreign policy orientation, and that has given us great strength in dealing with the world. I sincerely urge all our political parties to respect this tradition, so that the hands of the Government are strengthened in dealing with the world...(Interruptions)

Sir, I have had the opportunity recently of articulating my vision of foreign policy — when I laid the foundation stone of the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan — Panditji's vision of India was deeply embedded in our civilisational inheritance. Our civilisation has a message for the world that informs our foreign policy vision. That has been a message of unity in diversity of pluralism, inclusiveness — and — secularism....(Interruptions)

Sir, we have worked hard to create the space needed to have the freedom to make policy choices in an increasingly inter-dependent world. The means we adopt to pursue our enduring objectives of peace, national security and development will, of course, change from time to time. They will have to be evolved in response to the changing reality of an ever-changing world. While the instruments of our policy and the tactics and strategy we adopt may change with time, the values in which they are embedded are universal and will remain true for all time.

Sir, this House has my solemn assurance that in pursuing our foreign policy; in ensuring our national security; and in promoting our economic development, our Government will always have the nation's interest uppermost in our mind. I do believe we have the trust and confidence of the people of India.

Sir, the world today views India with great regard and respect. This is because the people of our country have demonstrated to the world that they are second to none. Our civilisational inheritance, our pluralism, our culture of tolerance and inclusiveness are the envy of many nations. No Indian need feel any sense of inferiority or insecurity in today's world. India stands tall and we stand proud as an open society and an open economy. I am sure hon. Members rejoice in this sense of self-confidence of our people....(Interruptions)

This sense of national pride was reinvigorated during the recent visits of His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia and the President of France when they both paid tribute

to our civilisational inheritance and our emerging economic strength. It is with this sense of self-confidence that we now look forward to the visit of the President of the United States.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to assure the House once again that I will take a closer look at all the suggestions made during the debate and ensure that our Government is alive to the concerns of Parliament. I thank all hon. Members who participated in the debate... (Interruptions)

I would like this Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to be passed unanimously...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : A number of amendments have been moved by Members to the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together or does any hon. Member want any particular amendment to be put separately?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

The amendment were put and negatived.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the main motion to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:

That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 16, 2006."

The motion was adopted.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Item No. 7 – Discussion under Rule 193.

Shri C.K. Chandrappan.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing should be recorded except those hon. Members who get my permission to speak.

*(Interruptions)**

14.01 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Srichand Kriplani and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow the 24th February, 2006 at 11.00 a.m.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, February 24, 2006/ Phalgun 5, 1927 (Saka).

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