

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

**Thirteenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 4, 2008/Phalgun 14, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 81, Shri Ajit Jogi—Not Present.

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker, Sir the condition of Bundelkhand is very bad. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 82, Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Enough is enough. Please sit down.

[Translation]

The Question Hour has not been taken up even for a day.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: The people in Bundelkhand are dying of starvation. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh. You please tell your question number.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you speaking? You please sit down.

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: The people in Bundelkhand are dying of starvation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask after 12 O' clock when the question hour is over. You please sit down.

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: Sir, people are fleeing from there.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary please.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Question No. 82 ...*(Interruptions)*

11.0¹/₂ hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Recognition to Deemed Universities

+
*82. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether several deemed Universities are functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the goals and objectives for which such Universities are set up;

(c) whether many deemed Universities have not been granted recognition as per the norms laid down in the rules and the Government has received complaints in this regard; and

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

*Not recorded.

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

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. There are 101 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' in the country as of now.

(b) The Central Government is empowered by Section 3 of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956 to declare an institution of higher education as 'Deemed-to-be-University' on the advice of the UGC. The intention behind the award of the status of 'Deemed-to-be-University' to an institution which is doing work of a high standard comparable to a university, is to empower it to further contribute to the cause of higher education which would in turn enrich the university system. The objectives of deemed-to-be-universities are mainly:

- (i) to provide for instruction and training in such branches of learning as it may deem fit;
- (ii) to conduct and encourage research and for the advancement of and dissemination of knowledge;
- (iii) to undertake extra mural studies, extension programmes and field outreach activities to contribute to the development of society;
- (iv) to do all such other acts and things as may be necessary or desirable to further the objectives of the institute.

(c) and (d) The UGC has laid down detailed guidelines for consideration of proposals of declaring an institution as 'Deemed-to-be-University'. The proposals received for conferment of 'Deemed-to-be-University' status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 are examined by the UGC as per the provisions of these guidelines. A committee of eminent experts visits the applicant institution and gives its report, which is considered by the Commission. The UGC then makes appropriate recommendations to the Government. The report of the UGC is examined by the Government and if the applicant institution is found to be fit enough to be awarded the 'Deemed-to-be-University' status, it is so notified by the Government.

A writ petition (Public Interest Litigation) has been filed by on Shri Vipav Sharma in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India alleging *inter alia* that a number of professional colleges which are not known for academic excellence, have been granted the status of 'Deemed-to-be-University' in the last few years. The matter is sub-judice.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Sir, as per the report of the World Bank, 80 per cent of the total students completing graduation in India are not capable for any job. I would like to submit to the Government that during last year they have granted the status of Deemed University to 36 colleges. The Government have laid down specific parameters in this regard. Though the Solicitor General in his petition has also stated that they are going to streamline the process and formulate stringent law so that we may compete with the foreign universities that will function here. Till now the status of Deemed University was granted by the Government on the basis of the infrastructure of the institution and the Report of the Committee of the University Grants Commission. I would like to know whether the Government granted recognition only on the basis of the report of that Committee or the permission of the State Governments, All India Council for Technical Education, Medical Council of India or Dental Council of India was also required.

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask question.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: My question is clear. I would like to know as to how many colleges have been granted the status of Deemed University on the basis of the report of the Committee of University Grants Commission by bypassing the State Government or other institutions.

MR. SPEAKER: He said, 101.

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: There are 101 Deemed Universities in the country as you have rightly mentioned. There is a process wherein the applicant sends in his application to the Ministry of Human Resource Development for conferring the status of 'Deemed-to-be-University'. This application is then forwarded to the UGC, which scrutinizes the application. It sets up an Expert Committee to go and inspect the

facility which is available. This Expert Committee would have experts from various fields. It is very essential that they be present to go and inspect the facilities.

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned all that in the reply.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: So, that answers the question.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is asking as to how many universities have been this status bypassing the State Government.

[Translation]

You have asked this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down, I am helping you.

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: The 'Deemed-to-be-University' status is conferred after the Expert Committee gives its recommendation. So, there is no way we would be bypassing the Expert Committee recommendations.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: I have asked a direct question whether permission of the State Government and AICTE is also required. I would like to know whether the Government grants the status of deemed university only after their permission.

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: A member from AICTE is definitely represented in the Expert Committee whenever they go to inspect the infrastructure. But, until now the State Governments have not been taken into confidence while we are giving them deemed-to-be-university status.

There is a Committee that has been set up to look into the functioning of the 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'. This Committee is yet to give its recommendation. Various concerns of all the stakeholders are taken into consideration including the State Governments'.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, it has been observed by the Expert Committee of University Grants Commission that there are many such professional colleges which neither have complete infrastructure nor good faculty members and good papers are also not being published and despite that those colleges have been granted the status of Deemed University. If you ask I will disclose their names as well, however, it will not be proper. Now the Government propose to formulate strict law in this regard because they are going to be affected on account of this. The Government have decided to formulate strict law because people of foreign countries are also setting up universities in the country. Why this step was not taken earlier? Why did the Government give permission to such colleges whose students can neither do manual labour nor service.

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: The AICTE is the Council which actually goes and inspects the infrastructure available and then gives recognition to all the colleges. The UGC is the Council which actually goes and looks into the programmes and then gives recognition to the institute. So, the experts from the UGC and the AICTE are definitely present in the Expert Committee when they sanction or rather send the recommendation to the Ministry of Human Resource Development for granting the 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' status. Though it is not mandatory that the AICTE-recognised colleges only are eligible for the 'Deemed-to-be-University' status, yet, the UGC considers only such applications that have been recognised by the AICTE. So, we have been making our efforts or rather putting in our efforts to ensure that the infrastructure, faculty and all the necessary parameters are in place before we grant the 'Deemed-to-be-University' status. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. No. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Mr. Speaker Sir, part 'C' of the question is:

"whether many deemed Universities have not been granted recognition as per the norms laid down in the rules and the Government has received complaints in this regard...."

[Translation]

The reply of the above part of the question is not given anywhere. So, I would like to know as to how many institutions had applied for the university status and till now how many institutions have been granted this status. I would also like to know whether there is any pendency in this regard and if so, the reasons therefor. Is there any application from Gujarat or not? How many deemed universities are there in Gujarat as on date and whether any application seeking status of deemed university has been received from Gujarat till now or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No such question has been asked.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: There are 170 applications which are pending with us. But with reference to the State of Gujarat, I can have it sent across to the hon. Member.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: In the answer given, it has been mentioned that there are 101 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' in the country. The 'Deemed Universities' have been given full autonomy and they have been functioning according to their own rules and regulations. It is found that in the 'Deemed Universities' for admission as well as recruitment in jobs, the reservation criterion is not followed. There are 101 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'. In these Universities, several courses, even professional courses, are being conducted but no reservation criterion is followed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government would insist that the reservation criterion that is followed in other Universities and all over the country is followed in the 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' also for both admission and recruitment.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Reservations are stipulated in the guidelines of the 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'. But, however, as I have mentioned earlier, there have been certain discrepancies which have been brought to our notice. There is a Committee that has been set up which is headed by Professor Ramamurthy, who is a member of the UGC. Various stakeholders have come forward and they have placed their concerns before the Committee. These are all being taken into consideration. The 'Deemed Universities' and the various stakeholders, all of them, would be taken into confidence and probably we will come out with better regulations.

MR. SPEAKER: Including the issue of reservation which he says.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Reservation is stipulated in the guidelines.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, we are facing serious problem of quality of education in the field of higher education. We have tough competition with countries having resources of modern knowledge and science. Our concern is that some of the rich industrialists whose industries are getting closed are shifting their priorities to education sector which they consider safe and profit making business. The Government arbitrarily keeps on granting recognition to universities as deemed universities and it is on account of this that the students passing out from such higher institutions will not be able to excel in this competitive world. I would like to know whether the Government of India propose to check granting of recognition to universities and deemed universities arbitrarily to improve the quality of education in the country in this competitive age.

MR. SPEAKER: Are they giving recognition in an arbitrary manner?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, we are not doing it arbitrarily. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

But, as I have already said there are parameters which the applicants have to conform to before they come to us and apply for a deemed university status. There are various stipulations which they will have to meet when their applications are given to Ministry of Human Resource Development for consideration. However, for the discrepancies which are already there, we are putting in our efforts to firm these gray areas up and to make sure that the guidelines are more stringent, as we come forward.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit to the Hon'ble Minister that the State-wise details of the 101 deemed universities in the country have not been given in the reply. I would like

to know as to how many applications have been received from Bihar for setting up deemed universities in the State as per the norms prescribed for setting up of deemed universities and how many deemed universities have been permitted to be set up in Bihar. I understand that there is not a single deemed university in Bihar. It is a fact and I fully agree with the opinion of hon'ble Shri Mohan Singhji that in the name of deemed university people are engaged in the business of fleecing the students in the country.

So, the Government should certainly ponder over this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then do you want that it should not be given in Bihar?

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: In the State of Bihar, there are two deemed universities. One is the Bihar Yoga Bharati in Munger and the other is Nav-Nalanda Mahavira at Nalanda. These are two deemed universities already existing in Bihar, but with reference to the applications which are lying with us, we would probably inform the hon. Member about this.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: The deemed universities in this country have been promoted. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. Nothing of your speech is going on record.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS: The deemed universities in this country have been promoted with a view to expanding higher educational institutions. But, unfortunately, most of the deemed universities that have come into existence are in the private sector established by the private educational institutions. A college which is set up five years ago is immediately upgraded to a deemed university status without much of infrastructure and quality of education. I want to ask whether the Government will go into the question of falling standards in the quality of deemed universities which, in our view, only constitute

'doomed universities' and not deemed universities. What is the fee structure prevailing there? What is the reservation policy that we are following there?

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking too many supplementary questions.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister be inclined to set up a Committee of this House to go into the question of the working of the deemed universities in this country?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: It is wrong to say that only private investors are conferred the deemed university status. For example, we have Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupathi, which is very much a part of the Ministry of Human Resource Development itself, has been conferred the status of a deemed university. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There cannot be a running commentary, Prof Ramadass. Please do not record it.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: As for specific details, I would request the hon. Member to get in touch with us and we would furnish him with those details.

MR. SPEAKER: So, he cannot be given details immediately.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: But, the five years' stipulation that the hon. Member is talking about is the *de-novo* category where if it is an area of excellence which does not already exist, then within five years, a deemed university status is conferred under *de-novo* status. But for the deemed university status to be given to any institute, it is very essential that the institute needs to be in existence for 10 years.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the concern expressed by the hon'ble Members here is that some of the institutions which were accorded the status of 'Deemed to be Universities' should not have been accorded this status because they do not fulfil the norms

*Not recorded.

in all respects, but there is a central institute of Buddhist Studies in Ladakh which is an organization funded by the Ministry of HRD, Government of India and Department of Culture for the past 30-35 years. It has proved there as a centre of excellence. But the action required to be taken under section 3 of the UGC Act, was not taken. For this purpose, a committee of experts visited there which has also given its recommendations. The institution has not so far got the status of the 'Deemed to be university' due to only one reason that sufficient faculty was not created there. It is in the hands of the institution and a proposal has been sent by the institution to the Ministry of HRD years before in this regard. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the required faculty would be provided in that region of the country which does not have any 'Deemed to be University' are colleges for 6 years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How would you ask about the individual?

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question pertains to 'deemed to be university'. Would the Government accord it the status of a 'deemed to be university'. Would the Government fulfil the genuine demand of the people there or not?

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, it is very essential that we have the faculty in place if we want to ensure that quality education is given to our children. Suppose there is any deemed to be university wherein there are discrepancies existing, if these discrepancies are brought to the notice of the University Grants Commission, it can always recommend to the Ministry of Human Resource Development to withdraw the status of deemed to be university status to this particular institute which do not function as per requirement and the required quality. So it is very essential that the faculty is in place, but if it is very important then probably we can discuss and see how this could be attended to.

[Translation]

Kidney Racket

*83. [†]SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some doctors were recently found involved in illegal human organ transplantation/trafficking including Kidney Transplantation;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government has initiated a High Level inquiry to punish the culprits involved in these illegal activities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the stringent measures taken or being taken by the Government to check the illegal activity of human organ trafficking?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) to (f) According to available information, the following persons including some doctors have recently been arrested for their alleged involvement in illegal human organ transplantation, including kidney transplantation, in the cases registered by the Haryana Police (PS: Palam Vihar, Gurgaon) and Uttar Pradesh Police (PS: Civil Lines, Moradabad).

Sl.No.	Name
1	2
1.	Dr. Amit Kumar
2.	Dr. Upender (Close associate of Dr. Amit Kumar)
3.	Dr. Saraj Kovind (Anesthetist)
4.	Dr. Jeevan Kumar (Brother of Dr. Amit Kumar)
5.	Dr. K.K. Agarwal (Anesthetist)
6.	Gyasuddin (Middleman for supply of kidneys)
7.	Jagdish Nai (Middleman for supply of kidneys)
8.	Manoj (OT assistant)
9.	Smt. Pooja (Wife of Dr. Jeevan Kumar)
10.	Umesh (Driver of Dr. Jeevan Kumar)

1	2
11.	Ms. Linda (Nurse in RML Hospital, Delhi)
12.	Harpal (Driver of Dr Upender)
13.	Ramesh (Cook of Dr. Amit Kumar)
14.	Suresh (Cook of Dr. Amit Kumar)

In view of the gravity of the alleged criminal offences, the cases have already been entrusted to the CBI for investigation. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also requested CBI to conduct a detailed enquiry into the existence of unauthorized transplantation centres in the country and their modus operandi, so that measures can be taken to stop them.

Commercial dealings in human organs is a punishable offence under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. The Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act are responsible and empowered to check the illegal activities of human organs trafficking. The Act already contains provisions for stringent punishment of the offences of removal of human organs without authority and for commercial dealings in human organs. The Central Government supports the State Governments in their endeavours to enforce these provisions.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that my name starts with the word 'Tha' and my name is Thawar Chand.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry for this. It is easy to call a simple name. Yours is a very good name.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the medical profession is held in high esteems. But over some years we have been observing that people have got indulged in the trafficking of kidneys and other organs of the human body. People have made it a business. Illegal activities relating to trafficking of kidney and other organs of the human body are undertaken by the people after taking lakhs of rupees. The people are suffering due to this.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked a question whether the Government have got any enquiry conducted into the case related to kidney racket. It was replied that the

case has been given to the CBI and out of those who were found involved in the case after enquiry, 14 persons were arrested. There is Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 in the country. It pertains to the commercial dealings in human organs and has been enforced since 1995. I feel that the penal provision made in this Act is not sufficient. That is why the people indulged in such practice are non concerned and are making it a business. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your please ask the question.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: My question is whether the Government would make more stringent measures in the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 in regard to commercial dealings in human organs. If so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, actually, this question should have been addressed to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and efforts should have been made by the said Ministry but as it has been asked in the question as to "what action has been taken", it has been addressed to me and therefore, reply is being given on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs. As per the information available with me, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has considered it. They had constituted a committee also, the report of which is also available with them. The said committee has made a number of suggestions in the report and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is considering these suggestions. Therefore, only they will be able to reply as to when and how they are going to do. I cannot reply. I will ask them to make the information available to the hon'ble Member.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know about the hideouts of the persons involved in this case, sequence of events and the reasons why they were not arrested so far. They are reported to have taken shelter in the house of the senior most officer of the Uttar Pradesh Government for a long time and got protection. Will this point also be enquired?

Secondly, whether the victims whose organs have been removed and their families will be provided financial assistance by the Government, if not, the reasons therefor and if so, the time by which it is likely to be provided?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very cleverly you have put so many supplementaries in one.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, out of the cases reported, one is from Haryana and the other is from Uttar Pradesh. Earlier it was investigated by the police of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Later they realized that the case is not limited to one State only. Even a foreign country i.e. Canada is also connected with it. The Government thought that the case should be referred to the CBI. Now, this case is with CBI and CBI is conducting an enquiry into this case and they have arrested some persons. When asked about the number of days, within which the enquiry will be completed, they replied that it would be completed at the earliest. It is difficult to say about the person at whose house they stayed and took food.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hemlal Murmu—Not Present. Shrimati Ranjit Ranjan.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am sorry I have the same supplementary. Sir, present law is very simple due to which accused are not convicted and they are acquitted early. Will the law be made more stringent? Earlier there was the case of Nithari, which involved not only sexual harassment but also transplantation of kidneys and other human organs. Will it also be investigated like that or will it be taken seriously?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the matter will, of course, be taken seriously. The question of sparing anyone does not arise here. But the question does arise as to how the law should be. A committee was constituted to consider as to what should be the texture of law. The committee has presented their report and it is being considered by the Ministry of Health. I understand that while finalizing the draft of law his sentiments will be kept in mind.

PROF. RAM GOPAL VERMA: Sir, the question which I wanted to ask is similar to that which was put up by hon'ble Thawar Chand Gehlot. But it was not replied whether it was a fact that the prime convict in the kidney scam had given a statement in the court as well as before the TV channels when he went out of the court that that scam was operated from the house of one of the highest officers of Uttar Pradesh Government and whether that officer had been questioned by the CBI in this regard.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we are not sure whether the reference was to any officer of Uttar Pradesh or any other officer. Perhaps he had stated that some other police officers were also involved and action was being taken against such officers.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs whether any information has been reported so far during the probe of CBI in connection with taking out of kidney from the body by these traders carrying out illicit trade and their number. Whether the properties amassed through this business in and outside the country by the above racketeers will be seized and deposited with the Government exchequer and whether compensation to those affected by this racket will be given from the receipt of such seizures?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker Sir, it has come to our notice that the people involved in the above racket have acquired houses in other countries and are living there and perhaps have also acquired property there. So far as seizure and disbursement of that property among the victims is concerned, whatever is possible from the legal point of view will be done. There will be no problem in doing so if it is possible, it will be the legal compulsion.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that this kidney racket that has been caught is only the tip of the iceberg. It is happening all over the country in many many small places that we have not been able to track down. But, it is there. Is it not possible to make a bank in which the people who need kidneys can register themselves, and the people who are willing to sell their kidneys they sell them at a price fixed by the Government and there is change from time to time, like America or Europe has? What is happening now is that the people are going to Singapore to get their organs replaced. If we could have a bank here, that will make it legal; and we make it a clean professional job both for the donor and the person who gets the kidney.

MR. SPEAKER: Only the Minister of Health would be able to answer.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Yes, Sir, I know that the Health Minister is the right person to ask this.

MR. SPEAKER: But I am sure that he will pass on the information.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I just want to ask this. Why can't we 'put the IPC attempt to murder' on people who take out kidneys illegally? It is an attempt to murder. Some people have died when their kidneys were removed without their knowledge.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is a matter which is under the consideration of the Government, I am told. They have eye banks and they would like to have a bank for other organs of the human body also. But as to how it has to be done, they are considering. I think the Health Minister would be in a better position to explain this.

As far as the interpretation of the law with respect to attempt to murder is concerned, yes, it can be done; it would be done. If it cannot be done, then we are helpless. Only by amending the law or providing in the law, this should be done.

De-reservation of items under SSI

*84. † SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to de-reserve 79 items from the list of Small Scale Industries as reported in the *Times of India* dated February 9, 2008;

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

(c) whether there is a demand to keep small scale units within the ambit of reservation to avoid competition from large industrial houses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Review of the list of items exclusively reserved for the Small Scale Sector is a continuous process. Consultations are held with the concerned stakeholders, followed by deliberations in the meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reservation, constituted under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 (IDR Act.). Items are de-reserved by the Government based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. Dereservation is made through a notification under Section 29B of the IDR Act.

Following the above procedure, Government de-reserved 79 more items on 5.2.2008 by omitting these items from the "List of items reserved for exclusive manufacture in SSI Sector". The details about the de-reserved items is given in the following table:

Product Group name	No. of items de-reserved	Sl. No. of items in the 'List of items reserved for exclusive manufacture in SSI sector'
1	2	3
Food and Allied Items	04	8A, 9, 10, 12.
Paper and paper products	18	53, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 65, 67, 68, 70, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 80, 81.
Plastic product (including injection moulded thermo plastic products)	08	128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 137, 140, 140C.
Chemicals and chemical products	06	211, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217.
Natural essential oils	02	219, 226.
Organic chemicals, Drugs and Drug intermediates	08	231, 232, 240, 241, 247, 249E, 251, 252.
Other chemicals and chemical products	10	254A, 269, 299, 300, 307, 309, 311, 320, 322, 322A.

1	2	3
Mechanical engineering, excluding transport equipment	04	353, 399, 400, 531.
Electrical machines, appliances and apparatus including electronics & electrical appliances	15	552, 555, 558, 564, 568, 569, 570, 573, 577, 582, 588, 589, 593, 596A, 597.
Electronic equipments and components	01	604
Stationery items	03	769, 770, 771.

Government has taken several policy measures for making the Indian industry, including the very vital micro and small enterprises sector competitive and facilitate the achievement of their full potential. One of the key measures has been the gradual and calibrated removal of restriction in the form of reservation of items to be exclusively produced in the small scale sector. This has been done to improve the competitiveness of the industry; to enable the Indian industry to compete with imports; promote creation of job opportunities; upgrade its technology to produce quality products and to achieve economies of scale. Empirically verifiable independent studies conducted by reputed agencies have not revealed any adverse impact of earlier de-reservations.

Government is following a process of calibrated and progressive de-reservation. The Government continues to watch the performance of the small scale sector and implements various schemes and programmes, in collaboration with the State Governments, to provide support aimed at enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of this Sector.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all know that the small-scale industries is the largest employment generation sector. Small entrepreneurs are running those industries. That is why, protection is given to the small-scale industries by way of reservation. Here, about 79 items are de-reserved. In the answer of the Minister, it is told that the Committee has given recommendation, which was appointed.

If the same Committee had reserved those items, then now what is the reason to de-reserve those items?

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: The process of de-reservation has been an ongoing process at least from 1991 onwards. There have been four successive Committees. The first one was the Raghavan Committee,

then there was the Abid Hussain Committee and then the S.P. Gupta Committee, who after discussions with all the stakeholders concerned recommended de-reservation of certain items in a calibrated manner.

The need to de-reserve items for exclusive manufacture in the SSI Sector is also a function of the global economy; it is also a function of the new challenges on the export front for upgradation of technology, for availability and access to easy credit.

Sir, this House will be happy to note that experts' studies, one by UNDP and the other by another Consultant which went into the entire gamut of the effect of de-reservation in the small scale sector have opined that there has, in fact, been no negative impact. That is the reason why, Sir, today industrial productivity and industrial production have achieved record growth. I would like to assure the hon. Member that the Government treats the SSI sector as one of great importance because it is the largest employer and it is a sector that has contributed handsomely to our industrial production and to our GDP. There can be no question of any dereliction as far as the policy for making our industry competitive is concerned. This policy of de-reservation should be seen in that contest.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: I would like to know from the Minister whether he has taken note of the impact on those items which are de-reserved. Has any study or survey been made? If so, how are they going to protect those items in the small scale industry?

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: As I said, our studies show that de-reservation facilitated the upgradation of technology, access to credit, etc. and also led to an export growth in this sector. Therefore, on the whole, the effect has not been negative. There could be some transitional problems but for that the Government has launched

various schemes for financial assistance, technological upgradation assistance, etc. So, on the whole, we do not find a negative impact and that is why our industries are becoming more and more competitive not only within India but also globally.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now the Government are going to take a decision of handing over the small-scale industries sector to the market. In 1984, 873 items were reserved. Today the situation is that only 35 items are left with and the rest have been handed over to the market. It is also a fact that the small-scale industries have the most job generation potential. As the hon'ble Minister has stated that the process of reserving and dereserving is underway. I would like to say that despite the protection given by the Government and even after reserving some items, small-scale industries sector was not able to become competitive and export-oriented. The hon. Minister was mentioning some setbacks. What have been the reasons there for? Does he consider the reservation policy obsolete? What is he going to do for the companies which are not able to compete after dereservation?

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already answered the question which the hon'ble Member has asked. The reasons due to which de-reservation of items has been done, due to those very reasons the small-scale industries sector is not able to pass the acid test of competition. Neither the small-scale industries sector was netting capital from the banks nor was it able to update its technology. It was also not able to give its contribution to the exports. Apart from it we also kept in our mind our import policies and compulsions of globalisation and this process had been continuing since 1991. It has not happened overnight. 5-6 Expert Committees comprising senior officers of the Government were constituted. Secretary, Department of Industries, Secretary, Commerce, Secretary, Small-Scale Industries in consultation with the Advisory Committee which is represented by all the States arrived at a decision that gradually we shall have to move ahead towards dereservation. Hon'ble Member is telling the truth that in 1984, 870 items were exclusively reserved for the small-scale industries sector and their number at present has been reduced to 35 only. But despite this if we look at the larger perspective our industry is competitive and healthy and also it is growing. I would like to inform in reply to his question that the reasons behind dereservation

were the same why the small-scale industries sector was not growing due to protectionism. We have, therefore, adopted the policy of de-reservation to help it grow and bring about reforms in it.

[English]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Thank you, Sir. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister this. If my information serves me correctly, items like shoes and toys are reserved for the small-scale sector. Now these are precisely the sort of items that when we visit an Indian market we find flooded with Chinese products, rather than Indian products. In fact, more often than not, now we find a lot of our handicraft items are machine-manufactured and brought in from China. I understand that keeping items reserved for the small-scale sector is in order to protect them from large Indian manufacturers. But this is akin to throwing out the baby with the bathwater because in order to protect Indian small-scale manufacturers from Indian large-scale manufacturers, we are opening the field for Chinese manufacturers and giving them an unfair advantage.

Therefore, in light of the various studies that the hon. Minister has made reference to, which have said that the Indian industry has become more competitive when it has been de-reserved, is the Government of India considering allowing Indian manufacturers to determine their scale of operations, their scale of manufacturing rather than the Government forcing the scale of manufacturing on them?

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, the entire focus and purpose of a policy of de-reservation is for those who wish to continue in a particular product line to find in the market whether they can be competitive and if so how? Therefore, what we have done is this. You are right, it is also to protect them against imports because imports cannot be withheld by fiat and, therefore, if we know that certain items are being imported in large measure, the only way to protect our industry is to facilitate their coming of age so that they can meet the challenge of a large domestic manufacturer as well as of the imports. Therefore, you are right; in the ultimate analysis it will have to be left to the manufacturer and the industry concerned to find ways to achieve economies of scale, to achieve technological upgradation and to become competitive because no longer can economies be run by fiat or by law and, therefore, law will have to keep pace with the changing realities of the times.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. If a particular

item manufactured by the small-scale industry is de-reserved, then he cannot compete with the big player. Will the Government chalk out a policy to compensate for that loss by the small-scale sector?

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Sir, in an economy that is moving to integrate itself globally there are limits to what Government can do by way of policy interventions. However, through the phase of de-reservation, Government has come up with various policies that have given timely relief and more particularly purposive relief in the sense of enabling them to ultimately meet the challenges of competition. If a particular product is reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small-scale sector and if the quality of the product is such that it will not find a buyer in the market, that industry in any case, cannot survive. Therefore, one has taken a realistic and a pragmatic view and I can assure the hon. Members that the policy has been formulated after due deliberation and consultations of a very extensive nature with all stakeholders and at the highest level.

Voluntary Retirement cases in Para Military Forces

*85. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for a large number of Central paramilitary forces personnel seeking voluntary retirement in the recent past; and

(b) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Voluntary retirements by Central Paramilitary Forces (CPMFs) personnel have been attributed mainly to the reasons like—posting in remote areas and stressful working conditions; prolonged period of separation from family; personal and domestic compulsions; perceived inadequate compensation; and availability of alternative employment opportunities nearer home.

(b) Some of the steps taken to reduce stress level among CPMF personnel and to enable them to attend to personal problems and increase their satisfaction level are—focus on more family, and separated family accommodation; basic amenities/facilities for the troops and their families; efforts to provide telephone facilities to troops on the border; transparent leave policy; regular

interaction, both formal and informal, between commanders/officers and troops; Yoga classes for better stress management; recreational and sports facilities; revamping of grievances redressal machinery; introduction of Composite Hospitals with specialized facilities; Centre Police Canteen facilities for all the serving and Ex CPMF personnel and constitution of Welfare and Rehabilitation Board (WARB) to look into the welfare and rehabilitation requirements of 'Next of Kins' ex CPMF personnel.

SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that only one woman has reached the post of Inspector General in CISF as well as that the gender bias is also evident in that women are entrusted lighter duties like frisking at airports, heritage sites and Metro while men predominate in providing security to vital installations like nuclear plants, space centres, oil refineries, seaports, coal fields, steel plants, VVIP areas and Government offices.

MR. SPEAKER: Does it arise?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your support for the particular gender is appreciated. I think the hon. Minister can send him the information.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I will send him the information. But in short, I would like to say what he has stated is not correct.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Hon. Minister, has the Delhi High Court ruling striking down the discriminatory promotion criteria in the BSF between those on active field duty and those on desk jobs been implemented? Does this also serve as a precedent for other five sister Services—ITBP, CISF, CRPF, Assam Rifles & Sashastra Seema Bal? This is about High Court judgement.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the judgements given by the Judiciary are binding on the Government and they will certainly be implemented. I do not know which judgement is referred to and without understanding what is written in that judgement, I will not be able to respond properly.

MR. SPEAKER: Unless there is an appeal pending!

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs whether the number of the personnel of central Para-military forces who have availed themselves of voluntary retirements during the last three years from CRPF, CISF, BSF and other, is available with the Government? Is it a fact that a communication gap usually exists between the officers and the soldiers? I would like to submit particularly, through you sir, that humanitarian approach should be adopted when there is a wedding in the family of a soldier, if his mother or father dies, if his wife is ill. At that time he cannot be present before the boss for taking leave and the Commander Sahib does not give him time to meet. Consequently he becomes frustrated and is compelled to quit his service. Through you, I would like to know from the Government whether they propose to take some special initiative to ask the officers to adopt humanitarian attitude and establish harmonious relations between officers and soldiers.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I have got the figures. I can give figures. The number of personnel who have resigned from the BSF during 2005, 2006 and 2007 is 236, 222 and 151 respectively. The corresponding figures in respect of the CISF are 226, 194 and 185. In respect of the CISF they are 125, 223 and 183. In case of the ITBP they are 60, 66 and 33. No one has resigned from NSG. In the SSB 12, 64 and 105 personnel have resigned during the above period. These are the figures. As far as giving permission to a soldier to visit his hometown is concerned, I think, it is governed by rules and regulations. It becomes mandatory for their officers to act in accordance with those rules. If they do not do so, some may get this facility and some may not but it should not be done. Therefore, it is observed that whatever is possible in accordance with the law, should be done. If any unpleasant incident as you referred to occurs in the family or there is a happy occasion like marriage in the family of a soldier and it becomes necessary for a soldier to visit his hometown, in that case the rule can be interpreted in such a way that the soldier could get the facility of leave. The higher officers have also been asked to act accordingly.

[*English*]

Statutory Body for Higher Education

*86. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in an effort to regulate distance and online education courses in India, the Government

proposes to set up a statutory body that will also monitor courses being provided by the foreign Universities/Colleges through internet;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has prepared a draft bill to provide legal backing to the Distance Education Council; and

(c) if so, the time by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

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

Statement

A proposal, to establish an independent statutory body for promotion, coordination, determination and regulation of standards in the open and distance education system, which includes on-line education, is in an advanced stage of consideration. This Statutory body is also proposed to be empowered to regulate the entry and operation of foreign distance education providers.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, the initiative of distance education has acquired a new dimension. Thousands and thousands of students are aspiring to avail of this opportunity through the correspondence and online education. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the facility of IITs and IIMs is available in the form of correspondence courses online for those who have not been selected in IITs and IIMs.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, IITs and IIMs are not available in correspondence courses. However, it is up to the Institutes to decide whether they would want to extend that kind of facility to the students.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: The students have given representations from time to time that they have some grievances about not providing the certificates; recognition not being given to their certificates in other Universities, etc. Is there any proposal with the Government so that these are accepted in almost all the Universities throughout the country?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, the presence of the Distant Education Council (DEC) is a statutory authority with the Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), which is responsible for determining and also coordinating the standards of Distant Education. However, some of the self-financing deemed Universities and other Universities have started offering Distant Education Programmes, and they do not want to abide by the DEC because they feel that DEC is not an authority to control a deemed-to-be University or a University. However, the 172nd Report of the Standing Committee on Human

Resource Development has suggested or recommended the formation of the DEC, which is under consideration.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I would like to know this. Is the DEC—which is now functioning—doing their work under a statute or merely on an Executive Order? What is the position of bringing a new statute to give them some recognition?

The Distant Education Universities and Foreign Universities award degrees. Are they recognized by the Government of India under any statute? What is the status of those degrees? Do you propose to bring in a new statute to monitor all these activities?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, as I have already mentioned that the DEC is a statutory authority of the IGNOU under Section 16 statute 28 of the IGNOU Act of 1985. However, as I had mentioned earlier, many of the deemed-to-be Universities and Universities are not considering DEC as an authority to control the Distant Education.

The Minstry of HRD is now considering bringing the DEC Act in the Parliament. It is presently with the Legislative Department, and soon we would come forward to the House with the concerned Act.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how many students are studying in these universities? What is the reservation policy for the students of SC/ST? How many SC/ST students are there out of them?

[English]

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, in all, there are about 18.33 lakh students enrolled in various State Open Universities, and other Distant Education modes also. But as regards the exact numbers of SC and ST students, we do not maintain it Centrally as it is the Universities that maintain this number.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 87—Shri Suresh Angadi—not present.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

Expenditure on Education

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*87. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to raise the expenditure on education during the Eleventh Five Year Plan in comparison to the Tenth Five Year Plan as reported in the *Financial Express* dated December 14, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of GDP the Government proposes to spend on Education during the Eleventh Plan period against the targets of National Common Minimum Programme; and

(d) the extent to which the education sector is likely to be benefited?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) Eleventh Five Year Plan allocation of Rs. 2,69,873 crore provided to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Rs. 1,84,930 crore for the Department of School Education & Literacy and Rs. 84,943 crore for Department of Higher Education), constitutes 19.4% of the total XI Plan allocation, as compared to 7.7% in the X Five Year Plan. This substantial increase in Central Plan Outlay for education represents a very substantial effort on the part of the Central Government towards raising public spending on education towards the goal of 6% of GDP. Overall progress towards this goal, would however, also depend on the efforts made by the State Governments.

(d) The increased allocation during XI Plan is expected to lead to increased access while ensuring quality and inclusiveness.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir. It is quite necessary to spend more money on education to build an inclusive society. But so far we have failed to achieve the Constitutional commitment with regard to universal education. This House had the privilege to extend the time limit of 10 years after 1960 onwards to reach this goal.

Various Commissions recommended so many things on public spending and education. We have taken the Kothari Commission Report as the ideal one. The Kothari

Commission has recommended spending about six per cent of the GDP on education. It was also assured to the country that we will be able to spend six per cent of the GDP on education at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan. This Government has also committed in its Common Minimum Programme (CMP) that they will be able to spend six per cent of the GDP on education during their tenure. Sir, this is their last year, and they have failed to achieve the target of spending six per cent of GDP on public education.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: They have assured in the written reply that during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, they will be able to spend five per cent of GDP on education. I would like to have a categorical reply from the Minister as to why they have failed to spend six per cent of GDP on education, which they have committed to the nation. During the Eleventh Plan period also, the target of spending six per cent of the GDP on education cannot be achieved. I would like to know whether they will be able to spend more money on education so that we can at least spend six per cent of GDP on education during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

MR. SPEAKER: No repetition is necessary.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, the gross budgetary support given to the education sector in the Tenth Plan was a little over seven per cent, but in the Eleventh Plan, it is 19.3 per cent. So, we have been increasing our allocations for the education sector. However, through you, Sir, I would like to apprise the Member that the six per cent that we have promised to spend on education is totally not what the Government of India would be pitching in; it is both the Government of India as well as the State Governments put together. The share of the Government of India has been increasing over the years, but the State Government's fund allocation, unfortunately, has been declining over the years. Even as I appreciate the concern of the Member, I would like to appeal to all the Members, through you, Sir, to put pressure on their respective State Governments to ensure that they pitch in their quantity of the allocation also towards education. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you are very unhappy if the Question Hour goes smoothly!

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: This was the constitutional commitment of the Government of India and that is why, after every ten years, this House has the privilege to extend the time by another ten years so as to achieve the goal of universal education. It is also the

duty of the Government of India to look into the issue of whether the State Governments are spending or not.

MR. SPEAKER: It is in the Concurrent List.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: My question to which I want a categorical reply is whether the Government of India is also spending six per cent of GDP on education or not. They should assure us that they would be able to spend six per cent of GDP on education during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, it is public spending which is required to be six per cent, and that public spending would be done by both the Central Government and the State Governments put together.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned just now that the share of the State Governments is slightly decreasing in comparison with what is being invested by the Union Government in the education sector. It is not correct, I am sorry to say. In our Kerala State, it is increasing year after year. Here, the State Government's share is increasing year after year whereas the investment by the Union Government is decreasing year after year. I would like to know, through you, Sir, from the hon. Minister from where she is quoting these statistics and from which records she got these statistics.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: We have the statistics and I can always send it to the hon. Member for his scrutiny. But with reference to the States, I would definitely like to emphasize once again that the share of the States has been declining considerably over the years. Once again, I would like to appeal through the House to the State Governments to ensure that they increase their allocation for education.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, the Minister mentioned just now that since the States have decreased their share, they are not achieving the target. So far as West Bengal is concerned, they have increased their share by more than ten per cent. I would like to know from the Minister which are the States which have decreased their allocation on education.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the question.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, I can always send the information to the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on blaming the State Governments here.

Investment in Small Scale Sector

*88. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment made in each State including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises during each of the last three years, Sector-wise and State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the employment generated in each of these sectors; and

(c) the number of these enterprises owned by physically challenged people, Sector-wise?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Estimation of the total fixed investment and employment in the micro and small enterprises sector in India (including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa) are made on the basis of the results of the Third all India Census for the Small Scale Industries conducted during 2001-02. These estimates for last three years are given below in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively. State/Union Territory-wise details of estimated fixed investment are given in the Annexure enclosed. Since the medium enterprises were for the first time defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 which came into force w.e.f. October 2, 2006, information in respect of fixed investment and employment in the medium enterprise sector is not available.

Table 1

Sector	Fixed Investment (Rs. Crore)		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1. Micro enterprise	1,02,945	1,07,983	1,13,023
2. Small enterprise	85,848	90,067	94,284
Total	1,88,793	1,98,050	2,07,307

Table 2

Sector	Employment (Lakh persons)		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1. Micro enterprise	185.81	193.87	202.15
2. Small enterprise	101.75	105.98	110.37
Total	287.56	299.85	312.52

(c) The information in respect of enterprises owned by physically challenged people is not available.

Annexure

State/UT-Wise Details of the Estimated Fixed Investment Made by Micro & Small Enterprises during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Fixed Investment (Rs. Crore)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	1566	1652	1738
2.	Himachal Pradesh	952	1042	1104

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Punjab	12675	12929	13186
4.	Chandigarh	570	588	604
5.	Uttaranchal	1929	2096	2294
6.	Haryana	8545	8786	9052
7.	Delhi	7520	7712	7913
8.	Rajasthan	8399	8873	9254
9.	Uttar Pradesh	21858	23407	24852
10.	Bihar	3121	3251	3392
11.	Sikkim	13	13	14
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	39	40	42
13.	Nagaland	474	524	601
14.	Manipur	399	413	428
15.	Mizoram	145	155	167
16.	Tripura	358	370	384
17.	Meghalaya	173	187	202
18.	Assam	1342	1399	1451
19.	West Bengal	6221	6424	6638
20.	Jharkhand	745	787	839
21.	Orissa	2429	2530	2640
22.	Chhattisgarh	2282	2351	2420
23.	Madhya Pradesh	4233	4481	4723
24.	Gujarat	13336	13908	14327
25.	Daman and Diu	3842	4039	4216
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
27.	Maharashtra	36271	38644	41197
28.	Andhra Pradesh	13663	14047	14480
29.	Karnataka	10143	10672	11206
30.	Goa	809	839	855
31.	Lakshadweep	11	12	13

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Kerala	8476	8748	8998
33.	Tamil Nadu	15492	16335	17252
34.	Pondicherry	706	742	766
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	54	56	58
	All India	188793	198050	207307

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a table in which details of investment and employment in the micro and small scale enterprises sector are given. Gandhiji had a dream that there should be more employment avenues for the poor, but now-a-days employment opportunities are decreasing and investment is also low. Due to that the situation is that the people are forced to migrate to other States in search of job where they are brutally beaten. In these circumstances, I would request the Government to create more employment opportunities by providing special packages in the micro and small scale sector particularly in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and their adjoining States. So, my question is whether the Government will take initiatives in this regard?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member just talked about of providing a special package. As a matter of fact we are working in this sector by treating the whole India as a unit. The hon'ble Member has asked particularly about Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that we have given a very big package. This package is very big; so I will send him a copy of it. We are further exploring the way by which this sector is likely to be developed as a unit in the whole country because this is the Ministry which can generate employment. For this purpose the Ministry has provided a special package last month. I will arrange sending of a copy of this package to the hon'ble Member for reference.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I am sitting beside you, so, please supply me a copy just now ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to say that a large number of micro and small scale industries have been lying closed

because of loan burden. The Government have taken a very bold step in the budget. I would like to know from the Minister as to what steps the Government are contemplating to take to revive the micro and small scale enterprises either by waiving off their loans or the interests thereon?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of waiving loans is a policy matter. In this regard we act on the basis of reports of the Reserve Bank of India. Now the hon'ble Members want the loans of these entrepreneurs to be waived off. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: You should at least waive off the interest of their loans. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: This year budget is very good. Please go through the entire budget. Through you, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance. If you want something to be done, I will definitely consider what more we can do in the States in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in small and medium scale industries, there is a scope for employment of a large section of unemployed people. However, due to certain policies, these small-scale industries, cottage industries, medium and micro industries are facing a crisis.

MR. SPEAKER: Please give time for reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: A large number of small industries have been closed during the last several years.

I would like to know from the Minister as to what steps the Government is contemplating to take to revive our traditional and rural industries—small, cottage, micro and medium industries—so that a large number of people can be employed.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply because there is no time left.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Members have raised a question how to revive these enterprises. In this context last year we have set up a 'Sphoorti Scheme' with a fund of Rs. 100 crore. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Rs. 100 crore is a very small amount what can be done with this meagre amount?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow him to reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: With this package we are running the 'Sphoorti scheme' to revive the traditional industries in which growth is slowing down gradually.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to the hon. Members of all sides for a very peaceful and productive Question Hour. It shows that we can do very good work for which I seek your kind co-operation.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Thank you. We also appreciate this.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Import of Pulses

*81. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of pulses imported in the country during each of the last three years and also during this year, country-wise; and

(b) the total foreign exchange incurred thereon, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Data of total quantity of pulses imported during each of the last three years and for the period April-October of this financial year, country-wise and value-wise, is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Countries	Apr-2004-Mar-2005		Apr-2005-Mar-2006		Apr-2006-Mar-2007		Apr-2007-Oct-2007 (Provisional)	
	Qty (Tons)	Value (Rs. Lakh)	Qty (Tons)	Value (Rs. Lakh)	Qty (Tons)	Value (Rs. Lakh)	Qty (Tons)	Value (Rs. Lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Afghanistan Tis	40	6.84						
Argentina					48	5.78		
Australia	78095	9586.95	91629	14187.75	194198	36374.57	68271	13323.58
Brazil					48	14.21	896	277.96
Canada	474002	51855.45	672887	67343.08	905325	106396.60	765273	119573.87
Taiwan					498	64.89		
China PRP	27278	4957.85	39280	8187.73	59423	18228.05	6494	2165.94

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
South Africa			25	2.82	415	110.37		
Sri Lanka DSR					37	6.83		
Switzerland	577	121.42						
Tanzania Rep	28019	4585.25	48450	8025.73	33267	7171.81	18883	4353.82
Thailand	277	38.81	691	162.20	2057	692.32	250	84.50
Turkey	18995	4125.23	18284	5115.86	2970	1095.08	1397	382.50
Uganda					44	13.35		
U Arab Emis.	352	84.87	92	22.31				
UK	22	2.79			1	0.35		
Ukraine	14875	1531.21	31169	2928.44	121526	13426.42	21003	2993.59
USA	4953	717.43	52248	6274.46	146350	18584.35	118968	17821.78
Uruguay							24	3.70
Uzbekistan	2040	370.08	1481	369.59	2419	844.27	427	140.11
Unspecified			238	37.58	9	1.48	124	27.45
Total	1339442	177757.74	1696327	247713.03	2270966	369191.11	1530704	281858.41

P-Provisional.

Source-DGCI&P.

*[English]***Court Directions on Strikes**

*89. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that inspite of the directions of the Supreme Court and the High Courts, strikes are called out at times by various political and non-political organizations which throws general life out of gears;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has instructed the State Governments and Union Territory administrations to follow the instructions in letter and spirit;

(d) if so, whether the State Governments have followed the instructions;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (f) There have been instances of calls given by political parties and non political organizations for general strike, hartals/bandhs affecting normal life and general routine of the public, in spite of court's orders. Law and order is a State subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, and it is the responsibility of the State Governments to deal with such demonstrations and strikes, etc., as per the law. The Central Government monitors the law and order situation in the country on a regular basis. In the process, the Central Government also maintains close contact with State Governments besides sharing information with them. Whenever

necessary, advisories are also sent to the State Governments, from time to time. On many occasions, the Central Government, on the request of the State Government(s) also provides assistance in the form of deployment of Central security forces to aid the States to effectively deal with the situation. The State Governments and the Central Government are bound by law to follow the rulings of the Courts.

**Standard of Education in Government
Primary Schools**

*90 SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a Government report on elementary education released on January 22, 2008 only about 43 per cent of the students in Government schools passed with more than 60 per cent marks at the primary level with girls doing slightly better than boys;

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

(c) the steps taken to improve the standard of education at the primary level?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) collects elementary school statistics annually through the District Information System for Education (DISE) from all districts in the country. According to DISE data 2006-07, 45.04% students passed with 60% and above marks, at the exit classes of the primary stage. Girls have performed slightly better than boys, and the percentage of girls and boys passing with 60% and above marks is 45.12% and 44.96% respectively.

State-wise percentage of boys and girls securing 60% and above marks in the examination at the end of Grade IV/V, as per District Information System (DISE) data 2006-07, is given in the statement enclosed.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes recruitment of 8.32 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in service training of teachers for a period of 20 days every year, free distribution of textbooks for primary and upper primary classes to about 6.5 crore Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and girl students, academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6395 Block Resource Centres and 68352 Cluster Resource Centres and regular evaluation of students.

Statement

State-wise percentage of boys and girls securing 60% and above marks in the examination at the end of Grade IV/V, as per District Information System (DISE) data 2006-07, by National University of Educational Planning and Administration.

Sl.No.	State/UT	Examination Results: 2006-07 (Grade IV/V)	
		Boys Passed with 60% & above marks	Girls Passed with 60% & above marks
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	52.49	58.52
2.	Andhra Pradesh	68.55	67.57
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.67	19.77
4.	Assam	27.17	25.70
5.	Bihar	37.24	37.55

1	2	3	4
6.	Chandigarh	55.24	59.32
7.	Chhattisgarh	46.07	45.87
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	56.41	55.12
9.	Daman and Diu	35.55	44.74
10.	Delhi	54.89	63.29
11.	Goa	50.90	55.86
12.	Gujarat	55.64	57.88
13.	Haryana	35.91	36.87
14.	Himachal Pradesh	52.18	55.77
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	49.90	49.95
16.	Jharkhand	28.61	27.41
17.	Karnataka	65.16	65.83
18.	Kerala	54.90	58.34
19.	Lakshadweep	37.61	40.96
20.	Madhya Pradesh	21.31	20.48
21.	Maharashtra	54.38	56.05
22.	Manipur	24.86	24.09
23.	Meghalaya	21.25	22.94
24.	Mizoram	22.19	24.62
25.	Nagaland	22.98	23.42
26.	Orissa	14.89	14.00
27.	Pondicherry	52.13	54.73
28.	Punjab	26.43	28.52
29.	Rajasthan	53.47	49.18
30.	Sikkim	21.98	19.07
31.	Tamil Nadu	65.02	69.97
32.	Tripura	13.64	14.14
33.	Uttar Pradesh	37.77	35.74
34.	Uttarakhand	38.20	35.28
35.	West Bengal	46.08	44.77
All States		44.96	45.12

Equity Funding and Design Intervention Schemes

*91. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch equity funding and design intervention schemes for micro, small and medium enterprises to improve their competitiveness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to improve availability of finances for the units of this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when these initiatives are likely to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) For providing equity support to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has set up SIDBI Venture Capital Limited (SVCL). SVCL is managing two funds, namely, National Venture Fund for Software and Information Technology and SME Growth Fund with a corpus size of Rs. 100 crore and Rs. 500 crore respectively. In addition, SIDBI has allocated a corpus of Rs. 100 crore to directly provide equity assistance to well performing existing MSME customers of SIDBI.

For enhancing the competitiveness of the Indian manufacturing sector, the Government has announced the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP). Design Intervention is a part of the NMCP that aims to bring the MSME sector and design expertise on a common platform and to provide expert advice and solutions on design problems.

(c) and (d) The Government has announced a 'Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)' on 10 August 2005. The measures in the Policy Package to increase the quantum of credit to SMEs (including micro and small enterprises) include: (i) public sector banks to fix their own targets for funding SMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20% year-on-year growth in credit to the SME sector, (ii) public sector banks to follow a transparent rating system with cost of credit being linked to the credit rating of the enterprise, (c) commercial banks to make concerted efforts to provide

credit cover on an average to at least 5 new micro, small and medium enterprises at each of their semi urban/urban branches per year, and (d) adoption of cluster-based approach by banks for SME financing.

(e) The Scheme for equity support is already under operation and the Scheme for Design Intervention is presently under finalisation.

Monsoon predictions

*92. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any improvement in the capacity to make precise predictions about monsoons in India in the last few years;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has analysed the reasons for the inexact predictions about the droughts and floods in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been an improvement in capacity to make precise predictions of monsoon in India, but not upto the full satisfaction of the Government.

Forecasting of monsoon requires world class infrastructure operationalized digitally, human resource equipped and trained to analyse the data and a dissemination network with connectivity to reach last mile user. India has been lagging on all the three fronts. Efforts have been made on all the fronts to enable us to improve capacity to make precise predictions of monsoon during the past three years.

The Government has cleared a massive modernization plan with an investment of Rs. 920 crores in next 2 years to build world class weather forecasting infrastructure. We are in the process of revamping India

Meteorological Department (IMD) and train human resource by upgrading skills to analyse data provided by such infrastructure. We are also seeking help of world class experts for revamping the processes within and seeking to create new employment opportunities so that trained personnel, whether within or outside the country become part of the process of making prediction of the monsoon more precise. We have also decided to access the best models available outside India for prediction of Indian monsoon.

India being a tropical country, the weather prediction is a complex and challenging scientific task. However, effort to improve the accuracy of weather forecasting is being attempted on a continuous basis.

Several steps were taken in recent years to improve the accuracy of short and medium range weather forecasts. These include: implementation of a higher resolution (50km) global weather forecast model, a 27 km resolution meso-scale (Indian-sub-continent scale) model; assimilation of additional satellite observations; adoption of a multi-model Man-Machine-Mix approach and setting up of a network of 125 automatic weather stations (AWS) which facilitated hourly monitoring of significant weather events.

(c) to (e) The day-to-day prediction of floods and monitoring of drought situation over an area comes under the ambit of short and medium range weather forecasting, which has shown improvement during last few years. Following systems of flood prediction and drought monitoring are in place on operational basis:

- (i) India Meteorological Department (IMD) monitors river sub-catchment scale rainfall scenario based on rainfall data of IMD, Central Water Commission (CWC) and State Governments. Using these data, Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF) is provided to CWC, the nodal agency for flood forecasting and warnings.
- (ii) For agricultural drought management at smaller geographical scale, an Agro-advisory Service (AAS) is being run by IMD at agro-climatic zone (cluster of 3-4 districts) level. AAS units, located at 107 agro-climatic zones, are provided with 4 days in advance forecasts twice a week for preparation and dissemination of crop-specific agro-advisories.

Drought being a phenomenon of longer duration and larger spatial extent, prediction of its occurrence severity and duration is done through long range forecast system

over a time scale of a month to season. IMD implemented a long range forecast model for the monsoon-2007, which had the capability of predicting seasonal drought conditions. The model is being further fine-tuned for issuing long range forecast of rainfall for monsoon-2008.

[Translation]

Conference on Federal Crimes

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

(a) whether recently an International Conference was held in India to address the issue of tackling federal crimes;

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

(c) the names of the countries that participated in this conference; and

(d) the follow-up action proposed by the Government on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):
(a) As per the available information, no international Conference was held in India on the issue of tackling federal crimes.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Teaching of English Language at the Primary Level

*94. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to teach English language from the primary level itself in all the schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the move to teach English language is contradictory to the recommendation of the Kothari Commission of 1964 which favoured mother tongue as the medium of instruction in primary schools; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) The State Governments/Union Territory (UT) Administrations decide the curriculum of elementary education. Nearly all States in the country have introduced English as a subject at some stage of the primary level of education.

[English]

Exports and Imports

*95. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the extent of actual increase in exports and imports against the targets set during the last three years alongwith the percentage of increase and also the details of the targets fixed for the next two years; and

(b) the special steps taken by the Government to achieve the export targets in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Targets and achievements of India's exports during the last three years as well as their extent of increase and corresponding growth rates are given in the Table below:

Exports: Targets & Achievements

Year	Export target (US\$ Billion)	Export performance (US\$ Billion)	Extent of increase of export against Target (US\$ Billion)	Growth Rate of Exports (%)
2004-05	75	83.5	+8.50	30.85
2005-06	92	103.1	+11.1	23.41
2006-07	125	126.3	+1.3	22.48

Data Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

While an export target of US\$ 160 billion has been set for the year 2007-08, the target of export for 2008-09 has not yet been finalised. However, no targets are fixed for the imports. The value of imports along with their annual growth rates for the last three years is given in the following table:

Imports: Performance

Year	Imports (US\$ Billion)	Growth Rate (%)
2004-05	111.5	42.70
2005-06	149.2	33.76
2006-07	185.6	24.43

Data Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

(b) Government has taken several initiatives in accordance with the Foreign Trade Policy and its Annual Supplements for promoting exports. These initiatives include bringing into force the SEZ Act 2005 and

implementation of the Focus Product Scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana, Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme etc. Apart from this, special package have also been announced during 2007-08 in respect of export items adversely affected by the appreciation of Rupee.

[Translation]

Educational Facilities in Rural and Urban Areas

*96. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) the break-up of percentage of availability of education in the rural and urban areas in terms of vocational, University and technical education in the country;

(b) whether the ratio of rural areas in the above kind of education is quite low;

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the achievement as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Human Resource Development does not maintain data regarding availability of education in the rural and urban areas in terms of vocational, university and technical education in the country.

However, it is a fact that there are significant disparities in the availability of colleges in the rural and urban areas in the country. Over three fifths of colleges imparting courses in general education are located in urban areas. This figure is over 80% in the case of technical and professional colleges.

With a view to remedy the situation, in the XI Plan the following measures are proposed:

- (i) To give support for starting of 370 colleges in districts where the Gross Enrolment Ratio is lower than the national average. Most of these districts also have a concentration of SCs, STs and Minorities.
- (ii) To support over 6000 colleges which were not hitherto given any funding by UGC.
- (iii) To launch a scheme of Incentivising State Governments for expansion and starting of new institutions of Higher Education.

The University Grants Commission provides special grants to universities and colleges located in backward areas to improve their infrastructure to a level where these institutions are able to introduce innovations and meet challenges of globalization of higher education.

On the vocational education side, a scheme for the establishment of 600 new Polytechnics in Government and PPP mode and promotion of another 400 Polytechnics in the private sector is on the anvil. The above proposal will ensure provision of support for starting a Polytechnic in every district, which does not have a Polytechnic at present.

[English]

Loan to Students

*97. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a loan scheme for the students and subsidise the interest on higher study loans in view of the increasing fee in the field of higher education;

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

(c) the criteria adopted by the Government to get waiver of interest on educational loans;

(d) the number of students likely to be benefited under this scheme; and

(e) the time by when this scheme is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) A proposal to introduce a scheme for providing interest subsidy during the moratorium period covering the duration of the professional course plus one year or 6 months from the date of employment whichever is earlier, on the educational loans taken by students having lower than a specified parental income, for pursuing professional education in India under the revised Model Educational Loan Scheme formulated by the Indian Banks' Association, is under consideration of the Government.

Competition From Chinese Plastic Exporters

*98. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Plastic Exporters are facing stiff competition from China in the wake of rupee appreciation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to provide more sops to the plastic industry to compete with all the countries in the world market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Irrespective of rupee appreciation, Indian plastic exporters have been facing stiff competition from China mainly in plastic consumer items and other plastic processed articles. The percentage of Chinese imports of plastics to India have shown an upward trend.

(c) to (e) Indian plastic industry is also provided benefit of financial assistance under Market Access Initiative and Market Development Assistance schemes for promotion of exports along with neutralization of taxes and duties as per provision of Foreign Trade Policy.

FDI in Infrastructure, High Technology and Exports

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

(a) whether FDI should be encouraged in the areas of infrastructure, high technology and exports as per National Common Minimum Programme; and

(b) if so, the status of FDI in these sectors during each of the last three years as on date, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) As per extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is permitted under the automatic route in most of the sectors. FDI is a means to supplement domestic investment for achieving a higher level of economic development and providing opportunities for technological upgradation as well as access to global managerial skills and practices. With forward and backward linkages and access to international quality goods and services, FDI brings in capital and also provides access to modern technology and best practice.

(b) A statement on year-wise FDI inflow in Infrastructure Sector during April 2004 to December 2007 is enclosed.

Statement

Year-wise FDI Inflows From April 2004 to December 2007

Sector: Infrastructure

(Amount in US\$ million)

S.No.	Sector	2004-05 Apr-Mar	2005-06 Apr-Mar	2006-07 Apr-Mar	2007-08 Apr-Dec	Total
1.	Power	52.94	87.09	157.47	227.62	525.13
2.	Non-Conventional Energy	0.01	0.11	2.11	7.57	9.81
3.	Petroleum & Natural Gas	113.47	14.17	89.37	316.44	533.44
4.	Telecommunications	124.53	623.55	477.74	1,043.01	2,268.83
5.	Air Transport (Including Air Freight)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.14
6.	Ports	13.04	0.50	0.00	0.00	13.55
7.	Construction Activities	152.00	150.58	985.36	1,015.40	2,303.34
8.	Housing & Real Estate (Including Cineplex, Multiplex, Integrated Townships & Commercial Complexes Etc.)	0.00	38.04	467.34	1,485.62	1,991.00
Grand Total		456.00	914.04	2,179.39	4,095.80	7,645.23

[*Translation*]

International Conspiracy Among the Terrorists

*100. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorist outfits spreading violence in the country conspire with each other at international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of terrorist outfits which are so conspiring at international level and are responsible for spreading violence in the country;

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to get information on the activities of these outfits till date; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Available information and reports indicate that most individuals and groups indulging in terrorist activities in India, have links with terrorist groups and agencies across the border mainly in Pakistan/PoK. The main groups involved in terrorist activities and incidents in India, and have international networks, are the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (Let), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami (HUJI), Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), Al-Badr, etc.

The security and intelligence agencies closely monitor the activities of such groups and networks, and relevant information and inputs in this regard are also being regularly shared with the State Governments. Close vigilance and surveillance is being maintained on the borders to check and control possible infiltration of terrorist elements into the country. Other measures taken in this regard, include border fencing/floodlighting and strengthening of arrangements for coastal security.

Further, given the external imperatives of terrorist activities and violence in various parts of the country, action is also being taken at the international level through bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation to check and counter

terrorism and several institutional mechanisms have been developed towards this end. These, *inter-alia*, include Home Secretary Level Talks with Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan, Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on Counter Terrorism with 25 countries and 2 regional groups viz. European Union (EU) and the way of Bengal initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economical Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATS) in criminal matters with 22 countries, and Extradition Treaties with 26 countries. Further, India is an active member of the Global Coalition against terrorism and it is a signatory to all UN Security Council Resolutions on counter terrorism and is an active partner in all UN measures to combat the menace of Global Terrorism.

Changes in National Literacy Mission

805. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to launch new schemes/programmes by bringing changes in the National Literacy Mission;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement such schemes in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) In 2007-08, the schemes of "Literacy Campaigns & Operation Restoration" and "Continuing Education Programme" have been merged into one scheme known as "Adult Education and Skill Development". Similarly, the schemes of "Support to NGOs in the field of Adult Education" and "Jan Shikshan Sansthan" have also been merged into one scheme known as "Support to NGOs/Institutions/SRCs for Adult Education and Skill Development". In view of the merger of the schemes, some modifications in the programme, strategies and the financial parameters are underway.

Release of Prisoners

806. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh ordered the release of approximately 1500 prisoners on 15th August 2007;

(b) if so, whether some of them were imprisoned for heinous crimes and some of them were facing life terms;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has expressed reservation on the release of prisoners in such a manner; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Supreme Court in its order dated 29th January, 2008 in Writ Petition (Crl.) No. 135 of 2003 titled Anil Sharma vs. State of Haryana & Anr. with connected matters has observed that since the alleged prematurely released 1500 hardcore prisoners were not brought before the court, it would be difficult to give effective relief in exercise of the power under Article 32 of the Constitution. However, if there are instances of the power being exercised arbitrarily by the State Government for the release of prisoner, it is open to the petitioner to challenge such arbitrary exercise of power before the High Court under Article 226 of the Constitution after impleading the prisoners released prematurely as respondents. Subject to the aforesaid observation the Supreme Court dismissed the writ petition.

Bifurcation of UGC

807. SHRI PUSP JAIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bifurcate University Grants Commission into four separate autonomous bodies for better expansion of higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Revised Norms for Admission In B.Ed. Colleges

808. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has revised the norms for admission and recruitment of teachers in B.Ed. colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for lowering the eligibility marks for the course and basic qualification for principals; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of teaching in B.Ed. colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has, vide NCTE (Recognition Norms & Procedure) Regulations, 2007 notified on 10 December, 2007, revised the norms for admission of students to B.Ed. programme and qualification for appointment of academic staff in colleges imparting such programmes. The norms, *inter alia*, provide that candidates with at least 45% marks, either in the Bachelor's Degree and/or in the Master's degree or any other qualification equivalent thereto, are eligible for admission to the programme. The norms relating to qualification for post of Principal and other teaching faculty have also been revised under the said Regulation.

(c) The Norms and Standards for B.Ed. Courses notified on 18.11.2002 alongwith the Regulations, 2002 prescribed 45% as the minimum marks in Bachelor/Master degree for admission to B.Ed. Course. This was subsequently raised to 50% in the Norms and Standards for B.Ed. Course notified on 21.07.2006. Due to references

received from several States for lowering the minimum marks to 45% and restoring it to the norms of 2002, the Norms notified by NCTE in 2007 have restored the position stipulated in 2002.

Acute shortage of candidates with Ph.Ds in Education discipline and insufficient number of candidates having Masters' degree with M.Ed. led to a large number of vacancies at various level in B.Ed. Colleges. In view of various suggestions received for lowering of basic qualifications for Principals, the norms and qualification requirement were relaxed to allow persons holding Master's Degree with B.Ed. (55% marks) for appointment as lecturer in B.Ed. Colleges.

(d) The NCTE continuously strives to ensure adherence to its Regulations, norms and standards by the various teacher training institutions, so as to maintain the desired quality in such institutions. In this direction, the Regulation of 2007 has stipulated that institutions running secondary level teacher training programmes like B.Ed. and B.P.Ed. would have to obtain accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a 'letter grade B' developed by NAAC before seeking additional intake in these programmes.

[*Translation*]

Funds for Gallantry Award Winners

809. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides funds to the soldiers who have been given Gallantry awards;

(b) if so, the details of amount provided during each of the last three years to each soldier, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) As stated by the Ministry of Defence the Government of India provide monetary allowance to soldiers who have been given gallantry awards. The details are as follows:

Name of Gallantry Award	Rate of monetary allowance (Rupees per month)
Param Vir Chakra	1500
Ashok Chakra	1400
Maha Vir Chakra	1200
Kirti Chakra	1050
Vir Chakra	850
Shaurya Chakra	750
Sena/Nao Sena/Vayu Sena Medal (where the awards have been given for gallantry)	250

The monetary allowances are given directly to the award winning soldiers or their families as the case may be. However, no funds are provided to the States for the purpose. Certain State Governments also extend monetary incentives to the award winners from their own resources.

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

Central University Status to State Universities

810. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from various States particularly Madhya Pradesh for conferring Central University status to the State Universities; and

(b) the present status of the proposals and decisions taken thereon by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Proposals have been received for grant of Central University status to State Universities from 17 States, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. During the XI Plan, it is proposed to set up Central Universities in 16 States, including Madhya Pradesh, which do not have Central Universities.

[English]

**Financial Assistance to States for
Export Development**

811. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided to States for development of export infrastructure and allied activities during the last two years and in the current year, State-wise particularly Karnataka;

(b) whether any guidelines has been issued by the Union Government for the utilization of Central grants;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the performance of each State in export earnings;

(e) whether there is any proposal to give special incentives to the States to increase the country's export; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND

INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (d) Department of Commerce is currently implementing Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme to provide financial assistance to States for developing infrastructure critical for exports. Details of funds provided to States is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) Chapter 9 of the 'General Financial Rules' deals with grant-in-aid and loans. Besides, the Ministry of Finance has been issuing guidelines, from time to time, on 'Austerity Measures' in the Government. Such measures are intended at promoting fiscal discipline, without restricting the operational efficiency of the Government. These guidelines, *inter-alia* provide that the unspent balances available with the States and implementing agencies must be taken into account before further releases are made, no further transfers be made to a reserve fund until unspent balance in the fund have been utilized and the sanction for payment must clearly specify either that the payee has no utilization certificates as due for rendition under the Rules or that the payment has been authorized by the Department of Expenditure.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Funds released under ASIDE scheme and Export performance State-wise

S.No.	State	Amount Released 05-06 (Rs. In lac)	Amount Released 06-07 (Rs. In Lac)	Amount Released 07-08 (Rs. In lac) as on 27.2.2008	Export during 2005-06 (INR)	Export during 2006-07 (INR)	% growth of exports during 2006-07 over 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1545.00	1700.00	2120.00	178475201306	247916068628	38.91
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.000	92707069	272300328	193.72
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	3632665396	3451850027	-4.98
4.	Chandigarh	320.00	175.00	0.00	2092259500	3367090618	60.83
5.	Chhattisgarh	500.00	550.00	160.00	16300405067	15900308510	-2.45
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	5512410612	10418661765	89.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	6726830336	91010072338	35.29
8.	Delhi	265.00	145.00	0.00	232839002402	220827507777	-5.16
9.	Goa	609.00	0.00	670.00	56658276195	64438198945	13.73
10.	Gujarat	4338.00	4770.00	3017.00	645388852355	1095455153807	69.74
11.	Haryana	1405.00	772.00	1545.00	144824725657	171567352773	18.63
12.	Himachal Pradesh	553.00	600.00	600.00	8610944231	12485293258	44.99
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	525.00	580.00	580.00	3216621451	2920221935	-9.21
14.	Jharkhand	0.00	275.00	275.00	18502756146	16422991621	-11.24
15.	Karnataka	3399.00	3740.00	4262.00	493091961335	573579724280	16.32
16.	Kerala	1069.00	1175.00	1175.00	87429925277	103754179633	18.67
17.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	10477260	24671550	135.48
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1435.00	790.00	1580.00	117620073914	90164241511	-23.34
19.	Maharashtra	6552.00	7210.00	8200.00	1415734385735	1635474811944	15.52
20.	Orissa	693.00	765.00	446.00	64391950043	89167186480	38.48
21.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	6217160458	10202596025	64.10
22.	Punjab	1217.00	670.00	670.00	104380608630	97186479807	-6.89
23.	Rajasthan	1320.00	726.50	446.00	123559688136	151864100586	22.91
24.	Tamil Nadu	3919.00	4312.00	4988.00	448237700611	592636750952	32.21
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2100.00	1155.00	2310.00	150034354168	164338158812	9.53
26.	Uttaranchal	527.00	0.00	0.00	3743397766	3527641351	-5.76
27.	West Bengal	2009.00	2210.00	1101.00	157673872871	181482636684	15.10
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	251.00	138.00	138.00	283359238	30127436	-89.37
29.	Assam	1257.00	691.5	691.5	8246456917	9329808057	13.14
30.	Manipur	206.00	227.00	227	5489414	11390263	107.50
31.	Mizoram	324.00	356.00	356	97649660	118861497	21.72
32.	Meghalaya	834.00	917.00	0.0	2422374956	3078082609	27.07
33.	Nagaland	200.00	220.00	110.00	64227794	109197554	70.02
34.	Sikkim	200.00	220.00	0.0	101122234	1316202123	1201.60
35.	Tripura	728.00	801.00	400.5	80377477	62381623	-22.39

Note: Export data has been generated by State of origin of export goods as reported in the DTRs by the customs.

Proposal on NRI Investment

812. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assam State Council of the Confederation of Indian Industry has submitted proposals for boosting up and facilitating investment by NRIs from US, UK, Australia, Singapore, UAE and Switzerland in the North East, after their two day summit in Guwahati in January, 2008;

(b) if so, the details of industry where such investments were sought; and

(c) the action taken for inviting such investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Assam State Council of CII has not submitted any specific proposal for facilitating investments by Non-Resident Indian (NRIs).

However, the CII organised a Summit which was aimed at providing a platform for interaction between the representatives of the North-East State Governments and other organisations and NRI delegates from various countries. The areas of investment discussed included energy, infrastructure, urban development, education healthcare, IT, tourism and hospitality, community development, training and skill development, real-estate development.

[Translation]

Development of Diagnostic Medical Techniques

813. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and USA for developing diagnostic medical techniques at low prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of budgetary provisions made for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, a joint statement of agreement was signed between Department of

Biotechnology, M/o Science & Technology, Government of India and National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Health (NIH), USA on the development of "Low Cost, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Medical Technologies" on 4th October, 2007 signed by Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Director, NIBIB, NIH USA. The areas of cooperation proposed are: to develop joint proposals for low-cost biomedical imaging technologies; low-cost, point-of-care diagnostic technologies for disease areas of greatest need; telehealth; health-related information technologies and telecommunications; and Neonatal health technologies for small and mid-size hospitals. Department is planning to organize a joint workshop to implement the strategy.

Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor

814. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

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

(a) whether the work on the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the target fixed for the completion of the project;

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

(d) the total amount spent on this project as on date;

(e) the total financial assistance received from the Government of Japan as on date; and

(f) the details of routes and names of States likely to be covered under the said industrial corridor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project was approved 'in principle' by Government of India in August 2007. The 'Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Ltd.' (DMICDC) was incorporated on January 7, 2008. A Project Management Consultant has been appointed to drive implementation process expeditiously. The Detailed Master Plans of

identified industrial nodes/regions are envisaged to be made by March 2009, which would *inter alia* include specific implementable projects and time frames thereof.

(c) and (d) The expenses incurred for preparation of the Concept Paper/Report is Rs. 34.00 lakhs. It was estimated at the time of preparation of the Draft Concept Paper/Report that the development of the envisaged industrial nodes with all infrastructure would involve a public and private investment of about US \$ 90 billion.

(e) So far no financial assistance has been received from Government of Japan.

(f) DMIC Project leverages the connectivities offered by existing and planned infrastructure projects of Rail and Road between Delhi and Mumbai, which broadly defines the route. Six States are covered under the project—Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Conference on Terrorism

815. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any summit was organized recently between India and Britain on Terrorism and other issues; and

(b) If so, the details of issues discussed thereon alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the India-United Kingdom Annual Summit was held in New Delhi on January 21, 2008. The Summit discussed various issues covering economic, commercial educational, research, science and technology and a range of other international issues, including counter terrorism.

[*English*]

Rajiv Gandhi Udyami Mitra Yojana

816. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Rajiv Gandhi Udyami Mitra Yojana;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether it is proposed to extend the scheme to all parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The scheme, namely 'Rajiv Gandhi Udyami Mitra Yojana' aims to provide handholding support to first generation entrepreneurs, through designated lead agencies i.e. 'Udyami Mitras'. Under this scheme the 'Udyami Mitras' would provide guidance and assistance to the potential entrepreneurs registered with them, in preparation of project report, arranging finance, selection of technology, marketing tie-ups with buyers, installation of plant and machinery as well as obtaining various approvals, clearances and NOCs etc. For providing this handholding assistance to the new entrepreneurs, the 'Udyami Mitras' shall be paid handholding charges under the scheme.

(c) and (d) The scheme extends to all parts of the country.

[*Translation*]

Investment by Canada

817. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India and Canada have initiated any negotiations to increase investment in the industrial sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) High level officials as well as business delegations from India and Canada have visited other in recent past

to explore possibilities of further investment. A Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement is also under negotiation with Canada.

(c) Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions of investors, including location, are based on techno-economic and commercial considerations.

(English)

Setting up of Laboratories

818. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to set-up more laboratories on the line of the National Brain Research Centre in Manesar, Gurgaon;

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

(c) whether the research work of examining the pharmacological basis of the action of medicinal plants used in Ayurveda to treat dementia, would be further strengthened and patented for mass production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology is planning to establish few more laboratories such as Transnational Health Science & Technology Institute and UNESCO centre at Faridabad, Haryana, Stem Cell Research Institute at Bangalore, Karnataka and also Punjab Agri Cluster at Mohali, Punjab. Further the National Brain Research Centre is planning to establish satellite centres which could be set up in different parts of the country to undertake advanced research in the area of neuroscience.

(c) and (d) The National Brain Research Centre is carrying out research work on using traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda for discovering newer cures for Alzheimer's disease. The ongoing experiments have to be followed up by pre-clinical toxicology testing in animals after which clinical trials can be initiated to determine the efficacy in patient population. The patenting of the extract, which is effective in animal models of Alzheimer's disease is in progress. A Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed with collaborating institutions

before the patenting process can be completed and this is currently being worked out.

Setting up of Model Schools

819. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to involve the Private Sector for setting up of Model Schools at the block level during the 11th Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the number of Model Schools proposed to be set up during the 11th Plan and the total expenditure likely to be incurred;

(d) the extent to which the quality of education is likely to be improved; and

(e) the areas where the Scheme will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister in his Independence Day Speech on 15.8.2007 has announced the decision of the Government to support 6,000 high quality model schools throughout the country, at the rate of one in every block, to set standards of excellence for other schools in the area. The objective of involving private sector is to supplement the Government effort to improve educational infrastructure and standard.

Export of Minerals

820. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the different kinds of minerals being exported to other countries;

(b) the total foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to discontinue the export of some of those minerals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND

INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Minerals being
exported from India to other countries are:

Alumina calcined, aluminium oxide and hydroxide	Fuller's earth	Niobium, tantalum, vanadium ore zirconium ores & concentrates
Aluminium ingots	Gold ores & concentrates	Quartz & Quartzite
Aluminium ores & concentrates	Gypsum	Salt
Ball clay	Iron ore	Silica & quartz sands
Barytes	Iron oxide	Silimanite
Bentonite	Kaolin and kaolinic clays	Silver ores & concentrates
Calcite	Kyanite	Steatite
Chalk	Lead ores & concentrates	Tin ores & concentrates
Chromium ores & concentrates	Limestone	Titanium ores & concentrates
Coal	Magnesite, fused magnesia, sintered magnesia	Tungsten ores & concentrates
Cobalt ores & concentrates	Manganese dioxide	Uranium/Thorium ores & concentrates
Copper ores & concentrates	Manganese ore	Vermiculite, perlite & chlorites
Dolomite	Molybdenum ores & concentrates	Wollastonite
Earth colour ochre	Natural garnet	Zinc ores & concentrates
Felstar	Natural graphite	
Fire clay	Nickel ores & concentrates	

(b) Foreign exchange earned from minerals exported
by India during 2004-05, 2005-06 & 2006-07 are US\$
4340.26, US\$ million 5090.69 and US\$ million 5797.74
respectively.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Arms and Ammunition Trafficking Through Nepal Border

821. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALLAS SADHU
YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to
state:

(a) whether Maoist insurgency and continuing internal
disturbances have pushed up traffic in arms and
ammunition through Nepal border as reported in *Hindustan
Times* dated 18.02.2008;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Union
Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and
(b) India-Nepal have open border. There are no inputs to
suggest that persistent Maoist insurgency and internal
disturbances in Nepal have pushed up smuggling of arms
and ammunition through India-Nepal border.

(c) The Border Guarding force on India-Nepal border
viz. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has been given the

task to ensure the border security. The State Government of U.P., Bihar and Uttarakhand have also been sensitized. SSB is working in close coordination with the State Governments and the respective District Administration. The Government of India is also keeping a close watch on the overall situation.

**Tsunami Rehabilitation Work in Andaman
and Nicobar Islands**

822. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of rehabilitation/reconstruction works are still not completed in the Tsunami hit areas including Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of completed and ongoing works, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the details of funds spent so far alongwith the total fund received by each State/Union Territory from the Union Government as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the pending works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (c) Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) approved the Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme to be implemented in four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09. Accordingly, reconstruction projects are under various stages of implementation in all the Tsunami affected States/Union Territories including Andaman & Nicobar Islands. A statement-I showing the details of completed and ongoing works in the four important sectors namely Housing, Agriculture & Livelihood, Fisheries & Livelihood, Roads & Bridges States/Union Territory-wise is enclosed. The details of funds allocated and spent till December 2007 State/Union Territory-wise is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) A Core Group in the Planning Commission has been constituted comprising representatives from Central Ministries, State Governments and Research Institutions to monitor the implementation of various projects under Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme. The progress is being regularly reviewed and a mid-term review was also conducted by the Planning Commission for expediting the completion of rehabilitation measures.

In addition, Empowered Group of Ministers also periodically reviews the progress of works under Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme.

Statement I

Housing

State	Number of houses to be reconstructed	Progress till December 2007
Tamil Nadu	63588	46066
Kerala	3867	3867
Andhra Pradesh	481	481
Puducherry	7567	3018
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	9797	302 completed and foundation work of 8114 completed

Agriculture & Livelihood

State	Total damage	Progress till December 2007
Tamil Nadu	Agriculture-8175.352 hectare Horticulture-669.820 hectare	Work completed
Kerala	2151 hectare land became saline/ crops affected	The reclamation work has completed and livelihood schemes are under implementation.
Andhra Pradesh	No damage reported	Not applicable
Puducherry	1145 hectare land became saline.	950.04 hectare land reclaimed.
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8069 hectare affected.	4360.63 hectare of cropping area reclaimed, debris clearing in 2435.23 hectare. In addition, 36.7 kms. Drainage facility created. 550 power tillers and 2300 pump sets distributed. 790 wells/ponds created. 2 check dams constructed.

Fisheries and Livelihood

State	Total damage	Progress till December 2007
Tamil Nadu	Catamaran-30373 Vallams-4628 Mech. Boats-2727 Nets-39316 Fishing Harbours-8 Fish landing Centres-7 New Fish Landing Centres-10	Replacement of boats/nets/gear completed. Tender work for construction of new fish landing centres is under process
Kerala	3989 Boats/Crafts/Nets/Fishing Accessories	Boats/Crafts/Nets/Fishing Accessories replaced/repared.
Andhra Pradesh	11394-boats 34067-nets	Programme completed
Puducherry	7892 boats New/additional activities:- (i) Fisheries Training Institute (ii) Purchase of life jackets (iii) Livelihood Projects (Sea weed culture)	7562 boats replaced/repared and new additional activities are under progress.
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2065-boats 858-fishing gears, FLCs & Fishing harbours 525 pisciculturists	1991-Boats 858-Fishing gears

Roads and Bridges

State	Total damage	Progress till December 2007
Tamil Nadu	757.40 kms.	648.33 km
Kerala	686 kms 3 bridges	Minor roads repared. Work of awarding tender for bridges is under process.
Andhra Pradesh	No damage reported.	Not applicable
Puducherry	49.75 kms.	65.72 km
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	350.05 kms	253 km.

Statement-II***State-wise Outlay and Actual expenditure
Under Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme***

(Rs. in crore)

State/Union Territory	Total Outlay	Allocation 2005-06 to 2007-08	Expenditure Till December 2007
Tamil Nadu	4165.33	2781.76	1013.33
Kerala	1441.75	493.00	181.61
Andhra Pradesh	210.16	157.05	150.60
Puducherry	663.73	635.00	463.17
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2654.69	1300.00	1147.58
Total	9135.66	5366.81	2956.29

Functioning of Colleges and Schools in Assam

823. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Private and Government colleges and schools up to lower primary level functioning in Assam alongwith the total number of students and teachers, category-wise;

(b) the number of non-commercial colleges and schools from lower primary level functioning in Assam, established and run by people's participation with the required Government's concurrence and affiliation from the concerned universities, but without receiving any grant from the Government since inception towards its infrastructure salaries of teaching and non-teaching staff including mid-day meal and benefits under SSA, category-wise; and

(c) the total number of students and teaching staff in these colleges and schools alongwith the length of their functional existence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), 27 Government Colleges and

185 Private Colleges are functioning in Assam under Section 2(f) and 12(b) of the UGC Act 1956. Details are given in the enclosed statement-I.

The details of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) approved Technical Institutions in the State of Assam with approved intake and teachers available is given in the enclosed statement-II.

Kendriya Vidyalayas are composite co-educational schools having classes from I to XII. At present 50 Kendriya Vidyalayas are functional in the State of Assam. The total number of students in these Kendriya Vidyalayas is 18,248 (as on 30.9.2007) and 1,272 teachers are in position. The year of establishment of each of these Kendriya Vidyalayas is indicated in the enclosed statement-III.

Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti has a mandate to establish one Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in each of the country. These Vidyalayas are meant for imparting education to the children from Class VI to Class XII and are affiliated to CBSE. These Vidyalayas are co-educational and residential in nature. 27 JNVs have been sanctioned in the State of Assam. The details of functional JNVs in the State of Assam indicating the highest Class and students enrollment as on 31.12.2007 is enclosed as statement IV. There is no provision to set up lower primary level JNVs in the country as well as in Assam.

Hence, there are no students in the JNVs at lower primary level. There are 165 Post Graduate Teachers (PGTs), 180 Trained Graduate Teachers (TGTs) and 114 Misc. Category Teachers working in the JNVs in Assam.

According to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) as on 31st December, 2007 there are 136 Schools including 69 unaided independent private schools affiliated with CBSE. CBSE does not maintained the data about the total number of teachers and number of Students of its affiliated schools. However, number of students registered with CBSE for board exam from the State of Assam during the year 2007-08 were 7188 (Class X) 5388 (Class XII), 7740 (Class X), 6164 (Class XII) respectively.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), there are 42,667

schools in the State of Assam and number of Students and teachers are 41,94,417 and 1,55,922 respectively.

Mid-day-Meal scheme covers children studying at primary stage of education in Government, Local Body and Government aided schools and centres run under Education Granted Scheme/Alternative and Innovative Scheme, the scheme have been extended upto upper primary stage of education i.e. upto class VIII with effect from 1.10.2007 in 3479 educational backward blocks of the country including 81 blocks of State of Assam. The scheme does not cover children studying in privately managed and unaided institutions.

Information regarding salaries of teaching and non-teaching staff and State Government run non-commercial schools and colleges are not centrally maintained.

Statement-I

S.No.	Name and Address of the college	Status	Other details
1	2	3	4
University: Assam			
1.	Cachar College. Silchar Dist. Cachar Assam-788001	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1960 Refno. Assam (16001)
2.	Diphu Govt. College, Diphu, Dist. Karbi Anglong Assam-782460	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1965 Refno-Assam (160002)
3.	Gurucharan College Silchar-4 Dist Cachar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1935 Refno-Assam (16003)
4.	Halflong Govt. College, Halflong Dist. North Cachar Hills Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1962 Refno-Assam (16004)
5.	Karimganj College, Karimganj Dist. Karimganj Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1946 Refno-Assam (16005)

1	2	3	4
6.	Lala Rural College, P.O. Lala Dist. Cachar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1963 Refno-Assam (16006)
7.	M.C. Das College, Sonaimukh Dist. Cachar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1977 Refno-Assam (16007)
8.	Nabinchandra College, Badarpur Dist. Karimganj Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1971 Refno-Assam (16008)
9.	Nehru College, Pailapool Dist. Cachar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1971 Refno-Assam (16009)
10.	Rabindrasashan Girl's College, Karimganj, Dist. Karimganj Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1963 Women College Refno-Assam (16010)
11.	Radhamadhab College, Silchar Dist. Cachar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1978 Refno-Assam (16011)
12.	Ramkrishanagar College, Ramkrishnagar, Dist. Karimganj Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1969 Refno-Assam (16012)
13.	S.S. College, Haikandi, District Cachar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1950 Refno-Assam (16013)
14.	Teachers' Training College, Silchar, Dist. Cachar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1960 Refno-Assam (16014)
15.	Women's College, Silchar, Dist. Cachar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1971 Women College Refno-Assam (16015)
Summary: Number of Colleges Category		Number	
Govt. : 2 (f) & 12 (B), UG		3	
Non-Govt. : (2(f) & 12 (B), UG		12	
Total :		15	

1	2	3	4
University Dibrugarh			
1.	A Swahindpedi Phakan College, Namti P.O. Nawtidde, Dist. Sibsagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1970 Refno-Dibrugarh (18001)
2.	Amguri College, P.O. Amguri Dist. Sibsagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1967 Refno-Dibrugarh (18002)
3.	Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, Dist. Dibrugarh Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1947 Refno-Dibrugarh (18003)
4.	Bahona College, Bahona, Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1966 Refno-Dibrugarh (18004)
5.	Bihpuria College, Bihpuria Dist. North Lakhimpur 784 118 Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1973 Refno-Dibrugarh (18005)
6.	Chandra Kamal Bejbarua Teok, Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1959 Refno-Dibrugarh (18006)
7.	Chandra Kamal Bezharua Commerce College, Jorhat, Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1965 Refno-Dibrugarh (18007)
8.	D.C. Barua Girls College, Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1955 Women College Refno-Dibrugarh (18008)
9.	D.H.S.K. College, Dibrugarh Dist. Dibrugarh Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1945 Refno-Dibrugarh (18009)

1	2	3	4
10.	Dekha Devi Rasiwasia College, Chabna, Dist. Dibrugarh, Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1979 Refno-Dibrugarh (18010)
11.	Demow College, Demow Dist. Sibsagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1970 Refno-Dibrugarh (18011)
12.	Dergaon Kamal Dowerah College, Dergaon, Dist. Golaghat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1942 Refno-Dibrugarh (18012)
13.	Devraj Roy College, Golaghat, Dist. Golaghat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1949 Refno-Dibrugarh (18013)
14.	Dhakhakha College, Dhakuakhana Dist. Lakhimpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1971 Refno-Dibrugarh (18014)
15.	Dhemaji College, Dhemaji Dist. Dhemaji Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1965 Refno-Dibrugarh (18015)
16.	Dhemaji Commerce College Dist. Dhemaji Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1965 Refno-Dibrugarh (18016)
17.	Dibru College, Dibrugarh, Dist. Dibrugarh Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1963 Refno-Dibrugarh (18017)
18.	Dibrugarh H.S. Kanoi Commerce College, Dibrugarh, Dist. Dibrugarh Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1960 Refno-Dibrugarh (18018)
19.	Digboi College, Digboi, Dist. Tinsukia Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1965 Refno-Dibrugarh (18019)

1	2	3	4
20.	Digboi Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Digboi, Dist. Tinsukia, Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1967 Women College Refno-Dibrugarh (18020)
21.	Doom Doom College, Doom Dooma Dist. Tinsukia Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1967 Refno-Dibrugarh (18021)
22.	Duliajan College, Duliajan Dist. Dibrugarh Assam-786602	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1974 Refno-Dibrugarh (18022)
23.	Forkating College, Dist. Golaghat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1981 Refno-Dibrugarh (18023)
24.	Gargaon College, Gargaon, Simalugura, Dist. Sibsagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1959 Refno-Dibrugarh (18024)
25.	Gogamukh College, Gogamukh, Dist. Dhemaji Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1986 Refno-Dibrugarh (18025)
26.	Gogaghat Commerce College, Jyotinagar, Golaghat, Dist. Golaghat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Post-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1972 Refno-Dibrugarh (18026)
27.	*Golaghat Law College, Golaghat, Dist. Golaghat Assam	2 (f) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1979 Refno-Dibrugarh (18027) *Not declared fit to receive Central assistance from UGC and other Central Sources under Section 12 (B) of the UGC Act
28.	H.C.D.G. College Nitaipukhuri, Dist. Sibsagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1965 Refno-Dibrugarh (18028)

1	2	3	4
29.	Hemoprova Barbera Girls College, Golaghat, Dist. Golaghat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1969 Women College Refno-Dibrugarh (18029)
30.	J.B. College, Jorhat Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1930 Refno-Dibrugarh (18030)
31.	J.D.S.G. College, Bokahat, Dist. Golaghat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno-Dibrugarh (18031)
32.	Jengraimukh College, P.O. Jengraimuku (Mujuli), Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1971 Refno-Dibrugarh (18032)
33.	Jhanji Hem Nath Sarma College, Jhanji, Dist. Sibsagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno-Dibrugarh (18033)
34.	Jorhat College, (Amalgamated) Jorhat, Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Post-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1982 Refno-Dibrugarh (18034)
35.	Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat, Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1960 Refno-Dibrugarh (18035)
36.	Jorhat Kendriya Mahavidyalaya, Jorhat, Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1981 Refno-Dibrugarh (18036)
37.	Kakojan College, Kakojan, Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1967 Refno-Dibrugarh (18037)
38.	Kamargaon College, P.O.-Kamargaon, Dist. Golaghat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1972 Refno-Dibrugarh (18038)

1	2	3	4
39.	L.T.K. College, Lakhimpur, Dist. Lakhimpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1977 Refno-Dibrugarh (18039)
40.	Lakhimpur Commerce College, North Lakhimpur, Dist. Lakhimpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1972 Refno-Dibrugarh (18040)
41.	Lakhimpur Girls College, North Lakhimpur, Dist. Lakhimpur Assam-787001	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1976 Women College Refno-Dibrugarh (18041)
42.	Lakhimpur Kendriya Mahavidyalaya, P.O. North Lakhimpur, Dist. Lakhimpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1981 Refno-Dibrugarh (18042)
43.	Madhab Dev College, P.O. Dikrong, Dist. Lakhimpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno-Dibrugarh (18043)
44.	Majuli College, Majuli, Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1962 Refno-Dibrugarh (18044)
45.	Manohari Devi Kanoi Girls College, Dibrugarh, Dist. Dibrugarh Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1965 Women College Refno-Dibrugarh (18045)
46.	Margherita College, Margherita, Dist. Tinsukia Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1984 Refno-Dibrugarh (18046)
47.	Moran College, Moranhat, Dist. Sibsagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno-Dibrugarh (18047)
48.	*Moran Mahila Mahavidyalaya, P.O.-Moranhat, Dist. Sibsagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1992 Women College Refno-Dibrugarh (18048) *Not declared fit to receive assistance from UGC and other Central Sources under Section 12 (B) of the UGC Act.

1	2	3	4
49.	Moriani College, Moriani, Jorhat, Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1986 Refno-Dibrugarh (18049)
50.	Moridhol College, Moridhol P.O. Moridhol, Dist. Dhemaji Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1988 Refno-Dibrugarh (18050)
51.	Murkong Selek College, Jonai, Dist. Dhemaji Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1984 Refno-Dibrugarh (18051)
52.	Naharkatiya College, Naharkatiya, Dist. Dibrugarh Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno-Dibrugarh (18052)
53.	Namrup College, Namrup, Dist. Dibrugarh Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1993 Refno-Dibrugarh (18053)
54.	Nanda Nath Salkia College, Titabar, Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1959 Refno-Dibrugarh (18054)
55.	Nazira College, Nazira, Dist. Sibsagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1981 Refno-Dibrugarh (18055)
56.	North Bank College, P.O. Ghilamara, Dist. Lakhimpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1961 Refno-Dibrugarh (18056)
57.	North Lakhimpur College, Lakhimpur, Dist. Lakhimpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1952 Refno-Dibrugarh (18057)
58.	Nowboicha College, Doolahat P.O. Dist. Lakhimpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1985 Refno-Dibrugarh (18058)

1	2	3	4
59.	Parigaon Omprakash Dinodia College, Village Parigaon Lakhimpur, Dist. Lakhimpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1984 Refno-Dibrugarh (18059)
60.	Postgraduate Training College, Jorhat, Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1957 Refno-Dibrugarh (18060)
61.	Sankardev Mahavidyalaya, Pathalipahar, Lakhimpur, Dist. Lakhimpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1982 Refno-Dibrugarh (18061)
62.	Saratpathar College, Sarutpathar, Dist. Golaghat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1979 Refno-Dibrugarh (18062)
63.	Science College, Jorhat, Cheniamguri, Dist. Jorhat Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1975 Refno-Dibrugarh (18063)
64.	Sibsagar College, Joysagar, Dist. Sibsaagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1947 Refno-Dibrugarh (18064)
65.	Sibsagar Commerce College, Sibsagar, Dist. Sibsaagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1969 Refno-Dibrugarh (18065)
66.	Sibsagar Girls College, Sibsagar, Dist. Sibsaagar Assam-785640	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1954 Women College Refno-Dibrugarh (18066)
67.	Silapathar College, Sithapathar, Lakhimpur, Dist. Lakhimpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1979 Refno-Dibrugarh (18067)
68.	Sonari College, Sonari, Dist. Sibsaagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1970 Refno-Dibrugarh (18068)

1	2	3	4
69.	Swahid Maniram Dewan College, Charing, Dist. Sibsagar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno-Dibrugarh (18069)
70.	*Tingkhong College, Tingkhong, Dist. Dibrugarh Assam	2 (f) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1972 Refno-Dibrugarh (18070) *Not declared fit to receive assistance from UGC and other Central Sources under Section 12 (B) of the UGC Act.
71.	Tinsukia College, Tinsukia, Dist. Tinsukia Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1956 Refno-Dibrugarh (18071)
72.	Tinsukia Commerce College, Tinsukia, Dist. Dibrugarh Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1972 Refno-Dibrugarh (18072)
73.	Ujani Majuli Kherkatia College, Lakhimpur, Dist. Lakhimpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1973 Refno-Dibrugarh (18073)
74.	Women's College, Tinsukia, Dist. Tinsukia Assam-786125	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1966 Women College Refno-Dibrugarh (18074)

Summary: Number of Colleges

Category	Number
Govt. : 2(f) & 12 (B) : UG	17
Non-Govt : 2 (f) & 12 (B) : UG	52
Non-Govt. : 2 (f) & 12 (B) : PG	2
Non-Govt : 2 (f) : UG	3
Total	74

University : Gauhati

1.	A.D.P. College, Nowgong, Dist. Nagaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1958 Refno-Gauhati (19001)
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1	2	3	4
2.	Abhayapuri College, Abhayapuri, Dist. Goalpara Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1955 Refno-Gauhati (19002)
3.	Arya Vidyapith College, Gauhati-16 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1959 Refno-Gauhati (19003)
4.	Assam Engineering College, Gauhati-13 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1955 Refno-Gauhati (19004)
5.	B.B. Kishan College, Jalah, Dist. Barpeta Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1978 Refno-Gauhati (19005)
6.	B. Baruah College, Gauhati-7 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1943 Refno-Gauhati (19006)
7.	B.H.B. College, Sarupeta, Dist. Barpeta Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1986 Refno-Gauhati (19007)
8.	B.N. College, Dhubri, Dist. Dhubri Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1946 Refno-Gauhati (19008)
9.	B.P. Chaliha College, Nagarbera, Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1975 Refno-Gauhati (19009)
10.	Bajali College, Pathsala, Dist. Barpeta Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1955 Refno-Gauhati (19010)
11.	Banikanta College of Teachers' Education, Gauhati-7 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1967 Refno-Gauhati (19011)

1	2	3	4
12.	Bapuji College, Sarthebari, Dist. Barpeta Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1977 Refno-Gauhati (19012)
13.	Barama College, Barama, Dist. Nalbari Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1975 Refno-Gauhati (19013)
14.	Bargbhag College, Kalag, Dist. Nalbari Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno-Gauhati (19014)
15.	Barnagar College, Sorbhoy, Dist. Barpeta Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1962 Refno-Gauhati (19015)
16.	Barpeta Road Howly College, P.O. Howly (Barpeta) Dist. Barpeta Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1966 Refno-Gauhati (19016)
17.	Bijni College, Bijni, Dist. Kokrajhar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1961 Refno-Gauhati (19017)
18.	Bikali College, Dhupdhara, Dist. Goalpara Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1982 Refno-Gauhati (19018)
19.	Bilasipara College, Bilasipara, Dist. Dhubri Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1961 Refno-Gauhati (19019)
20.	Birjhora Mahavidyalaya, Bongaigaon, Dist. Bongaigaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1986 Refno-Gauhati (19020)
21.	Biswanath College, Charali, Dist. Sonitpur Assam-784176	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1959 Refno-Gauhati (19021)

1	2	3	4
22.	Bongaigaon College, Bongaigaon, Dist. Bongaigaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno-Gauhati (19022)
23.	Chaiduar College, Gohpur, Dist. Sonitpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1967 Refno-Gauhati (19023)
24.	Chhayagaon College, Chhayagaon, Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1974 Refno-Gauhati (19024)
25.	Chila Roy College, Golakganj, Dist. Dhubri Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1973 Refno-Gauhati (19025)
26.	Cotton College, Gauhati-1 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1901 Refno-Gauhati (19026)
27.	Dakshin Kamrup College, Mirza, Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1961 Refno-Gauhati (19027)
28.	Darrong College, Tezpur, Dist. Sonitpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1945 Refno-Gauhati (19028)
29.	Dhing College, Dhing, Dist. Nawgaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1965 Refno-Gauhati (19029)
30.	Dimoria College, Khetri, Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1979 Refno-Gauhati (19030)
31.	Dispur College, Gauhati-5 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1978 Refno-Gauhati (19031)

1	2	3	4
32.	Dr. B.K. Baruah College, Puranigudam, Dist. Nagaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1967 Refno-Gauhati (19032)
33.	Dudhnoi College, Dhudhnoi, Dist. Goalpara Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1973 Refno-Gauhati (19033)
34.	Gauhati College, Bamunimaidan, Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno-Gauhati (19034)
35.	Gauhati Commerce College, Gauhati-21 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1962 Refno-Gauhati (19035)
36.	Goalpara College, Goalpara, Dist. Goalpara Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1955 Refno-Gauhati (19036)
37.	Goreswar College, Goreswar, Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1977 Refno-Gauhati (19037)
38.	Gossaigaon College, Gossaigaon, Dist. Kokrajhar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1971 Refno. Gauhati (19038)
39.	Government Law College, Gauhati (Assam)	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1914 Refno. Gauhati (19039)
40.	Govt. College of Teachers Education, Kokrajhar, Dist. Kokrajhar Assam,	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1971 Refno. Gauhati (19040)
41.	Handique Girls' College, Gauhati-1 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1939 Women College Refno. Gauhati (19041)

1	2	3	4
42.	Hojai College, Hojai, Dist. Nagaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno. Gauhati (19042)
43.	J. Baruah Law College, Gauhati-3 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1969 Refno. Gauhati (19043)
44.	Jagiroad College, Jagiroad, Dist. Marigaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1979 Refno. Gauhati (19044)
45.	Janata College PO Kabuganj, Dist. Cachar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno. Gauhati (19045)
46.	Jawaharlal Nehru College, Boko, Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno. Gauhati (19046)
47.	K.R.B. Girls' College, P.O. Barakimukagauhati-9 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1980 Women College Refno. Gauhati (19047)
48.	Kaliabar College, Kuwaritol, Dist. Nagaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1973 Refno. Gauhati (19048)
49.	Kamrup College, Chamata, Dist. Nalbari Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1966 Refno. Gauhati (19049)
50.	Kokrajhar College, Kokrajhar, Dist. Kokrajhar Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1959 Refno. Gauhati (19050)
51.	L.C. Bharali College, Gauhati-11 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1971 Refno. Gauhati (19051)

1	2	3	4
52.	Lanka Mahavidyalaya, Ranmahal Lanka, Dist. Nagaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1979 Refno. Gauhati (19052)
53.	Lokanayak Omeo Kumar Das College, Dhekaijuli, Dist. Sonitpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1971 Refno. Gauhati (19053)
54.	Lumding College, Lumding, Dist. Nagaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1965 Refno. Gauhati (19054)
55.	M.C. College, Barpeta, Dist. Barpeta Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1939 Refno. Gauhati (19055)
56.	M.N.C. Balika Mahavidyalaya, Nalbari, Dist. Nalbari Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1983 Women College Refno. Gauhati (19056)
57.	Mangaldoi College, Mangaldoi, Dist. Darrang Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1953 Refno. Gauhati (19057)
58.	Mankachar College, Mankachar, Dist. Dhubri Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1977 Refno. Gauhati (19058)
59.	Marigaon College, Marigaon, Dist. Marigaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno. Gauhati (19059)
60.	Medical College, Gauhati-5 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1960 Refno. Gauhati (19060)
61.	Nabajyoti College, Kalgachia, Dist. Barpeta Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1978 Refno. Gauhati (19061)

1	2	3	4
62.	Nalbari College, Nalbari, Dist. Nalbari Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1945 Refno. Gauhati (19062)
63.	North Gauhati College, Gauhati-31 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1962 Refno. Gauhati (19063)
64.	Nowgong College, Nowgong, Dist. Nagaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1944 Refno. Gauhati (19064)
65.	Nowgong Girls' College, Nowgong, Dist. Nagaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1963 Women College Refno. Gauhati (19065)
66.	Pandu College, Pandu, Gauhati-12 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1962 Refno. Gauhati (19066)
67.	Pragajyotish College, Gauhati-9 Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1954 Refno. Gauhati (19067)
68.	Pramothes Barua College, Gauripur, Dist. Dhubri Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1964 Refno. Gauhati (19068)
69.	Pub-Kamrup College, Bhaihata, Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1972 Refno. Gauhati (19069)
70.	R.G. Baruah College, Gauhati, Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1963 Refno. Gauhati (19070)
71.	Raha College, Raha, Dist. Nagaon Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1972 Refno. Gauhati (19071)

1	2	3	4
72.	Rangapara College, Rangapara, Dist. Sonitpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1979 Refno. Gauhati (19072)
73.	Rangiya College, Rangiya, Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1963 Refno. Gauhati (19073)
74.	Ratnapeeth College, Chaper, Dist. Dhubri Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1978 Refno. Gauhati (19074)
75.	S.B.M.S. College, Sualkuchi, Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1963 Refno. Gauhati (19075)
76.	Sapatgram College, Sapatgram, Dist. Dhubri Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1977 Refno. Gauhati (19076)
77.	Sipajhar College, Sipajhar, Dist. Darrang Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1982 Refno. Gauhati (19077)
78.	Suren Das College, Hajo, Dist. Kamrup Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1983 Refno. Gauhati (19078)
79.	T.H.B. College, Jamugurihat, Dist. Sonitpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1963 Refno. Gauhati (19079)
80.	Tangala College, Tangala, Dist. Darrang Assam-784521	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1972 Refno. Gauhati (19080)
81.	Tezpur College, Tezpur, Dist. Sonitpur Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Non-Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1965 Refno. Gauhati (19081)

1	2	3	4
82.	Tihu College, Tihu, Dist. Nalbari Assam	2 (f) & 12 (B) Govt. Under-Graduate	Affiliated College Estd. 1963 Refno. Gauhati (19082)

Summary, Number of Colleges

Category	Number
Govt. : 2 (f) & 12 (B) : UG	6
Non-Govt. : 2 (f) & 12 (B) : UG	75
Non-Govt. : 2 (f) & 12 (B) : PG	1
Total	82

*List of Colleges included under Section 2(f)/2 (f) & 12 (B)/12 (B) of the UGC Act, 1956
(as on 1st April, 2004 to 21st February, 2008)*

ASSAM						
1.	West Silchar College, P.O. Barjatrapur, Cachar-788110 (Assam) (Temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1985	2(f)	Assam University
2.	Khawang College, Khawang Ghat-786696, District Dibrugarh (Assam)	NG	UG	1982	2(f) & 12(B)	Dibrugarh University
3.	Rangachachi College, Rangachachi, Majuli, Jorhat-785104 (Assam)	NG	UC	1983	2(f) & 12(B)	Dibrugarh University
4.	Lakhipur College, P.O.-Lakhipur, District Goalpara-783129 (Assam)	NG	UG	1981	2(f) & 12(B)	Gauhati University
5.	Maibang Degree College, Maibang, N.C. Hills (Assam) (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1988	2(f)	Assam University
6.	Paschim Guwahati Mahavidyalaya, P.O. Dharapur, Guwahati-781133, Kamrup (Assam)	NG	UG	1978	2(f) & 12(B)	Gauhati University
7.	Nagaon G.N.D.G. Commerce College, Panigaon, Nagaon-782001 (Assam) (On permanent affiliation)	NG	UG	1986	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Gauhati University
8.	Science College, District-Kokrajhar (Assam) (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1999	2 (f)	Gauhati University
9.	Commerce College, Kokrajhar, District-Kokrajhar Btad, Assam-783370. (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1985	2 (f)	Gauhati University

10.	Janata College, Serlanguri, P.O. Serlanguri-783 348, District Kokrajhar, BTC (Assam) (On permanent affiliation)	NG	UG	1986	2 (f) & 12(B)	Gauhati University
11.	Baoi Benikanta Kakati College, Nagaon, Barpeta-781 309 (Assam). (On permanent affiliation)	NG	UG	1971	2 (f) & 12(B)	Gauhati University
12.	Ledo College, Ledo-786 182, Tinsukia District (Assam). (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1997	2 (f) Self financed	Dibrugarh University
13.	Borhat Bhabani Prasad Baruah Memorial College (Borhat B.P.B. Memorial College) PO & TO Borhat- 785 693, District Sivasagar (Assam), (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1995	2 (f) Self financed	Dibrugarh University
14.	Barpeta Girls College, P.O. & District Barpeta (Assam) (On permanent affiliation)	NG	UG	1978	2 (f) Self financed	Gauhati University
15.	Swami Yogananda Giri College, Sakti Ashram, District Kokrajhar (Assam). (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1994	2 (f)	Gauhati University
16.	Fakiragram College, P.O. Fakiragram, District Kokrajhar (Assam). (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1994	2 (f)	Gauhati University
17.	Basugaon College, P.O. Basugaon-783 372, District Chirang (BTC) Assam. (On permanent affiliation)	NG	UG	1986	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Gauhati University
18.	Puthimari College, Soneswar-781 382, District Kamrup (Assam)	NG	UG	1981	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Gauhati University
19.	Joya Gogai College, Khumati, P.O. Khumati, District Golaghat (Assam)-785619	NG	UG	1991	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Dibrugarh University
20.	S.B. Deorah College, Ulubari, Guwahati-781007 (Assam)	NG	UG	1987	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Gauhati University
21.	Dikhowmukh College, Moglow, P.O. Bharalua Tiniali: Sivasagar (Assam)	NG	UG	1982	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Dibrugarh University
22.	Bhawanipur Anchalik College, P.O. Bhawanipur-781352, District Barpeta (Assam)	NG	UG	1987	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Assam University

23.	Sonapur College, P.O.Sonapur, Kamrup-782 402 (Assam). (Temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1991	2 (f)	Gauhati University
24.	Habraghat Mahavidyalaya, Krishnai, Goalpara-783 126 (Assam). (On Permanent affiliation)	NG	UG	1979	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Gauhati University
25.	Kampur College, P.O. Kampur, Nagaon, Kampur (Assam).	NG	UG	1968	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Gauhati University
26.	Nagaon G.N.D.G. Commerce University	NG	UG	1966 College, Panigaon, Nagaon-782 001	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Gauhati
27.	Girls College, Kokrajhar, P.O. & District Kokrajhar-783 370 (Assam). (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1990	2 (f)	Gauhati University
28.	Machkhowa Degree College, P.O. Machkhowa, District Dhemaji-787 058 (Assam). (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1984	2 (f)	Dibrugarh University
29.	Salbari College, P.O. Salbari-781 318, District Baksa (Assam). (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1966	2 (f)	Gauhati University
30.	Bengtol College, P.O. & Vill Bengtol, District Chirang (Assam) (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1981	2 (f)	Gauhati University
31.	North Kamrup College, Baghmara, P.O. Baghmara Bazar, District Barpeta-781 328 (Assam), (On permanent affiliation)	NG	UG	1979	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Gauhati University
32.	Khagarlian College, P.O. Chotahaibar, Nagaon-782002 (Assam) (On permanent affiliation)	NG	UG	1983	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Gauhati University
33.	Laluk College, P.O. Laluk, District Lakhimpur-784160 (Assam) (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1985	2 (f)	Dibrugarh University

34.	Silapathar Science College, P.O. Silapathar, District Dhemaji-787059 (Assam) (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1996	2 (f)	Dibrugarh University
35.	Udaiguri College, Udaiguri, Darrang-784 509 (Assam). (On permanent affiliation)	NG	UG	1979	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Gauhati University
36.	Silapathar Commerce College, P.O. Silapathar-787 059 District Dhemaji (Assam) (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1996	2 (f)	Dibrugarh University
37.	Tengakhat College, P.O. Tengakhat, District Dhemaji (Assam) (On permanent affiliation)	NG	UG	1967	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Dibrugarh University
38.	G.S. Lohia Girls' College, Shri Kanya Pathehala Complex, Tinsukia 786 125 (Assam) (on temporary affiliations)	NG	UG	1996	2 (f) Self Financed	Dibrugarh University
39.	Nirmal Haloi College Patacharkuchi, Barpeta-781 326 (Assam) (On permanent affiliation)	NG	UG	1979	2 (f) & 12 (B)	Gauhati University
40.	Dr. Nobin Bordoloi College, Na-Ali, Dhekiajuli, Jorhat-09 (Assam). (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1986	2 (f)	Dibrugarh University
41.	Gyanpeeth Degree College Nikashi Dist-Baksa, BTAD-781 372 (Assam). (On temporary affiliation)	NG	UG	1983	2 (f)	Gauhati University

*Category-wise number of colleges, Enrolment and Teaching Staff in the
State of Assam for the year 2005-06*

	Category of college	Number of colleges	Enrolment	Teaching Staff
1.	Affiliated colleges			
	(i) Private	381	186,221*	12,958*
	(ii) Government	42	17,596*	1,224*
2.	University colleges	6	1,948	320
	Total	429	2,05,765	14,502

*Estimated data for the year 2005-06.

Statement-II*Status of Approval for Approved Programmes for the Academic Year 2008-09*

Sl.No.	Name & Address of The Institution/Name of Head of the Institution	Course(s)	Existing Intake for 2007-08	Approved Intake for 2008-09	Faculty Available as per the Compliance Report (2008-09)	Actual Admission per Compliance Report
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Region: Eastern						
State: Assam						
1.	Assam, Engg College Jalukbari, Guwahati 781013 Kamrup, Assam State Government/1998 Dr. Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee STD Code: 0361 Ph.No. 2654813/2654815 Fax No. 267833 www.assam.ac.in	Chemical Engineering Civil Engineering Computer Science & Engg. Elect. & Tele Comm. Engineering Electrical Engineering Electrical Engineering (M. Tech) Industrial & Production Engg Instrumentation Engg. MCA Mechanical Engg (M. Tech) Mechanical Engineering Soil Mechanics (M.E) Watershed Management & Flood Control (M.E.) Total	60 60 20 60 60 18 20 20 30 18 60 18 18 Total	60 60 20 60 60 18 20 20 30 18 60 18 18 462	99	390
2.	Girijananda Chowdhury Institute of Management and Technology, Azara, Hatkhowapara, Guwahati-7810, 17, Assam. Private/2006	Computer Science & Engineering Electronics & Communication Engg. Applied Electronics & Instru. ENGG Information Technology Mechanical Engineering MBA Total	60 60 60 60 60 60 60 360	60 60 60 60 60 60 60 360	30 Details not furnished	
3.	Jorhat Engg College Jorhat 785007 Assam State Government/1960 Dr. S.K. Roy STD Code: 0360 Ph.No. 320340 www.jecassam.edu	Civil Engineering Computer Science & Engg. Electrical Engineering Instrumentation Engineering Mechanical Eng Production and Industrial Engg. (M.E) Total	60 30 60 20 60 15 Total	60 30 60 20 60 15 245	64	223

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Tezpur (Central) University Napamtehpur, Assam	Bio Electronics (M.Tech) Design & Technology (M. Tech) Energy Technology (M. Tech) Information Technology (M. Tech)	15 18 18 18	15 18 18 18	28	70
	University/1998	Total	69	69		
5.	National Institute of Technology Silchar-788010 Cachar, Assam	Civil Engg Computer Science & Engg. Elect. & Telecomm. Engineering Electrical Engineering Mechanical Engineering Solid Mechanic (M. Tech) Thermal Engg (M. Tech) Water Resources Engg (M. Tech)	15 30 20 45 50 18 18 18	Pending Compliance Report Not Received		
	Central Govt. /1987 Prof. Gautam Barua STD Code: 03842 Ph. No. 233179/278077 Fax No. 233787 www.nits.ac.in	Total	214			

Status of Approval for Approved Programmes for the Academic Year 2008-09

Region: Eastern

State: Assam

Sl.No.	Name of the Institutions/YOE/ Category	Course(s)	Existing Intake for 2007-08	Approved Intake for 2008-09	Facilities Available as per Compliance Report	Actual Admission as per Compliance Report
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Assam/HMCT/01/12/2006. North East Institute of Management Science Opp to RRL Gate No. 1 P.O. RRL Jorhat 785 006, Assam 2007/Private-Non-Grant	BHMCT	50	60	10	60
		Total	60	60		
2.	AS/30-03/MCP/99 Department of Business Administration Assam University, Silchar-788015 1998-99/University	MBA (FT)	30	Pending Compliance Report Not Submitted		
		Total	30	00		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	431/30-03/MCP(M) 94 Department of Business Administration Guwahati University, Gopinath Bardoloi Nagar, Guwahati-781 014 1994-95/University	MBA (FT) Total=	Pending Compliance Report Not Submitted 00	Pending Compliance Report Not Submitted 00	—	—
4.	431/30-05/MCP-M/95 Department of Business Administration Tezpur University, Post Box No. 72, Sonitp, Nappam-784 028 1995-96/University	MBA-(FT) Total=	60 60	60 60	10	60
5.	431/30-04/MCP(M)/95 North Eastern Regional Institute of Management, (NERI) Parukuty Bhawan, Nabi, Guwahati-781 024 1995-96/Govt. Aided	MBA-(FT) MBA-(PT) Total=	60 60 120	60 60 120	18 —	— —
6.	AS-01/BOA(MCP)/APR(CS)/96 Department of Computer Science & Information Technology Tezpur University, Nappam, Post Box No. 72, Sonitp, Nappam-784 025 1996-97/University	MCA-(FT) Total=	Pending Compliance Report Not Submitted 00	30 30	13	—
7.	411/AS-01/BOS(CS)/95 Jorhat Engineering College Jorhat-785 007 1994-95/Government	MCA-(FT) Total=	30 30	30 30	05	30
8.	AS-02/ET-APR(MCA)/2000 North Eastern Regional Institute of Management (NERI) Parukuty Bhawan, Nabi, Guwahati-781 024 2000-2001/Govt. Aided	MCA-(FT) Total=	60 60	60 60	12	—
9.	31/30-02/MCP(M)/94 Assam Institute of Management, 7th Floor, East Point Tower, Bamunimaidam, Kamrup, Guwahati-781 021 1995-96/State Government*	PGDM (FT) Total=	45 45	45 45	6	—
10.	750-72-101(P)/ET/95 Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh-786 004 1983/University	B. Pharmacy M. Pharm (Pharmaceutics) M. Pharma (Pharmacogony) M. Pharma (Ph. Chemistry) Total=	40 08 06 06 60	Pending Compliance Report Not Submitted. 	—	—
11.	Assam/PHAR/06/2006/001 Girijananda Chowdhury Institute of Pharmaceutical Science, Azara, Guwahati-17 2007/Private-Non-Grant	B. Pharmacy Total	60 60	60 60	4	46

Statement-III

List Indicating the Sector-Wise Number of Functional Kendriya Vidyalayas in the State of Assam Including the Year of Establishment

Sl.No.	Name of Kendriya Vidyalaya	Sector	Year
1	2	3	4
1.	Barpeta	Civil	2003-04
2.	Dholchera (BSF)	Civil	1986-87
3.	Dibrugarh	Civil	2003-04
4.	Diphu	Civil	1977-78
5.	Guwahati, Amerigog (CRPF)	Civil	1981-82
6.	Guwahati, Khanapara	Civil	1986-87
7.	Haflong (SSB)	Civil	1979-80
8.	Jorhat No. III (RRL)	Civil	2003-04
9.	Karimganj	Civil	1991-92
10.	Khatkha (CRPF)	Civil	1995-96
11.	Kokrajhar	Civil	1984-85
12.	Lakhimpur	Civil	2003-04
13.	Lokra	Civil	1976-77
14.	Mangaldoi	Civil	2003-04
15.	New Bongaigaon	Civil	1987-88
16.	Nowgong	Civil	1980-81
17.	Panbari (BSF)	Civil	1996-97
18.	Silchar	Civil	1981-82
19.	Tinsukia	Civil	1986-87
20.	Goalpara	Civil	2006-07
21.	Golaghat	Civil	2006-07
22.	Chabua	Defence	1981-82
23.	Digarua (AFS)	Defence	1971-72
24.	Dinjan	Defence	1976-77

1	2	3	4
25.	Guwahati, Borjhar	Defence	1973-74
26.	Guwahati, Narangi	Defence	1971-72
27.	Jorhat No. 1 (ASF)	Defence	1966-67
28.	Kumbhirgram (ASF)	Defence	1982-83
29.	Lekhapani	Defence	1987-88
30.	Masimpur	Defence	1974-75
31.	Missamari	Defence	1971-72
32.	Mohanbari	Defence	1988-89
33.	Nowgong, Misa Cantt.	Defence	1986-87
34.	Tezpur No. 1	Defence	1971-72
35.	Tezpur No. II (AFS)	Defence	1979-80
36.	Guwahati IIT	Institute of Higher Learning (IHL)	2003-04
37.	Bokajan (CCI)	Project	1986-87
38.	Cachar Panchgram (HPC)	Project	1984-85
39.	Doom Dooma (ARC)	Project	1986-87
40.	Duliajan (OIL)	Project	1977-78
41.	Gerukamukh HE Project	Project	2003-04
42.	Guwahati (IOC)	Project	1985-86
43.	Guwahati, Maligaon	Project	1980-81
44.	Jagi Road (HPC)	Project	1984-85
45.	Jorhat No. II (ONGC)	Project	1988-89
46.	Lumding	Project	1986-87
47.	Namrup (HFC)	Project	1982-83
48.	Sibsagar No. I (ONGC)	Project	1976-77
49.	Sibsagar No. II Nazira (ONGC)	Project	1983-84
50.	Sonai Road (ONGC)	Project	1988-89

Statement-IV*26 Functional Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in Assam State as on 31st December 2007*

S.No.	Name of State	Name of the District Where JNVs are Functioning	Highest Class	Total Student Enrolment
1.	Assam	Karimganj	XII	458
2.		Sonitpur	XII	473
3.		Kamrup	XII	442
4.		Shibsagar	XII	492
5.		Nalbari	XII	275
6.		Cachar	XII	471
7.		Kokrajhar	XII	483
8.		Barpeta	XII	435
9.		Darrang	XII	492
10.		Dibrugarh	XII	284
11.		Jorhat	XII	291
12.		Golaghat	XII	515
13.		Tinsukia	XII	278
14.		Karbianglong	XII	370
15.		Morigaon	XII	438
16.		Goalpara	XI	206
17.		Lakhimpur	XII	425
18.		Hailakandi	XII	484
19.		Dhemaji	XII	458
20.		Chirang	XI	436
21.		Nagoan	VII	80
22.		Bongaigaon	VII	72
23.		Dhubri	VI	28
24.		Baksa	VII	77
25.		North Cachar Hills	VII	53
26.		Udalguri	VII	68
27.		Karmrup Urban	Sanction order is under issue.	
Total				8584

Funds for Flood Relief

824. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has earmarked funds for flood relief during the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the basis on which the funds has been earmarked;

(d) whether the entire amount earmarked for flood relief during the Tenth Plan has been utilized; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (e) Fund for providing relief in the wake of notified natural disasters including floods, are provided through Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) which is a non-Plan fund. The quantum of funds allocated to the CRF account of various States by the Government based on the Award for the successive Finance Commissions, which are contributed by the Government of India and the respective State Governments in the ratio of 3:1. An amount of Rs. 21333.33 crore has been allocated in the CRF of various States based on the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission for the period 2005-10 as per year-wise details given below:-

Year	Amount in crore
2005-06	3944.41
2006-07	4097.79
2007-08	4258.85
2008-09	4427.97
2009-10	4604.31
Total 2005-10	21333.33

Allocation in the CRF of various States for a further period of five years i.e., from 2010-15 will be made based on the Award of the 13th Finance Commission.

The allocation from CRF is supplemented from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the event of a calamity of a severe nature after following the laid

down procedure. The NCCF is constituted with corpus of Rs. 500/- crore to be recouped from collection of Contingent Duties.

As per extent Scheme of CRF/NCCF any unspent balance in the CRF account of a State does not lapse to Government of India during existence of these Schemes. Such, unspent balances become opening balance of the next financial year.

No separate allocation is made for flood relief.

[*Translation*]

Mineral Research Centres

825. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mineral research centres in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of mining work being carried out at present in the country, State-wise and location-wise; and

(c) the quantum of minerals extracted during each of the last three years till date, State-wise and mineral-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per the information provided by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, the number of mineral research centres in the country State-wise are given below:-

- (i) National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh).
- (ii) North-East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST), Jorhat (Assam).
- (iii) National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa.
- (iv) Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR), Dhanbad (Jharkhand).
- (v) National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML), Jamshedpur (Jharkhand).
- (vi) National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIST), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
- (vii) Advanced Materials and Process Research Institute (AMPRI), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

- (viii) Institute of Materials and Minerals Technology (IMMT), Bhubaneswar (Orissa).

In addition, research on various aspects of mineral beneficiation and processing are done by divisions of the Geological Survey of India and Indian Bureau of Mines under the Ministry of Mines and by R & D Centre of National Mineral Development Corporation under Ministry of Steel.

(b) and (c) The details of mining work being carried out in the country and the quantum of minerals extracted, State-wise and mineral-wise are available in the Mineral Year Book published every year by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Nagpur and also in the IBM publications and IBM website www.ibm.nic.in.

Scrap from Abroad

826. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) whether large quantity of scrap is being imported in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total quantity of scrap brought in the country during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for bringing such scrap into the country;

(d) whether the Government has signed any agreement with foreign countries in this regard;

(e) if so, the main features of the said agreement;

(f) whether any assessment of possible adverse effects of signing such an agreement has been carried out;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Import of metal scrap is allowed in the country as per provisions contained under Paragraph 2.32.2 of Handbook of Procedures to the Foreign Trade Policy. The total quantity of scrap imported during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Import of metal scrap is permitted to cater to the raw-material requirement of a large number of processing units established in various parts of the country. Imported scrap provides for a cheaper and more environmental friendly alternative to virgin raw-material.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (h) Does not arise.

Statement

Import

S.No.	HSC code	Commodity	Quantity in Thousand kgs			Values in Rs. Lacs		
			2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	72041000	Waste and Scrap of Cast Iron	284843.39	267589.75	88005.92	31917.77	32013.81	12027.50
2.	72042190	Other Waste & Scrap of Stainless Steel	149082.23	187305.44	282142.38	81163.62	127305.22	281708.07
3.	72042920	Waste & Scrap of High Speed Steel	5470.27	227.16	288.33	708.16	101.05	166.80
4.	72042990	Others	101681.63	210401.27	116747.63	11371.82	25440.70	13790.09
5.	72043000	Waste and Scrap of Tinned Iron or Steel	167789.17	398869.56	211155.21	21441.77	49809.62	28611.31
6.	72044100	Turngs, Shvngs, Chps, Millng WST, Swdst, Flngs Trmmngs & Smpngs, W/N in Bundles	7123.32	6420.18	6672.99	974.21	1388.93	2428.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	72044900	Other Waste and Scrap	2742315.80	3710520.75	2472687.18	327818.31	454416.44	298295.80
8.	72045000	Remelting Scrap Ingots	20832.24	3573.43	2451.00	2858.22	445.31	292.75
9.	74040022	Brass Scrap Covered by ISRI code Drink, Ebony, Enerv, Elder, Engel, Erin, Grape, Honey Ivory, Label, Lark, Malon, Night, Noble, etc.	44055.32	85103.48	72451.35	31418.25	75038.27	133830.61
10.	75030010	Nickle Scrap Covered by ISRI code Aroma Barly, Dandy, Daurit, Delta, Decoy, Depth, Maize, Major, Malar, Matic, Naggy, Niece, Hitch, etc.	348.00	478.76	1981.32	177.92	289.25	4839.63
11.	76020010	Aluminium scrap covered by ISRI code Tablettabletoid, Taboo, Taini/Tabor, Take, Talap, Talcured, Taldack, Taldon, Taldork, tale NT etc.	133709.17	226963.64	241141.30	63301.44	113921.92	207257.23
12.	79020010	Zinc Scrap Covered by ISRI Code Saves Scab, Scope, Scoot, Score, Screen, Scul, Scribe, Scrub, Seal, Seám, Shell	38655.13	95119.71	48454.38	10459.48	28198.23	34638.01
13.	80020010	Tin Scrap Covered by ISRI Code Ranch, Ravesand Ranks	189.28	275.00	140.00	131.05	84.64	400.63
14.	81042010	Magnesium Scrap Covered by ISRI Code Wafer, Walnut, Wine, Wood & World	79.52	336.09	269.85	29.59	204.20	141.61
Total			3696164.27	5193184.22	3544588.84	583767.61	908637.39	1018418.57

Source: DGCI & S. Kokatta.

Production of Agro and Rural Industries

827. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:
Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the share of agro and rural industries to the total
industrial production in the country during the last three
years and in the current year;

(b) whether the production of agro and rural industries
has come down; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase the production
of agro and rural industries?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The
details of value of production of khadi and village
industries (KVI) products under the purview of Khadi and
Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and those of total
industrial production reported in the country, during
2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given below:

(Rs. crore)

Year	Value of total Industrial production*	Value of Production of KVI products	Share of value of Production of KVI products in terms of percentage of value of the total industrial production
2004-05	598674	10920	1.82 per cent
2005-06	676207	12383	1.83 per cent
2006-07	784883	14028	1.82 per cent

*Source: Annual Report 2006-07 of the Reserve Bank of India.

During 2007-08 (up to January 2008), value of production under KVI sector was Rs. 12,054.75 crore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(a) the total quantity of tea produced during each of the last three years and in the current year, till date State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the production of tea in the country?

Tea Production

828. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The quantity of tea produced during the last three years and in the current year, till date, State-wise is given below:

(Figures in million Kgs)

State/Districts	2005	2006 (E)	2007 (E)
1	2	3	4
Assam	487.49	483.65	479.92
West Bengal	217.55	233.29	231.44
Tripura	7.52	7.18	7.31
Arunachal Pradesh	2.62	2.20	2.52
Manipur	0.11	0.11	0.12
Sikkim	0.16	0.15	0.16
Nagaland	0.19	0.17	0.19
Meghalaya	0.10	0.10	0.12
Mizoram	0.07	0.07	0.08
Other North Indian States (Includes Bihar, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Orissa)	2.61	2.70	2.83

1	2	3	4
Total North India	718.42	729.62	724.69
Tamil Nadu	158.84	152.27	153.13
Kerala	63.34	68.76	61.83
Karnataka	5.37	5.26	5.03
Total South India	227.55	226.29	219.99
All Total	945.97	955.91	944.68

(E) Estimated and subject to revision.

(b) A number of developmental Schemes are being implemented by the Tea Board for enhancing productivity, quality and marketability of tea produced in the country. Financial and technical assistance is being provided for various plantation development activities like replanting, rejuvenation, creation of irrigation facilities etc. With a view to improve the quality of teas produced in the country, which would help in turn in boosting exports of tea and fetching higher prices, the Tea Board is also implementing a quality upgradation programmes. Through its Plan schemes, the Tea Board also supports some welfare programmes and activities for the benefit of tea plantation workers and their dependants in education and health care.

Destruction of Temples Due to Terrorism

829. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Hindu Temples decimated due to terrorism in the country, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir during the last ten years;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to rebuild and renovate the decimated temples;

(c) if so, the number of temples which have been rebuilt and renovated so far;

(d) whether forcible deal on temple lands is being made in the State of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to protect the Hindu temples in J&K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) "Public Order" and "Police" being State subjects as per the Constitution of India, the State Governments are primarily responsible for maintenance of law & order as well as maintenance of data on crimes. No data on the number of Hindu temples decimated due to terrorism in the country is being maintained centrally. However, as per State Government report, 97 temples have been decimated in the State of Jammu & Kashmir due to terrorism during the last ten years.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, 11 temples out of those damaged during the last ten years have been renovated/repared.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Children Parliament

830. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request in the recent past to conduct Children Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to conduct such programme to create awareness among the teachers and students;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds earmarked for the purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) No specific request on this subject has been received in the recent past. However, with a view to inculcate democratic values and disseminate knowledge on the working of parliamentary institutions among the student community, four schemes of 'Youth Parliament Competitions' are being implemented. These are: 'Youth Parliament Competition Scheme for Recognized Educational Institutions in the National Capital Territory of Delhi' 'National Youth Parliament Competition for Kendriya Vidyalayas'; 'National Youth Parliament Competition Scheme for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas' and 'National Youth Parliament Competition Scheme for Universities/Colleges' in addition to the above four schemes, financial assistance up to a maximum of Rs. 2 lakhs per annum is being extended to the States/Union Territories for conducting similar 'Youth Parliament Competitions' in their educational institutions.

(e) No separate funds has been earmarked for Youth Parliament Scheme in the Budget for the current year. However, funds to the extent of Rs. 30 lakhs have been provided under the head "other charges" for the year 2007-08. Expenditure on Youth Parliament Schemes is met from this head.

Mining Licence

831. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mining licenses granted by the Government during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of mining areas which have been inspected to verify whether they have adhered to the environmental norms in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) State Governments are owners of minerals and grant mineral concessions in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Prior approval of Central Government is necessary for grant of mineral concession for minerals listed in the First Schedule to the Act. The details of prior approvals

conveyed by the Central Government for grant of mineral concessions to the State Governments in the last three years, State-wise, are available in the website of the Ministry of Mines (<http://www.mines.nic.in>).

(b) The details of mines inspected by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) to verify adherence to the environmental norms in the last three year are as under:-

Year	Number of mines inspected
2005-06	1808
2006-07	1575
2007-08 (upto Feb'08)	959

Spice Parks

832. PROF. M. RAMADASS:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether Spice Board is setting up Spice parks in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the places where these parks are likely to be set up;

(c) the amount proposed to be spent on these parks; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to open these parks in each State to enhance the quality and production of spices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has already approved one Spices Park at Chhindwara in Madhya Pradesh at a total estimated cost of Rs. 995 lakh and 6 other such facilities have been proposed during XI plan period with a financial outlay of Rs. 62.32 crore. These parks are proposed in Idukki district in Kerala, Erode/Shivaganga in Tamil Nadu, Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, one in Uttar Pradesh, Jhalawar district in Rajasthan and Mehsana district in Gujarat.

(d) Extension of this scheme to the other States will depend on the performance of the proposed parks.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas

each of the last three years, State-wise?

833. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas sanctioned so far and the number of Vidyalayas out of the sanction that have become operational, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for the delay in operationalising the Vidyalayas; and

(c) the allocation made to these Vidyalayas during

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The Government of India has sanctioned 2180 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas so far in the country and as on 31st January, 2008, 1724 KGBVs (80%) are operational. One of the major reasons for delay in operationalizing the Vidyalayas is unavailability of land for the construction of the schools and court cases in some States. The Government of India monitors the implementation of the scheme regularly. A statement showing status of KGBVs sanctioned/operationalized as on 31st January, 2008 and funds released during the three years is enclosed.

Statement

*Status of KGBVs sanctioned/operationalized as on 31st January, 2008
and funds released during the three years*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total No. of KGBVs sanctioned	No. of KGBVs Operational	Funds released by GOI in 2004-05	Funds released by GOI in 2005-06	Funds released by GOI in 2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	342	223	1823.77	2679.73	2535.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25	25	210.74	258.29	73.13
3.	Assam	15	15	0.00	350.10	0.00
4.	Bihar	350	208	4.00	2794.69	2330.44
5.	Chhattisgarh	84	84	810.33	766.77	473.44
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	52	51	497.03	326.76	127.50
8.	Haryana	9	9	0.00	182.18	36.56
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	9	192.47	0.00	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	51	13	4.33	186.25	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	187	187	4.00	4083.03	390.00
12.	Karnataka	61	61	845.47	1584.17	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	185	185	700.81	1769.32	975.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Maharashtra	36	16	527.61	0.00	109.69
15.	Manipur	1	1	0.00	0.00	33.98
16.	Mizoram	1	1	0.00	33.98	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	1	1	13.32	12.47	5.94
18.	Orissa	114	114	884.02	2114.09	0.00
19.	Punjab	2	2	32.55	14.70	0.00
20.	Rajasthan	186	186	350.65	1272.29	1689.38
21.	Tamil Nadu	53	53	644.39	0.00	706.30
22.	Tripura	7	7	32.54	131.40	0.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	323	205	676.03	3768.59	1608.75
24.	Uttarakhand	25	22	291.11	0.00	180.00
25.	West Bengal	59	46	711.43	34.08	357.94
Total		2180	1724	9256.60	22362.89	11633.05

Import of Wheat

834. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of wheat has been imported during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the value and quantity of wheat imported in the country during the said period; and

(c) the target set for wheat import in the current year alongwith the estimated price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The details of wheat imported during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (April to October) is as follows:-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (in Rs. Crores)
2005-06	—	—
2006-07	6079555	5850.49
2007-08 (Apr. to Oct.) Provisional.	371234	477.11

Source: DGCI&S.

(c) No target for estimated price has been fixed by the Department of Commerce for importing wheat in the current year.

India-EU Summit

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

(a) whether India and EU have decided to strengthen their relations at the India-EU Summit held on November 30, 2007;

(b) if so, whether a comprehensive review of the joint action plan and further development of trade and investment agreements were discussed;

(c) if so, the outcome of the Summit held;

(d) the details of agreements signed therein; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) The 8th India-EU Annual Summit took place on November 30, 2007 in New Delhi. The two sides discussed various bilateral and global issues of mutual interests to further strengthen the strategic partnership. The two sides had earlier agreed on a Strategic Partnership in 2004 and adopted a Joint Action Plan in 2005 to implement this. During the Summit the two sides reviewed the Joint Action Plan and welcomed the progress in its implementation, and looked forward to further advances. An overall assessment of the Joint Action Plan will take place in 2008. Both sides welcomed the progress achieved in the first few rounds of negotiations on the India-EU Trade and Investment Agreement and reaffirmed commitment to further intensify negotiations. A MoU on 'Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2007-2010' in the field of development cooperation was signed and 'Agreement for Scientific & Technological Cooperation' was renewed during the summit. A Joint Statement and a Joint Action Plan Implementation Report were issued at the summit.

Coastal Security Scheme

836. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat regarding Coastal Security Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any revised proposal to upgrade additional 39 coastal police stations for security has been received;

(d) if so, the status of the proposal;

(e) whether the Government has also accorded sanction for camel patrolling system, watch towers etc. under the scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the sensitive areas between Jakhau and Chhad belt are not effectively covered under patrolling by the Coast guard/BSF wing because of lack of suitable boats;

(h) if so, the details and reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(i) the total funds provided by the Government on Coastal Security Scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Yes, Sir. A comprehensive Coastal Security Scheme, based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers on 'Reforming the National Security System' was formulated after consultations with all agencies concerned as well as all the 9 coastal States including Gujarat and 4 Union Territories.

(b) Based on the proposal of State Government of Gujarat, the Coastal Security Scheme provides for 10 coastal police stations, 20 jeeps, 101 motorcycles, 25 check-post, 48, out-posts, 20 boats of 12 Tonnes and 10 boats of 5 Tonnes for Gujarat. It is an approved scheme.

(c) Yes, Sir. A revised proposal was received in 2006-07 for upgrading of the existing 40 police stations.

(d) The proposal could not be considered as the ongoing Coastal Security Scheme is approved for five years and any such proposal could be considered only at the time of review after that.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. India Coast Guard is regularly deploying ships and aircrafts between Sir Creek and Jakhau. Hovercrafts and Interceptor Boats also are deployed from Jakhau to carry out patrol of sensitive areas between Sir Creek and Jakhau along the coast. BSF is also manning the area under their jurisdiction with sufficient number of available watercrafts and other vessels.

(i) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Total Funds Provided Under Coastal Security Scheme (State & UT-Wise)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Approved outlay (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Gujarat	5842.60
2.	Maharashtra	4092.60

1	2	3
3.	Goa	1653.50
4.	Karnataka	2711.90
5.	Kerala	4356.00
6.	Tamil Nadu	4408.00
7.	Andhra Pradesh	3267.00
8.	Orissa	2722.50
9.	West Bengal	3353.40
9A.	Sub-Total (States)	32407.50
10.	Puducherry	544.50
11.	Lakshadweep	936.80
12.	Daman and Diu	638.35
13.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2604.00
13A.	Sub-Total=(UTs)	4753.65
Grand Total=(9A+13A)		37161.15

Khadi Weavers

837. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether spinners and weavers in rural areas, engaged in Khadi manufacturing have lost their jobs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide assistance to them?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) There was no loss of job in respect of spinners and weavers working in the khadi sector as is evident from the number of spinners and weavers working in the khadi sector during 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 given below:

Year	Number of Spinners (lakh persons)	Number of Weavers (lakh persons)
2003-04	1.01	6.84
2004-05	1.01	6.87
2005-06	1.01	6.90
2006-07	1.03	7.01

The overall employment of spinners and weavers under khadi has registered marginal increase during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Short Supply of NCERT Books

838. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the short supply of NCERT text books in the country;

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

(c) whether some of the text books prescribed for the students of Class XII were not available with NCERT till August, 2007;

(d) if so, whether the Government has fixed the responsibility for the delay;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government against the erring officials; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to get the books published on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) New textbooks in accordance with the National Curriculum Framework-2005 were introduced by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for classes I, III, VI, IX and XI in the academic session 2006-07 and for Classes II, IV, VII, X and XII in the academic session 2007-08. Most of the textbooks meant for Class X and XII were released in adequate quantity by April, 2007. Also the reprint version of textbooks for remaining classes were made available in the market. In all 4,88,30,000 copies consisting of 222 titles were printed during the academic session 2007-08.

(c) to (e) Most of the books for Class XII were available at the beginning of the academic session 2007-08. In case of the following two titles, the printed copies were made available from 3rd August, 2007:

(i) The Themes in Indian History, Part III, Class XII,

(ii) Bhartiya Itihas Ke Kuch Ansh, Bhag III Class XII.

Part. III of the History textbook was required only after completion of Parts I & II which had been provided to the students well in time.

(f) NCERT takes all steps to bring out new textbooks in time, while keeping in mind the need to adhere to quality aspects. NCERT has substantially increased the print order of textbooks. It has a large network of wholesale agents throughout the country to distribute the textbooks. In addition, the books are also available at NCERT sales counters in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata and Guwahati. NCERT textbooks are also on its website: www.ncert.nic.in.

NDMA Plan for Flood Management

839. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Disaster Management Authority has unravelled a plan for managing various disasters including flood management in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of flood forecasting and warning systems installed in the flood prone areas;

(d) whether the impact of climate change in planning and strategies for disasters and flood management have also been assessed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of Disaster Management Institutions established and the work done by them so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has released guidelines on the following aspects which are expected to facilitate effective management of disasters including floods in the country:-

- (i) Management of Chemical (Industrial) Disaster.
- (ii) Management of Earthquakes.
- (iii) Medical Preparedness and Mass Casualty Management.
- (iv) Management of Floods.
- (v) Preparation of State Disaster Management Plans.

(c) The Central Water Commission (CWC) issued flood forecasts at 175 stations in the country. The basin and State-wise details of these forecasting stations are given in the statement enclosed. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also has 10 Flood Meteorological Officers (FMO) at Agra, Ahmedabad, Asansol, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jalpaiguri, Lucknow, Patna and New Delhi, which work in close coordination with the Central Flood Forecasting Divisions (CFFDs) of CWC during the flood season. Besides, IMD provides Quantitative Precipitation Forecast sub-basin wise on operational basis as a routine.

(d) and (e) The impact of climate change on river flows and likely floods has not been studied in detail and as such it is not possible to take that into account while planning the various measures for flood management.

(f) The Government had established National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) for capacity building and training in the field of disaster management. The Institute has developed a total of 38 Course Design Briefs for various sectors/target groups. It has also conducted a total of 137 training programmes on various aspects of disaster management since its inception in October, 2003, covering 3185 participants. Online training programmes have also been initiated by NIDM since October, 2006 and a total of 874 persons have participated in these courses. NIDM also organizes workshops/conferences and has entered into networking arrangements and collaboration with various national and international institutions and organizations working on one or more areas of disaster management. Besides, research and documentation work is undertaken by NIDM.

Statement***Distribution of Existing Flood Forecasting Stations of Central Water Commission***

Sl.No.	Name of River-Systems	Number of flood forecasting stations		
		Level	Inflow	Total
A. Basin-wise distributions				
1.	Ganga & Tributaries	77	10	87
2.	Brahmaputra & Tributaries	27	-	27
3.	Barak-system	05	-	05
4.	Eastern-Rivers	08	01	09
5.	Mahanadi	03	01	04
6.	Godavari	14	04	18
7.	Krishna	03	06	09
8.	West flowing Rivers	09	06	15
9.	Pennar	01	-	01
	Total	147	28	175

(B) State-wise distribution

Sl.No.	Name of River-Systems	Number of flood forecasting stations		
		Level	Inflow	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	09	07	16
2.	Assam	24	0	24
3.	Bihar	32	0	32
4.	Chhattisgarh	01	0	01
5.	Gujarat	06	05	11
6.	Haryana	0	01	01
7.	Jharkhand	01	04	05
8.	Karnataka	01	03	04
9.	Madhya Pradesh	02	01	03
10.	Maharashtra	07	02	09
11.	Orissa	11	01	12
12.	Tripura	02	0	02
13.	Uttar Pradesh	34	01	35
14.	Uttarakhand	03	0	03
15.	West Bengal	11	03	14
16.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	01	0	01
17.	NCT of Delhi	02	0	02
	Total	147	28	175

Scholarship to Minority Children

840. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide Scholarships to Minority children upto the Tenth Class;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any study regarding the number of minority children studying in the schools;

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

(d) the details of funds sanctioned in this regard for the 11th Plan;

(e) whether the State Governments have to bear the expenditure in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the procedure to be followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-matric scholarship for eligible students of class I to X belonging to the minority communities has been formulated by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in the Central Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Under the XI Five Year Plan, there is a provision of Rs. 1868.50 crore for the implementation of the scheme.

(e) and (f) The scheme is to be implemented through State Governments/Union Territory Administrations with funding being shared between the Centre and States in the ratio of 75:25; 100% financial assistance will be provided to Union Territories.

Co-operation with Canada in Mining Sector

841. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for Co-operation between the India and the Canadian Government in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has held discussions with the Canadian Minister for Economic Development; and

(d) if so, the details of the issues discussed alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Mines, Government of India and Department of Natural Resources, Canada (NR Can) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of Geosciences on 1st April, 2003. The MoU has set up a framework for co-operation in geosciences between India and Canada. The areas of co-operation identified include environmental geology and geo-hazards, economic geology, geological mapping, hydrocarbon basin analysis, marine and coastal geology, exploration geochemistry and geophysics, geo-science information systems and remote sensing and data integration, including cartography.

(c) and (d) A delegation led by Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Ontario Province, Canada held discussions on mining related issues with the Indian Minister of State for Mines on 11th January, 2008, in New Delhi. The discussions, *inter alia*, included issues of transfer of technology for exploration and mining, training of geologists, etc.

New Television Channels in Karnataka

842. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka State is way behind in having both news as well as entertainment television channels in comparison to its neighbouring southern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to start new TV channels including Kannada channel in Karnataka State during the current year; 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, Sir. However, Prasar Bharati have informed that like in other Southern States, Doordarshan Kendra Bangalore is having a 24 hour satellite channel "Chandana" which is putting out six news bulletins other than entertainment programmes. Doordarshan News which is a terrestrial news channel is also carried along with DD-1.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export Promotion Council

843. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Promotion Council (EPC) has prepared a perspective plan for child labour abolition in specific areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A code of conduct which all exporters registered with the Carpet Export Promotion Council have to comply with, has been formulated with the following parameters:

- (i) All looms must be registered with the Council.
- (ii) Carpets woven on registered looms can only be exported which have commitment not to use Child Labour.

Academy of Management Studies, Lucknow which is a research based professional organisation, is authorized by the Carpet Export Promotion Council to carry out random inspections to detect instances of illegal child labour. These instances are duly reported to the District Authorities for legal action. The Council ensures deregistration of the looms and blacklisting of the exporters, if any violation of the prescribed code is established.

Import of Soda Ash

844. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether Soda Ash is being imported due to reduction in import duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to increase the domestic production of Soda Ash and protect the domestic manufacturers of Soda Ash in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Import of Soda ash is free subject to payment of applicable customs duty. The total import of soda ash in the country in last three years is as follows:

	Quantity in M.Ts.
2004-05	1,87,501.83
2005-06	6,52,756.32
2006-07	2,60,386.37
April-June 2006	76,759.00
April-June 2007	51,922.00

The basic customs duty on import of soda ash classifiable under Tariff Item 28362090 was reduced from 12.5% to 7.5% in the year 2007-08.

The manufacture of soda ash is de-licensed and 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted in the industry. There are 6 manufacturers of soda ash in the country with a total installed capacity of 26,51,000 MT as on March, 2007. The domestic production of soda ash in the year 2006-07 was 20,78,057 MT.

Regulatory Authority for Bio-Technology

845. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a regulatory authority for bio-technology to govern developments in this segment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is considering to set up a National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority.

(b) and (c) The Authority would be set up as an independent, autonomous and professionally led body to provide a single window mechanism for biosafety clearance of genetically modified products and processes. Existing mechanisms, however, would continue till a full-fledged body is created with the required infrastructure and fully functional autonomy. Details of organization, scope, hierarchical flow of information, transparency of working, autonomy, training and retraining of regulatory professionals, nature of legislation required are currently being worked out.

Cashew Export Promotion Council

846. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cashew Export Promotion Council has been functioning at its head office, Kochi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a move to shift this office; and

(d) if so, whether there is a strong opposition to shift this office alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Cashew Export Promotion Council (CEPC) has taken a decision based on a resolution passed in their AGM to shift its office from Kochi to Kollam, the latter being 'Town of Export Excellence' for cashew.

(d) The Department of Commerce received representations from various persons against CEPC's decision. The main reasons given against shifting are:

(i) Shifting a centrally located office (near Airport/seaport etc.) from the commercial capital of Kerala to a remote underdeveloped place is not desirable.

(ii) It may be with the intention to dispose of the high value property of the Council at Kochi.

(iii) The construction of "Cashew Bhavan" at Kollam was intended for the CEPC laboratory. Shifting the CEPC office there raises doubts about this intention.

(iv) Difficulty to be faced by the staff of CEPC due to such shifting.

The Government has directed the CEPC to look into these before actually shifting the office.

Special B.Ed. Colleges

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

(a) the number of special B.Ed. colleges in the country imparting training to teachers for empowering the mentally challenged paraplegic persons etc., State-wise;

(b) whether there are very few special B.Ed. colleges throughout the country;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to open more such colleges in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, which has been entrusted with the twin responsibility of standardizing and regulating the training of personnel and professionals in the field of rehabilitation and special education has so far recognised 215 colleges/institutes to conduct B.Ed (Special Education Courses), a State-wise list of which is enclosed as statement. To meet the need

of trained resource teachers RCI has launched a series of training programmes through distance mode of education and has also launched a channel dedicated to disability rehabilitation for facilitating the process of training and creating a pool of manpower.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Special B.Ed. Colleges	
		Regular Mode	Distance Mode
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar (UT)	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	13	10
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
4.	Assam	—	2
5.	Bihar	2	2
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	1	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	1	1
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)	—	—
9.	Daman and Diu (UT)	—	—
10.	Delhi	8	10
11.	Goa	1	—
12.	Gujarat	5	16
13.	Haryana	2	1
14.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	1
16.	Jharkhand	—	1
17.	Karnataka	12	3
18.	Kerala	8	4
19.	Lakshadweep (UT)	—	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	—	4
21.	Maharashtra	13	3
22.	Manipur	—	—
23.	Meghalaya	—	5

1	2	3	4
24.	Mizoram	—	—
25.	Nagaland	—	—
26.	Orissa	5	3
27.	Puducherry	1	—
28.	Punjab	1	2
29.	Rajasthan	2	1
30.	Sikkim	—	—
31.	Tamil Nadu	15	10
32.	Tripura	—	1
33.	Uttar Pradesh	3	13
34.	Uttarakhand	1	2
35.	West Bengal	7	17
Total		103	112

Promotion of Science Education and Research

848. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the precautions taken by the Government to control the encroachment of IT boom in the areas of basic research by attracting the cream of the students from prestigious institutions;

(b) whether the basic scientific research programme launched by UGC is sufficient to boost the scientific research in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to attract youngsters in the field of basic science; and

(e) the details of programmes to promote science education in school level to check the decrease in the number of students opting for basic science after Higher Secondary level?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL

SIBAL): (a) to (e) The Government of India, on its part, has taken a number of steps to rejuvenate and promote scientific research in universities and other scientific institutes of excellence. The Plan Allocation of scientific departments has been doubled from about Rs. 12000 crore in the IX Plan to about Rs. 25000 crores in the X Plan and it is planned to increase substantially in the XI Plan. The Research Infrastructure programme of DST is a targeted programme to upgrade the laboratory infrastructure in universities and other higher educational institutions. Several institutions, centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas have also been established; for example, in the areas of Brain Research, Marine Biotechnology, Stem Cell and Tissue Engineering, Soft Computing, Water Resources Development, Nanophosphors, Display Technology; Fuel Cell Technology, Ultrafast Processes, Protein Research, etc. More recently three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been set up at Kolkata, Pune and Chandigarh which apart, from carrying out frontline and internationally competitive research, would offer M.Sc. programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically flexible and research-oriented environment. It is also planned to establish autonomous research institutes in the areas of molecular materials, glaciology, cancer research, nano-technology etc.

Developing and nurturing of human resource in Science & Technology has always been on top of the Government's agenda. A number of schemes have been initiated to attract research scholars namely Young Scientists/Women Scientists Fellowships; Swarnajayanti Fellowships, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Fellowships, K.S. Krishnan Fellowships and J.C. Bose & Ramanujan Fellowships for practicing scientists, Junior/Senior Research Fellowships (JRF/SRF), Research Associateship etc. More recently the fellowships of JRF/SRF have been enhanced. The Government, in the XI Plan is also proposing to launch a new scheme called INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research). The main features of the proposed scheme will be: (1) innovation funding in schools (one million young innovators); (2) summer camp with science icons (for high performers); (3) assured opportunity schemes for proven talent force; and (4) retention of talents in public funded research. In addition, another new scheme on Scholarships for Science in Higher Education will be initiated in the XI Plan. The scheme targets institution of 10,000 fellowships of Rs. 1,00,000/- per year for bright students in science streams during their B.Sc/M.Sc. courses.

Rural Employment Generation Programme

849. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Agro and Rural Industries set up under Rural Employment Generation Programme/ Margin Money Scheme, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether any proposal is under consideration to increase the quantum of margin money under the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has conducted the performance appraisal of the scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total amount sanctioned and utilized under the scheme during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The State/Union Territory-wise number of village industry units set up by the entrepreneurs by availing margin money under the Government's Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) (earlier known as Margin Money Scheme), implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), since the inception of the scheme from 1 April, 1995 to 31 March, 2007 are given in the statement I enclosed.

(b) No, Sir. The existing rates of margin money assistance under the REGP are considered to be adequate for setting up of village industries.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Since its launch in 1995-96, KVIC was appraised through two different agencies, in two phases. In the first phase, evaluation of REGP projects financed up to 31.3.2001 was conducted by taking up a sample of 10930 units drawn from all States and Union Territories. The evaluation revealed that nearly 70% of the units were working satisfactorily and around 2.84% of the units were reported as sick. The Scheduled Castes (SC) & Scheduled Tribes (ST) coverage of units were 15% and 10% respectively. The per capita annual net earnings of REGP entrepreneurs were Rs. 43,735/-.

In the second phase, appraisal was conducted by drawing a sample of 6364 units of the total projects

financed between 2001-02 to 2005-06. The study reported that about 14% units were set up by SC entrepreneurs and about 11% by ST entrepreneurs. The overall sickness was around 3.6% and hence it can be concluded that the remaining units were working. The appraisal revealed that more than 25% units were generating monthly income between Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- whereas the monthly income of around 11% units were reported even more than Rs. 50,000/-.

(f) REGP is a Central Sector scheme and the approved grants for the scheme are released to the KVIC which, in turn, releases the funds (towards margin money assistance) to the banks against the projects sanctioned in each State/Union Territory (UT). The State/UT wise details of margin money assistance sanctioned and utilised by KVIC under the REGP during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of village industry units set up under the REGP since the inception of the scheme from 1 April, 1995 to 31 March, 2007

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Number of village industry units
1	2	3
1.	Chandigarh	161
2.	Delhi	256
3.	Haryana	8176
4.	Himachal Pradesh	3827
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	10674
6.	Punjab	11929
7.	Rajasthan	30907
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1147
9.	Bihar	2641
10.	Jharkhand	1496

1	2	3
11.	Orissa	5664
12.	West Bengal	24175
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	586
14.	Assam	7693
15.	Manipur	1044
16.	Meghalaya	3664
17.	Mizoram	2425
18.	Nagaland	5413
19.	Tripura	1184
20.	Sikkim	481
21.	Andhra Pradesh	19249
22.	Karnataka	17096
23.	Kerala	11470
24.	Lakshadweep	36
25.	Puducherry	1176
26.	Tamilnadu	8852
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8
28.	Goa	2679
29.	Gujarat	2402
30.	Maharashtra	27107
31.	Chhattisgarh	3029
32.	Madhya Pradesh	21554
33.	Uttarakhand	3475
34.	Uttar Pradesh	20766
Total		262442

Statement-II

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of margin money assistance sanctioned and utilised under the REGP during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

(Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Amount sanctioned			Amount utilised		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Chandigarh	4.00	30.00	5.30	21.45	3.63	3.47
2.	Delhi	29.00	18.67	16.88	8.09	16.66	18.37
3.	Haryana	1119.00	1665.00	1824.72	2142.25	1782.18	1749.31
4.	Himachal Pradesh	713.00	800.00	1243.75	657.72	889.90	1165.42
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	570.00	889.30	1053.93	584.55	833.56	1565.20
6.	Punjab	1399.00	1628.80	1657.13	1834.63	837.21	1826.00
7.	Rajasthan	2160.00	3025.16	3273.79	2064.33	2679.91	2106.77
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	143.00	20.00	45.00	4.16	218.87	22.15
9.	Bihar	1196.00	600.00	707.95	281.69	570.54	715.67
10.	Jharkhand	906.00	300.00	353.84	320.60	351.12	357.92
11.	Orissa	829.00	600.00	982.13	863.05	837.22	1055.54
12.	West Bengal	2126.00	2242.30	2366.76	1999.62	2100.06	2396.03
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	97.00	126.94	114.75	66.03	126.54	144.45
14.	Assam	1431.00	2820.00	1694.25	1277.42	2719.99	1717.35
15.	Manipur	285.00	25.00	205.88	73.66	43.85	128.99
16.	Meghalaya	285.00	200.34	337.50	196.03	234.14	255.06
17.	Mizoram	426.00	1304.39	1104.60	257.48	995.54	1043.60
18.	Nagaland	162.00	285.80	192.37	204.46	286.22	192.13
19.	Tripura	162.00	205.00	243.00	214.14	289.95	151.47
20.	Sikkim	101.00	100.00	119.83	165.78	139.54	278.41
21.	Andhra Pradesh	2484.00	3810.27	3913.69	3394.19	3627.58	3674.06
22.	Karnataka	1885.00	2161.68	2232.60	1063.83	1697.66	2424.27
23.	Kerala	1193.00	1571.85	1541.40	1027.95	1603.41	1567.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24.	Lakshadweep	1.00	1.90	1.72	0.00	16.39	0.00
25.	Puducherry	6.00	13.70	71.18	9.05	12.66	42.76
26.	Tamilnadu	1136.00	1188.21	1560.46	1147.28	1217.13	1438.04
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Goa	285.00	200.00	237.50	88.90	103.68	95.25
29.	Gujarat	574.00	952.31	680.09	530.55	883.08	756.10
30.	Maharashtra	1774.00	2258.49	1917.84	1439.17	1596.48	1837.03
31.	Chhattisgarh	857.00	1121.92	1414.22	1000.91	1152.87	1215.03
32.	Madhya Pradesh	1210.00	1584.86	1432.72	2125.71	1114.33	1531.38
33.	Uttarakhand	570.00	577.74	575.00	578.63	617.86	601.44
34.	Uttar Pradesh	3746.00	4339.46	3169.95	3596.64	2495.99	2903.32
Total		29878.00	36669.09	36291.73	29239.95	32095.75	34979.35

Competition with Private TV Channels

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

(a) whether Prasar Bharati has made efforts to withstand competition from the private TV Channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, Doordarshan being the Public Service Broadcaster is not in competition with the private TV channels. Prasar Bharati always endeavours to improve the quality of the transmission and contents on all its channels.

Enrolment of Muslim Students

851. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Muslim students enrolled at different levels in various educational institutions in India; and

(b) the details of foreign Muslim students studying in these institutions, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) While information on students enrolled in different levels in various educational institutions in the country based on religion are not maintained centrally, the Prime Minister's High Powered Committee on the Social, Economic and Educational Conditions of Muslims in India (Sachar Committee) has estimated based on a sample survey that only one in twenty five students enrolled at the undergraduate level is a Muslim and at the postgraduate level, the number is only one in fifty enrolled students. Using the NSSO data of estimates for currently enrolled children (61st round 2004-05), the Sachar Committee has estimated that 81.8% of Muslim children ages between 6-14 years were enrolled in schools during 2004-05. Using the NCERT data of Seventh All India School Survey (2002), the Committee has estimated the number of Madarsa students at 10.36 lakh students enrolled in Madarsas pursuing Primary, Middle, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Problem Caused by Bangladeshi Migrants

852. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any status paper on internal security situation in which it is stated that migrants from Bangladesh are posing threat to the country including various security establishments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the exact number of Bangladeshi migrants residing in various parts of the country particularly in NE States, State-wise;

(d) whether Bangladeshi citizens have obtained documents like ration cards, passports and voter cards etc.;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (f) The Status paper, *inter alia* mentions that effective Border management is vital to maintenance of internal security.

The Government is aware of illegal immigration/infiltration from Bangladesh into various parts of the country. However, as this activity takes place clandestinely, no specific details are available about the magnitude of this illegal infiltration. Infiltrators/illegal migrants are not eligible to get ration cards, passports and voter cards etc. in the country.

The Government has taken up various measures to curb illegal influx into the country, which *inter alia* includes strengthening of Border Security Force (BSF) and equipping them with modern and sophisticated equipments/gadgets; reduction of gaps between border

outposts, intensification of patrolling, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and border fencing, etc. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been empowered under section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals illegally staying in India. Administrative instructions are issued from time to time requesting the State Governments/UT Administrations to detect and deport illegal Bangladeshi migrants staying in the country. In addition, thirty two (32) foreigners tribunals under the provisions of Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964 have been constituted in the State of Assam for detection of illegal migrants/foreigners.

Problems faced by Small Scale Industries

853. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale units and workers employed therein during each of the last three years and in the current year, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the production, sale and export of products from these units during the said period, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the details of the problems, issues and constraints being faced by these Small and Medium Enterprises (MSE) and threats from cheap imports endangering their existence;

(d) whether the Government proposes new policy initiatives to protect the interest and growth potential of SME units to ensure their economic viability, engage more manpower in the sector and also to secure their competitiveness in the market; and

(e) if, so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The State and Union Territory (UT)-wise details of estimated number of micro and small enterprises, workers employed therein and production from these units for the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (latest available) have been estimated on the basis of the results of 3rd All India Census for the Small Scale Industries conducted during 2001-02 and are given in Statement-I, Statement-II and Statement-III respectively. The estimated value of exports made by micro and small enterprises during

2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (latest available) were Rs. 97644 crore, Rs. 124417 crore and Rs. 150242 crore respectively. The State/UT-wise details of sale and export of products are not maintained centrally.

(c) to (e) The Government is seized of the problems, issues and constraints being faced by micro and small enterprises. The programmes/schemes of the Ministry of MSME are primarily meant for increasing the productivity and share of MSE sector in the total manufacturing output and enhance their competitiveness. The rate of growth of employment in the MSE sector in recent years has been consistently higher than the rate of growth of employment in the industrial sector. Some of the initiatives taken recently for the promotion and development of MSEs are listed below:

- (i) Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises with the objective to

double the credit flow to this sector in a period of 5 years;

- (ii) Enactment of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate promotion and development of MSMEs and enhancement of their competitiveness;
- (iii) According priority to the Cluster-based approach for holistic and integrated development of the MSE sector;
- (iv) Initiating action on the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP) to address the technology, marketing and skill upgradation needs of the MSME sector; and
- (v) Undertaking a Package for Promotion of MSEs which comprises of the proposals/schemes having direct impact on the promotion and development of the MSEs.

Statement-I

State/UT-wise details of estimated number of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (latest available)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Estimated Number of MSEs		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	82547	86064	89726
2.	Himachal Pradesh	87194	91596	95572
3.	Punjab	413762	427401	441797
4.	Chandigarh	24739	25653	26612
5.	Uttaranchal	123524	130140	137618
6.	Haryana	245370	254028	263308
7.	Delhi	196215	203336	210905
8.	Rajasthan	498035	518371	538728
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1938524	2027020	2116791
10.	Bihar	582167	605049	629509

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Sikkim	437	455	474
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	1458	1516	1578
13.	Nagaland	16824	17772	19024
14.	Manipur	53173	55115	57171
15.	Mizoram	12895	13554	14335
16.	Tripura	27054	28083	29141
17.	Meghalaya	25846	27153	28591
18.	Assam	218487	226890	235576
19.	West Bengal	856178	887697	921221
20.	Jharkhand	14967	156091	163220
21.	Orissa	434498	450946	468468
22.	Chhattisgarh	293468	304002	315118
23.	Madhya Pradesh	898650	937183	976981
24.	Gujarat	600569	624346	646379
25.	Daman and Diu	4197	4389	4579
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli			
27.	Maharashtra	909385	948028	989254
28.	Andhra Pradesh	970755	1005889	104312
29.	Karnataka	740967	772234	804811
30.	Goa	8101	8401	8654
31.	Lakshadweep	616	644	675
32.	Kerala	507313	524969	542610
33.	Tamil Nadu	922118	962854	100664
34.	Pondicherry	10301	10724	11120
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	3756	3902	4032
All India		11858821	12341475	12843773

Statement-II

State/UT-wise Details of Estimated Workers employed in Micro and Small Enterprises during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (latest available)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Estimated Employment		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	175909	183962	192254
2.	Himachal Pradesh	154749	164464	172350
3.	Punjab	987352	1014594	1042995
4.	Chandigarh	53917	55826	57743
5.	Uttaranchal	23621	246642	262737
6.	Haryana	600554	619731	640564
7.	Delhi	689863	712888	737325
8.	Rajasthan	1009827	1055332	1097842
9.	Uttar Pradesh	4618508	4848046	5076632
10.	Bihar	1219059	1267525	1319395
11.	Sikkim	1633	1703	1774
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	4769	4965	5178
13.	Nagaland	77204	82875	91032
14.	Manipur	151450	156904	162667
15.	Mizoram	29626	31318	33383
16.	Tripura	63338	65640	68147
17.	Meghalaya	78248	83048	88418
18.	Assam	491671	511033	530497
19.	West Bengal	2407908	2494556	2586716
20.	Jharkhand	320202	335225	352479
21.	Orissa	1051391	1091768	1134891
22.	Chhattisgarh	592528	613479	635522
23.	Madhya Pradesh	1539764	1609311	1680379
24.	Gujarat	1474431	1534932	1585675

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Daman and Diu	72748	76163	79558
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli			
27.	Maharashtra	2443906	2569860	2701767
28.	Andhra Pradesh	2370459	2451500	2539234
29.	Karnataka	1882962	1968567	2056678
30.	Goa	38048	37368	3860
31.	Lakshadweep	1918	2008	2106
32.	Kerala	1289505	1332814	1374692
33.	Tamil Nadu	256574	2703291	2840532
34.	Pondicherry	45654	47779	49428
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	9176	9541	9831
	All India	28755473	29984658	31251682

Statement-III

*State/UT-wise Details of Estimated Production from Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)
during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (latest available)*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Estimated Production		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	4030	4668	5486
2.	Himachal Pradesh	3841	4449	5229
3.	Punjab	39966	46293	54408
4.	Chandigarh	1969	2281	2681
5.	Uttaranchal	3032	3512	4128
6.	Haryana	30708	35569	41805
7.	Delhi	21594	25012	29397
8.	Rajasthan	21392	24779	29123
9.	Uttar Pradesh	40513	46927	55153

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Bihar	4938	5720	6723
11.	Sikkim	49	56	66
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	71	82	97
13.	Nagaland	486	563	661
14.	Manipur	618	716	841
15.	Mizoram	200	231	272
16.	Tripura	450	522	613
17.	Meghalaya	441	511	600
18.	Assam	4525	5241	6180
19.	West Bengal	25156	29139	34247
20.	Jharkhand	1877	2174	2556
21.	Orissa	7785	9017	10598
22.	Chhattisgarh	4093	4741	5572
23.	Madhya Pradesh	14947	17313	20348
24.	Gujarat	20624	23890	28077
25.	Daman and Diu	17152	19867	23350
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli			
27.	Maharashtra	64594	74820	87936
28.	Andhra Pradesh	27664	32043	37661
29.	Karnataka	18784	21758	25572
30.	Goa	3198	3704	4354
31.	Lakshadweep	11	12	15
32.	Kerala	12679	14687	17261
33.	Tamil Nadu	28626	33158	38970
34.	Pondicherry	3655	4233	4976
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	130	150	177
All India		429796	497842	585112

*[Translation]***Jan Shiksha Sansthan**

854. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects being run under the Jan Shikshan Sansthan Scheme, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of the amount allocated and utilized during each of the last three years State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken any concrete initiative to speed up the implementation of these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has made any review of these projects; and

(f) if so, the details of the shortcomings noticed and steps taken to rectify them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Statement-I indicating the State and Union Territory-wise number of Jan Shikshan Sansthan sanctioned is enclosed.

(b) Statement-II indicating the State and Union Territory-wise amount sanctioned during each of the last three years is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The monitoring of the implementation of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) is done through quarterly and annual progress reports. The activities of the JSS are being reviewed by the officers of Government of India periodically by way of attending the meeting of Board of Management of the JSS and through field visits. Annual Review meetings of JSSs to discuss annual action plan and progress made in the previous year are also being conducted to review and monitor their activities.

(e) and (f) The performance of JSS is evaluated by reputed evaluation agencies. So far 116 JSSs have been evaluated. JSS are required to take corrective measures with reference to the suggestion of evaluation agencies.

Statement-I*Number of Jan Shikshan Sansthan—State/UT-wise*

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Number of Jan Shikshan Sansthan sanctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12
2.	Assam	3
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4.	Bihar	9
5.	Chhattisgarh	3
6.	Delhi	3
7.	Gujarat	8
8.	Goa	1
9.	Haryana	6
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
11.	Jharkhand	5
12.	Karnataka	10
13.	Kerala	11
14.	Madhya Pradesh	27
15.	Maharashtra	18
16.	Manipur	3
17.	Mizoram	1
18.	Nagaland	1
19.	Orissa	15
20.	Punjab	2
21.	Rajasthan	6
22.	Tamil Nadu	10
23.	Tripura	1
24.	Uttar Pradesh	47
25.	Uttaranchal	6
26.	West Bengal	9
27.	Chandigarh	1
Total		221

Statement-II***Release of Grant State/UT-wise during 2004-05 to 2006-07*****(Amount in Rupees)**

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Grants Sanctioned		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20089676	31212799	22053832
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2488720	1524303	2280585
3.	Assam	6057534	5112566	7504678
4.	Bihar	9251475	11056258	10542365
5.	Chhattisgarh	1696198	2150586	2345447
6.	Delhi	2000000	31060161	250000
7.	Goa	1608184	2680225	2319172
8.	Gujarat	13005324	16620902	21440210
9.	Haryana	6396126	9540883	8229687
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2183137	1800000	2734833
11.	Jharkhand	5142939	11911211	8292133
12.	Karnataka	15785135	20062313	18936110
13.	Kerala	11544280	21965709	19370628
14.	Madhya Pradesh	25988504	41318426	35032207
15.	Maharashtra	21306639	38642103	28654066
16.	Mizoram	1500000	1872742	2380170
17.	Manipur	4040700	5800000	7946745
18.	Nagaland	1200000	2497036	2892700
19.	Orissa	18640085	24196267	21737524
20.	Punjab	3160618	51772484	4841427
21.	Rajasthan	14454346	18238026	16022287
22.	Tamil Nadu	16821106	23029239	16072762
23.	Tripura	1200000	1613605	1868486
24.	Uttar Pradesh	53369197	93497626	91789702
25.	Uttaranchal	4485547	7795643	6824833
26.	West Bengal	11813795	15558692	17727199
27.	Chandigarh	2978042	2861327	2930103
Grand Total		278207307	420841832	3852249863

*[English]***Accidents due to Bus Rapid Transit Corridor**

855. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the accidents caused by the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor in Delhi as reported in the 'Times of India' dated February 17, 2008; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Safety precautions are being taken on the corridor by providing barricades, signages, marshals, instruction boards etc. for the guidance and safety of road users.

Dialogue with Hurriyat Conference

856. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiation has been going on between the Government and Hurriyat (All Party Hurriyat Conference) on the Kashmir issue since the last several years;

(b) if so, since when these negotiations have been initiated; and

(c) the details of the proposal submitted by Hurriyat initially during the negotiations alongwith the present status of negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Government of India has held four rounds of talks with the delegation of All Party Hurriyat Conference(A) as per details given below:-

Date	Place	Talks held with
January 22, 2004	New Delhi	Deputy Prime Minister
March 27, 2004	New Delhi	Deputy Prime Minister
September 5, 2005	New Delhi	Prime Minister
May 3, 2006	New Delhi	Prime Minister

(c) The All Party Hurriyat Conference(A) did not submit any proposal during these talks. Both factions of the All Party Hurriyat Conference were invited to attend the third Round Table Conference held in Delhi on April 24, 2007. However, they did not attend the Conference.

Tax Charges from Consumers

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

(a) whether the T.V. Pay channels are charging tax on entertainment and advertisements from the consumers;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to save the consumers from being taxed twice?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) As per tariff orders for cable TV services issued by FRAI from time to time, the cable operators can charge local taxes such as entertainment tax alongwith cable charges from subscribers but no information has been made available on charging of tax on advertisements from consumers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Learning Disability

858. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any mechanism to assess the learning disability among the school children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to introduce effective measures to handle the children with learning disability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Learning Disability is not covered under

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has prepared a guide for functional assessment of children with disabilities including children with learning disabilities. The Guide includes a checklist and also some activities for assessing the functional level of children with learning disabilities in areas like mathematics, language, perception and attention.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) permits dyslexic students appearing for Secondary Schools Examination or Senior School Examination the use of an amanuensis as well as additional time to answer the question paper. Dyslexic students are exempted from examination in the third language.

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has taken certain steps to handle children with learning disability. These include provision of extra time for class work, tests and examinations; provision of aids for better concentration; organization of suitable co-curricular activities, and capacity building of teachers to handle such students.

Changes in Examination Pattern

859. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

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

(a) whether the National Curriculum Framework, 2005 had recommended certain changes in the examination pattern for Xth and XIIth students, affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education from the year 2008 as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 15, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the students of Xth and XIIth classes are taught as per the new pattern in the current academic session;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) National Curriculum Framework 2005 has made the following main recommendations on examination reforms:-

- (i) Overhaul the entire process of paper setting to improve validity of examinations.
- (ii) Shift from content based testing to problem solving and competency based testing.
- (iii) Provision of guidance and counseling to help students, teachers and parents.
- (iv) Computerization of reporting of results.
- (v) Introduction of continuous and comprehensive evaluation, and strengthening of school-based internal assessment.

(c) to (e) As per National Curriculum Framework, 2005, new syllabi and text books have been prepared by NCERT. These have been introduced by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in classes X and XII in all CBSE-affiliated schools.

Death of Students In Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas

860. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children died in Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti's Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas during each of the last three years till date in the Hyderabad Region alongwith the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints against the officials of JNVs during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) 11, 3, 4 and 1 students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) of Hyderabad Region died during 2005,

2006, 2007, 2008 respectively. These death have occurred due to sickness, drowning, suicide and accident.

(b) and (c) A complaint dated 30.05.2006 against Deputy Commissioner, Regional Office, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), Hyderabad was received from Shri K.N. Reddy on behalf of parent of students of JNVs of Hyderabad Region alleging non-performance of duties properly, as a result of which the death rate in Hyderabad Region had been high. The complaint was enquired into by NVS and was found to be without substance.

(d) NVS has issued detailed guidelines for safety and security of children in JNVs. In case of violation of instructions, disciplinary action is initiated against the concerned officials.

Tea Auction Centre

861. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to establish one office of the Tea Board and another Tea Auction Centre at Dibrugarh/Tinsukia districts to provide better facilities for the tea growers of these areas; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Tea Board is a Regulatory Authority to issue licences for Auction Centres to applicants who are willing to carry on the business of organizing, holding, conducting public tea auctions and who submit application to Tea Board under the provisions of the Tea (Marketing) Control Orders, 1984 and 2003. At present no application for issue of such licence is pending with the Tea Board. There is no proposal at present to open Tea Board's branch office at Dibrugarh.

Discovery of Certain Species in Antarctica

862. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether species such as seeds, spores, Mites, Lichens and Mosses that are alien to the continent have been found in Antarctica;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether scientists are finding a host of other tiny organisms from springtails-closely related to insects to mosses, rats or mice in Antarctica;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the origin of these organisms;

(e) whether the Government has asked its mission there about the impact of icy wilderness on these species/organisms and share it with other countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, some species of lower plant forms, not native to Antarctica, have been found. For example, a species of European grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*), a carnivorous beetle species, *Poa annua* (a seed plant) and Australian pollen taxa have been reported as alien species in Antarctica.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, a total of 439 species of lichens, 111 species of mosses, 4 species of mites, 7 species of tardigrade have so far been reported from Antarctic region. However, due to phenotypic plasticity in different species, it is difficult to trace the actual centre of origin of Antarctic species. It may be possible with genomic sequencing of these species in future.

(e) and (f) The data and research undertaken by different countries on alien species are shared under the aegis of SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research). According to published reports and data available, many of these alien species have been responsible for significantly decreasing biodiversity at invaded sites and indirectly causing a change in adult body size in populations of its major prey species. Antarctica's harsh climate and ice cover protect against alien colonization, but on milder sub Antarctic islands like Marion Island and South Georgia Island which are getting warmer in recent decades are increasingly favourable sites for alien species to colonize and spread.

[Translation]

Threats of Attack on Temples

863. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any intelligence report about likely terrorist attacks on various temples of the country has been received;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) Yes, Sir. There are credible intelligence inputs on the possible terrorists attacks on various religious places in the country.

(b) The complete details thereof, in the public interest, cannot be disclosed.

(c) Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects, providing security to religious sites/places and enhanced security inside the complex wherever needed is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/ Union Territory Administration. However, Ministry of Home Affairs with a view towards facilitating adequate protection to those religious places, in respect of which specific threat inputs may be available, also issues advisory for strengthening the security to the concerned State or Union Territory Administration. Assistance is also provided by the Union Government for strengthening the security arrangements through deployment of Central Police Forces and extending financial aid as and when requested by the States/Union Territories, to the extent possible.

[English]

Police Reform Commission

864. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Police Reform Commission, recently constituted by the Government has submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, the salient feature of these recommendations;

(c) whether the Government has accepted all the recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, action being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the total number of Commissions constituted for the reforms in police system alongwith the recommendations made by each commission and the funds spent on them till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Recently no Police Reform Commission has been constituted by the Government. However, in order to have a re-look at the role and functions of the Police, Soli Sorabjee Committee was constituted to draft a New Police Act to replace the Police Act of 1861; Model Police Act has been drafted which provides for well defined duties of the police, responsiveness and sensitivity of the Police towards public especially the weaker and vulnerable Sections and accountability to the rule of law. The copy of the draft Model Police Act as framed by the Committee has been sent to all the States for consideration and appropriate action as "Police" is a State Subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

(f) As Police is a State subject, therefore, police reforms is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments. In so far as Central Government is concerned, it had set up a National Police Commission in November 1977 which submitted eight reports during the period from February 1979 to May 1981 which were sent to the State Governments/Union Territories Administration for appropriate action. No details are available on the total amount spent on it.

Entry of Small and Medium Enterprises in other Sector

865. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to float small and medium enterprises (SME) in new sectors such as hospitality, hospitals and travel agencies in addition to the popular areas such as textiles, fertilizers, gem, and jewellery, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether the Government has issued any guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Government has commenced the implementation of the micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development Act, 2006 w.e.f. 2 October 2006. This legislation and the notifications issued thereunder provide the framework for classification of enterprises rendering services including, *inter alia*, those enterprises engaged in sectors such as hospitality, hospitals and travel agencies, etc., besides the enterprises engaged in manufacture of goods such as textiles, fertilizers, etc. The Statements and programmes to assist the promotion and development of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises whether engaged in manufacture of goods or in rendering of services. The contents of the MSMED Act, 2006 and the notifications issued thereunder can be accessed at the website <http://www.dcmsme.gov.in>.

[Translation]

Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme

866. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Government had launched the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme some years back to promote exports;

(b) if so, whether it is mandatory for the exporters to export goods under this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if so, whether several exporters are not making requisite exports inspite of benefitting by the said scheme; and

(e) if so, the total number of such defaulters during each of the last three years alongwith the action taken by the Government against these defaulters during the above said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The scheme

was introduced in the Import and Export Policy 1990-93 and is in operation since 1.4.1990.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The SSI Units and Agro Units are required to export goods equivalent to 6 times of duty saved amount and others equivalent to 8 times of duty saved amount within a specified period of 8 to 12 years from the Authorization issue-date.

(d) and (e) The total number of authorization (licenses) issued and number of exporters who defaulted in making requisite exports within the timeframe granted for the purpose during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as under:

Year	Authorizations (licenses) issued during the period	Licenses defaulting in E.O. fulfilment (pertaining to earlier years)
2005-06	16387	139
2006-07	21226	113
2007-08 (Upto 31.12.2007)	14361	93

The Authorizations are issued on furnishing of Bank Guarantee/Letter of Undertaking, towards duty saved amount depending upon the status of the exporters at the time of import, to safeguard the interest of Government. In case of default, the Bank Guarantee executed is invoked to recover the duty saved amount.

Besides, the defaulters are further proceeded against under the relevant provisions of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 for recovery of amount towards balance of customs duty saved, applicable interest thereon from the date of first import till the date of final payment and fiscal penalty for violation the terms and conditions of the Authorization (license).

[English]

Activities of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen

867. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the militant outfit 'Hizb-ul-Mujahideen' is inducting Pathans from Afghanistan to carry out terrorist strikes in the J & K Valley;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken or proposed to take some concrete steps to defuse the activities of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militant outfit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Government have no inputs which corroborate that terrorist outfit Hizb-ul-Mujahideen is inducting Pathans from Afghanistan recently to carry out terrorist strikes in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

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

[Translation]

FM Radio

868. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

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

(a) the present status of the second phase of FM radio;

(b) the number of additional frequencies likely to be introduced in the country including in the State of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar islands, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce at least one FM channel in each of the States and Union Territories;

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

(e) the time by when the second phase of FM Radio is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Pursuant to the notification of policy for private FM radion (Phase II), a total of 337 channels were put on bid. Out of this, 280 channels were successfully bid and permission granted for operationalisation of 245 channels after scrutiny. As on date 203 channels (including 21 channels of Phase-I and 182 of Phase II) are operational.

(b) Government has decided to allot 93 vacant FM channels and 4 additional channels in Dehradun. The State-wise details of these channels have been indicated in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Government has decided to expand FM Radio through private agencies under Phase-III to other cities. However, the details of location have not been worked out.

(e) The remaining FM Radio Stations of Phase-II are likely to be operationalised by the end of March, 2008.

Statement

S.No.	States/UT	Vacant Channels
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	7
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
4.	Bihar	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	2
6.	Daman and Diu	1
7.	Delhi	1
8.	Gujarat	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5
11.	Jharkhand	1

1	2	3
12.	Karnataka	5
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4
14.	Maharashtra	12
15.	Manipur	4
16.	Meghalaya	2
17.	Mizoram	3
18.	Nagaland	4
19.	Orissa	3
20.	Rajasthan	6
21.	Sikkam	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	4
23.	Tripura	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10
25.	Uttarakhand	4
Total		97

District Educational Programme

869. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for promotion and development of district education programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith amount disbursed by the Union Government to the Government of Rajasthan during each of the last three years and in the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) Phase-II project for development of primary education is already running in nine districts of Rajasthan for which the Government of India has released

Rs. 45.00 crore in 2004-05, Rs. 50.52 crores in 2005-06, Rs. 31.90 crore in 2006-07 and Rs. 58.22 crores during the current financial year i.e. 2007-08.

[English]

Illegal Bangladeshis in India

870. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has discussed the matter with the State Governments and proposes to find out a solution of illegal immigration from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The State Governments/UT Administrations have been empowered under section 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals illegally staying in India. Administrative instructions are also issued from time to time requesting the State Governments/UT Administrations to intensify the drive for detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshi migrants staying in the country.

Industrial Growth in Infrastructure

871. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target set for industrial growth in the infrastructure sector is achieved during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the contribution of various sectors, especially in construction, infrastructure, goods and materials;

(c) the details of the decline in growth in respect of some industrial sectors during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken to achieve the growth target in such sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI

KUMAR): (a) to (c) The production targets and achievements for six core infrastructure industries (Crude oil, Petroleum Refinery Products, Electricity, Cement, Coal

and Finished Steel) for the last three years are given below:

Industry	Unit	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Crude Oil	(Million Metric Tonnes)	33.15	33.98	34.45	32.19	35.44	33.99
Petroleum Refinery Products	(Million Metric Tonnes)	121.94	127.42	128.86	130.11	135.33	146.55
Coal	(Million Tonnes)	381.09	377.27	408.17	407.03	432.50	430.85
Electricity	(Billion Units)	586.41	587.37	621.50	617.38	663.0	662.52
Cement	(Million Tonnes)	136.70	133.57	150.47	147.81	165.56	161.66
Steel	(Million Tonnes)	48.22	43.44	51.55	46.46	57.72	50.82

The contribution of each of the six core infrastructure industries in overall industrial production measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) compiled by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) are Crude oil 4.17%, Petroleum Refinery Products 2.00%, Coal 3.22%, Electricity 10.17%, Cement 1.98% and Steel 5.12%. The contribution of infrastructure industries in construction, infrastructure goods and materials are not compiled separately.

(d) Government has taken several initiatives for increasing capacities and production of infrastructure industries by facilitating capacity creation such as increasing coal production by framing guidelines for new exploration by public and private sector, allotment of coal blocks to Government and private companies, introduction of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) for crude petroleum, National Electricity Policy for accelerated development of Power Sector, setting up of mega projects by private sector formulation of National Steel Policy, etc.

[Translation]

Launching of Bhojpuri Channel

872. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a Bhojpuri channel for the Bhojpuri speaking people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether any proposal for launching the private Bhojpuri channel is still pending with the Government;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by when this proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has no proposal to launch the Bhojpuri Channel for the Bhojpuri speaking people.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has already permitted two TV channels, namely, "Focus TV" and "Mahuaa" to uplink from India and downlink in India with Bhojpuri language. The proposals of five TV channels with Bhojpuri language, namely, "Hum Bhojpuriya" "Ganga" "Pehali Khabar", "Mahuaa Geet" Hamar TV" have been received in the Ministry. One more proposal, namely, "Sangeet Bhojpuri" channel has also been received having no specific Bhojpuri language. The proposals require consultations from other Ministries/Departments in the matter as per uplinking/downlinking guidelines and therefore, no definite time-frame can be given.

*[English]***Shifting of Head Quarter of Salt Commissioner**

873. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether a decision was taken in December 1994 to shift the Head Quarter of the Office of Salt Commissioner from Jaipur to Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government since then to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All India Salt Department Employees' Union challenged the decision of the Government before the Hon'ble High Court, Rajasthan. The Hon'ble Court stayed the decision of shifting with order passed on 29.11.1994. The Government of Rajasthan and Gujarat impleaded themselves as interested parties. The Court in their order dated 04.10.2007 directed to have a re-look into the matter after consulting all State-holders. The judgement of the Hon'ble High Court is under implementation.

Casualty during Recruitment Process of CISF

874. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CISF had organised a recruitment camp in Jaipur during January, 2008;

(b) if so, whether unexpected aspirants had reached the venue resulting in stampede and causing casualties there;

(c) whether similar incidents had also happened in the past;

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking proper precautions this time; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the erring officials of CISF in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) CISF notified 404 vacancies of Followers at 04 recruitment centers on 11.2.2008. Of this, 101 vacancies were allotted to 7th Res. Bn. at Jaipur for candidates from Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand & Union Territory of Chandigarh.

(b) An estimated 40,000 aspirants turned up at the centre which was much more than anticipated. This resulted in a stampede at the main gate of the venue, resulting in 02 candidates being trampled by the crowd, one of whom succumbed to injuries.

(c) No Sir.

(d) As per information given by CISF, they informed the local authorities in writing on 10.02.2008 about this recruitment and a police contingent was present.

(e) Necessary action is taken against the persons held guilty in the enquiry in accordance with the rules.

Classical Status to Kannada Language

875. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any report from the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) for conferring classical status to Kannada Language;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter is now under the high level committee to take a decision; and

(d) if so, the time by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Human Resource Development forwarded representations received by it which were addressed to the Prime Minister regarding conferring classical status to Kannada Language to the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore for their comments. The CIIL sent its comments asked for in this regard to that Ministry.

(c) and (d) A Committee of Linguistic Experts has been set up by the Ministry of Culture to consider and examine any language as classical language and the proposals for declaring Kannada as classical language. These proposals need to be studied by the Committee in detail and no deadline can be fixed for this purpose.

Starvation Deaths in Tea Gardens

876. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of deaths have occurred in the tea gardens due to starvation;

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

(c) whether the Government has initiated any rehabilitation and revival measures for the closed tea gardens;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for providing adequate livelihood for the workers engaged in tea industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of the deaths which have occurred in the tea gardens due to starvation.

(c) and (d) The Government announced a Rehabilitation packages for 33 tea gardens lying closed as on 1.4.2007 with the aim to enable the owners of the closed tea gardens to revive the gardens in the interest of tea garden workers and considering the importance of the industry in the export performance of the country. The net implication in respect of the components of the scheme works out to Rs. 38.65 crore.

(e) Several steps have been taken for helping the tea industry for increasing the production and productivity and thereby decreasing the cost of production so as to sustain the industry. A Special Purpose Fund has been

set up for extending financial assistance by way of long term loan and subsidy for taking up large scale uprooting and replanting of the old age tea bushes. This activity will generate additional mandays at the rate of 22 million days per year over the next 15 years besides safeguarding the livelihood of the existing 30 lakh workers. Under the Human Resource Development Programme of Tea Board, financial assistance is being extended for the welfare of the tea garden workers, which would cover medical facilities, drinking water, sanitation, education stipend for wards of the workers and also training programme for the workers, etc.

[Translation]

Funds for Surrendered Terrorists

877. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides some fixed amount as monthly rehabilitation allowance to the terrorists who have surrendered;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The Surrender Policy in operation for Jammu & Kashmir and the North-Eastern States includes payment of monthly stipend to the surrenderees @ Rs. 2000/- per month for a period of three years, grant of Rs. 1.50 lakhs to be kept in the shape of FDR in a bank in the name of the surrenderee for a period of three years and drawn subject to good behaviour of the surrenderee and incentives for surrendered weapons as per prescribed rates, etc.

Expenditure on the rehabilitation of surrenderees in Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States is reimbursed by the Central Government. The expenditure during the last three years is as under:-

State	Year-wise amount reimbursed (Rs. in lakhs)		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Jammu and Kashmir	82.00	49.00	31.00
Nagaland	10.62	00.00	00.00
Meghalaya	60.91	06.91	00.00
Manipur	00.83	00.00	04.19
Arunachal Pradesh	00.00	00.00	00.00
Tripura	79.19	78.55	150.43
Assam	700.00	300.00	500.00

*[English]***Mid-Day Meal Scheme**

878. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether no seasonal changes are made in the mid-day meals served in the schools all over the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of schools, aided, non-aided etc. where mid-day meals are being served in Delhi;

(d) whether only rice is being served in the schools in Delhi; and

(e) if so, the reasons for serving rice in winter and the action proposed to be taken to serve seasonal and more nutritional diet in these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the Guidelines on the Mid-Day Meal Programme issued by the Department, Menu Planning is required to be undertaken at the Village level. School Managements are encouraged to seek local support for drawing out varied, but wholesome and nutritious menus.

(c) The details of schools where mid-day meals are being served in Delhi as reported by Government of NCT

of Delhi (Directorate of Education) Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) are as under:-

	Govt. Schools	Govt. Aided Schools
(i) Directorate of Education	367	115
(ii) MCD	1751	44
(iii) NDMC	67	03

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, question does not arise.

*[Translation]***Private Companies in Weapon Manufacturing**

879. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private companies are being allowed in the field of weapon manufacturing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI

KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government's decision to open up Defence Industry sector upto 100% for Indian Private sector participation was notified on 3rd January, 2002.

Since January, 2002 Government has issued 72 Industrial Licenses (ILs) to various Indian companies.

World Trade Organisation

880. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has taken a decision regarding livelihood of the farmers and food security;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has proposed any action plan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of the schemes which have been implemented on the said issues; and

(f) the total expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years including the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Multilateral negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) under the Doha Round are presently underway. In terms of the mandate of this Round, developing country members can self-designate Special Products (SPs) guided by indicators based on the criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development. The SPs will enjoy less tariff reductions than the other products, which will be subjected to the normal formula based tariff reductions.

(c) to (f) Besides several on-going initiatives, the Government has undertaken several new initiatives to address the food and livelihood security concerns of our farmers. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Food Security Mission was launched to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes respectively by the end of the XI Five Year Plan period. One of the major aims of the Mission is the enhancement of productivity and production of foodgrains for food security. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has also been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture with an outlay of Rs. 25,000 crores during the XI Five Year Plan.

The Government has also approved the National Policy for Farmers 2007 for a holistic approach for developing the farm sector. An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up to operationalize the implementation of the policy. Besides, a comprehensive scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers has been announced in the Union Budget 2008-09.

[English]

Plantation Drive in NDMC Area

881. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is aware of the depleting green cover in its Zones;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to undertake mass plantation drive;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the total funds allocated during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken for the proper maintenance and upkeep of the existing green cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) Due to development of transport system by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, some trees were removed with the prior approval directly from the Forest Department of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. However, compensatory plantation has been carried out by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, as per guidelines. The overall green coverage in New Delhi Municipal Council area has in fact increased during the last years.

(b) Tree plantation is being carried out every year as per requirement and availability of space with the objective of improving environment and to compensate for the loss of trees/greenery due to various reasons. During the current year, Horticulture Department of New Delhi Municipal Council has taken action for planting 20,000 tree saplings.

(c) The plantation is carried out from saplings raised in the departmental nursery and through departmental staff and no separate allocation of funds is required for this purpose. However, the Horticulture Department of New Delhi Municipal Council was allotted the following amount during the last three years and the same is used for maintenance of horticulture feature including planting of saplings, trees, etc.

Year	Amount allocated (rupees in lacs)
2005-06	200
2006-07	250
2007-08	250

(d) All possible steps such as providing tree guards, watering, manuring, trimming, pruning, etc. are being taken by the New Delhi Municipal Council from time to time for the maintenance and upkeep of the existing green cover.

[*Translation*]

Mining Power to States

882. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to grant mining approval to the States for the minerals enlisted under Part A and C of First Schedule to the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957;

(b) whether some members of the Hoda Committee have expressed their disagreement with the recommendations of the Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the government has discussed the recommendation of the Committee with the State Governments and arrived at some conclusion;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of disagreement with recommendations of Hoda Committee are available in the report of Hoda Committee, which is available at website of Ministry of Mines (www.mines.nic.in).

(d) to (f) The State Government have been consulted. The new national Mineral Policy Under consideration of Government has apart from other issues addressed the issue of reducing delays in grant of mining lease.

[*English*]

Setting up of Central Madarsa Board

883. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Central Madarsa Board as per the recommendation of the National Commission for Minorities Education Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the setting up of a Central Madarsa Board has been opposed by leaders belonging to the Muslim community;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which modernization of Madaras will be effected and the likely outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) The National Commission for minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) had a national level conference of State Madaras Boards and Madarsa Management in 2006 and submitted report based on that to the Government. The Report, among others, has suggested establishment of a Central Madarasa Board. There is no such decision at present.

(e) Madrassa Modernization is an ongoing programme, under which those Madarassas which volunteer to impart teaching in modern subjects such as Science, Mathematics, English etc., in addition to the traditional religious learning, are assisted through State Governments. The outcome of the program is that students enrolled in the targeted Madrassa can, if they so desire, join mainstream education.

Professors Working in Foreign Universities

884. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to call back Indian Professors working in foreign universities abroad;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by when such scheme is likely to be finalized and implemented by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Though the Indian, Professors working in universities abroad are welcome to teach in Indian Universities, the Government has not formulated any scheme in this regard.

Terrorist Threats to Courts

885. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received threats from terrorists to target court in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the various courts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) There are no present inputs regarding any specific threat from terrorists a target courts in the country. The Government has framed and communicated guidelines to all State Governments and Union Territories for the security of High Courts and District/Subordinate Courts on 04.06.2007 with the request to urgently review the security arrangements of the High Courts and District/Subordinate Courts and adequately strengthen them to avoid any untoward incident. A continuous and close watch is being maintained by the various security agencies about any possible threats of terrorist activities. Any inputs that may be received in this respect are also shared with the State Governments on a regular basis.

Setting up of Social Development Zones

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

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Social Development Zones/knowledge hubs in the Special Economic Zones as reported in "The Times of India" dated February 9, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The proposal for Social Development Zones is only at an exploratory stage at present and no details have been finalized.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

National Mineral Policy

887. SHRI SURESH ANGADI:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to simplify the mining policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the delay in finalising the National Mineral Policy is holding back foreign steel players from announcing their strategy;

(d) if so, whether the mineral rich States want a say in the new mineral policy; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the time period in granting the mining lease to steel industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) A new National Mineral Policy is under consideration of the Central Government.

(c) The existing National Mineral Policy does not impede steel players from announcing their strategy.

(d) and (e) The State Governments have been consulted. The new National Mineral Policy under consideration of Government has addressed the issue of reducing delays in grant of mining lease.

Education Hub

888. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

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

(a) whether India is going to become a key education hub;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sought the support of NRIs in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the NRIs thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Eleventh Five Year plan envisages the setting up of 30 Central Universities including 14 world class universities, 8 new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 7 new India Institutes of Management (IIMs), 10 new National Institutes of Technology (NITs), 3 Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs), 20 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and 2 new Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs).

(c) and (d) A proposal to set up a University for person of India Origin (PIOs) by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is at a preliminary stage.

[Translation]

Right to Education Bill, 2006

889. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the State Governments and other stakeholders have raised various objections on the Right to Education Bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has set up a committee to re-draft the Right to Education Bill, 2006;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when the said committee is likely to submit its report and introduce the aforesaid Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) Article 21A of the Constitution makes education a Fundamental Right for children in the age group of 6-14 years by providing that "the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine". Based on the recommendations of the High Level Group (HLG) comprising Minister of Human Resource Development, Finance Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council constituted by the Prime Minister in November, 2005 to consider the legal, constitutional and financial implications of the Right to Education, a draft Model Right to Education Bill, 2006 as well as the proposals to incentivise the States to adopt the Model Bill were circulated to the State for their comments. The main objections raised by the States and UTs relate to:

1. Proposal regarding replacement of the Central Legislation by a Model Bill for State Legislation.
2. Linkage of SSA funding with State/UT enactment of Model Right to Education Bill or modification of existing State/UT Acts.
3. Making elementary education first charge on revenues of each State Government, next only to law and order.
4. Financial liability for free and compulsory education to be borne by the States/UTs.

Keeping in view the concerns of the States as also further discussions in various forums, which included members of the HLG, and the rationale of the 86th Constitutional Amendment, the matter regarding enactment of a Central Legislation on Right to Education is under consideration of the Government.

Foreign Travel on Forged Documents

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

- (a) whether some people migrating to USA on forged documents have been arrested recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken against such persons;
- (d) whether human trafficking is the main purpose of the said racket; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) As per available information, no such case has come to the notice of the Government.

(e) To ascertain the genuineness of the travel documents including visa and to detect forgeries, the immigration officers at all Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) in the country are provided with the specimen copies of the travel documents and visas for comparison. They are also provided with Ultra Violet Lamps/Magnifying glasses to examine the travel documents including visas to detect possible tampering. In addition, Full Page Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) and Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) machines have been installed at major ICPs. Above all, officers manning immigration counters at all ICPs are given special training for detection of forged/fake travel documents including visas.

Development of Cracks in the Land in Bundelkhand Region

891. SHRI MOHAN SINGH. Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has conducted any study about the cracks that have been appearing in the land in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether volcanic blazes are erupting from such cracks at some spots;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has reported that ground cracks have been found in parts of Banda district, Uttar Pradesh on 16.2.08 in the area around Mataundh village, Banda district.

(b) No volcanic blazes are reported in the area.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) GSI has submitted the detailed study report alongwith the conclusions to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Export of Agriculture Products

892. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of India's share in world export trade in agricultural products;
- (b) whether the total volume of farm exports is still very low;
- (c) if so, the details of items exported during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken to boost the farm exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) India's share in the world export trade in export trade in agricultural products is about 1% Agriculture exports had shown improvement over the last few years and increased by 26.1% in 2006-07 over 2005-06. However, the percentage share of agro and allied exports to country's total exports remains at the same level at 9.90% over this period. During the year 2006-07 agro exports were Rs. 56612.78 crore whereas during 2005-06 these were at Rs. 45181.38 crore. The details of exports of major commodities during the last three years is enclosed as statement.

(d) The Government of India's strategy is influenced by the need to maximize farm incomes, safeguard national food security, generate foreign exchange and ensure availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices to the Indian consumers. The Government has been promoting agro-exports both directly and through statutory bodies like the Agricultural & Processed Food Export Development Agency (APEDA), Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards. In order to boost export of agro

products, the Government provides various incentives through APEDA, Commodity Boards/Export Promotion Councils for infrastructure development, quality and quality control, market development and promotion packaging, publicity, information dissemination etc. In addition, vigorous efforts are also being made to gain access for our agri-products through conclusion of SPS protocol with China, Japan and other important importing countries.

Statement

Agri Export Data for the Last Three Years

Item	2004-05 (April-March)			2005-06 (April-March)			2006-07 (April-March)		
	Qty.	Value	Value (US\$ Mill.)	Qty.	Value	Value (US\$ Mill.)	Qty.	Value	Value (US\$ Mill.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Foodgrains	7985477	902256	2008.07	5401569	723262	1626.00	5521484	766346	1740.67
Basmati Rice	1162996	282390	628.49	1166569	304310	684.13	1040672	277831	831.06
Non-Basmati Rice	36115105	394502	878.01	2921605	317817	714.50	3704847	425788	967.13
Wheat	2009347	145982	324.90	746177	55753	125.34	47834	3615	8.21
Other Cereals	1178029	79382	176.67	567218	45382	102.03	726111	59112	134.27
Pulses**	271176	60257	134.11	447441	111521	250.72	247424	76405	173.55
Meat, Poultry & Dairy									
Meat & Meat Prep.		190527	424.04		275017	618.28		323973	735.87
Poultry Prod.		28196	62.75		31337	70.45		30202	68.60
Dairy Prod.		45879	102.11		79461	178.64		49598	112.66
Fruits & Vegetables		172526	383.97		204050	456.74		289036	666.51
Fresh Fruits		86226	191.91		112069	251.95		138815	315.30
Fresh Vegetables		86299	192.07		91981	206.79		150221	341.21
Processed Foods		163965	364.92		205392	461.75		244275	554.84
Proc. Fruits & Juices		36916	82.16		59991	134.87		71410	162.20
Processed Vegetables		36246	80.87		49448	111.17		62605	142.20
Misc. Processed Items		90603	202.09		95953	215.72		110260	250.44
Nuts and Seeds	489678	379789	845.26	543397	390524	877.96	637299	929642	975.88
Cashew Kernel	118110	247718	551.32	125102	258470	581.08	122835	249091	565.78
Groundnut	177150	54702	121.75	190062	51369	115.49	251637	8008	181.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sesame seeds	1682680	70695	157.76	199808	74660	167.85	232610	93856	213.18
Niger Seeds	26138	6474	14.41	28425	6025	13.55	30017	6687	15.19
Tobacco	136744	125461	279.23	142702	133066	299.15	167321	168202	382.06
Tobacco Unmanufactured	135744	94007	209.22	142702	102132	229.61	157321	125226	284.44
Tobacco Manufactured		31454	70.00		30934	69.54		42976	97.62
Sugar & Molasses	116848	15505	34.51	394144	58790	134.42	1957635	318473	723.37
Sugar	108687	14953	33.28	321204	56910	127.94	1636312	305546	694.01
Molasses	8161	552	1.23	72940	2880	6.47	321323	12927	29.36
Spices	364530	188318	419.12	400245	211598	475.70	497290	312288	709.33
Oil Meals	3603382	317760	707.21	5975997	487601	1095.98	6591861	550297	1249.94
Guargum Meal	131307	68948	153.45	186733	104923	235.88	189247	112346	255.18
Floriculture Prod.		22292	49.61		30146	67.77		38093	86.62
Fruit & Veg. Seeds	6745	6604	14.70	7522	9296	20.90	9097	11548	26.33
Spirit & Beverages		13931	31.00		25316	55.91		25802	58.61
Total Agri Product	13084887	2702213	6014.07	1399750	3082199	6929.25		3746526	8509.80
Allied Products	1201340	1104403	2457.97	1773559	1435939	3228.21	2496487	1914752	4349.14
Marine Products	483520	648922	1439.80	554197	703591	1581.78	611408	788984	1792.09
Tea	183403	184030	409.58	162856	173073	389.09	204709	195630	444.35
Coffee	167546	106908	237.94	177685	156868	357.16	216195	196887	447.21
Castor oil	271689	107798	239.92	254718	93974	211.27	293588	108392	246.20
Shellac	8545	16487	36.69	9296	15998	35.97	7533	14675	33.33
Cotton incl. waste	8635	42258	94.05	614805	290435	652.94	1165056	610184	1385.98
Grand Total (Agri. & Allied product)		3806616	8472.04 US\$=44.93		4518138	10157.46 US\$=44,4810		5661278	12858.94 US\$=44,260
Total Exports		37533953	83536.94		45641786	102609.62		57164188	129841.88
Agri Exports as % of TE		7	7.20		6.75	6.75		6.55	6.55
Total Agri Marine etc. as % of TE		10	10.14		9.90	9.90		9.90	9.90

*[Translation]***Statement****Committee for Films and TV Serials**

893. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the criteria adopted for selection of feature films and TV serials for telecast in the Doordarshan Channels in various languages;

(b) the details of the committees constituted by the Government for this purpose;

(c) the composition of the said committees;

(d) whether there are complaints that these members are ignoring the norms for giving clearance to films and TV serials;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasar Bharati have informed that Doordarshan procures feature films for telecast from M/s N.F.D.C. Limited on royalty basis. The films are being selected for telecast by Film Selection Committee under the Chairmanship of CEO, Prasar Bharati.

Guidelines/criteria are prescribed for the consideration, processing and approval of proposals of outside producers for telecast of TV programmes/serials under "Sponsorship Category" and 'Self-Financed Commissioning', and Commissioning category. The guidelines are duly approved by the Prasar Bharati Board.

(b) and (c) Government has not constituted any such Committee as Prasar Bharati is an autonomous organisation. However, the details of Committees set up by Prasar Bharati are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Prasar Bharati have informed that there are no such complaints.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

I. Sponsorship Scheme

Doordarshan with its programme requirements over a period of time invites proposals as and when need arises from the outside producers by making announcements over its Network/advertisements in the newspapers.

The proposals received are processed in two stages:-

(i) Evaluation Committee: It includes the following:

- Director, (Programmes), (National Channel)
- Director, (Programmes), (Sponsored Programme)
- Director, (Programmes), (DD-India)
- Director, (Programmes), (DD-Sports)
- Director, (Programmes), (DD-News)
- Director, (Programmes), (DD-Bharati)
- Director, (Programmes), (Sales/Marketing)
- Director, (Programmes), (DD-Kashir)
- Director, (Engineering), (Co-ordn.)

(ii) Selection Committee: It includes the following:

- Additional/Deputy Director General of National Channel (DDI)
- Additional/Deputy Director General (DD-India)
- Additional/Deputy Director General (DD-Sports)
- Additional/Deputy Director General (DD-News)
- Additional/Deputy Director General (Commercial & Sales/Marketing)
- Director, Programmes of concerned channel.
- Three outside experts (of whom one will be a lady member and one will be expert in marketing).

II. Self-Financed Commissioning

Doordarshan at its discretion and in accordance with its programme requirements considers and process

suo moto proposals from producers by the following committees:

(i) **Suitability Committee:**

This is in-house committee constituted by DG: Doordarshan. It consists of the following:

DDG (Chairman)
Sr. DP: National (Member)
Sr. DP: SFC (Production)
DDP: National & Sponsored
DDP:SFC
ADP: National

(ii) **Evaluation Committee:**

It assesses and evaluates the merits of the proposals in relation to the Channel specific as well as general requirements of Doordarshan. It consists of Senior Officers of Doordarshan:-

DDG (SFC)
Sr. DP (C&S)
Sr. DP (Mktg.)
Sr. DP (SFC)
Sr. DP (National)
DDPDDA (Finc.)/ADP/Technical in charge and three outside experts.

(iii) **Empowered Committee**

The proposals recommended by Evaluation Committee are further submitted to Empowered Committee consisting of : CEO, Prasar Bharati DG: Doordarshan and Member (Finance) for approval/rejection or otherwise.

The proposals approved by the Empowered Committee are considered for slotting as per time band/genre of DD: National.

III. Commissioned Programmes

The proposals under commissioning are processed by the following Committees:-

- (i) **Evaluation Committee:** Consisting of five official members of the rank of Dy. Director and above and 3 outside experts.
- (ii) **Costing Committee:** Consisting of five members of the rank of Dy. Director and above.
- (iii) **Empowered Committee:** Consisting of CEO, Prasar Bharati, DG: Doordarshan DG: AIR and two part time Prasar Bharati Board members may accept any *suo-moto* proposal as per channel and programming requirement in relaxation of the guidelines.

IV. Films

Film Selection Committee:

The Shortlisting Committee comprises of-

Shri B.S. Lalli, CEO

Shri L.D. Mandloi, DG, Doordarshan.

Shri Rajat Bhargava, ADG (A&F). Shri Ashok Jallkhani, DDG (Fims) is included in place of Shri Rajat Bhargava who has been relieved of his duties from Prasar Bharati.

[English]

Illegal Mining

894. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining has caused great loss to the national exchequer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the section 23c of the MMDR Act, 1957 was amended in 1999 empowering State governments to frame rules for prevention of illegal mining;

(d) if so, the details of State Governments who have framed the rules, till date state-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure that all the State Governments frame rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Illegal mining causes loss of revenue to the State Governments, which would have otherwise accrued in from of royalty and other taxes.

(c) to (e) Under section 23C of Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957; State Governments have been empowered to frame rules of preventing of illegal mining, transportation & storage of minerals and for the purpose connected therein. 16 States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand,

Uttar Pradesh, & West Bengal have framed rules. State Governments, which have not framed Rules under Section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957 are reminded from time to time for ensuring early framing of such rules.

[*Translation*]

Assessment of Post-Election Situation in Jammu and Kashmir

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted/proposes to conduct any assessment of the post Assembly election situation in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of terrorists surrendered consequent upon issuance of a last warning by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) the details of weapon recovered from the surrendered terrorists; and

(e) the details of funds spent so far on bringing the surrendered terrorists into mainstream of the nation and their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The situation in Jammu and Kashmir is reviewed periodically at various levels in the State Government (including in the two Unified Headquarters headed by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and in the Central Government. The number of incidents of terrorism in the State has declined in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous years.

(c) As per information received from the State Government, 262 terrorists have surrendered before the Security Forces/J & K Police.

(d) The details of weapons recovered from the surrendered terrorists are as under:

Type of weapons and Ammunition	Nos. Recovered
1	2
A.K. Rifles	137
Pistols	78

1	2
SLRs	12
UBGLs	01
GDE Throwers	05
Pika Guns	02
303 Rifles	03
LMGs	01
Sniper Rifles	02
RPGs	01
UMGs	01

(e) The Government have released Rs. 2.628 crores under Security Related Expenditure (SRE) so far (till February 2008) for bringing the surrendered terrorists in the main stream of the nation and their rehabilitation.

Expert Committee on Foreign Capital Investment

896. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has set up expert committees to ascertain the impact of foreign capital investment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these committees have submitted their reports to the Government;

(d) if so, the outcome of the reports;

(e) if not, the time by when these reports are likely to be received;

(f) whether the Government has decided not to allow foreign capital investment till the reports of the committees are received and analysed; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) A study to assess the impact of FDI in organized retailing on unorganized retail trade has been assigned to the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Government has also assigned a study to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on Growth linkages of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India which would focus on the impact of FDI on rural economy.

ICRIER was to submit the final report in July, 2007 but has sought change in time schedule to enable additional surveys for the study. The final report by NCAER is scheduled to be submitted by May, 2008.

(f) and (g) Government has put in place a liberal and investor-friendly policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis through an inter-Ministerial consultation process taking into account concerns of the stakeholders.

[English]

Padma Awards

897. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the basis on which the Padma Awards are given; and

(b) the composition of the Committee which decides such awards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) Padma awards, namely Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and 'Padma Shri' are awarded for 'exceptional and 'distinguished service', distinguished service of a high order and distinguished service respectively, in any field of activity. Any person without distinction of race occupation, position or sex is eligible for the awards. It is the usual practice to invite recommendations from all State/UT Governments, Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan awardees and selected Institutes of Excellence every year. In addition, recommendations are also received from several sources like Governors, Chief Ministers, Central/State Ministers, MPs, MLAs and various other private organizations/bodies/ individuals etc. All these nominations are placed before

the Padma Awards Committee, which comprises Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary, Secretary to the President (ex-officio members) and four to six eminent persons nominated by the Prime Minister every year. The recommendations made by the Awards Committee are submitted to the Prime Minister and the President for approval. After obtaining approval of the President, the awards are announced on the eve of Republic day.

[Translation]

Foreign Funds to NGOs

898. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any guidelines for receiving financial assistance from abroad by the NGOs;

(b) if so, the details and the total funds received by the NGOs during each of the last three years, NGO-wise and country-wise;

(c) whether any review has been conducted by the Government on the work done by these NGOs during the above period;

(d) if so, the details of irregularities found in this review and the steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities; and

(e) the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) NGOs in India are permitted to receive foreign contribution under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, from foreign sources for *bona fide* activities in cultural, economic, educational, social or religious fields after obtaining registration/prior permission under the said Act. The registration/prior permission is granted after due verification of activities and antecedents of the NGO and its office bearers. The amount of receipt of foreign contribution reported by the NGOs during the last three years is under:-

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
2003-04	5105.50
2004-05	6256.68
2005-06	7877.57

(c) Associations that are registered or which have obtained prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 are required to submit annual returns of receipt and utilization of foreign contribution duly certified by a Chartered Accountant within nine months after the closure of the financial year. On a review of submission of annual return, 8673 registered associations, which did not submit mandatory returns for consecutive three years i.e. 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 were placed in the prior permission category *vide* Ministry's Notification dated 26.10.2005. Subsequently, registration of 337 associations, which submitted the proof of submission of returns was restored.

(d) and (e) As and when, any complaint relating to the violation of the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 comes to the notice of the Government, appropriate action is taken under the Act. Monitoring of receipt and utilization of foreign contribution by associations is done through a scrutiny of the audited annual returns filed by the associations as well as through the inspection of accounts and records of the associations by the Monitoring Unit set up for the purpose. A facility for online submission of statutory annual returns has been introduced to facilitate better monitoring of receipt and utilization of foreign contribution.

If any association is found involved in misutilisation/diversion of foreign contribution, action is initiated against the association. Such action includes (i) placing the Association in Prior Permission Category, (ii) prohibiting it from receiving foreign contribution, (iii) prosecuting it in a court of law and (iv) freezing its bank accounts. In case of serious violations, where it is found that the contribution is being diverted for purposes other than the stated objectives of the association, the matter is referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a detailed investigation and prosecution, if necessary.

On the basis of the complaints received and inquiries made, 45 associations have been prohibited from receiving foreign contribution, 26 Associations have been placed in Prior Permission category, and accounts of 11 Associations have been frozen. A list of the associations against which action has been taken for violation of various provisions of the Act, is available on MHA's website: (<http://mha.nic.in/fore.htm>). 17 cases have been referred to CBI for detailed investigations for FCRA violations.

[English]

Rural Industries

899. PROF. M. RAMDASS:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agro and rural industries set up by Khadi and Village Industries Commission/Government and the number of persons working therein during each of the last three years separately, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of registered rural industries/institutions State-wise Union Territory-wise;

(c) the number of industries out of them earning profit/incurring losses during the last three years separately, State and Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether any scheme has been formulated to provide assistance to loss incurring industries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) does not set up village industry (VI) units of its own. VI units are up under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) by eligible entrepreneurs in rural areas, including small towns with population up to 20,000. For this purpose, margin money assistance is provided to the entrepreneurs by the Government through the KVIC and loans are made available by banks. The State/Union Territory-wise details of the VI units set up and additional employment generated under the REGP during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in enclosed statement.

(b) The State/Union Territory-wise details of the VI units set up under the REGP since the inception of the scheme from 1 April 1995 and up to 31 March 2005, 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007, are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) The State/Union Territory-wise details of the present financial status of individual or groups of units of these industries is not maintained centrally by KVIC.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement I

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of village industry units set up and estimated employment generated under the REGP during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Number of village industry units			Employment generated (Number of persons)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Chandigarh	8	3	2	188	36	50
2.	Delhi	9	15	13	144	112	267
3.	Haryana	1140	1058	869	35691	26541	28339
4.	Himachal Pradesh	469	650	803	12256	12276	17102
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	922	1402	1716	9406	18284	13274
6.	Punjab	864	440	1022	30665	16654	35604
7.	Rajasthan	1537	2133	1340	38287	59596	44168
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6	598	127	93	4495	323
9.	Bihar	254	692	849	5049	11445	12334
10.	Jharkhand	240	217	221	6855	3756	7289
11.	Orissa	991	650	857	15241	9670	16311
12.	West Bengal	2584	2078	2290	36581	36853	42834
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	43	76	88	1219	1857	2106
14.	Assam	1658	2229	1599	25768	49595	30912
15.	Manipur	102	65	139	1313	416	1881
16.	Meghalaya	146	206	165	3789	1962	2174
17.	Mizoram	162	365	990	5180	18255	16455
18.	Nagaland	151	316	156	3851	5549	3358
19.	Tripura	223	306	212	3994	5616	5851
20.	Sikkim	139	106	89	3227	1750	2208
21.	Andhra Pradesh	1988	2278	2113	66463	66050	59750
22.	Karnataka	934	1314	1689	19478	27129	42420
23.	Kerala	914	1217	912	16434	30586	30144
24.	Lakshadweep	0	26	0	0	292	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Puducherry	7	56	164	146	187	854
26.	Tamil Nadu	925	1036	1075	19159	20055	25216
27.	Goa	138	136	104	1670	801	1389
28.	Gujarat	376	516	412	8581	17947	13520
29.	Maharashtra	1773	3120	2296	25040	30928	27182
30.	Chhattisgarh	656	551	691	18347	17348	17719
31.	Madhya Pradesh	1361	736	934	40539	15365	22332
32.	Uttarakhand	513	527	641	10471	10948	10962
33.	Uttar Pradesh	2210	1532	1509	64900	45322	51123
Grand Total		23453	26650	26087	530025	567676	595451

Statement II

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of village industry units set up under the REGP since the inception of the scheme from 1 April 1995 and up to 31 March 2005, 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of REGP units		
		(up to 31 March 2005)	(up to 31 March 2006)	(up to 31 March 2007)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chandigarh	156	159	161
2.	Delhi	228	243	256
3.	Haryana	6249	7307	8176
4.	Himachal Pradesh	2374	3024	3827
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	7556	8958	10674
6.	Punjab	10467	10907	11929
7.	Rajasthan	27434	29567	30907
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	422	1020	1147
9.	Bihar	1100	1792	2641
10.	Jharkhand	1058	1275	1496
11.	Orissa	4157	4807	5664
12.	West Bengal	19807	21885	24175

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	422	498	586
14.	Assam	3865	6094	7693
15.	Manipur	840	905	1044
16.	Meghalaya	3293	3499	3664
17.	Mizoram	1070	1435	2425
18.	Nagaland	4941	5257	5413
19.	Sikkim	286	392	481
20.	Tripura	666	972	1184
21.	Andhra Pradesh	14858	17136	19249
22.	Karnataka	14093	15407	17096
23.	Kerala	9341	10558	11470
24.	Lakshadweep	10	36	36
25.	Puducherry	956	1012	1176
26.	Tamil Nadu	6741	7777	8852
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15	15	0
28.	Goa	2439	2575	2679
29.	Gujarat	1474	1990	2402
30.	Maharashtra	21684	24804	27115
31.	Chhattisgarh	1787	2338	3029
32.	Madhya Pradesh	19884	20620	21554
33.	Uttarakhand	2307	2834	3475
34.	Uttar Pradesh	17725	19257	20766
Total		209705	236355	262442

**Setting up of Science and
Research Institutions**

900. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to set up world-class national science and research institutions in various parts of the country including Gujarat;

(b) If so, the details thereof indicating the cities in which these institutions are being set up and the total estimated cost for setting up of these institutions, State-wise;

(c) whether the State Governments have offered land and other necessary facilities for setting up these institutions;

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

(e) whether these institutions would start functioning from the academic year 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has set up three Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Pune, Kolkata and Mohali and is establishing two more IISERs at Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram. The estimated cost of each IISER over the initial project period of seven years is Rs. 500 crore.

(c) and (d) The Government of West Bengal has allocated land for setting up IISER at Kolkata National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune, has parted with a portion of its land for setting up IISER, Pune. The Governments of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala have offered land and other facilities for setting up IISERs at Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram respectively.

(e) IISERs at Pune, Kolkata and Mohali are already functioning. IISERs at Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram are expected to admit their first batch of students in 2008.

Assistance Scheme for Young Scientists

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

(a) whether the Government is having any central scheme to assist the young scientists in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to liberalise such scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check brain drain from India?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Developing and nurturing of human resource in Science & Technology has always been on top of the Government's agenda. A number of schemes have been instituted by the Government for encouraging Young Scientists, and also for nurturing talented students in the form of SERC Programme for Young Scientists including BOYSCAST Fellowships and Fellowships like Swarnajayanthi Fellowships, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Fellowships, KS Krishnan Fellowships, Ramanna Fellowships and J.C. Bose & Ramanujan Fellowships for practicing young scientists & technologists, and CISR programme on Youth for leadership in Science (CPYLS), Diamond Jubilee Research Interns Award Scheme, Junior/Senior Research Fellowships (JRF/SRF), Biotechnology Post Doctoral Research Associateship & Overseas Fellowships, Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY), National Science Olympiad Programme etc. for attracting and retaining young talented students in R&D. In addition, the young scientists including students have been exposed to new technologies through schools, workshops etc. to encourage them to discover and/or experiment on new technologies including the emerging fields like nanoscience & nanotechnology, biotechnology etc. Most of these schemes have been operated in a liberalized manner from time to time based on the needs of the young scientists.

In addition, the Government, in the XI Plan has launched a new scheme called INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research). The main features of the proposed scheme will be: (1) innovation funding in schools (one million young innovators); (2) summer camp with science icons (for high performers); (3) assured opportunity schemes for proven talent force and (4) retention of talent in public funded research through public-private partnerships. Further, another new scheme on Scholarships for Science in higher Education (SHE) is being initiated in the XI Plan under which 10,000 fellowships of Rs. 1,00,000/- per year for bright students in science streams during their B.Sc/M.Sc courses would be provided. These initiatives are aimed at generating interest in youth to conduct more and more research and produce valuable results.

The Government recognizes that a large number of scientists go abroad for higher studies and/or advanced research. A majority of them do come back and contribute to growth of S&T in the country. The Government has recently launched some innovative schemes to either

motivate scientists of Indian origin to come back to India or leverage their scientific expertise for growth of R&D in the country. Some such initiatives are the Ramanujan Fellowship and the Collaborative Projects with Scientists & Technologists of Indian Origin Abroad Programme (CP-STIO) of DST. K.S. Krishnan Research Associateship of Department of Atomic Energy, the Ramalingaswamy Fellowship and the Talent Search Scheme for the Non-Resident Indians of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) are some of such schemes.

[Translation]

Changes in Laws for Small Scale Sector

902. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some amendments and changes are proposed to be made in the laws relating to small and cottage industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government commenced the implementation of the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Development Act, 2006 w.e.f. 2 October 2006 to provide for facilitating the promotion and development and enhancing the competitiveness of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Government has also issued requisite notifications and guidelines thereunder. The Government does not intend to propose any amendments or change in the MSMED Act, 2006 in the near future.

[English]

Hurdles being Faced by Foreign Investors

903. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any study to find out the hurdles being faced by foreign investors while

doing business in India as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated December 7, 2007.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which FDI inflow in the country has suffered during 2007-08; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The World Bank has been publishing for the last five years, a report titled "Doing Business" comparing global economies in terms of ease of doing business based on ten parameters namely; Starting a business, Dealing with licenses, Employing workers, Registering property, Getting credit, protecting investors, Paying taxes, Trading across borders, Enforcing contracts and Closing a Business. India's rank on ease of doing business has been improving for the last three years as given below:

Year	India's Rank
2008	120
2007	134
2006	138

The Government of India has, however, not commissioned any separate study in this regard.

The improvement in rank has been possible due to reform process undertaken by Government of India on continuous basis to minimize procedures/hurdles through E-Governance, MCA-21, Investment Policy liberalization Single Window Systems by States Governments, Taxation Reforms including online filing; large tax payers unit, single window for payment of income tax and corporate tax, ICE-Gate for online filing of custom and excise documents, Right to Information Act 2005 and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Act 2006.

(c) and (d) Government of India has put in place a liberal & investor friendly Policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The policy and procedures are reviewed on a continuous basis through inter-Ministerial consultations. Consequently the FDI inflow has shown

considerable rise during the past three years as given below:

Year	FDI Inflow (increase over previous year)
2005-06	72%
2006-07	184%
2007-08 (April-Dec. 2007)	37%

[Translation]

Demand for Hindi Teachers

904. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether the demand for Hindi teachers in foreign countries have increased in recent times as reported in 'Dainik Jagran' dated February 11, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of Indian teachers of various subjects/ languages working in various countries; and

(d) the effective steps taken till date by the Government to enhance the infrastructure of educational institutions keeping in view the increasing number of foreign students in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) It is understood from Ed. CIL that it has signed agreements with the South Carolina, Department of Education and Connecticut State Board of Education, United States of America for deputing teachers inclusive of Hindi Language for various district schools under their visiting Teachers Program for a maximum Period of 3 years under J-1 visa.

Ed CIL has informed that the requirement of Hindi Teachers has been received for the academic year 2008-2009 and the process of selection is going on.

This fact has been covered by Hindi Newspaper "Dainik Jagaran" dated 11.2.2008.

(c) Such details are not maintained centrally by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

(d) The CABE Committee has recommended that the outlay on education should be 6% of the GDP. In the XI Five Year Plan the outlay in Higher Education has been substantively increased *vis-a-vis* the X Plan. A considerable part of the outlay is being devoted to establish new universities, making existing universities world class and for strengthening science based education and research. These developments will benefit all Indian students as well as those from other countries desirous of studying in India.

Loans under Khadi and Village Industries Commission

905. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes and the rules/ provisions for providing loans under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) whether various cases of violations of such provisions have come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State and Union territory-wise;

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Government to check such violations;

(e) whether Khadi units are not eligible for assistance under Rural Employment Generation Programme;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the other means of financial assistance provided to Khadi units in the country with particular reference to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) At present, no scheme is implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), by providing loans from its budgetary source, except in the case of loans to a few khadi institutions in the North Eastern Region. However, KVIC has been implementing the following two schemes, under which loans are provided by the banking sector:

- (i) a Central sector credit-linked subsidy programme, titled the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), in collaboration with the Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) of the respective States/Union Territories (UTs). Under this Programme, eligible entrepreneurs are

assisted in establishing village industries, by availing of loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc. and also margin money assistance (subsidy) from the KVIC, for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Entrepreneurs belonging to the categories of scheduled castes scheduled tribes, other backward classes, physically handicapped, ex-servicemen, women, etc., are entitled to higher margin money assistance.

- (ii) Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) scheme for making available working capital to the khadi institutions from banks at the concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum. The institutions have to pay interest of only 4 per cent and the difference, between the actual rate of interest and the 4 per cent is paid by KVIC as interest subsidy to the banks.

Since loan funds are provided by banks, under the above mentioned two schemes, the rules pertaining to loan payment are determined by financing banks.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. REGP was launched in 1995-96 with the objective to promote new village industries on project based funding, replacing the interest subsidy provision to village industries under the ISEC Scheme. Activities relating to khadi figure in the 'negative list' of the REGP along with some other activities which cannot be financed under REGP. Khadi/Polyvastra units are continued to be financed with concessional rate of interest under ISEC scheme. In addition, the khadi units are also provided the benefit of working fund as well as rebate on the sale of khadi products, which are not available in REGP.

(g) Khadi units are provided financial assistance under the following schemes implemented throughout the country, including Karnataka:

- (i) Khadi institutions are permitted to retain the working capital earlier made available to them from the budgetary resources through KVIC, as working fund so long as they maintain certain level of agreed production/sales.
- (ii) Interest subsidy under the ISEC Scheme as detailed under para (ii) of the answer to part (a) earlier. During 2006-07, bank loans amounting to Rs. 233.62 crore were made available to the Khadi institutions all over the country, of which the khadi institutions in Karnataka accounted for loans amounting to Rs. 2.55 crore.

- (iii) Rebate on sale of khadi and khadi products: During 2006-07, Rs. 2.67 crore was made available to the khadi institutions in Karnataka under this scheme.

[English]

Fake Currency

906. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some incidents of fake currency rackets have been unearthed in the country particularly in Mizoram and Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of counterfeit currency unearthed for the last six months in various parts of the country in each denomination alongwith the number of persons arrested so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is aware that some militant outfits are involved in fake currency rackets in the country particularly in the North-East region;

(d) whether the Government has traced the persons/outfits involved in such activities;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) Details of counterfeit currency recovered by Banks and seized by State/UT Police, denomination-wise and State/UT-wise, and number of FIRs registered, as reported to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), during the year 2007 are enclosed in statement-I and II respectively.

(c) to (e) No verifiable report regarding involvement of militant outfits in fake currency rackets is available.

(f) While the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime including counterfeiting of currencies

and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law enforcement agencies, the Central Government supports the State Governments in their endeavours to investigate serious crimes to bring about a crime free society. Further intelligence inputs are regularly shared by the Central Security and Intelligence Agencies with the State Law Enforcement Agencies to prevent crime and law and order related incidents. The State Governments have also been advised from time to time to take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of circulation of counterfeit currencies.

The following steps have been taken by various agencies under the Ministry of Home Affairs to check circulation of counterfeit currencies;

- (i) CBI has been nominated as the nodal agency to monitor the investigation and tackling the crime of fake India currency notes (FICN). CBI holds periodical meetings with the Ministries/ Departments, police authorities law enforcement and other security agencies. CBI also coordinates with the State level nodal officers on collection of information as well as for action against FICN.
- (ii) Round the clock surveillance of the borders by carrying out patrolling (on foot, by boats and vehicle mobile), laying nakas (border ambushes) and by deploying observation posts all along the International Border (IB).
- (iii) Upgradation of intelligence network and coordination with sister intelligence agencies.
- (iv) Conduct of special operations, along the borders.
- (v) Introduction of modern surveillance equipment including night vision devices.
- (vi) Erection of fencing along the IB.
- (vii) Increasing the number of Border Outposts (BOPs) and deployment on the International Border (IB).
- (viii) Riverine segments of IB are being dominated by deploying vessels/water crafts of BSF water wing.
- (ix) Instructions have also been issued to all State Governments, particularly border States, to be more vigilant in this regard.

The steps taken by various agencies under the Ministry of Finance are:

- (i) Dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media and formation of Forged Note Vigilance Cells in all the Head Offices of the banks.
- (ii) Incorporation of additional security features in the Indian Bank Notes making counterfeiting difficult.
- (iii) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has instructed all banks to equip their branches with Ultra Violet Lamps for detection of counterfeit notes and to report to police authorities in case of detection of counterfeit notes at their branches. The currency chest holding banks have also been advised to install Note Sorting Machines at all the chests in a time bound manner.
- (iv) RBI has installed Currency Verification and Processing Systems (CVPS) in its various offices, each having a processing capacity of 50,000 to 60,000 pieces per hour. These machines have the capacity to detect forged notes and also to sort the notes into non-issuable and re-issuable at the capacities indicated above.
- (v) RBI has advised the Banks to set up Forged Note Vigilance Cells at their Head Offices for monitoring, implementation of RBI instructions etc. on forged notes.
- (vi) RBI has initiated public awareness campaign to widely publicize security features of bank notes in the print and electronic media to help the people to detect fake notes.
- (vii) For the benefit of public, a booklet (Your Guide to money Matters) has been brought out which describes the features of genuine notes. This booklet has been placed on the RBI's Website, www.rbi.org.in besides being available to the public for sale at RBI's Issue Offices.
- (viii) RBI have organized a number of training programmes for the bank officials, police officials, government departments, Border Security Force and ITBP to sensitize them on various aspects of Indian bank notes. The training of trainers is also undertaken by RBI.

Statement-I**State/UT-wise and Denomination-wise Statement of Counterfeit Currency (Recovered and Seized)***Yearly Report for the year ending: December, 2007*

S.No.	State/UT	1000		500		100		50		20		10		5		2		1		Total No. of Places		Total Value		FIR
		R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S	R	S			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	Andhra Pradesh	48	1525	388	6208	884	23488	87	2005	76	16	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1239	33888	321330	70769430	174
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	6	0	22	0	5	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	233	0	27388	10
3.	Assam (8, 9)	88	288	412	2088	513	2081	82	167	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1087	4838	388438	1483880	78
4.	Bihar	34	188	721	798	1652	1087	70	111	0	00	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2488	2207	888230	713788	38
5.	Chhattisgarh (5, 7, 8, 9)	0	263	0	378	0	2884	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3385	0	722488	41
6	Goa	0	17	0	237	0	120	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	381	0	147888	10
7.	Gujarat (5, 9)	885	923	5382	4811	8238	7247	1258	1157	9	10	15	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	10885	14888	4388888	4181370	213
8.	Haryana	0	18	0	1112	0	340	0	882	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2182	0	842180	23
9.	Himachal Pradesh (7)	0	23	0	37	0	1	0	38	0	1	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	188	0	53880	7
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	30	210	181	841	872	833	73	28	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1228	2188	288888	778180	32
11.	Jharkhand	0	108	0	331	0	83	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	546	0	282888	12
12.	Karnataka	757	533	4848	3835	5885	5723	238	38	32	8	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10788	8838	3882170	2884870	47
13.	Kerala	137	1378	858	5819	1023	1048	21	83	0	8	21	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	2081	8361	878880	4388870	41
14.	Madhya Pradesh (9)	35	34	330	504	1854	2841	176	83	18	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2883	3832	488888	882780	33
15	Maharashtra	705	1812	4888	2527	5433	5484	585	581	13	10	12	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	11884	10883	3728888	3788225	148
16.	Manipur	0	1	0	30	0	83	0	188	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	312	0	34200	4
17.	Meghalaya (2, 8, 9)	0	31	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	31880	5
18.	Mizoram	0	788	0	1001	0	448	0	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2382	0	1338480	15
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0	138	0	2	0	787	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	887	0	108888	5
20.	Orissa (1, 11)	52	0	380	0	1300	0	18	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1748	0	378888	0	0
21.	Punjab	0	720	0	3888	0	288	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10884	0	3284270	48
22.	Rajasthan (7, 8, 9)	380	818	2788	1345	5872	7184	240	487	5	10	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	8488	8828	2282330	2238888	38
23.	Sikkim (3)	0	20	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	35880	2
24.	Tamil Nadu	811	115	5205	1442	6488	2588	577	44	203	3	20	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	13185	4885	3888810	1187188	88
25.	Tripura (6)	0	12	0	512	0	582	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1028	0	318300	8
26.	Uttar Pradesh (4, 6, 8)	585	1164	8853	3214	25844	14848	1888	1881	23	18	22	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	38885	38845	7888888	4258520	171
27.	Uttarakhand	0	29	0	85	0	311	0	31	0	20	0	58	0	70	0	0	0	0	0	585	0	88880	20
28.	West Bengal (8, 10)	582	128	2884	1850	4048	531	130	37	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7738	2847	3488370	1188888	38
Total		4882	11183	37735	42888	88108	84730	5188	8801	382	105	127	148	0	71	0	0	0	0	17232	148117	38728110	41784485	1928

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Union Territories																								
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	900	1
30.	Chandigarh	390	0	3783	9	19439	0	1483	0	7	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25107	9	4296740	4900	2
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	8000	1
32.	Daman and Diu (7, 8, 9)	0	0	0	6	0	34	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	6680	6
33.	Delhi	880	39	4276	82	4611	1686	474	1400	13	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10243	3229	3484130	324800	16
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Puducherry	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1000	1
Total		1269	46	8061	106	34080	1732	1957	1403	20	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35350	3399	7763940	343390	27
Grand Total		6632	11239	45796	43377		83158	86462	7155	10004	402	105		139	146	0	71	0	0	152982	151406	36912960	42677635	1363

Note: Nos. given in Brackets alongwith the States are explained as follows: R-Recovered by Banks S-Seized by police.

Figures are provisional

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Data not recd. for Jan. to Dec. 07 (S) | 2. Data not recd. for Feb. to Mar 07 (S) |
| 3. Data not recd. for May 07 (S) | 4. Data not recd. for Jan. 07 (S) |
| 5. Data not recd. for Aug. 07 (S) | 6. Data not recd. for Sep. 07 (S) |
| 7. Data not recd. for Oct. 07 (S) | 8. Data not recd. for Nov. 07 (S) |
| 9. Data not recd. for Dec. 07 (S) | 10. Data not recd. for Feb. to Aug. 07 (S) |
| 11. Data not recd. for Oct. 07 (R) | |

Statement-II

Total no. of persons arrested under Counterfeit Currency cases during the year 2007

Sl.No.	State/UT	Total Arrested
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	190
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10
3.	Assam (8, 9)	128
4.	Bihar	52
5.	Chhattisgarh (5, 7, 8, 9)	0
6.	Goa	0
7.	Gujarat (6, 9)	65
8.	Haryana	26
9.	Himachal Pradesh (7)	7
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	40
11.	Jharkhand	4

1	2	3
12.	Karnataka (3)	151
13.	Kerala	81
14.	Madhya Pradesh (9)	58
15.	Maharashtra	89
16.	Manipur	6
17.	Meghalaya (2, 8, 9)	6
18.	Mizoram	25
19.	Nagaland	5
20.	Orissa (1, 11)	0
21.	Punjab	110
22.	Rajasthan (7, 8, 9)	49
23.	Sikkim (3)	4
24.	Tamil Nadu	24
25.	Tripura (6)	11

1	2	3
26.	Uttar Pradesh (4, 6, 9)	135
27.	Uttarakhand	10
28.	West Bengal (9, 10)	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
30.	Chandigarh	1
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
32.	Daman and Diu (7, 8, 9)	0
33.	Delhi	18
34.	Lakshadweep	0
35.	Puducherry	1
Total		1307

- Note 1. Data of Seizure by Police not received from Jan. to Dec. '07.
2. Data of Seizure by Police not received from Feb. to Mar '07.
3. Data of Seizure by Police not received for May '07.
4. Data of Seizure by Police not received for Jan. '07.
5. Data of Seizure by Police not received for Aug. '07.
6. Data of Seizure by Police not received for Sep. '07.
7. Data of Seizure by Police not received for Oct. '07.
8. Data of Seizure by Police not received for Nov. '07.
9. Data of Seizure by Police not received for Dec. '07.
10. Data of Seizure by Police not received from Feb. to Aug. '07.
11. Data of Recovery by RBI/Banks not received for Oct '07.

Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme

907. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat sent two proposals under Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme *viz.* Lodhika, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) upgradation project and Sachin GIDC Estate upgradation project in the year 2004 and 2005 respectively; and

(b) if so, the present status of these two projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These proposals could not be considered since the entire 10th Plan allocation for the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme was committed for the already sanctioned projects.

Education to Backward Classes

908. SHRI K.J.S.P REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing good quality education to the backward classes and Muslims in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes meant for them during the current year; and

(d) the allocation for each category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and other Central Government interventions at the different levels of education are expected to provide good quality education to all sections of population, including those belonging to the socially and educationally backward classes and all religious denominations including the Muslims.

Provision of adequate number of teachers, training facilities for teachers, development of teaching learning materials, textbooks, etc. are the main areas of assistance for improving quality at the schooling stage. Statutory bodies such as All India Council for Technical Education also are mandated to maintain standard of education in their respective spheres. The University Grants Commission coordinates and maintains standards of universities.

(c) and (d) During the current financial year (2007-08) the following schemes relating to education of backward classes and minorities have been provided in

the budget of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Minority Affairs.

Ministry of Social Justice of Empowerment:

a. Pre-matric scholarship of backward classes	22.50 crore
b. Post-matric scholarship for backward classes	90.75 crore
c. Boys and Girls Hostels	18.550 crore

Ministry of Minority Affairs

a. Merit-cum-means scholarship for professional & Technical courses at UG and PG level for minorities	48.60 crore
b. Pre-matric scholarship for minorities	9.00 crore
c. Post-matric scholarship for minorities	54.00 crore

Cashew Board

909. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Cashew Development Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Government had commissioned a study by the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) to look into the feasibility of establishing a Cashew Board. The IIFT has given its interim report on the subject. This reports is under examination by the Government.

Rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits

910. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Kashmiri Pandits, who have been displaced from their homeland are still waiting for some kind of rehabilitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to rehabilitate those displaced Kashmir citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Kashmiri Pandits who have migrated from Kashmir Valley are presently located at various places in Jammu Division and outside the State. The policy of the Government in respect of Kashmiri Migrant Pandits is that they should return back once the conditions are conducive for their safe and dignified return. Till such time, Government is eager to make their stay comfortable. The migrants living within the State of J & K are being given both cash relief and rations. One room tenements have been provided to about 5000 families in various camps at Jammu. Under PM's Reconstruction Plan, 5242 two-roomed tenements are being constructed to accommodate all the Migrant families presently living in the camps at Jammu. Government of N.C.T. of Delhi and other States/UTs are also providing cash relief to the Kashmiri Migrants. 229 families in Delhi living in camps have been allotted DDA flats at subsidised rates.

For facilitating the return of Migrants who are willing to return to the Valley, the Central Government approved the construction of 200 flats at Sheikhpora in Budgam District. The shrines in Mattan and Kheer Bhavani have been developed into two model clusters containing temporary shelters for Kashmiri Migrants, where they could be settled temporarily, till such time they can repair their existing residential houses. The State Government have constructed 18 flats at Mattan and 100 one-room tenements at Kheer Bhavani.

Higher and Professional Education through Merit

911. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government regarding privatisation of Higher and Professional education;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to make professional education equally accessible to all students purely based on merits, irrespective of their social and economic background.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for not conducting a common entrance test for the professional colleges affiliated to AICTE to ascertain the quality of the students; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control the admission procedure followed by private professional institutions supported by the Government through various subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is currently no private participation in the Education sector. The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) encourages non-governmental and voluntary effort in Education, while preventing the establishment of institutions which intend to commercialize Education. The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) envisages that "in the interest of maintaining standards and for several other valid reasons, the commercialization technical and professional education will be curbed.

(b) and (c) As per the guidelines issued by AICTE for admission of students to technical institutions, admissions should be made purely on merit and through Common Entrance Test.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) AICTE has been empowered under Section 10(k) of the AICTE Act, to lay down norms for admission of students in Universities and Institutions imparting Technical Education. In accordance with these provisions, and based on the directions of Supreme Court of India in various cases, regulations have been framed providing for the procedure to be followed for admission of students.

Self Help Women Groups

912. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission proposes to market the products produced by the Self Help Women Groups through their retail network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked subsidy programme, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), throughout the country, to assist eligible applicants in setting up labour-intensive industries in the rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000 and thus generate additional employment. Under this programme, entrepreneurs can establish village industries, by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from any public sector

scheduled commercial bank, for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Under REGP, self-help groups (SHGs), including women SHGs have been assisted, with effect from 01 April 2002 in setting up village industries. These women SHGs are helped to sell their products through the departmental sales outlets of KVIC as well as through its assisted agencies. Financial assistance for back backward and forward linkages, including marketing of products, is also provided under REGP. Further, KVIC also organizes exhibitions at various levels such as national level, zonal level, State level, district level under which local SHGs also get an opportunity to display and market their products. In addition, as per MoU signed between KVIC and Ministry of Women and Child Development and Army Wives Welfare Association, SHGs are helped to market their products through the outlet facilities available with them, wherever feasible.

(c) Does not arise.

Industrial Houses in Mining Sector

913. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industrial houses have shown their interest in the mining sector;

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

(c) the details of mines allotted to public sector/private sector during each of the last three years till date, sector-wise; and

(d) the total revenue earned by the Government from these sectors during each of the last three years till date, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) The details of prior approvals given by the Central Government for grant of mineral concessions to various individuals/companies by the State Governments are available in the website of the Ministry of Mines (<http://www.mines.nic.in>).

(d) While the Ministry of Mines notifies royalty rates for major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing), royalty accrues to the State Government concerned. Therefore, the data regarding royalty collection by the State Governments is not centrally maintained.

Royalty Collection from Mining

914. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of earning of major mining States as royalty from mining of different ores from the captive and non-captive mines during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the major recommendations of the Hoda Committee on royalty to be levied on different ores;

(c) the evaluations of the new policy measures on the State, Central finances and prices of different metals in the market;

(d) whether the Government proposes to evolve a new mineral policy and implement it with provisions to ensure royalty for concerned States on *ad valorem* rates, strengthen infrastructure in mining areas and provides for regular review of royalty rates; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (e) Royalty for major minerals (other than coal, lignite & sand for stowing) is notified by the Ministry of Mines but the accrual therefrom is collected by the State Governments and therefore the data of royalty collected by State Governments is not centrally maintained. The Hoda Committee in its recommendations regarding royalty rates had recommended that royalty for minerals should move decisively towards *ad valorem* regime. Based on the recommendations of the Hoda Committee, a new Mineral Policy is under consideration of the Central Government.

Melting of Antarctic Ice Sheet

915. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether global warming has caused the annual ice loss from the Antarctic ice sheet to surge by 75 per cent in a decade;

(b) if so, whether this phenomenon is contributing to sea-level rise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to study its impact on Indian Coastal areas?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir, the ice loss at Antarctica has not

been significant compared to Arctic. It is difficult to quantify the ice loss from the Antarctic ice sheet as a whole, due to inter-annual variability and localized changes in the Antarctic sea ice extent.

(b) Since Antarctic is vast store house of ice, its melting does contribute to rise in sea level, however, its contribution in the last decade has not been significant.

(c) Government has set up tidal gauges at major ports of India (Kandla, Marmagao-Goa, Cochin, Minicoy, Kavaratti, Haldia, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Machilipatnam, Ennore, Chennai, Tuticorin, Port Blair, Nancowry to name a few) for continuous monitoring of sea level along the east and west coast of India.

Imports from Africa

916. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

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

(a) the details of imports from Africa during 2006-07 and 2007-08 till date;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal for duty free imports from Africa;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) In line with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of the WTO of December, 2005 Government is considering the grant of preferential market access on a unilateral basis to least Developed Countries (LDCs), a majority of whom are in Africa.

Statement*India's Imports from Africa*

(In US\$ Million)

S.No.	Country	2006-07	Apr.-Oct. 2007
1	2	3	4
1.	Angola	245.33	480.39
2.	Botswana	0.06	0
3.	Mozambique	28.29	7.52
4.	Namibia	3.42	20.71
5.	South Africa	2484.59	2349.29
6.	Swaziland	61.28	22.37
7.	Zambia	86.17	60.77
8.	Zimbabwe	32.18	12.88
9.	Benin	80.57	57.34
10.	Burkina Faso	5.56	12.55
11.	Cameroon	7.6	11.7
12.	Cape Verde Is	0.21	0
13.	Congo P. Rep.	59.7	55.76
14.	Equit. Guinea	0.1	42.9
15.	Gabon	115.28	44.35
16.	Gambia	17.9	14.03
17.	Ghana	101.22	75.58
18.	Guinea	342.03	609.29
19.	Guinea Bissau	49.69	59.81
20.	Cote D' Ivoire	180.53	153.59
21.	Liberia	47.14	42.93
22.	Mali	2.78	3.74
23.	Mauritania	0.64	0.29
24.	Niger	5.41	0.27
25.	Nigeria	7021.44	4398.09
26.	Sao Tome		0

1	2	3	4
27.	Senegal	72.7	87.68
28.	Sierra Leone	2.34	2.32
29.	St. Helena	0.23	0
30.	Togo	75.94	33.73
31.	Burundi	0	1.39
32.	Central Africa Republic	0.44	0.65
33.	Chad	0.16	0.82
34.	Malawi	5.01	3.9
35.	Rwanda	1.64	0.42
36.	Uganda	4.71	10.7
37.	Congo D. Rep.	17.03	5.3
38.	Comoros	6.94	1.44
39.	Djibouti	2.14	1.82
40.	Ethiopia	11.34	8.71
41.	Kenya	55.33	50.41
42.	Madagascar	19.22	13.84
43.	Mauritius	14.5	6.22
44.	Reunion	5.5	6.04
45.	Seychelles	0.75	0.5
46.	Somalia	18.06	10.78
47.	Tanzania Rep.	98.03	38.87
48.	Algeria	749.67	650.02
49.	Egypt A RP	1741.14	1135.61
50.	Libya	134.77	965.9
51.	Morocco	490.91	302.68
52.	Sudan	89.13	150.26
53.	Tunisia	144.1	113.27
Total Africa		14720.87	12139.46

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

Note: The figures include import of petroleum, crude and products.

Assam Accord

917. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the clause-wise implementation status of the Assam Accord indicating the year-wise progress made regarding identification and deportation of foreigners as well as sealing of the international border;

(b) whether constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards are provided as promised under the accord;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the issues identified for implementation and targets fixed in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to fulfil the promises under this clause?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (e) Action has been taken to implement various clauses of the Assam Accord. Certain clauses of the Accord are of continuing nature i.e. safeguards for Assamese people, measures for economic development of Assam, and to prevent infiltration, etc. and therefore need to be continuously monitored. The Government is committed to implement Assam Accord in letter and spirit. The details of action taken on various clauses of Assam Accord are annexed.

Statement*Clause-wise Implementation Status of Assam Accord***Clause 5.1 Foreigners Issue:**

- i. The Citizenship Act, 1955, Citizenship Rules, 1956 and the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, were amended.
- ii. Special Registration Officers have been appointed. Sanction was also accorded for the creation of 1280 additional posts under the Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners Scheme.
- iii. Thirty-two Foreigners Tribunals have been constituted in the State of Assam under the provisions of Foreigners Act, 1946 for detection of illegal migrants/foreigners. In the year 2006,

184 illegal Bangladeshi migrants were detected and 144 were deported. During the year 2007, 675 illegal migrants were detected and 143 were deported.

Clause 6 and 7—Safeguards and Economic Development

- iv. A Cultural Centre called the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalashetra Complex has been established.
- v. Sri Jyoti Chitraban (Film) Studio at Guwahati has been modernized. Additional Rs. 10 crore has been sanctioned for further expansion/modernization of the Institute in the financial year 2006-07.
- vi. The Government of Assam has constituted a Committee of Ministers in October 2006 to examine all issues relating to the implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord. The Committee is yet to submit its report.
- vii. Numaligarh Refinery was set up at a cost of nearly Rs. 2,500 crores.
- viii. Two Central universities, one at Tejpur, and the other at Silchar, have been set up.
- ix. An IIT has been set up at Guwahati.
- x. Kathalguri Power Project (60 MW) has been commissioned.
- xi. Work for implementation of Assam Gas Cracker Project has started.

Clause 8 to 14—Other Issues:

- xii. The power to issue citizenship certificates now vests only with the Central Government.
- xiii. Border fencing of 2535.80 Kms. of 3286.87 kms. sanctioned has been completed on Indo-Bangladesh border. Border roads of 3250.80 kms. out of 3663.39 kms. sanctioned has been completed.
- xiv. Ex-gratia payment was made to the next of kin of persons killed in the course of the agitation.
- xv. Disciplinary cases against employees in connection with the agitation were reviewed.
- xvi. In the matter of recruitment, orders were issued by the Central Government for relaxation in upper age limit upto a maximum of six years in

the case of candidates who had ordinarily resided in the State of Assam during the period 1.1.1980 to 15.8.1985.

- xvii. NSA detainees detained in connection with agitation were released.

Regional Disparities in Education

918. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is regional disparities in the attainment of education and the quality of education is also poor and uneven;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to correct these imbalances; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) While due to historical reasons of uneven growth, there are regional disparities in literacy, enrolment and availability of institutions, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has addressed the disparities in access, availability and quality at the level of elementary education. During the XIth Plan, efforts for universalizing of secondary education, and establishing 6000 model schools would to a large extent, reduce disparities at that stage of education. In so far as, Higher and Technical Education are concerned, the regional disparities in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) quality, as well as availability of institutions, would be addressed by establishing new institutions such as setting up of 30 new Central Universities (CU) including one CU in each of the 16 uncovered States, setting up of 8 IITs, 7 IIMs, 5 IISERs, 2 SPAs, 10 NITs, 20 IIITs, and incentivising State Government for establishing 370 new Degree Colleges in Districts with low GER and number of institutions less than 4 per lakh of population.

Threat to Central Jail

919. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Jail in Delhi is under the threat of a Fidayeen attack;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure that the Central Jail in Delhi is protected from such Fidayeen attacks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An intelligence input regarding plans of Jehadi terrorist attack on Tihar Jail was received during the month of September, 2007.

(c) and (d) The preventive and precautionary measures taken to protect Delhi Jails from Fidayeen attack include positioning of three mobile Reaction Teams at sensitive locations, providing advanced weapons to all security personnel, carrying out surprise checks of security arrangements, regular Alarm Parades to check the alertness and response of the security personnel, alerting all concerned to exercise due vigil, deployment of PCR vans of Delhi Police near the main entrance of the Jail, regular foot/motorcycle patrolling by Delhi Police around the Central Jail, starting of a Delhi Police picket at Gate No. 3 of the Jail installation of closed circuit TV cameras to keep effective surveillance on the activities of prisoners and prison staff, installation of mobile barricades, etc.

Encouragement to Talented Students/Scientists

920. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether many talented young students/scientists, who discover new technologies from Andaman and Nicobar Islands are being ignored;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government organises competitions to trace out such talented students/scientists in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to encourage such talents in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (e) The talented young students/researchers from this union territory do participate very actively in various programmes such as Children's Science Congress, Initiative for Research and Innovation in Science (IRIS), Women Scientist Scheme etc. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) through these competitive programmes which are organised regularly, aim at identifying talented youth both at the School and College/university level for their long-term nurturing. As special initiative a "Sensitization Workshop" was organised at Port Blair in February 2008 for encouragement of women scientists in research and development activities.

[*Translation*]

Employment through Special Economic Zones

921. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of creating employment and providing direct employment through SEZs set up in the country has been achieved;

(b) if so, the details of estimated jobs and direct employment provided in the country through SEZs;

(c) whether handicapped persons have also been provided employment through SEZs in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to provide employment to handicapped persons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Presently, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India are providing direct employment to over 2,80,832 persons. While the seven SEZs set up by the Central Government is providing employment to over 1.83 lakh persons, the

12 SEZs set up by State Government/Private Sector prior to the SEZ Act, 2005 are providing employment to 36,463 persons, most of which was generated during 2004-05. The Special Economic Zones which were notified under the SEZ Act, 2005 which came into force from 10th February, 2006 have already provided direct employment to 61015 persons.

(c) to (e) Employment in SEZs is generated in the units set up therein by the private sector entrepreneurs. As per available information, some of the SEZs have provided employment to handicapped persons.

Products Manufactured by Small Scale Sector

922. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the products manufactured by small scale industries in the country including in Maharashtra State;

(b) whether these products are being exported; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, product-wise during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) As per the information collected during the 3rd all India census of micro and small enterprises (MSEs) with 2001-02 as the reference year, the MSE sector is presently engaged in the manufacturing of about six thousand different products in the country. The details of these products are available on the website of the Ministry of MSME (www.smallindustryindia.com, www.laghu-udhyog.com and www.dcmsme.gov.in).

(b) and (c) Based on the information received from 16 export promotion councils, the product group-wise values of exports of the MSE sector as a whole during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (latest available) are given below:

Sl.No.	Product Group	Exports in MSE sector (Rs. Crore)		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Engineering Goods	16040.81	23561.00	30097.00
2.	Basic Chem., Pharmaceutical & Cosmetic Products	11763.10	13851.96	8421.29

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Chemical & Allied Products	3750.72	14248.38	17604.62
4.	Plastic Products	2122.91	3632.33	4882.85
5.	Finished Leather & Leather Products	6695.22	7437.87	8344.86
6.	Marine Products	2878.45	3411.86	3372.02
7.	Processed Foods	9928.91	11378.42	12516.26
8.	Wool & Woollen Products	1564.00	1763.15	2098.27
9.	Sports Goods	429.00	395.10	456.97
10.	Readymade Garments	25179.36	22247.15	34373.78
11.	Synthetic & Rayon Textile	1586.88	1839.43	2129.86
12.	Processed Tobacco, Bidi & Snuff	744.53	986.65	907.99
13.	Electronics & Computers	12437.01	16147.29	21698.51
14.	Cashew	1811.46	2717.15	2514.86
15.	Lac	163.12	165.88	159.62
16.	Spices	548.09	632.94	663.26
Total		97643.57	124416.56	150242.03

State-wise details of exports made by the MSE units are not maintained centrally.

[English]

SEZ Projects Supported by World Bank

923. SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of SEZ projects sanctioned by the Union Government with the support of World Bank during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether the World Bank has put specific conditions with regard to implementation of such SEZ projects by which employment opportunities for Indian people is bleak;

(c) if so, the details of such projects thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND

INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are primarily, being set up by State Government Undertakings, their Joint Ventures with private companies or by the Private Companies on stand alone basis. No proposal has been approved by the Central Government for setting up of SEZs with the support of World Bank.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship

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

(a) whether the Union Government has launched the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of students benefited so far under the Scheme and the criteria fixed for the same; and

(c) the amount earmarked/allocated for the purpose, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 28.02.2007 has announced a National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme for students studying in Classes IX to XII. The scheme envisages award of one lakh new scholarships every year at the rate of Rs. 6000 per annum based on a selection test. No student has benefited under the Scheme so far.

(c) No fund has been earmarked to individual States.

Industrial Corridor

925. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has agreed to examine the proposal of the Karnataka Government to extend the proposed Chennai-Bangalore industrial corridor up to Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether the State Government had made this proposal at a meeting in New Delhi, convened by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion of the Union Ministry in which senior officials from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra also took part;

(c) whether Karnataka has suggested that the Union Government should consider extending the proposed corridor upto Mumbai via Tumkur, Davangere, Hubli, Dharwad and Belgaum to enable rapid industrial development in its backward areas; and

(d) if so, the time by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. After the consultations in the meeting held on 7.1.2008 with the representatives of State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, it has been decided as a first step to prepare a Concept Report/Paper for Chennai-Bengalooru-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. The Report/Paper *inter alia* could also cover industrial nodes/locations, industrial infrastructure and

project schedules. A decision will be taken on the corridor project including its proposed coverage from Chennai to Mumbai based on the findings of the Concept Report.

[*Translation*]

Basic Amenities in Jails

926. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prisons in the country till date and the number of accused prisoners and convicted prisoners lodged in the jails during the last three years till date State-wise?

(b) whether the Government has allocated adequate funds to provide basic amenities, food, health care etc. for the prisoners;

(c) if so, the total funds provided during the above period and the details of expenditure incurred on food, healthcare and others per prisoner, State-wise;

(d) whether the amount spent on food for the prisoners is so meagre that they do not get sufficient food;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):

(a) As per the statistics compiled by NCRB, the total number of prisons in the country at the end of 2006 was 1251. A statement indicating the number of accused prisoners and convicted prisoners lodged in the jails during 2004 to 2006. State/UT-wise is given in the enclosed statement-I

(b) to (f) The State/UT-wise details of expenses incurred on inmates for providing basic amenities like food, clothing, health care etc. during 2004-05 to 2006-07 is given in the enclosed Statement-II. The maximum amount of the expenditure incurred on inmates is on food followed by medical care in a majority of the States and Union Territories.

Even though, the primary responsibility of prison administration lies with the State Governments, the

Government of India has circulated a Model Prison Manual to the States for their guidance and adoption

which prescribes a sample diet for a prisoner per day which is balanced and nutritious.

Statement-I

Population of Different Types of Prison Inmates in Jails at the End of 2004

Sl. No.	State/UT	Convicts	Under Trials	Detenues	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4765	9078	38	0	13881
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	3268	4298	255	7	7828
4.	Bihar	5520	27375	65	113	33073
5.	Chhattisgarh	4525	4337	0	11	8873
6.	Goa	150	277	0	0	427
7.	Gujarat	3881	7202	487	0	11570
8.	Haryana	4601	7396	0	13	12010
9.	Himachal Pradesh	557	487	0	0	1044
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	200	1387	451	1	2039
11.	Jharkhand	5040	12447	10	0	17497
12.	Karnataka	3447	7982	122	11	11542
13.	Kerala	2780	4400	8	6	7194
14.	Madhya Pradesh	13066	15777	5	84	28932
15.	Maharashtra	8931	15784	170	37	24922
16.	Manipur	32	359	74	0	465
17.	Meghalaya	41	430	22	0	493
18.	Mizoram	217	742	0	0	959
19.	Nagaland	161	390	38	0	589
20.	Orissa	3680	9444	9	25	13158
21.	Punjab	5025	10001	23	15	15064
22.	Rajasthan	5838	7283	29	21	13171
23.	Sikkim	63	99	0	0	162

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Tamil Nadu	6803	2918	612	10769	21102
25.	Tripura	554	708	0	3	1265
26.	Uttar Pradesh	8311	41224	2053	118	51706
27.	Uttarakhand	750	1610	5	0	2365
28.	West Bengal	3520	12790		9	16319
	Total (States)	95726	208205	4476	11243	317650
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	56	165	0	0	221
30.	Chandigarh	120	429	0	0	459
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	33	0	0	33
32.	Daman and Diu	8	19	0	0	27
33.	Delhi	2508	10087	15	0	12610
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	109	192	0	0	301
	Total (UTs)	2801	10925	15	0	13741
	Total (All-India)	98527	217130	4491	11243	331391

*Jails do not exist.

Population of Different Types of Prison Inmates in Jails at the end of 2005

Sl. No.	State/UT	Convicts	Under Trials	Detenues	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5011	9592	10	0	14613
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	3475	5000	34	4	8513
4.	Bihar	5409	40019	0	190	45618
5.	Chhattisgarh	4299	5509	2	11	9821
6.	Goa	138	246	0	0	384
7.	Gujarat	4445	6451	320	0	11216
8.	Haryana	4793	7717	0	37	12547

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	632	536	0	0	1168
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	221	1539	377	0	2137
11.	Jharkhand	5294	13939	0	0	19233
12.	Karnataka	4049	7979	158	41	12227
13.	Kerala	2806	4042	13	2	6863
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14391	16991	21	77	31480
15.	Maharashtra	9229	15946	235	21	25431
16.	Manipur	31	395	103	0	529
17.	Meghalaya	46	487	22	0	555
18.	Mizoram	171	542	0	0	713
19.	Nagaland	117	484	24	0	625
20.	Orissa	4196	9720	15	27	13958
21.	Punjab	5072	9572	23	11	14678
22.	Rajasthan	5572	7363	32	26	12993
23.	Sikkim	73	122	0	0	195
24.	Tamil Nadu	7643	3008	827	9383	20681
25.	Tripura	752	656	1	1	1410
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13284	43078	249	107	56718
27.	Uttarakhand	765	1578	2	5	2350
28.	West Bengal	3848	14017	58	235	18158
Total (States)		105782	226528	2526	10178	345014
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	66	158	0	0	224
30.	Chandigarh	84	371	0	0	224
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	29	0	0	29
32.	Daman and Diu	11	24	0	0	35
33.	Delhi	2510	9791	16	0	12317
34.	Lakshadweep	0	6	0	0	6
35.	Pondicherry	119	169	0	0	6
Total (UTs)		2790	10548	16	0	13354
Total (All-India)		108572	237076	2542	10178	358368

*Jails do not exist.

Population of Different Types of Prison Inmates in Jails at the end of 2006 (Provisional)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Convicts	Under Trials	Detenuees	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5287	10082	18	34	1521
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	3549	4960	27	2	8538
4.	Bihar	6765	37375	0	141	44281
5.	Chhattisgarh	4274	6073	1	11	10359
6.	Goa	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7.	Gujarat	5028	6387	378	0	11793
8.	Haryana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
9.	Himachal Pradesh	764	572	0	0	1336
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	264	1634	369	3	2270
11.	Jharkhand	7374	13319	1	0	20694
12.	Karnataka	3852	8649	175	24	12700
13.	Kerala	2876	3619	5	4	6504
14.	Madhya Pradesh	15215	16686	21	78	32000
15.	Maharashtra	9149	16365	274	1	25789
16.	Manipur	33	323	42	0	398
17.	Meghalaya	58	539	24	0	621
18.	Mizoram	213	516	0	0	729
19.	Nagaland	133	517	24	0	674
20.	Orissa	4365	10247	0	32	14644
21.	Punjab	5340	9751	20	4	15115
22.	Rajasthan	5593	8288	35	67	13983
23.	Sikkim	91	134	0	0	225
24.	Tamil Nadu	6706	2885	651	8414	18656
25.	Tripura	789	581	0	0	1370

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26.	Uttar Pradesh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
27.	Uttarakhand	907	1737	0	0	2644
28.	West Bengal	3876	14092	0	225	18193
	Total (States)	92501	175331	2065	9040	278937
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	81	265	0	0	346
30.	Chandigarh	107	331	0	0	438
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	33	0	0	438
32.	Daman and Diu	12	42	0	0	54
33.	Delhi	2449	10934	17	0	13400
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	109	203	0	0	312
	Total (UTs)	2758	11808	17	0	14583
	Total (All-India)	95259	187139	2082	9040	293520

* Jails do not exist

NA-Data not available.

Statement-II*State/UT-wise Details of Expenses on Inmates during 2004-05*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Inmate Popu- lation	Expenses (Rs. in Lakh)						Total	Expenditure per inmate (In Rs. only)
			Food	Clothing	Medi- cal	Vocational/ Educational	Welfare Activities	Others		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13881	1122.3	59.0	54.4	50.5	1.0	311.1	1598.2	11512.1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	7828	766.5	12.6	11.7	20.0	0.0	41.7	852.5	10898.8
4.	Bihar	33073	2501.2	0.0	148.7	0.0	121.6	0.0	2771.5	8361.5
5.	Chhattisgarh	8873	614.5	9.8	84.9	2.1	0.0	155.7	867.1	9771.2
6.	Goa	427	35.7	6.5	2.4	0.1	0.3	2.9	47.9	11241.2
7.	Gujarat	11570	568.3	21.0	3.3	0.8	0.0	0.0	593.3	5125.3
8.	Haryana	12010	811.4	50.7	126.0	23.8	0.9	421.9	1434.7	11948.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1044	86.8	18.9	36.3	7.9	3.2	4.7	157.8	15134.1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2039	256.6	6.3	36.9	9.4	27.1	0.0	336.3	16478.7
11.	Jharkhand	17497	1001.9	90.4	55.2	13.3	5.5	473.2	1648.6	9424.5
12.	Karnataka	11542	637.2	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	189.9	828.0	7173.8
13.	Kerala	7194	633.5	193.8	0.0	1.2	27.5	10.0	898.1	12037.8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	28932	1671.7	133.5	351.4	77.5	18.3	3913.9	6166.2	21312.0
15.	Maharashtra	24922	1121.6	1.2	52.6	0.0	0.0	498.9	1674.2	6717.0
16.	Manipur	405	66.6	5.8	71.4	0.0	0.0	41.5	187.4	40215.1
17.	Meghalaya	493	49.3	0.8	4.0	0.0	00	13.6	67.7	13793.1
18.	Mizoram	959	140.0	3.0	7.2	6.0	1.0	12.2	169.4	17622.5
19.	Nagaland	589	163.3	33.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	0.0	208.3	34974.5
20.	Orissa	13156	936.0	16.5	47.8	13.1	9.0	40.8	1085.1	8093.9
21.	Punjab	15064	735.5	22.7	323.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1082.0	7182.7
22.	Rajasthan	13171	706.4	56.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	34.9	797.2	6051.2
23.	Sikkim	162	21.4	0.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	14197.5
24.	Tamil Nadu	21102	1363.1	0.0	40.5	1.3	0.0	207.2	1632.1	7733.9
25.	Tripura	1265	99.7	3.5	16.9	0.3	0.1	1.6	122.0	9644.3
26.	Uttar Pradesh	51706	2741.9	0.0	165.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2906.9	5622.2
27.	Uttarakhand	2365	120.3	4.4	12.4	0.0	14.9	225.2	390.1	16067.7
28.	West Bengal	16319	1810.2	180.7	906.5	85.4	18.5	535.1	3518.4	21557.7
	Total (States)	317650	20806.7	922.7	2565.5	316.8	252.7	7135.8	32900.3	10073.7
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	221	52.2	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.1	6.1	59.2	28896.8
30.	Chandigarh	549	40.0	0.3	6.5	5.3	6.5	8.3	66.9	12204.0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	33	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.0	12121.2
32.	Daman and Diu	27	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	4.5	18518.5
33.	Delhi	12610	602.3	11.7	306.7	0.0	0.0	1119.4	2042.9	16193.5
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
35.	Pondicherry	301	20.9	0.2	0.0	4.3	0.0	0.0	25.4	8305.6
	Total (UTs)	13741	722.4	12.4	315.2	10.1	6.6	1135.4	2202.2	16025.0
	Total (All-India)	331391	21529.1	935.2	2880.7	326.9	259.3	8271.2	34202.4	10320.4

Source: Prison Statistics India 2004.

State/UT-wise Details of Expenses on Inmates during 2005-06

Sl.No.	State/UT	Inmate Popu- lation	Expenses (Rs. in Lakh)						Total	Expenditure per inmate (In Rs. only)
			Food	Clothing	Medi- cal	Vocational/ Educational	Welfare Activities	Others		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14813	1140.7	343.0	50.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1534.4	10497.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	8513	795.3	2.1	31.2	25.0	0.0	56.1	909.6	10689.5
4.	Bihar	45818	2804.3	33.0	187.7	149.3	0.0	0.0	3174.3	6927.4
5.	Chhattisgarh	9821	639.3	68.2	81.9	0.6	140.8	201.3	1132.2	11526.3
6.	Goa	384	40.5	1.6	3.5	0.1	0.1	15.5	61.2	15885.4
7.	Gujarat	11216	777.2	81.8	13.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	872.7	7783.5
8.	Haryana	12547	610.0	140.0	120.0	54.0	14.0	141.0	1079.0	8599.7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1168	107.2	24.9	46.0	27.1	5.7	7.7	218.5	18750.0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2137	280.3	7.6	40.1	9.4	0.8	344.5	682.7	31980.7
11.	Jharkhand	19233	1374.6	95.2	71.9	8.1	3.3	587.8	2140.9	11131.9
12.	Karnataka	12227	100.3	66.0	58.1	56.4	0.0	0.0	260.8	2298.2
13.	Kerala	6863	626.9	108.2	68.1	45.9	12.0	10.0	871.1	12691.2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	31480	2045.0	149.0	539.4	10.1	3.2	3984.1	6730.8	21381.8
15.	Maharashtra	25431	1730.8	1.8	70.7	0.0	0.0	553.7	2356.9	9268.2
16.	Manipur	529	73.5	4.5	43.8	0.0	3.0	62.0	186.8	35349.7
17.	Meghalaya	555	54.2	0.0	3.8	0.0	0.0	1.6	59.6	10610.8
18.	Mizoram	713	180.5	13.0	15.1	0.6	2.0	0.0	211.2	29593.3
19.	Nagaland	625	155.0	40.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	4.0	205.0	32800.0
20.	Orissa	13958	996.0	18.9	62.6	17.0	36.1	47.8	1178.4	8439.6
21.	Punjab	14678	796.6	23.9	416.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	1237.0	8427.6
22.	Rajasthan	12993	726.9	52.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	41.1	820.0	6311.1
23.	Sikkim	195	23.1	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	24.1	12307.7
24.	Tamil Nadu	20681	1260.9	1.2	39.2	0.6	330.3	50.0	1682.1	8133.1
25.	Tripura	1410	123.5	2.3	15.1	3.5	0.2	1.7	146.3	10354.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
26.	Uttar Pradesh	56718	3000.0	0.0	200.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3200.0	5641.9
27.	Uttarakhand	2350	131.8	1.8	21.8	0.0	18.5	147.1	321.0	13659.6
28.	West Bengal	18158	1900.7	168.7	953.9	89.7	19.4	561.9	3694.3	20343.7
	Total (States)	345014	22495.3	1448.7	3158.5	497.1	592.4	6818.7	35010.7	10147.7
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	224	22.0	1.3	0.0	5.5	0.3	19.8	48.6	21875.0
30.	Chandigarh	455	43.5	7.8	10.0	10.8	20.1	8.0	100.0	21978.0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	29	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	5.0	17241.4
32.	Daman and Diu	35	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	5.7	17142.9
33.	Delhi	12317	723.8	42.5	153.1	0.0	0.0	1425.8	2345.2	19038.7
34.	Lakshadweep	6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
35.	Pondicherry	288	18.5	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	19.6	6944.4
	Total (UTs)	13354	816.8	52.5	163.2	16.2	20.4	1455.1	2524.2	18908.2
	Total (All-India)	358368	23312.0	1501.1	3321.6	513.4	612.8	8273.9	37534.8	10474.1

Source: Prison Statistics India 2005.

State/UT-wise Details of Expenses on Inmates during 2006-07

(Provisional)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Inmate Popu- lation	Expenses (Rs. in Lakh)						Total	Expenditure per inmate (in Rs. only)
			Food	Clothing	Medical	Vocational/ Educational	Welfare Activities	Others		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15421	1218.7	0.7	63.1	236.2	0	738.2	2257.5	14642.4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	8538	915.2	7.9	9.1	25	0	59.8	1017.1	11911.5
4.	Bihar	44281	3596.7	44	216	112.6	0	0	3969.3	8963.2
5.	Chhattisgarh	10359	841.9	37.9	84.6	0.3	0	188	1152.6	11130.4
6.	Goa	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7.	Gujarat	11793	712.6	35.3	12.4	0	0	0	760.3	6444.5
8.	Haryana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1336	87.2	19	36.5	7.9	3.2	4.8	158.5	11901.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2270	288.9	0.8	39.5	8	1	187.8	506	22290.7
11.	Jharkhand	20694	1507.1	90.5	65.9	12.1	9.6	389.9	2075.2	10027.1
12.	Karnataka	12700	649.6	70	63	0.7	0	0	783.3	6165.4
13.	Kerala	6504	686.3	29.5	44.8	52.3	20	147.9	982.9	15113.8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	32000	2373.3	132.7	478.4	7.7	2.1	4254.6	7248.7	22653.1
15.	Maharashtra	25789	1722.7	1.4	57.9	0	0	890	2672	10361
16.	Manipur	398	65.8	4.5	5	0	2.1	15.7	93	23366.8
17.	Meghalaya	621	56.5	1	5.2	0.9	0	0.4	64	10306
18.	Mizoram	729	103	8.5	11.7	2.6	7.6	10	143.4	19615.9
19.	Nagaland	674	155	31	3.1	0.8	5	15	209.9	31157.3
20.	Orissa	14644	1208.7	19	72	16.7	40.7	57.2	1414.2	9655.8
21.	Punjab	15115	971.9	61.9	194.3	0	0	0	1228.1	8124.4
22.	Rajasthan	13983	757.3	54.2	55	0	0	44.5	910.8	6515.1
23.	Sikkim	225	18.7	0	1.3	0	0	0	20	8888.9
24.	Tamil Nadu	18656	1060.4	1.5	39.2	1.5	241.6	23	1367.2	7327.4
25.	Tripura	1370	136.9	4.5	19.4	1.1	3.7	58.3	223.9	16350.4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
27.	Uttarakhand	2644	148.0	58.9	19.6	0	25.2	178.3	2119.4	80143.7
28.	West Bengal	18193	1995.8	177.1	1001.6	94.2	20.4	589.9	3879	21321.4
	Total (States)	278937	21280.4	891.7	2598.6	580.6	382.1	7833.8	35256.4	12639.4
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	346	36.1	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.5	20	57.7	16763
30.	Chandigarh	438	636.5	4.7	17.7	18.8	13.5	13.8	104.9	23972.6
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	33	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	15151.5
32.	Daman and Diu	54	5.6	0.4	0.1	0	0	0.2	6.2	11111.1
33.	Delhi	13400	692.9	10.3	621.3	0	0	1969.4	3294	24582.1
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	312	23.9	0.1	0	0.1	0	0	24.1	7682.3
	Total (UTs)	14583	800	16.3	639.1	19	14	2003.3	3491.8	23945.7
	Total (All-India)	293520	22080.4	908	3237.8	599.6	396.1	9837.2	38748.3	13201.1

*Jails do not exist

NA -Data not available.

*[English]***Export Target**

927. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
 SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
 SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
 SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD *ALIAS* SADHU
 YADAV:
 SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
 SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
 SHRI MADHU GODU YASKHI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has set an export target of 160 billion for the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the target achieved till date;

(c) whether the rise in the rupee against the dollar has affected the exports and imports of food items;

(d) if so, the details of the likely impact on the export sector, industry-wise; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to achieve the target during the current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exports reached a level of US\$ 124.2 billion during April-January 2007-08, achieving 77.6 per cent of the target set for the year.

(c) Exports and imports of goods and services, apart from changes in exchange rates, are influenced by variety of factors including nature of commodities, their international prices, domestic capacity, input prices, etc. These factors have influenced export and import of traded commodities including food items.

(d) As per the preliminary estimates, during 2007-08 (April-January), there was a negative growth in export of a number of items including RMG (Cotton incl. accessories); Primary & Semi-finished Iron & Steel; Plastic

& Linoleum; Non-ferrous Metals; Marine Products; Sports Goods; Handicrafts Carpets, etc. Most of these commodities have low import intensity and are produced in the small scale sector.

(e) Steps taken to achieve targets include export promotion initiatives such as the implementation of the Focus Product Scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana, Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme etc. Apart from this, special package have also been announced during 2007-08 in respect of export items adversely affected by the appreciation of Rupee.

Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi

928. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi fee is being levied from students of Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the fee collection and its use are subject to scrutiny by audit; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the rationale thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi (VVN) is being levied @ Rs. 160 per month per student from Classes I to X and Non-Science students of Classes XI & XII. In respect of Science, students of Class XI & XII, VVN is levied @ Rs. 200 per student per month.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Death Sentence to Criminals**

929. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of criminals awarded death sentence by various courts in the country during each of the last three years and in the current year, as on date;

(b) whether some persons have not been executed even after their death sentences were upheld by the Supreme Court during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) The number of criminals awarded death sentences by various

courts in the country during the period 2004 to 2006 is enclosed as statement. Information for the period thereafter is not readily available.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. After the appeals to the Courts are exhausted, a condemned prisoner can file a mercy petition under Article 72 of the Constitution to the President of India and under Article 161 of the Constitution to the Governor of the concerned State for grant of pardon. The death sentence in such cases is not executed till the decision on the petitions has been arrived at. The power under Article 72 of the Constitution does not contain any limitation as to the time in which power conferred might be exercised.

Statement

Number of Persons Sentenced to Death during 2004 to 2006

Sl.No.	State/UT	2004	2005	2006
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-
3.	Assam	2	8	1
4.	Bihar	16	2	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0	NA
7.	Gujarat	19	8	0
8.	Haryana	3	0	NA
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	15	21	8
12.	Karnataka	7	14	13
13.	Kerala	1	4	3
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6	11	9
15.	Maharashtra	4	4	20
16.	Manipur	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	5	0	7
21.	Punjab	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	2	6	6
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	NA	10
25.	Tripura	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	33	51	NA
27.	Uttaranchal	0	1	11
28.	West Bengal	3	24	1
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	7	9	10
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
Total		125	164	105

Note: (1) NA stands for DATA NOT AVAILABLE

(2) 0 stands for Nil

(3) * indicates Provisional Data & excludes that of Goa, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Source: Prison Statistics India.

[English]

Export Promotion Industrial Parks Scheme

930. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centrally Sponsored Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) Scheme was formulated by the Government to assist the State Governments in

establishing infrastructural facilities for export-oriented units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the assistance granted to the State Governments during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the targets for establishing infrastructural facilities for export-oriented units have been achieved during the above period; and

(e) If so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Department of Commerce is currently implementing Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme to provide financial assistance to State for developing infrastructure critical for exports. The erstwhile EPIP scheme has been merged in the ASIDE Scheme.

(c) The details of financial assistance provided to States under ASIDE Scheme is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Under the ASIDE scheme, State Level Export Promotion Committee (SLEPC) under Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of States decides the projects to be implemented as per approved purposes of the scheme on the basis of funds allocated to them. The approved purposes of the scheme, *inter-alia*, include creation of new Export Promotion Industrial Parks also. As such no target is fixed under the scheme for establishing infrastructural facilities for export oriented units.

Statement

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	State	Amount Released 2004-05	Amount Released 2005-06	Amount Released 2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1385.00	1,545.00	1700.00
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Chandigarh	0.00	320.00	175.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	500.00	500.00	550.00
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Delhi	0.00	285.00	145.00
9.	Goa	373.00	609.00	145.00
10.	Gujarat	3,578.00	4,338.00	4770.00
11.	Haryana	849.00	1,405.00	772.50
12.	Himachal Pradesh	500.00	553.00	600.00
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	500.00	525.00	580.00
14.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	275.00
15.	Karnataka	2414.00	3,399.00	3740.00
16.	Kerala	930.00	1,069.00	1175.00
17.	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0.00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1,435.00	1,435.00	790.00

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Maharashtra	5709.00	6,552.00	7210.00
20.	Orissa	605.00	693.00	765.00
21.	Pondichery	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Punjab	968.00	1,217.00	670.00
23.	Rajasthan	1,320.00	1,320.00	726.50
24.	Tamil Nadu	3,919.00	3,919.00	4312.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1259.00	2,100.00	1155.00
26.	Uttaranchal	500.00	527.00	0.00
27.	West Bengal	1491.00	2,009.00	2,210.00
Total		28,235.00	34,300.00	32321.00
North Eastern Region				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	251.00	138.00
2.	Assam	1149.00	1,257.00	691.50
3.	Manipur	200.00	206.00	227.00
4.	Mizoram	200.00	324.00	358.00
5.	Meghalaya	572.00	834.00	917.00
6.	Nagaland	200.00	200.00	220.00
7.	Sikkim	0.00	200.00	220.00
8.	Tripura	828.00	728.00	801.00
Total		3149.00	4,000.00	3570.50
Grand Total		31,384.00	38,300.00	35891.50

Nandigram Violence

931. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) sent a three member team to probe into the Nandigram violence;

(b) if so, whether the said team has submitted its report to the NHRC;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) whether the NHRC has given instruction to the Government of West Bengal to pay due compensation to the victims; and

(e) If so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government on the report of NHRC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) A team of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) visited Nandigram to study the situation. On the basis of the report, NHRC has observed that the State

Government does not appear to have taken effective measures in preventing the attack and has *inter-alia* recommended to the State Government to pay compensation to the victims/next of kin of the deceased.

Export by Khadi and Village Industries Commission

932. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details and quantity of products exported by Khadi and Village Industries Commission during each of the last three years and in the current year, country-wise; and

(b) the foreign exchange earned by such exports during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The products exported by export-oriented units under the purview of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission

(KVIC), comprise heterogeneous items, such as papad, fancy articles, wooden handicraft items, embroidery products, agarbattis, handmade paper products, etc. As such, the data of khadi and village industry (KVI) products exported are maintained only in terms of value of products exported and not in quantity. The country-wise details of value of KVI products exported (equivalent Foreign Exchange earned) during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto January 2008) maintained by KVIC are given in the statement enclosed.

The data of value of KVI products exported given in the Statement are based on that reported by KVI units to KVIC while submitting claims for availing financial assistance provided by KVIC for encouraging exports. However, a large number of KVI units, are exporting KVI products through merchant exporters and the value of these exports is not reported by them to KVIC, and hence the actual value of KVI products exported is expected to be higher.

(b) The amounts of foreign exchange equivalent earned by such exports during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 and during the current financial year (upto January 2008) are also given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Country-wise details of value of KVI products exported (equivalent Foreign Exchange earned) during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto January 2008)

Sl.No.	Country/countries	Name of the product	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)			
			2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (up to January 2008)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand, Austria, United Kingdom (UK), Germany, France, Italy and other European countries, United States of America (USA), Brazil Japan, Israel	Handmade Paper and its products	2488.00	2250.91	2788.10	3061.00
2.	UK, USA, Middle East countries, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Netherlands, Japan, Australia	Papad	1161.95	1527.93	2460.84	2800.00
3.	USA, Australia, UK	Palm leaf products	21.25	39.18	6.60	30.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	USA, China, UK, Italy, Vietnam	Handicraft Items	22.53	58.74	95.22	19.00
5.	USA, Italy, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Uganda	Leather & Rexene Items	123.09	81.65	0.00	90.00
6.	UK	Khadi (Silk & Muslin)	59.05	0.42	2.61	2.00
7.	France, USA, Spain, Italy	Essential Oil	4.20	22.00	0.00	0.00
8.	USA, UK, Australia, France	Embroidery Products	0.00	28.91	11.77	0.00
9.	Sri Lanka, Uganda	Machines & Material	0.00	31.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Japan	Honey	0.00	0.00	8.00	10.00
11.	USA	Copper Items	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	UK, USA, United Arab Emirates (UAE) & Russia	Herbal products	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	UK	Broom	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	UAE	Tamarind	1.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total			3907.72	4040.74	5373.14	6012.00

Cashew Trade

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

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to form a global alliance to protect the interest of cashew trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which such global alliance is likely to be beneficial for producers of cashew in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Cashew Export Promotion Council, an autonomous body under the Department of Commerce has initiated a move to form a global alliance for joint promotional efforts for cashew with the concerned cashew promotion organizations in Vietnam & Brazil namely VINACAS and SINDICAJU respectively.

(c) This global alliance is expected to take up programmes for increasing consumption world wide, as is done by the producer groups of almonds, pistachios, etc. This will result in better price realization for cashews exported from India and other producing countries, leading in turn to higher returns to cashew cultivators.

[Translation]

Employment in Small Scale Sector

934. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of Small Scale Units in the total production and employment generation during the last three years;

(b) whether this contribution is likely to come down as assessed by ASSOCHAM;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total number of Small Scale Units and the number of people employed therein during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise;

(e) whether the number of Small Scale Units and people employed therein have declined during the current year;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Based on the results of the 3rd all India census of micro and small enterprises (MSEs) with 2001-02 as the reference year the estimated share of MSEs in the total industrial production of the country during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 have been 38.62% 38.56% and 38.57% respectively. The share of employment generation in the MSE sector to the total industrial employment in

the country has been estimated at 34.93% There has been significant increase in the production and employment generation in MSEs as may be seen from the table given below:

Economic parameter	Estimated Annual Growth rate (%)		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1. Production at constant prices	10.88	12.32	12.60
2. Employment generation	4.45	4.28	4.23

(d) to (g) The State and Union Territory (UT)-wise details of estimated number of MSEs and workers employed therein for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (latest available) are given in statement-I and statement-II respectively. As may be seen from the statements there has been consistent increase in the number of MSEs and the people employed. Various programmes/schemes of the Ministry of MSME, *inter alia*, are intended to increase the share of MSE sector in the total manufacturing output and to ensure larger employment generation in the country.

Statement-I

State/UT-wise Details of Estimated Number of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (latest available)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Estimated Number of MSEs		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	82547	86064	89726
2.	Himachal Pradesh	87194	91596	95572
3.	Punjab	413762	427401	441797
4.	Chandigarh	24739	25653	26612
5.	Uttaranchal	123524	130140	137618
6.	Haryana	245370	254028	263308
7.	Delhi	196215	203336	210905
8.	Rajasthan	498035	518371	538728
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1938524	2027020	2116791

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Bihar	582167	605049	629509
11.	Sikkim	437	455	474
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	1458	1516	1578
13.	Nagaland	16824	17772	19024
14.	Manipur	53173	55115	57171
15.	Mizoram	12895	13554	14335
16.	Tripura	27054	28083	29141
17.	Meghalaya	25846	27153	28591
18.	Assam	218487	226890	235576
19.	West Bengal	856178	887697	921221
20.	Jharkhand	149697	156091	163220
21.	Orissa	434498	450946	468468
22.	Chhattisgarh	293468	304002	315118
23.	Madhya Pradesh	898650	937183	976981
24.	Gujarat	600569	624346	646379
25.	Daman and Diu	4197	4389	4579
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli			
27.	Maharashtra	909385	948028	989254
28.	Andhra Pradesh	970755	1005889	1043512
29.	Karnataka	740967	772234	804811
30.	Goa	8101	8401	8654
31.	Lakshadweep	616	644	675
32.	Kerala	507313	524969	542610
33.	Tamil Nadu	922118	962854	1006684
34.	Pondicherry	10301	10724	11120
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	3756	3902	4032
All India		11858821	12341475	12843773

Statement-II

State/UT-wise Details of Estimated Workers employed in Micro and Small Enterprises during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (latest available)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Estimated Number of MSEs		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	175909	183962	192254
2.	Himachal Pradesh	154749	164464	172350
3.	Punjab	987352	1014594	1042995
4.	Chandigarh	53917	55826	57743
5.	Uttaranchal	232621	246642	262737
6.	Haryana	600554	619731	640564
7.	Delhi	689863	712888	737325
8.	Rajasthan	1009827	1055332	1097842
9.	Uttar Pradesh	4618508	4848046	5076632
10.	Bihar	1219059	1267525	1319395
11.	Sikkim	1633	1703	1774
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	4769	4965	5178
13.	Nagaland	77204	82875	91032
14.	Manipur	151450	156904	162667
15.	Mizoram	29626	31318	33383
16.	Tripura	63338	65640	68147
17.	Meghalaya	78248	83048	88418
18.	Assam	491671	511033	530497
19.	West Bengal	2407908	2494556	2586716
20.	Jharkhand	320202	335225	352479
21.	Orissa	1051391	1091768	1134891
22.	Chhattisgarh	592528	613479	635522
23.	Madhya Pradesh	1539764	1609311	1680379
24.	Gujarat	1474431	1534932	1585875

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Daman and Diu	72748	76163	79558
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli			
27.	Maharashtra	2443906	2569860	2704767
28.	Andhra Pradesh	2370459	2451500	2539234
29.	Karnataka	1882962	1968567	2056678
30.	Goa	36048	37368	38260
31.	Lakshadweep	1918	2008	2106
32.	Kerala	1289505	1332814	1374692
33.	Tamil Nadu	2576574	2703291	2840532
34.	Pondicherry	45654	47779	49428
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	9176	9541	9831
All India		28755473	29984658	31251682

[English]

(c) and (d) No such record is centrally maintained.

Tie-up with Foreign Universities

935. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign Universities tie up with Indian Universities and Indian Institutes of Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Universities and IITs which tied up with foreign Universities during 2006-07 & 2007-08; and

(d) the field of studies/research agreed to by both sides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Higher Education Institutes including Indian Institutes of Technology are autonomous and are free to enter into collaboration with foreign Universities/institutions for academic purposes. They are, therefore, not required to take any approval from the Central Government for such collaboration.

Setting up of Industries

936. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

(a) the number of MoU signed to set up industries in different States during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether any industry has been set up in any of those States during that plan period; and

(c) if so, the present status and the investment made by the entrepreneurs of those industries, sector-wise and state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) MoUs are signed by the concerned Administrative Ministries, Public Sector Undertakings, State

Governments and Private Entrepreneurs. The details of such MoUs are not centrally maintained.

Under the liberalized Industrial Policy, the decision to set up an industry is based on the techno-economic considerations of the entrepreneurs. To set up an industry, the entrepreneurs are required to file an Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum for delicensed sector or should obtain an Industrial licence for licensed sector. A statement I & II showing the state-wise and sector-wise details of industrial investment intentions along with the proposed investment during the tenth plan period is enclosed respectively.

Statement-I

State-wise Break up of Investment Intentions during the Tenth Plan Period

S.No.	Name of the State	April 2002-March 2007	
		Numbers	Proposed investment (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	31
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2034	109505
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	30	360
4.	Assam	272	3818
5.	Bihar	108	9107
6.	Chandigarh	7	235
7.	Chhattisgarh	1219	234796
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	603	11999
9.	Daman and Diu	302	3422
10.	Delhi	40	311
11.	Goa	169	1851
12.	Gujarat	2595	227258
13.	Haryana	1020	33640
14.	Himachal Pradesh	394	8739
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	460	8852
16.	Jharkhand	454	102089
17.	Karnataka	1112	114814
18.	Kerala	142	2616

1	2	3	4
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	654	42993
21.	Maharashtra	3596	130517
22.	Manipur	4	20
23.	Meghalaya	140	3045
24.	Mizoram	0	0
25.	Nagaland	7	16037
26.	Orissa	752	201884
27.	Puducherry	212	2224
28.	Punjab	748	23981
29.	Rajasthan	795	19086
30.	Sikkim	25	1691
31.	Tamil Nadu	2212	91103
32.	Tripura	13	300
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1267	91110
34.	Uttarakhand	1138	24960
35.	West Bengal	1882	94182
36.	Locations in More than one State	8	29
Total		25316	1616407

Note: Investment in terms of Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEMs) filed, Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued and Direct Industrial Licences issued since November 2003.

Statement-II

Sector-wise Break up of Investment Intentions during the Tenth Plan Period

S.No.	Name of the Scheduled Industry	April 2002 to March 2007	
		Numbers	Proposed investment (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Metallurgical Industries	4612	416165
2.	Fuels	188	131325

1	2	3	4
3.	Boilers and Steam Gen. Plants	15	421
4.	Prime Movers	541	14323
5.	Electrical Equipments	1518	410770
6.	Telecommunications	194	6312
7.	Transportation	388	17677
8.	Industrial Machinery	537	11597
9.	Machine Tools	60	468
10.	Agricultural Machinery	58	2579
11.	Earth Moving Machinery	14	156
12.	Misc. Mechanical Industry	1298	20903
13.	Comm. H. Hold Equipments	60	558
14.	Medical and Surgical Equipts.	44	153
15.	Industrial Instruments	11	98
16.	Scientific Instruments	52	282
17.	Math, Survey & Drawing Equipts.	1	110
18.	Fertilizers	285	4136
19.	Chemical other than Fertilizers	1917	100764
20.	Photographic Raw Films	0	0
21.	Dye Stuffs	34	584
22.	Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	873	11297
23.	Textiles	3607	72394
24.	Paper & Paper products	513	31274
25.	Sugar	1328	110142
26.	Fermentation Industries	824	18245
27.	Food Processing Industries	1167	10994
28.	Vanaspathi, Veg Oil & Fats	570	5740
29.	Soaps, Cosmetics & Toiletries	277	4847
30.	Rubber Goods	233	5214
31.	Leather Goods	203	717

1	2	3	4
32.	Glue & Gelatin	22	512
33.	Glass	154	6004
34.	Ceramics	220	4285
35.	Cement & Gypsum	477	64149
36.	Timber Products	26	296
37.	Defence Industries	41	3351
38.	Miscellaneous Industries	377	4241
Others		2577	123414
Total		25316	1616407

Note: Investment in terms of Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEMs) filed, Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued and Direct Industrial Licences issued since November, 2003.

Survey of Minerals by GSI

937. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has undertaken any survey work pertaining to mines in the country;

(b) if so, the details of gold, silver and copper reserves and other mineral reserves located during each of the last three years, till date, mineral-wise and State-wise;

(c) the quantum of these metals and minerals reserves found in the country, State-wise and mineral-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for improving the quality of exploration and exploitation of these metals and minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) carries out survey and regional exploration for minerals.

(b) and (c) Mineral reserves are estimated after detailed mineral exploration and prospecting by other exploration agencies. The details of reserves of minerals in the country are published by the Indian Bureau of

Mines in the Indian Mineral Yearbook 2006, a copy of which has been supplied to the Parliament Library.

(d) GSI has embarked upon a programme of modernization and acquisition of state-of-art equipment and latest technology for exploration of minerals. Exploitation of minerals is not within the purview of GSI.

Technical Institutions

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

(a) the details of the technical and vocational training institutions functioning in each State;

(b) the steps taken to remove inter-state and inter-regional imbalances, if any;

(c) the details of the suggestions/recommendations made at the last two day meeting on development of technical education in India;

(d) whether the Government proposes new policy initiatives on public private-partnership to expand technical education and to further improve the quality of technical education on par with the highest level of international standards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) State-wise details of technical and

vocational training institutions are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) In order to mitigate regional disparities in technical education, the Government has made provisions for reservation of seats in degree and diploma level technical courses for States/UTs lacking such facilities, in other States/UTs where such facilities are available on an adequate scale. Besides, to promote the establishment of new institutions in the North Eastern states, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has relaxed some of the norms laid down for approval of new technical institutions.

(c) During the National Conference on Development of Technical Education of India held on December 17 & 18, 2007, following were some of the important suggestions made:

(i) Regional and other imbalances should be addressed through possible relaxations and incentives.

(ii) Public-Private Partnership mode should be considered for expansion of polytechnics.

(iii) The industry should be involved not only in placement activities & student project work but also in the areas of curriculum & faculty development, quality assurance, research activities, etc.

(d) and (e) The XI Five Year Plan envisages expansion of the system of Polytechnics and of Indian Institutes of Information Technology, *inter alia*, in the Public-Private Partnership mode.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	No. of Vocational Schools	No. of Vocational Sections	No. of ITIs/ITCs	No. of Degree Level Technical Institutions	No. of Diploma Technical Institutions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1486	1880	535	998	174
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	4	5	1	4
3.	Assam	510	510	31	16	15
4.	Bihar	752	752	93	24	21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	20	-	91	39	26
6.	Goa	106	106	14	11	11
7.	Gujarat	77	1032	338	168	91
8.	Haryana	116	795	122	158	57
9.	Himachal Pradesh	82	8278	22	11	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	37	502	38	19	16
11.	Jharkhand	-	-	51	23	23
12.	Karnataka	563	1427	835	428	280
13.	Kerala	475	1008	410	212	68
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1307	1307	183	283	98
15.	Maharashtra	958	3480	576	564	408
16.	Manipur	10	57	7	2	4
17.	Meghalaya	2	20	7	2	3
18.	Mizoram	106	51	1	1	4
19.	Nagaland	8	16	7	1	4
20.	Orissa	231	1024	322	152	49
21.	Punjab	345	1146	197	153	89
22.	Rajasthan	155	465	233	185	65
23.	Sikkim	40	9	1	3	4
24.	Tamil Nadu	800	2140	664	675	302
25.	Tripura	17	12	8	5	4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1010	2550	449	466	114
27.	Uttaranchal	111	-	77	60	51
28.	West Bengal	39	39	71	125	71
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3	3	1	0	2
30.	Chandigarh	20	58	2	39	6
31.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	2	2	1	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	2	2	0	0
33.	Delhi	207	93	71	82	20
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil	—	1	—	0
35.	Puducherry	20	16	14	13	7
Total		9616	20591	5465	4894	2102

**Use of Private Security Guards to
Check Terrorism**

939. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the participation of Private Security Guards to check the activities of terrorists in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide training to such private security guards in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Although 'Law & Order' is a State subject as per the VII Schedule to the Constitution of India, the Central Government has enacted the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005 with a view to assist the States in regulating the activities of private security agencies functioning in various States. These private security

agencies may play a role in assisting the security forces in dealing with terrorists.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) above question does not arise.

Funds for Research on Andaman Sea

940. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount spent for the research on Andaman sea nearby areas during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the allocation for the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the findings of the Government on this research work?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The details of the amount spent by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (formerly Department of Ocean Development) for the research work in Andaman Sea and islands during the last three years are as follows:

Sl.No.	Projects	Amount spent (Rs. in Lakhs)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Ocean Science & Technology for Islands	41.00	90.00	192.00
2.	Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System	17.96	17.84	20.01
3.	Development of Potential Drugs from the Ocean	103.26	67.60	59.74
Total		162.22	175.44	271.75
Grand Total				609.41

(b) and (c) During the XI Five year plan period, an allocation of Rs. 30.00 crores is made under the Island Development programme of Ministry of Earth Sciences. This covers research pertaining to Andaman & Nicobar islands, Lakshdweep islands and adjoining seas.

(d) National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) an autonomous institute under Ministry of Earth Sciences has developed technology for farming and fattening of mud crabs in floating cages and pens in brackish water lakes, canals and in the mangrove areas in Andaman. The technology has been transferred to fishermen in

Andamans. The floating cellular cages designed and fabricated by NIOT for fattening crabs are used in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Further NIOT has designed, fabricated oceanic Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) for deployments in sea to increase fish catch.

The oceanographic parameters of Andaman sea act as the benchmark for pollution free coastal environment towards monitoring of coastal ocean pollution in rest of the offshore areas of Indian and in this regard, samplings are carried out 4 times a year representing the seasonal variations.

Under the project on development of drugs from sea, so far 413 marine organisms were collected from Andaman Sea out of which, 61 samples were found to be potent bioactive metabolites. After confirmation of activity in the repeat extractions, four extracts showed bioactivity at very low concentrations.

Khadi Clusters

941. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up khadi, agro and village industry clusters;

(b) if so, the details of such clusters with its specific features, State and UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has forwarded proposals to the Union Government for financial assistance in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has launched the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) for development of around 100 clusters from khadi, village and coir sectors with a total plan outlay of Rs. 97.25 crore. The Scheme envisages need-based assistance for replacement of production equipment, setting up of common facility centres (CFC), product development, quality improvement, improved marketing, training and capacity building, etc. The guidelines of SFURTI are available on the website of the Ministry at <http://nic.in>. 118 clusters (33 from khadi, 59 from VI and coir) have been approved for their development under this scheme. State/UT-wise list of clusters selected under SFURTI is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Under SFURTI the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (erstwhile Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) does not receive and proposals directly from State/UT Governments. The cluster development proposals are received by the Nodal Agencies, i.e. Khadi and village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Coir Board from Khadi Institutions, NGOs institutions of the Central and State Governments and semi-Government institutions with the consent of the State Governments. After examining the proposal, the same are forwarded by the Nodal Agency to the Scheme Steering Committee of SFURTI for consideration. The details of clusters from the State of Karnataka approved under this scheme are as under:

Sl. No.	Name & location of the cluster	Name of the activity	Name of the I.A.
1	2	3	4
Khadi Cluster			
1.	Belur Khadi Cluster, Hubli	Cotton Khadi Polyvastra and muslin production (Cotton Khadi, Silk khadi, National Flag, muslin shirting, poly silk shirting DT and bunting	Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Hubli
2.	Hebbally Cotton Khadi Cluster, Dharwad	Cotton Khadi and Polyvastra (Lungies, Towels, Bedsheets, Dress Materials, National Flag	Dharwad Taluka Hebbally Kshetriya Seva Sangh

1	2	3	4
Village Industry Cluster			
3.	Sisal Fibre Clusters, Chamarajinagar	Table mats, Footmats, Runners, Penstand Fibre extract from leaves from plant	IDPMS, Bangalore
4.	Mysore Wood Work, Mysore	Wooden Toys, Table ware & decorative items	Karnataka Handicrafts Artisans Welfare Association, Mysore
Coir Industry Cluster			
5.	Hassan Coir Cluster, Hassan District	Fibre extraction, spinning, pith manure and product manufacturing	Karnataka State Coir Co-operative Federation Ltd., Bangalore
6.	Channarayana Coir Cluster, Bangalore Rural District	Fibre extraction, spinning and product manufacturing	Karnataka State Coir Development Corporation Ltd., Bangalore
7.	Gubbi Coir Cluster, Tumkur District	Fibre extraction, spinning and product manufacturing	Karnataka State Coir Co-operative Federation, Bangalore
8.	Arakere Coir Cluster, Hassan District	Fibre extraction, spinning, pith manure and product manufacturing	Karnataka State Coir Co-operative Federation, Bangalore

Statement

List of Clusters to be Developed under SFURTI (as on 20.02.2008) (Khadi-33, VI-59 and Coir-26)

Sl.No.	State	Place	Name of Cluster
1	2	3	4
Khadi Clusters			
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	Bandipora Woolen Khadi Cluster
2.		Pulwama	Bandipora Woolen Khadi Cluster
3.	Haryana	Kurukshetra	Kurukshetra Cotton Khadi Cluster
4.	Punjab	Amritsar	Amritsar Woolen Khadi Cluster
5.		Jalandhar	Jalandhar Cotton Khadi Cluster
6.	Rajasthan	Bassi	Bassi Khadi Cluster
7.		Jaipur	Jhalawar Khadi Cluster
8.	Uttaranchal	Haldwani	Haldwani Khadi Cluster

1	2	3	4
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Tikamgarh	Tikamgarh Khadi Cluster
10.	Gujarat	Rajkot	Vadhwan Polyester Cluster
11.		Rajkot	Cotton Khadi Cluster
12.	Maharashtra	Nanded	Swami Ramanand Tirth Khadi Cluster
13.	Karnataka	Hubli	Belur Khadi Cluster
14.		Dharwad	Hebbally Cotton Khadi Cluster
15.	Andhra Pradesh	Srikakulam	Srikakulam Cotton Khadi Cluster
16.		Metapalli	Sircilla Khadi Cluster
17.	Tamil Nadu	Tirunelveli	Sankamkivil Khadi Cluster
18.		Karakudi	Karakudi Khadi Cluster
19.		Coimbatore	Sulur Khadi Cluster
20.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry Distt.	Pondicherry Khadi Cluster
21.	Kerala	Emakulam	Thalappilly Cotton Khadi Cluster
22.		Thiruvananthapuram	Thiruvananthapuram Khadi Cluster
23.	Bihar	Gaya	Nawadah Khadi Cluster
24.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Palamu Khadi Cluster
25.	West Bengal	Murshidabad and Birbhum	Behrampur (Jangipur) Cotton Khadi Cluster
26.		Malda	Malda Khadi Cluster
27.	Assam	Nalbari	Mukaimua Silk Khadi Cluster
28.	Nagaland	Dimapur	Dimapur Khadi Cluster
29.	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur Cotton Khadi Cluster
30.		Sultanpur	Tikamafi Woolen & Cotton Khadi Cluster
31.		Rae Bareilly	Rae Bareilly Khadi Cluster
32.		Lucknow	Beharich Khadi Cluster
33.		Sitapur	Attaria Khadi Cluster
Coir Clusters			
1.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Chirayinkeezhu Coir Cluster
2.		Kozhikode	Beypore Coir Cluster
3.		Kollam	Manged Coir Cluster

1	2	3	4
4.		Kottayam	Vembanadu Coir Clusters
5.	Tamil Nadu	Salem	Salem Coir Cluster
6.		Sivagangai	Sigampuneri Coir Cluster
7.		Theni	Periyakulam Coir Cluster
8.		Thanjavur	Pattukottai Coir Cluster
9.		Cuddalore	Cuddalore Coir Cluster
10.		Vellore	Vellore Coir Cluster
11.	Karnataka	Hasan	Hasan Coir Cluster
12.		Bengaluru	Channarayana Coir Cluster
13.		Turnkur	Gubbi Coir Cluster
14.		Hassan	Anikere Coir Cluster
15.	Andhra Pradesh	Godavari	Coir Cluster
16.		Srikakulam	Srikakulam Coir Cluster
17.	Orissa	Jagatsinghpur	Alanahat Coir Cluster
18.		Puri	Balighat Coir Cluster
19.	Goa	North Goa	Morgim Coir Cluster
20.	Lakshadweep	UT of Lakshadweep	Androth Coir Cluster
21.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	Pondicherry Coir Cluster
22.	Assam	Guwahati	Manas Coir Cluster
23.	West Bengal	Paraganas	Dhanchetbri Coir Cluster
24.	Gujarat	Bhavnagar	Mahuva Coir Cluster
25.	Andaman and Nicobar	Rangat	Rangat-Middle Andaman Coir Cluster
26.	Tripura*		Tripura Coir Cluster
Village Industries Clusters			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Devara Konda	Devara Konda Jewels Cluster
2.		Anantapur	Hindpur Agarbetti Cluster
3.		Chittoor	Chittoor, Wood Carving Craft Cluster
4.		Vizianagaram	Roofing tiles

*One cluster, accorded 'in principle' approval by SSC for the State of Tripura, has to be identified by Coir Board.

1	2	3	4
5.	Assam	Barpeta	Barpeta Cane & Bamboo Crafts Cluster
6.		Dhubri	Lakhimani Cane & Bamboo Cluster
7.	Bihar	Muzaffarpur	Bee Keeping Cluster
8.		Gopalganj	Mehsi River Shell Button
9.	Haryana	Karnal	Handmade paper
10.		Hissar	Wooden beads Cluster
11.		Ambala	Leather goods
12.	Himachal Pradesh	Una	Una Plant Fiber Cluster
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	Baramulla	Baramulla Ajas Manda Gabba Embroidery Cluster
14.		Jammu	Jammu Bee keeping Cluster
15.		Ladakh	Seabuchthorn Cluster
16.	Maharashtra	Sindhudurg	Food Processing Cluster
17.		Chandrapur	Gadehiroli Pottery Cluster
18.		Wardha	Amaravathi Wartha Bee Keeping Cluster
19.	Orissa	Ganjam	Mahatma Gandhi Gramodyog Samity
20.		Koraput	Umri Leather Cluster
21.	Rajasthan	Dausa	Dausa Pottery Cluster
22.		Bikaner	Pugal Textile Crafts Cluster
23.	Tamil Nadu	Thanjavur	Nachyarkoil brass Metal Production Cluster
24.		Dindigul	Siddha & Ayurveda Cluster
25.		Kanyakumari	Kanyakumari Pottery Cluster
26.		Mathandam	Marthandam Beekeeping Cluster
27.		Coimbatore	Thiruchandur Agarbathi Cluster
28.	Uttaranchal	Chamoli	Bee keeping Cluster
29.	Uttar Pradesh	Moradabad	Horns & Bone Products
30.		Sultanpur	Amla Processing
31.		Kannauj	Kannauj Agarbathi Cluster
32.		Varanasi	Mauri Cane & Bamboo Cluster

1	2	3	4
33.		Lucknow	Chikan Handicraft
34.		Saharanpur	Honey processing Cluster
35.		Lucknow	Chikan Cluster
36.	Tripura	Tripura West	Gandhigram Crafts Processing Cluster
37.		Agartala	Bee Keeping Cluster
38.	West Bengal	North 24 Parganas	Bee Keeping Cluster
39.		Murshidabad	Cane & Bamboo Cluster
40.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Ektal Bell Metal Cluster
41.	Karnataka	Charajanager	Sisal Fibre Clusters
42.		Mysore	Mysore Wood Work
43.	Kerala	Wayanad	Kalpetta Bamboo Craft Cluster
44.		Kozhikode	Bee Keeping Industry & Honey Processing
45.	Punjab	Patiala	Phulkari Cluster
46.		Hoshiarpur	Wooden Handicraft Cluster
47.		Ferozpur	Desi Punjabi Juti
48.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Balaghat Bamboo Crafts Cluster
49.		Hoshangabad	Lac Cluster
50.	Gujarat	Valsad	Neera Cluster
51.	Arunachal Pradesh	Lower Subansiri	Ziro Traditional Dress Making Cluster
52.	Mizoram	Aizwal	Cane & Bamboo Clusters
53.	Meghalaya	Jaintia Hills	Development of Traditional Bamboo & Handicrafts
54.	Manipur	Thoubal	Carpentry Cluster
55.		Chandel	Pallel Cane and Bamboo Cluster
56.		Ukhrul	Ukhrul Pottery Cluster
57.	Nagaland	Monstown	Monstown Cluster
58.	Sikkim	South Sikkim	Bee Keeping Cluster
59.	Jharkhand	-	Cluster to be identified*

New Engineering Colleges in Karnataka

942. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 30 new proposals for engineering colleges from Karnataka have been received by the Government;

(b) if so, whether as many 24 colleges have applied for permanent affiliation;

(c) if so, the number of seats likely to be increased this year, if approved by the Government this year;

(d) the total engineering colleges functioning in the State at present; and

(e) the time by when the proposals are likely to be approved to help in improving the seat availability in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b), (c) and (e) Do not arise.

(d) There are 145 Engineering Colleges in Karnataka, which are approved by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Right to Information Act in School Syllabus

943. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand from the experts to incorporate the text of the Right to Information Act, 2005 in the school and college curriculum across the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However Right to Information Act, is mentioned in the following textbooks brought out by NCERT.

(i) "Politics in India since Independence" (textbook in Political Science for Class XII).

(ii) "Indian Society" (textbook in Sociology for Class XII).

(iii) "Democratic Politics-II" (textbook in Political Science for Class X).

Competition with Multi-National Companies

944. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the entry of multinational companies in products manufactured in rural areas, agro-based industries are facing stiff competition and closure of units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect rural industries from closure;

(d) the details of employment provided by rural industries during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise;

(e) the number of agro-based enterprises being run by the multinational companies in the vicinity of big cities during the last three years; and

(f) the effect of these companies on the small and medium industries?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) With the globalisation of Indian economy, the industries in the country, including agro rural industries set up with the assistance provided through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) are facing greater competition in the market. The Government has adopted the policy of strengthening the agro based rural industries so that they remain competitive in the market economy and generate new job opportunities. To strengthen the cottage and rural industries and make them competitive, Government has been implementing schemes like Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC) providing subsidised rates of interest on bank loans, Product Development Design Intervention and packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improving designs and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for setting up village industries by providing subsidy in the form of margin

money. Assistance is provided to khadi and village industry units to participate in exhibitions at the national, sub-national levels, etc. for improving marketing of both khadi and village industry products. These facilities are available to all eligible cottage and rural industries. Further, "Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)" a Central Sector scheme has been launched in 2005-06 for the development of around 100 traditional clusters in khadi, village industries and coir sector. The Scheme envisages need-based assistance for replacement of production equipment, setting up of common facility centres (CFC), product development, quality improvement, improved marketing, training and capacity building, etc.

(d) The State/Union-Territory-wise details of employment provided by khadi and village industries during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises does not maintain specific data on agro based enterprises run by Multi National Companies in the vicinity of big cities on a yearly basis. However, the details of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in various sector of agro and rural industries during April 2004 to March 2007 as furnished by Deptt. of IPP, Ministry of Commerce & Industries, are given below:

(Amount in million)

Sl.No.	Sector	Amount of FDI inflows*		Percentage of total inflows
		(in Indian Rupees)	(In US Dollars)	
1.	Food Processing Industries	7,949.52	177.37	65.19
2.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	1,670.43	37.62	13.70
3.	Agriculture Services	1,173.54	26.52	9.62
4.	Sugar	1,005.65	22.48	8.25
5.	Tea and Coffee (Processing & Warehousing Coffee & Rubber)	345.93	7.63	2.84
6.	Coir	49.57	1.10	0.41
Total		12,194.65	272.73	

*Note: Amount includes the inflows received through SIA/FIPB route, acquisition of existing shares and Reserve Bank of India's automatic route only.

(f) The processes of liberalization and globalization, while exposing the micro and small enterprises including those based in rural areas and agro based manufacturing enterprises to competition, also provide them with opportunities of growth by accessing external markets.

The number of micro and small enterprises (including those based in rural areas) has been progressively increasing. Furthermore, the growth rate of production of micro and small enterprises, at constant prices, has been higher than the overall industrial sector consistently for the last 15 years or so.

Statement

State-Union Territory (UT)-wise details of employment under the Khadi and Village Industries sector during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Employment (lakh persons)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chandigarh	0.15	0.15	0.15
2.	Delhi	0.31	0.31	0.31

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Haryana	1.91	2.17	2.45
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1.33	1.46	1.63
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.46	1.65	1.89
6.	Punjab	2.37	2.51	2.86
7.	Rajasthan	5.96	6.59	7.04
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.15	0.20	0.20
9.	Bihar	2.70	2.83	2.98
10.	Jharkhand	0.24	0.28	0.35
11.	Orissa	2.36	2.44	2.61
12.	West Bengal	5.58	5.95	6.44
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.03	0.05	0.07
14.	Assam	1.65	2.15	2.48
15.	Manipur	0.64	0.64	0.66
16.	Meghalaya	0.31	0.33	0.35
17.	Mizoram	0.29	0.48	0.64
18.	Nagaland	0.36	0.41	0.44
19.	Tripura	0.37	0.39	0.45
20.	Sikkim	0.11	0.17	0.19
21.	Andhra Pradesh	4.88	5.56	6.18
22.	Karnataka	2.98	3.19	3.62
23.	Kerala	3.03	3.35	3.63
24.	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.01	0.01
25.	Puducherry	0.09	0.08	0.08
26.	Tamil Nadu	12.68	12.93	13.21
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.01	0.01	0.01
28.	Goa	0.14	0.15	0.16
29.	Gujarat	1.14	1.37	1.52
30.	Maharashtra	5.89	6.20	6.47
31.	Chhattisgarh	0.48	0.65	0.83

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Madhya Pradesh	2.68	2.87	3.09
33.	Uttarakhand	0.63	0.73	0.86
34.	Uttar Pradesh	13.86	14.51	15.06
Grand Total		76.78	82.77	88.9288.92

Mineral Producing Districts

945. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of the top 50 mineral producing district, 34 fell under the 150 most backward districts list of the Government;

(b) if so, whether Centre for Science and Environment has made any study and released a report in this regard as reported in the 'Hindu' dated December 22, 2007;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the wealth from mining does not go back to the mining areas of the country;

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

(f) the remedial measures taken by the Government for the development of such mineral rich backward districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Most of mineral bearing areas are located in backward regions of the country.

(b) and (c) The report released by Centre for Science and Environment on this issue is not available in the Ministry.

(d) to (f) State Governments are the owners of the mineral wealth located in their State. Royalty on minerals extracted from any State is collected by respective State Government and utilised as per their budget. Many companies engaged in mining ventures have undertaken social and developmental initiatives for the areas adjoining their mining operations. Apart from this the Government

has also enunciated National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy to address the concerns of project affected persons. All mining projects are permitted only after statutory Environmental and Forest clearances, which includes compensatory forestation and deposit of Net Present Value (NPV) of the land with the concerned authorities.

Shortage of Teachers/Professors

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

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

(a) whether there is a shortage of teachers/professors in Central universities Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management in the country as reported in the 'Hindustan' dated December 9, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the actual and sanctioned strength of teachers/ professors in such Universities, IITs and IIMs in the country;

(d) whether many research programmes have suffered due to shortage of teachers/professors in such institutions; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fill the vacant posts of teachers/professors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) In so far as Central Universities are concerned, each Central University is governed by its individual Act of Parliament and the Statutes made thereunder. In terms of the relevant Statutes, the appointments to the teaching posts in a

University are made by its Executive Council on the recommendations of a Selection Committee constituted in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes. The Selection Committee includes, *inter-alia*, a nominee of the Visitor. In view of the foregoing, while this Ministry's role limited to providing the Visitor's nominees to the Selection Committees, the Governments through the University Grants Commission (UGC) keeps reminding the Central Universities to fill the vacant posts. This is, thus, a continuous process. According to the information provided by the UGC, 7286 teachers were in position against the sanctioned strength of 9164, as on 31st March 2007, as per the University-wise break-up given in the enclosed statement-I.

Similarly, the Indian institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) being the autonomous institutions, their recruitment of faculty is done by them as per their respective Statutes and Memoranda of Associations (MoA), respectively, and not by the Government. Recruitment of faculty is a continuous

process and all out efforts are made by the Institutes to fill up the vacant posts. According to the information furnished by the IITs, 2617 teachers were in position against the sanctioned strength of 3499 during 2007-08, as per the Institute-wise break-up given in the enclosed statement-II. As regards IIMs, 335 teachers were in position against the sanctioned strength of 395 as in March, 2007, as per the Institute-wise break-up given in the enclosed statement-III.

Some Institutes have reported that research programmes have suffered due to shortage of teachers/professors.

Taking note of the shortage of teachers, the Central Government has already enhanced the age of superannuation from 62 to 65 years in respect of teachers of centrally funded technical and higher educational institutions under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Statement-I

Central University-wise sanctioned and actual strength of teaching posts as on 31st March, 2007

Sl.No.	Name of University	Sanctioned Posts						Actual strength					
		P	R	SL/SG	L	O	Total	P	R	SL/SG	L	O	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Aligarh Muslim University	180	359	184	673		1396	276	435	171	270	374	1526
2.	Banaras Hindu University	257	540		1035		1832	458	411	86	350		1306
3.	Delhi University	212	440		504	91	1251	174	305	12	297	55	843
4.	Hyderabad University	86	135		145		366	123	94	15	59		291
5.	Jamia Millia Islamia	100	170		417	45	732	80	136		344	40	600
6.	Jawaharlal Nehru University	134	220		215		569	180	149		122		451
7.	North Eastern Hill University	79	111		149		339	57	85		18	121	291
8.	Pondicherry University	31	68		118		217	23	57	0	101	0	181
9.	Visva Bharati	53	112		323	167	655	40	92	77	195	146	552
10.	Assam University*	34	67		133		234	20	45		111		176
11.	Tezpur University	25	38		85		148	15	29	13	48		105
12.	Nagaland University	32	56		108	5	201	15	39		64		118
13.	Mizoram University	28	45		164		237	22	38	13	116	24	213

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14.	B.B.A.U.	16	23		47		86	7	10		21		38
15.	M.G.A. Hindi Vishwavidyalaya	9	9		26		44	5	5		22		32
16.	M.A.N. Urdu University	15	34		77		126	15	32		66		113
17.	University of Allahabad	59	149		330		538	183	75		74		332
18.	Manipur University	26	62		105		193	5	34	70	10		119
Total		1376	2642	184	4654	308	9164	1698	2081	475	2391	641	7286

As on 25th February, 2008

P: Professor

R: Reader

L: Lecturer

SL: Senior Lecturer

SG: Selection Grade

O: Others

Statement II*Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-wise sanctioned and actual strength of teaching posts during 2007-08*

S.No.	Name of the Institute	Sanctioned strength	Actual strength
1.	IIT, Kharagpur	736	501
2.	IIT, Kanpur	406	325
3.	IIT, Delhi*	540	429
4.	IIT, Bombay*	525	399
5.	IIT, Guwahati	213	194
6.	IIT, Roorkee	575	365
7.	IIT, Madras	504	404

*Information relates to 2006-07 academic session.

Statement III*Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-wise sanctioned and strength of teaching posts during March, 2007*

S.No.	Name of the Institute	Sanctioned strength	Actual strength
1.	IIM, Ahmedabad	85	83
2.	IIM, Bangalore	89	74
3.	IIM, Calcutta	88	70
4.	IIM, Lucknow	60	60
5.	IIM, Indore	33	31
6.	IIM, Kozhikode	40	17

*[Translation]***Issuance of Multi-Purpose National Identity Cards**

947. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:
 SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:
 SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
 SHRI KIREN RIJU:
 SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
 SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received reports from the State Government for issuing Photo Identity Cards mandatory for citizens of neighbouring countries residing in these States;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme to prepare a 'National Register of Citizens' and issue multi-purpose National Identity Cards for the personal identification of the citizens of the country;

(c) if so, the details of the said scheme alongwith the status thereof;

(d) the total funds allocated to each State for the said purpose;

(e) the details of those States in which this work has been started and completed as on date under Phase-I of the said scheme; and

(f) the time by when this work is likely to be started in the remaining States?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):

(a) to (f) No, Sir, there have been no such reports. But the Government proposes to issue Multi-purpose National Identity (smart) Card (MNIC) to the citizens in the country. The project envisages providing unique National Identity Number (NIN) to each person in the Nation Population Register (NPR). However, keeping in view the complexities involved both in the processes and technology, a pilot project has been under implementation on an experimental basis covering a population of 30.95 lakhs in the selected areas in 12 States and 1 Union Territory; namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal,

Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Pudducherry. Under the pilot project identity (smart) cards are being issued to the citizens of age 18 years and above.

The production and distribution of identity cards has been undertaken through Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSUs). This was to be completed by July, 2007. But due to time taken in sourcing of raw materials and stabilization of rejects during personalization, this has taken time and will be completed by March, 2008. An amount of Rs. 44.36 crore has been sanctioned for the pilot project.

It is proposed to decide on the implementation of the scheme in the entire country in the light of the experiences gained and lessons learnt from the pilot project.

*[English]***Security Clearance of Hydro Electric Projects**

948. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
 SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to make security clearance of hydro electric projects in border areas of the country compulsory;

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

(c) whether the Government has set up an inter-ministerial task force to look into the issue;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said task force;

(e) the action taken by the Government on such recommendations; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check unnecessary delay in clearance of these proposals/projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as per existing practice, all Hydro Power Projects of PSUs involving foreign companies or foreign collaboration in border areas need security clearance.

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

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

949. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has launched special drives under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to bring the remaining out of school children into the system, fill up the remaining vacancies of teachers, eliminate the remaining infrastructure gaps and improve the quality of education;

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

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to give special assistance to those States which have implemented SSA satisfactorily; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented in all districts of the country to achieve the goal of universalization of satisfactory quality of elementary education in a time bound manner in the mission mode. For this purpose provision has been made for, *inter alia*, opening of 275585 new schools, construction of 210883 school buildings, 815517 additional classrooms, 188832 drinking water facilities, 244297 toilets and the recruitment of 11.32 lakh teachers. The sanctions under SSA are contingent upon the State needs and their performance level.

The Industries (Development and Regulation) Act

950. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to liberalize small scale industries, the Government proposes to remove a restrictive clause in the industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 that prevented non-SSI players from setting up small units;

(b) if so, whether the number of items reserved for small-scale industries will remain the same at 114 and the restrictive clause will continue;

(c) if so, the time by when the Government is considering to regulate the said act; and

(d) the extent to which it will be beneficial for small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, has laid the draft order regarding rescinding of Notification No. 857(E) dated 10 December 1997 and subsequent amendments made thereto on the Table of the two Houses of the Parliament.

(b) The number of products reserved for exclusive manufacture by Micro and Small Enterprises is presently 35.

(c) and (d) The rescinding of the Notification No. 857(E) and subsequent amendments made thereto would enable the MSMEs to access alternative sources to meet their credit/equity requirements for accessing modern technology and enhancing their competitiveness.

HIV Cases in Para Military Forces

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

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether personnel of Para Military Forces (PMF) are exempted from compulsory AIDS/HIV test in the country;

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

(c) whether a large number of PMF personnel are suffering from AIDS/HIV;

(d) If so, the total number of such cases reported during each of the last three years, as on date, force-wise, rank-wise;

(e) the number of jawans who have died due to such disease during the said period, force-wise, rank-wise;

(f) whether the Government has made any study to find out the main factors responsible for such increasing trend among jawans of PMF;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the remedial measures taken by the Government to check such increasing trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a)

and (b) There is no compulsory testing of Central Para Military Force personnel for HIV/AIDS as per the National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy.

(c) and (d) The numbers of HIV/AIDS cases detected through voluntary testing during the last three years force-wise rank-wise is enclosed as statement-I.

(e) The Force-wise, rank-wise number of CPF personnel died to HIV/AIDS is enclosed as statement-II.

(f) to (h) Lack of awareness regarding the mode of transmission of this infection is stated to be the primary reason for its spread. Measures have been taken for prevention from HIV/AIDS in accordance with Action Plan prepared by the Ministry, under the guidance of a high level Task Force.

Statement I

HIV/AIDS Cases Reported during the last three years: Year-wise Force-wise, Rank-Wise

Rank	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
AR					
Inspector	1	1	0	0	2
Sub-Inspector	5	5	5	0	15
Head Constable	18	40	25	1	84
Constable	60	99	58	2	219
Total	84	145	88	3	320
BSF					
Sub-Inspector	4	2	2	0	8
Head Constable	2	7	16	0	25
Constable	38	63	74	0	175
Followers	10	12	17	0	39
Total	54	84	109	0	247
CISF					
Head Constable	3	1	1	0	5
Constable	5	2	4	0	11
Followers	2	2	0	0	4
Total	10	5	5	0	20

	1	2	3	4	5	6
CRPF						
Inspector	1	3	0	0	4	
Sub-Inspector	1	2	3	0	6	
ASI	0	3	0	0	3	
Head Constable	14	64	40	0	118	
Constable	46	71	55	0	172	
Followers	6	16	13	0	35	
Total	68	159	111	0	338	
ITBP						
Sub-Inspector	0	0	1	0	1	
Head Constable	1	0	4	0	5	
Constable	3	3	5	0	11	
Total	4	3	10	0	17	
SSB						
Inspector	0	1	0	0	1	
ASI	0	1	0	0	1	
Head Constable	0	1	1	0	2	
Constable	1	1	6	0	8	
Total	1	4	7	0	12	
NSG						
Head Constable		1	1	0	2	
Constable	1	0	2	0	3	
Total	1	1	3	0	5	

Statement II*Death Cases due to HIV/AIDS during the last three years: Year-wise, Force-wise, Rank-wise*

Rank	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Head Constable	1	1	2	0	4
Constable	11	9	7	0	27
Total	12	10	9	0	31

	1	2	3	4	5	6
BSF						
Sub-Inspector	1	0	0	0	1	
Head Constable	1	6	6	0	13	
Constable	9	16	10	0	35	
Followers	2	2	8	0	12	
Total	13	24	24	0	61	
CISF						
ASI	0	1	0	0	1	
Head Constable	1	1	1	0	3	
Constable	6	6	5	0	17	
Followers	0	0	2	0	2	
Total	7	8	8	0	23	
CRPF						
Head Constable	5	5	5	0	15	
Constable	17	8	6	0	31	
Followers		1	1	0	2	
Total	22	14	12	0	48	
ITBP						
Head Constable	0	1	0	0	1	
Constable	2	1	0	0	3	
Total	2	2	0	0	4	
SSB						
Head Constable	0	0	1	0	1	
Constable	1	0	0	0	1	
Total	1	0	1	0	2	
NGC						
Constable	1	0	0	0	1	
Total	1	0	0	0	1	

Private Participation in Higher Education

952. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission favours conditional private participation in higher education;

(b) if so, whether the Government has for public-private participation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC) during XI Plan, UGC has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. K.B. Powar, former Secretary General of Association of Indian Universities, to formulate the Action Plan for identifying various modes of public-private participation to promote Higher Education.

[Translation]

Functioning of Technical Universities

953. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Council for Technical Education (A.I.C.T.E.) monitors the functioning of various technical universities and private and Government colleges;

(b) if so, whether A.I.C.T.E. has received complaints relating to functioning of such University and colleges; and

(c) if so, the action taken against these colleges and universities alongwith the names thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) monitors the functioning of colleges imparting technical education. As per the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Bharidasan University and others Vs. AICTE, universities imparting technical education need not seek prior approval from AICTE for setting up faculties/departments or starting courses programmes in the field of technical education. However, these universities are required to maintain the norms and standards prescribed by AICTE.

(b) and (c) List of institutions against whom complaints have been received by AICTE during last two years and status of action taken against them are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the institute against which complaint was received by AICTE during last two years	Status of Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	Rishiraj Institute of Technology, Indore	To be processed in the appraisal committee meeting for extension of approval for 2008-09 for its recommendations.
2.	Ahmedabad Institute of Technology, Ahmedabad	Surprise visit conducted. Institute placed under Reduced in Intake for the year 2007-08
3.	NRI Institute of Information Science and Technology Bhopal	To be processed in the appraisal committee meeting for extension of approval for 2008-09 for its recommendations.
4.	University Institute of Technology Rajiv Gandhi Technical University, Bhopal	To be processed in the appraisal committee meeting for extension of approval for 2008-09 for its recommendations.

1	2	3
5.	Jawaharlal Nehru College of Ratahara, Rewa	Surprise visit conducted and show cause issued. Verification of compliance of show-cause under process through visit.
6.	Academy of Management Studies, Dehradun	Surprise Visit Conducted & reports being processed.
7.	Harial Institute of Management & Technology, Greater Noida	Surprise Visit Conducted & reports being processed.
8.	Dewan V.S. Institute of Management, Meerut	Surprise Visit Conducted & reports being processed.
9.	Lotus Institute of Management, Bareilly	Surprise Visit Conducted & reports being processed.
10.	Greater Noida Institute of Technology, Greater Noida	Surprise Visit Conducted & reports being processed.
11.	Bihar College of Pharmacy, Patna	Surprise Visit Conducted & reports being processed.
12.	Llyod Institute of Management & Technology, Greater Noida	Surprise Visit Conducted & reports being processed.
13.	Institute of Management Science, Lucknow.	Surprise Visit Conducted & reports being processed.
14.	Greater Noida Institute of Technology, Greater Noida	Surprise Visit Conducted & reports being processed.
15.	G.L. Bajaj Institute of Management & Research, Greater Noida.	Show Cause Notice Under Process.
16.	Priyadarshini College of Computer Sciences, Greater Noida	Under Process.
17.	Kushagra Institute of Information & Management Science, Cuttack.	Surprise Visit Conducted & reports being processed.
18.	Xavier Institute of Social Service, Ranchi	Surprise Visit Conducted & reports being processed.
19.	St. Thomas College of Engineering, Calcutta	Matter sub-judice. The visit has been conducted by the Eastern Regional Office to verify the facts and the report has been placed before the Hon'ble Court for further necessary action.
20.	Jagannath Institute of Engineering & Technology, Jagatpur	Matter forwarded to Regional Office to verify to complaint through Surprise Inspection.
21.	Shillong Engineering & Management College, Shillong	The visit conducted and the deficiencies have been communicated to the institution for compliance.
22.	Krupajal Engineering College, Bhubaneshwar	The visit has been conducted and the matter placed before Appraisal Committee for its consideration.
23.	Cambridge Institute of Technology, Ranchi	The visit conducted and the deficiencies have been communicated to the institution for compliance.

1	2	3
24.	Ramgovind Institute of Technology, Koderna	The visit has been conducted and the deficiencies have been communicated to the institution for compliance.
25.	Mahavir Institute of Engineering & Technology, Bhubaneswar	The visit has been conducted and the deficiencies have been communicated to the institution for compliance.
26.	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar	Regional Office has been requested to verify the complaint.
27.	NIMT Institute of Agri. Business & Rural Mgt. College, Kotputli	(Increase withdrawal MBA 60-120) Extension is being kept pending for standalone college, sharing building with Engg. College.
28.	Ramanujan College of Management, Hodal, Faridabad	Visit report yet to be received from North West Regional Office.
29.	Sri Sringeri Sharda Institute of Management, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi	No action is required.
30.	Maharishi Arvind Institute of Science & Management, Jaipur	No action is required.
31.	Fore School of Management, New Delhi	Reply being sought from college.
32.	Keshav College of Pharmacy, Kamal	Visit report yet to be received from North West Regional office.
33.	Somany Institute of Technology & Management, Rewari	Surprise visit conducted. Institution issued show cause notice.
34.	NIMT Institute of Engineering & Technology, Keshwana	Surprise visit conducted. Institution issued show cause notice.
35.	Moti Mahal College of Hotel Management, Mangalore	Land documents yet to be verified by South West Regional Office.
36.	Bangalore Institute of Management Studies, Bangalore	Institute put under No admission category.
37.	SSMRV College, Bangalore	Institute put under No admission category.
38.	Sambram Academy of Mgt. Studies, Bangalore	Institute running as per norms and No action is required.
39.	Alliance Business Academy, Bangalore	Visit report yet to be received from South West Regional Office.
40.	Sambharam Institute of Technology, Bangalore	Under process.
41.	Maamallan Institute of Technology, Kancheepuram	To be processed in the appraisal committee meeting for extension of approval for 2008-09 for its recommendations.
42.	S.R.R. Engineering College, Kancheepuram	-do-
43.	Panimalar Engineering College, Thiruvallure	-do-
44.	St. Joseph's College of Engineering, Chennai	-do-
45.	Atharva College of Engineering, Mumbai	Matter forwarded to Regional Office for verification.
46.	Manoharbai Patel Institute of Engineering & Tech., Gondia	Matter forwarded to regional Office for verification.

*[English]***Export of Diamonds and Gold Jewellery**

954. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports of diamonds and Gold Jewellery have registered growth during 2007-08 as compared to the previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other sectors which have registered growth despite strong rupee appreciation against US dollar during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During April to October 2007, the overall gems & jewellery exports recorded a growth rate of 24.08% over corresponding period of 2006. Out of these, as per the available data for April-May 2007, exports of cut & polished diamonds were USD 1866.99 Million, representing a growth of 21.16% over the corresponding period of 2006 and exports of gold jewellery were USD 749.78 Million, representing a growth of 0.61% over the corresponding period of 2006. (Source: DGC&IS). During the period April to October 2007, exports in respect of agricultural & allied products, ores & minerals, chemicals & related products, engineering goods, electronic goods and petroleum products have also registered positive growth. (Source. DGC & IS).

Monitoring of Funds under Modernisation of Police Force Scheme

955. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to monitor the utilization of funds provided under the scheme of Modernisation of Police Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a)

to (c) To supplement the efforts of the State Governments in modernizing their police forces, the Central Government has been implementing a Non-Plan Scheme namely the "Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces" (MPF) Scheme. For monitoring the Scheme, the State Governments are periodically advised to ensure optimum utilization of funds, furnishing utilization certificates in regard to the Central funds released during previous years, which is a pre-requisite for release of funds during next financial year(s) and visit by Central Teams to the States. Besides, the matter regarding optimum utilization of funds under the MPF is reviewed, in consultation with concerned States, from time to time.

*[Translation]***Learning Achievement Survey**

956. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training has conducted a learning achievement survey in the country;

(b) if so, the main finding of the survey;

(c) whether about thirty-one per cent of class five students do not know vocabulary; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The National Council of Education Research and Training has conducted a learning achievement survey at Class-V, in 33 States and Union Territories covering 6828 schools and 84332 students, in 2006-07. The survey has indicated a mean achievement score of 60.31% in Language, 48.46% in Mathematics and 52.19% in Environmental Studies.

(c) The language test in the survey contained 40 questions on various competencies, of which 5 were on vocabulary. 68.71% children could answer these questions correctly.

(d) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes recruitment of 8.32 lakh additional

teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days every year, free distribution of textbooks for primary and upper primary classes to about 6.5 crore Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and girl students, academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6395 Block Resource Centres and 68352 Cluster Resource Centres and regular evaluation of students.

[English]

Access to Secondary Education

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

(a) whether the Union Government has prepared any scheme to set up secondary schools within five km. and higher secondary schools within seven to 10 km. to provide easy access of education to the students as reported in the 'Hindu' dated February 15, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when the universalisation of access to secondary education is likely to be made;

(d) whether the expansion of secondary education would involve, upgradation of physical infrastructure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) Central Government has decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage during the 11th Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing one secondary school within 5 kilometer of every habitation. The proposed scheme envisages: (i) provision of necessary infrastructure and resources in the secondary education sector to create higher capacity in secondary schools in the country, and for improvement in quality of learning in the schools; (ii) provision of filling the missing gaps in the existing secondary schools system; (iii) provision of extra support for education of girls, rural children and students belonging to SC/ST, minority and

other weaker sections of the society; and (iv) a holistic convergent framework for implementation of various schemes in secondary education. Some of the major components of the proposed scheme are: (i) new schools building, (ii) additional rooms including classrooms, laboratories, computer room, library room, toilet etc., (iii) teaching-learning aids, (iv) School grant (v) teachers' in service training (vi) additional teachers, (vii) research and innovation, (viii) curricular reforms and (ix) Examinations reforms, etc.

Performance of IPS Officers

958. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has forwarded a proposal to the Government for sacking eight Indian Police Service (IPS) officers for poor performance and other reasons;

(b) if so, the details and action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to make it mandatory to review the performance of every IPS officer over 50 year age;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Under Rule 16(3) of All India Service (Death-cum-retirement Benefits), 1958 it is mandatory for the State/ cadres to review the performance of every Indian Police Service (I.P.S.) officer over 50 years of age. Accordingly, the Government of Maharashtra has forwarded a proposal in January, 2008 for review of 44 I.P.S. officers for continuance or otherwise in the service.

Out of the 44 officers, the State Government have recommended 4 officers for premature retirement and review of 4 officers at a later stage. Such proposals are considered in the light of the relevant provisions of the Rules *ibid*.

Setting up of State Security Commission

959. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States have set up the State Security Commission (SSC) as per the recommendation of the National Police Commission;

(b) if so, the details of these States who have set up the said Commission alongwith the total expenditure incurred thereon as on date, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for which the remaining States have not set up the Commission in their respective State; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to set up SSC in every State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The National Police Commission set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Dharam Vira submitted eight reports during the period February 1979 to May 1981 with a number of recommendations, which were to be implemented by both the Central Government and the State Governments. The reports of the Commission were sent to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for implementation. However, a number of recommendations remain unimplemented by State which *inter-alia*, included the constitution of State Security Commission due to various reasons.

(c) and (d) As Police is a State subject, therefore police reforms are primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments. However, the unimplemented recommendations have been considered by State and the Union Government from time to time and the Review Committee set up by the Government in 2004 had short-listed 49 such recommendations for reconsideration of States and Central Government which also, *inter-alia*, included the recommendation of setting of Security Commission by all States. All the recommendations have been sent to States/Union Territories Administration for implementation. The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 22.9.2006 passed in Writ Petition No. 310/1996-Prakash Singh & other Vs. Union of India & others is also monitoring the implementation of its various directions passed in the said case which, *inter-alia*, include direction of constitution of State Security Commission by States/Union Territories.

Upgradation of TV Tower

960. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for upgrading of the TV Tower at Ajinkyatara Fort in Satara District of Maharashtra from LPT to HPT is under consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any other upgradation works to be proposed by the Government at Ajinkyatara Fort; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Besides the LPT at Satara (located at Ajinkyatara Fort) three LPTs at Patan, Phaltan & Karad and two VLPTs at Wai, Karagaond and Vasantgarh are functioning in Satara district. Multi Channel TV coverage through Doordarshan's free to air DTH service has been provided in the entire country (except Andaman & Nicobar Islands) including Satara district of Maharashtra.

(d) and (e) The present 100 watt LPT at Satara is envisaged to be replaced by 500 watt automode (1+1) LPT by end of 2008-09.

Dumping of Dead Poultry in No Man's Land

961. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that Bangladesh is dumping dead poultry in no-man's land;

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

(c) whether India has requested Bangladesh to develop a mechanism to decide how the dead birds are to be properly disposed of; and

(d) if so, the response of the Bangladesh thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Some instances have been reported in the

recent past that villagers living in the Bangladesh border areas throw away dead birds affected by bird flu and do not follow prescribed methods of hygienic disposal and elimination. In pursuance of initiatives taken in this regard, the two countries have agreed on the followings:-

- (i) Appointment of nodal officers for exchange of birds flu related and other agreed information between the two countries.
- (ii) Exchange of viral gene sequencing of bird flu occurrences in both the countries.
- (iii) Government of India has also offered to Bangladesh use of its laboratory facilities for limited number of samples free of cost and availability of PPE kits, masks, disinfectants etc. for tackling bird flu.
- (iv) Government of India has been in touch with the Bangladesh authorities regarding sharing the gene sequence and coordination for surveillance and control of bird flu on both sides of the order. Government of Bangladesh has assured us of all assistance and cooperation.

Reforms in Higher Education

962. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to the plan approved by the Union Cabinet, the Planning Commission is setting up an Inter-Ministerial Working Group to work out the finer details of the reforms in higher education;
- (b) if so, whether all Central assistance will be linked with implementation of strong reforms aimed at restructuring higher education;
- (c) if so, whether this expert group had already submitted its recommendations;
- (d) if so, the details of the same; and
- (e) the time by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) In the XI Plan document,

the Planning Commission has, *inter-alia* suggested that an Inter-Ministerial Group should be set up to work out a detailed reforms agenda in higher education. No such Group has been constituted so far.

Review of Coastal Security Scheme

963. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a review meeting of the Coastal Security Scheme (CSS) was held in the first half of December 2007;

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

(c) the names of States/Union Territories which attended the review meeting;

(d) whether the coastline along several States and Union Territories are prone to illegal cross border activities including smuggling of explosive;

(e) if so, the extent to which comprehensive a review of Coastal Security Scheme is going to curb illegal cross border activities; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) Yes, Sir. A review meeting of the Coastal Security Scheme (CSS) under the chairmanship of Union Home Secretary was held on 13.12.2007.

(b) Various issues such as physical progress of activities, manpower jurisdictional issue, hiring of boats etc. were discussed in the meeting. It was decided that each State will prepare a detailed action plan setting time lines for the activities of these various issues under the Scheme.

(c) The review meeting was attended by the representatives of all the 9 coastal States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal and by the 4 coastal Union Territories of Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The inputs from various agencies suggest that several States & UTs are prone to cross border illegal activities. Concerned State authorities and field formations are sensitized as and when such inputs are received. The periodic comprehensive review of implementation of the Scheme fine-tunes the process of implementation the Scheme, of which aims to curb illegal cross border activities through coastal areas of the country.

Advanced Passenger Information System

964. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start the advance passenger information service (APIS) at major international airports in the country w.e.f. April, 2008 as reported in the 'Times of India' dated 4.1.2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of information about a passenger which will be provided by pilot under APIS; and

(d) the extent to which security agencies will be able to check terror threats after the implementation of APIS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) A Notification amending the Foreigners Order, 1948 for implementing Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) from 1st April, 2008 has been published in the Gazette of India on 24.01.2008. As per this Notification, the country representative/station manager of an airline landing in India shall provide information about the passengers on board and crew in electronic form, within fifteen minutes of taking off of the aircraft from the port of embarkation outside India, to the immigration authority at the port(s) of landing in India. The details of the passengers viz. name, gender, date of birth, nationality, passport details etc. are to be provided to the immigration authorities. APIS will facilitate expeditious immigration clearance coupled with enhanced security screening of the passengers.

Health Policy for Schools

965. SHRI RAYAFATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a health policy for schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard; and

(d) if so, the findings or such a study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has reported that the Government has launched a school health programme under the National Rural Health Mission. 21 States have initiated this programme. This programme is being implemented in an integrated manner along with other health initiatives under the Mission. Health education, regular health check ups, treatment of minor ailments, micro nutrient supplementation, appropriate referrals, with follow up are part of this initiative. The National Rural Health Mission is reviewed on a regular basis.

Safety Norms in Schools

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

(a) whether the Government has issued a circular to schools to seek written permission from parents or guardians before taking children on study tours and picnics; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Education being a concurrent subject, school education primarily comes under the jurisdiction of State Governments. Central Government has issued an advisory on 9.8.2006 to State Governments to ensure that "no student is taken on tour without explicit permission of his or her parents/guardians as the case may be".

Construction Norms under Modernisation of Police Force Scheme

967. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received some representations from the State Governments to revise the cost of construction norms provided under the modernisation of Police Force Scheme, which were laid down in 2000-01;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the norms have been revised as per the request of the State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Various features, including construction norms, under the Scheme of Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF), as suggested by the State Government(s), are reviewed from time to time, in consultation with concerned States and the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR & D) keeping in view the availability of resources in terms of land, funds and other related local conditions in the States.

National Security Commission

968. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up National Security Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when the said Commission is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Committee on National Security & Central Police Personnel Welfare has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister to prepare panels for appointment of Chiefs of Central Para Military Forces (CPMFs) consider issues pertaining to the service conditions of the CPMFs personnel and any other related matter.

(c) There are high-level bodies in the Government to deal with other security related matters.

(d) Does not arise.

Funds under Modernisation of Police Force Scheme

969. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds released under Modernisation of Police Force Scheme to Gujarat during each of the last three years;

(b) whether funds allocated under Modernisation of Police Force Scheme to Gujarat has been reduced during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to allocate funds for mega city policing and desert area policing outside Modernisation of Police Force Scheme considering the special nature of these areas during 2006-09;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate funds to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) To supplement the efforts of the State Governments in modernizing their police forces, the Central Government has been implementing a Non-plan Scheme namely, the "Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces" (MPF Scheme). Central assistance to the State is determined keeping in view, *inter-alia*, the demands of other States, security scenario, utilization of funds by the concerned State(s) and allocation of funds under the Scheme from Ministry of Finance. The year-wise details of Central allocation and funds released to Gujarat under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF Scheme), during the last three years 2004-05 to 2006-07 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Central funds allocated		Total funds released
	Original	Additional	
2004-05	34.44	5.10	39.54
2005-06	30.00	9.84	39.84
2006-07	37.00	8.52	45.52
Total	101.44	23.46	124.90

Thus, there has been no reduction in the release of Central funds to Gujarat.

(d) to (f) The allocation of funds to States, including Gujarat, is finalized on the basis of projections made in their action plan and "mega city policing and desert policing" constitute an integral part of the Scheme. An amount of Rs. 2.00 crore each during 2005-06 and 2006-07 and further an amount of Rs. 1.49 crore during 2007-08 has been released to Gujarat for Desert Policing.

Construction of Quarters for Constables

970. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested that the norms for construction of Lower Subordinate Quarters (LSQ) and Upper Subordinate Quarters (USQ) under Modernisation of Police Force Scheme for Police constables and Head Constables be revised by increasing the plinth area and cost thereof; and

(b) if so, the details and reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF) a revision of construction norms in terms of 'area' and 'cost' with regard to Kerala Police personnel has a bearing and linkage with police personnel of other States. Accordingly, various features, including construction norms, under the Scheme, are reviewed from time to time, in consultation with concerned States and the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D), keeping in view the availability of resources in terms of land, funds and other related local conditions in the States.

[Translation]

Shortage of Physical Education Teachers

971. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to make physical education compulsory in all schools and colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Physical Education teachers sanctioned and actually appointed in each State/Union Territory including Delhi during each of the last three years and in the current year;

(d) whether there is any shortage of physical education teachers in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005, formulated by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), recommends Health and Physical Education to be a compulsory subject from the primary to the secondary stages and as an optional subject at higher secondary stage.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) provides for teaching of Physical Education as core curriculum in Classes I to X. In classes XI and XII it is offered as an elective subject.

There is no proposal to make Physical Education compulsory in Colleges.

(c) to (e) Information on the number of physical education teachers sanctioned and appointed State-wise is not maintained by this Ministry as a majority of the schools come under the purview of the State Governments. As per the 7th All India School Educational Survey conducted by NCERT with 30.9.2002 as the reference date, 62% of secondary schools and 66.8% of higher secondary schools in the country had teachers exclusively for physical education/training/Yoga. As far as Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and Navodaya Vidyalayas (NVs) are concerned, the numbers of posts of physical education teachers sanctioned and actually working during the last three years and in the current year are as given below:

	Number of Physical Education Teachers Sanctioned				Number of Physical Education Teachers actually working			
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
KVs	838	911	929	935	793	865	833	892
NVs	817	844	898	965	749	806	855	929

Recruitment of teachers in KVs and NVs is a continuous process and is made from time to time to fill up the vacancies. For the schools under the purview of State Governments, it is for the State Government to take appropriate action to ensure availability of physical education teachers.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(English)

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2224 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2007 appointing 31st day of December, 2007 as the date on which the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2006 shall come into force issued under sub-section (3) of section 1 of the said Act.
- (2) A copy of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2007, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2008 under sub-section (3) of section 14 of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 73 (E) dated the 6th February, 2008.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8136/2008)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to lay on

the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995:-

- (1) The Cable Television Networks (Third Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 774 (E) in Gazette of India dated 18th December, 2007.
- (2) The Cable Television Networks Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 25 (E) in Gazette of India dated 10th January 2008.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8137/2008)

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, for the year 2006-07.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8138/2008)

- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-07.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8139/2008)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982:-

- (i) Notification No. F. No. 5/1/2007-M & G published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2008 containing Special Order issued by the President increasing the amount under the Hospitality Expenses, Contract Allowances and Tour Expenses of Schedule-II to the Governor of Haryana.
- (ii) Notification No. F. No. 7/4/2006-M&G published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2008 containing Special Order issued by the President increasing the amount under the Schedule-I to the Governor of Assam.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8140/2008)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 156 of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992:-

- (i) The Indo-Tibetan Border Police, General Duty Cadre (Group 'B' and 'C' Posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 801 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December 2007.

- (ii) The Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, Second-in-Command (Transport) Recruitment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 545 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2007.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (ii) of (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8141/2008)

- (3) A copy of the Central Industrial Security Force (Subordinate Ranks) Recruitment Amendment Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 88(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2008 under article 309 of the Constitution.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8142/2008)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8143/2008)

- (2)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Guwahati, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Guwahati, for the year 2006-07.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8144/2008)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, for the year 2006-07.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8145/2008)

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07 alongwith the Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8146/2008)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8147/2008)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, for the year 2006-07.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8148/2008)

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, for the year 2006-07.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8149/2008)

- (7) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Visva Bharati for the year 2006-07 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8150/2008)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 389 of the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994:-

- (i) The New Delhi Municipal Council (Dengue, Malaria, Filariasis, Yellow Fever and other Vector Borne Disease) Bye-laws, 2007 published in Notification No. F.No. 4/4/2006/NDMC/14663 in Delhi Gazette dated the 14th August, 2007.
- (ii) The New Delhi Municipal Council (Powers, Duties and Functions of Secretary) Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. 4/41/2006/NDMC/8009 in Delhi Gazette dated the 18th May, 2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8151/2008)

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. DMN/VAT-2005/07-08/716 (Hindi and English versions) published in UT Administration of Daman and Diu Gazette dated the 25th October, 2007 making certain amendments in the third Schedule to the Daman and Diu Value Added Tax Regulation, 2005 issued under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the said Regulation.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8152/2008)

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Statement

[*English*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I & V of the Twentieth Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) regarding action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Defence Ordnance Factories.

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

28th Report

[*English*]

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL (Calcutta-North West): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2007-08) on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Twenty-second Report of the Committee on 'Directorate of Printing' of Ministry of Urban Development.

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

29th to 32nd reports

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): I, beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2007-08):-

- (1) Twenty-ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- (2) Thirtieth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (3) Thirty-first Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- (4) Thirty-second Report on the subject "Voluntary Organisations Engaged in Implementing Integrated Programme for Welfare of Older Persons" pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE

127th to 130th Reports

[English]

DR. K. DHANARAJU (Tindivanam): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture:-

- (1) One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Report of the Committee on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in its One Hundred and Eighteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Department of Road Transport and Highways;
- (2) One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in its One Hundred and Seventeenth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Department of Shipping;
- (3) One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Report of the Committee on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in its One Hundred and Twentieth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Culture; and
- (4) One Hundred and Thirtieth Report of the Committee on National Waterway (Lakhipur-Bhanga Stretch of the Barak River) Bill, 2007.

12.03½ hrs.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON WAKF

1st to 5th Reports

[English]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following reports of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Wakf:-

- (1) First Report on implementation of Wakf Act, 1995 in West Bengal and working of Board of Wakfs, West Bengal;
- (2) Second Report on implementation of Wakf Act, 1995 in Rajasthan and working of Rajasthan Board of Muslim Wakfs;
- (3) Third Report on Amendments to the Wakf Act 1995;
- (4) Fourth Report on implementation of Wakf Act, 1995 in Assam and working of Assam Board of Wakfs; and
- (5) Fifth Report on implementation of Wakf Act, 1995 in U.T. of Chandigarh and working of Chandigarh Wakf Board.

12.04 hrs.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE SPEAKER

Business Transacted during the Last Week

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

The Respected Rashtrapatiji addressed both Houses of Parliament assembled together on 25th February, 2008 which was followed by a brief sitting of Lok Sabha after which it adjourned.

The Railway Budget for 2008-09 was presented by the Railway Minister on 26th February, 2008 and the General Budget 2008-09 was presented on 29th February, 2008 by the Finance Minister along with the introduction of the Finance Bill, 2008.

During Question Hour, out of the 60 Starred questions listed, none could be answered orally due to disruptions and pandemonium in the House. Thus, replies to the Starred questions along with the replies to 582 Unstarred questions were laid on the Table.

One Statutory Resolution regarding approval of the Proclamation issued under article 356 in respect of State of Nagaland was passed by the House without any substantial discussion.

Five Statements were made by the Ministers on important subjects in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, silence please.

Members raised 33 matters of public importance under rule 377.

The Departmentally-Related Standing Committees presented one Report, during the last week.

Due to interruptions and forced adjournments last week, the House lost 15 hours and 19 minutes of valuable time.

Hon. Members, I seek your kind cooperation in the smooth conduct of the proceedings.

I am sorry that I have to remind you of the loss of time but I have to make the next announcement, which will probably make you happy.

12.06 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Cancellation of sitting of the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that, as decided by the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, by majority, held yesterday, the sitting fixed for Friday, the 7th March, 2008 may be cancelled. I hope the House agrees to it.

There is no disagreement, I find!

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I would like to appeal to you, Sir, and through you, to the House that since hon. Prime Minister's reply to the debate on the Motion of thanks on the President's Address tomorrow at

12 noon and many Members have to speak, if the House agrees, through you, Sir, today's lunch hour can be exempted for continuation of the debate. If we have many Members who wanted to speak beyond 6 p.m., if the House agrees, we can extend the time of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: We can continue the debate and hon. Members may lay their prepared speeches, if they have.

Item No. 16 Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

12.07 hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTERS

(I) Electronic transfer of Monthly Progress Reports of Rural Development Programme

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of UPA Government provides that "E-governance will be promoted on massive scale".

Hon'ble Prime Minister has desired to apply the IT advancement for ensuring quality of implementation. In furtherance thereof, Ministry of Rural Development has promoted e-governance in planning, monitoring and reporting of rural development programmes for ensuring transparency.

I am happy to inform this House that the monthly progress reports of all programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development are now available online for the information of citizens of the country. It is a matter of immense satisfaction for me to inform you that reports are regularly updated and posted in the public domain for ensuring transparency and openness.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, it is a very important statement. Please keep silence.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Ministry of Rural Development is extremely grateful to the Hon'ble Members of Parliament for their valuable guidance and support as Chairman/Co-Chairman of the District Vigilance & Monitoring Committees. To assist them, the Ministry has developed a system of electronic transfer of monthly progress report of all programmes being implemented by this Ministry to Hon'ble Members of Parliament on monthly basis for districts falling in their constituencies/States concerned.

I request the Hon'ble Members to kindly go through the monthly progress report of January 2008 which has been sent in their mail box. So far, Ministry has sent progress report of IAY, SGSY and NREGA to 385 Members. Reports with respect to ARWSP, TSC, IWDP, DDP, DPAP, CLR, IGNOAPS and PMGSY are in the process of being sent. I request you to use these informations while conducting District Vigilance & Monitoring Committee meetings and convey your valuable feedback for further necessary action at our end. Email ID of the remaining Members is not available on the website for which a request has been made to the Hon'ble MPs to furnish the email ID at mpr-mord@nic.in.

I would also like to inform the House that mechanism of transfer of fund from the Ministry to the districts has also been made transparent and efficient. All sanction orders, cheque details and details of fund transfer from the Central Government to the account of DRDAs is available on the website of the Ministry. 97% of the funds from Ministry are being transferred to DRDAs by means of electronic transfer.

For ensuring further transparency and making information available to the stakeholders, the Ministry has advised all the State Governments to send the monthly progress reports available on the net to the Members of Legislative Assembly and Members of Legislative Councils. States have also been asked to direct the DRDAs to share all informations with the PRI functionaries of the district. Ministry has also decided to send copy of monthly progress report through this system to the media personnel covering this Ministry.

You may also visit the Ministry's website at www.rural.nic.in for further details about the various programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8153/2008)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to compliment you and your Ministry for this initiative. My only request to all the hon. Members is that all of us should utilize this facility which is made available.

The hon. Home Minister wants to make a statement now.

12.11 hrs.

(II) Incidents of violence against north Indians in Mumbai and other parts of the country

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL):- Sir, yesterday Hon'ble Members delivered their statements and expressed their concerned and feelings about whatever happened in Mumbai. I have been told to put views of Government in this regard. I am here for that very purpose.

My only intention and request is that let me tell what I want to say regarding this. If you found any discrepancies in that than you can ask question, clarification regarding that can be given. Hon'ble Devender Prasad Yadav Ji and other members have raised issues regarding yesterday's question and I am giving my response and answers regarding that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister made an appeal just now and you violated it immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, Members have told regarding yesterday's statements that Mumbai is our economic capital. All people have contributed to building Mumbai and Mumbai has been her own dignity. Mumbai belongs to all the citizens of India and all Indians have their constitutional right to go, settled and getting opportunity of Job. Any Indian cannot be stopped from going to any city, restrictions cannot be imposed upon them for working in any Indian city. This is the provision in our constitution and this is part of our cultural heritage. Our country believes that All the world is a family.

In this country people cannot be stopped from going to live in one part of the country from another part of the country. All the members have told this in the House and that has also been told from the Government side and I have told this too. Our leaders and our Government also say this. Maharashtra Government and our colleagues who work there, they also say this and they have to run their Government in such a way. If you find any mistake and difference in that, then this is our liability to tell them about that so that they cannot do as such and shall take steps what is necessary according to the law of land.

That some people have given some statement in Maharashtra and storm has risen due to that statement but it is a thing of great pleasure, that the people of Maharashtra did not support that, Maharashtra Government did not support that, people of the country did not support that. People have shown concern about that, this should not happen for the integrity of the country, this is good and I want to congratulate my colleagues who hold this view that they have put their views in the best interest of the country.

Sir, one fact was also told that many people in Mumbai who have come from other States, they have returned. Some members have told that their number was 20-25 thousand. Some members gave the figure around 40-50 thousand and some people have told that this figure stands at 1 lakh who have migrated from Mumbai. I do not want to say about figures, but I want to tell this that it does not matter if the figure stands at 20-25 thousand or more than that, if one human leaves Mumbai due to this, this should not happen, this is our opinion. If the circumstances have risen to such that if one human migrates from there and we cannot control this then this is our responsibility, it is the liability of the States and of the country. I do not want to get indulged on the figures. Whatever is the figures. No single human being should migrate, this is our perspective. I only want to express this that when figures come to us then we feel that it can have impact on the other States also, this means that we have paid little attention on this. But most humbly I want to say in this regard that this is the policy of the Maharashtra Government, people of Maharashtra and Central Government and people of the country that there is no need to migrate for anybody from any part of the country.

Here the third question has been raised regarding the action taken. Some brothers have told that Makoka law should be applied there. I want to tell that

Maharashtra Government has told us that Makoka law was applied there. What you have told was right, that has been done earlier. What was done there after that, questions were also regarding that. I have been told from the State Government of Maharashtra that approximately more than three hundred cases have been registered there. They have told that action has been taken against 15 hundred people. Action has been taken against them under that for substantive offences. When these incidents were happening preventive action was taken against five thousand people at that point of time.

These figures are less or more I won't speak, what has to be done necessarily, that has to be done and whosoever is interfering in this, action against him would be taken. To save the law, to save the integrity of the State, to save the image of the country, we have to work. That is our perspective. The facts we have received, I want to put before you. Further I want to state that, what is necessary to be done in this regard, Maharashtra Government has told they will do that. If they do not do that then we will tell them, not only tell them but we will see what action they are taking? We won't give any right to any individual of the country to do that.

It has been told that some people cannot come or return for some festivals. All the festivals of our country are embellished on higher values. Somebody worships Sun, Somebody worships Sea and somebody worships land. These prayers are of great values. These festivals can be celebrated anywhere in the country. Will be celebrated in Mumbai, will be celebrated in any part of Maharashtra and will be celebrated in any part of the country. Nobody can interfere in that. Maharashtra Government told us in black and white that there is hindrance on their part and if somebody interferes in this then we would take action against him.

Sir, one issue which our friends have raised is related to Kishan Singh. It has been told that his both hands have been cut. They have shown his photo in one newspaper that was put before us. Such news was also published in one newspaper. I tried to take information regarding this. First they told on the phone that there is no information in any police station regarding such incident. There is no information in Pune, police station, police station of district Pune or any other place. They have told us in written that they have no information regarding this but what has been written, it is necessary to look into that. I feel that there is need to go into deep to investigate this. We would tell Maharashtra Government to send their police to Seewan and to record their statement who are admitting in the hospital, they not only record their statements in written but it should be

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

recorded on video. So that all should be leave regarding this. What is necessary in this regard would be done. If there is some disclosed feels that would also be cleared the right work would be done. We are going to tell Maharashtra Government that take action accordingly. After taking action, I would information my colleague in written. It is not necessary to speak further in this regard. The issue which has been raised and with pride and with good composure, some misunderstanding arose. We will leave that but whatever has been raised. That are good and are in the interest of the integrity of the country. To discuss in this way is in the best interest of the country, Maharashtra and for all of us. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He said that it is applicable anywhere.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your submission is over. You raised this issue yesterday. There is no need to make further submission on it. Some important and urgent matters are still to be taken up.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): What about the employment of those who have since left the place? *...(Interruptions)* We should have concerns for them. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They will look into that.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): How many people were detained and what action has been taken against them. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot reply for the State Government. This is the problem. You are asking for particulars of State Administration. How can any hon. Home Minister immediately reply?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have requested and Mr. Minister has heard it.

...(Interruptions)

[Placed in library, see no. LT 8154/2008]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuraj Singh Shakya, please speak your matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may please take your seat. Mr. Minister has since spoken and if you want to say something more separately, give it in writing.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Whether Government of India is satisfied with the action taken by Maharashtra Government or not?

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowed to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No meetings will be allowed in the House.

[Translation]

What is happening in this House? Please go in the lobby.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Through you I would like to say something about Etawah Lok Sabha Constituency in the zero hour. There are two districts Etawah and Oraiya under this constituency. There are four blocks i.e. Chakamagar, Barpura, Ajitmal, Oraiya and a part of Jaswantnagar in the ravine area. Due to being ravine area and in the absence of rain the water level has gone very down. The situation in this area is similar to one prevailing in Bundelkhand. Farmers are facing problems due to non-availability of water and are forced to migrate from there. The power condition is so bad that it is available not more than two or three hours. Farmers are in deep trouble there. I would like to demand special package for Bundelkhand and also if you want to save Oraiya and Etawah district blocks like Bundelkhand then there should be proper arrangement of water. We had demanded Pachnad dam for that area which was approved in 1981. We had made demand for

*Not recorded.

it several times to the Human Resource Minister during the 13th Lok Sabha. Had the Pachnad dam been started functioning there, there would have been improvement on the drought condition in the area of Madhya Pradesh and Etawah could have to some extent. Through you, I would like to demand that the Dam be started and also special package be given to the Etawah district. Also, I demand a special package for Bundelkhand.

MR. SPEAKER: That's why you have been given permission.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important topic. On the UNAIDS website map of India has been presented in a distorted manner. Sir, I had raised this question in the House last year also and you yourself had ordered the then Defence Minister to take necessary action after getting the matter enquired. But we don't have any information regarding the action taken till date. It is very surprising and I have this map with me wherein that part J & K has been tried to be shown different from the rest of India. Chairman of UNAIDS is likely to address our youth forum which I suppose is to be headed by you. I would like to know whether any clarification is required to be given by UNAIDS committee in this regard. It is available on the website. We have the map and if anybody tries to disintegrate our country through AIDS and if the Government do not respond to it then what can we do? Therefore, I would like to request to the Government to give clarification in this regard and the House and country should be apprised of it.

MR. SPEAKER: That's why you have been allowed to speak.

[*English*]

I am sure if anybody in this world is publishing a map which depicts our country's border incorrectly then Government should take it up.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, specially Jammu and Kashmir have been depicted to be separated from rest of India. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We have not allowed you to supplement it. Please take your seat. Mr. Hannan Mollah.

...(*Interruptions*)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: We have told you this already and this is the second time. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not Mr. Hannan Mollah. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything more.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw kind attention of Union Government towards a new disaster. Hon'ble Minister is present here. I want to tell before him that this is the first time India has experienced heavy cold wave and there is hailstorm and frost. Due to frost crops of several thousand acres of land has been destroyed. Crops in several thousand acres has been destroyed in 22 districts from Ganganagar to Hanumangarh in Rajasthan, some districts in western UP, Haryana and several other districts. We have demanded from the Government to compensate for the same. But there is a problem in it that the frost is not included in the list of natural calamity.

[*English*]

Frost should be included in the list of natural calamities.

[*Translation*]

If it is included in natural calamity the amount of compensation will be more. Presently flood and drought comes under natural calamity. But frost is not included in it. As you all know that the farmers of the country have already had agitation over this issue. I would like to request you that frost should be included in the natural calamity and compensation should be given accordingly.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahavir Bhagora.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me conduct the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, we want to associate with this matter.

SHRI PUSP JAIN (Pali): Sir, I also want to associate with this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: It's alright, you have been associated with it. We are calling your member right now.

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise the same point as Mr. Mollah have said just now in the context of Rajasthan and want to request to the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to include frost in the list of natural calamity as mustard, gram and wheat cultivated in Lakhs of acres of land has been destroyed by frost rendering the farmers starved and they must be compensated for the same.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, is it called frost.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Yes, Sir it is called frost.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, cold wave and frost have damaged all crops of Rabi Season in Rajasthan. Therefore, affected farmers should necessarily be given immediate special assistance from the National Disaster Relief Fund considering it as a natural calamity. The damage caused due to cold wave and frost should be enlisted under the National Disaster Relief Fund. The cold wave has damaged the crops of mustard, barley, coriander, gram, isabgol and vegetables badly in Rajasthan and in several districts, these crops have been damaged entirely. The State Government have conducted a survey. There is no doubt that the State Government are trying to help the farmers with the fund available with them. However, they have shortage of fund. Therefore, Rajasthan Government have demanded for immediate allocation of compensation amount of Rs. 200 crores. I think that the Central Government should try and allocate the fund of Rs. 200 crores immediately to Rajasthan Government so that the

affected farmers can be compensated and that can ease their lives. Rajasthan witnessed heavy damage due to cold wave and frost which is a strange happening and immediate focus by the Central Government is needed. The damages due to this cold wave and frost should be included into the list for National Disaster Relief Fund because this damage is a natural damage. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the matter.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI (Bayana): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you all have associated with this issue.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, they have referred this matter to the Finance Commission. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more. This is not right. I have given opportunity to four of your honourable members and what else can we do.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN (Ladakh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the heavy damage caused by heavy snowfall in Ladakh.

[English]

It is a matter of grave concern that large number of pashmina producing goats are dying these days due to shortage of food and fodder. This situation has arisen due to unprecedented heavy snowfall this year in the upper reaches of the Himalayas. The Changthang region of Ladakh inhabited by nomadic changpas who depend on cattle rearing for their livelihood are facing major problems as small kids and lambs born this year are already dying in large numbers and unless arrangements are made to provide food and fodder on priority, they may lose a bulk of their cattle population and animals including the famous pashmina producing goats.

I would request the Government of India to provide immediate relief to provide feed and fodder and arrange defence aircraft to drop them in areas which are still not accessible through roads.

[Translation]

Sir this is a very important issue because due to snowfall in Ladakh this year even now.

[*English*]

The entire northern plateau is covered under thick blanket of snow. There is not a single blade of grass to feed their cattle.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have allowed you to raise this issue. You have raised an important issue.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, West Bengal is a State which produces a good number of potatoes. I think it is the second largest potato growing State in the country. Last year thousands of potato growers lost their produce due to unprecedented navidhasa disease. The West Bengal Government had requested the Union Government to provide compensation. As far as my knowledge goes, there was a meeting also with the Union Government. The West Bengal Government deposited Rs. 98 crore in this regard. But till today there is no response from the Union Government to this request.

Hence, I would request the Union Government to provide adequate compensation to the State of West Bengal so that potato growers can be protected. I would request the Union Government to take up this matter as an urgent one.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sandeep Dixit. I think it is a very important issue that he is going to raise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an important subject. Now-a-days the examinations of class X and XII are taking place. For the last many years education has become a burden on children and although there have been several discussions on curriculum, no one is paying heed to the increasing burden and psychological pressure on the children. We talk about a fearless society. Today, the students of class X and XII are most terrified. The guardians whose children are in schools, know about the process which almost takes four years, through which they come out and in this process every child loses his/her childhood. They are always involved in studies, whether going to tuition or to some other class. I would request to the Government through you to instruct both CBSE and NCERT to revise the entire curriculum, so that the children even during this period can play and learn at the same time instead

of going to the tuition, studying late hours in the night taking medicines or visiting doctors and psychologists. What type of childhood we are creating? In my opinion, today our children are working harder than the elders and they always remain in fear. I humbly request the Government to get the entire curriculum revised in such a way that can give children a new life and education in which they can appear in the examinations of class X and XII with ease.

These days children are committing suicide, which is a curse to the nation. We talk about the suicides committed by farmers. Now, children have started taking drugs. They wander in fear, their parents are in fear. They should be taken out of this fearful environment. The entire curriculum should be revised.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Not only parents are tensed but also grand parents. My grand daughter is appearing for Class X examinations. The whole household is in a tense mood.

I think the entire House, including the Chair, associates with Shri Sandeep Dixit. Thank you. I compliment you for raising this issue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Parliament has passed Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act for the aborigines of the entire country and the rules formulated under the Act have been enforced since January. This has created a very serious situation in several States and has given rise to conflict among State Governments, forest departments and the tribals. Its rules and regulation are being misinterpreted and are not being abided by. Due to this the tribals and other people who traditionally cultivated the lands are forcibly removed from this lands and this has led to police firing in one or two States and in my State also claimed lives of two tribes man. The leader was caught and beaten up and this has aggravated the situation to such an extent that the State Government is not allotting land even to eligible people. Such a situation is arising everywhere. I have 2-3 demands. One demand is that the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should send the guidelines to the State Government immediately so that they can learn about their roles. Second, the forest department has no nodal tribal department but the work of distribution

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

of forestland is still under its control that who are to be deprived of the land or how to give least other minor forest to produce rights to them. If such is the attitude, it should be scrapped. Third, State Governments have not given any compensation to the families of deceased tribal people killed in police firings. I request that State Governments should be compelled to make provision to compensate them. Scheduled Tribes Commission should visit such areas and give its report. If State Governments do not have the required funds, the Central Government should provide the required fund. Considering this issue on humanitarian grounds, there should be one time settlement of forest land rights throughout the country because in absence of all these things, we are witnessing naxal movement and violence in tribal areas. If the land is distributed among them there will be neither violence nor initiation into violence. And our country will experience less violence with this Act. I request to bring this poor section of the society at par with other section of the society.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Those hon'ble Members, who wish to associate, may send their names.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Mistry.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently our colleagues had drawn the attention of the Honourable House towards the plight of farmers in Bundelkhand but it is a matter of regret that neither the State Government nor the Central Government have taken cognizance of the seriousness of problems in Bundelkhand. The area has been witnessing acute drought for the last 3-4 years. There have been no crop production for medium and small farmers who grew crops for their livelihood as well as for big farmers.

The situation is that farmers are committing suicide everyday and State Government are engaged in hiding this fact. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make allegations against the State Government.

[Translation]

This allegation is not right. You only speak about what happened?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, everyday farmers are found to be committing suicide. The problem of Bundelkhand has not been taken up with as much seriousness as it should have been taken up. People are very disturbed and migrating to other places. The crops which the people used to grow for their livelihood have not grown. The farmers are indebted. The Minister of Finance has made a mention of waiving off of the loans worth rupees 60 thousand crore in the budget to benefit the marginal and small farmers. But, I request the Government through you to waive off the entire amount of loans taken by the farmers. The Government should announce a special package to address the problem of Bundelkhand so that the people of the region could be saved.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raj Narain Burdholia and Shri Chandra Pal Yadav—both of you have given notice in this regard.

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the morning you had given assurance that you would allot us full time.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you please speak for a minute.

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Suman ji has put-forth his point about Bundelkhand. By associating myself with the concerned issue, I would like to say through you that the condition of Bundelkhand is so miserable that you even cannot bear to hear about that. People are suffering a lot due to acute shortage of water there. The ponds, canals and wells have dried up. There is no drinking water for the animals even. The farmers have made their cattle stay at home and there is no fodder and water available for them. Birds are dying due to non-availability of water in Bundelkhand. People there are on the brink of starvation. I understand that it is not strange that at least one person is dying everyday due to starvation there. So far as the figures are concerned, be it the Administration or the Government, they are trying to hide the figures so that the number of persons dying in Bundelkhand is not known to others. Some people are committing suicide due to indebtedness. The second reason of suicide may be

attributed to stravation and non-availability of potable water. 80 percent of the farms are not cultivated there. Nothing is being grown there. In these circumstances, people are continuously migrating to other places from there. I had raised the issue of Bundelkhand in the last session also. Last time, a delegation met the hon'ble Prime Minister twice on the issue on Bundelkhand.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have already told the same thing.

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: Sir, what I am saying is a different thing.

MR. SPEAKER: It's not a different thing rather it is the same thing.

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: We have met the hon'ble Prime Minister twice and raised the matter in the last session also. We were also given the assurance that a package would be separately given to Bundelkhand.
...(Interruptions)

Discrimination has been done with Bundelkhand since independence. There is an acute shortage of water in Bundelkhand. Leaders of all the political parties—be it the Bhartiya Janata Party, the Congress Party or any other Party—visit there and make speeches promising relief to the people of the region. Today, through this august House, I would like to tell that neither the Union Government nor the State Government has provided any assistance to them. Therefore, I would like to request you that here. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing. Your speech will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now. Shri Rajnarayan Budholia.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. I have fully helped. I have called your name and his name.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: The people there are not getting potable water.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. By saying the same thing repeatedly, nothing good could be delivered. I do help you, so I have called your name. You also have to listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Since it is an important issue, that's why I have called three Members to speak on the same issue. You please take your seat. Even a single line is not being recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What has happened to you today?

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record one word.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will adjourn the House and go away.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. You did not even give any notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): I want to associate myself with this.

MR. SPEAKER: You may associate but would you defy the Chair? You send your name in writing.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

*Not recorded.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): I also associate myself with the issue on Bundelkhand.

SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH (Damoh): I too associate myself with this issue.

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bundelkhand is the most backward region of the country. Hon'ble senior Member Suman ji, my colleague Dr. Chandra Pal Singh ji have just told many good things in detail about Bundelkhand. It is a fact that no Government has ever seriously paid any attention towards the problem related to Bundelkhand, be it the Union Government or the State Government. We met the Prime Minister twice in this regard. The Prime Minister assured us. The Central group visited there. The report of the group has been submitted with the Government but no special package on the basis of that report has been granted to Bundelkhand. The people of Bundelkhand are dying of starvation and committing suicide. I had also given a notice for holding a special discussion on this issue but you did not allow that. Presently, thousands of the people of Bundelkhand are migrating to other places. Hon'ble Lalu ji granted a compensation of rupees five lacs to each of the victims of Kutch incident for which I express my thanks to him. Those were the people from Bundelkhand who had migrated to Kutch for employment or to earn bread. Be it the small farmers or the big farmers there, none of them have the means of irrigation. No special package has been given to Bundelkhand. The hon'ble Minister of Finance has given some relief but to the small farmers only. There are big farmers too in the Bundelkhand. Sir, a farmer is a farmer, no matter whether he is big or small. The farmers there have been under the condition of starvation and committing suicide for four years.

Mr. Speaker Sir, our demand is that the Government should waive off loans of all farmers whether big or small. ...*(Interruptions)* Special package should be given to the farmers of that region.

Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be discussed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not take dictations from you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please give notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA PAL SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you allow discussion on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shall I allow it under your duress?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your leader is also asking you to sit down. If you are not listening to me, at least listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Rajnarayanji, you are very gentle member.

[English]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to raise an urgent matter of public importance that is being faced by our country. Today thousands of women under the banner of Democratic Women's Association are marching towards the Parliament demanding universalisation of the Public Distribution System to provide food security for the country. The UPA Government, at the time of its formation, had given an undertaking in the Common Minimum Programme to strengthen the Public Distribution System and to move towards universalisation of the Public Distribution System, but unfortunately the Government has miserably failed to strengthen the Public Distribution System. In fact, the Government has cut the allotment of rice and wheat to various States and especially to the State of Kerala. The basic food of my State Kerala is rice. Now the Government has reduced the monthly allotment of APL rice to the State of Kerala from 1,13,420 metric tonnes to 21,304 metric tonnes. From April, 2007 onwards there is 82 per cent cut in the allocation of APL rice to the State of Kerala.

Sir, the APL Ration Card strength in Kerala is nearly 50 lakh. For that, a quantity of 1,72,000 metric tonnes is required for issue.

MR. SPEAKER: All these details cannot be given now. You should not read out a huge statement. You have to just raise the issue.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, there is a total shortage of 1,43,888 metric tonnes of foodgrains in the State of Kerala. The open market price of rice is increasing everyday.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will not allow. This is not the way. You are misusing the opportunity.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: No Sir.

Since there is no proper allocation of rice, the price of rice is increasing and price of one kilogram of rice in Kerala now is about Rs. 23. This has caused huge hardship to the people, especially the women of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Suresh Kurup will associate with this issue.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, it is very essential to increase the allocation of rice to the State of Kerala.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. I will not allow this defiance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It was decided by all the hon. Leaders more than once that five important national or international matters would be allowed to be raised immediately after the Question Hour and rest of the matters would be allowed to be raised towards the end of the day's sitting. I have already allowed 14 hon. Members to raise important matters. Even then nobody is willing to comply with the understanding or agreement rather of the parties.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): One Member parties are not being given the opportunity.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is an unfair charge. You have not even chosen to send a notice, but you are making an allegation. It is very easy to make.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Sir, I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Just now you are sending the notice. You are giving lecture to the Chair and not following the rules yourself.

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be given a chance.

MR. SPEAKER: Unless you persuade your comrade to sit down, I cannot allow you. She is going on and on.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, I am concluding. Sir, I am requesting the Government to give proper allotment of rice to the State of Kerala in view of the food security of the country.

MR. SPEAKER: If I allow every hon. Member to speak for ten minutes, then we cannot have other business.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, this is a very serious issue. I have also given a notice.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am very much obliged that you have given notice.

...(Interruptions)

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, I would like to associate.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All hon. Members from Kerala will associate with this.

...(Interruptions).

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, I would like to substantiate.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the place to substantiate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Sarma, you have to satisfy me that your matter relates to the Central Government.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, it is related to the Central Government.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It has nothing to do with the Central Government.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, it is related to the Central schemes. Sir, it is related to the Central Government that is why I am raising it.

MR. SPEAKER: How it is concerned with the Central Government?

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, if I am allowed to speak for just two minutes. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Pardon!

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, the Central Government scheme Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: These schemes are not covering the non-provincial schools of Assam. *...(Interruptions)*

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, please allow me to speak for one minute. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair.

...(Interruptions)

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, please allow me to speak. This concerns the serious food crisis.

MR. SPEAKER: She has said more than that.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, in the open market price of rice is sky rocketing and at the same time the Government of India has substantially reduced the rice quota for APL families. Sir, about 82 per cent of reduction is there. The Government of Kerala has repeatedly given memoranda to the Union Government for giving the original quota. So, what I request is that the quota requested by the Government of Kerala should be immediately released to the people of Kerala. Otherwise, Kerala will face a very great food shortage. I would request the Central Government to immediately intervene and release the full quota. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that all the hon. Members from Kerala are joining this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, I will adjourn the House. You cannot dictate to me.

...(Interruptions)

12.57 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, I may be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is not a Central matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All other matters will be taken up at the end of the day.

- (1) Need to release a commemorative postage stamp and First Day Postal cover in honour of Smt. Velu Naatchiar, freedom fighter from Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): We all know about the exploits of kings' and queens' valiant fight against Britishers. Their exploits have gone unrecognized in India for the past 60 years. One such instance is the role played by Smt. Velu Naatchiar, the queen of Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu who took on the Britishers in the 18th Century much before Rani of Jhansi. But Smt. Velu Naatchiar is yet to be recognized by the National mainstream. Smt. Velu Naatchiar the queen of Sivaganga was born in the year 1730. She was married to Shri Muthu Vaduganathar who died on 25.06.1772 in the battle

*Treated as laid on the Table.

against Britishers leaving an infant child. Smt. Velu Naatchiar then came to the throne and heroically fought against the Britishers for nearly 8 years to save her kingdom. Due to her untiring and strenuous battle against the British Rulers, she retrieved Sivaganga from the British and proved and acclaimed as the valiant, bold and courageous lady of that time. Then she ruled Sivaganga for nearly 10 years. To honour her memory, I request the Government, of India to release a commemorative postage stamp and First Day postal cover in honour of Smt. Velu Naatchiar.

(II) Need to open a branch of State Bank of India at Havelock Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): The people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have demanded for opening of a new branch of State Bank of India at Havelock Islands which is 2.5 kms water route to Port Blair. Though business potential of this area is too low as per the Bank's Survey Report, I am sure once a branch is opened, the people of this area would definitely be benefited and the business trend will automatically increase upward. I therefore, urge upon the Union Government to initiate steps for opening a branch of State Bank of India with commercially viable proposition to be chalked out in consultation with the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, in view of the people living in far flung Islands.

(III) Need to expedite the construction of a railway link between Modasa and Shamlaji in district Sabarkantha, Gujarat

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): The sanction of Modasa-Shamlaji mission rail link in Western Railway, District: Sabarkantha, Gujarat was announced by the Railway Minister while replying on the demand of Railway for the year 2007-08 in Lok Sabha. This announcement of sanctioning of Modasa-Shamlaji mission rail link created a great hope of development in the backward region of Sabarkantha, specially for the people of Modasa and Dhansura towns.

But despite the said announcement, work on this missing link has not started as yet.

I, therefore, demand that the work for laying of Modasa-Shamlaji missing link should be started immediately.

(iv) Need to release the payment due to farmers under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme in Amreli Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, payment has not been made to the farmers of my Parliamentary Constituency Amreli under National Agriculture Insurance Scheme for the last one and half years. When I tried to know the reasons related to it I was told by the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd., Ahmedabad that the Union Government has not released its contribution yet, due to which payments for the kharif crop of 2006 to the tune of 97 crores 80 lakh could not be made to the farmers of Saurashtra region in Gujarat under Agriculture Insurance Scheme. The condition of farmers have become pitiable due to non-payment as they are unable to pay the loans of the banks. I would like to inform the House that the Cooperative Banks have made their payment but the Government Banks have stopped the payment for one and half years.

I would like to urge upon the Government, through the House, that the Government Banks should make their payments immediately so that payment of Insurance amount could be made to farmers which is pending for the last one and half years.

(v) Need to extend Rewari-Delhi passenger train upto Alwar in Rajasthan

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, about half a dozen R.D. (Rewari-Delhi) trains of Northern Railway run between Rewari to Delhi to carry daily commuters. I request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to extend at least one pair of train upto Alwar. The Alwar station of North-West Railway is at about 50 km away from Rewari. Hundreds of passengers from Alwar-Khairthal, Azark-Bawal stations of Alwar district travel to National Capital Region, Delhi daily. So, my request is that at least one pair of R.D train should be extended upto Alwar.

(vi) Need to provide reservation in jobs to the Denotified Tribes

[English]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Even after 60 years of our Independence, the Denotified Tribes are still the most backward community in the country. Looking

[Shri Haribhau Rathod]

at their plight, backward and destitute condition, immediate action should be taken by the Government to provide Constitutional safeguards to Denotified Tribes by making a 3rd Schedule in the Constitution so that DNTs can get all benefits such as reservation in jobs, promotion etc. like SCs/STs/OBCs and Minorities. The Denotified Tribes Commission which was constituted by Government to look into the different aspects of Denotified, also submitted an interim report to the Government for consideration. I hope the Government will take an early decision to implement it. It is now time that Government should bring a Bill to amend the Constitution to provide reservation to the Denotified Tribes.

- (vii) **Need to sanction a new railway line linking Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) and Mandla (Madhya Pradesh)**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, the proposal to lay a new rail line between Bilaspur and Mandla is under consideration of the Union Government. Survey has been conducted time and again for the same but the proposal has not been approved yet. Crores of rupees have been spent on it. The length of above line is 115 km. Linking Bilaspur to Mandla will provide facility to the people to visit Bilaspur to Mandla, Jabalpur to Raipur, Amarkantak, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Lucknow and Banaras. It will also improve the economic condition of the people of Chhattisgarh by creating employment through setting up industries. It will also increase the income of Railway Department as Bilaspur-Mandla district do have Coal, Bauxite, Iron and Dolomite mines and transportation of Iron from Bhilai will also take place.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to reconsider the survey and send it to the Planning Commission so that proposal regarding new rail line between Bilaspur and Mandla is approved.

- (viii) **Need to issue a 'No Objection Certificate' for carrying out Hydrographic Survey and port activity in Kori Creek area of Kutch, Gujarat**

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Port and Transport Department Government of Gujarat had vide their letter dated 16.8.07 requested Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and BSF to allow the private companies to carry out surveys and investigation in Kori

Creek for development of port facilities. Director General, BSF vide his letter dated 23.10.2007 requested P & TD, Government of Gujarat to approach Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for obtaining NOC for carrying out Hydrographic survey and port activity in Kori Creek Area. Accordingly, P&TD, Government of Gujarat vide its letter dated 30.11.2007 requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to grant NOC. Response from Government of India is still awaited.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to expedite granting the NOC as immediately as possible.

- (ix) **Need to provide financial assistance to farmers in Rajasthan whose crops have been damaged due to frost and cold-waves in the region**

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, all crops of Rabi season have been hit by frost and cold waves in Rajasthan causing huge losses to the farmers. Therefore, it should be treated as natural disaster and special assistance should be given to the affected farmers immediately from National Disaster Relief Fund. The National Disaster Relief Fund should include damage caused due to frost and cold-waves in its notified list. The crops of mustard, barley, coriander, gram, isabgol and vegetables etc. have been damaged due to cold waves in Rajasthan and in some districts entire crop has been devastated. After an assessment made by Girdawar, the State Government has reached on the conclusion that a sum of Rs. 200 crores may be released immediately so that compensation could be provided to the farmers.

I, therefore, demand from the Government, through you, that this additional amount should be released to the State Government.

- (x) **Need to amend the laws governing forest reserve areas and Wild Life Protection Act, with a view to promote socio-economic development of tribal areas in Bharuch, Gujarat**

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that tribals are not getting opportunities for their socio-economic development due to laws related to forest reserve and wild life protection. Tribals are forced to lead

a miserable life even after 60 years of independence. Under these laws, more than 100 villages of Jhagdia, Dedoyapda, Sagsara Rajyeda of district Narmada in my Parliamentary constituency Bharuch, roads have not been approved under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojana and irrigation schemes have also not been approved in tribal areas. Tribals are being deprived of the facility of electricity, doordarshan and telephone and have to cover 4-5 km distance to fetch drinking water. More than 85 percent of tribals are illiterate. The money meant for rural development has lapsed due to non-approval of development schemes. No concrete road has been constructed in more than 100 villages of my parliamentary constituency during the last two months. The tribals are staging dharna and demonstrations. They are being deprived of basic amenities due to these laws.

I urge upon the Government, through the House, that said laws should be amended and a package may be provided for the all round developments so that the tribal can lead a dignified life and secure a bright future for their children.

(xi) Need to enhance the quota of rice and wheat sold through PDS in Kerala

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): The prices of essential commodities are on the rise particularly of the foodgrains across the country. Kerala being a food deficit State, the pressure of price rise affects it more. The prices of Rice and Wheat have been on the rise and there is even scarcity of foodgrains in the market. The reduction in allotment of APL rice to the State has been a major reason for the unprecedented higher prices. The Government has reduced the allotment from 1,13,420 MT to 21,334 MT thereby causing a shortage of 92,086 MT for monthly distribution. Likewise there is shortage of wheat also under PDS.

Previous quota of allocation for rice and also the quantity of wheat may be enhanced in view of the increasing demand for wheat in the State.

(xii) Need to provide relief to the drought affected people of Bundelkhand region

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Sir, the people of Bundelkhand, the most backward region of

Uttar Pradesh are facing the wrath of natural calamities (at present severe starvation, helplessness arising out of drought situation) for the last four years in a row. Hon'ble Members of Parliament from the Bundelkhand region has tried to solve the problem by seeking special economic package for the most backward Bundelkhand region through the House and by approaching Hon'ble Prime Minister on 25th August and 11th December but so far no positive result has been achieved. This has caused great resentment among the people of Bundelkhand. Scarcity of drinking water has arisen as wells, ponds, hand pumps, bore wells, dams, rivers and rivulets have dried up. Arable lands of farmers are lying unploughed. Land has developed cracks at many places all of a sudden. Farmers are facing many problems. Farmers and workers in the absence of work are forced to commit suicide due to loans and starvation. There is absolute dearth of water and fodder for cattle. Even big farmers are in the clutches of starvation. People are migrating in large number in the absence of enough employment opportunities in the region. The Central Study Team has submitted its report to the Union Government about this horrifying situation. But, no announcement has been made so far.

Therefore, through this House, Union Government is requested to waive loans of the farmers including the principal amount. Announcing it as a national calamity the affected families should be provided food for one year. Central assistance should be provided for their rehabilitation. Wide arrangements should be made for irrigation, drinking water and fodder for the cattle. Migration should be checked by providing adequate employment opportunities to the youth. The report of the Central Study Team of the Planning Commission should be made public by placing it on the table of the House and the local people should be helped immediately on a war footing as per their requirement.

(xiii) Need to expedite the construction of 'Karpoori dam' in Samastipur, Bihar

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, due to non-completion of Karpoori dam in my Samastipur Parliamentary Constituency nearly 15 percent of Samastipur was hit very badly during the last flood. Besides it, flood affected people are alone facing many discrepancies in getting relief and compensation. Government record are lacking full details and as a result of it administration has to face many administrative difficulties. The flood situation becomes grim as Noon river under this district is not linked with river Ganga near Modiuddin Nagar of Samastipur.

[Shri Alok Kumar Mehta]

I, through you, want to demand from the Government that to fulfil the dreams of Jannayak Late Karpoori Thakurji first of all the said Karpoori dam should be completed and the Noon river should be linked with the Ganga river so that the people of Samastipur could be saved from the havoc of flood in future.

(xiv) Need to set up a Food Park at Parbhani, Maharashtra

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Sir, my Parliamentary constituency, Parbhani is an agro producing area and agriculture is the main profession of farming community here. They are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. There is Marathwada Agriculture University in this region wherefrom every year students are getting degrees in the field of agriculture. After education these degree holders are not getting employment thereby the number of unemployed degree holders is increasing. The Marathwada Agriculture University has sent a proposal to the Union Government for setting up of a food park at Parbhani so that by using agro-technics agricultural development could be done for the prosperity of farmers.

I, through this House, urge upon the Government to immediately sanction the proposed food park at Parbhani.

(xv) Need to allow the Government of Orissa to levy duty on generation of power

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Orissa has vast coal deposits. Orissa is a power surplus State and it exports power to other States. Since, electricity duty can be charged on consumption only, the importing State benefits while the exporting State has to bear the negative externality such as environmental degradation due to mining. Mining of coal and consumption of coal for generation of electricity has adverse effect on environment not only on account of ash produced but also on account of increase of ambient temperature in the region where thermal generation plants are located. The problem of handling huge quantities of ash has not been satisfactorily handled so far for instance, the utilization of fly ash in the 3000 MW NTPC Super Thermal Plant at Kaniha, Talcher is almost next to nothing.

The loss of forest cover and the pollution of water bodies in the coal bearing areas in the Brahmani basin has reached alarming proportion.

Under present dispensation, Orissa neither receives any income from generation of power nor it gets a share

from the electricity duty which is levied by the States on purchase by retail consumers. If 1000 MW power is generated in Orissa and evacuated, the importing State gets electricity duty to the extent of Rs. 100 crores. Orissa gets nothing. This situation has to be altered either by allowing the State to levy duty on generation or a percentage of power generated should be given free of cost to the State by the Central Public Sector generating companies as is the case in Hydro Power Generation.

(xvi) Need to open a Regional Passport Office at Kolhapur, Maharashtra

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK (Kolhapur): The Kolhapur district in Maharashtra State is a hub of industrial activity and information technology Parks. In addition to five industrial estates in the district one more new Five Star Industrial Estate has come up at Kagal near Kolhapur under Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation. These industrial estates supply various technical spare parts and manufactured goods to western and Middle East countries. In addition to these various leather goods, finished textile goods, jaggery and sugar are exported from Kolhapur.

All these manufacturing units are located in the district of Sangli, Kolhapur, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, and for all these districts Kolhapur is a central place. The number of persons from all these exporting houses seeking passport has grown very large in recent years. Since the present passport office is located in Pune, all these persons have to go to Pune and stay there for a day or two, affecting large-scale wastage of time and money.

There are more than 100 applications per day for Passport and it is very inconvenient for all these persons to travel to Pune for passport requirement. It is most likely that present Air Port runway at Kolhapur will be extended in near future and the Air Port will receive international flights also.

Through your good offices Sir, I urge the Ministry of External Affairs to establish one Regional Passport Office at Kolhapur thus facilitating foreign going travellers easy access for obtaining passports on time.

(xvii) Need to ensure adequate supply of fertilizers to the farmers in West Bengal

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): The farmers of West Bengal are facing acute shortage of fertilizers. IFFCO is almost reluctant to supply the Chemical fertilizer to the Primary Agriculture Cooperative, the rural

cooperatives of the farmers. The traders are utilizing this opportunity to make huge profit by raising the price.

The Government of West Bengal wrote letters to the Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and the Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers requesting to intervene and clear the outstanding balance of IFFCO, so that adequate fertilizer is supplied. I urge upon the Union Government to take up this matter urgently to protect the interest of the farmers in West Bengal.

- (xviii) **Need to undertake census of BPL families in Punjab with a view to extend government facilities to the deserving SC families**

[*Translation*]

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN (Ferozepur): Sir, a survey for BPL families was conducted in the year 2002 which is very desolate and not updated and all the poor families of Punjab are not covered under its conditions. Owing to which facilities provided by the Government are not reaching to the needy persons. The number of BPL families in Punjab is 5.23 lakh but in Punjab the number of Scheduled Caste families is 13 lakh. I therefore, through you, urge upon the Government to conduct BPL survey again so that the needy persons could avail the benefits being provided by the Government.

- (xix) **Need to improve the service conditions of Home Guards in Assam**

[*English*]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Attention of Government is drawn towards the fate of 58000 Home Guards in Assam, who are struggling for their survival. The home guards, who are enrolled under the Assam Home Guards Act 1947 are considered as voluntary police organization and granted an allowance of Rs. 100 per day only when on duty. There is no provision for their regular engagement in any service as they are hired whenever needed by the Government. They are forced to remain unemployed for years together. It is detrimental for the country when such a young trained forces are kept idle in an insurgency prone area. Uncertainty of their daily emoluments and specific engagement often create an unhealthy atmosphere of degradation of quality.

Although they are recruited, trained and engaged by the State Governments, the Nation has a role to play when they are underutilized and deprived of minimum

basic amenities like TA/DA, all medical facilities, ex-gratia upon death on duty, insurance etc.

May I, therefore, urge upon the Government to intervene in the matter of the service condition of about 50 lakhs such trained Home Guards and to offer a Central package for their regular engagement and livelihood in the interest of the Nation. There should be a Central Law to rationalize their service condition and to ensure their regular engagement and salary like any other security forces in the country.

- (xx) **Need to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities through NH-31A to Sikkim via Darjeeling, West Bengal**

SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI (Sikkim): The ongoing Gorkha agitation in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal has Drought the economy and life in the State of Sikkim to a standstill. The situation has been further worsened because filled petrol tankers are not being allowed to enter into the State.

This kind of disturbance is happening since 1985 when the Gorkha movement started. Besides this, political activities of different parties have been affecting traffic on NH 31A, which is Sikkim's only link to rest of India. Tourists, other passengers and goods vehicles to Sikkim are getting frequently stranded on NH 31A due to the political turmoil in Darjeeling. If the current agitation in Darjeeling continues, then there will be acute shortage of essential commodities like petroleum and foodgrains in Sikkim. It will also adversely impact the State's tourism industry and therefore its economy.

It is painful to find that Sikkim's suffering is not being adequately addressed. Life in the State often gets affected without any fault of the local administration but due to prevailing situation in the neighbouring State. Sikkim has been the most peaceful and progressive State and can be a role model for other States in the country.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to initiate steps for uninterrupted supply of essential commodities through NH-31A to Sikkim via Darjeeling, West Bengal.

12.57½ hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS-*Contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 18. Shri Adhir Chowdhury to continue.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, while deliberating on the Motion of Thanks, I must appreciate, at the outset, that the content, the substance and the policy framework enshrined in the President's Address had already sent a good message, which will bring out cheer and smile among the common people of our country.

12.58 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair]

Sir, Gandhiji once commented upon, "I know the path. The path is narrow and straight. It is like the edge of a sword, I rejoice to walk on it. I weep when I slip. God's word is: 'He who strives never perishes'."

Sir, some malevolence souls of our country had even dared to perform *Havan* to see the end of our hon. Prime Minister. However, what man proposes, God disposes. That is the truth of the universe.

Sir, our Government has been making a great stride in all spheres of our society. I must appreciate the declaration of Deoband, the seminary, which suggested that violence is never permitted in the Islamic religion.

13.00 hrs.

Violence and terrorism are anti-Islamic and anti-national. I think, this kind of message from the seminary will send a very positive note to the people not only in India but also in the world.

We know that even the messenger of God, Hazrat Muhammad, fought the battle for one-end-a-half days; during his entire messianic life he fought the battle of Badr, the battle of Hunayn and the battle of Uhud. Islam is such a religion which was preached by the message of peace and not by the sword. The Hindu zealots of our country should learn that even Vedanta says that first you know the man as he really is. Its message is this: "If you cannot worship your brotherman, who are manifested God, how can you worship the unmanifested God?"

I got the privilege to learn about the contribution of the Leader of the Opposition in the Motion of Thanks yesterday. I got a little depressed to know the frivolous arguments made by someone who was projected, either real or imaginary as the Prime Minister in waiting. It was argued that there is no existence of inclusive growth. What does it mean by inclusive growth? It means that our economy needs to bring its vast diversity into the mainstream economy. The inclusion grows out of the need to bring diverse people into the modern nation. It is the centrality of our Government. It is the integral part of a project of the nation which seeks better economy and stronger country. Inclusion always means that there should be optimal use of the creativities to build the nation - because we want to see our nation with prosperity, with peace and with development - where our national identity will be preserved and our democratic institutions will be preserved. Inclusive growth means that the egregious social hierarchy needs to be done away with by democratic institutions.

If you go through the President's speech, you will find that the share of the Central Gross Budgetary Support allocation to key sectors is being substantially increased. The outlay on education goes up from 7.68 per cent of the Central Gross Budgetary Support in the Tenth Plan to over 19 per cent in the Eleventh Plan. The outlays on agriculture, health and rural development have been tripled. Taken together with education, these sectors account for more than half of the Central Gross Budgetary Support as compared to less than 1/3rd in the Tenth Plan. This is a major structural shift in plan priorities, aimed at reducing disparities and empowering people.

Inclusive growth means empowerment of the common people. It will be achieved by the infusion of fund in the social sector, that this Government is pursuing vigorously since its assumption of power.

Sir, the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA enunciated doubling of agricultural credit in three years and it has been achieved. In the last year, agricultural credit to the tune of Rs. 2,25,000 crore has been disbursed. In view of the stress and strain in the farming community, the Government has already waived the debt of Rs. 60,000 crore which will provide relief to 4 crores of farmers in our country. But here also an argument is being raised as to how the funds would be mobilized. Sir, it is the business of the Government and it is the sovereign responsibility of a Government to mobilize the fund. When our economy is growing to the tune of nearly nine per cent, I think, mobilization of Rs. 60,000 crore in three years is not a very uphill task. It is not an uphill

task, and an amount of Rs.20,000 crore per year has to be provided to the banking sector. Sir, you will see the buoyancy in tax compliance. Direct tax has been growing by more than 40 per cent. India now stands for one trillion dollar economy. So, I think, providing fund to the tune of Rs. 60,000 crore is possible, and it is the business of this Government to mobilize the fund.

Sir, it is being argued in such a way that the farming community is committing suicide during the UPA regime. Sir, you are well aware that the farming community has been committing suicide over the years. It is not a new phenomenon. Rather it was noticed in the 1980s also. May I ask the Leader of the Opposition what kind of succour they had provided to the farming community in our country during their six years of the NDA regime? They should tell in a very explicit manner whether they are favouring the debt waiver or not. When the farming community is cheering to know the waiver of loan, I think, the NDA conglomerate got crestfallen. For two days they took the course of disrupting the House to draw the attention of the farming community. Sir, there is a maxim, there is an adage, chickens think that because of crowing of the chickens, everyday the sun rises. They wanted to establish to the farming community that because of the uproar raised by them, the Government was compelled to provide the loan waiver but later they were crestfallen as if they were infected by chicken flu itself and they got depressed.

Sir, the farming community is the mainstay of our economy and our food security. I quote the noble laureate, Myrdal: "It is in the agricultural sector that the long-term economic development will be won or lost." Therefore, the Government is very much sincere to see that there is growth in the agricultural sector, and slew of measures for the betterment of the farming community have been taken up. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chowdhury several hon'ble Members from your Party are there to participate in this debate.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here time.

[*English*]

Please give me some more time.

Sir, over five lakh self-help groups are being assisted under the *Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana* and 52 per cent of the *Swarojgaris* are women.

Sir, in the President's Address it has been said :

"The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, with an outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore for farm revival

My Government effected an unprecedented steep hike of over 50 per cent in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat and about 33 per cent for paddy in the last four years.

Close to Rs. 900 crore have been provided for scholarships for about 30 lakh children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and an amount of over Rs. 225 crore has been provided for more than ten lakh tribal children.

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act is a landmark legislation aimed at correcting the historical deprivations of the tribal and traditional forest dwellers and restoring to them their rights on land."

13.11 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, the Unorganised Sector Social Security Bill, 2007, the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, enhancement of National Floor Level Minimum Wage have all been taken for giving a direction for the inclusive growth.

Sir, it is said in the President's Address :

"The Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme launched by my Government aims at ensuring that benefits of the development programmes flow equitably to the minorities. ... Fifteen per cent of targets and outlays under various schemes would be earmarked for the minorities. To improve the economic and educational status of the minorities, several programmes have been launched based on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee Report."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I am coming from a district—Murshidabad in West Bengal—where the highest concentration of Muslim population belongs to the district. In the last one year, we have been pursuing with the Union Government to set up a campus of the Aligarh Muslim University in this district for the welfare of the minority population of that entire area.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

Sir, it is further said in the President's Address:

"The empowerment of women through female literacy is our single biggest challenge in the social sector. The National Literacy Mission will make acceleration of female literacy its key goal. ...The legal equality for women in all spheres by removing discriminatory legislation, amending existing legislation and by enacting new legislation that gives women equal rights of ownership of assets like houses and land.

A National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been set up."

Sir, the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme is now covering the entire country. We believe in a revolution, we believe in a silent revolution and that silent revolution has been launched under the rubric of NREGS. Sir, without spilling a drop of blood, a revolution can be taken. Sir, there lies the distinct feature of the President's Address.

So far as West Bengal is concerned, again violence has erupted in a very obnoxious manner. Already the incidents of Nandigram have tarnished the secular and liberal culture of West Bengal. Sir, the entire PDS in West Bengal has been dismantled because of the measures taken by the Government of West Bengal and the corrupt practices of the State Government officials in connivance with the stalwarts of the ruling regime.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Please sit down now. I call Shri Anant Geete to speak now.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Fifteen members of your party have to speak.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, please give me a minute. Sir, so far as the Sachar Committee Report is concerned, with particular reference to West Bengal, the minority population, there, has been deprived for long of their rights. The Sachar Committee does not mean to see the problems only of the minority population. It includes the SCs, STs and the OBCs. But it has been trying to lead the people to believe that the UPA Government is appeasing the minorities. Sir, the minorities

are suffering with identity crisis. Their sense of insecurity and their inferiority complex should be removed for the real development of the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I have one last point..
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, in this regard, I wish to quote Mohd. Yunus, the Nobel Laureate.

Sir, last year the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi was recognized by the world community as Non-Violence Day on 2nd October. On the occasion of that day, Mohd. Yunus, the Nobel Laureate from Bangladesh, our neighbouring country, has written. I quote:

"Within a framework that encompasses Gandhiji's philosophy of tolerance and non-violence, compassion for all humanity and peaceful co-existence, we can work together to create a world that our grandchildren and our great grandchildren can be proud of; we can create a world where we can achieve peace not through war but through dialogue and cooperation; we can create a world where we prefer to use resources on improving the lives of the poor rather than spend on weapons; we can create a world which is prosperous where we all live together in peace; we can create a world where each individual has the opportunity to unleash the unlimited potential that he or she is born with to achieve what he or she dreams of; we can create a world where poverty exists only in the museums. Let us dream of such a world and work to make it happen."

With the words, I am concluding my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I rise to support the motion of thanks on H.E. President's Address. When H.E. President concluded her Address in the Central Hall, I, in the same Central Hall mentioned about suicides committed by more than one and half lakh farmers during the last few years. We know that no disturbance should be made during the President's Address. Even knowing this fact, I could not stop myself after seeing the miseries of farmers and the way they are constantly committing suicides in the country. The moment the President's Address came to an end, we tried to draw her attention towards the suicides by farmers. We did so in the Central Hall because there was a mention of all the schemes like Bharat Nirman Programme, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Universal Mid-day-Meal Programme, National Rural Health Mission, Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana etc. in the President's Address. By mentioning all those schemes in the Central Hall before the members of both the Houses she said that this Government is very attentively working for the development of the rural areas. It was unfortunate that there was not a single reference in the President's Address about the suicides being committed by the farmers. The only reference in the context of farmers was regarding formation of an expert group under the chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishnan to deal with agricultural debts. The report of the group has been received and the Government is considering its recommendations actively. Except this sentence, there was no mention about the suicides being committed by the farmers in the country in such a large number. Therefore, I mentioned it just after the end of the President's Address to draw the attention of Her Excellency.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister has announced package of rupees 50 thousand crores for farmers in the country, who are being compelled to commit suicides ...*(Interruptions)* No, I am coming to that. He has said that three crore small farmers and one crore marginal farmers i.e. total four crore farmers will be benefited from his announcement to waive off loans worth Rs. 50 thousand crores. He has said in his announcement that these farmers having land upto two hectares and

are defaulters will get this benefit and their total loan will be waived. In addition to it, he has announced Rupees 10,000 crores for those farmers who own more than two hectares of land. Their total loan will not be waived. They will not get 100 percent waiver benefit but their loan will be rescheduled and in case they have been charged with penal interest or any other charges, that will be waived. Thus, a package of Rupees 60,000 crores in total has been given.

When the Minister of Finance was speaking here, I was rising time and again. I was not happy to interrupt his speech. But an agitation has started in the country after committing suicides by farmers. About one and half lakh farmers have committed suicides during the last many years and the maximum number of farmers who committed suicides was from Maharashtra and that too particularly from the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. When the number of cases of suicides by the farmers increased then the Prime Minister himself visited Vidarbha last year and announced a package for the farmers of Vidarbha. At that time he visited Nagpur, interacted with the farmers, tried to understand their miseries and later on announced a package, but it is unfortunate that despite that package suicides by farmers have not stopped. On the contrary their number had increased. When the incidents of suicide by farmers in Vidarbha and Maharashtra began to increase then the Shiv Sena Supremo, Shri Bala Saheb Thakaray announced that they can not tolerate the suicides of farmers any more and an agitation against the suicides being committed by the farmers will be started in Maharashtra. After that under the leadership of our Executive President, Shri Uddhav Thakaray the first agitation was launched in Nagpur just two days after the Winter Session of Maharashtra Assembly was over. A huge rally was held in Nagpur to show concern regarding the suicides committed by the farmers of Vidarbha. After that rallies were held at places such as Shegaon, Pune, Beed, Dhule etc. in which lakhs of farmers took part and thus an agitation over suicide by farmers was started by Shiv Sena in Maharashtra.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, suicides are also being committed by farmers in Punjab from where you hail. It is so when Punjab is No. 1 state in the country which has made the entire country self reliant in respect of foodgrains. There was a time when we had to import foodgrains from other countries to meet our needs. Punjab changed the scenario through Green Revolution and made the entire country self reliant in regard to foodgrains. Unfortunately, the farmers of Punjab are also forced to

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

commit suicides. After that, BJP and Akali Dal also started agitation in Punjab, staged dharana in Delhi and in no time this agitation spread all over the country. Later on, Samajwadi Party and TDP known as third front joined this agitation which was primarily started in Maharashtra. Thus it became the agitation of the whole country. I was rising time and again because farmers of Vidarbha are not going to be benefited by this announcement.

I am not telling this just for the sake of criticism. The hon'ble Minister is sitting here. I would like to request the Government especially the Prime Minister to examine the facts enumerated by me as my intention is not to criticize only. After examination if I am found wrong then I shall withdraw my words but if I am found right then Government will have to think over it seriously. Therefore, I would again request the Government to examine into the facts enumerated by me. This announcement sent a message all over the country that now all the farmers will become debt free. It was a good announcement and everybody welcomed that the Minister of Finance has provided 50,000 crore rupees in the Budget to waive loans to the farmers. The Government has taken a good step. If this step had been taken earlier then perhaps it could have stopped or reduced the number of suicides committed by the farmers. But there is a saying that better late than never. Here I would also like to point out that in this case even this saying does not hold good. It you enquire into the facts I have put forth, then you will come to know that even this saying will not be befitting for the Government. When this announcement was made a message went through the entire Vidarbha region that all the farmers will become debt free. That is why I was repeatedly saying in the House that you have announced to waive off the loans of the farmers having land upto two hectares whereas the cotton producer farmers of Vidarbha region have more than two hectares of land. All the farmers who have committed suicides there had more than two hectares of land. The farmers for whom this agitation took place and this announcement which was made by the Government to check these suicides is unfortunately not going to benefit the families of the farmers of Vidarbha region who committed suicides.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): How can you reach to the above conclusion at such an early stage?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: First of all you hear me.

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: This is a discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and not on the General Budget. There could be many more clarifications on this issue. Anyway, there is no problem, we are going to listen to you.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mistry ji, your name is there in the list of speakers. You speak only when your turn comes. For now, do not interrupt the House.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am not talking only about Budget. I had made it clear at the outset that you get it enquired into and if my statement doesn't come true I will withdraw it and if it comes true, the Government will have to consider it seriously. It is a fact that farmers of Vidarbha region have committed suicide, the State Government has the record and you can ask for it and see that all the farmers have landholdings of more than two hectares. Hence, they will not get any relief from this announcement, because neither their entire loan amount is going to be waived, nor they will get any benefit from the extra provision of Rs. 10,000 crore. Vidarbha region is terrorstruck even today due to this and there is more resentment among the farmers that is it some sort of mockery. Movement was started for the farmers of Vidarbha region in the whole country and if they do not get any benefit, resentment is natural. Hence, there is more resentment among the farmers of Vidarbha region.

That is why I want to say that I had raised the matter while speaking on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, because there was no mention in the President's Address in this regard at that time. I know that it was not proper to speak about it at that time, even then I tried to draw the attention of Her Excellency President, because there was no mention of it in the President's Address. It was announced by the Minister of Finance while presenting the Budget. Hon'ble Prime Minister was present there. Hon'ble Prime Minister will reply to the discussion on the Motion of Thanks. Therefore, it is his responsibility to get the matter enquired into. I would like to make a suggestion to the Government in this regard to increase the ceiling of two hectares. You should increase the ceiling of two hectares to five hectares and so far as the matter of suicides committed by cotton grower farmers of Vidarbha region is concerned, there should be no ceiling for them and they should be

provided complete relief. Those families will not get any benefit from this announcement. This will continue, farmers will continue to commit suicides and this trend will continue. That is why I want to make a suggestion that the Government should seriously consider the matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first issue is regarding farmers which is very important and the second issue is equally important which pertains to inflation. There is no reference about it in the President's Address. H.E. President's Address is silent on inflation. H.E. President time and again speaks that the Government has taken measures to contain inflation, I want to know what measures have been taken by the Government, because there is not any mention of it in the President's Address. Unfortunately, while presenting the Budget subsequently, the Minister of Finance had said nothing in his speech about inflation. Inflation is increasing and it will continue to increase. When we talk about common man, what does he need? Common man needs two square meal i.e. Dal-Roti. But a common man today can't afford pulses, because it costs Rs. 40 to Rs. 60 per kg. Arhar, Chana or Urad, none of the pulses is cheap. Hence, we will have to change the proverb "Dal-Roti Khayenge, Prabhu Ke Gun Gayenge" and say "Sookhi Roti Khayenge, Pani Peekar Jeeeyenge". Nowadays, the poor can't afford even Dal-Roti, because inflation is increasing with every passing day. Nowadays we talk about 8.8 percent GDP growth rate and H.E. President has mentioned it in her Address. GDP growth rate is increasing and there is no question of criticizing it, but if our country makes progress in a specific field and we say that the whole country is making progress, it is not proper. Today, this is irony of the country. This is a mockery of poor people. In the Question Hour today, there were two questions regarding small-scale industries. The hon'ble Minister who answered one of these questions, is present here. He said that there is maximum opportunity of employment in the small-scale industries, micro-industries. There is maximum employment opportunity in the small-scale industries, but there are a number of States where there are no small-scale industries or they are closed or are not operational. Regional imbalance was removed by setting up small-scale industries.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Industries are being shifted at some places.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Imbalances were removed by setting up small-scale industries and two questions were asked during the Question Hour in this

respect. One question was that there are 79 items which have been de-reserved. All these are related to small-scale industries over which China has established its dominance. There is no reference in the President's Address that small-scale industries, cottage industries are perishing. Whatever little employment opportunities were available in the villages, remote areas, they are also shrinking, but there is no mention of it in the President's Address. China has established its dominance world over. Whatever we used to manufacture in our small-scale industries, China has established its dominance in the manufacturing of those products. We used to manufacture items like toys, cycle, plastic made goods, battery cell and things like these in small scale industries, micro industries, cottage industries and China has also established its dominance in the manufacturing of those items.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have spoken about only two issues relating to farmers and inflation. I would like to give an example that how China has established its dominance world over and how it has adversely affected our country. You can see everything available in the market is made in China. Our cottage industry has perished. Our friends from Arunachal Pradesh are present here, China has 1100 km. long border. Fifteen days ago I visited Arunachal Pradesh in the capacity of Chairman of Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers. Whatever product you buy here, it is Made in China. I got an opportunity to represent our country in the last batch of UN General Assembly this time. Whenever I got some spare time, I went out for walking in the afternoon. Then I thought that I am in New York I would buy something and take it to my home, because family members may ask what I have brought for them? Prices were in dollar and when I converted the prices in rupee, I didn't dare to buy anything made in India, we used to leave the place only after seeing the prices. But I had to buy something, so I bought Statue of Liberty of America. That statue cost me 10 dollars, but that Statue of Liberty of America was marked Made in China. Speaking on Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, I am mentioning it because it is not a matter to be laughed away, this is a very serious matter that how China has established its dominance over Indian industries. The Government needs to think about it seriously how to save our small scale industries and industries associated with it. If we do not have advance technology and our industry is getting sick due to the lack of technology, then that is no reason to close down industry itself. That is no reason to eliminate employment in that area. Inflation is increasing day-by-

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

day and common man is feeling the heat. Today, common man can't afford vegetables and pulses. Getting two square meal has become difficult for them. Inflation is galloping, prices are increasing every day. Unfortunately there is no mention about it in the President's Address. I want to make a suggestion that the Government should take inflation seriously and try to contain it. Farmers committing suicide should be prevented from doing so. The Government should take an equally important decision that the farmers should get remunerative price for their crop. If we do it, we don't need to do anything else. We are going to import wheat. Punjab and Haryana produces maximum quantity of wheat. Farmers are not getting remunerative price for wheat, but we are importing wheat at the rate of Rs. 14-15 per kg. In a way we are playing with the sentiments of the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, while I am supporting the Motion of Thanks but I would like to suggest the Government that 70 per cent of the population of our country still lives in villages, and depends on agriculture. When Government celebrates 8.8 per cent GDP growth then they should not ignore the fact that more than 38 per cent of our people are living below poverty line. Therefore, the Government should try to check the price rise. With these words I support the Motion of Thanks and conclude my speech.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want the permission to lay my speech on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may lay your speech on the Table.

*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Sir, hon'ble Members have mentioned so many matters in regard to education, health, farmers and industries. I would like to raise one important fact regarding agriculture sector that due to shortage of rain, the underground water level was came down at very low level. In districts like Bundelkhand, Sagar, Damoh, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Panna etc. of Madhya Pradesh an average rainfall during last four to five years is showing declining trend. Due to drought people from many villages are migrating to Delhi and Punjab for want of jobs. Nothing have been done for drought ridden Bundelkhand covering Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. There is a need of formulating a scheme to waive off the loans of all farmers and provide foodgrains at cheaper rates because farmers are in pathetic condition because their crops of Wheat, Gram and Masoor are perished due to frost.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

In our country in every 30 minutes a farmer is forced to commit suicide and the Government is purchasing wheat from farmers in the country on less price compare to the imported wheat. Why no fruitful efforts were made for upliftment of agriculture sector? If the Union Government have made efforts to solve the problems related to agriculture sector immediately after formation of the Government, then its result should have shown till now.

High growth rate is also important but I would like to say that only high growth rate does not indicate that all classes of our economy is developed. The problem of unemployment is still a big problem for our youth. The huge pay package jobs multinational companies are available to only a few percent of young people.

As per Central Statistical Organization the rate of unemployment is increasing. The total number of persons employed has been decreased. Employment has been increased only in contract labour or unorganized sector and that too in other small works where there is neither any justified wages, nor any job security. 84 crore people of our country live their life with the earning of Rupees 20 or less daily, almost 34 crores of people get only one square meal in 2 days, large number of our country's population is forced to live in poverty.

The Government have completely failed in controlling the price rise, the price of foodgrains such as wheat, rice and pulses have been sharply increased. The prices of steel and cement are also beyond control of the Government. During last one year common people are bearing the burnt of price rise but Government have done nothing beyond increasing the interest rate to control the price rise. The Government should take drastic decisions to check the price rise. The data of rate of economic development is only in favour of rich people and poor people are becoming poorer. The economic imbalance is increasing.

The Government may say anything about the internal security but be it the case of bomb blast in Mumbai trains, explosions in Malegaon or attack on Samjhauta Express or serial blasts in court premises, each of such incidents has exposed the condition of our internal security. Similarly the regular attacks by terrorist outfits in north eastern States and Naxalite attack in other States has put a question mark on our internal security. We are not successful in putting pressure on Pakistan to stop cross border terrorism. Our security forces have outdated

arms whereas the terrorist outfits have latest weapons and communication devices, this should be done away.

The faith of people of our country is attached with Ramsetu. The UPA Government is deliberately insulting the Hindu deities and hurting the feelings of people. At first they have submitted affidavit in the court about non-existence of Lord Ram in Ram-Setu issue and now a controversial article regarding the characters of Ramayana is being taught in the syllabus of Delhi University. The Centre should take immediate steps to remove it from the syllabus so that the social harmony should not be disturbed.

Cross-border infiltration specially from Bangladesh has not only disturbed the demography of our population but it is also affecting the economy. Today, these intruders are working as labourers or even as mechanic in our metro cities on less wages and thereby snatching away the rights of the labourers of our country. The cases of encroachment and crime, rates are increasing at many places. The identification of persons living near the cantonment area in all over the country should be done so as to their places of origin can be known and they should be verified from Gram Panchayat and Police Stations of their hometowns. Foreign spies are taking shelter in inner States like Madhya Pradesh. Recently spies were arrested from Sagar and Bhopal and it should be thoroughly investigated that from where they came and it should also mandatory for the contract labourers working at different places to have identity card of their native place with them.

The Government are contemplating to establish a new central university in north-eastern region of the country. Madhya Pradesh is such a big State and Dr. Sir Harisingh Gaur University, Sagar is the oldest University in Madhya Pradesh. State Government of Madhya Pradesh have sent the proposal for making it a central university. There was a big agitation by all political parties and public in Sagar in support of the proposal. Therefore, the announcement for making Dr. Sir Harisingh Gaur University as a central university should be made in this session.

There was a hope regarding the discussion on Women Reservation Bill will take place but the view of Government is not clear on this matter. Women all over the country have a faith and excitement that they will get their right soon and they will get the benefit of at least 33 per cent reservation. The policy of the Government in

this regard should be made clear and the Bill should be introduced and passed in this session only.

Implementation of the scheme of inter linking of rivers which was introduced by the NDA Government is going on slow pace. Timely, fair and extensive implementation of this scheme will lead to solve the problem of droughts and floods and will improve the economic and social condition and living standard as a result of increased employment and better crop production. In Madhya Pradesh by interlinking Narmada river with Dhasan, Babas and Betwa, the Bundelkhand Region could be saved from droughts. The survey of Bina river project has been already completed and the Centre should start work on this project at the earliest.

The cruelty against animals should be stopped and the cow progeny (Godhan) should be saved and export of beef should be banned. Cow progeny (Godhan) strengthen the agriculture and economy of our country. Cowsheds should be given special assistance in the country and a thrust should be given to special action plans to encourage the dairy business. The child who grow with drinking packaged milk ignore their culture.

In Rozgar Guarantee Scheme, in place of 100 days of employment, it should be made available for whole year because our country has a big population and every hand should get work.

Small scale industries based on the products available or are produced at local level should be encouraged for example there is heavy production of tomato in Sagar, tomato sauce from chana and pahari potato from Shimla comes in abundance there so we can introduce industries producing items like potato chips there after imparting work training.

Child Labour Act was enacted but there is a need to ensure strict compliance of it. People are not afraid of that law and the number of child labourers is increasing continuously. Along with the effective implementation of the law there should be proper arrangement for the livelihood and education of the child labourers. Contractors in the Beena Refinery are violating the law making a large number of child labourers to work. Such places should be enquired and banned. Forest dwellers living in the sanctuaries of the country for several generations should not be rendered homeless. Forest dwellers of many villages of Nauradehi sanctuary in my constituency are scared of impending removal from the place at any time.

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

The officers of forest department don't let the development works related to basic amenities be carried out in these villages, which are banned by them due to which people have to lead a life of suffering but they (the people) don't want to leave the place of their ancestors even if there is non availability of road, water and electricity. Work needs to be done there particularly, providing protection to the people living there.

There is huge potential of tourism in Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, keeping in view the transportation of tourists and development of small cities, there should be more airline facilities in the cities like Sagar and Reewa.

There is no mention of Beedi workers housing Scheme. The provision of taking Rs. 5000 from the Beedi workers as contribution should be abolished as the economic condition of a Beedi worker is not such that he could contribute this amount and in the State like Madhya Pradesh where there are large number of Beedi workers who have not been allotted with adequate number of houses, more houses should be allotted in priority.

Therefore, I would like to say that the concept of Bharat Nirman can be fruitful only when the backbenchers of the society of this country will be provided with food, clothes, house, medicine and sanitation.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Presidential address is an account of the achievements of the Government and its future works. The address is a formality. It is prepared by the Government and the President says whatever the Government likes to convey. So many important issues have not been dealt with in the Presidential Address.

What my colleague have said just now is true that most of the people our country live in villages. 71% people live in villages and 29% in cities whereas this difference is 50-50% in case of other countries in the world. I would like to concentrate on the facts related to agriculture as stated by the Government leaving aside other things. The Government had provided loan of 2 lakh 85 thousand crore rupees under the Common Minimum Programme for three years upto 2007-08 in order to improve the condition of the farmers. It is a fact that this aim was achieved till December 2007 and the farmers received whatever was due.

The Government in particular has taken two tasks in hand *i.e.* National Food Security Scheme and National Agriculture Development Scheme. The Government has

a target to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses to 10, 8 & 2 millions respectively and to raise the annual growth rate of agriculture to 4 percent. In view of the loan granted for this, I would like to state that the farmers were granted loan of 1.25 lakh crore rupees in 2004-05, 1.80 lakh crore Rupees in 2005-06, 2.03 lakh crore rupees in 2006-07 and 2.25 lakh crore rupees in the year 2007-08. This is the distribution of loan. I want to state that it is not like the number of farmers taking loan is raised due to provision of loans. In 2004-05, 4.13 crore farmers benefited from it, in 2005-06, 3.85 crore farmers took the loan and in 2006-07 this number was 3.97 crore and during 2007-08 it was 1.02 crore. It means that the amount of loan increased but the problems of the farmers remained the same and due to decrease in the number of farmers, our colleagues pointed out towards the suicides being committed by the farmers. As per the National Crime Record Bureau 17060 farmers committed suicide in year 2006. Matter of Bundelkhand was raised in the morning in this House regarding destruction in the State. No cultivation is being done there for several years and birds and animals are forced to die. Even after meeting the Hon'ble Prime Minister several times and making humble requests, Bundelkhand has not received the desired special assistance. I would like to request that the Government needs to make special efforts under such circumstances. What are our priorities? What do we want to do? Farmers have got the loan but they are not benefited by the same. The big question is the payment of loan which is more problematic than taking loan. Due to agriculture being non-profitable the farmer is not able to pay the loan. It has been said just now that the supporting price has been increased and it is 33 and 50% for wheat, rice and paddy respectively but the reality is that the 85% farmers are marginal and small farmers. They produce for their livelihood and only 15% of farmers go to the market. 85% of farmers don't have the capacity to sell their products. The basic question is until the production rate of the country will not rise, the farmers won't be benefited. Sir, today the costs are increasing but the products don't get their value accordingly. I would like to say that out of the average loan taken by the farmers in the country maximum amount is borne by the farmers in Haryana. But suicide incidents don't take place in Haryana as it has high production rate. If production rate of our country is increased the farmers can be saved from this present pitiable condition. Fertilizers have important role in agricultural production. Government provided subsidy of 15779 crore rupees in 2004-05 and it is likely to be 60694 crore rupees in 2008-09, still there is no decrease in the prices of fertilizers, instead

their rates have increased further. What is the reason for this? The reason is that this subsidy is utilized to fill the gap between the price difference of fertilizers produced by different manufacturers like the production cost of urea in NFL, Vijaypur is Rs. 5974 per metric tonne whereas it is Rs. 24895 per metric tonne in Chennai. Subsidy gets exhausted in bridging this gap alone. Subsidy on manure is more even then the problems of the farmers are increasing. Secondly, the prices of the manure have doubled.

Sir, H.E. President has talked about the development of agriculture in his address. This is not the first time we are talking about agricultural development. Since the time the Government has been formed it has been talking about the agricultural development for the last four years continuously. In view of our experiences of the last four years it is impossible to believe whether the Government will manage to achieve the target set by it or not. The Government fixed the target of rice production as 93.50 million tonne in 2004-05 whereas the actual production was 83.13 million tonne. The target for rice production during 2005-06 was 87.80 million tonne but the actual production was 81.79 million tonne.

For the year 2006-07, a target of 92.8 million tonne was fixed, whereas the actual target achieved was 91.05 million tonne. Similarly, for the year 2004-05 the target for wheat production was 79.50 million tonne, whereas the actual production was 69.35 million tonne. In the year 2006-07, the target was 75.53 million tonne, whereas the actual production was 73.70 million tonne. These figures reveal that the target fixed by the Government has never been achieved by it. This creates a doubt as to how the Government is going to achieve the target fixed for the agricultural sector in the coming years.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir it was mentioned with great pomp and show that our economic growth rate was increasing rapidly and we had made significant achievements. However, it is quite strange that though our country's growth rate is increasing, yet simultaneously the problems in the country are rising and the economic and social disparity is also on increase. The Government claims that the growth rate has gone to nine percent but through you, I would like to make a submission that whereas, the growth rate has increased, the

unemployment in our country has also gone up. In the year 2004-05, 43 percent manpower used to be utilized in the form of labour in our country. In the year 2005-06 the use of manpower has been reduced to 41 percent. The Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia has himself admitted on the occasion of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas that despite Nine percent growth rate, its benefit has not percolated to the poor people and he further added that in the coming years, we would spend two percent of the GDP on health and 19 percent more on education in comparison to the tenth plan. The reality is that the very policies of the Government are mainly responsible for the way it is functioning. We are facing the consequences of the kind of industries we have given boost to. Computer, mobile, pharmacy and Financial services are the industries we have encouraged. These are the sectors where there is less use of manpower.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the weak and poor people of the society are unable to reap its benefit. Today, the biggest need and the fundamental question is that as long as we won't encourage industries requiring more of manpower like agriculture, livestock, handloom, khandasari and oilseed crushing in India, no problem of the country can be addressed. The Government is not paying attention to this thing at all. In our country there are 110 crore people who have no work and today we witness the naxal problem and the horrible incidences of violence in our society whose main reason is that when a person has no work at all, he is compelled to choose the wrong path. With regard to the question of price rise, the Government has stated that the rising prices at the international level particularly the foodgrains and crude oil have led to the increase in prices in our country.

I would just like to give the example of cement. The 50 Kg. bag of cement costs Rs 190. Government's excise duty is Rs. 350 per tonne and the excise duty is 600 rupees on the bag having cost of more than Rs. 190. In addition to this, there is 3 percent education cess, 3 percent central sales tax, 12.5 percent VAT and furthermore, it costs rupees 45 and Rs. 165 on royalty given on the raw material, limestone and coal needed in the manufacturing of cement. The State Governments have their additional taxes. Roughly speaking the tax comes out to Rs. 1250 per tonne. There are so much taxes here and we are talking about as to what is going

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

on in the world. Because of these several taxes, the prices of cement have touched the sky. Whether the Government has taken into consideration these things and ever made effort to reduce them? But we have never thought in these terms. With regard to question of price rise, the Government has stated that the prices have gone up not only in our country but it has gone up at the international level. What more incorrect can be than this one? In the year 2004, the consumer price index in India was 3.6 per cent, whereas in America, England and European countries it was 2 percent. In the year 2005, the consumer price index in India was 4.3 percent and it was 2.3 percent in other countries of the world. In the year 2006, it was 6.2 percent in our country and it was 2.3 percent in other countries, I have mentioned. In July 2007, it was 6.5 in India whereas in other countries it was 1.9 percent. In order to shirk our responsibilities it is not justified to say that because of price rise at the international level, the rise in prices here is also a compulsion. To what extent the Government is serious, I would conclude by saying that the Eleventh Plan were to commence in April 2007 and scheduled to end by March 2011. This Government has been in power for the last four years but the National Development Council has given clearance to the Eleventh Plan only in December 2007 now. Whether it is a five year plan or a four year plan? The Government had enough time. The Government could have prepared but it did not. I would only like to say that the direction in which the Government thinks, the way the Government functions is not satisfactory at all. This is completely a directionless Government, It would be apt for me to say the following about it:

"Apni Surat Ka Khud Ehsaas Nahin Hain Mujhko,
Maine Gairon Se Suna hai Ki Pareshan Hoon Mai"

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion is taking place on vote of thanks on the President's Address and I am participating in it. But first of all, very humbly I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important matter.

Whenever Her Excellency the President's Address have taken place, I got the opportunity to hear the same..(Interruptions)

14.00 hrs.

[English]

PROF. RAM GOPAL VADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. Sir not a single Cabinet Minister is present in the House. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, just a minute before, he left the House and he is just coming back. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, a serious debate on the President's Address is going on in the House. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the Government is not serious on any issue. Such an important discussion is taking place here, but only one Minister of State is sitting here.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is just coming.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have made your point. He is just coming.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was humbly making a submission that I have been fortunate enough to hear Her Excellency the President's Address for last several years. Whenever Her Excellency the President's Address take place here, first it is delivered in English and then in Hindi, but this time Hindi has been ignored. In a country like India whose official language is Hindi and where the Government encourages every department to work in Hindi, if Her Excellency the President's Address in Hindi is ignored then I think that this is not going to send a good message in the country..... (Interruptions)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, we are discussing President's Address now. It should not be made a language issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would like to request through this House that it is not an issue related to language (*Interruptions*) Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not speaking on the issue of language. I understand that the House is agree with our feelings. Moreover, Hindi is the national language of our country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Her Excellency President in her Address has reiterated to create a new India founded on social harmony on the basis of works carried out in the field of agriculture, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, rural and urban development, the action being taken on the report of Sachhar Committee on the basis of Prime Minister's 15 point programme, roads under Bharat Nirman, electricity, telephone, construction of National Highways etc.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, although the Government puts forth her own agenda in the President's Address, it also highlights Government's future line of action. In response to President's Address, all the hon'ble Members of Parliament emphasized on giving priority to agriculture. I also want to emphasise the same. Whenever, there is talk about agriculture it is natural to talk about the farmer. I am not saying that the Government is not doing anything for agriculture and farmers. It is a fact that loans of farmers have been waived off. I don't want to go into the details regarding the resources, from which the Government is going to arrange the funds. If the loans are waived off by the Government, then it has a responsibility and if the Government makes an announcement, then it also works for the implementation for the same. But I would like to tell you that, this Government is not going to survive after next year's election. Therefore, this Government is working to put the burden on next Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we don't agree that waiving of loans will solve problems of the farmers. Farmers are also categorized while disbursing the loan. We should

treat all the farmers alike. There are cases of farmers committing suicide. The House should at once, consider that in the States that are called economically backward, there is not any case of farmer committing suicide. Farmers are committing suicide in the States, which are considered economically developed and they are ranked number two or three States. If the Government think that waiving of loans is the final solution to stop farmer's suicide, then I must say that we don't subscribe to that view. Ramjilal Suman Ji has left. Some of my colleagues mentioned that farmers don't get the remunerative price for their produce and it also affects farmers badly. Apart from all these things I would like to express my feelings. I came from a farmer's family and I have in-depth knowledge about agriculture. Our 71 per cent population lives in villages and if we intend to bring prosperity in farmers household, then we have to identify the problems in different States. Farmers are producing cotton at one place and sugarcane at other. They are producing potatoes at one place and rice and wheat at some other place. Farmers have to face different problems in every State. In some cases farmers are facing different problems in a State. They have to face floods, drought and water logging. In the Budget, provisions are made for funds under the heads of irrigation, agriculture. Allocations are made in every sector. But, only the allocation of money is not going to solve this problem. How you are going to determine that, in a particular State, what kind of problems are being faced by the farmers. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we should convene a conference to determine this and invite farmers from each State. We should have an idea regarding the situation there. How the Government inquires about the problems of farmers. People, who never saw villages or agriculture, come in air-conditioned cars and discuss about farmers' problems. This is not the way to solve the farmers' problems. What happens? You cannot solve the problem just by increasing the price of crops. If you really want to solve farmers' problems, then you have to reduce the cost of produce. Its reason is that all farmers are not of same level. Sumanji was saying that there are 15 per cent people, whose produce go to markets and there are 85 per cent people, who cannot even arrange food for one year from their produce. So, if you keep increasing the price of foodgrains of 15 per cent people, then what will happen to 85 per cent people? What will happen to agriculture-based labourers who are earning their livelihood by working in fields of landlord or Mahajan? Therefore, it is very important to reduce the agriculture cost of farmers. For this, you have to reduce

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

the rates of water, provide seeds at economical rates at appropriate time and fertilizers also needs to be provided on economical rates. In contrast to this, condition of electricity is pathetic in the country. Now, we can see that solar lights are being installed in MP's flats. This is enough to assume that how strong we are in the field of electricity because now, even Members of Parliament are extracting electricity from Solar Power.

There is only one solution left in such circumstances, a farmer can take water in his field through pumping set. Diesel is used in pumping set and its prices increase every year. It is said that its prices are increasing internationally, and that's why domestic prices are also increasing. If domestic prices are also increasing then at what level you want to see our farmers? Whether you will bring prosperity by waiving off the loans? You are providing LPG Gas, but you have fixed two level of prices. You have different rates of gas provided commercially and provided to rural people and common consumer. Whether the Government can not make a system to provide diesel to farmers at different rate and there should be a different rate for transporters and income tax payers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir if you provide diesel to farmers at cheaper rates, then it will reduce their agricultural cost, they will get water at low cost. Just now, our colleague Sumanji was talking about fertilizers. Farmers should get fertilizers on time, but they are unable to get them in markets on time and if they managed to get them, then they got adulterated fertilizers. As a result of that, he has to suffer huge losses as yielding capacity of farming land is affected. Though it is available in the blackmarkets but on very high price and one can not check the genuineness of the seeds. So, unless you are not going to reduce the agriculture cost of farmers, and if you are not going to fix the price of their produce based on their cost, you can benefit only 15 per cent farmers by increasing the price of their produce, but you can force 85 percent farmers and agricultural labourers to commit suicide. Therefore, our request is that if you want to make farmers prosperous, then you must reduce their farming cost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was written in the President's Address that Sacchar Committee's report recommended opening of banks for loan purposes in muslim majority areas. I want to say one thing that we

talk about making harmonious society, making equitable society, but our words and language indicate that we are sitting here to divide the society. We don't want to talk only about Sacchar Committee. When the Finance Minister was going through the Budget speech, he was addressing to one caste or other in every part of his speech. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are only two castes in our country—one is poor and the other is rich. By dividing the society in parts we can do politics of vote and can succeed in it but in reality we are damaging the principles of unity and integrity of the country. The manner in which the castes have been given preference in the budget do not augur well for the country. We were talking about Banks, the finance system. Our farmers approach banks for loans. Now, it has been mentioned that more banks will be opened in muslim dominated areas. In 2005-06, 933 banks have been opened in the country out of which only two banks have been opened in rural areas and rest of the banks have been opened in urban areas. If our Finance Minister is so much concerned about rural areas. Why doesn't he make a policy that out of total number of banks to be opened in the country, 80 percent will be opened in rural areas and 20 percent in urban areas. Had it been done earlier, there will be no need to say that more banks will be opened in muslim dominated areas. We should ponder over it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is the method of calculating interest on loans? 70 percent of farmers who deposit their money in banks, get three and half percent interest on their deposits and 30 percent rich get interest upto 12-13 percent on their deposits. How can you do justice with poor and farmers under these circumstances? When the hon'ble Finance Minister answer to our queries, he should take care of these things so that we get satisfied that he is really concerned about the poors and farmers. Same is the position regarding education and home loans. Children of poor persons who wish to study abroad in better schools do not get education loan on time. I can not express in words what ordeal they have to face in availing loans. Unemployed youth get loans at 11 percent interest rate whereas big houses are provided loans at 9-10 percent interest rate for setting up their industry. The Finance Minister is saying time and again that he is worried about village and want to build a new India, we are building a new Bharat but which type of nation they are building? The Government thinks only about capitalists and industrialists. .../(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken about 21 minutes.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am just making an introduction. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you can see, how much time can be given to you, because only 12 minutes has been allotted to your party and I have already given you 21 minutes.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: If you see the time allotted to our party it is almost over. If you permit me, I would ask other party to give me some time but let me speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We can not give you more time.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, Prabhunathji should not be interrupted. He should be allowed to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give him the time allotted to your party. It is your turn after a while so I will give some of your time to him. Prabhunathji, I will take special care of you and Azmiji. Now, please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude in 2-3 minutes. During the discussion the hon'ble Finance Minister is telling that the country has registered 9 percent economic growth. It is true that the money has floated but among very limited people. We should concentrate on the villages. Sometimes, Delhi also gives a glimpse of village. May be the hon'ble Minister could not witness it as he travels in a vehicle having red light on its top. But when we travel by a vehicle and it stops on red light we witness it, when a woman in a rags having a child in her lap came in front of us with a thing in her hand and request us to buy it. We thank her for her selfrespect because at least she is not begging. When people in the city like Delhi are begging in such a way to meet their both ends, one can imagine about the situation of villages.

Secondly, the budget is prepared by those people who have never been to villages and here they are giving suggestions as how villages can be made prosperous. If

you want to make the villages prosperous, give them benefit. You should stop monopoly of rich people over money and divert it to villages so that poverty can be eliminated and people can become competitor and can take part in the competitions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude after saying one more thing. I know why are you so nervous?

The Government has announced that it is going to implement National Employment Guarantee Scheme throughout the country after initially implementing it in 330 districts. It says that we are going to provide a guarantee for 100 days employment to the people. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you also belong to village. Is it sufficient? The Government should give the details of the allocation made in the budget, the amount given to the districts alongwith the expenditure made out of it. The Government should tell how many workers have got wages in reality and not only on papers? It is an old trend to do payment by making bogus bills in the country. Whether the migration of workers has stopped after implementing this scheme? You are taking credit of giving 100 days employment to the workers but you should remember that a year has 365 days and what they will do in the rest 260 days. What they will do when their children fall ill or there is a marriage in the family? How will they satiate themselves in the rest 260 days? You are giving them employment and that too through Zila Parishad.

I do not want to make comment on any representative through Zila Parishad. But it is a fact and this is the reality that all the contractors are the elected members of Zila Parishad, you get it checked. I do not know about the whole country, but I know about the State I belong to and money is misappropriated by mentioning the names of labourers in the records. Payments are made on the basis of forged records and labourers do not get any benefit. I would like to request you not to take credit for it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Is it thanks giving? Alright. I accept your thanks and conclude my speech.

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (*Sangrur*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing Motion of Thanks on President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament. We all are aware that she is our first woman President and we respect her. Her resolution will be

[Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa]

adopted, but the President's Address should contain what the Government has done in the past and what it proposes to do in future. I was surprised and for that matter all the members were surprised that there was no mention about farmers in the President's Address, owing to which proceedings of the House were stalled for two days. You should have merely mentioned that you are going to do something in the Budget. But the proceedings of the House were stalled for two consecutive days, because it didn't contain anything about farmers. Budget has been presented. Many of our colleagues were thumping desks that Rs. 60,000 crores of loans of farmers has been waived. We were also happy that at least something has been done.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about Punjab, you have also been elected from that State. Our State Punjab has been unfortunate for the last 2500 years, first came Alexander, then came Ahmadshah Abdali and it is only we who fought with all the invaders, they used to plunder us and kill our people. Then war of independence was fought, I would not like to go into the details and repeat all the things, but our role was the most important and we were happy that we got freedom. We would have been very happy, had Punjab got something that Congress Party had promised us. But such a situation emerged thereafter that our country needed grains. Green Revolution happened and we contributed sixty to seventy percent to the stock of the country. Punjab has only one and a half percent of the land of the country and we are producing equal to fifty percent production of rice and wheat.

Sir, how much Punjab has got from that 60,000 crore rupees? We have calculated that it is only 1200 crore rupees. It is why so, because loans were not waived. You are aware that farmers of Punjab mostly make repayments of their loans, but provision has been made for defaulters, loans have not been waived. There are very few defaulters in Punjab. What Punjab has got from it?

As you are aware Punjabi farmers take loan mostly for machinery, tractor or tubewell. Banks have rules that at least six acre land can be pledged. They ask for at least 6 acre land, while the Government has announced loan waived for farmers having land holding of less than 5 acres, in this situation what Punjab will get? And even Rs. 22,000 crore of loan has been given by Banks and Co-operative institutions, while Rs. 13,000 crore of loan

has been given by Mahajans or moneylenders, and there is no mention of it and there is no mention about land farmers. There are landless farmers in Punjab, they have no land holdings, they take land on lease. They take loan for harvesting, but there is no mention about them, because they do not have land and they take it on lease. Punjab has got nothing from the amount waived in the Budget. What can we do? What is our fault?

Sir, look at the situation prevailing in Punjab. Here water table has depleted so much that 122 or 123 out of 140 blocks have come in the Red and no water can be extracted from these blocks. It will harm not only Punjab but the whole country. The State which is called Food Basket, the State that contributes 50 percent foodgrains, if there is scarcity of water or no water in that States, then from where we will get cereals. You are importing cereals and here you are not willing to pay remunerative price. You import it at the rate of Rs. 1600 per ton, but what do you pay us? You have made it thousand now, we demand that price for rice should be increased to at least rupees one thousand to rupees one thousand two hundred.

I would like to make a suggestion to the Government to implement the report of M.S. Swaminathan Committee constituted by the Central Government regarding inputs and outputs of agriculture. It was constituted by the Government. Why you are not implementing its report? It says that the farmers should get two times of money they spend.

Agriculture Price Commission was set up and it works under certain conditions and it can't recommend more than that. But if we import from Australia or any other country, we pay Rs. 1600 per quintal despite the fact that it is not fit for consumption. But we do not pay that much amount to our farmers, especially to the farmers belonging to Punjab. Therefore, I request to the Government not to kill this State. If farmers of this state are finished, the whole country will be starving. The government has the report that because so many tubewells have been installed there, there will be scarcity of water after two to four years. Our colleague has explained what will happen to inputs there. We have finished our water stock for the benefit of the country. Water or our canals are being given to Rajasthan and Haryana. It is water worth crores of rupees.

Water is required for our fields. It is for the first time in the country that water was allotted to those States that are not riparian. It is not the issue for discussion today but I would like to say that Punjab has totally

been ignored. Moneylenders come in no way. We should be given some share of what we give to the country. We should be given in proportionate to the foodgrains we give to the country. But we are not being given proportionately. Those who repay the loan in time will get nothing. On the contrary, the defaulters will get that they don't deserve. It means, we will have to be defaulters henceforth, only then Punjab could get something. The loan extended to farmers of Punjab works out only 2 percent but we contribute 50 percent. There should be some justification.

I would not like to take much time. Industry and Agriculture are two major factors for the development of a country. Our country is agriculture-dominated country. But today the arable land is decreasing day by day. Secondly, Industry is the main pillar for the development of any country or State. What happened to the industry? All the hon'ble Members of our Party met hon'ble Manmohan Singh Ji. He said that it was done by the Government of your party because hilly States were given incentives. All the industries of Punjab have shifted to hilly States. I don't say that those industries should be reshifted to Punjab, but I would like to say that remaining industries in our State could be saved if the same incentives are given to Punjab which is a border State keeping in view the incidents occurred in Punjab from 1984 to 1995 and sufferings, the people faced there during this period. So many years have lapsed. Our industries have shifted, our farming is also likely to be ruined. We always protected the country, be it before or after independence. I don't want to go into discussion as to who has been the sufferer. What made Punjab suffer losses for 15-16 years? There are books available in the market that themselves reflect the reasons behind this loss.

I would like to submit one more very touching issue relating to the Sikhs. History is a witness to the fact that the Britishers have deployed their personnel in our Gurudwara Sahibs. But we fought against this and succeeded in getting the Gurudwara Act enacted after making more than five hundred sacrifices.

After independence, Master Tara Singh and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru signed an agreement which is known as the Nehru-Tara Singh Pact. It was stated therein that no religious issue related to Sikhs would be settled without consulting the Shiromani Gurudwara Management Committee. The SGPC now asked to enact the All India Gurudwara Act. We also said that representation should

be given in it to the Sikhs from outside also. Our representatives are there in the committees of other States like Bengal, Delhi, U.P. etc. But what is happening now? The Government of Haryana gathered some of its people and told that they are going to enact their separate Gurudwara Act and constitute a separate committee. When it comes to our issue, every Government keeps working against us whereas we have been protecting the country and fighting for its welfare. ...(*Interruptions*)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Is this country not yours? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: It is my country. ...(*Interruptions*)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Then why are you saying like this? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: It is our country, that's why we fought. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lal Singh Ji, you can't understand this point.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Those who sacrificed so much for this country. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: You please sit down. You make your submission later on. ...(*Interruptions*) Can those people who sacrificed a lot for the country not even make a demand for something? ...(*Interruptions*) Can we not even make our submission in this country? Even after making so many sacrifices, producing foodgrains in huge quantity and fighting a lot of battles for the cause of the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the chair.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: You please go through the history. ...*(Interruptions)* We have made sacrifices and produced foodgrains for the cause of the country. Can we not even make a demand for our legitimate share? ...*(Interruptions)* Lacs of people had come here on 26th to seek their legitimate share. ...*(Interruptions)* Lacs of people had come here to seek their legitimate share. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: I would not like to take much time. I would like to make a demand that justice should be meted out to the States like ours which have contributed a lot for the prosperity of the country. Since we don't have much time today, remaining points would be raised during discussion on the budget. Secondly, something should also be earmarked for the landless farmers or agricultural labourers.

14.38 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair]

I would once again like to request hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of Finance to pay special attention to Punjab while responding to the discussion with regard to President's Address and Budget respectively. It is my request to you.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Motion of Thanks

*Not recorded.

to the hon. President for her Address to both Houses of Parliament.

Sir, it is a matter of high tradition of this Parliament to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address but at the same time we all know that this is the statement of the Government of India, drafted by the Government of India about its performance and policies. Therefore, I feel that this is the statement of non-performance, misrule and betrayal of all the promises given to the people of India in the last four years. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Are you talking about the Karnataka Government?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: No, it is about the UPA Government.

Sir, I will start from the issue of price rise. Hon. Rashtrapatiiji in her Address has said:

"It will continue to be the endeavour of my Government to sustain growth while keeping prices under check. My Government has endeavoured to insulate the Indian consumer from these global inflationary trends."

Today only the newspapers have come out with the performance of this Government on controlling the price rise issue.

[Translation]

It has been published in the newspapers 'Budget ka dekha Rang, Mehangai ne kiya dang'. While responding to the Budget, the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had termed it a public budget, but it became impossible for the common man to make both ends meet due to substantial increase in the prices of foodgrains on the third day after the presentation of budget. After presentation of budget, the price of wheat went up by rupees 100 per quintal and in case of pulses it went up by rupees 200 per quintal. After presentation of budget, not only the common men but the businessmen also failed to understand as to what was happening. The wholesale price of each commodity has increased from a

minimum of rupee one to a maximum of 15 rupees and the price of the same in the retail market has increased from a minimum of rupees two to a maximum of rupees twenty. Since Monday last, the situation is such that the price of rice, which was Rs.15 till the presentation of budget, has now increased to rupees 18 per kg. Similarly, the prices of Arhar and Masoor pulses have increased by rupees two to three per kg. The price of wheat in the wholesale market has increased by rupees 100 per quintal whereas in the retail market it has increased by rupees two per kg.

[*English*]

All these things are there. Sir, I want to ask one straight question. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): You have not mentioned the name of newspaper in which it has been published and who has written it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: The name of this newspaper in the *Rashtriya Sahara*. It is today's newspaper.

[*English*]

All the newspapers have reported this. Actually, in the last four years, the prices are spiralling. Unfortunately, if my friends, who are also senior Cabinet Ministers want to take it very lightly about the rising prices and.

[*Translation*]

If you want to play with the life of the common man.

[*English*]

We can also protest. I would like to say just this thing that they should be serious about the common man's plight. You cannot be taking the common man for granted. I also, through you, request them not to take lightly the rising prices in the country.

I have read from one of the esteemed newspapers, *Rashtriya Sahara*. Three days back various other newspapers had given tabular forms of what were the prices of various essential commodities three days back before the presentation of the Budget and what they have become now, after three days, later.

In the last Presidential Address also, this Government had said:

"My Government recognizes that keeping a check on inflation is an essential element of any strategy for inclusive growth..... the fall out of steep increase in global oil prices and resurgence in global commodity price.

.....My Government will continue to take all necessary steps to ensure that poor are not adversely affected by inflation. This is our solemn commitment.

.....As growth and investment accelerate rapidly and incomes rise, there is bound to be a rising demand for the products, particularly products of the day to day consumption."

My only question to this Government is what they are going to do about rising prices. How are they going to control the rise in prices? We want to know whether there is any strategy. There are three economic experts. The Prime Minister himself is an economist. The Finance Minister is a so-called economist. Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia is another economist. This is the trolka which has taken the country for a ride by the spiralling rise in the prices. ...(*Interruptions*)

Secondly, I want to raise a serious question about recently announced loan waiver. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: That is not in President's Address. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I will read out for the courtesy of the Chief Whip of the Congress Party who has not read the Presidential Address himself. It is mentioned at page no. 3 of the President's Address.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It is about 'indebtedness'.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: In page no. 3 of the President's Address as given to both the Houses of Parliament on 25.2.08, it is said:

"Government had appointed an Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness under the chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna and its report has since been received. The recommendations of the Group are under Government's active consideration."

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

You say that you know the recommendations of the Radhakrishna Committee and one of the recommendations is loan waiver of small and marginal farmers. There are many more recommendations, but the Government of India, through its Budget, has not implemented them. This recommendation is to help the farmers who are suffering, the farmers who are committing suicides and we all know that lakhs of farmers have committed suicides in different parts of the country and incidents of farmer suicide have catapulted in the last four years. When that is the case. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): Do you have the figures?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I shall also state the figure. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: This has been continuing for the last ten years. You are saying of only four years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I am not disputing that. At the same time, Prof. Radhakrishna has very clearly said that incidents of farmer suicide have increased in the last couple of years.

Sir, when this matter is so serious, I do not understand why UPA or Congress Party should take political credit for this. As soon as the Loan Waiver Scheme has been unveiled, in various parts of Delhi and various parts of the country, there are thanks-giving posters, not to the Prime Minister and not to the Finance Minister, but to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Shri Rahul Gandhi. In many parts of Maharashtra, there are also posters giving thanks to Shri Sharad Pawar. Therefore, our earnest request. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): What is the objection in it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We have objection.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): What objection you have in giving thanks and anyway what thanks you will give, ...*(Interruptions)* how you will give thanks. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Our objection is this. If they have real sympathies with the farmers and with their committing suicide, then they should not politicize the issue of farmers committing suicide. ...*(Interruptions)* They should not try to take the credit of the loan waiver.

Unfortunately, there is competition amongst themselves, that is, between Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Shri Rahul Gandhi, Shri Sharad Pawar and various other constituents of the UPA. I think that they do not even know the A, B, C of the Constitution or the responsibility of the Government also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Sir, I would request him to yield for a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: No, I am not yielding. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: People belonging to your party are saying in Maharashtra that loan waiver has been given due to our agitation and they are also giving us the credit. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, Mr. Vilas Muttemwar is an hon. Minister, and I do not know how you have allowed him to speak as I have not yielded for him.

My next straight question to the hon. Prime Minister is this. Why have they not come out with the provisioning for it in the Budget, if they have rolled out a loan waiver scheme for farmers? Where is the provisioning for it? They have put all the burden on the Nationalized Banks, Cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks. What will happen to them? The hon. Minister for Banking is also sitting

here. Many of the bankers who met me the other day were asking me this. The Budget is going to be passed only in late May, and from 01 June they have to come out with fresh crop and agricultural loans for the farmers. If there is no provisioning of Rs. 60,000 crore, then we do not know about the jugglery of the entire statistics. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: You will get the answer to it during the reply of the Budget in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I am asking this because it is also said that Rs. 30,000 crore of bad debts are being waived, and Rs. 30,000 crore are going to be provided. I do not know about it. The hon. Minister for Banking should be coming forth to the Parliament. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: It will be there in the Budget reply.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What does he want right now? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let him conclude his speech. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I am asking the hon. Minister if he can tell us as to what is the provisioning for it. I will be more than happy to hear it. I am yielding for Mr. Bansal. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly address the Chair, and you do not worry about it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Yes, it is our worry. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We welcome the loan waiver scheme *per se*. We are not against the loan waiver scheme, but we feel that the hon. Finance Minister should not exhibit his political shrewdness into it. ...(*Interruptions*) He should not be making any jugglery. He should come out very straight and say that we are waiving Rs. 60,000 crore off four crore farmers and Rs. 60,000 crore is provided in the Budget. It has to be so straight-forward.

If not, then the problem will arise on 01 June, when the farmers of the entire country will be in great problem and difficulty to get fresh loans.

Secondly, I also want to know this from the hon. Prime Minister and this Government. In their reply they should come out very firmly and clearly that from 01 June fresh agricultural and crop loans will be given to the farmers of this country.

In Karnataka, when my dear friend Shri Yedurappa was the Deputy-Chief Minister and Finance Minister, he reduced the interest rate on crop loans and agricultural loans to four per cent. We were discussing about Dr. Swaminathan's Report on Agricultural Crisis in the country. Even Dr. Swaminathan's Report very clearly put forth that the interest rate should be slashed down to four per cent.

I do not know why the Government of India is keeping the interest for agri and crop loans above seven per cent. We urge and demand that it should be slashed down to four per cent.

One more question to the Government, through you, Sir, is what happens to the suicide victims' families. We would like to know whether they also get compensated. We urge that all the families of those who have committed suicides because of indebtedness should be compensated by the Government of India. They have not been given any compensation.

Both the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister day-in, day-out have said that only 40 per cent of the farmers got institutional credit, and more than 55 per cent to 60 per cent of farmers were in the clutches of the moneylenders, the *mahajans*. What will happen to their indebtedness? What will happen to their loans? What will happen to their penal interest?

I want a statement from the Government on this issue. I am demanding that they should table a status report as to how many lakhs of farmers have committed suicides, how many have taken loans from the institutions, that is, various banks, cooperatives and regional rural banks, and how many have taken loans from *mahajans* and from the moneylenders. If that statement is placed on the Table of the House, then I feel that we can proceed further on that issue.

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

The President of India has also touched the issue of terrorism. While touching the issue of internal security, the President of India said:

"The overall internal security situation remains under control. My Government is fully alive to the threat of terrorism and left wing extremism. The entire nation stood as one in condemning inhumane acts of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Assam. Government has been resolute in trying to stamp out left wing's extremism."

I want to bring out the various contradictions in the statements. It is very unfortunate that the Home Minister and the Prime Minister are speaking in different tones on such an important issue of internal security and terrorism. As far as naxalism is concerned, it is mystifying that there is no clarity at the very top level in the Government.

On 22nd December, 2007, while addressing the Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security, the Prime Minister said:

"Left wing extremism is the single biggest security challenge to the Indian State."

I want to draw the attention of both Shri Madhusudan Mistry as well as Shri Murlu Deora. Hon. Minister, Shri Murlu Deora, I am raising the issue of contradiction.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLU DEORA): You are not speaking; you are only quoting from everywhere.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I am also speaking, but whatever is being quoted is authentic. The Prime Minister, on 22nd December, 2007, while addressing the Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security, said:

"Left wing extremism is the single biggest security challenge to the Indian State."

Less than two months later, on 16th February, 2008, the Home Minister, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, in an interview to Karan Thapar on CNBC said:

"Naxalism is not the single biggest threat to the country's internal security."

Why is there this contradiction? The Prime Minister says that it is the single biggest threat to the national security, while your Home Minister disagrees with the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI MURLU DEORA: This is democracy.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Minister is making a joke of the collective responsibility of the Government on internal security. There is also a shift in dealing with the issue of cross-border terrorism from last one year to this year.

15.00 hrs.

My dear friend has asked as to why I am reading from various documents. I am reading from the Presidential Address of last year.

"It is a matter of satisfaction that the dialogue process with Pakistan is progressing steadily. The Composite dialogue, the Joint Commission and the Anti-terrorism Institutional Mechanism have provided a structural framework within which all major issues are being discussed. We remain concerned over infiltration and cross-border terrorism process is predicated on Pakistan's fulfilling its commitment not to permit any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner."

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Ministers who are sitting here, who have scant regard for the national security. I am making this charge that they have got scant regard for the fight against terrorism in the country. They have got scant regard for the lives of millions of this countrymen, the innocent people. I feel that they should be ashamed for this scant regard they are showing.

In this Presidential Address, there is no mention of the overall internal security situation by the Government. They have not mentioned as to what are they expecting from Pakistan. Actually, they should have very clearly stating to dismantle the terror infrastructure. But, they say that they are committed to peace, friendship and good neighbourly relationship with Pakistan, a stable and prosperous Pakistan. They have stated all goody-goody

things. There was no mention about cross-border terrorism. This is how they are handling.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak on the General Budget discussion all these matters. You can add all these points on the General Discussion on the Budget.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I am making one last point. The President has said:

"Today, more than ever before, the world watches this great hall of democracy with hope and expectation.... At a time when the democratic way of life has come under renewed pressure from the forces of intolerance..."

Where is democracy?

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is hardly a democratic way of doing things!

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I want one more minute. We want elections in Karnataka State to be held before April 28, 2008. Actually, today the Chief Election Commissioner and the entire Election Commission has gone there. If there is only one party which is objecting for elections in Karnataka, that is the Congress party, the UPA Government. Shame on them! They are running away from the elections there. They want to extend the President's rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a constitutional provision. Nobody can extend it without amending the Constitution.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Today, I want your protection. Today, all-party meeting is there. All the parties in Karnataka are saying that they want democratic elections. We want people's mandate. If at all one party which is dilly-dallying for elections, that is the Congress party. Actually, they are trying to commit a constitutional conspiracy as they did during 1975-77. They clamped the Emergency and they extended the period of Vidhan Sabhas and Lok Sabha. More than 100 times, they brought the President's rule in States, including in Kerala. For the first time, in 1959, Shri EMS Namboodiripad was dethroned and they brought the President's rule. You were witness to that. Now, in Karnataka, the Notification of Delimitation Commission was issued in November, 2007; Cabinet's approval was given in February, 2008; and President's assent was given on 19th February, 2008. My only question to this Congress-led UPA Government

is this. When the Delimitation Commission has notified in November, 2007, why did they take two and a half months to give the Cabinet's approval and send it to the President's assent. It is a constitutional conspiracy.

Therefore, we urge the Election Commission through the annals of the Parliament, we also urge the Congress Party and the UPA Government, not to put any obstacle in holding Karnataka elections before 28th May. Hon. Supreme court has made it very clear I quote:

"Once there is dissolution of the Assembly the Election Commission shall take immediate steps to conduct the elections and see that new Assembly is formed at the earliest point of time. A democratic form of Government would survive only if there are elected representatives to rule the country. Any delay on the part of the Election Commission is very crucial and it is the Constitutional duty of the Election Commission to take steps immediately on dissolution of the Assembly."

Sir, this is the ruling given by the Supreme Court and the Congress Party is taking many-many steps to stall the elections. I would like to quote only one incident. We have a precedent in 1973-74 when Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous State, and Orissa was under President's rule. Within three months, that too in a pre-computerised era, everything was completed and the elections were conducted and the President's Rule was not extended. This was in 1973-74. We are in 2008, a computerized age. Karnataka is IT-savvy. When this is the condition, I do not understand why the Congress Party and the UPA Government are adopting the delaying tactics.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You do not worry about the elections. It will take its own course.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: When they say that they adhere to democracy, they should do so in action. They cannot say one thing here in the Parliament and run away from the people in the State of Karnataka. Therefore, I urge that this Government is duty-bound to look after the people's welfare, farmers' welfare, to look after the security of the country, to take care of the democracy and conduct the elections of Karnataka State Assembly before 28th May.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): I rise to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

Address initiated by Shri Ajit Jogi and supported by Shrimati Krishna Tirath. I support it. This discussion has been continuing since yesterday but it is a matter of great surprise that President's Address and Budget have been mixed and this discussion is now no longer limited to President's Address only. The issue of loan waiver for farmers is repeatedly cropping up during this discussion. I think our friends in the opposition are unable to digest it and they are trying to mislead the people and farmers through their wrong, baseless, illogical views. Here yesterday, Advaniji had expressed serious doubt about inclusive growth and had said that it should not have been used. I quote from the President's Address.

[English]

"The measure taken by my Government has created necessary architecture of inclusive growth."

[Translation]

UPA Government, functioning under the leadership of Congress for the last four years has remained focused on the point that no section of the society remains outside the structure of development. The Central Government has tried to provide the funds to the maximum extent. A major programme of Bharat Nirman has been started in the last four years. During these last four years several measures were taken and the biggest revolutionary measure was taken in the form of an Act, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which was implemented in the entire country. A revolutionary law—Right to Information Act, which was the demand of the people and the NGOs in the entire country, was enacted. More than eight crore tribals live in this country. There were questions regarding the rights of Scheduled tribes and traditional forest dwellers in regard to forest produce and forest land and therefore, the Forest Right Act was passed in this regard. So, several measures were undertaken and laws enacted which have the potential to uplift the standard of living of all the poor people and change the face and economic condition of the country. But I have to say with regret that we have a federal system and within this system, the Central Government can enact various laws and formulate many schemes but the responsibility to implement them lies with the States and the Centre has to depend on State governments for the implementation of its laws and schemes.

15.12 hrs.

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the chair*]

Besides the State governments have been given a lot of rights in the Constitution. Several of our colleagues

sitting in the left side always object if the Centre provides any help to the State on its own, that it is a matter of State and how Centre can directly interfere into it. I recall very clearly that when the said incident occurred in Gujarat in the year 2002 our friends were in the Government and I went to see Advaniji and Vajpayeeji and requested them to handover the law and order administration in the State to the Army. They told me that the Army will be deployed, but the area will not be handed over to the Army. Thus the Centre could do nothing regarding that matter. The people kept on getting killed and it was made an issue in the election and they won the election. ...*(Interruptions)* I am citing this example that nowadays naxal incidents are taking place in Chhattisgarh or in other areas. I myself had gone there on behalf of my party and I have submitted the report. Most of the naxal incidents are taking place in that entire area. However, the Central Government can not take direct action in these areas despite its willingness because this subject comes under the State list and the State has to see all these matters itself.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the discussion on the President's Address which is going on for the last two days, an attempt is being made to create an environment that all things have to be done by the Central Government, they have to do nothing. If a farmer has to take a small loan, he will also come to the Central Government, the matters related to law and order or mal-nutrition, everything will also come before the Central Government. More funds and materials should be provided to the State governments under those schemes by the Central Government, the Planning Commission and the Finance Commission. I am telling only for the kind information of the hon'ble Members that an amount of Rs. 65,766 crores had been given to the State Governments as state share in the year 2003-2004.

Their State share has now increased to rupees one lakh, 78 thousand 765 crore during these four years. That is why, I want to say that the UPA Government at the Centre provides assistance to the State governments for removing mal-nutrition, providing primary education, making arrangement for law and order, promoting agriculture, infrastructure, modernization of police force and giving initiative to consumer goods, but the States have not been successful in implementing them due to their own poor governance and lack of political will. The performance level of States like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan is low in regard to removing malnutrition, primary education, arrangement of law and order,

promoting agriculture, infrastructure, modernization of police force and giving initiative to consumer goods. Gujarat stands seventh, not first in agriculture. I am saying this only for the kind information of the hon'ble Members.
...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): This has been the tradition that I have not seen two Gujaratis fighting at the same time.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying that in the year 2003-04, agriculture.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: That is why people taught you a lesson.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Don't worry, its effect does not last long. You are going on your own way. You won election on communal base but you will never succeed at national level. You knew that and keep it up to Gujarat only. Don't bring it here.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been mentioned. There is inclusive growth in the entire country. The poor people here constitute about 30 percent having income of less than a dollar per day. We know there are more than 55 crore middle class people having purchasing capacity of less than country like USA. The objective of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was to ensure more money wages and work for the poor, so that the villages can prosper. What is the condition in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat? What is the present situation? There is provision under this Act that minimum wages will be given to agriculture labourers but it is not implemented in regard to scheduled professions. The agriculture wage in the State is Rs. 50 and at some places only Rs. 20, 25, 40 or 45 are paid as wages. In several States, the minimum wages is Rs.100/-. This amount is provided by the Central Government. If Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat or other States increase minimum wages, then they do not have to pay. This is to be given by the UPA Government at Delhi. My colleague from Bihar has come. I would like to ask him as to whether they do not want to see more wages paid to the poor labourers? When the issue of farmers was raised, it was said that there is nothing for labourers in the President's Address.

This Employment Guarantee Act has been implemented in all the districts of the country from this year. He deliberately wants to say such thing so that these people do not get money or get less money.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

[Translation]

He has not mentioned anyone's name.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I have not mentioned name. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have been asked, I so I want to tell. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. I cannot help you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Yes, Sir, I am not yielding. I know about Shri Prabhunath Singh.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Since he is in the habit of doing such thing. I knew that he would surely stand up to interrupt. Now, I will mention more thing, but please don't stand up again. He is talking about an inclusive growth, I want to ask him why it is not being implemented in the States ruled by his party. Why they are not increasing minimum wages, why they are not providing jobs for hundred days? It is their intention that the family of labour should not get money. They have always adopted strategy not to implement the steps for inclusive growth taken by the Central Government in their respective States so that the figure may remain static and unchanged. I cite another example which is about Scheduled Tribe and other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act passed by our Parliament. Eight crore tribals and other non-tribals, dwelling in the forests of the country were to be benefited by this Act. These people who used to cultivate four or more hectares

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

of land were also to be benefited by this Act. This Act was meant for rectifying the historical injustice being perpetrated on tribals and non-tribals since the British era and to reestablish them. Rules were passed in January alone but no State wants to implement them. For examples Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat do not want to implement them. I am surprised and also feel sad that I hail from the State where not a single tribesman has been given lease during the last six years by the Chief Minister. I say this on record that during election, 2000 people were invited but no one was given lease. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Gadhavi, when you will be speaking, you can reply to these points. Do not disturb unnecessarily. You will have the right to reply. Shri Mistry, please address the Chair now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot speak whatever you desire.

[Translation]

You will only express you desire. Please express your desire later.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mistry, please go ahead now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I am amazed by his interrupting habit and not letting others to speak—it means heads I win tails you loose. He does not have tolerance. This is a very big problem with him. ...*(Interruptions)* You were talking about Bihar government. You talk about other governments. You never talked about the whole nation. You have always talked about your own State.

Sir, on the 13 of last month when tribals came to know that the Act would vest with them right of lands and it would establish their rights on glue, sealing wax, chironji, leaves of Tendu, Mahua and it would establish their historical rights, they demanded the same and moved towards the forests. They were arrested and beaten up and put into range office. When people came to set them free from range office at Ten o'clock in the morning, there was firing and a person who was forcefully arrested at 6 o'clock in the morning, was killed in this fake encounter. He was killed at a point blank range. This is the situation prevailing but today their governments do not want that tribals in the country should be given benefits under this law and they should be brought under inclusive growth.

Their governments prefer people of certain classes which prevails even now. I am surprised to see how Shri Prabhunath Singh, an honourable member keeps on supporting them even after he knows their character and working style. The bigger issue before them was inclusive growth. I assume that majority of BPL families hail from tribals areas. Landless labours are the poorest families in the country. And the programmes and laws meant for these sections need to be implemented in the country properly. They are demanding thirty percent and for that the leader of opposition party was shedding crocodile tears yesterday. If they were in hurry, they could have done something for them, but they cannot do any thing.

Sir, several schemes have been included in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act. Just now Shri Anant Geete Ji raised the issue about the regional imbalances. Our Central Government have started a Backward Region Grant Fund to remove regional imbalances. It has been implemented in several States. Under this scheme the Centre directly send fund to the districts. District Development Officer prepares plan for the development of the whole district and sent it to the Centre. But our government did not avail the assistance of 20 crores of rupees, the Gujarat Government did not get the plan prepared. There are so many State governments which are interested in maintaining these imbalances. They do not want the development of these people. I want to ask their governments how many people have been given employment for hundred days, how many people have been given the rights for lease and the benefits of Rs. 20 crores after the commencement of these schemes? The Central Government are responsible for everything. I have last year report with me which included eight or nine sectors—they are agriculture,

*Not recorded.

investment, environment, primary education, infrastructure, consumer market, law and order etc. The position of every State with ranking in different heads have been laid for the year 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, they are given in different variables. I want to know why there is no difference in variable and ranking, why is there stagnation. Yesterday, my colleague from the left party was speaking, there is no different in ranking in West Bengal, why the position in the year 2003 remains as it was before. Madhya Pradesh has the same position, why the position of Primary Education in Bihar remains the same and this is issue of political will and governance, only money does not matter. The Centre cannot do everything. It should be our will to do away all such things.

Who has stopped you from making more allocation for education, who stopped you from making more allocation for agriculture to State Governments and who stopped this Government from modernizing police force in a significant manner? I want to know that why these States are lagging behind in the matter of law and order? All these questions are related to Governance. All these questions are related to the allocation of Budget, how the budget allocation priority is fixed? If we go through the budget allocation of all the States in the country, we will see that all those who have assets have been benefited more. Assetless agricultural labour, unskilled labour did not get any benefit in those States. What is their planning in the States? Who stopped their Chief Ministers? We would like to know as to how many promises given in your manifesto have been fulfilled?

I would like to say that due to election these people are afraid of the development related things that have been mentioned by the President in her Address. Now they are saying that this is related to loan waiver. We had not demanded that and we did not know that this would happen. Now, all these people want to take credit for it. But, now not to talk of the credit. They have been trying to discredit this scheme since past three days. Their intention is not going to be materialized. The UPA Government will complete its tenure of five years and the elections will take place on time. After that, the UPA Government will again come to power. As regards Advaniji, who is day dreaming to be the next Prime Minister and wants an early election to take over the PM's seat, will be disappointed. Prabhunathji, you please make him to understand that now he is 81 years old and not to think about becoming next Prime Minister. Bring forward some young leader from BJP. His internal desire is not going

to be fulfilled. This Government will complete its full tenure of five years with high colours and the farmers of this country will come to know, who is with them and who is against them. Who has done what? With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you immensely for the chance given to me to participate in the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address on behalf of my DMK Party headed by our revered leader Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi.

At this point of our country's history, we are all indeed proud and happy to have a very learned and experienced lady with a humane heart, embellished by qualities of humility, simplicity and patriotism as the Head of the Republic and the President of Bharat. Particularly, I have a deep sense of pride in mentioning that our leader Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi has played a major role in electing our first Lady President to this beautiful and most democratic country in the world. He is the first man who arranged a massive rally of women in Chennai in support of our first Lady President.

At this juncture, I want to quote the words of the great Tamil Poet Kavimani Deciya Vinayagam Pillai who said:

"Mangaiyarai Pirappadharke Nalla Maathavam Seithida Vendumamma."

The meaning of this couplet is that only the blessed are born as women and our Lady President Shrimati Pratibha Patil is the best example for this.

With full optimism, the hon. President in her Address to the Joint Session of Parliament has given a graphic profile of the strategy and great plans adopted by the Government of India to achieve faster and comprehensive economic and social development. In her Address, she has beautifully mentioned the fact that "architecture of inclusive growth" has been created by the UPA Government.

The Indian economy has acquired a high degree of buoyancy in comparison with that of the previous years. The accelerating growth rate is a harbinger of even better times to come. India is getting transformed into a veritable Economic Power House with a growing image and reputation before the Comity of Nations.

[Shri M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran]

In the President's Address, she has talked about five pillars as the foundation for the new architecture of inclusive national development. They are the Bharat Nirman, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the National Rural Health Mission, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan with a Universal Mid-Day Meal Programme.

In all humility, I would venture to call these five Programmes as the "New Panchasheel" for the inclusive economic development of our country. The earlier Panchasheel for international peace was propounded by our former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We are confident that the New Panchasheel will take the nation to great heights of glory and prosperity.

The economic management of our country is excellent. The rate of inflation has been kept under control in spite of the sustained pressures in the global oil prices. Here, the mention of 30 Mega Food Parks in the President's Address gives us immense happiness.

When the President pronounced that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act would extend from the 330 districts to cover all the rural districts of the country from April 2008, we could hear the heartfelt applause of the Joint Session and I join in the appreciation since my most backward district Ramanathapuram comes under this category.

When the President spoke about the Prime Minister's new 15-Point Programme, she clearly mentioned that based on the Sachar Committee's Report, the UPA Government has allocated, through the 11th Plan, Rs. 800 crore for merit-cum-means based scholarship for professional courses, nearly Rs. 3300 crore for post and pre-matric scholarship programmes for minority students and Rs. 3780 crore for the development of 90 minority concentration districts. This announcement is very much appreciated. We should express our hearty thanks to our hon. President of India.

"Women hold up half the sky" — these are not my words, but our hon. President has said this in her speech. Though the "Empowerment of Women" is on the progress through the National Literacy Mission and legal equality for women in all spheres, we feel that there is still more to be done in this field by our UPA Government. Amendments have been made to the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, the

Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 and also the Protection of Women and Child Act, still we are all hesitating to give 33% reservation to the women-folk in Parliament and State Assemblies. No one will deny the fact that our UPA Chairperson, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, tries hard for this piece of legislation and I am sure, in the Presidentship of a lady President and lady UPA Chairperson, the 33% reservation will be brought about soon to this country with the consensus of all the parties who speak about this daily on the stages.

Here, the whole India should congratulate our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi, who has brought this 33% reservation long back in Tamil Nadu through Panchayats of local administration. When I speak about Dr. Kalaaignar M. Karunanidhi, two things come to my mind. They are the plea from the State Government of Tamil Nadu to acknowledge Tamil language as official language and also to accept the requisition from the Tamil Nadu Government to bring a legislation to make Tamil as a court language in the High Court. We, the people of Tamil Nadu, want that in the High Court of Tamil Nadu, the decrees and judgements should be passed in Tamil. I make this plea not only on behalf of our Tamil language, but for all the regional languages.

The words "Incredible India" are very much attractive and as our President has expressed that this "Incredible India" campaign has given a thrust to tourism in India and the foreign exchange earnings from tourists have touched US\$ 12 billion in 2007. At this juncture, I make my earnest plea to the UPA Government that you should turn your eyes to the beautiful coastal area of Rameswaram and also its heritage sites and I am sure it will add more to the development of tourism and bring attractive income to the Centre.

When I mention about the coastal area of my constituency, nothing can prevent me from mentioning about the plight of our fishermen. Though the overall "internal security" situation remains under control and also the foreign policy of our Government seeks to promote an environment of peace and stability, as it has been mentioned in the President's speech, the fact is that our fishermen still remain under pain and sufferings. Our fishermen in the coastal area of Rameswaram and nearby areas are always put into trouble by Sri Lankan Navy. Our fishermen are very often shot out by Sri Lankan Navy and the boats are taken away and the fishermen are kept in prison in Sri Lanka. Whenever the fishermen make their pathetic cry, our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil

Nadu Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi contacts our Centre and rescues them. I make my earnest plea that the Centre should make a permanent solution as promised by our hon. External Affairs Minister in his speech yesterday.

In order to make the prosperous livelihood of our fishermen, the UPA Government has to make a special economic zone specifically meant for them.

Sir, the coastal area in my constituency is about 270 kms. and it is a vast coastal area. So it is the need of the hour to start an Oceanographic University as has been mentioned by our hon. Minister of Shipping and Transport Shri T.R. Baalu and also by our hon. Minister of Science and Technology Shri Kapil Sibal. It will surely bring cheers to the fishermen of my constituency.

Sir, in all sense, our hon. President has presented to the nation a very impressive and thought-provoking Address. Already our UPA Government's execution of schemes is like a jack fruit and the President's confident speech adds honey to the jack fruit.

Sir, I want to stress one point here. The President, in her Address, said that "My Government has been paying special attention to the welfare of our farmers". It is true and in the Budget our hon. Finance Minister has announced that farmers' loan to the tune of Rs. 60,000 crore would be waived. Shri Ananth Kumar is not present here now. He is an important leader of the BJP and he expressed his concern about suicides of farmers throughout the country. But whenever Cauvery water is to be released to Tamil Nadu he was always objecting to the release of Cauvery water even for drinking water purpose. So, through this august House, I would like to make an earnest plea to Shri Ananth Kumar to have a sympathetic look towards the plight of farmers of Tamil Nadu and release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Sir, I would like to conclude my speech with the words of the great Tamil Saint Thiruvalluvar who has aptly said about a prosperous nation in the following words:

"Piniyinmai Selvam Vilaivinbam Yemam Ani Enba Nattirku Ivvaithu"

The meaning of these words is that the five ornaments of a prosperous nation are unfailing health, wealth, rich harvests, popular pleasures and security. So, we should strive hard to achieve the goal of a prosperous

nation. Our hon. President insists in her Address that only the devoted participation of the people in planning and implementation of the schemes will make our India as a prosperous nation.

I, once again, thank our hon. President on behalf of our DMK Party for her optimistic Address.

[Translation]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Shivhar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I've risen in support of vote of thanks on the Presidential address. To my mind, no amount of admiration or praise will be sufficient in terms of Her Excellency. ...*(Interruptions)* President regarding the Address and on the functioning of the present Government. Sir, the Government will strive hard in the interest of all the sections of the people and the poor as well as farmers and the belonging to all the sectors. This address explicitly reflects this theme. I've been listening honourable Members' speech since yesterday and everyone of us has analysed it in his or her own ways. The treasury bench has its own ways of analysis while the opposition has the other pattern of looking at things.

Sir, ours is a democratic state, there is a host of political parties here and they analyse the initiatives of the Government having distinct political views in their minds. However, all of us are sitting there in Parliament and the people of the country listen to our views very carefully and subjects them to their individual analysis in distinct ways.

Let me come back to the point. There are many important points in the Presidential Address. This Address consists of subjects like Bharat Nirman Yojna, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, National Rural Health Mission, Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission. Right to Information et al. Farmers are getting due attention in the House. The poor prominently figure in the address and their condition is to be improved through many schemes. To bridge the gap between villages and cities Bharat Nirman Scheme has been launched. One will hardly spot any lacunae in the slew of schemes being underlined for the successive upgradation and development of villages and towns.

However, the most significant issue is that the amount allocated in the budget under federal structure is directly sent to the State Governments for expenditure by the Government of India. The Government of India directly

[Shri Sitaram Singh]

allocates the funds to the districts for some schemes. The core issue is whether the funds allocated to the States in terms of the villages and the other developmental affairs is spent judiciously. It ought to be pondered over properly in the House and the Government should also evince a little bit of seriousness in this regard. I don't want to talk of money but would like to quote our former Prime Minister Late Rajeev Gandhi, "out of the entire amount sent for the development a major chunk is siphoned off by the middlemen." Therefore, Government should evolve a better way to control it. These things don't figure in the Presidential Address.

In course of my comments on Presidential Address I would like to submit through you that the amount sent by the Government to be spent in the States, a proper control and upkeep mechanism and a proper system should be developed this end.

I hold the conviction that the amount earmarked for development should exclusively be spent under that specific heads. Employment Guarantee scheme is being implemented in certain parts of the country. Now, the Government have decided to implement it in all the districts of the country. A better scheme has never been witnessed in India as far as legislation or laws are concerned. You will be surprised to know that in the State ear-marked for the implementation of NREGS funds are not being utilized properly under this scheme as has been experienced by me during Committee tours. The poor have to be offered job with the allotment of job cards, it is not being effected properly. At many places the attendance of the poor is being marked and the amount is being drawn by the Government employee. All this is happening in Bihar where I hail from. There are several such examples that show that the Employment Guarantee Scheme is not being implemented properly. The poor are not being provided with job cards. Money is being embezzled on some pretext or the other at the higher level itself. People are not getting 100 days' employment there. The poor are being subjected to sufferings and exploitation and the amount meant for them is being siphoned off.

I want to assert and strongly suggest that the amount allotted by the Government be incurred in the regulated manner under the heads for which it has been earmarked. The Government should be more serious on this count. Work is being undertaken under Bharat Nirman. Pradhanmantri Path is being constructed. I would like to warn the Government on one count.

Honourable Ministers of the Government are sitting here. There are several States in the country that are being run by different political parties. Now, there is some scheme of the Union Government but the State Government is getting publicity in villages. The party having its Government in the State is patting its back for that. It puts its signboard and lay the foundation stone and inaugurate the scheme and claim. The same as their own scheme. I would like to say that MPs should be a part of all the schemes of the Government of India but this is not happening. Apart from Congress governed States, Congress is neither claiming its name nor the Government of India's name. In all the other States ruled by opposition parties, other than UPA are patting their back. In our State Bihar, the Government of India is providing money but all the signboards are bearing the name of Chief Minister, Government of Bihar. *(Interruptions)* You make recommendations and we provide the money. Now we are the one who are making laws and they have got their names written by making recommendations. Nowhere the name of Government of India is mentioned. Our names has to be mentioned as per guidelines but there is aversion to MPs. It is the same story with any scheme of the Government of India, be it Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna or Employment Guarantee Scheme. The revolutionary step you have taken to enhance the old age pension to Rs. 200, but whether that money has reached to the poor? Whether that fund is being monitored? You have asked the State Governments to enhance the amount to Rs. 200 from Rs. 100 but the same has not been done. The fund sent from Delhi for the poor is also not distributed properly. The old age pension scheme formulated for poor by you is not reaching to the target group. Government of India's fund is not distributed properly. Today, the Employment Guarantee Scheme has the same fate. Your name is not being mentioned even in Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojna. Hon'ble Ministers of the Government of India, I want to caution you that you have taken many revolutionary steps now. You have waived off loans of farmers. So much debate is going on it. Geetaji and Anant Kumar Ji are speaking. One thing is clear that they do not have a single word to oppose it.

The moment hon'ble Minister of Finance was announcing loan waiver for farmers and 3 to 4 crore farmers are likely to be benefited from it, at that point you people were making a din, it was watched by the people and they were saying why these people are opposing this budget. I want to say to you that do not delay. Otherwise in the States ruled by other than UPA,

the State Government will take the credit for it. I am telling the truth. They will claim that they have waived off the loans. They will say in villages that this has been done by them not by the UPA Government. Other States may not do this but our State will definitely say like this. They will claim that they have waived off the loans, but we are not going to be silent. We are planning to have a procession of farmers. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here, I want to say an important thing to you that the publicity through media and T.V. of the schemes passed by you is not going to be enough. You should ponder over this that how your schemes and works carried out by you can get publicity at village and district level. You should implement this mantra in a better way otherwise other people will take all the credit for works done by you. These people are saying that this is an election year budget. I want to ask them who had stopped them from presenting an election year budget in the year 2004. Hon'ble leader of opposition has accepted that we should have said that India is moving towards development instead of India Shining. UPA Government done a lot. UPA Government has taken concrete steps with sincerity during the last four years but its publicity has been negligible. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Sir, I seldom speak. I have just begun. I will conclude by saying one or two more things. Whatever I will speak I will speak in a balanced way.

Therefore, I will urge upon the Government that you should develop a system by giving it a serious thought for the publicity of your schemes and from villages to towns, everywhere whenever a Government of India's plan is being implemented in States, these should be done in the name of Government of India. You should make arrangement for that and specially monitor the schemes being run for the poors so that they get the intended benefits. Do not leave this on State Government only, carry out its monitoring so that the funds given by you should reach in the hands of needy persons. I thank the Government a thousand times on the issue of farmers. Government has said that it is going to waive off the loans of farmers. An erudite analysis of the provisions made by you in the budget was being done by Anant Kumar Ji. He said that this will increase the burden on Banks. It seems that Banks have their own account. A villager like me cannot comprehend whether the money

in Banks does not belong to the Government. Is this money belongs to Bank employees?

16.00 hrs.

Government has to make arrangement for that. The Reserve Bank is under the control of the Government of India. Therefore, when the Government has said that it will waive off the loans of farmers then it will certainly make provision in the budget and loans are bound to be waived off.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

SHRI SITARAM SINGH: When the process of waiver starts from 1st June then I urge upon you to adopt such a system for loan waiver that farmers of villages should not have to wander here and there and could not be harassed by Bank people and their loan can be waived off smoothly.

Our country is unique. We have variety of crops and foodgrains here. A few moments earlier one of my colleague spoke about cotton. I will also like to say about sugarcane farmers of my region. Every year sugarcane growers get minimum support price but it is not fixed in Bihar. Mill owners fix the prices arbitrarily there. Rs. 87, Rs. 88 or Rs. 100 whatever price is fixed by the Government of India, State Government add something to that and sugarcane growers get receipt as per that from the mill owners, but we have seen that in Bihar no rate is mentioned on these receipts. This causes great inconvenience to sugarcane growers of Bihar. At one hand they are not getting outstanding amount and on the other hand receipts given to him by sugar mill owners in lieu of sugarcane has no rate mentioned on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken almost 20 minutes. There are other Members from your party to speak. So, please conclude now. There are several other hon'ble Members to speak.

SHRI SITARAM SINGH: I am concluding. I would urge upon the Government that sugarcane growers should get their outstanding amounts and fair rates should be written on receipts. Arrangements should be made in such a way that facilitates relief to sugarcane growers from mill owners.

I thank you for the funds provided by you throughout the country for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Schools are being built and teachers are being appointed.

[Shri Sita Ram Singh]

This has been left to the State Government and the State Government is appointing such teachers who are even not able to write their names; then what will they teach to the children. You provide money for serving nutritious diet to school children. My point is that the poor children in Bihar are not getting the said nutritious diet. It is being sold in the open market and there is an absolute loot in this regard. That is why you should pay attention to all these things. The Union Government provides money to the States for Antyodaya Yojana, Annapurna Yojana and for BPL, but in Bihar, the targeted people are not getting these benefits because these benefits get exhausted in the midway. What the representatives of the State Government are doing, kindly find it by conducting an enquiry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, conclude your speech and if the speech still remains, lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI SITARAM SINGH: Alright, I am concluding it. With these words, I support the Vote of Thanks on the President's Address and conclude my speech.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I should also be given opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You know that you get opportunity only after all the members finish their speeches.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me opportunity to speak on the Vote of Thanks on the President's Address. Since yesterday, the debate has been going on for and against, and all the members have put their views in detail.

The most important point which we see in the President's Address is that more emphasis has been given on Bharat Nirman and it has been tried to touch each and every point regarding the works done during the last three-four years under the UPA Government. Presently the migration of the rural people towards the cities is increasing. Many schemes such as Bharat Nirman etc. are being implemented to fill the gap between villages and cities but it is to be seen that upto what extent these schemes have been fruitful and effective. In my opinion, the dream of Bharat Nirman will not come true until and unless the points mentioned in the President's Address are turned into reality on ground level.

Secondly, one of our Members of the opposition party mentioned about price rise, discussion on price rise takes

place in every session. The prices of petrol and diesel were increased just before the commencement of the session. Indirectly, the farmers have been adversely affected. Due to rise in the prices of petrol and diesel the cost of items of daily use automatically increases which results in their price rise.

Thirdly, the recommendations of Sachhar Committee have been mentioned here. Some declarations have also been made here that provision of rupees 3080 crore has been made for the development of 90 minority dominated areas in 11th Five year plan. A provision of rupees 800 crore has been made for the scholarship to be given to the students of professional courses. Provision of rupees 3500 crore has been made for the schools of secondary level.

The discussion on all round development of the people of minority community has always taken place in this House. Before our Independence and after the Independence upto some time it was observed that the expected economic, social and educational development of minority community did not take place. Strict compliance of the report of Sachhar Committee be made and its fruits should reach upto ground level; then only there will be any development and improvement in the life of minority community.

Mr. Chairman Sir, there is mention of farmers and poverty prevalent in the country in the said Address but there is no mention of suicides being committed by the farmers. We have always put our demand to implement Swaminathan Committee Report, be it in this House, at Jantar-Mantar or before the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. More than 40 thousand farmers have committed suicides. I would like to say that a compensation of at least Rs. 10 lakhs should be given to the families of each of the farmers who committed suicides so that they can be bailed out of poverty.

The long pending demand to provide the status of minority educational institution to the two institutions of minority community i.e. Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Milia University should be fulfilled and thus these institutions may be strengthened.

Hon'ble Sitaramji and other hon'ble Members also have said that budgetary provision has been made for basic secondary and higher education. They have said about Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and about strengthening the basic education but until and unless we strengthen

basic education we would not be able to provide facility to the students at secondary and higher education level. Only one community is getting education whereas the poor people are deprived of it even today. We shall have to pay attention towards it.

The point of employment has been mentioned. Some hon'ble Members have said that employment to 70 lakh persons has been provided under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. You gave employment to 70 lakh persons out of the total population of 100 crore and later on you said that this scheme would be implemented throughout the country but reality is that you are not providing required employment. Migration from villages to cities is increasing day by day.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the objective of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was to provide employment and wages to those persons who get a job card, but in reality it is not happening so. Especially, you can have a look at any district of Uttar Pradesh. People are staging Dharna there. Such Dharnas took place because village Heads are keeping such cards with them. People are not getting employment. They are not getting money as they are devoid of employment opportunities. Until and unless we implement this scheme at ground level, we can not get rid of unemployment. The same discussion takes place inside and outside of the House that at least educated youths certainly be given employment and if employment is not provided, unemployment allowance must be given to them. Such provision be made in the budget. There is no mention in regard to giving unemployment allowance in the President's Address. When we were in power in Uttar Pradesh we gave Unemployment allowance. But today youths are unemployed throughout the country. If we are not able to provide them employment at least unemployment allowance must be given.

The issue of malnutrition has been raised here. It is a fact that the children of the poor and poor people belonging to scheduled castes and minority community living in slums either in rural areas or in urban areas are suffering from malnutrition. Their women remain sick. Most of the women are suffering from anemia and if their blood test is done, it will be found that their Hemoglobin in blood is may low. How can babies remain healthy if mothers are not healthy. If such scenario persists how can we make a healthy India.

In regard to Bharat Nirman, it has been said that whether it be urban area or rural area, everywhere potable

water will be provided. Sir, it has been found that specially in the areas of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the water table has depleted to a great extent. What to say of irrigation water, even drinking water is not available. Even there is no water for animals and birds. At least the Government should provide special package for drought affected Bundelkhand area by making separate provision in the budget. President's Address should have included this point, but it is not there. It is a matter of regret.

I would like to submit one thing more that the senior citizens of the country for whom you have introduced this Bill and a minimum age of 60 years has been fixed for them, health insurance scheme should be introduced for them. Only then senior citizens can be respected and their standard of living can be improved.

Price rise with regard to the foodgrains has not been specifically mentioned. The remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce has not been mentioned. Budgetary provision should be made by the Government and we always mention of it. There should be arrangements of three crops in a year for our farmer community. There should be arrangements of electricity and water for the crops. Today, the farmers find it difficult to get even one good crop. Somewhere it is flood and somewhere it is drought has created destruction. The farmers should be given the remunerative prices for their produce and it should be fixed well in time only then black-marketing can be checked.

It has been mentioned regarding Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Rural Mission in Bharat Nirman that as per the infrastructure of cities the villages would be developed at par. It is the right way for it. Specifically it has been included in slum inhabitation. There are so many such cities. There are so many Quail towns in Uttar Pradesh viz. Lucknow, Kanpur, Bareilly or Varanasi where even today nothing has been allotted under Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Rural Mission. The survey is being conducted for making bridge, paths, sewer lines and development of inhabitation but till now the sites have not been finalized. Through you I would like to urge that the new districts Kaushambi and Pratapgarh should be brought under this scheme and the work should be undertaken here. I would conclude after mentioning two or three points. So far as naxalism in the country is concerned, naxalism is being encouraged only the disgruntled unemployed youths who

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

are feeling themselves isolated from the mainstream of the society and the country are heading towards naxalism.

Today, it is necessary that the Government should initiate among their leaders and pay attention towards their problems only then we can overcome naxalism and the nation can make the progress.

There is the question of linking education with employment. Unless and until the education is not job oriented the problem of unemployment can not be solved. Specifically from class IX onwards it should be judged that the student is interested in certain kind of job. I think the problem of unemployment can be solved if education is imparted on the said base. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now, otherwise nothing will be recorded and the rest of your speech will not go on record. This is the last point that you should make.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: In regard to reservation of women also I would like to submit my points. There should be reservation for women but the women belonging to Scheduled Castes, minority and other backward classes should also get reservation only then it can be implemented. *...(Interruptions)*. I would like to draw your attention towards a matter of urgent importance. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded now. You have taken more than 13-15 minutes.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is time constrain. We have no objection, we want you discuss the whole of the day.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Should I lay my aspect on the Table of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may lay your speech. Whoever want to discuss on this subject or who are yet to speak, they may also lay their speeches. Everything can be laid on the Table. We will be happy if that is done.

*SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, kindly add the following things on vote of thanks on the address of the hon. President. Insult of Hindi Language in the country must be stopped. Speeches of the prominent leaders should be made in Hindi in the Central Hall.

Private airports should be established at Allahabad, Kaushambi and Pratapgarh. The said three places should be put on the tourist map of India.

There is a need to promote the local traditional industries in the country. Mango, banana, guava, utencil and bidi industry must be encouraged by way of providing subsidy.

Automatically insurance scheme must be implemented for the losses incurred due to flood, drought and hailstorm in the country.

Arrangements should be made to revive the sick industrial units in the country including that of Uttar Pradesh.

The services of ICDC, Sahayiron, Shiksha Mitras, Panchayat Mitras, Homeguards, Chowkidars of Police Stations and Life Health Guards may be regularized by reappointing them.

There should be arrangements of potable water, electricity, roads, sanitation, health education for betterment of urban and rural slums inhabitations.

There should be reservation for women belonging to Scheduled Castes, OBCs and minority in the reservation of women.

Education should be directly linked to employment in the country. There should be arrangements for making education job oriented from class IX onwards.*

[English]

*PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the Presidential Address to the joint session of both the Houses of Parliament.

*.....*This part of the speech was laid in the Table.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Our beloved country, the largest democracy in the world has the rare honour and excellent example in having the first woman President as the First Citizen of our nation. In her thought-provoking address the President has given much delight and deep satisfaction to all sections of our people.

The address gives us a graphic picture of the policies pursued and the programmes implemented by the UPA Government. The coalition government headed by the internationally renowned economist Dr. Man Mohan Singh advised and assisted by Smt. Sonia Gandhi and reputed leaders like Dr. Kalam have paved the best of paths for the inclusive growth in every aspect of our national life.

We are confident that the target of 9 per cent GDP growth will be achieved and there will be equal opportunity for quality education, better health, adequate employment and benevolent enterprises in the country.

In the light of the conspicuous growth and meritorious achievements we can refute the criticisms made against the government policies. In reality today's India is neither India shining nor is India suffering, but it is India blossoming. In a very short period our economy will certainly bring to us the status of super economic power in the comity of nations.

The farmers, industrial workers, labour classes of unorganised sectors, professionals, business community and every section of our political society are quite conscious of the achievements of the UPA Government.

Sir, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is implemented in all the districts of the country. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has revolutionised the educational system. All the schemes implemented by the Government are widely appreciated and admired by every section of the people.

The Government has launched several programmes for the improvement of the economic and educational status of the minorities. The Muslim Community is thankful to the Government for having taken initiatives for implementing the recommendations of the Sacchar Committee Report.

Sir, it is very welcome scheme that 90 minority concentrated districts have been selected for development programmes. It is heartening to note that Rs. 3780 crores

have been allotted for this purpose. I am sorry to say that no district from Tamil Nadu is included in the list of districts. I urge upon the Government to extend these facilities to minority concentrated towns and cities in Tamil Nadu and in other States.

When the Government comes forward to implement the Prime Minister's 15 point programme or any other scheme for the minorities, it is criticised by the BJP and their allies that it is minoritism and appeasement of minorities. The minorities, particularly the Muslims of India have been the nation-builders, freedom-fighters and upholders of the national unity and integrity. We can see these facts on each and every page of the national history.

The opposition at times criticise that there is terrorism generated by Islam and Muslims. This is the distortion of historical truth. This false and baseless allegation has been refuted by the Deoband Declaration. The Darul Uloom Deoband, the world famous Islamic University held a conference wherein more than six thousand madrasas of our country took part. The Deoband Declaration makes it clear that the madrasas don't have any link or association with terrorism or terrorists, whatsoever. We reject terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism completely negates the teachings of Islam which is the faith of love and peace. Any terrorist activity which targets innocent people directly contradicts Islam's concept of peace. Madrasas spread in every nook and corner of the country humanity, peace, reconciliation and love. This Deoband Declaration should clear all the doubts about Islam and Muslims in the country.

Muslims of this country have forever worked for its glory and greatness. E. Ahmad of Indian Union Muslim League has found a place in the Ministry of our Government. How wonderfully he had worked for release of Indian hostages from Iraq abductors is beautifully recorded in V. Sudarshan's Anatomy of an Abduction: "How the Indian Hostages in Iraq were freed".

I had the golden opportunity to be in the Government's Hajj Delegation. Hon'ble A. R. Antulay, the Minister of Minority Affairs led the delegations when we called upon the Saudi Minister of Hajj Affairs in Mina region, A.R. Antulay gave the beautiful description of how communal harmony and coexistence are maintained in India, how India treats its minorities is an exemplary way and how Indian Muslims are partners in the nation-building activities of our country. The Saudi Minister was wonder-struck when he was listening to the descriptions

[Prof. K.M. Kadeer Mohideen]

of our glory and greatness. The Muslims in the country and abroad are indeed the torch bearers of the national honour, dignity and respect in the comity of nations. I earnestly appeal to our brothers in the opposition not to indulge in false propaganda against Islam and Muslims in the country.

The Government's schemes and programmes are very beneficial for Aam Admi in the country. While we talk of Aam Admi, now we come to take into account of the destructive work of Bomb Admi also. The bomb Aadmis belong to a new category of people. They are the destructive devilish and diabolical forces that forge disunity in the society and destruction in the country. These bomb aadmis are in the form of Naxalites, Maoists, Terrorists and destructionists. These anti-social and anti-national forces are to be sternly warned and rounded up by the Government. Let the Government open the gate of persuasion to bring them into the mainstream of our national life. When persuasion fails, there is no need for any leniency in curbing the anti-national elements in the country.

We have to welcome the proposed legislation to establish Nyayalayas in every Panchayat in the country. Among the Muslims these are Mohalla Jamat Shariat Panchayats, Shariat councils and Mosque-Madrassa-based shariat tribunals. While Grama Nyayalayas are set up, due recognition to be given to the Muslim Shariat Panchayats, Shariat Councils and Shariat Tribunals. These should be included as part of the legal system of the Grama Nyayalayas in the country.

The Linguistic and Religious Minorities are happy and thankful to the Prime Minister and for the Government for having constituted the Justice Misra Commission to go into the problems faced by the minorities. The Misra Commission Report has been submitted to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. It is understood that the Misra Commission has recommended for giving separate special reservation of 15% of jobs in the government. I make an earnest appeal to the hon'ble Prime Minister to present the Misra report in the Parliament and to come forward to implement its recommendations in the Central and State Governments of our country.

Sir, I would like to quote the following lines from the historic verdict of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

"The idea of giving some special rights to the minorities is not to have a kind of a privileged or

pampered section of the population but to give to the minorities a sense of security and a feeling of Confidence. The great leaders of India since time immemorial had preached the doctrine of tolerance and catholicity of outlook. Those noble ideas are enshrined in the constitution."

Let our beloved country blossom into neo superpower that strive to establish peace, harmony, co-existence and development inside and everywhere.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Respected Sir, on behalf of Pattali Makkali Katchi and its Founder President, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by hon. Member, Shri Ajit Jogi.

16.16 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

At the outset, I express our heartfelt gratitude to the hon. President of India for her Address to both the Houses of Parliament. The Address of the President *per se* has a lot of merits which deserve our compliment and congratulations.

Firstly, the Address of the hon. President has given to the nation an objective evaluation of the performance of the UPA Government in the last four years. She has not only eulogized the performance of the Government in the last four years, but also very rightly indicated some of the challenges that are facing the nation. Therefore, it is only a mixed response to the contemporary situation of India, but nevertheless, it was an objective evaluation which any eminent Indian can do. That is what the President of India has done in her Presidential Address.

Secondly, Sir, the hon. President has outlined the spate of policies and programmes implemented by the Government in the areas of economic growth, social justice, foreign relations and security situation. Therefore, she has indicated how the Government has proceeded with various policies under the illustrious guidance of Madam Sonia Gandhi and under the dedicated leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh, a reputed Economist of the world.

Thirdly, the Address of the hon. President is full of hopes, is full of enthusiasm and full of optimism. To just quote a few sentences from her Address, I shall call your attention to page No. 19 wherein she says:

"India is on the move. There is an air of optimism among our youth and of expectation among the less-privileged sections of society. The challenge before us is to sustain the development process in the face of external and internal threats. The people of India have the potential to fuel the engine of global growth."

So, this statement of the hon. President is timely, relevant and is required to enthuse the people of India to move into a prosperous and a bright future in the Twenty-first Century. Therefore, Sir, for all these reasons, I must thank the hon. President for her Address.

Coming to the performance of the UPA Government, there were criticisms in this House both by the Opposition, the BJP, as well as by our Left friends that this Government has failed in several respects.

I think that it is an uncharitable comment as far as the performance of this Government is concerned. Any objective evaluator of the Government apart from the political leanings must reveal that this Government in the last four years has done what it has promised to the people of India. As you are aware, this UPA Government under the leadership of Madam Sonia Gandhi, started or charted the path of progress on the basis of an agreed Common Minimum Programme, the so-called CMP. In this CMP, whatever has been assured or whatever has been promised has been fulfilled to a very great extent.

For instance, the Common Minimum Programme says that this programme will ensure that the economy of India would grow at the rate of 7 to 8 per cent. But then belying all the contradictory expectations, the Indian economy in the last four years on an average has gone at the rate of 8.8 per cent, which is surpassing the fixed target. This is one of the rarest occasions in the Indian economy where the economy has grown much more than what it has been targeted for or much more than what it has been expected for. Therefore, it is the growth of the economy which has created all kinds of strong pressures on the economy and we are moving ahead, as the hon. President has said. Therefore, whatever has been mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme has been achieved by this Government. I would say that about 80 to 85 per cent of the commitments made by the UPA Government in the Common Minimum Programme has been fulfilled.

Then, it says that we have to empower the women politically, educationally, economically and legally. This has

also been done to a very great extent because the Government in the last four years has done extremely good work in the area of women. Even in the last Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has said that in about 14 Departments we have created what is called the 'gender budgeting'. Never in the history of India we have specifically earmarked funds for the development of women who constitute 50 per cent of the Indian population. Therefore, if they have to grow educationally and economically they should be given special attention and this has been done by this Government.

The Government has passed the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, which has provided for civil remedies to women in abusive and violent relationship and it has earmarked for women under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Hindu women given equal rights to inherited co-parcenary property and several other measures have been taken as per the commitment made in the UPA's Common Minimum Programme.

Empowerment of women is proceeding on the right track and I am not here to claim that the women of India have developed in the last four years very substantially but a milestone has been made and there is a decisive will power on the part of the Government to improve the lot of the women in this country.

Now, coming to the question of social justice, I would say that no other Government in the last 60 years has shown so much of interest in social resource as this Government. Many other Governments were interested in the economic growth but without social justice, economic growth becomes meaningless. We have a 7 to 8 per cent growth in GDP but leaving a large sections of people uncovered by the benefits of growth is not meaningful to a society. Therefore, what Ambedkar said that unequal treatment to unequals is the cornerstone of social justice. Based on that concept, this Government is moving towards providing social justice to the people.

One of the important measures that the Government has taken is, to provide for OBC reservation in higher education institutions. With a rare sense of unanimity, this House passed the 104th Act which is now lying before the Supreme Court. If this measure has been implemented, then 52 per cent of the Indian population will get the benefit. But what is appreciable is that this Government has shown that sense of responsibility, social responsibility towards the weaker sections of society

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

including the OBCs. Therefore, this Government is doing what is expected of it. This Government is doing its best to promote both economic growth as well as social justice in the country.

Coming to the issue of poverty, which has been nagging for a long time, this Government has taken a decisive action because poverty and unemployment are the two sides of the same coin. If poverty has to be eradicated, income has to be generated. If income has to be generated employment has to be given especially in the rural areas. In rural districts we find a large number of disguised unemployed, under-employed and unemployed people. Taking note of the sense of unemployment that is prevailing in the country the UPA has got a revolutionary measure in terms of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme which ensures at least hundred days of employment, providing about Rs. 8000 income to the income less groups. It is only, through this approach by providing employment and augmenting income one can manage poverty. Therefore, in the sphere of poverty the Government is doing excellent work.

Providing income is only one side of the story. The other side is you have to create infrastructure wherever people live and to provide this infrastructure the Government has provided Bharat Nirman for which the Government is spending about Rs. 1,72,000 crore which is unprecedented. As a result of this, as our Finance Minister has said, on each day of the year 290 habitations are provided with drinking water; 17 habitations are connected through an all weather road. On each day of the year 52 villages are provided with telephones and 42 villages are electrified. On each day of the year 4113 rural houses are completed. Have you seen any kind of this record performance in the past except in the UPA Government? This shows a creditable performance of the Government which is accountable to this country. Therefore, by providing rural infrastructure and also by creating income and employment opportunity to the people the Government is trying to upgrade the living standards of the people, which is reflected by abundant measures of the Government.

Sir, today if India has to progress we have to move from a situation of centralised planning. Instead of planning from Delhi we have to plan from the grass root levels for which the Panchayat Raj Institutions have to re-juvenated and they have to be given a lease of life. It is in the history of India that for the first time a Ministry of

Panchayati Raj has been established by the UPA Government and not by any other Government. But for this Government the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country today would not have been as vibrant as they are today and we hope that these institutions would be involved in the implementation of developmental schemes which would contribute to poverty alleviation and unemployment eradication in this country. Therefore, for this purpose also the Government deserves a lot of encomium from us.

Regarding the nature of the Government, I should say that this is the most accountable Government that we have had. At the end of every year have you seen any Government which has given a report to the people of what it has done and what it has not done. This Government has given three reports to the people which is something unprecedented in the political history. The Government presented a report to the people at the end of its first year in the Office. This is unprecedented in the political history. Never before such an annual report to the people on steps taken to redeem electoral commitments been made. So, it is a very accountable Government. It is a very transparent Government because it is bringing all the policies before the Parliament and it is taking everybody into confidence. Therefore, it is a transparent Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I will take only five minutes. This Government is also to be credited for its innovative aspects. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I am the only speaker from my Party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken much time.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: No, Sir, I have taken only seven minutes. You are a good friend of mine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because of me you have taken double the time allotted to you. Since I am here, I have allowed you to take much more time.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, please listen to what I am saying. I am defending an excellent performance of the Government. You should give me an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been given double the time allotted to you. Please conclude. As you represent a small State of Puducherry, you are given more time.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Another innovation of this Government is that it has a practice of submitting the Outcome Budget to Parliament. It is not the Outlay Budget but it is the Outcome Budget. Every year it is accountable to the public money and it says that it has spent Rs. 100 crore on education and that it has created this. As a result of this, the literacy rate has gone up. So, this kind of Outcome Budget has created a healthy situation in the country. Not only that, this is the only Government which has brought fiscal discipline in the fiscal history of India. There were a number of Governments which could not tie over the financial crisis which led to selling of gold outside this country. But here is a Government which is committed to the National Fiscal Responsibility and Management Act. It has acted accordingly and today it is within the limits of its promise of bringing the revenue deficit to one per cent and fiscal deficit to about 2.5 per cent and by next year, the revenue deficit will be 0.5 per cent. Therefore, for the fiscal discipline that the Government has given, we must appreciate this Government.

With all this creditable performance, I am not here to say that all the problems of the people are over. With our process of globalization, liberalization and privatization, sharp inequalities are developing. It is for the Government to reduce these inequalities. I would only quote what our first Prime Minister of India said after unfurling the National Flag at the Red Fort of India on the 15th August, 1947. He said:

"Our ambition has been to wipe out every tear from every eye, said the Father of the Nation. That may be beyond us but as long as there are tears, our work will not be over."

It is with this sense of Jawaharlal Nehru that Dr. Manmohan Singh is carrying this UPA Government and he will continue his work untiringly and unrelentingly till the last drop in the eye is wiped out. Our Perarignar Anna said that the God resides in the smiles of the poor and that is the quintessential of this Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh and Madam Sonia Gandhi. Therefore, I would compliment this Government for this excellent performance. Of course, the Government will have to take its own line of action to correct the distributional issues in this country. I would compliment

and congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and other Ministers of the UPA Government for providing this country a creditable alternative to development of this country.

16.32 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

46th Report

[*English*]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

16.33 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[*Translation*]

*SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Sir, Her Excellency President in her Address to the Parliament has mentioned point wise details, the policies, programmes and plans of the Government. She has also given certain guidelines to the Government in her Address. But the hon'ble Minister of Finance in his Budget for 2008-09 has ignored many of the guidelines given by the President. Secondly, I would specially like to draw the attention towards the fact is that only one aspect has been mentioned in the President's Address and the other but more important aspect has not been mentioned. Government plans and programmes are run for the welfare of the people. Hence, it is also the responsibility of the Government to check whether the benefits of the plans are reaching to the people or not for whom these plans have been implemented. Therefore, it should have been clearly mentioned in the President's Address as to what steps are to be taken to remove the obstacles in the implementation of various plans as well as their shortcomings. It has been mentioned in the Address that outlay on education has increased from 7.68 percent of the total Central Budgetary Support in the 10th Plan to

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Harikewal Prasad]

19 percent in the 11th Plan. I would like to remind this House that the constituent parties of the UPA Government in their National Common Minimum Programme had promised to spend 6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product on education, but it has reached to approximately 3 percent in the present Budget.

Sir, it has been stated in the Address of Hon. President that the Government is paying attention towards the welfare of our farmers. It has further been stated that the Government had constituted an expert group on agricultural indebtedness under the chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna. The expert group has submitted its report and the Government are actively considering its recommendations. I would like that it should have been clearly mentioned in the President's Address the time by when the report will be implemented by the Government? Similarly an important report of S. Swaminathan Committee regarding development of the Agriculture Sector is under consideration of the Government for a long time. Madam President should have given guidelines to the Government to implement the report at the earliest.

President's Address includes agriculture, irrigation and water resources including flood management programme and it has been mentioned that the total resources will be increased from rupees 46,131 crore in the 10th plan to rupees 1,38,548 crore in the 11th plan. Government reiterates this kind of resolution every year, but 40 percent of cultivable land of our country is still unirrigated even after 60 years of independence. A time schedule should be fixed to make it irrigated land. Similarly the problem of flood is becoming critical and it requires a permanent and concrete solution. So far stress has been given only on the relief works and no effort was made to root out the problem. Eastern Uttar Pradesh and north Bihar faces the tragedy of flood every year resulting in heavy loss of life and property. Hundreds of villages have been eliminated so far because they submerged in river water. The main reason of flood in this area is that rivers of this region originate from the foothills of the Himalayas and they overflow due to excessive rains on the hills and acquire monstrous proportions. Unless these rivers are controlled at the point of their origin, the problem of flood can not be solved in this region.

Sir, I would like to apprise this House that Kamali, Pancheshwar and Bhalubandh Projects were sanctioned to control flood in Rapti, Ghaghra and Sharda rivers with the consent of the Governments of India and Nepal in 1954. Under this project it was planned to pool water in

reservoir by making dams at the origin of these rivers and release it in a controlled way into canals. These Projects would have not only solved the problem of flood on a permanent basis, but also increased irrigation capacity and there would have been enough power generation. But these ambitious projects of public interest have been put on the backburner. I request Madam President to include it in the Address.

Sir, it has been mentioned in the President's Address that the Government have stressed on the empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes by increasing the reach of education. But this objective can not be achieved without giving social justice to the downtrodden castes since ages. I would like to draw the attention of this House particularly towards the fact that the previous Government of Uttar Pradesh had submitted proposal to the Central Government to include economically, socially and educationally most backward castes of the State like Rajbhar, Gaud, Nishad, Kewat, Mallah, Vind, Dhiman, Turha, Manjhi, Kahar, Kashyap, Prajapati and Godai in the list of Scheduled Castes. It was made clear in the reply given by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment of the Government of India that Registrar General of India had asked for detailed information in this regard from the State Government, but in the meanwhile on 6th June, 2007 the present Government of Uttar Pradesh repealed the proposal of the previous Government and sent a written information to the Government of India. I request Madam President to give instruction to the Government of India to include these castes in the list of Scheduled Castes.

H.E. President in her Address has specially mentioned that the coverage of the most ambitious programme of the Government National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been increased from 330 districts in April 2008 to all the rural districts of the country. This is a welcome step. But it is surprising that the Minister of Finance has completely ignored the instruction given by H.E. President. From the allocation made for this programme in the Budget, it is clear that the Minister of Finance has not given any special importance to this programme. Provision for the programme has been increased from Rs. 12000 crore in the previous year to only Rs. 16000 crore this year. Thus, Budget allocation has not been increased in the proportion of the expansion of the programme. At the same time there are complaints of large scale corruption and irregularities in the programme, but in the President's Address there is no mention of the steps to be taken to eradicate it. With these words and with the aforesaid amendments I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[*English*]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I rise to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Sir, let me begin by saying—Vande Mataram. Why I said—Vande Mataram is because the constitutional head of the country is a mother, is a lady. She addressed the nation and we congratulate her.

Here I would like to say to the Treasury Benches and the UPA Government especially that when the constitutional head of a country is a lady, it is a sad story that till today, you have not brought the Bill for one-third reservation for women for representation in the State Legislatures and in Parliament. Long ago, in a poor State of Orissa a man called Mr. Biju Patnaik brought out the first provision for reservation for ladies in the Panchayati Raj system.

16.34 hrs.

[*MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair*]

This is one of the biggest failures of UPA because if ladies are not represented in the House, they cannot discuss the problems of ladies which are a lot in the country. Take for example, anemic tendency in pregnant women. The number of anaemic pregnant women in India is the highest in the world. The haemoglobin percentage in these women is around 6 to 7 per cent, whereas the normal percentage should be around 11 to 12 per cent. The rate of illiteracy amongst women particularly in States like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and in the North-Eastern States are the highest even when we have a scheme like the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* in force. Therefore, it is essential that the views of women are represented in order that their issues are properly discussed and they are provided with facilities that are required by them. The Bill seeking to provide women with 33 per cent reservation of seats in Parliament and in State Legislature should be brought in immediately. I am proud to state here that our Party, the BJP, in its National Council has adopted a resolution and also has brought in the required amendment in its constitution to provide for one-third reservation to women within the Party. The next time when the new Government is formed, that is in the 15th Lok Sabha, you would see as to how many women Members from the BJP would be represented here. This was also a suggestion of the Election Commission and this has not been done so far by any party other than the BJP. Neither the Congress nor any of the parties

supporting the UPA coalition has done this. If the Government is sincere about this, then they should bring this Bill during the Budget Session itself. We want to assure the House that our Party is going to give one-third reservation to women candidates in the Lok Sabha as well as in the State Assembly elections.

Sir, the second point that I would like to mention here is how the human resources in this country are not being channelised in the proper way. Take for example the case of the Army *jawans* who are made to retire at the age of around 35 to 36 years after they have rendered service in the Forces for about 15 to 16 years. The average retirement age of Government servants is 60 years. So, these people become idle at their prime and they remain idle for almost 25 to 26 years of their productive years. So, this human resource should be given lateral job opportunities in various sectors like for example in the PSUs, in Government Departments, in private companies so that their services are put to use in a productive manner so that these people, out of their frustration, are not driven to forests to join the naxalites. Their level of frustration should be brought down.

A long-standing demand of our Party has finally been met. We are happy about that. This issue of waiver of loans had been discussed in many National Executive meetings of the BJP. But I would like to know as to why the UPA Government did not implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee of four per cent interest for credit on farm loans and total waiver of loan. This total waiver of loan is just one act play, it is not a full-fledged play. Give proper prices, raise MSP of paddy to Rs. 1200 per quintal. This step has been taken probably because the elections are due shortly. In order to strengthen the agrarian sector and grow economically stronger, agriculture should be sustainable, agriculture should be remunerative and there should be sustainable parity between agricultural produce and the Public Distribution System. I am sorry to say that the UPA Government has totally failed in streamlining the Public Distribution System. The targeted persons are not getting PDS on time. Prof. Swaminathan who is credited with bringing about the Green Revolution has given a report saying that the Green Revolution should be an evergreen revolution. Production of wheat has fallen down. We have to now import wheat from Australia.

The corporate sector has also to be looked after as also Indian MCs are involved. 50 per cent of the contribution of corporate taxes is from the oil companies and 50 per cent corporate taxes come from the other MNCs.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

It is not true that all MNCs are foreign companies. There are also Indian MNCs who employ educated young engineers, skilled people and unskilled people in their various mining projects and have mitigated unemployment problems. They are not given a bit of help in excise duty and other duties. If you want to create a global playing field for Indian companies to compete with foreign multinationals, you have to give them a level playing field which is not reflected in the President's Address. This might send a message for destabilisation and impediment of industrial growth in the country and backward regions of the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

[*Translation*]

You have taken ten to twelve minutes and there are twelve members of your party.

[*English*]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, you are giving more time for smaller parties and less time for bigger parties. With due respect to the Chair, I would request you for some more time.

I would like to say that infant mortality rate has not been dealt with properly. I come from Orissa which has a high IMR rate compared to other States. It is a poor State. But that poor State is doing so well in the NREG front. I would like to quote from the President's Address. *This NREG Scheme has been extended to all the districts now and all the 330 districts are to be covered from April, 2008.* So far, more than 37 lakh rural households have registered themselves under this and they are in possession of job cards. By the end of December, 2008, around 8 lakh households in my State will get them. So, this shows how the BJP-ruled States are functioning. I was seeing a report about a couple of months back about the position in Congress-ruled States or the UPA-ruled States like West Bengal, etc. Kerala has done slightly well in this area. Then there is the example of Tamil Nadu. The position in Andhra Pradesh is worst. The expenditure under NREG Scheme is only 30 to 35 per cent whereas in States like Orissa, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh where the BJP Government is there, the expenditure has been excellent. It has crossed the benchmark of 60 per cent which is required by the NREG programmes. This is how the BJP-ruled Government in Orissa is functioning.

Sir, I am sorry to say that there is no mention about regional disparity. There is so much of regional disparity in States and specific areas like the KBK area in Orissa, the Palamau in Bihar and Magarutari area of Hazaribagh in Jharkhand. They are so backward that if they are not given any thrust for development, they will not come up.

For securing the farm sector, the insurance company has come in. The insurance companies have come in and you are allowing the private insurance companies with nearly 45 per cent FDI. But I am sorry to state that uptill date, not a single foreign insurance company has gone to rural areas. They have not covered the insurance aspect at all. It is not the question of only waiving off loans. Of course, we are very happy that their loans have been waived. At the same time, I would like to say that any Government which comes to power specially the UPA Government should give a security shield to the farmers. There should be a strong shield and farmers should be protected from all adversaries.

With these words, I thank the hon. President, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil for her Address.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I have my last point to mention. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(*Interruptions*) *...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I request the next hon. Member to speak, I would like to make a request to all hon. Members that I have a long list of hon. Members who want to speak on this subject. It is also a hard fact that I want to conclude the speeches before 7:30 p.m. Therefore, I would request the hon. Members to be very brief. It is better if they give only suggestions. Those hon. Members who want to give their speeches in writing are allowed to lay them on the Table of the House. They would form part of today's proceedings.

I call upon Shri Kirip Chaliha with a request, to be very brief and conclude his speech within five minutes.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by my colleague Shri Ajit Jogi for thanking the hon. President for her Address. The President's Address, as

*Not recorded.

you know, outlines the priorities and programmes of the Government. It makes an assessment of the Government's performance in the preceding year and also outlines the policies of the Government that would be taken up in the next year.

This is a very serious document which affords the House an opportunity to discuss various issues before the incumbent Government. We all know that this is the last year of this Parliament and a new Government is expected next year. At such a time, I do not know why the Leader of Opposition has lost his theme and almost conceded defeat by supporting the Motion. That was very unusual. But I am thankful to him. That only shows that

[Translation]

the force that BJP and other opposition parties had in the first second and third year, is no more. It has realised after four years that whatever UPA Government has done and going to do in future

[English]

that is in the interest of the people. That is why the Leader of Opposition conceded defeat and said that he is supporting the policies and programmes of the Government. I thank him for that. Many hon. Members have already highlighted most of the points. There is hardly anything new to say. I still decided to speak a few more words, many to reiterate some of the hard facts which have to be acknowledged by everyone and have to be universally recognised. What are these facts? Is it not a fact that the growth of GDP during the four years of UPA's rule, as compared to NDA's regime has been far better? Anybody will say that during the BJP's six years of rule the GDP growth was minimal. Today we have achieved something more than that.

A lot of Members, including the Leader of Opposition, expressed concerns about price rise. Even though price rise is a matter of concern, I would like to say that price rise has been contained into something between 4 and 4.5 per cent. That is a creditable achievement when we consider the fact that oil prices, on which our general price rise is dependent upon, have doubled in the international market.

This Government, during its last four years of rule, has given one of the most creditable performance ever. I have no hesitation to say that.

[Translation]

The UPA have run such a Government after so many Governments.

[English]

We have understood what really is a welfare state.

[Translation]

The UPA Government have demonstrated by example how a Government of the common man is supposed to be. Our Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh ji deserves appreciation for this.

[English]

We must admire this man as an architect.

[Translation]

An architect who has infused so much strength into India and has helped reach her such a stage after having brought her out of a great mess.

[English]

Today, we are thinking in terms of joining the Super power race at the international level.

[Translation]

When I had made my debut in 1991 then Prime Minister of the Congress government Narsimha Rao ji

[English]

I am talking about the past because except the past, there is no way to judge the future. Unless you discuss the past, the future cannot be judged. On the basis of that, I remember that when we first went on the course of liberalisation, it was first thought of by Shri Rajiv Gandhi in 1986. Then, Shri Narasimha Rao started talking about change with continuity. He started opening up economy. My friend Prof. Ramadass referred to the fact that the gold reserves in this country.

[Translation]

compare the present situation wherein we have survived our economy even after waiving off agricultural loans of farmers worth Rs. 56 thousand crore to the situation of that time when the gold reserves of the country had to be mortgaged. It is not a small achievement.

[Shri Kirip Chaliha]

[English]

The Indian economy has survived this. This is a case of stupendous achievement. One must admit it.

[Translation]

It does not matter whether we are from the treasury benches or from the Opposition, the matter of fact is that

[English]

we have to recognize the truth. The truth is this. Like the 'Khandavprastha' which was once a desolate forest, was transformed into the 'Indraprastha' by 'Vishvakarmaji'. Manmohan Singh ji resurrected moribund economy of India and he has brought it to this stage after making structural reforms.

[English]

Dr. Manmohan Singh ji has come as a boon to this country. His capacity in running the country has shaken even the Leader of the Opposition and the BJP leaders.

[Translation]

Like the 'Duryodhana' of the Kourav side who under an illusion saw water on the floor where there was no water and saw dry floor where there was water in the palace of Indraprastha, leaders like Shri Vikram Singh Deo are at present in a dilemma whether to support it or oppose it. They are now in a quandary and are not able to decide whether the loan waiver scheme is good or bad. I am surprised and dismayed to see their dilemma. I know what are they upto.

[English]

Like the mother of Viswakarma, the maker of mother India is Dr. Manmohan Singh.

[Translation]

You can note down that the UPA Alliance is set to return to power with overwhelming majority in the election, which are to be held, on the achievements enumerated in the President's Address. ...*(Interruptions)* I have one point.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I would just take a second. India's victory is confirmed in Australia.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: It is another good news! We have won the One Day International Cricket Match.

[Translation]

Because Manmohan Singh ji is not alone. Sonia Gandhi is backing her. Like the sage 'Dadhichi' who had donated his bones to make the lethal weapon named 'Vajra', Sonia ji with her renunciation has given so much strength to the UPA that nobody has the power to counter it. The BJP may, however, make whatsoever efforts it can by talking about the women's reservation Bill. Today the BJP have grudgingly raised the women's issue because they need women votes but it is we who undertook empowerment of women. We gave representation to women in the Panchayats. We ended atrocities against women. We have made such a handsome provision in this Budget. For this, Sonia Gandhiji's name will be written in golden letters in Indian history. I would not like to speak at length. I would like to conclude my short speech with only one submission that the Address of the Hon'ble President. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Let me tell you one thing It is not just an Address. The President's Address to both Houses of Parliament is a joint document of the UPA and the Left partners. It is a victory document. This victory will definitely come about in the next election also.

With these words, I conclude.

*DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): It is a parliamentary courtesy to pass a motion of thanks to the President for her customary annual address. The President is obliged to use bright colours while recording the performance and formulating the aspiration of her government. The overall picture is promising but it is doubtful whether the colours will remain indelible when exposed to harsh reality. The government's "inclusive growth, inclusive governance" agenda is reflected well in

*Speech was laid on the Table.

the address. Programmes aimed at achieving equity and fairness in the developmental process are laudable. The benefits of development should flow equitably to all sections, with special and preferential care for the minorities. Empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes can be achieved only through increased access to education. Basic education and healthcare are still remaining as lofty objectives for a vast section of the population. We would have gladly supported the government for its efforts to translate the presidential aspirations and expectations into reality. But the presidential hope on the possibility of pushing the much-hated nuclear deal with the United States has cast an unwanted shadow on the government. It is doubtful whether we will be able to hear another address by the President on behalf of the present government. Despite all such uncertainties, our Parliament should remain as a great institution of democracy. Respectfully reminding my friends in the opposition this basic fact, I support the motion of thanks on the President's address.

SHRI L. GANESAN (Tiruchirappalli): I, at the very outset, extend me heartfelt thanks to the beloved President of our nation for her astute address to this august House on 25th February, 2008. Sir, for want of time I wish to be brief and to the point. Her Address includes every point that should be informed to the nation at large through this august House. The UPA Government is committed to ensuring that the economic growth process is socially inclusive, regional balanced and environmentally sustainable. The President has painstakingly listed out the various plans and projects and programmes aiming at inclusive, balanced and sustainable economic growth and development such as Bharat Nirman, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and so on and so forth. Our Government is paying special attention to the welfare of farmers who constitute more than 75% of our population. The Government has given waiver of loans to the farmers to the tune of Rs. 60,000 crore. This has happened for the first time in the history of Indian administration. For the first time, such a waiver has been given. But, in this connection, I should be proud to tell the House that the Tamil Nadu Government under the stewardship of Dr. Kalam had given a total waiver to agriculturists two years back and, therefore, our benevolent Finance Minister has followed only in the footsteps of Dr. Kalam.

The Government has placed great emphasis on the empowerment of SCs, STs and OBCs through increased access to education. So many plans have been there for

the upliftment of the oppressed, depressed and downtrodden people, particularly STs/SCs. The Government attaches great importance to the achievements of the people of Indian origin in different parts of the world and their contribution to the nation. In recognition of their contributions, several initiatives have been taken up. The first "People of Indian Origin University" is on the anvil. To tap the resources of the Indian diaspora, it has been decided to establish the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin to facilitate potential migrant workers and help those overseas workers who are in distress. An Overseas Workers Resource Centre and the Council for Promotion of Overseas Employment are being set up. In this connection, I wish to draw that attention not only of this august House but also of the hon. Prime Minister and the benevolent Chairperson of UPA and President of All India Congress Party to one point. The point is that most of the people in South-east Asia, Sri Lanka, Burma, Singapore, Malaysia are, no doubt, Indians but they are Tamils too. During freedom struggle, Shri Subhash Chandra Bose formed INA in that region and a large number of persons who were recruited as soldiers were of Tamil origin. Therefore, I appeal to the Government of India to save our people there. They are not rich people. They are plantation workers. They are poor people and petty shop owners.

17.00 hrs.

Therefore, they have grievances and when they have grievances, the Ambassadors or the High Commissioners in those countries can redress their grievances. But unfortunately our people there do not know either Hindi or English, they know only Tamil. Our High Commissioner in Malaysia does not know Tamil. So, I appeal and I implore the Government with all the strength at my command to see that our High Commissioners or Ambassadors posted in such countries should be Tamils. I do not know what harm will be caused by this.

Sir, I am thankful to the UPA Government for making a reference to the Sri Lankan ethnic problem in the President's Address. It is correct that there can be no military solution as it has been observed, but there could be a negotiated political settlement. I would request the hon. Prime Minister to exert his influence and see that this ethnic problem is settled peacefully.

Sir, I would like to say a few words about another important thing and that is the Sethu Samudram Project.

[Shri L. Ganesan]

I would like to thank the UPA Government for taking up this project which is a long-felt need of Tamils right from 1860 onwards. Till the UPA Government has taken up the implementation of this project, for about 150 years, some nine expert committees had been constituted and all the nine expert committees had given reports to the effect that this project is technically feasible, economically viable and possible in all ways, but nothing was done. Our Government has taken it up and all the important leaders attended the inauguration of this project two or three years ago. The UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi attended the function, the hon. Prime Minister has attended the function and the work is going on. Now, almost 65 to 70 per cent of the work has already been completed, but all of a sudden wisdom has dawned on some people, as though it did dawn on Lord Buddha under the Bodhi tree, and they started creating all sorts of troubles to see that this project does not go ahead successfully.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI L. GANESAN: Please give me two more minutes.

Sir, Lord Rama is a God worshipped by majority of the Hindus. There is no doubt about it, but to drag Lord Rama into a political controversy is very wrong. Very frankly I would like to say that those who dragged Lord Rama into this political controversy are neither patriots of this nation nor devotees of Lord Rama and they are carrying on an illicit propaganda against Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi as though he is against Lord Rama. He is not against Lord Rama. He is attacking some people. Whom is he attacking? He is attacking those people who are dragging Lord Rama into this controversy.

Sir, one of the hon. Members has made a disparaging remark against Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi who has become the Chief Minister of the State of Tamil Nadu for the fifth time. Recently he has inaugurated the Hogenakkal Integrated Water Scheme for drinking water. But the hon. Member mentioned that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has illegally laid the foundation stone for this scheme. Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi is the seniormost politician in this country, he is a statesman and above all he is the topmost strategist. The hon. Member who made that remark belongs to the BJP. I have greatest regards, reverence, respect for Vajpayeeji and Advaniji and therefore, I appeal to them to see that the remark made by BJP Member be withdrawn or otherwise, we appeal to the House that it should be expunged.

With these remarks, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is so to speak called as the President's Address but it does not mention even a single word by the President. The President just reads that out what the Government gives as a script. One does not know which bureaucrat has written this Address this time around particularly its Hindi. It is not understandable what the bureaucrats want the President to speak from her august tongue? When the President was reading out the Address a couplet by poet Ghalib came to my mind. Ghalib had stated:-

'Kah raha hun Junun mein kya kya kuchh,
Kuchh Na Samjha khuda kare koi'

You will understand to understand nothing. It is a matter of great shame that not a single word has been spoken against corruption throughout the Address. Even prior to this there was not a single word spoken against corruption in the four Presidential Addresses delivered so far during the UPA regime. Even matter of greater shame is that we did not get even a minute's time to discuss the issue of corruption during this term of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha. Also, the Government did not give us opportunity to speak on this issue. Now, we cannot allege anybody. I raised it during every session. Corruption is, however, at present is greater issue than the issues of terrorism, poverty, illiteracy, problems of farmers etc. All other problems come next to it. If you observe carefully whole of the Budget is consumed by corruption. If you visit Delhi you will find thousands of colonies there. Land prices in Delhi have appreciated to even Rs. One lakh per square meter. There are thousands of bungalows in each colony. There is no bungalow which costs lesser than crores of Rupees. If you conduct a survey it will be revealed that those bungalows are owned by corrupt retired officers or those corrupt leaders who have acquired those through corrupt officers. But we don't have any time to discuss corruption. In every session of the Lok Sabha I give notice under Rule 193 to hold discussion on corruption but it is not held. This time around also I have given notice but I do not expect any discussion. Perhaps the Government would not have been ready for it or whatsoever be the reason. The President's Address does not mention even a single word against corruption which I consider as the gravest of all problems.

[*Translation*]

I have been a witness to the 15-point programme meant for the minorities having been elaborated upon from time to time for the last 25 years. It is a programme which may have some very attractive features but has never been put into action during the last 25 years. Mr. Handique is not present in the House at the moment. I would like to tell him that his party perhaps considers the Muslims as fool as it is continuously talking of the 15-point programme for the last 25 years. I would like to tell him that now the Muslim community itself has started looking at them as fools. Till now he was making a fool of us. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the word 'fool' should be expunged. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Why? They are making a fool. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not unparliamentary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: It has also a 15-point programme. On behalf of the Muslims I am saying that now we think of Congress as a fool. They made us a fool for 25 years. There is another problem. A single family has all the schemes in its name as if the family itself is running the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme on its own. It seems as if the family is distributing everything on its own. Why don't they rename the country itself after the name of that family? I am saying this to UPA that as such there is Government of UPA but in reality it belongs to Congress. There are few ministers in the name of UPA but UPA is hardly seen anywhere. NDA did seem to be in existence but UPA is not to be seen anywhere. There are few Ministers who are with them in the greed of cabinet post. I am against this inclination toward domination of a single family in politics. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Azmi, please conclude. Your time is up now.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Sir, Mr. Kanshiram was a great man who made the downtrodden sections of society to

dominate the scene. If 10 schemes are started in his name, it is still less. But the others on whose name of the schemes have been formulated, have only taken from the country, they haven't given anything to it. Mr. Kanshiram has lifted up that segment of the society which was in the condition worse than the animals for several thousand years. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Azmi, please conclude. You are speaking for the eight minutes.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Sir, the 50th point is about terrorism. I want to tell some points very seriously. I would like to put forward with full responsibility that now-a-days terrorism has changed its form. Earlier minorities were trampled on in the name of terrorism and backward, illiterate SC's were made to burn the Bastis of Muslims and later on with the help of Police cases were filed on Muslims for this. It has happened in the long term of Congress. Now when the backward SC's are awaken their users are unable to use them and communal riots have ceased to break out and the face of Government terrorism has changed and now educated Muslim youths are being harassed especially in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in the name of terrorism. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: We fully support the Muslims in Maharashtra.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Athawale, please sit down. Mr. Azmi, please conclude.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Sir, Karnataka is at first position in this work. Educated Muslims are being trampled through satanic laws in the name of terrorism in Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra for the last 5 or 10 years and these Governments having ill-intention could not even prove any allegation even on a single individual. In case of UP, the Centre Government is responsible. ...(*Interruptions*) I think about it a lot that it should happen here. I always speak in favour of the whole society with honesty. I had a close talk with a high profile officer of UP Government on the day when some innocent Muslims were caught in Azamgarh but were shown as having been arrested from Barabanki. ...(*Interruptions*) I told him that the Police killed

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

26-27 youths during the tenure of the last Government to which he replied that we are bound with the order. We don't do anything by ourselves, everything is ordered from the above ranks. He said "you are there, you are a Lok Sabha MP, I know you. But if I get a message that the MP sitting beside you has 10 Kg RDX at his house, then I will be compelled to raid at your house taking you in my custody." If I am not honest then even 50 gms of RDX can be recovered from your house. But if I am honest no RDX will be recovered. He told me that. He said whatever tyranny is there or whatever had happened before ...*(Interruptions)* it took place on the direction of IB and the local authorities only complied with that and we consider that earlier some people were oppressed wrongly and it's happening even now. ...*(Interruptions)* That is why I want to bring it on record that as the Gastappo formed by Hitler was not faithful to Germany but Hitler, Sewak formed by king of Iran not faithful to Iran but to the Shah, federal security force formed by Bhutto was faithful to Bhutto not Pakistan, in the same way the agency formed by us earlier is faithful to a single family. Whenever the family comes in to power, the favoured retired officers are given the post of national security advisor somewhere in the Government, someone is appointed as Governor of UP, someone as Governor of Jharkhand and someone gets the post of Ambassador. When a certain family comes in the power the individual is designated a post twenty times powerful than the post he belonged to while in service. When he is serving the post he is made to do the heinous works as is being done in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. I want to stir the conscience of the nation. ...*(Interruptions)* and want them to stand against the tyranny being unleashed on a particular group. I, especially would like to say to the honest people in the UPA Government to look into their conscience. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: As my party is in support of UPA Government, I also support the address of the Hon'ble President.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I request Shri Kiren Rijiju to speak for five minutes only.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard the speeches of various honourable Members of Parliament very carefully. ...*(Interruptions)* I have also heard the speeches of parliamentarians' belonging to different political parties such as Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samajwadi Party, Communist Party, etc. I am surprised with the fact that they are supporting the Government with majority. There is no two views about the fact that the Government have failed miserably in their four years' tenure. Excluding some members' majority of them are not happy with the Government. This is the last year of the Government and instead of mentioning those things that they have done so they are talking about what they are going to do. Supporting the motion moved by honourable Shri Ajit Jogi and extending thanks to Her Excellency President, I want to submit that I do not agree with the motion moved by him and with the points containing in the motion. Initially he has said that the President's address has worked towards uniting the country, but look at the way it has worked for uniting the country?

Sir, I have requested in the Parliament that we will not compromise even an inch of land of Indian territory. We will save every piece of land from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Arunachal Pradesh, for that we demanded to move a resolution, but the Government did not come with the same. It has not been mentioned in the President's address. The Government have no regrets about the land that has been taken away from the possession of the Indian Government. That is why it was not given importance in the President's address but unity of the nation was mentioned. Even now one has to travel four-five days on foot to visit a village in the country.

There is no telephone facility, road facility, electricity and water facility, then how on earth you have united the nation? This is not the matter of "four year's governance, Congress had ruled this country for fifty years and you are responsible for this situation of the country and you are saying that there is inclusive growth. Are you taking all of us together? Are you giving equal facilities to the people of Scheduled Castes, Tribes and backward classes residing in various parts of the country? More than 30 crores of people are still living below poverty line. Are they included in your inclusive growth? Arunachal Pradesh has been kept out of this growth and the Government is not concerned with it. Shri Ajit Jogi is a tribal leader and he has spoken about the tribals'. A tribal university was established.

We have many great tribal leaders in our country and they have worked for the nation. Will you not recognize their deeds? A tribal university was set up and it was named after Indira Gandhi. We have a great respect for Indira Gandhi. She was the Prime Minister of our country. But Indira Gandhi will also regret that a tribal university has been established but it was not named after any tribal leader. It is a matter of shame. Fellowship for SC/ST was named after Rajiv Gandhi. Is there not anyone in India who has given his contribution for the development of the people belonging to SC, ST? There is only one university in our State; the name of the university was changed from to Rajiv Gandhi University.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This objectionable word must be expunged from the proceeding.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Every stadium, village, city house, building was named after Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi. I am saying this because I respect them very much but I want to say that it would be better for the country if their names are not used. It is not good to see every thing through political angle. You talk about inclusive growth; there are so many millionaires who became richer through your policies. Can you name any corporate company in the North-East region; have you set up any school in that area or contributed for setting up any hospital? Americans and Japanese are contributing them. We have schools run by Christian missionaries and for that the fund comes from America. It is unfortunate that we have so many millionaires in India but they invest their money in America. But they do not have both money and time for setting up schools and medical colleges in

far off corners of the country. Inclusive growth was mentioned here, you say that we are marching forward, taking the entire country together. You should have thought before drafting and including this in President's address and should have taken care that the document reflects the facts. You have emphasized upon NREGS. This is the last year for NREGS. No one can predict for the next election. But the elections are just round the corner so it is your last year. We have 16 districts in our State. Out of 16 districts only one district was covered under NREGS during these four years. 15 districts have been left and there is not much time left for covering those districts. When you came into power, you should have announced the work you would do. It is election and now you are saying that you will cover all the districts under NREGS. I have objection the way you are governing and cheating masses.

[English]

Sir, I feel that this Government is having a neck problem that they cannot look towards East.

[Translation]

You cannot ignore the Eas., you are obsessed with America therefore you have started Look East policy. You should describe as to how this policy is going to be formulated. You have planned to connect the North East region with South-East Asia and East Asia. Can you tell us if one kilometer road is constructed there? It is unfortunate that if you visit border areas like Bangladesh, China and Myanmar, your mobile phones will catch the network of these countries but our country's network is not working there. I have asked the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard why we have to use the telephone facilities of other countries while in India, they replied that these areas are terrorist dominated and they are not providing the same in order to prevent the misuse of such facilities. If there are terrorists organized themselves better in the world, it is in the North-East States. About one hundred such organizations are operating there. How was terrorism born? We should not label terrorism in the name of any particular religion. The terrorism is caused by social issues. You have suppressed them socially for fifty years and there is no work for them except to carry guns, the Government should introspect on this issue as to who has created terrorism.

[Shri Kiren Rijju]

I do not want to take much time. You are ringing the bell again and again. I want to conclude with these words that your intention and direction should be right; you cannot mislead the citizens of the country by presenting confusing data. I thank the hon'ble President but I do not agree with the address and oppose it.

[English]

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address delivered by the hon. President on 25th February, 2008 to both Houses of Parliament. As all of us know, it is customary, but this year, it is special and historic also. For the first time in independent India, a woman President *Mahamahim* Shrimati Prathibha Devisingh Patil addressed the Joint Sitting of Parliament. Being a woman parliamentarian, I am doubly happy to participate in the discussion on this historic occasion.

Her speech provides a direction to the Government's programme but also a concrete form of growth. Various Ministries put forward specific measures for our approval. But, today, we have a comprehensive, holistic vision of growth presented in the backdrop of our achievements. This, Members should agree, will give us a fair idea not only to compare our state of affairs and growth to assess the capabilities on which we invite suggestions, criticisms or anything that Members intend to do. We find here in this House a criticism either on the futuristic programmes or on the past failures. Seldom do we try to take a comprehensive and holistic view of the growth.

Sir, it is needless to say that our economy is on the move, with a sustained growth rate of 8.5 per cent and last year, it was 9 per cent. Under the dynamic leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, UPA Chairperson, we are poised for a bright future though challenging to fulfil our promises made in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Several flagship programmes like Bharat Nirman, National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Rural Health Mission, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission have been started by the Government to make the growth process socially inclusive and regionally balanced. I congratulate the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh for giving the country such magnificent programmes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, if you wish to read your speech, then you may lay it on the Table.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Being a Member of the National Rural Employment Council, I had an opportunity to tour certain parts of the country; and I saw the works for myself that have been taken up under the NREGP. The exodus of labour from rural areas to urban areas has stopped.

A cursory glance at the employment generation, poverty reduction and human development — the three basic ingredients — reflect our economic growth and improved performance. It shows that we have achieved more than what we have set as target for ourselves. The Eleventh Five-Year Plan has set a target of 9 per cent GDP growth for the country as a whole. It would provide equality of opportunity for quality education; employment; free people from the burden of ill-health; and eliminate discrimination. I am sure that the Government would achieve this target.

Our Government is pro-farmer, and works for the welfare of our farmers. We have seen it in this General Budget.

The Self-Help Groups, particularly, women are doing a wonderful job in rural areas all over the country. The Self-Help Groups are prospering in Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of our Chief Minister, Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, and other States are trying to emulate us. I believe that it is good for the development of the country.

So far as global warming phenomenon is concerned, it is our duty to enlighten the people about the melting of glaciers both in Antarctica and the southern end of the Andes. For example, an ice cap known as the Larsen Platform melted away in just 20 days, despite its considerable size of 400 sq. km. It is really a disturbing truth. The international community has resources, technology and financing. All that is lacking is the political will across the world. Therefore, the Government — with the help of other countries — should galvanize such political will. The international community should provide a political answer to the challenge of global warming. This is an emergency, and we need an Act immediately to act with such an emergency situation.

Though our Government has given a hike of 50 per cent in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat and about 33 per cent for paddy in the last four years, yet

I feel that the Government should give MSP for paddy on par with wheat. This would put an end to the efforts of some political parties, which are trying to gain political mileage.

Now, with the establishment of *Gram Nyayalayas*, justice would be accessible to our less privileged citizens in their villages. I welcome it, and I thank the Government for it. I also thank the Government for implementing the recommendations of the Sachchar Committee Report. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, please conclude your speech.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: The Eleventh Plan provides a massive allocation of Rs.7,880 crore for the development of minorities. Already minorities in the country are feeling gung-ho. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam. Now, I would request Shri K. Yerranna to start his speech.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: There is an urgent need to implement the provisions of the Forest Dwellers Act to protect the interest of the tribal and traditional forest dwellers.

With these few words, I thank the hon. President for addressing both the Houses of Parliament. I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, I am the second speaker from my party. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All the time of your party is over. What can I do?

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Everybody is allowed. Why is this discrimination with me? My name is there on the list.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, I will see to it in the end.

... (*Interruptions*)

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Nothing doing, Sir. I am the second speaker, and I should be called. Everybody is taking their own time, and I am not getting time. My name is there, and my Party has given my name to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am telling you according to the list available with me.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

ADV. SURESH KURUP: I am the second speaker, and I should be allowed to speak. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is over now.

[*English*]

What can I do?

... (*Interruptions*)

ADV. SURESH KURUP: I am the second speaker. What is this? ... (*Interruptions*) Enough time is being given to everybody. I have to be called as I am the second speaker. What is this? ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am calling the next speaker, namely, Shri K. Yerranna.

... (*Interruptions*)

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, I have to be called. ... (*Interruptions*) I would request that I should be called. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot compel me to give time to you. I will see to it in the end.

...(Interruptions)

ADV. SURESH KURUP: What is this, Sir?
...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Sir, he is the second speaker. *...(Interruptions)*

ADV. SURESH KURUP: There is no hard and fast rule for the time being given to Members to speak.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will invite those parties who have the allotted time.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Nothing doing, Sir.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But one leader from your party has taken so much time

[English]

then what can I do?

...(Interruptions)

ADV. SURESH KURUP: It is not that the time has exhausted. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Sir, there is only one more speaker. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will see about it in the end.

...(Interruptions)

ADV. SURESH KURUP: My name is there, and I am entitled to speak. *...(Interruptions)* Every other Party is given enough time. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can ask for time from the Chair but you cannot compel him to allot time necessarily. I am not allotting time to a such party or Member whose time is already over. You can complain to me if I allot time to any Member whose party's time is already over.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, I would request that I should be called to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those Members whose party's time is still due will be given a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see about it in the end.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those Members the time of whose party is still due will be given a chance.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I call Shri K. Yerrannaidu. I would allow you to speak only for five minutes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am giving time only to those Members.

[Translation]

the time of which party is still due I am giving time only to those Members. You can complain only when I give time to those Members whose party's time has already been exhausted.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while thanking the hon. President for her Address, I regret that there is no mention about price rise, farmers' suicides, unemployment and inflation. This Government failed totally in the last four years to control inflation and, that is why, the prices of essential commodities are increasing alarmingly. The poorer sections, the middle-class, the weaker sections of the society and everybody else are suffering a lot as they are unable to purchase the essential commodities. In the country, in the last four years, 1.5 lakh farmers have committed suicides. One farmer is committing suicide after every 30 minutes. In the Presidential Address, there is no mention about this. It is a shameful thing. We have to be really concerned about suicides by farmers.

Now, the agriculture sector is in crisis as the farmers are shifting to other cultivations which are not at all remunerative. Even the Government did not mention either about the Swaminathan Commission Report or about the Radhakrishnan Committee Report. The Swaminathan Commission has given a wonderful Report concerning agricultural production. If we implement the recommendations contained in the Swaminathan Commission Report, then agriculture will become sustainable and we will be able to achieve four per cent growth in terms of GDP. But they did not mention about this Swaminathan Commission Report. He has made recommendations about the credit policy. At present, we are giving loans to the farming community at seven per cent interest rate, but he has requested the Government to reduce this interest rate to four per cent as agriculture would become viable only at that rate.

The Government talked about one-time settlement concerning marginal and small farmers, but it covers only ten per cent of the Indian farmers. Only ten per cent of the Indian farmers are covered under this waiver net, but what about the rest 90 per cent farmers? They have given this concession or waiver to small and marginal farmers whose holding is limited to five acres, but what about those who hold more than five acres? In dry-land areas, a farmer is cultivating more than five acres. You can go and see as to how many farmers, who have more than five acres, have committed suicides. They have not been covered under this waiver net. A farmer is a farmer. A farmer who owns ten acres of land might have taken huge loans from the banks, but due to drought or floods, he has lost his entire crop and is not in a position to repay the loans.

The Fifty-ninth Report of the statistical organization says that 50 per cent of the farmers were taking credits from private moneylenders at a higher rate of interest. The waiver proposal does not cover the credits given by the private moneylenders. How will the agriculture survive in such a scenario?

In its Report, the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission has fixed the prices for 15 commodities, but the Government has not accepted it. They are importing wheat from other countries by paying Rs. 1600 per quintal, but they are not able to pay even Rs. 1,100 per quintal to the Indian farmers. It is due to the pressure that they have enhanced the price from Rs. 850 to Rs. 1,000. For the last three months, the whole country is demanding a price of Rs. 1,000 per quintal for paddy, but the Finance Minister, the Agriculture Minister or even the Prime Minister have not yielded to this request of the farmers.

The Swaminathan Commission has clearly recommended that it should be the input cost plus 50 per cent bonus so that agricultural activity will become remunerative. They have not mentioned about this. There may be a food crisis tomorrow and where the Government will import from to feed a population of 120 crores? Now, we are importing wheat; tomorrow, if there is crisis in relation to paddy, we will have to import even rice also. It would be a difficult task for the country, if there is a food crisis tomorrow.

That is why, we are demanding waiver of loans given to the entire farming community, as otherwise it would

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

be an irreparable loss to the country. Due to erosion and natural calamities, the farmers are incurring losses, but the waiver has not covered all those farmers.

If you take the unemployment problem, they are talking about Special Economic Zones, and creating employment potential for one lakh people through those Special Economic Zones.

They are taking over land from farmers through Special Economic Zones. The lands on which two to three crops were being cultivated were taken away by paying meagre amounts of money as compensation. They are implementing the Land Acquisition Act with force. Even though Government of India has asked the State Governments not to take over land forcibly, Chief Ministers are taking away land from farmers in connivance with their own people and handing it over to industrialists. The lands that are taken over on payment of paltry sums are not being utilised for setting up of SEZs. Instead, they are being developed as real estate properties and being sold for astronomical sums of money. They are not even providing employment to people whose lands have been taken away.

At the time of passing the Special Economic Zones Act the Minister had categorically stated that the Government would first allow 150 SEZs and after seeing their functioning, the number would be increased. However, the Government has given sanction for setting up of about 600 SEZs throughout the country. This is an alarming situation. Lakhs of acres of fertile land is being acquired for real estate development purposes. This is very inhuman treatment being meted out to the farming community.

The Government had made tall promises in the National Common Minimum Programme like providing 33 per cent reservation for women in State Assemblies and Parliament. Four years have already passed and this is the last year of the UPA Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh whose Chairperson is Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. Even in this year, the Government failed to mention this issue in the Address of the President. The hon. Prime Minister will have to explain to the House as to why this issue has not been mentioned in the Address of the President. When NDA was in power they were demanding for 33 per cent reservation for women. However, they are silent on this issue.

The Government has not taken any initiative to control the price rise. They promised the nation that would control any price through market intervention schemes like purchasing the commodities and releasing them in the market. None of that has happened. They have increased the prices of petrol and diesel seven times during their regime. They kept blaming the earlier Government for minor increases in the prices of petroleum products. Yet, they have increased the prices of petrol and diesel as much as two rupees per litre. Some conscience is left in the Members of TRS who were a part of UPA and they have left the coalition. Many other parties supporting this Government are implementing their own manifestos.

The Presidential Address is a policy document of the Government of the day. What message has the Government given to this country through this document? Major issues have not been covered. Alarming issues like inflation, price rise, agrarian crisis, have not been covered in this Address. For three months we have been mobilising the farmers, agitating and conducting rallies as a result of which this much of concession is given in the Budget to farmers.

We are unhappy about the Address given by the President as this has not covered major issues. The Government has totally failed in implementing the promises made in its Common Minimum Programme. That is why we oppose this Motion.

*SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Sir, I would like to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President Address. It is the first address by the President in joint session. I went through the Address very minutely and keenly. I was thinking that it was the Address by the first woman President. It might be having a new direction for the country. I thought that it would have motherly affection and love for the poor and the down trodden who have been oppressed for centuries together but I am disappointed. The wording and syntax of the Address might be howsoever attractive but the reality is equally grim. The President in her first paragraph of the Address has stated while emphasizing her Government's commitment that the economy is on the track of progress. This process of economic development should be socially inclusive and regionally balanced and environmentally sustainable. The measures taken by my Government have given shape to essential framework of inclusive growth.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

I would like to know from the Government as to who are covered under this inclusive growth. On one hand there are twenty people who possess wealth worth crores of rupees and on the other hand there are about twenty crore people who are cursed to live under poverty line. Is it inclusive growth? The development is taking place but development of whom and at whose cost. The President should have also mentioned it in her speech. About 5 crore people pick up and eat their food from the garbage heaps. Is it inclusive growth?

The President's speech does not have any mention regarding steep rise in prices of essential commodities. The President's Address claims that an annual growth rate of 9% has been consecutively registered during the last four years. Whereas the Government of Manmohan Singh is claiming of higher economic growth, India is lagging behind even her neighbours like Sri Lanka and Maldives in terms of development as per the recently published report of United Nations Development Programme.

This Address refers to National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. It guarantees 100 days employment in 365 days. I would like to know whether it is possible to support the family during the whole year from this meagre income and whether the Government propose to review it with all seriousness.

A mention has been made with regard to the agriculture sector but I am surprised that not a single word of condolence has been uttered for the farmers who committed suicide under the debt burden.

There is a reference to loan waiver of farmers. The loan waiver for farmers has been declared without a concrete information regarding the total debt of farmers. It is good that debts of farmers are waived off but there should also be a provision for this in the budget. Not only this, there should be an effective scheme for waiving off loans advanced by private money lenders to the farmers.

In addition to waiving off loans agriculture should be made a remunerative profession. The farmer is not getting even the cost spent on his produce. Only the loan waiver scheme would not be sufficient until the farmer gets remunerative prices for his produce. The President's Address does not have any mention of this. This is the reason why the farmer who is provider of food to us, is committing suicide under the debt burden.

The NDA Government had devised a crop insurance scheme. The farmer will remain fully assured of his income so his crops in all adverse circumstances whether

it be drought, flood, famine, loss of crops by fire or whatever the crisis or natural calamity may befall him. There is not even a mention of this in the President's Address.

Nothing is secured against terrorism. A number of people have lost their lives in terrorist incidents. Despite this the Government claims the situation to be under control. No effective steps aimed at dealing with terrorist activities are mentioned in the President's Address. A stringent law is required to deal with terrorism. If the Government brings in such a legislation, we shall support that.

There is no mention in the address about removing economic disparity. There is no mention of an effective scheme to bridge the chasm of economic disparity.

The issue of Ramsetu is very sensitive. All efforts should, therefore, be made to save the Ramsetu.

The great threat being faced by Indian culture today had not been witnessed even during the period of Mughals, Pathans and British invasions. Existence of Lord Rama was never questioned. Today, Manmohan Singh Government is bent on negating even Mahatma Gandhi. If Lord Rama had not been a reality Mahatma Gandhi would not have talked of political concept of 'Ram Rajya' and would not have recited 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram' at all places. I am of the view that there should be no attempt to put a question mark over existence of not only Lord Rama but over any religion, iconic personality or symbol of any religion, faith and culture.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while participating in motion of thanks on the Her Excellency President's Address, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards Uttar Pradesh, which has population of more than 18 crores. Her Excellency President has not given any attention to the western part of the Uttar Pradesh which consists of 5 divisions and 22 districts. Western Uttar Pradesh provides state government more than 70 percent of the total revenue in the state, Uttar Pradesh gets more than 70 percent of the revenue from western Uttar Pradesh, Her Excellency has not given attention to such a region. In the same western Uttar Pradesh, more than 80 percent farmers are sugarcane producers. Although, the government has waived off 60 thousand crore rupees loan of farmers, I understand that loan of only those farmers will be waived, who do not have any liability and carried over money will

[Shri Munshi Ram]

continue and perhaps such loans have been waived. If the Government really wants to make farmers prosperous, then it should constitute farmer's Committee, which will fix the price of farm produce itself and price of crops should be fixed before their yield so that farmers can decide whether they will be able to get remunerative prices for their produce or not. Issue of Labourer is also related with this, as farmer is the source of earning and if farmer has no money, then what will happen? If farmer earns profit from his produce, then he should not have any problem in giving money to the labourer. At present, it is more important to provide electricity to farmers than waiving off loans. The Government should have made the scheme to ensure supply of electricity for atleast 18 hrs. out of 24 hours and providing free power should have been the objective of the government. In my opinion government has also not given any attention towards that.

There are only 3 Universities in Western Uttar Pradesh. There are Universities for a population of 5-6 crores. The Government has also not given attention towards that. Children of farmers, labourers and children belonging to scheduled castes are studying there, there should be a reputed university in this region so that these children do not have to go far from their place.

Similarly, the government have made the provision for construction of rooms for providing primary and junior education. But 400 to 500 children are there in Primary schools and only 1 or 2 teachers to teach them. The Government has not made any scheme to appoint teachers proportionate to the children's ratio. I think the Government has not shown any concrete strategy in this regard. If our power generation is 15 to 17 percent less than our requirement, then its distribution should be in same ratio. It should not happen that you are providing electricity to farmers for only 2 hours and to the industrialists for 24 hours. You provide electricity round the clock in big cities and for 3 to 4 hours in small towns. I understand that the Government has not mentioned in the proposal that smaller towns should be provided electricity for at least 18 hours out of 24 hours. The Government has not given any attention towards that. Then, we ponder over to devise the ways to prevent migration of people from villages to cities. But if facilities like education, electricity are not available in small towns and rural areas, then how we will be able to stop them. Similarly, the Government has prepared a scheme to provide employment to lakhs of unemployed people, but if such unemployed people set up small industries in

small towns and if there are no buyers of their products, then their small industries will not prove to be beneficial. Hence, such industries for which the Government provides loans, are not in a position to repay the loan and the government does not have any scheme to buy products from the industries to be set up in small towns and rural areas. The Government has not formulated any concrete scheme to buy their products.

Although, the Government has set up National Rural Health Mission, but Her Excellency has not mentioned about 1.38 lakh health sub-centres 22,669 Primary Health Centres, 3947 Community Health Centres and 540 district hospitals and appointments of doctors and staff proportionately and arrangement of medicines in Pathology labs and their supervision.

Government of India has made the provision for opening of Medical Colleges having facilities at par with All India Institute of Medical Sciences in each state. Uttar Pradesh is a big state. Her Excellency President has not mentioned about opening medical colleges there. There is a need to open such a medical college in western part of Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, there are crores of unemployed youths, but the Government has not formulated any scheme for them. They take recourse to crime and are adopting wrong means to earn money because of non availability of jobs. The Government has not formulated any scheme for such unemployed youths.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(interruptions)*

[Translation]

**SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Thousands of hectares land was eroded by river Ganga originating from Uttarakhand and farmers have become landless there. Several villages have been destroyed and there are apprehensions that remaining villages will be destroyed through erosion caused by Ganga. Her Excellency President has also not mentioned anything about the works to be carried out through the special package for the assistance of farmers belonging to weaker sections.

Now, while taking part in motion of thanks on the President's Address, I request to the Government that all the needs of Western Uttar Pradesh should be met

*Not recorded.

**Speech was laid on the Table.

through the special package till it is made a separate state.

[English]

*SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): President's address is the reflection of the programmes and policies of the Government. In the beginning of every year it is customary that the Hon'ble President will address the Joint Session of the Parliament and spell out the policies and programmes of the Government.

Sir, Junior Members of Parliament like me hardly get opportunities to express our views. If we get an opportunity it is only for two or three minutes. So, we are unable to express our views on many of the issues. Sir, I am requesting you to give more time to me as I am on my legs to speak in Kannada for the first time. I do not want to take much time. I would like to speak only on two major issues. First of all I am very concerned about Terrorism and Internal Security. Her Excellency the Hon'ble President in the 49th and 50th para of her address stated that the overall internal security situation remains under control. If it is so, I would like to ask the Government only one thing "what do you mean by control". After the UPA Government came into power, especially during the last 18 months a number of terrorist incidents have taken place in the country. It is very shocking.

In March, 2006 there were twin blasts at a Railway station near Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi, 20 persons were killed. In July 2006, seven serial bomb blasts occurred in Mumbai Suburban trains, killing more than 200 people and many people were injured. In September 2006, at least thirty persons were killed and 100 others injured in twin blasts at a mosque at Malegaon in Maharashtra. In February 2007, bombs detonate on the Samjhauta Express running from Amritsar to Lahore. A number of people were killed. After the completion of one year of UPA in office this incident took place but the Hon'ble Prime Minister has not even visited that place, keeping the minority votes in mind he neither visited nor consoled the affected people.

If I go on quoting all these incidents there will be no end to it. These incidents have happened in less than one and a half years. It clearly shows that during the UPA regime, terrorism has spread like wild fire. The main reason for this is the soft policy of the UPA Government.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

I would like to make it very clear sir, both the Hon'ble Home Minister and the UPA Government are observing soft policy towards extremism. For example, I would like to mention some reports.

On April 1, 2007 an ISI agent Maqsood Ahmed was arrested in Hyderabad while recruiting youths for sabotage and espionage activities. Neither was he thoroughly interrogated nor was there any follow-up action. On May 20, 2007, Mohamed Sayeed was arrested by the West Bengal police from Jharkhand's Jantara district. He gave copious details of his links with terrorist modules in Hyderabad. There was no further investigation. On May 25, 2007, Shoaib Faqrudin Jagirdar, muttawali (custodian) of a local dargah, was arrested for sending RDX and youths from Jalna in Maharashtra of Hyderabad for terrorist actions. He was reportedly released under political pressure. On June 15, 2007, Mohamed Abdul Sattar, an ISI agent, confessed that he had received armed training in Pakistan along with Shahid who was responsible for the May 18 Hyderabad blasts. There was no further investigation. On August 12, 2007, the Aurangabad police seized 29 kg of ammonium nitrate explosive, abandoned by a man who came from Secunderabad (near Hyderabad).

Sir, it is very much clear from all these incidents that the UPA Government is not taking any stringent action to curb such elements. It is because of the soft policy of the UPA Government the terrorist activities are spreading everywhere. There were bomb blasts in Kashi, then Delhi, then Hyderabad, and now it has entered into Karnataka, which is known for peace. Two persons who were riding on a motor bike were arrested at Honnali in Shimoga district in Karnataka under the pretext that they were thieves and presented before the court. Hon'ble judge, who interrogated them finally, in his wisdom, came to know that they were extremists having links with ISI. The police have continued their investigations further and arrested six more persons.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI: Sir, please give me another two to three minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude. You have taken more than 8 minutes.

SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI: I would conclude in one minute and lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

[Shri Prahlad Joshi]

Out of those six persons. 4-5 of them are medical and engineering students, who are studying in Government colleges. These students had Bin-Laden's photographs and glorified him. Though such things are happening in our state neither the State Police, nor the Central Intelligence Agencies have noticed these activities. It clearly shows how the UPA Government is dealing with the terrorists having links with the ISI. Sir, it is therefore my demand to the Government that it should revive POTA and implement it in the country. As per the direction from the Supreme Court, National Security Commission should be established and in every State there should be anti-terrorism force which should be given modern arms and ammunition.

With these words I conclude my speech and the rest of my speech I would like to lay on the Table of the House.

"Sir, due to paucity of time, I will touch upon only two aspects of the President's address. These two are agriculture and internal security and menace of Terrorism and Govt's resolve to curb the increasing terrorist activities as the terror is spilling over to more and more parts of the country, which was hitherto restricted to some regions only.

Internal Security and Terrorism:

Para 49 and 50 of President's speech refer to internal security and proceeds to say that the situation remains under control. It has also a mention about the spreading of left wing extremism, and has spoken much about the modernization of police and the security forces and of the intelligence gathering system. It sounds more like a document of an appreciation of factual status of the situation but does not contain anything about the proactive measures the Government really propose to have those answers for these declarations. In fact the President's speech must have contained its concern about the terrorist activities spilling over to new regions like Karnataka in the southern states.

More disappointing is the failure of the Government to take note of the new dimension to the menace that the local youths from certain regions in my state are lured to the terrorist groups and there is no mention about the Government's resolve to express at least its

concern leave away the constructive action plan to face the situation. Even in the document called OVERVIEW OF INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION THAT IS A STATUS PAPER ON INTERNAL SECURITY published by GOI there is a mention which reads "In 2007 there have been two major terrorist incidents, one in Samjhauta Express Train near Panipat and other in Mecca Masjid at Hyderabad by externally based sponsored terrorist outfits with some local help. Let me underline the portion with some local help. What does it mean? What is the source of this local help, who are the people behind this source of local help. Now it is high time for the Government to expose this local help aspect instead of being shy on this issue. Here I must say the Government is a utter failure on two counts in this regard.

No. 1 Admittedly the terrorist activities are mostly engineered by external outfits, and what it indicates is the failure of the Government to identify the terrorists coming from outside and prevention of their sneaking out into our country and their easy movements across the country. No. 2 is the Government's failure to go deeper into the local help aspects. Now it is crystal clear that some shocking news are coming up and making the things clear, which is this local help source.

The story is getting unfolded and I for myself is deeply concerned because the story being unfolded has the roots and genesis in northern part of my state of Karnataka.

In the recent catch of some students from Medical, Engineering and other colleges mostly from northern part of Karnataka are all reported to have links with banned SIMI and more shocking is all these suspected terrorists have links with external terrorist outfits and playing in their hands. But what is not understood why the Government and Government security agencies are trying to hide the fact that these new catch are either terrorist or having been in direct association with terrorist outfits why this self-deceit. It proves beyond doubts that, by looking at the arrested students by any angle little doubt remains that they were in grand designs to go for subversive and disruptive activities, why the Government is shying away from hard realities?

This self-deceit of the Government is reflected by even a very casual response of Home Minister when I was in a delegation of Karnataka MPs that met him and expressed its concern about the growing network of terrorists in Karnataka. His surprising reaction to our request was why we make hype about this issue, which according to him has impact on development of our state.

..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

Yes Mr. Home Minister I painfully recognize openly the fact of existence of terrorism in one or the other region confronts our development. I understand your concern but we cannot suppress or hide the irrepressible reality in the pretext of ploy of the development.

But can such development be coveted at the doorsteps of the destruction, loss of life and property! Leaving our children at the peril of constant imminent of danger of these Merchants of Death the real merchants of Death! I am not going into great detail about how of late Jihadis look for new destinations more particularly going southwards. What is disturbing is that the terror groups apparently have no difficulty in finding recruits to their nefarious cause. Concern is the participation of educated youths and professionals including young engineers and doctors.

Now let me come to the recent incidents in my own constituency. Two wheeler thieves were chanced to be arrested by police near Shimoga and produced before Honnali Magistrate. It was good fortune of Karnataka more specially northern part that the Magistrate read something different and smelt rat and ordered for detailed investigation into the antecedents of these two Mr. Asadulah Abukar and Mr. Gaus. The revelations were shocking! They were terrorists in the grab of just a vehicle thieves. The arrest and investigation on these two disclosed a shocking network of terrorists designs in Karnataka and the investigations acquired larger dimension. Arms and ammunitions were hidden in surrounding forest areas of Hubli. Some places of worship displayed shocking pictures of Bin Laden. This led to series of arrests of many more suspected persons having links with external terrorist outfits.

In the last one month, of the six people arrested by Karnataka cops, three are medical students from north Karnataka region and another one is an engineer from Bangalore.

While Mohammed Asif and Allabaksh were MBBS students, Asaduallah Abubaker was an Ayurvedic medicine student, and Yahya Khan an engineer. Senior police officers confirm they are looking out for more associates. Even there is pressure being mounted by public for through investigations into 'Madarasas' who according to them are becoming the hideouts for these terrorist elements. But our Finance Minister showered such Madarasas with lavish allocation of funds! What I suggest instead more funds to be provided for higher educational Institutes which have the potential to change the mindset of Muslims as to bring them in the main stream of nation building.

I want to be very clear on the point unlike my Congress and leftist friends who want to play secular cards even in such sensitive issue of terrorism. Let us not argue much on who is secular and who is communal even in the issue of terrorism! Terror is terror no use in denying it. Terrorists are terrorists! No matter which community and religion they belong to.

May 2007, eleven persons killed in a bomb attack at the historic Jama Masjid in Hyderabad and 25 Aug. 2007 bombs rip through crowded public areas in Hyderabad killing at least 42 persons.

But it is most unfortunate that the Government, still do not want to look at these aspects with the right perspective. It still holds to chest its traditional minority card. But more shocking is the fact that the local police are still trying to wash of their hands by just brushing aside the terror aspect and threat perception. If we have to win the battle against terror, political considerations, communal pressures, administrative and police lethargy, and a weak legal-judicial regime will have to be negated. Let us not sugarcoat our response, like announcing that India and Pakistan as victims of terrorism are in the same league that sends ambiguous signals to India's enemies.

Situation being this grim still the Home Minister wishes to duck under the cover of developmental aspect and perhaps another reason being the fear of minorities fume and risk of losing secular cover though at the cost of lives of Indian people.

At least now the Government wake up from its deep slumber and acts firmly. Don't worry about the development, because it is first the safety of people and internal security of the country that counts. Let us not be thinking of paradise standing right in the center of hell! In this background I urge this Government to send the clear signal to all the security agencies including respective state police to be firm and purposeful in tracking down terrorist designs lest the state police take a frequent naps in the thought of development.

The police in my constituency are so casual in the approach that the commissioner quite frequently harps on the same string by saying 'absolutely' there is no threat of any terrorism, no wonder he is monumentally inspired by Government apathy in this regard.

There is much reference by the President about the modernization of police force but no road map is shown.

[Shri Prahlad Joshi]

There is no mention about the establishing National Security Commission as suggested by apex court which I feel goes long way in addressing the security issues.

I feel the only solution to this problem of terrorism is re-introduction of POTA. It is high time for Congress and my Leftist friends to shed their plank of Minoritism. Shed the fear of loosing Muslim votes please come out of the self created feeling that the POTA is to target Muslims. Its target is a only terrorist. Let us not identify the terrorists on whether faith and religion they belong to.

In this background I urge this Government to bring back POTA and save this country from the menace of terrorism and proper implementation of the laws a special enforcement agency like ANTI-TERRORISM FORCE be created.

2. Agriculture:

Para 9 and 10 refer to agriculture. In para 11 the President mentions about the substantial increase in the agricultural production. But a reported study on agricultural production speaks a different story.

The growth in the agricultural and allied sectors decelerated from 6 percent in 2005-06 to 2.7 percent in 2006-07. The growth rate, which was 22.5 percent in 2003-04, fell drastically to -7.06 percent in 2004-05. Although the growth rate managed to climb 5.76 percent in 2005-06, it again declined to 1.57 percent during 2006-07. The non-food grain production has registered an increase in the growth rate from -3.06 percent in 2005-06 to 9.69 percent in 2006-07. However, this still remains to be much below the 19.15 percent growth attained in 2003-04. Also there has been stagnation in the production of major crops and decline in the stocks amidst rising global food prices, which led to significant hardening of domestic food prices during 2006-07.

The stock of food grains as on July 1, 2007 stood at 23.91 million tones as against 19.35 million tones on July 1, 2006, registering an increase of 23.57 percent over the period of year. There has been no significant increase in the area under cultivation of food grains. The area under cultivation of food grains was 120 million hectares in 2004-05, which increased marginally to 121.60 million hectares in 2005-06 and further to 124.07 million hectares in 2006-07.

Waiver of loans of farmers is not the end solution to uplift the Indian farmers I welcome the announcement of the Government in the Budget of a huge 60,000 crores worth loan waiver of small and marginal farmers though many questions need to be answered by Finance Minister on workability of this sop.

But most disappointing portion of President speech relates to Agricultural sector since it has no mention about constructive proposals about integrated schemes to provide farmers the self-strength. On this count also the speech is without any substance. Much was expected in President's speech about restructuring of crop loans which is considered to be an effective vehicle for protection of farmer. But nothing is said about this.

3. All India Radio and Doordarshan:

Lastly, I would like to refer to para 47 of speech wherein much is said about strengthening of All India Radio and Doordarshan with regard to certain states. Nothing is mentioned about the enlarging the programme generating facility schemes in states like Karnataka. Much was expected about a Programme Generating Center at Dharwad, which is cultural capital of Karnataka. So on all these counts the motion on presidential speech does not qualify for thanks.*

©SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Sir, please include some points in Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

If the Government implement the points mentioned by H.E. the President in her Address in a proper way, the situation of the country can be improved. It is appropriate to pay special attention towards education, the Government should pay special attention towards education especially in rural areas for which more allocation should have been made in the budget, but this has not been done. India is an agriculture based country. The rural people are more dependent on agriculture. Farmers should be provided electricity for irrigation free of cost. Farmers should be provided bank loans at the rate of 4 percent. There is a need to pay special attention towards sports like wrestling, Kabaddi, Volleyball which have been played at rural level and are now being ignored. Special attention should be paid towards health facilities. The Government has not paid due attention towards this especially in rural areas where there is acute shortage of doctors. It is being said that roads, electricity and telephone facility is being provided under Bharat Nirman. At last, I would like to say that if we want to make India strong, farmers should be provided remunerative prices for their crops alongwith free electricity for irrigation. Special attention should be paid towards villages. I demand special package for Bundelkhand region.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[*English*]

*SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): I rise to support the motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by my esteemed colleague Shri Ajit Jogi. I wish to congratulate the President for her first Address to Parliament in which she has touched almost every segment of our people—children, women, students, workers, armed forces, farmers and backward classes. The Address gives a vivid description of the myriad schemes launched by the UPA Government, for the benefit of all these segments in various fields like health, education, agriculture, economic growth, infrastructure, internal security, overseas Indians, tourism, sports, etc. I join my friends in complimenting the UPA Government, and our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for undertaking such massive programmes under the inspiring leadership of the UPA chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi.

As a first time Member of Parliament, I deem it my duty to draw the attention of all the members of this House to what the President has said about our role and proceedings. I quote:

"Your leadership can unleash the full potential of our people and ensure the stability and sustainability of our growth process. I sincerely hope, therefore, that the proceedings of Parliament this year will be purposeful, peaceful and productive."

I am sorry to say that over the next three days after the Address, we did the opposite and could not have the question hour; we could not transact any business except the presentation of the Railways Budget. The House had to be adjourned again and again and ultimately Hon. Speaker was compelled to observe that we were working overtime to finish democracy in the country. Nothing has pained me more than this. If democracy is to be finished in this temple of democracy, can there be a worse sacrilege? I would therefore beseech all my friends to live up to the hope of the President and come up to the expectations of Hon. Speaker and our people who watch us live on TV.

As the Hon. Speaker, we are lucky to have a person who is so generous and liberal as to allow discussion on any subject under the rules of the House. In UPA, we have a Government, which is always willing to reply to any discussion. So, there is no reason why we cannot

discuss every issue in a peaceful, purposeful and dignified manner. That way we can earn the respect of one and all and save our image from being sullied. After all, we are here for discussions and not for disruptions.

Although the President has stated that the overall internal security situation remains under control, it is still a matter of grave concern. Of late, the Left wing extremism is raising its sinister head. The Naxals are mounting their activities. While other terrorist outfits normally target innocent and unarmed people to spread panic and communal hatred, the Naxals have always attacked police and para-military forces. They inflict heavy casualties and decamp with huge quantities of arms and ammunition which are used for other attacks and cadre training. The general impression is that the police personnel suffer more casualties than they inflict. Incidents in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa etc. reinforce this impression. What are the reasons? Is it that the police force is not fully trained or fully equipped or fully alert? Otherwise what could be the reason that the Naxals come, choose their target and kill at will.

While addressing the Chief Ministers in December last year, the Prime Minister stated that the Left-wing terrorism was the biggest security challenge to the country and we have to eliminate this virus. As many as 13 States are facing this challenge, stretching from Nepal border in North Bengal to Andhra Pradesh which has come to be known as the red corridor.

The Prime Minister urged the State Governments, to set up their own specialized forces to fight such extremism. Andhra Pradesh has taken the lead by setting up a dedicated force called Grey Hounds. I would like to know what other States have done.

It is evident that the Naxals who operate from hilly and forested areas have developed the technique to launch frontal attacks on police forces and establishments. We have to beat them at their own game by better intelligence gathering and training and raising the morale of our forces with sophisticated weapons. It may be better if, along with other measures, our forces engage them in guerrilla warfare.

At the same time, it is highly essential to provide better facilities like schools, health care, road connectivity, bank credit to the tribal people in the affected areas so that they cannot be exploited by the extremists for their nefarious ends.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

As a sportsman I would like to very sincerely thank the Hon'ble President to mention that the Government is going to start a new scheme known as Panchayat Yuva Khet Aur Krida Abhiyan with a view to promote sports and nurture talents at the block and village levels. This scheme if implemented earnestly would certainly bring tremendous improvement in promotion of sports at the grassroots. However, I would like to point out that in the year 1970-71 a similar scheme known as Rural Sports Competitions was launched. It is reported that more than 25 Lakh rural youth used to take part in various competitions at block and district level. I do not know the final fate of the scheme. However, I would like to appeal to the Government that the new scheme should be launched with objectives to promote games and sports in all the blocks and villages of the country during 11th five year plan. It will be possible if about 25,000 blocks are selected every year where Panchayats should transfer at least 10 Acres of developed land preferably close to a school to be developed as RURAL SPORTS COMPLEX. The Rural Sports Complex should have minimum of following facilities:

- (i) An athletic track of 8 lane 400 mtr with facilities for field events including throws and jumps.
- (ii) A football ground inside the 400 mtr. track.
- (iii) Minimum of two volleyball grounds as it is a popular rural sport.
- (iv) Field for indigenous games such as Kho-Kho and Kabaddi.
- (v) Any other locally popular game such as Hockey in Punjab.
- (vi) In phase two, build a multipurpose indoor hall for games like wrestling, Judo and boxing, etc.

Rural sports complexes should be managed by Arjuna Awardees or by retired physical education teachers or retired young soldiers, who had done physical education course while in service or had played games upto command level. Such retired people would be getting pension and nominal additional remuneration under this scheme would give them further incentive to scout and nurture young talent from the rural areas.

Hon'ble President also mentioned that preparation for 2010 Commonwealth Games are going on in full swing. I thank the Government, for this. However, on 31st August,

2007 I had submitted in this House that Beijing Olympics were less than a year away and Indian public was not aware about the sports disciplines in which India was qualified and what preparations were being made with a view to win a few medals. Needless to say that in Olympics race for winning medals is becoming keener day by day. Winning of Olympic Medals has become symbol of country's pride and its fighting spirit. Similarly, adverse performance adversely affects the morale of a country. I am happy to state that the Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports vide his letter dated 19th January, 2008 informed me that 22 sports persons have qualified so far to participate in various sports events in Beijing Olympics. He further mentioned that these qualified sports persons are undergoing regular coaching camps and training cum competition programmes as per the request made by various concerned sports Federations. However, it is a matter of concern that in the last few weeks there has been so much adverse publicity both in print and electronic media where sports persons and concerned Federations have been complaining that ammunition for the shooters and shuttle cocks for the badminton players were not available in the country. I wonder how can these qualified sports persons perform well in forthcoming Olympics when basic equipment is not made available to them.

Though preparation and renovation of stadia in Delhi is in full swing for 2010 Commonwealth Games, but there is a concern regarding selection and training of sports persons so that India does well in these games when they are being held at home ground. By now we should have selected our teams for all the disciplines in which 2010 Commonwealth Games are to be held and should begin their training in real earnest.

Another area of concern is the number of petitions filed in the court by environmentalists challenging the construction of the Commonwealth Games village near Yamuna. This is delaying the project. Two judges of the Delhi High Court were to visit the site. I would like to know the latest position.

The Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports had announced last year that he was planning to bring a new comprehensive sports policy. I was happy that the new sports policy would have a measurable impact in the next five to ten years. It was gratifying that Government was thinking of launching a new sports policy in the beginning of XI five year plan and it would favourably affect India's performance in 2010

Commonwealth Games and 2012 London Olympics and hopefully by the year 20-20 India would become most active and most successful Sporting Nation. It is a pity that the new sports policy has not yet been finalized. I sincerely hope that the new sports policy is not only presented to this August House in the current session but it should be deliberated and approved so that India is able to make a creditable performance in 2012 London Olympics. Needless to say that we had so many sports policies but what was lacking was their proper implementation. I hope that the new policy will be effectively implemented.

The Address makes a mention about National Highways. I am happy that six laning of 6,500 Kms of existing National Highways has been approved. Government has also approved widening and improvement of National and State highways in the North East which is highly welcome.

However, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to National Highway No. 1 which is the oldest highway and of great historical and strategic importance. It links the national capital with many States. As such, it should be maintained in such a way that it serves as a role model for other highways. Many stretches like the one from Rajghat to Panipat are in a bad shape. The debris of the demolished structure and the building material are lying at various places on either side of the Highway in a haphazard manner. The uncovered drains overflowing with dirty water have become an eyesore due to mosquitoes.

I therefore suggest that this part of the highway is properly maintained with green plants on both sides, proper signals and light arrangements, so that commuters and foreign tourists feel welcome to our capital city.

The President has been pleased to observe that tourism has high potential for generating more income and employment across the country. It is a matter of pride that the foreign tourist arrivals are touching five million mark for the first time and the foreign exchange earnings in 2007 have touched US \$12 billion.

While all this is very encouraging it is a matter of shame for us that several cases of rape and molestation of foreign tourists are being reported from various parts of the country like Rajasthan, Orissa, Goa, Kerala, etc. According to the 'Hindustan Times' dated 14 January, 2008, "A foreigner has been either raped or molested

almost every single day of this year so far." Such unfortunate cases damage the tourism industry and sully the country's image.

I would request the Government to curb these incidents with an iron hand and hand out exemplary punishment to the guilty.

I understand that a meeting with the States was convened in January, 2008 to discuss this problem. I would like the Government to inform the House regarding the outcome of the meeting and the steps being taken for the safety and security of the tourists.

I have no doubt that all Indians would be proud of our space programme which has enabled us to extend tele-medicine, tele-education, telecommunications and other services both at home and abroad. Later this year we are going to launch our unmanned Lunar Mission "Chandrayan-I". We are aiming for the moon and shall reach there in the near future.

Our scientists have already delivered a wide range of electronic warfare systems and now they are in the process of developing advanced intelligence gathering equipment. I take this opportunity to congratulate our brilliant scientists and their team members for their excellent achievements.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): At the outset, I would like to thank for giving me this opportunity to participate in the Discussion on the Motion of Thanks for the Address delivered by hon. President at the Joint Session of both Houses of Parliament.

After assumption of UPA Government at the Centre, India's GDP growth at an average rate of 6.9% in 2003-04.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are Twenty five members to speak now. If House agrees, we can extend the time for one hour.

[*English*]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: The growth rate has moved to a higher place and average has been 8.6% and recorded a growth of 9.4% in the current year. During

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

the 11th Five Year Plan, it is aimed to reach the objective as a whole by providing equal opportunity for quality education and freeing people from the burden of ill health and eliminating discrimination.

Sir, for the past 150 years, our Tamil scholars and leaders demanded from various Governments to declare Tamil as a classical language. After coming to power at the Centre, the UPA Government and Madam Sonia Gandhi took effective steps and Tamil language was announced as a classical language. Apart from that, our Government has allocated nearly Rs.76 crore to start a Tamil Classical Language Research Institute at Chennai. I am thanking the UPA Government for this.

Another milestone of our UPA Government is sanctioning of Sethu Samutharam Project and the foundation for the same was laid during 2005 despite resistance from various quarters to start the project. I demand from the Government to take necessary steps for the timely completion of the project and to dedicate the same to the nation by the targeted date.

I am thanking the UPA Government for the submission of a *suo motu* statement on 30-11-2007 about the alleged harassment of participants of the peaceful rally organized by the Hindu Rights Action Force (HINDRAF) in Kuala Lumpur on 25-11-2007 and subsequent related matters. In this regard, I have raised the matter on the floor of the House on 29-11-2007. The very next day, the above statement was made in the House and the Government has helped the ethnic Indians living in Malaysia by interacting with Malaysian authorities.

The same is emphasized by our hon. External Affairs Minister yesterday on the floor of the House. Malaysia is our friendly neighbouring country. India and Malaysia are having very good relationship. Malaysia's two million Indians make up for more than 8 per cent of the population today. Out of which, nearly 85 per cent are Tamils. Now the HINDRAF leaders who fought for the rights of Indian origins are detained in jail. I humbly request the hon. Prime Minister to take up this issue with the Malaysian Prime Minister and to solve this issue amicably and the HINDRAF leaders who are languishing in the jails for number of months may be released.

Furthermore, nearly 250 youths who have gone for job were detained in Retention Centres in Malaysia for want of valid visas. Likewise number of youths were

lodged in jails in Singapore and Gulf countries. I would request the Government to take steps to release all the Indian youths who were under detention and to bring back them to their hometown.

On behalf of my Constituency, I want to submit two important points. In my Palani Parliamentary Constituency, Chennimalai is the abode of Lord Karthik. It has an ancient temple constructed more than 1000 years ago. It draws the crowd of lakhs and lakhs of people throughout the country from within the country and abroad. It should be given the 'heritage status'.

Another important town in my Constituency is Kangayam. Nearby Kangayam, famous historic hill station Uthiyur is located. It is famous for gems and minerals. Very costly stones are collected from here and sent to national and international levels. I demand from the Government that a 'Gem and Mineral Research Station' should be started here.

Our UPA Government has taken effective steps for infrastructural development like airport, seaport, dams, power stations, mineral based industries, steel, aluminum industries, etc.

After assumption of power, the UPA Government has taken steps for introduction of NREG Act providing 100 days job for the poor in backward districts and now this Scheme has been extended to all districts. Another milestone of this Government is the implementation of the Right to Information Act which is appreciated by masses.

Sir, another important programme launched by our UPA Government is the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme. This scheme aims at providing monthly pension of Rs. 400 for all poor who have completed 65 years of age.

Furthermore, our Government has given due importance to education. Earlier the students were facing lot of difficulties in getting their educational loans. Since UPA Government has assumed office, it has given top priority to education loan and necessary directions were given to banks for easy clearance of educational loans to students. It also issued instructions to banks in sorting out the problems being faced by the students in getting their educational loans.

Communication is another important area, which has been given a major thrust by our UPA Government and it has been revolutionized. Now a phone is affordable by one and all in the country. Mobile revolution 'One India Plan' along with the service providers from the private sector has enabled everyone to connect with one another effectively.

Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have a list of 29 Members who wants to participate in this discussion. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Members that those who want to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House, they may do so. I would be very thankful to those hon. Members. Those Members who would lay their speeches on the Table of the House, their speeches would also form part of the proceedings.

[Translation]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you. I rise to speak on Motion of Thanks on President's Address. I would like to speak in support of the motion in brief.

The UPA Government has been formed under special circumstances and we the left parties decided to support the Government from outside in order to keep the communal forces away from the power. Before giving support to the Government, we have put some conditions under National Common Minimum Programme. We have assured the Government about our support. It was expected that the UPA Government will work for the development of the country under Common Minimum Programme, but we found that the work done under the Programme were not satisfactory.

Going through the Address, I found that there are some issue which should have been mentioned in the address. I would like to mention these issues in brief. For example price rise in such an issue which is affecting the common man whether they live in rural or urban areas. The prices of items of daily use is skyrocketing. It is a matter of concern but it does not find any place in the President's Address drafted by the UPA Government.

The second issue is unemployment. Ours is a country of youth. If the youth especially the educated youth has to face the problem of unemployment then neither we would be able to give proper direction to the country nor

would be able to guide the youth. The Government should take this responsibility.

The third point is regarding women reservation. When the Government was formed we were assured that the issue of women reservation will be considered. Ironically it has not been discussed. There is no mention about it in the Address. I do not know, why the Government has ignored this issue? May be there are some practical problems which the Government do not like to mention. That's why this important issue has been ignored.

Fourth important issue is population. There are two aspects of population. One termed it as our strength and the other thinks it as problem. If population is a problem for us, the Government should have came forward to solve this problem and it should have been mentioned in the President's Address. And if we want to sue it as power, the Government should tell us how it will be used in future and the way the Government envisages it, should also be mentioned in the President's Address.

I would also like to mention the failure of the Government in regard to Public Distribution System. The other important issues like Global warming and Natural Disaster should have also found place in President's Address. The hon'ble members have expressed their concern about farmers. It has been announced that loan of 60 thousand crores rupees will be waived off. But it has not been mentioned that how many farmers have taken loans from banks. I think only those farmers will get the benefit of the scheme who have taken loans through banks or public loan institutions. Are the Government not concerned about those who have taken loans from private money lenders? If the Government is really concerned about providing relief to the farmers, it should consider matter seriously. I appreciate the steps taken by the Government regarding guarantee of at least 100 days employment to the people. The left parties with the help of other parties have pressured is the Government to implement the same and ultimately the Government relented to the pressure and have announced 100 days employment guarantee scheme. Whether this problem will be solved by providing mere 100 days employment to the people? It is a temporary phenomenon. We have to think about the remaining 265 days to find a solution to the problem. On behalf of my party RSP, I would like to say that the work done by the Government during these 4 years is not satisfactory. There is a need to do more in this direction. Common Minimum Programme (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, first of all, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the deliberation of thanking the hon. President of India for her Address.

It is a usual practice that the President's speech always reflects the design and ambitions of the Government which take shape, in course of time, into reality. The President's Address has frustrated the people of our region, that is the people of Assam and the people of North-East for various reasons. In this famous Address, the President has failed to address the core issue of our region. That is a core issue not only for our region but also for our country.

The first reason is regarding illegal migrants issue. As you know, about 22 years back, that is in 1985, the then Prime Minister, hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had signed an Accord with All Assam Students Union. In that famous Assam Accord, it was promised by the Government of India to the people of Assam and to the people of the country that illegal migrants present in the State of Assam will be detected, their names will be deleted from the electoral rolls and they will be deported. They had promised to protect the identity of the people of Assam, the *bonafide* Indian citizens living in Assam for centuries together. In that Accord it was also promised that constitutional safeguards will be given to the people of Assam. It was promised that Indo-Bangla border will be sealed; National Register of Citizens will be prepared to protect the interests of the *bonafide* Indian citizens; Ashok Paper Mill will be reopened; gas cracker project will be set up; and that a lot of road communication will be made possible for the economic upliftment of the people of Assam. These were the principal commitments in the Assam Accord. But I am sorry to tell you that till now the principal issue of Assam Accord has not been dealt with by the present Government. In this particular famous Address, it has not been mentioned properly as to how the UPA Government will combat these serious issues. This is an issue of not just Assam and North-East. This is an issue which is threatening the whole country; it is threatening our nation's integrity and sovereignty. That is why this issue has to be addressed and this issue has to be very specifically mentioned.

*Not recorded.

As you know, Assam is now a totally disturbed State. Law and order situation in the State has totally deteriorated. There is no security of life and property for the people of Assam. That is why the people of Assam and the people of that region demanded that the Government of India should initiate peace dialogue with all the extremist outfits, particularly ULFA and NSCN. In the President's Address we expected that the hon. President would submit the factual account of the progress in the peace initiative undertaken with outfits like NSCN (I-M) and also future plans for the peace talk with ULFA and other groups in the State of Assam. Though it is the desire and demand of the people of Assam, this particular core issue has not been addressed in this. Everybody wanted the Government of India to initiate peace dialogue with them to restore peace and tranquillity in the State of Assam.

As you know, the history of oil exploration started from Digboi, in my constituency, that is Dibrugarh. About 125 years back, Digboi Refinery was set up by the British. But I am sorry to tell you that while the capacity of modern refineries has been increased to a great extent, the refining capacity of Digboi capacity is still maintained at the meagre level of 0.65 million tonne. That is why I demand that this particular Refinery's capacity should be increased to a minimum of two million tonnes.

I would like to mention that five districts, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jhughat, Gulghat, are producing crude oil and natural gas for decades together. Both the State Government and the Central Government are earning a lot of revenue by way of cess, excise, sales tax and royalty. They have been collecting crores of rupees by way of revenue. But those areas are still totally ignored. Those areas do not have proper communication network. That is why I specifically demand that these companies, particularly, Oil India, ONGC, IOCL, should be asked to invest a minimum of ten per cent of their margins in the social responsibility sector for the upliftment of those areas in the communication network and also in other institutional growth.

Sir, let me come to the other very important point. It is about the problems of the tea labourers in Assam and the rest of the country. For your information, every year, hundreds of labours die because of lack of proper healthcare facilities in the tea gardens. When we raised this particular issue before the Government, the Government of India straightaway said that it is none of its business because it is a State subject. On the other

hand, the State Governments do not take up the responsibility to provide healthcare system for the labours in the tea gardens. That is why, it is my specific appeal, through you, Sir, to the UPA Government that the issue of healthcare facilities of the tea garden labours should be covered.

Let me now come to the other important point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. You have already taken more than eight minutes. I cannot allow this.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: There is one more point.... (*Interruptions*) There is one serious issue about the tribals. There are six communities which have to be included in the list of tribals. This issue should also be specifically addressed.

I am now coming to the last point. There is one more sector. More than 60,000 small tea growers are in the State of Assam. They have been raising their demands for so many decades. Many commitments have been given to them to give a special package for their upliftment. So, that particular issue should also be addressed. With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Kurup.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would call everybody by turn because I cannot call every one at the same time.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I again make the request to the hon. Members that those who want to lay their written speeches are allowed to lay. They are at liberty to lay their speeches on the Table of the House and they will form part of the proceedings.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, I thank you for calling my name.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not so. I have not called any member whose party's allotted time is over. The earlier member of your party has taken 56 minutes. It is not that I won't call you. I have not called any member whose party's allotted time is over and then, I have given them extra time.

[*English*]

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament is an analysis of the performance of the Government and also an outline about the future plans of the Government. In fact, it is a report placed before the country about the Government's performance. This year's President's Address is unique in the sense that, for the first time in the history of this Parliament, a woman President has addressed the Members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together. We all should naturally feel proud that we were part of a process which elected a distinguished lady of our country as the President of the country even though Her Excellency has not mentioned about the Women's Reservation Bill which everybody expected that she would mention.

18.22 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

The President's Address repeatedly mentions about the inclusive growth. But, in reality, we find the contrary. While the Government takes pride in the nine per cent growth, the fact that everybody admits is that it is not trickling down. Some of the important measures included in the Common Minimum Programme like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, if properly implemented, would reduce the level of poverty in the country. Many other assurances given in the CMP are yet to be implemented.

One important area is the Public Distribution System. The disintegration of the PDS started during the time of the BJP Government. I am sorry to say, during the regime of the UPA Government, it is continuing. The division of the cardholders as BPL and APL is totally unscientific and unjustifiable. It has destroyed the PDS. Many studies have come. When the Targeted Public Distribution System is implemented, many deserving families, many deserving poor people have gone out of the network of the Public Distribution System. There is a brilliant study made by none other than the daughter of Dr. Swaminathan. Miss Madhura Swaminathan has done a study in which she scientifically proves that lakhs of deserving people in this country have gone out of the public distribution system because of this targeted public distribution concept. In the name of streamlining the PDS, the Central Government has drastically reduced the allotment of wheat and rice to different States. It was mentioned in the

[Adv. Suresh Kurup]

morning in this House, and at the cost of repetition I would say, that the situation in Kerala is a case in point. Kerala was getting 1,13,420 metric tonnes of rice for distribution through PDS. Now, it has been reduced by 92,086 metric tonnes. In fact, Kerala needs 1,72,900 metric tonnes of rice to meet her needs. Now, there is a reduction of 82%. Kerala has repeatedly complained against the criteria used for identifying APL and BPL families. That criterion is totally bogus. It only helps to throw out poor and the needy from the PDS network. That criterion has to be changed totally. What is the meaning of inclusive growth when crores of people are not getting the benefit of the PDS system? There is a food crisis meaning that the prices of food articles are rising. In a country like India where 70 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line, it is the ardent duty of the Government to provide food security to the people. In this main area, I am sorry to say that the UPA government has failed miserably. Combined with this, they have increased the prices of petroleum products and major portion of the prices is customs and excise duties. So, in the name of spiralling price of oil in the world market, the Government is every time increasing the prices of petrol and diesel and it has got a cascading effect on the prices of food articles also.

Now, the Government is contemplating FDI in the retail network. Not only we, from the Left, are opposing it, but everybody who is in this area, working in the retail network is opposing it, but still the Government is persisting that FDI should be allowed in that area. Nothing new is coming out of this. The Government is trying to go ahead with that policy. The very reason that we from the Left are supporting this Government is that this is a secular Government. It is because of our ardent desire, because of the ardent desire of the people of this country, that there should be a secular Government in the Centre, we, with all our differences with the Congress are supporting this Government. But let us take a look at the communal situation in India. In Orissa, during the last Christmas season, for one week, a systematic attack was planned against Christian institutions. In my district, they come to a church or a school and burn it and go away. What is happening in Mumbai? A splinter group of Shiv Sena is targeting the North Indians. In the 1960s, the Shiv Sena targeted the South Indians. Mumbai is the present Mumbai because of the blood and sweat of the people who have migrated there from different parts of the country.

What has the Central Government done? In Baroda, these fundamentalist elements have attacked a professor

in the Baroda University. In Delhi University, the History Department is vandalised. In any other country a person like M.F. Hussain would have been regarded as one of the greatest artists and would have been given rewards. But what is happening to M.F. Hussain in our country? He is living like a fugitive in Dubai. He is not allowed to return to this country. I would like to know what steps the Central Government has taken in this regard.

Sir, last year, at Kota in Rajasthan a Christian group was attacked in a planned manner by fundamentalist elements. Some of us had gone and visited that place. This group was running an orphanage of 2,000 students. I have never seen such an orphanage in my life and this institute was attacked with the tacit approval of the Government of Rajasthan. What has the Central Government done? We went to the Home Minister and gave a memorandum, but we have not even received a reply. In all these incidents, I would say that the Central Government has been a silent spectator. They have not done anything to help the minorities in this country. This is the situation. I am sorry to say that the Central Government has failed miserably in this area.

Sir, the hon. President, in her Address, has expressed the hope that the Government can continue with the nuclear agreement. There was a threadbare discussion on the nuclear agreement in this House and there is no majority support for this agreement in this Parliament or outside in the country and still the Government is so keen on it. Yesterday the External Affairs Minister made a statement that a consensus is possible. I would like to say that there would not be any consensus regarding the nuclear agreement. We want this Government to continue. In spite of our lot of differences with the Government, we have never said that we would withdraw support to this Government because this Government, we know, is the only hope to keep this country united, to keep the secular fabric of this country, but they should not force us to withdraw support by signing the nuclear agreement. That is what I want to say.

Sir, overall this Government has failed to project a people friendly image or that it is helping the poor to come out of the quagmire of poverty. The only silver lining is the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme and the writing off of agricultural loans to help the debt-ridden farmers. But the Government should understand that the farmers were driven to suicides because of the wrong policy followed by this Government. That policy should be corrected and I genuinely hope that this Government would correct that policy and will be a people friendly Government.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad): Mr. Sir, this is the last Presidential Address of the UPA Government. There has been some success stories in the tenure of the UPA Government as far as minorities are concerned, the most important one being the announcement of Pre-Matric and Post Matric Scholarships to the tune of Rs. 3,300 crore in the 11th Five Year Plan and the announcement of Rs. 800 crore for the Merit-cum-Means Scholarship. I have seen in my own State that out of 867 allocations for the Merit-cum-Means Scholarship, 812 students have been given scholarships so far. I believe that the allocation of scholarship will go a long way in ensuring an improved literacy rate of the Muslim minorities and also of their increased participation in higher education. But when you come to the second aspect of enrolment, the general enrolment rate of Muslims is 8.79 per cent as against the national average of 11 per cent. The National University for Educational Planning and Administration has clearly stated that the out of school children is highest among the Muslims. What steps the Government is taking?

After Sachar Committee recommendation, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has formed a sub-Committee led by the hon. Minister Shri Fatmi. Shri Fatmi had given a detailed report in January last year and in that report he had said that in the Eleventh Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 5,434 crore is required to implement the education chapter on the Sacchar Committee wherein he said that for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Rs. 1,425 crore, for Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Rs. 230 crore, for Focussed Literacy Programme Rs. 750 crore, for Jana Shiksha Sansthan Rs. 750 crore are required. For Aligarh Muslim University, there is a dynamic proposal that four centres will be opened in India and for that Rs. 1,053 crore will be required. For MANU University in Hyderabad Rs. 500 crore would be required.

I want to know what has the Government done when their own Cabinet Minister has formed a Committee and when their own Minister of State, Shri Fatmi has given a report. Why has this proposal not been incorporated in the Eleventh Five Year Plan? What is the fate of these? When the Prime Minister gets up to reply to this, I would like to know from him specifically whether this Government is going to accept the Fatmi sub-Committee Report or not. Another good issue is multi-sectoral development. About 90 districts will be developed. Now, this year 2007-08 nine districts have been identified in UP, Bihar, Haryana and Jharkhand and a sum of Rs.150 crore has

been given. I would like to know from them the same thing.

There is one Mungerkar Committee, that is, inter-Ministerial Task Force on Implication of Geographical Distribution of Minorities. On 7th November last year, this report has been given. It has identified 338 minority constitution districts which do not have sanitation, housing and water scarcity is also there. Why is not the Government acting on the Mungerkar Committee Report when they announced so many things? The Mungerkar Committee Report is very important. Ninety minority districts is different, this is about 338 citizen's towns which lack all these facilities. In that inter-Ministerial Task Force Committee seven ministerial Secretaries were there from Ministries of Home Affairs, Urban Development, Women and Child Development, Labour, etc. I would like to know why is the Government not accepting these proposals. Even the allocation has been made.

Another issue is the 15-point programme. When it comes to 15-point programme, majority of the States are adopting indifferent attitude to the 15-point programme. Why do you not make it statutory? You make it statutory so that all States should implement the 15-point programme. Only where the secular Governments are there a little bit of implementation is there and other States are not doing it.

Lastly, the most important issue is about terrorism.

[Translation]

When it comes to terrorism, no evidence of bomb blast in Delhi's Jama Masjid, Malegaon Masjid, Hyderabad's Mecca Masjid, Ajmer's Dargah Sharif has been found till now. Whoever is responsible, whoever is accused. He has not been traced. I am telling you this in general. The CBI, who is making an inquiry into Mecca-Masjid bomb blast, has clearly stated that no one is connected with Andhra Pradesh whereas 26 young men were detained in the jail for three and a half months, they were subjected to torture but no evidence was found. Who's behind the Jama Masjid and Ajmer Blasts is not known. Wherever the bomb blasts took place in the places of worship of Muslims no terrorist has been found. However, there is a boy from Mumbai called Mohammad Afroz who was caught after 9.11.2001. The Maharashtra police said that he was going to destroy the Britain's House of Commons by a plane. But he was freed by the court. Our newspapers don't mention it. About Delhi's

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

Mohammad Maroof Kanwar and Irshad Ali, the CBI is saying that IB and Delhi Police together planted RDX in their houses. It cannot be known. Altaf Ansari a boy in Kolkata was caught but Uttar Pradesh High Court said that he was not an accused. He was put in the jail for two days and beaten badly. How long this is going to continue? When you have been voted to the power, your Government should put an end to terrorism. What kind of justice is this that Muslims are held responsible? But the time you start taking care of us we will have been ruined. After all by when the Librahan Commission's report is going to be out? Why Librahan Commission is taking such a long time? Why are you not implementing the Shri Krishna Commission's report despite your Government being in Maharashtra? I am telling you with full responsibility that in Maharashtra, Congress and NCP won't get any voter in assembly elections in future because they are inflicting so much of cruelty on Muslim youths. You have forgotten this of Maharashtra why have you forgotten? Why don't you get it implemented?

The other thing is regarding Telangana. About Telangana, I would like to say clearly and in plain terms that if you decide the future of Andhra Pradesh, not only the people of Andhra and Telangana will participate in it but the Muslims will also take part. You have to decide it taking us into confidence.

Lastly, I heard about Taslima Nasreem Member of Parliament of Assam Gana Parishad was saying that he had the biggest issue of illegal migrants. I feel sorry about those intellectuals of India who are taking much pain for a run-away person who has been thrown out by the Government of her country and who possesses a Sweden Passport. But those coming from Bangladesh leaving poverty behind are not talked about. This government is giving problems to 14 crores of Muslims. You send them back. What is their contribution in India apart from creating a feeling of separation among Hindus and Muslims?

Finally, I would like to speak on Foreign policy. In Gaza, the Israelis are inflicting cruelty on people. Our Government should have extended help to these people on behalf of Egypt on humanitarian ground. But you are doing nothing, only making statements so I would like to hear from the Prime Minister particularly on Fatmi sub-committee, Mungerkar report and on educational backwardness of Muslims, after he rises to reply.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Sir, my problem is that I cannot mention certain positive aspects or some points in the Presidents' Address in this

House within such a brief time which otherwise could have been raised at the national level or some other level because I hail from Jammu-Kashmir and there are so many problems with regard to my state. I am glad that Kashmir does find a mention in the Government document, in any form and it has also been mentioned in today's President's Address in which it has been stated that a reconstruction plan will be implemented there and with the trust of the people, efforts will be made to bring peace and maintain law and order there. In this august House, I would like to say clearly that there is a very big issue which pertains to those silent and peace loving Kashmiri people of Jammu-Kashmir who have been undergoing great affliction for the last 15 years and become victims of the guns from other side. Today, the situation is that the human rights violation is prevailing there and you will be surprised to hear if a few incidents be mentioned regarding the torture inflicted on the youth and the people who are taken as suspects or the worst is meted out to those who become the suspects in the eyes of the police or against whom the police becomes offensive.

Yesterday only, I saw picture in the local newspaper. A young person in Hindwara was arrested by the Police. If you happen to see that picture, you will feel horrified. He has been burnt and his body has been pierced by the rods.

Today he is in a hospital. There are many such instances which we have brought to the notice of the Government time and again that a few people have been killed, a few are missing, a few people who have been arrested, they are untraceable till date, their family members are worried to know whether they are still alive or not. Citizens are facing problems from both the sides but there is no reference in this Address as to what is the solution of the situation prevailing in the state of Jammu and Kashmir particularly in Kashmir valley which is facing problems. Unfortunately, there is a prejudice and suspicion in the minds of politicians of the country and if today it is not comprehended and given a thought by the secular forces which are part of the UPA Government, then perhaps it can cause a great problem in the history of this country at some point of time. You have a look at the condition of the minorities at the national level and this must have found a mention in this Address. Why such situations are prevailing in Orissa, Maharashtra and Jammu & Kashmir? Governments are mute spectators and those who have chosen the path of terrorism, those who have chosen the path of violence

are carrying out brutal assault on humanity but the political parties of the country will have to ponder over the expectations from a civilized Government and a civilized society. We have unity in diversity for which many countries of the world are envious of India, to safeguard and protect this thing we will have to step ahead towards social justice.

My dear colleague has just mentioned that the UPA Government has taken few steps for minorities. I cannot deny steps taken by them, a Commission was formed and its report was presented in the Parliament. It gives an impression that UPA alliances have some sympathy in their hearts for minorities but that UPA alliances have some sympathy in their hearts for minorities but they are afraid. They are afraid that perhaps they may land in the soup politically if they honestly support the programme put forth by the Sachchar Committee. I want to urge upon them that if they take decisions following justice and take open and transparent decisions then perhaps it will be beneficial because it would be in the history of the country and the whole world will recognize that a political group, an alliance has emerged in this country who has understood this problem and taken action thereon. I was also a member of Fatmi Committee. I participated in its deliberations and gave some suggestions. Our colleagues had expressed doubt in their speeches that so many Committees have been formed, their reports have been submitted highlighting several things but regretfully these reports have not been implemented. This is the last year of this Government which has taken some steps for minorities, perhaps nothing else could have been done, coming election will decide as to what will happen to this country, which force will come to fore and what will be the future? All political parties should avoid this political tendency. We should immediately pay attention towards human rights violations particularly in Jammu and Kashmir and necessary steps should be taken for the unemployed and distressed youths otherwise those who are peace loving, country loving, educated and who could add luster to the development of the country would be of no use due to unemployment. Unfortunately, in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Kashmir recently drug addiction has increased and the Government is totally silent on that account. It is a mute spectator. If such situations are dealt with properly, then, this country will keep moving on the path of progress.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): The President's address does not mention about Price Rise which is the most alarming issue. The Prices of Essential Food Items

like Wheat and Rice, Pulses, Oils, etc. have shot up. Cement, Steel, Bricks and Sand have become so costly that poor people who get help under I.A.Y. and other schemes of Panchayats are unable to build their Houses. Urgent Attention in this regard is essential.

The President has not spoken about action if any taken against the atrocities on Christians (a minuscule minority) in Delhi, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and in some other places. In Orissa more than 50 churches/places of worship have been destroyed. The Hon. Home Minister had visited this place. But no action seems to be taken against the culprits.

Farmers are worst hit due to steep fall in price of their produces. The President has not addressed this matter, solution of which demands drastic changes in Import Export Policy and hike in customs duty on Agricultural Produces.

Chikku Guniya, Japanese fever, Yellow fever, and some other diseases which spread in various parts of our country could not be effectively fought. Concrete Steps And Preventive Measures are required. Waste Management has to be effectively done in Cities, Towns and Panchayats for which the Nation should have a policy and steps for implementation.

P.M.'s relief fund was being given to many deserving poor people for Medical Treatment. However, this fund is not being sanctioned to many probably because of the large number of deserving applicants disproportionate to the money available. If that is so, it is necessary to form a special fund with endorsements to many to donate into this fund. It will be appropriate to form such a fund for charity in the name of Mother Theresa.

Bharat Nirman is an effective step for infrastructural development in Rural Areas. But P.M.G.S.Y is not being utilized properly in same states, possibly because of the high technicalities in selection of roads. Core Net Work, which is not effectively revised, has been a problem in Kerala.

I, therefore, support the Motion of Thanks and request that steps may be urgently taken to solve the issues highlighted above.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, several issues have been discussed in the President's Address. There is a shortage of time

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varna]

therefore, I will lay some part of my speech later on. I will speak keeping time constraint in mind. I support the Presidential Address. The Government put forth its own ideas through the President's address, therefore, it is President's Address only for name sake, everything said here are views of the UPA Government.

Isliye Kahunga ki UPA Sarkar ka yah hai Antim Bhashan.

Desh ki Ruthi janta ko yah Nahin dega rashan.

Karna hai to kuchh kar ke dikhao, Mahangai se janta ko bachao.

Aatankwad se desh ko chhuraao, Gunehgaron ko phansi Dilao.

Dalit, Vanwasi, Pichhde ko Aage Badhao, Utpiran se unhe Mukta karaao.

Kashmir Apna Hai Apna Hi Rahega, Ise Alag karne walon ko desh se bhagaao.

He UPA walon! Gaon ki ore apna kadam badhaao, Garib, Majdur, kisanon ko gale lagaao.

Panchayat, Bank, Sahukar ka karz maph karaao.

Mahilaon ko Atyachar se Bachaao.

Bachchon ka Shoshan mitaao,

Nadiyon ko Ek dusare se jodo.

Bandhon Se Baandhon, Rajyon Ko Sukhe Se Bachao.

Khet-Khalihano Mein Pani Pahunchao.

Phir Dekho Desh Mein Holi, Navratra, Bhangda, Ugadhi, Ed, Muharram, Makar Sankranti Kaise Manate Hain.

Phir Dekho Desh Mein Sabhi Tyohar Deshwasi Kaise Manate Hain. Ye Honge Khushhal Tabhi Banega Bharat Duniya Mein Bemisal, Log

Honge Khushhal to Bharat Banega Dunia Mein Bemisal.

(Construct dams and save the states from drought; give irrigation facility to the farming lands. And see how people celebrate Holi, Navratra, Bhangda, Ugadhi, Id, Muharram, Makar Sankranti, etc. in the country. And see how the people celebrate all the festivals in the country. If they become prosperous, the country will be unique. If the people become prosperous, the country will be unique.)

You have been given opportunity and the NDA Government had tried to illuminate the name of India in the world. During that period, not a single day was spared when Premier or External Affairs Minister of some country or the other was not on Indian visit. The world had opened its door for India. Whether it was Canada or Australia or America, every country had opened its door for Indian youth. The same continues at present. The

dreams and efforts by NDA are being materialized gradually. UPA Government is shaping the dreams of NDA Government. We want you to shape them properly. Our dreams are coming true and you are happy to see and assume that these were your dreams. These are the dreams of NDA that to connect rivers with dams, to construct airports, to initiate Golden Quadrilateral project, to connect rivers, to electrify villages, to give employment to the unemployed youth, to waive farmers' loans, and to establish unity and integrity across the nation, all these works were being done under the leadership of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee but these works came up to a standstill when UPA Government came into power. Even your coalition partners are giving their statements and some fellow members have expressed their disappointment. They are supporting you, they are unhappy but they do not want to part themselves away from you. But you do not worry, if you do not feel good, support should be withdrawn and if they are good, they must be praised but today your coalition partners have made comments on you. They are angry with you, they are sad, not only the coalition partners but the masses of the country are angry with you. The common man will teach you a lesson at appropriate time. The leader of the opposition hon'ble Advaniji had said in his speech that it seemed it was the last address of the Government and perhaps it could be an election address. We all expect that we will go to the people and take a fresh mandate. I once again support the Presidential Address and conclude my speech. I put rest of my speech, containing matter of other issues, on the table and hope that all the issues will be included.

*Sir, I want to put some suggestions with regard to the Address of President of India given before the Parliament. Her Excellency is a woman, she has the heart of a mother and a mother has always good feelings for her family and other people in her heart and she always wants to do good. Here, the UPA Government has presented some of its programmes and projects through the Address of Her Excellency. The Address of Her Excellency is pleasant and soothing, but except some years. Congress has been ruling the country most of the time or it had the Governments running on its support. Sixty years have elapsed since India became independent.

*.....*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

After independence the youth of the nation had hoped that their country would be prosperous. Their sufferings would be removed. No one would remain hungry or cloth less. Prosperity would prevail everywhere. No family would go to bed with empty belly. No child would be orphan and wander here and there. No woman would be victimized. The widows and woman suffering due to other reasons would be taken care of. They would be given a respectful life. The farmers of the country would do their farming feeling happy and would not depend on the rain for irrigation. They would get pure drinking water. They would not depend upon the water of wells and ponds. Exploitation of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would be put to an end. They would live a respectful life and have equal rights with other classes. There would be no theft, robbery and dacoity. Every child would go to school. No mother would feel compelled to make her children earn instead of playing and no child in the country would remain hungry. The martyrs scarified their lives with great expectations. Some martyrs happily went to the gallow leaving their families. But after 60 years of independence when I look in hindsight and think I became disappointed.

In the Address of Her Excellency it has been mentioned that the nation-building scheme is meant for lessening the travails of poverty and providing basic means of livelihood but even today the labour are from villages have to travel far off for their livelihood. They have to travel from one city to the other. Recently our country witnessed a new kind of problem—that is regionalism. Today our poor labour are hailing from Bihar, U.P. and Orissa earning their livelihood in other cities. If they had been given works in their own cities. If they would not have been used to leave their cities. They have to leave their family for earning. UPA Government enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act but it is to be seen whether the fact is being implemented properly or funds there under are being grossly misused.

Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and Universal Mid Day Meal Scheme were initiated during the tenure of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpaee. Both radio and television have boosted the programme by giving slogans—Chalo School Chalen, Chalo School Chalen. Children of the deprived families were admitted in the schools under the scheme. Even in the State like Gujarat, Minister, MPs, MLAs visited villages with officers.

They enquired door-to-door regarding education of children and got registered the names of children who were not going to school. In order to encourage girl

children, the Gujarat Government have, separately provided bonds to their parents so that they are able to their girl children regularly to school. However, a lot has yet to be done. There are many schools in our country where there are no rooms, no teachers, not even blackboards if somehow they are lucky enough to have teachers. When this shortfall is likely to be made up? The people of our country have gone sick of empty promises. Their ears are refusing to listen to the catchy slogans doled out to them over a long period and now the poor public of our country have ceased to keep trust on anybody.

Her Excellency has mentioned in her address regarding Rashtriya Gramin Swasthya Mission that every person will get help from State Government for health related problems. Even today, there are no hospitals in villages and sometimes people die due to Malaria, Typhoid and Cholera. People are suffering from diseases like Tuberculosis and Cancer even now. We need to provide medical facilities in every village. Number of cities in the States is increasing day-by-day. The small towns are turning into big cities now. Names have been changed but whether the living conditions in the cities too have changed for the better along with the name? Whether the common facilities required to be provided there are indeed being provided? The answer is in the negative. Even today there are lakhs of Jhuggi-Jhonparies in the cities. They reside on the banks of river, along the Railway tracks or near the ponds. Even today, they have to do without potable water. They do not even have toilets to answer their natural calls. The womenfolk have no bathrooms and they have to search for cover from unwanted glares. We feel ashamed of witnessing such a condition of the country in spite of 60 years of our independence, to make matters worse the situation is not going to change. Every year the Budget is presented and an EL dorado is promised and propositions put forth in the President's Address year after year.

It has been mentioned in the Address that there is a huge increase in the agricultural production due to governmental efforts but still the prices have not come down. Common people are finding it too hard to make both ends meet. The housewives are not in a position to bear household expenses under their budget. Four years of UPA Government have passed but it has failed to hold the price line. Prices have been spiraling. Whether it is food grains, edible oils, Petrol or Diesel, goods for daily use, bricks, Steel or Cement, price of everything is increasing and UPA Government is not in a position to

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

claim that it has succeeded in holding the prices on any front during their regime. The Government have claimed in Her Excellency's Address that during last four years the Government have increased the minimum support price of wheat and rice by more than Rs. 50 and almost 33 percent respectively which increase is unprecedented. But by mentioning only this much the Government has only tried to keep the people in the dark.

In his Presidential Address the Government have fixed the target to triple the size of processed food sector and double the share of that sector in global trade by 2015. To achieve these targets 20 mega foot par and integrated cold chain will be established. But in my opinion, we have to increase the irrigation capacity before reaching these objectives. The States will have to be saved from the drought. The flow of streams in the rivers have to be stopped. We will have to deepen the ponds further. Check dams will have to be constructed on the rivers and the State will have to give economic help for it.

I have to say with regret that the Narmada Project has been delayed so much and many years have elapsed. The Congress Government or UPA Government is not working with desired determination on the foundations laid by Late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India.

The UPA Government have not co-operated in increasing the Light of Narmada dam. Due to non-cooperation of Chief Minister of neighbouring State Maharashtra and Union Water Resources Ministry, the Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Narendra Modi was forced to sit on fast unto death and then Gujarat succeeded to get approval. Gujarat has got success in increasing the height of dam but the work regarding provision of water in every village through canals is yet to be carried out.

Whether the UPA Government will declare it a national scheme? Whether the Government is ready to give economic help. I hope that the UPA Government will fulfil the aspirations of the people of Gujarat.

Her Excellency tried to lay stress on the empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. She assured the citizens that almost 30 lakh children of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes will be given approx. Rs.900 crores as scholarship and more than 10 lakh tribal children will be given scholarship of more than Rs.225 crore. Congress has repeatedly assured to give such attractive amount

during their last tenure. But the situation of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and backward class has not improved and even today their children study in Government Schools where full strength of teachers or other facilities are not available, then how their empowerment could be possible? Even today they are not allowed to sit with common people, common students, then how equality can be established? It has been mentioned that Indira Gandhi Tribal University will be set-up in Amarkantak of Madhya Pradesh with the objective of encouraging study and research opportunities for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students in the field of their art, culture, traditions, languages, customs and systems of medicines and to increase the academic opportunities for the tribal students. If this university would have been named after any eminent person from scheduled caste and scheduled tribe such as Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar University instead of Hon'ble Indira Gandhi, it would have been more encouraging for this community.

Her Excellency, President has mentioned about the desirability of having an Act meant for the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional inhabitants of forests. The objective of having such a legislation would be again, to remove their past deprivations of the tribals and traditional forest dwellers and restore their rights on lands. I can not understand why first they are divested of their rights forced to flee from their forest land and then, on the other extreme, the Government try to lure them again through various acts. This practice should be stopped.

The Government have expressed hope in the Presidential Address that village courts will be established to provide justice to the weaker sections of citizens in both civil and criminal cases at their doorstep. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, it is my humble request that lakhs of cases are pending in the courts, in some cases their land is snatched away from them, in some cases they are harassed or they are deprived of their rights. They are regularly appearing in the court for a long period but still waiting for the justice to come.

Sir, Her Excellency has mentioned about Sachchar Report in her Address. Whether this is not an effort at encouraging casteism or giving preference to one religion over another or diminuting/enlarging one religion as compared to another? Whether the condition of minorities has got deteriorated or they have come to long behind in the matter of education within only two-four years. Sachchar Report is being used as a ploy. Every citizen of our country is born free and he has every right to

acquire all kinds of rights and get equal justice. But India was divided on the basis of religion—one is Hindustan, other is Pakistan. The Hindu and Muslims living in both the countries had been given the choice to live in any of the two countries according as they wish.

Most of the Hindus residing in Pakistan have migrated to India from Pakistan as they were not feeling safe there and people of Muslim Community in India who wanted to migrate to Pakistan have done so and those who considered India as their own country remained here. After independence it was duty of the then Government to deliver equal justice and provide equal opportunities of education to Hindus and Muslims for their upliftment. Why the Muslim community has not been uplifted educationally so far? Why the Muslim Community has not been brought into the national mainstream? Why even after 60 years of independence their condition continues to be pitiable. The Congress Government has done a great damage to the Muslim community by considering it as merely a Vote Bank and by not taking the steps which should have been taken and it has always divided the country into two factions on ideological basis even after independence by playing the politics of vote bank. Again, an attempt is being made to create a deep rift between Hindus and Muslim in the name of Sachchar Committee Report. If the UPA government really wants to uplift the backward, Dalit, poor tribal and Muslim Communities, it should meet the demands put forth by Dr. Ambedkar for upliftment of the Dalits through a special package. The backlog in the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the country has not been cleared even today despite their constitutional rights. Even today, atrocities against them are being committed which led to enactment of Acts like the Prevention of Atrocities Act. Gradually, privatization is taking place. The UPA Government has not been able to provide reservation to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the Private Sector. Private industrialists are not ready to provide reservation. The people belonging to Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes who have borne atrocities will be brought at par with others. A time frame should have been mentioned in the President's Address.

There is a reference to "Empowerment of Women" in the President's Address. Giving momentum to female literacy has been referred to as the key goal of the Government. First of all, the State Government of Gujarat has taken an initiative in this regard in the entire country. The State Government of Gujarat has taken some very good steps not only for female literacy but also for

prevention of female foeticide. Millions of Women's Conferences have been held and the women have been administered oath that they would neither get their female foetus terminated nor cooperate therein. The commendable work done by the State Government of Gujarat should have been appreciated and the Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Narendra Bhai Modi should have been praised in the Hon'ble President's Address.

The National Commission for protection of child rights has also been mentioned in the President's Address. It is a matter of happiness but even then, the condition of children born in poor families is quite pitiable. The problems of malnutrition are increasing due to unavailability of proper diet to the mother and child. In some cases children die soon after their birth and in some other cases mother dies soon after giving birth to child. It needs a serious consideration. Nothing can be more tragic if a child dies immediately after birth and if he/she survives, his/her life will become distressful. Therefore, there should be a provision to provide proper diet to the mother and the child.

"Jis Desh Ka Bachpan Bhukha Ho
Us Desh Ki Jawani Kya Hogi."

The youth of 21st century of India will have to be strong, healthy and capable to compete with the world if we cherish dreams of prosperous India in 21st century.

Her Excellency, the President of India has talked about Commonwealth Games-2010 in her Address. Sportspersons of our country have been putting up better performance in various games regularly. It is a matter of great happiness but it is a little disturbing to see the way in which cricket is being given importance and commercialized during the last five years. Therefore, it is necessary to cultivate interest among people about each game and sports persons of our other sports should also be appreciated and given monetary incentives like that of cricketers.

Sir, it has been assured in the President's Address that sections of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act will be extended to cover all the rural districts of the country from the existing 320 from April, 2008. I would like to ask the Government whether the people have got employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme during 2007-08 or is it only on papers? Villagers would not have migrated to cities if they had got employment in villages. Even today, people

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are migrating to cities despite having no house there to live.

Sir, it has also been stated and appreciated in the Address that the Prime Minister of India has dedicated unit 3 and 4 of atomic power stations of 540 MWE Nuclear Power Plant, Tarapur to the nation, which is a major milestone in our indigenous nuclear power programme but at present State Government of Gujarat ranks the first in the country to provide single phase power connection to every household of the state while it is impossible to supply power even in big cities of the country. This step has increased enthusiasm of the villagers in Gujarat. It has checked the tendency of villagers to migrate to urban areas in Gujarat. At present they are running their self-employment in their own villages. Women are earning their livelihood by assisting the menfolk at their homes. We are struggling to get remaining share of electricity allotted to Gujarat from the Central Grid in order to bring about further development in Gujarat. The electricity which has been given to Maharashtra after making reduction in the share of Gujarat should be restored and gas requirement of Gujarat should also be met forthwith. The coal which we are getting from Bihar presently for our Mathak Power Plant should be supplied from Nagpur. It is my demand also.

Sir, Her Excellency the President has stated in her Address that under the National Highway Development Project Phase-one thousand kilometer long fully access controlled Expressways will be constructed and sanction has also been accorded to widen and improve the State Highways but I would like to draw attention of the House that half of the work on Ahmadabad Express Highway had been completed during the NDA regime but ever since the UPA Government has come to power, it has been put on the back burner. The farmers whose lands had been acquired for the project have not been given compensation so far. Neither the work on Express Highway is in progress nor the farmers are being given compensations. The rush of traffic on Ahmedabad-Mumbai National Highway has increased to the extent that a sudden blockade can lead to a jam for 20 hours. I would therefore, request the Government to first complete the construction work of roads which had been started during the NDA regime and implement the announcements which had been made earlier. The Government in their election manifesto has promised to deliver a lot but only the time will tell when will these be delivered.

Sir, the President's Address speaks that Civil Aviation sector is witnessing unprecedented development. It is a matter of happiness for all of us. There is a need to speed up the steps taken during the NDA regime for upgradation and modernization of all airports. I would like that Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Airport, Surat, Bhavnagar and Rajkot airports should also be modernized urgently. In the President's Address, the government has assured that it is committed to the promotion of textile industry. But, I would like to say in this regard that a majority of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes were associated with the textile industry. Majority of the textile mills of Gujarat are lying closed. The Scheduled Castes people belonging to weaver community working in these mills have become jobless today. The Government of India should provide a special package to them so that they maintain this traditional occupation and earn their livelihood. The government should take special steps for the promotion of micro, small and medium enterprises. These sectors have potential of employment but the industries in this sector are gradually facing closure. It has become difficult for them to survive in the modern era of competition. Therefore, special financial assistance should be provided to those industries.

Sir, the address speaks about the river conservation but I have to say with regret that we are listening such things for years but concrete steps have not been taken in this regard. The holy river Ganga, Yamuna, Gomti, etc. are polluted. The pollution is increasing day by day. Concrete steps are not being taken to check pollution. Ujjain's Kshipra river, which is ancient than B.C. has now disappeared. My submission is that there is a need to take special steps to clean and preserve the river Ganga, Yamuna, Narmada, Godavari, Krishna, Gomti, Mahi, etc. which have a close association with Hindu religion. Sir, it is a matter of happiness for all of us that the name of holy 'Rigveda' has been entered in the 'Vishva Smriti' register. Today, the entire world is following our culture, our worship method. Yoga maharshi Baba Ramdev has taken up the Yoga at the world level and it has gained recognition in the entire world. Therefore, I request the government that it should get the hymns of the Rigveda translated in every language and it should be publicized at school level. Yoga should be taught in every school so that the coming generation can understand the features of the country.

Entertainment sector is witnessing growth in the country today either it may be print, doordarshan, radio or film. It is a matter of happiness but we should keep

in mind that the culture and civilization of our country does not get deflected. The Government should ban the telecast of murder, rape, loot and molestation incidents which may distort the innocent minds.

Sir, the address speaks that the situation of internal security is under control. But, I would like to say that terrorism is increasing in the bordering States, whether it may be Jammu and Kashmir or U.P., Jharkhand, Orissa and Maharashtra. We have witnessed terrorism in various forms. Either it may be in the name of regionalism or for some other reason, innocent people are killed. People feel insecure themselves. Therefore, my submission is that para-military forces should be deployed in the militant affected States and terrorism should be suppressed wherever it emerges. It is shameful for us that in some States people indirectly support the terrorism for vested interests. To maintain communal harmony, unity and integrity has become necessary. Even the neighbouring country repeatedly disturbs our peace by its petty activities. There is a need to strengthen bordering States Rajasthan and Gujarat by providing more financial assistance so that the militants do not intrude from the cross border. Today, Gujarat has suppressed terrorism. The brave police of Gujarat kill the militants wherever they appear there. Before entering in Gujarat, terrorist think twice because they do not get any protection. I would like that other States of the country should also take stringent steps like Gujarat, then there will be communal harmony in the country and our country will remain integral.

[English]

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM (Nominated): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament. Sir, I intend to speak for a few minutes and then lay my address on the Table of the House.

Sir, the Address of the President focuses, to my mind, three extremely important issues. The first is that, as has been said by many Members of the House, this Address was unique in the matter that it was the first Address by a woman as President of this great nation. We, as the Members of the Party, who have brought such a unique person to the House and to have given this privilege to this country, are extremely proud of this and I would like to thank the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the Prime Minister of this country for this very unique position that has come to occupy.

The second issue that captures the Address is that the Address identifies in a very succinct and focused manner the issues and the challenges that are before the nation in the 60th year of our Independence. That is why, this Address is so very important for this country.

The third issue that is before us from this Address is that it is for the first time in a very special manner that an architecture for inclusive growth has been identified in this Address.

Sir, as you know, despite six decades of Independence, much of rural India remains very much behind the progress and prosperity that this nation wants to have for itself. There have been very special schemes that have been identified in this Address that will change the face of rural India for us and the pace at which this will happen will be unprecedented and that is why, this Address is so very important. We would like to see that the rural part of this nation that has lived in certain turmoil, in certain restraints for several decades, will now find a voice that will address the challenges that it would like for itself.

I would like to make two focused suggestions before I place my address on the Table. One is that with the kind of resources that the nation is now putting in place for the development of rural India and the kind of schemes that have been identified require that we put in place a new structure of governance in terms of a special Indian Rural Service that, we think, will address the issues that this country has now begun to identify. The Services like the Indian Police Service, the Indian Administrative Service, the Indian Audit Service and other Services would need to be augmented by this very special dedicated service line. I think that this is imperative in terms of the challenges we have.

The second issue that I want to mention is that we have seen that rural credit to farmers is now being made available at about seven per cent per annum. This is extremely high for the kind of strengths in terms of the prosperity our farmers have. I would suggest that the Government understand that the world over credits are available between 3.5 per cent and four per cent. There is no reason why credit should be available at about seven per cent, particularly for the categories that we think are the most restrained in this country. I would like to think that the Government will address this issue and we would like to see that our farmers get credit at about four per cent or five per cent.

[Shri Francis Fanthome]

Having said this, I would like to commend that the Address of the President focuses on issues like climate change and on matters that are requiring to address the future of this nation. I would think that as we go along, this would happen and that we will see a prosperity that we would like to see happen.

With these words, I thank you, Sir, for allowing me time to speak on the Motion of Thanks.

*The address was specially significant as a woman President addressed Parliament for the first time in the history of this great nation and also because the address captured the true essence of the concerns and challenges facing the nation in the sixth decade of Independence and for the unprecedented resource mobilization to put in place the architecture of inclusive growth to involve people in their prosperity. Sir, the aspiration to bridge the urban-rural divides i.e. the opportunities deficit and the creation of platforms to enable greater participation of people in the processes of nation building highlighted in the address by the President are extremely significant.

The flagship programme National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, coupled with the National Rural Health Mission and the emphasis on universal primary and secondary education blended with the mid-day meal scheme are amongst the most ambitious social emancipation programs anywhere in the world. The Government has our support in these endeavours as also in the great effort it is making to ensure that the fruits of democracy reach the last in the hierarchy of opportunities that was promised to them by Mahatma Gandhi, it was to address this aspiration that millions sacrificed their lives and all their possessions during the freedom struggle.

Sir, there is no doubt that despite enormous economic prosperity and unprecedented access to instruments of social change a large section of the nations people have remained constrained and this is the challenge that the President highlighted in the address stressing on inclusive growth as the bed-rock of the commitment given to the nation in the UPA government's charter of the Common Minimum Programme.

Sir, the economically restrained sections of the nation particularly the SC/ST and the OBC groups have been for generations at the bottom of the economic emancipation efforts. Despite pious intents and rhetoric

they have today, only an aspiration that their children and grand children will one day live a life of dignity and treated with understanding that is fundamental in a democracy. The denials of basic freedoms: access to health care, quality education, nutrition, political inclusion, tribal rights and minimum wages are basic to their cause and needs to be expeditiously redressed.

Sir, with the cost of governance rising inclusive growth gets more expensive for the nation and the people find themselves consequently marginalized. While much of the world loans are serviced between 3 and 4% the provision for agricultural credit at 7% immediately excludes a large section of the poor farmers who is unable to meet the challenge of productivity sandwiched between inflation at about 5% and cost of seeds and fertilizer rising by about 10% each fiscal, coupled with the rising cost of food grains, medicine, clothing and fuel. With these restraints Bharat Nirman and the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission remain teasing illusions: telephone connectivity, roads, electricity, housing, irrigation and access to potable water lack conviction in the minds of those most at risk.

Sir, the Government is rightly addressing the need to bridge the power deficit with development of alternative fuels including nuclear energy. Self reliance in the sphere of energy is one of the most important challenges before the nation: a developing economy with population growth at about 2%. The cost of governance in the country is high and the country's prosperity is being increasingly overshadowed by regulatory authorities that govern and are barely facilitative, thereby, adding to the crowding and restrain deliveries of outcomes. In this context the Government proposes, the introduction of e-governance, technology upgradation fund, nano-technology and an integrated knowledge network, these are commendable steps. Sir, I would in particular like to thank the President for the mention that the Government has set up Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to plan and implement appropriate strategies for mitigating and addressing matters related to climate change and engaging with the international community in terms of the provisions of the UN Framework Convention. This is an important initiative and would go a long way in safeguarding the nation's long-term interests.

Sir, with these observation I record my Thanks to the President for the address to Parliament.*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The proceeding of the House was extended up to 7.00 p.m. If the House is agree then today's discussion may be extended for another one hour.

*...This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We are agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is agreed, therefore, the proceeding of the House is extended for another one hour.

19.00 hrs.

[*English*]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Thank you, Sir. The hon. President's Address pans through the major focus of the Government, that is, in developing our country. The Address focuses on the major programmes, namely, Bharat Nirman and other flagship programmes, and it is very heartening to note that all these programmes are making substantial progress in the overall development of the country and also achieving the goal of inclusive growth.

The Bharat Nirman programme aims at improving connectivity in the rural areas. One major critical area is the core infrastructure, that is, the transport sector. Rural connectivity is supposed to be improved through the PMGSY programme. I would like to point one or two deficiencies in the running of this programme. Firstly, it has very old scheduled rates, and nobody is coming forward to take up these road works. Secondly, in the hilly areas there is a problem of gradient. The present norm is that the gradient has to be 1:12.5, which is actually impossible to get in the hilly areas. It has to be downgraded to 1:8.

The Address speaks about development of the National Highways, and about six-laning of 6,500 kms. of National Highways under the NHDP Phase-VI, and also about 1,000 kms. of fully access-controlled expressways. We should remember that in our country we have the National Highways below two-lane standards. For example, in my own constituency, one of the very important National Highways in the country, namely, NH-49 between Cochin and Madurai that passes through one of the most important tourist centres in the country, namely, Munnar is below two-lane standards. Let us improve those Highways, and then think of six-laning. I am not against six-laning the Highways. In fact, we need it. As I said earlier, transport is the core infrastructure for the country. So, we should also think of improving the existing National Highways, which are below standard.

The Address mentions about the Mumbai-Delhi-Kolkata Dedicated Freight Corridor. We all welcome it. In fact, movement of freight is very vital. The Railways have achieved this progress mainly by managing the freight

movement very efficiently. But when we talk to experts, there is an opinion whether this country needs a High-speed Dedicated Freight Corridor or a High-speed Dedicated Passenger Corridor. The maximum speed that is required for freight movement is 100 kms., and it is very much possible with the existing lines. In fact, after constructing the freight corridor it will be difficult for us to go for High-speed Dedicated Passenger Corridor. High-speed Dedicated Passenger Corridor is very vital for a country like India, which is of a sub-continental proportion. It takes more than three days to travel from Kashmir to Kanyakumari whereas the same distance can be covered within about 12 to 15 hours. If we lay a High-speed Dedicated Passenger Corridor. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): It would be easy if you go by flight.

19.04 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Everybody cannot travel by flight, and this is the problem. It is said that when 10 people fly, more than 1,000 people travel by train, and trains are the means of transport for the very ordinary and poor people. I would request the Government to seriously think about constructing High-speed Dedicated Passenger Corridor parallel to the Golden Quadrilateral Highways. In fact, it was started by the erstwhile NDA Government, which was hailed as a major developmental programme initiated in this country. We all welcomed it, but what happened was that the Government constructed the Golden Quadrilateral Highways saying that the Government intends to connect the five corners of the country. In fact, the Western Corridor starting from Kanyakumari to Mumbai was ignored.

The Golden Quadrilateral came up to Chennai, then went up to Bangalore *via* Belgaum and again went back to Mumbai. That anomaly or injustice has to be rectified by this UPA Government. What I would request is that the Government should announce a programme to construct high-speed dedicated passenger corridors parallel to the Golden Quadrilateral Highways and also parallel to the North-South, East-West Express Highways that are being constructed.

High-speed dedicated passenger corridors are in existence in Europe, and in Japan, it started way back in 1964. In every developed country, that is there. India is a fast developing country. Our neighbour, China, is

[Shri K. Francis George]

going very fast in constructing high-speed corridors. There is no mention about that in the President's Address, when the President spoke about dedicated freight corridors. In fact, if we can have a high-speed dedicated passenger corridor, we can also run high-speed freight in that.

Coming to the part of the minorities section in the President's Address, earlier, my friend, Adv. Suresh Kurup, spoke about the condition of the minorities, specially the Christian minorities in this country. The Christian minorities in this country form only about 2.1 or 2.2 per cent. In fact, the population of the Christians has come down in this country. What is happening now? There have been attacks in Orissa, there have been attacks in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and now, of late, in Delhi also. What happened in Orissa is most unfortunate. For two days continuously, in fact, for a week's time, in a District called Kandamal, all the institutions—Churches, Convents, educational institutions, Old Age Homes, Dispensaries and everything else—were destroyed. When I went there and saw it along with our friend, Shri P.C. Thomas, it was a most heart-rending sight. In a way, we have to appreciate the super-efficiency or the destructive efficiency of the *Sangh Parivar* goons. In fact, everything has been destroyed.

Now, the Government speaks about the Prime Minister's 15-point programme for protecting the minorities. Nothing has been done so far; no compensation has been given and nobody has been brought to book. Is this the way of protecting the life and property of the minorities in this country? It is very unfortunate.

The Home Minister of this country came there. He flew in a helicopter, went to a camp, spoke for 20 minutes and then again flew back to the Capital, Bhubaneswar. The hon. Home Minister has all the forces at his command—he has got the Police, the paramilitary forces. He can have any security in this country, but he refused to go and visit any of the places or any of the institutions which were destroyed by these goons. It is a very unfortunate situation.

I feel sorry that the UPA Government while on one hand is saying that they will protect the minorities and announcing a 15-point programme, on the other hand, when it comes to actual real action for protection of life and property of the minorities, it has failed, I have to say, miserably.

Besides the security aspect, there are two other aspects, that is, reservation benefits to Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians of this country. These sections are being discriminated mainly because they have chosen a particular religion, which is most unfortunate. Those who have converted to Sikhism, to Buddhism are all getting the reservation benefits, and it is only those people who have converted to Islam and Christian faiths who are being denied this right. The Government should seriously think about it. I am sorry that the President's Address missed that.

Regarding power allocation, there have been complaints from States that the unallocated share of the Centre is not being equally distributed to the power deficient States, especially like Kerala. I am not going into the details due to paucity of time.

Again, coming to FDI in retail trade, it is most unfortunate. Forty million small and marginal traders of this country are being affected, and what is the need for FDI in retail trade? This is not a high-technology, high priority area. The Government should think about it.

Coming to the nuclear agreement, the Government has made an announcement that the Government is about to sign the nuclear agreement. Well, there are various aspects to it, but I am not going into the details due to paucity of time. What I would request is that in a multi-party democracy, in a country like ours, the Government should go by the consensus of all concerned. The Prime Minister is a man of consensus. I would urge upon the Government not to ignore the sentiments and viewpoints of all concerned.

Mention has been made of the PDS and the agricultural sector. An announcement has been made on waiver of debts of farmers. It is a very good decision and I congratulate the Government for that. Along with that, the Government should have announced reduction in the rate of interest on farm loans. Otherwise, this measure would not benefit the farmers in later days. Along with that, post-harvest operations should also be attended to. Then only we can add value to the agricultural produce of the farmers of our country. Mid-day meal scheme is a very important part of the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. It has to be extended up to Standard VIII. Then only we can think of universalisation of higher secondary education.

The Government is entering into FTAs with other countries. The Indo-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement is being entered into by the Government. Many times, the States are at the receiving end in this. The Central Government while signing these free trade agreements does not consult the States that are going to be affected, especially States like Kerala which produce cash crops and spices. There is a mention about the signing of free trade agreements but there is no mention of the compensation that would be given to the States affected.

The flagship programme of the Government NREGA has to be recast to include works that are being carried out in the small and marginal farmers' holdings so that it will boost and increase agricultural production.

With these words, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to say that Members who want to lay their speeches on the Table can do so. We have no time. Those who want to speak can do so for one or two minutes each.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the President's Address and the resolution of Shri Ajit Jogi. I was listening the views expressed by the earlier speakers. There is no any hesitation in saying that various issues have been raised and the government should pay attention in this regard. Perhaps, this address is the last address of the existing Lok Sabha. It seems that the President's Address is the progress report of the Government and not a policy document. So far as progress of the country is concerned, almost all the ruling parties have formulated policies for the progress of the country during the last 60 years. But the fact is that the development of India begins from education, health, employment and infrastructure. It seems that the UPA Government has presented its flagship programmes through the President's Address. Through these programmes, the Government would like to popularize itself among the public. But I would like to tell that the programmes made by the Government are not likely to achieve the desired results. These programmes can express your feelings only. Even today entire system is working on a charity note. People should get this fundamental rights. Our delivery system is not delivery them properly. Even your entire programmes have become

the victim of the same delivery system. It is mentioned in the President's Address that the Government has achieved 9 per cent economic growth rate. But, I would like to warn you that you are in a delusion. This growth rate is inclusive. It is a confusion and it is mentioned in the document.

The fact is that today it is being said everywhere that the service sector which is a small sector, is being developed and its capital is increasing but the investment in primary sector has been reduced. In the Economic Survey of India, it is mentioned that the growth rate of primary sector has reduced. Its capital has reduced. It is not inclusive growth and it is merely a cheating. It is the development of some people of India. Only one part of India is developing. Those who are already empowered are becoming richer. Their income is increasing. Their position is improving and their political influence is improving. Today it is affecting the whole India and a new problem is arising in other states of the country. The people whose conscience is not fully alive and who do not have any link and connects with and understand the feelings of the entire India, feel that the people from other areas have come to their states and they are taking advantage of their areas and thereby the people of there state are not progressing. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can see that there are many Members still left to speak. We have to finish this debate today.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: My party's time is still left. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your party has taken double the time than the allotted time. Even then, you want to speak further. There is a limit. Each party will be asking for more time. How can I accommodate? Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: In this document there is no mention at any place that even today huge population of the country is helpless to live with an earning worth 15 to 20 rupees per day as revealed in the N.S.S.O report just two days back. The report also says that the

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

life these people are living is worse than hell. In India as many as 6 crore children do not enjoy fundamental rights till date. They are the victims of child labour. Crores of our sisters are sold in the market....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Out of grace I am sitting here and allowing you to speak. Your party's time is already over. Your party has taken double the time than the allotted time.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: My party's time is still left.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, your party has taken double the time.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: But I have been told otherwise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You speak and conclude now.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Thank you, Sir

[Translation]

The most unfortunate thing which I want to point out is that the dream of bringing double digit development in India will not be fulfilled till caste system is eradicated from India. Caste system is another form of slavery and it is only because of the caste system that the people in India have become victim of getting locked in their own social economic conditions. That will have to be unlocked. People will have to be given equal rights. I claim that until you remove disparity and social discrimination on the basis of caste from India by making positive efforts in this direction and by implementing the policies, you will not be able to achieve nine percent or more growth rate in the future. You are caught in such a vicious circle from where it will be difficult for you to come out. Sir, I would like to caution that today the society is being divided, the gulf between the rich and the poor is widening, but there is no mention of it in the policy document. You may be happy, but sometime I feel that in your document I see the glimpse of previous Government. That Government was seeing the dreams of shining India and Feel Good. We cannot march forward by ignoring ground realities.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mani Charenamei. Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)** ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now, Shri Ravi Prakash Verma. There is no time left.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Kindly extend me your protection. I am concluding, Sir.

[Translation]

I would like to highlight the situation of agriculture. It has already been brought to your notice. You have given some consideration to it and waived off loans of some people, but there are many problems in it. I fear that the way you will execute this policy, it will only divide the farmers. The farmers are the backbone of the country and the farmers have contributed in making India self dependent in the matter of foodgrains. It is a great injustice to the farmers. The fact is that in India more than one and a half lakh farmers have committed suicide but it is very unfortunate that in India, no farmer movement at national level has surfaced till date so that this Government and the House could have taken cognizance of the problems of the farmers which are very serious. I feel. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Now, Shri Mani Charenamei may start.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI (Outer Manipur): Let him conclude.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, I am concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it is impossible.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Let me conclude, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Even at this stage, you do not want to control yourself. Now, the time is 7.30 p.m.

*Not recorded.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: My Party's time is due.

[*Translation*]

Today India is a country where majority of the population comprise of the young people. I feel what we have missed is that today our policy should be directed towards creating world class professionals from India and sending them across the globe and in the country.
...(*Interruptions*)

"In the address, it has been mentioned to increase expenditure on education but the question of making education compulsory is still pending for many years and it has not been addressed. Nothing has been said about the Common Schooling system which is essentially required to remove disparity in India.

India is being transformed into an economy regulated by the market but consumer rights are being ignored. Crores of consumers of India are living at the mercy of the market. No effort is being made to make them Active consumer and there is no mention of it in the address.

The way the new political traditions are growing in the country, is a matter of great concern. The people taking oath in the name of nationalism, are doing politics of regionalism and hatred. There is no mention of it in the address.

Quality of governance is declining. Problems of terrorism, internal security are rising but the Government is not able to control it. The judicial system is not delivering. Prosecution rate has gone much down and resolution of bringing it to 50% atleast is nowhere visible in the address.

All neighbouring countries of India are victim of poverty and illiteracy. Efforts should be made for advancement of all neighbouring countries alongwith the economic development of India so that the reactionary elements are suppressed. From Himalayan mountain situated in Nepal, lakhs of megawatt of electricity could be generated and floods could be controlled. But there is no mention about it.

For development of the border areas of India, there is need to convert Lucknow, Lakhimpur, Pilibhit, Bareilly rail link into YER broad gauge so that work on all areas of development could take place.

Need of one rail corridor (International) from Western Europe to South East Asia *via* Middle East and India is growing so as to promote the business interests of India but nothing has been said about it."

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can take the permission from your Party to speak about all these matters during the discussion on the General Budget. There is going to be another discussion. With the permission of your Party, you can do it at that time. There is a general discussion on the Budget. It is not the end of it. Now, Shri Mani Charenamei may start speaking.

SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI (Outer Manipur): Thank you.

I stand to express my sincere thanks to the hon. President for the Address. First of all, I would like to mention here that I do not belong to any political Party. I am an Independent Member and so, I should be given some extra time. I am getting very few occasions in the Parliament to speak what I wish to speak for my people.

We have heard the speeches on the Address of the hon. President. We are very happy that many things are being taken care of to see that the interests of the tribals and the minorities are taken care of. We are happy that our hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting is with us. He is taking care and his Ministry is giving opportunities.

In the President's Address, it has been mentioned that the tribal people in the North East will be given importance in Doordarshan and AIR programmes. There are a few tribal groups—around 40-50 groups—which were waiting for the last 20-30 years, which are not getting full-fledged programme in the Doordarshan and AIR.

Then there are also some tribes who are waiting for recognition; and some of them have been listed with wrong names. They are very unhappy and are waiting for the correct enlistment in the Schedule. These have been mentioned and I am very much thankful for that.

One thing which is very important but which was not touched upon in the President's Address is the Naga issue. I am very sad to mention that the burning Naga issue has not been mentioned in the President's Address. The demand or the desire of the Naga people is to live

.... This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Mani Charenamei]

under one administration. But this has not been addressed.

In the 16-Point Agreement signed between the Government of India and the Naga People's Convention, it was clearly mentioned that if the Naga people so desire to live together, that will be granted. Again in the merger agreement of Naga Integration Council and the AICC in 1972, it was declared and was agreed upon that the Naga movement is not unconstitutional, it is not illegal, and it is constitutional.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: I had requested you earlier also. I have very important points to make.

Nagas have been divided and have been given differential treatment. Nagas living in Nagaland are allowed to enjoy the privileges over the land, culture and their identity. They have been given the right to protect their identity and their culture but what about the Nagas living in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur? They have been given differential treatment. They are subjected to different kind of discrimination. The demand of the Naga people is very reasonable. The democratic and genuine aspirations of the Nagas need to be considered. I would urge upon the Government that these Naga issues should be brought to a logical conclusion at the earliest. We have waited for more than ten years for peace. Naga people—all the women, all the families and all the Churches—have been praying for permanent peace in our land. This may be taken note of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rathod, I may tell you that a number of speakers from your Party have taken part in the discussion. You have been given excess time. Please conclude your speech within two minutes.

*DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): At the outset I would like to support the motion of thanks to her Excellency President of India on 25th February, 2008. Sir, some of the relevant issues were not mentioned in the address. I find fault with the UPA Government for this. One of such issue is sanction of pension to freedom fighters. Six decades has passed since our nation became independent lakhs of people participated in the struggle and broke the chains of slavery. It is heartening to know

that still some unfortunate people are waiting for sainik samman pension. From my own state of Andhra Pradesh nearly 4-5 thousand applications are still pending. The freedom fighters are leading miserable life as they are not supported by the ruling classes that are enjoying the fruits of our freedom. On one hand fake pensions are being sanctioned to ineligible people, on the other hand the real freedom fighters are suffering without food, proper health care, shelter etc.,. It is shameful and inhuman in the part of the government not settling their pension till date. I suggest that the government should sanction pension to all the waiting applicants as they are hardly going to live not more than 4-5 years.

Another issue which was not mentioned in the presidential address is the plight of unemployed youth in our country. Though Para 3 of the address talks about inclusive growth, the unemployed youth were not getting proper jobs now-a-days. The financial growth above 9% is jobless or under employed. For example the jobs provided now-a-days were only on contract basis, temporary and ill paid. Hence, UPA government should look into the promise made during 2004 in NCP to fulfill their promise and help the unemployed youth.

The plight of SC, ST in the country is not satisfactory though government speaks about Bharat Nirman still 50% of villages inhabited by SQST people not provided with drinking water, roads, electricity and telephone facilities. The number of instances of harassment's and ill treatment of tribal women is on raise. No cases were filed on the culprits.

Though it is mentioned in Para 34 about the performance of Indian Railways the facilities and rail connectivity is not done in a proper manner. There is a lot of discrimination between the under developed regions and railway zones. The ministry is showing much interest towards public private partnership be it a dedicated freight corridor or construction of new railway lines. I suggest the railways should work on equitable distribution of profits. So that railway connectivity would be extended to all corners, of our country.

It is happy that Mahatma Gandhi's birthday was commemorated as the day of International Non-Violence at UN this year. I congratulate the concerned ministry for this. However, the UPA government is undermining the ideals of Gandhi and his ism. This is reflected in the large scale terrorist activities prevailing the country. The Government itself not caring about the simplistic way of

*Speech was laid on the Table.

living which Gandhi professed. Unprecedented incidents of the forces of intolerance be it a communal or political raise of chauvinism. Suppression of downtrodden for not considered by the government they are closely linked with economic exploitation, poverty and ignorance. The Government should correlate the schemes and plants to alleviate the poverty and exploitation.

It is a parody that UPA Government though promised a Central legislation to provide 33% reservation in legislature for women and for the first time Her Excellency the President of India being a women her address doesn't contain this crucial legislation providing legal right to women folk. This is a demand of Indian women since years beyond political bias and regional affiliations.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. It is said in the Address that the Government wishes to create an inclusive society. But, I have said many times in the House that around 15 crore people of the country belong to the de-notified and nomadic tribes. No mention has been made about them in the House. I was hoping that it would find place in the President's Address. These people have been neglected for the last 50-60 years. We talk about the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBC, minorities and the Muslims but no provision has been made for those 15 crore people, they have no say, nobody thinks about them. As such, how would they get welfare in the country? It is said that socially everyone has been included. It is not true. They are only kept on dreaming which never becomes true. The intention of the Government that has been reflected in the Address is nothing but showing dreams to the people.

The decision that has been taken recently regarding agriculture loan is a wrong one and I had paid it to Shri Sharad Pawar only on day before yesterday. Only 40 per cent people have been benefited from this decision and 60 per cent people are left out. They are unnecessarily making tall claims about it. They may be thinking that elections are round the corner and how would they get elected. 60 per cent people would vote against them. How would they win by leaving out 60 per cent

people and they are propagating it. They are doing a wrong thing. Nothing has been mentioned about price rise. Prices have increased and would continue to follow the same pattern. Hon. Minister is present here and his intention is a good one. ... (*Interruptions*)

He has good intention but his scheme has been a total failure. ... (*Interruptions*) the money that is being given to gram panchayats is not being spent totally. ... (*Interruptions*) no work is being done. He should look into it, in spite of good intention his scheme has failed. ... (*Interruptions*) I had repeatedly raised this that the Swarna Jayanti Rozgar Yojna has been clubbed but now not a single penny is being spent by Zila Parishad. However, during our regime they used to do work worth 15 lakh rupees. The members of the Panchayat Samiti are not doing any work. The whole propaganda that has been created by them for election would get exposed soon. ... (*Interruptions*) Villages do not have electricity. They are ridden with poverty and unemployment. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You place it on record. I cannot go against the rules.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: We are here to represent the voice of the people. ... (*Interruptions*) It is not so. ... (*Interruptions*) People have elected us so that we could raise their voice here. It is not about a particular region we have to raise the voice of the country. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Athawale.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are I speaking here I on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. It is good in democracy that the ruling and the opposition party do not agree on various issues even then, they speak in the same voice on President's Address. The Leader of the Opposition also expresses thanks on the Presidential Address. This is the glorious tradition of our democracy. We feel elated because we are Marathi speaking people and our President is a Marathi. She has got the highest post even being a Marathi. This is the first address of Smt. Pratibha Patil, but this would be the last address for us because the fourteenth Lok Sabha is going to come to an end. I regret to say that Hindi speaking people faced opposition at a time when Smt. Pratibha Patil, took over the highest post. This is not a good gesture. Our Republic party believes in the ideology of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and have faith in the Constitution of the country. Some people might have opposed the Hindi speaking people in Mumbai but we had taken the stand that justice should be done to the local poor people. Justice should be dispensed to them and Marathi people. They should be given their rights. That does not mean that those who are living there for the past 50 years have no right to live in Mumbai and earn their livelihood. The Republican Party had strongly opposed this move. Marathi speaking people come to Delhi too. Just now, we are talking about 'Chhath Pooja.' We told them that people coming from Bihar celebrate Chhath Pooja. Mumbai and Marathi people celebrate 'Ganpati Utsav' in Delhi. We mean to say that it is not good to put national integrity in danger. Bhartiya Janata Party has also opposed this stand. This is good but merely opposition would not be enough. It is necessary for them to part ways with the party of Chandra Kant Khair. We should eliminate this linguism, otherwise, Marathi people living in Kerala or the Kerala people living in Mumbai would face problems. Likewise, Kannada, Tamil, Hindi and Gujarati speaking people also live in Mumbai. About 10 to 15 lakh people belonging to Maharashtra live in Gujarat. ... (Interruptions) The Gujarati speaking people live also in Mumbai. Shri Mistry ji and his relatives live in our region and our relatives live in their area. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Around 10 lakh to 15 lakh Malayalese live in Mumbai.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: It is very important to ward off this linguism, that is why, our party strongly opposes it. Secondly, our Constitution has enshrined the provision to establish social and economic equality in the country even then today social and economic disparity can be seen at many places. We are making efforts to do away with this disparity, but we have not achieved success in this direction. 23 per cent people of the country are living below poverty line; hence, there is a need for their upliftment. The Government of Kerala has strived hard to uplift BPL people. The Government of India is making many efforts. Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji has introduced Rojgar Guarantee Scheme in each district of the country. In this way efforts are being made to alleviate the poverty, but we are not getting the desired result in this matter. We have said many times that many people are rolling in wealth hence it is necessary to uplift the poor and put a check on the rich. A little more efforts is required to be put in this regard (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate your stand and I fully agree with you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I seek a little more time. You are directing me to conclude but I am expressing my feelings. I belong to a small party but many people are behind me. I think that enough time is not given to me because of my being single member from my party. We try to increase our strength here. Shri Advaniji is cherishing a dream to become Prime Minister but we wish to see him as the Leader of the Opposition. We do not know as to whose dreams would be come true we do not know who would be the next Prime Minister. We want only upliftment of poor. I heartily welcome and support the President's Address and express my thanks to her. In this way, we would continue to work towards making India stronger. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get more time to speak during the discussion on the Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairma, Sir, I lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House. With this I express my gratitude to the hon. President for the Address. With this, I conclude.

*Sir, please allow me to lay the remaining part of my speech on the table.

The allocation of Rs. 46,131 crores for Agro-irrigation and water resources in the 10th Plan increased to Rs. 1,38,548 crores in the 11th Plan.

SC scholarship (30 lac students)—Rs. 900 crores
ST scholarship (10 lac students)—Rs. 225 crores.

Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh)—declaration to set up Indira Gandhi National Tribal University.

Restoration of Forest land under Schedule Tribes and other forest dwellers (Recognition of forest rights) Act.

Minimum wages has been increased from Rs. 66 to Rs. 80. I demand to enhance this to Rs. 150.

Unorganised Sector Safety Bill, 2007 has been presented for 3.75 crores poor people of unorganized sector.

National Health Insurance Scheme Common Man Insurance Scheme

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Ashram Pension Scheme.

Resolution to set up village courts.

The Prime Minister's 15-point programme for minorities.

Recommendations of Sachhar Committee have been accepted.

Scholarship of Rs. 800 crores for professional courses in 11th plan.

Pre-matric and Post-matric scholarship of Rs. 3300 crores in 11th plan.

Rs. 3780 crores for 90 minority districts.

National Saving Rights Protection Commission have been set up.

Preparations are underway for 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Youth Sports and Campaign will be launched.

Cricket has made India winner.

Reservation must be ensured for SCs/STs in every sports.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 2006 have been implemented almost in every district which was earlier only in 330 districts.

2.7 crore people have been provided employment upto 2008.

6000 schools for high quality education under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. 30-Central Universities, 370-New Universities, 07-IIMs.

Indian Science Education and Research Institute-Pune

Land of Nagpur Atomic Power Plant dedicated to the Nation.

5 acres of land allotted recently to the landless people with an objective to eradicate poverty.

Reservation - General seats—20% reservation for upper castes. Increase - 2% reservation for SCs/STs.

Give scholarship to poor students with 10% reservation monthly.

Eliminate corruption.

Agitation against Hindi in Mumbai. Agitation against Marathi in Patna*

[English]

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): Every year we have this annual custom of an Address by the President to both the Houses of Parliament indicating the policies and programmes of the Government. This year we find this Address as a compilation of what all have been said in all these four years by the ministers

*..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

*English Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai]

of the ruling party. There is nothing remarkable and laudable. We find a lady now occupying the highest office of this country adorning the office of the President. We also find a lady holding the post of the President of the Congress Party of the ruling coalition. Still we do not find any hint about the enactment and implementation of Women's Reservation Bill that seeks to empower them and provide 33% reservation for woman in both the Parliament and Legislatures in the States. In 1945 there were 3% of women in legislature bodies world over. In 2005, women representation had increased to 16%. But in the 14th Lok Sabha we have only 8.5% of women representatives in India. I do not find any attempt to overcome this lacunae. Agriculturists the backbone of this country now get an announcement from the Government that is on its way out about loan waiver to the tune of about Rs. 60,000 crores that too by way of pointing at the Nationalised Banks. Farmers need irrigation facilities. It is vital. But in the President's Address we do not find a mention about the inter-linking of rivers. Tamil Nadu can get water for irrigation only through inter linking of southern rivers. Already Tamil Nadu is getting a raw deal due to Inter-State River Water Disputes. But there is no respite in sight as nothing can be seen in the President's Address about the linking of rivers.

Our constitution is the basis of our National Body Polity. Liberty, Equality, Fraternity and Justice are the four corner stones on which we have raised our constitution enshrined with six Fundamental Rights of which Freedom of speech is the most important one. Our late leader Anna inibed in us this spirit of our constitution. But now in Tamil Nadu this Fundamental Right is denied. Platform Speakers are attacked. False cases are foisted against them. Instead of doctors attending on them police go and arrest them. This is a mockery of Democracy. I urge upon the Union Government to take note of this. Presidents Address this year is insipid as there is nothing fulfilling and appreciable. With this I conclude.

*SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I thank you sir, for giving me an opportunity to take part in the Motion of Thanks to the President for the address given by the first woman President of our country in both the Houses of the Parliament. I, on behalf of the thirty lakh people of

Bodoland thank the 1st Lady President of our country. Although I support certain policies of the Government, but at the same time, I am also critical of the President's Address. Since it has failed to refer to certain issues which should have been there in her Address. For the development of the N.E. region particularly of our and Bodoland and Assam as a whole which have remained deprived and neglected, for ages no viable new policies have been adopted so far. I have come to know that the UPA Government has decided to set up thirty new central universities in the country. But it has been said that these central universities would be set up in such states where there is no central university. I oppose this discriminatory move of the Government. Application of this kind of parameter will tantamount to the deprivation of the tribal people in getting established new Central Universities in tribal areas. Today, through this House, I appeal to the Government to set up a Bodoland central university in our Bodoland. Along with this central university, for the development of education in Bodoland I demand for the setting up of one IIT, one IIM, one School of Planning and Architecture, one Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, some good quality colleges, some model schools, and some JNV schools. I would like to mention that for the development of Bodoland area the Central Government should have provided more funds. But this has not been done. The Central Government provides only Rs.100 crore every year. But this amount is not enough.*

It is a serious kind of discrimination against the Bodo people. Why can the Government of India not allocate special Central funds of adequate amount and advance it to the Government of Assam to help take up all the ventures relating to primary schools, upper primary schools and high schools of Bodo medium whose number stands around 2,000. Several lakhs of Bodo students have been languishing because of this kind of neglect. Some teachers of these schools ave already died and some of them are about to retire.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. As you represent Assam I have given you much more time.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Is it the policy of the Government of India with regard to inclusive growth? There is no single airport in Bodoland area. The Government of India have not taken any step

..... English translation of the speech originally delivered in Assamese.

to check the intrusion of Bangladeshi in North-eastern region specially in Assam. What is the policy of the Government of India to check those unchecked immigrants? Here, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to exclude the North-Eastern States from the operational jurisdiction of section (2)(o) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006 in the interest of ensuring the protection and safeguard of the inalienable rights of indigenous tribal people over the forest land.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Shri Meinya can speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: So, I demand that for the development of Bodoland, the Central government should provide anywhere from Rs. 500 crore to Rs.1000 crore per annum. I would also like to draw the attention of the Government of India to a very important and serious issue. The Government has adopted certain policies for imparting education to crores of children in a big way across the country. But what is happening in Assam? More than five hundred Bodo Medium High schools, more than one thousand Bodo medium primary schools and more than five hundred Bodo medium Middle English schools are yet to be taken over by the Government. Some of the teachers who were working in these schools have already died and some are to retire very soon. When will these schools be taken over by the Government? That is why, I would like to say sir, since the State Government has not been able to take over these schools over the past few decades due to paucity of funds, the Central Government should provide at least Rs.100 crore every year to help provincialise these Bodo medium schools. Thus, the Bodos have been discriminated against in the sphere of education too. Although Bodo language has been included in the eighth schedule to the constitution, the Bodo medium through which students are being imparted education, is on the verge of extinction. Effort must be on to promote Bodo language and Bodo medium education as well

Why could the Government of India not dictate to the Government of Assam to take appropriate policy

*...English Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Assamese.

decision to fill up those 20,000 posts meant for STs which are lying vacant as backlog? In this way, a serious kind of discrimination is being done against the indigenous tribal people in Assam on account of the in action of the Government of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Shri Meinya please.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): The Law and Order situation is not good in Assam. The Government have failed in maintaining internal security. Therefore, I demand that there is need to transfer the law and order subject to the Bodoland Territorial Council and a separate Police Commissioner should be set up for maintaining law and order in the Bodoland area. ...*(Interruptions)* Reserve forest subject has not been transferred to the Bodoland Territorial Council. There is need to transfer the reserve forest subject to the BTC Government.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Thokchom Meinya, are you speaking?

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Yes, Sir, I am speaking. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary, please sit down. Dr. Thokchom Meinya, you can speak.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by our hon. colleague Shri Ajit Jogi and seconded by Shrimati Krishna Tirath.

We are very much grateful to Madam President for her kind Address delivered on the 25th of last month. I

*Not recorded.

[Dr. Thockchom Meinya]

propose very respectfully to place on record the simple fact that for the first time we have in the history of Independent India a women President has addressed the Members of both the Houses assembled together. We are very much grateful to the hon. President for delivering her kind Address. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not mention and thank her for the pains she has taken to Address us by enumerating in detail the achievements of the UPA Government headed by our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh under the able supervision of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. At the same time, the hon. President has further gone to state in detail what the UPA Government is going to do in the remaining tenure. For a developing country like India which is so diverse in nature, economic development is the key for everything. For a country so large, there are different problems.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can lay your speech on the Table of the House.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: No, Sir, I do not have anything written. I have just noted down the points. For the different regions, we have got different problems. For different groups of people, for different religious groups, we have different problems. We have to balance all these things. At the same time, there should be no compromise on the territorial integrity of the States. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next, I call Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria. You can speak and lay your speech on the Table of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Sir, I would take one more minute. Before I conclude, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to an important issue. One of my hon. colleagues from the other side has raised an important issue of my region. It is about Naga Integration. About that, I have raised it in the form of Matter under Rule 377. So, I would crave the indulgence of the hon. Members present here that there were only three States in the North-Eastern India at that time. Assam was a big State. Manipur was a Princely State. So also, Tripura was a Princely State. Manipur got merged into India in 1949 with a very clear-cut geographical boundary. If this is again tried to be destroyed, I am afraid, there would be bloodshed in the State. In 2001 also, the same thing happened. In that incident, when the Government of India and the NSCN (IM) signed a ceasefire agreement

extending it without territorial limits, there were a large number of people coming out on the streets. 18 persons died including one woman. All the Government offices were burnt. Because of that, I raised the issue again and again. The point is that Manipur's territorial integrity as it was at the time of its merger into India in 1949 has to be respected and preserved by the Union Government.

*Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, as moved by my colleague, Hon'ble Shri Ajit Jogiji and seconded by Hon'ble Smt. Krishna Tirath on the 3rd of this month.

— Sir, we are extremely grateful to Madam President for kind address which she has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on 25th of the last month.

— I propose, my respectfully, to place on record that the simple fact that for the first time in the history of an Independent India, here we have assembled here to propose a vote of thanks to a women President of the country for the kind address.

— Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not thank her for the pains she has taken while earmarking in detail the achievements of the UPA Government headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, under the overall guidance of the UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhiji. At the same time, she has gone further to state in detail what the UPA Government is going to do in the remaining tenure.

— The address is so complete and there is nothing that has been left at. It has given the direction—a clear cut road map for our development process. For a developing country, like India, which is so diverse in nature, Economic development and its growth is the key for everything. For a country which is so large, there are many different problems for different regions, for different groups of people for different religion groups. These has to be a balance everywhere. This has always be compromises. Even with these limitations, the economic development continues and GDP growth is approaching a double digit. This is remarkable. Who denies this hard fact. Perhaps nobody.

..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

Nobody in a democracy like ours, I very sincerely appeal to my Hon'ble colleagues in the opposition bench not to oppose the motion of thanks for opposition's sake. This is bad for the polity and it will be harmful for the nation. Please let us try to praise for the good work done and to give constructive opposition.

Sir, with these few words, I once again support the motion of thanks as proposed.

Sir while thanking Hon'ble Excellency Madam President for the address, I would very humbly seek the indulgence of the Hon'ble Members present here on some important issues. There are States in the country where the people have not seen trains. The UPA Government has taken up some National Projects to link these States by Rail Lines. One such project is the Imphal Rail line. I urge the Government to expedite the project for its timely completion. Another issue is that there are laws in this country which are national in character and regional in application. One such infamous law is the Arms Forces (Special) Power Act. We demand immediate repeal of such law in the best interest of all concerned.

With these words, I would thank you very much for giving me time."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria. You can speak one or two sentences and finish your speech.

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): Sir, I rise to express my views on the hon. President's Address. When Madam President was delivering her Address, I was thinking to what type of formality is being followed since independence. Firstly, the President speaks then the Vice-President speaks, both in Hindi and English languages. I would like to say still they do not express their own views. They have to express the views of the Government. Even after independence the same tradition is being followed. It seems to me whether we can't express our views freely in the independent India. If we are with the treasury benches then we will praise the Government and if we are in the opposition, we will oppose the Government even the good things in the Address. I was reading the Constitution of India, I found a word President written therein. Its Hindi translation is *Rashttrapati*. Today (the President of our country is a lady. There should

have been a clear term for the President in our Constitution. There are so many questions which can be discussed. But, as you have said that there is paucity of time, I lay my speech on the Table of the House which may be treated as expressed.

"According to our Parliamentary tradition, the President addresses the first session of the Parliament every year and thereafter the Vice-President reads the President's Address in Hindi. For the last two sessions, the Vice-President reads a part of the President's Address in Hindi and thereafter it is laid on the Table of House and treated as read in Hindi. The Government mention/its programmes before the public in the President's Address. This has become a tradition of the democracy. A structure has been set up and all are following the same without pondering for a while in this regard. It is not necessary that the President agrees to the entire things of the Government. But, being the highest office of the country and the head of the Government, the President addresses the Parliament and it has become a tradition of democracy.

What an irony is this? Even the President does not have freedom to express his or her own views freely in the independent India? What to talk about the public? Had we imagined this type of independence? Had the martyrs of independence sacrificed their lives for this type of independence? With these words, I would like to express my views in the House.

We had a big dream. Dream of an independent and prosperous India. It was a dream of a great, beautiful and enlightened India. A powerful India, world guru where a prosperous, rich, educated, secured, self reliant, cultured and well harmonized society is allowed to flourish and is able to observe its own age old traditions, culture, its glorious history and its spiritual height the entire world is guided by India. We had dreamt to make India an ideal country in the 21st century.

But where do we stand now after 60 years of our independence? This is a million-dollar question. This is a matter of concern and debate. Why is it so that such is the plight of freedom of country? When we ponder over it, we think that to know the reasons, we have to go back and far over the pages of our history.

*...This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria]

When I was listening to the hon'ble President's Address a question arose whether she should be called Rashtrapati or Nation head or President I had a look at our Constitution. Then I came to know where the originated from?

May I ask as to whether this Constitution was really framed as per the wishes of our people, the Indians if you took back at the history, you will find that, in 1895, in "Swarajya Bill" initiated by Lok Manya Tilak, principles of Constitution were presented for the first time. Later Mahatma Gandhi presented his own views in 1924, a constituent assembly for the purpose was demanded by Pt. Motilal Nehru. Later S.N. Rai, Jawahar Lalji and other leaders also expressed the same view. Subsequently, on the basis of "Government of India Act, 1930". In 1946 also a Government of India Act was enacted. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was made the Chairman of the Constitution Assembly and Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was nominated as chief of the Drafting Committee. (Lekha Samiti). In this Constituent Assembly, Constitution of India was made the supervision of British Parliament towards the fag end of their rule in India.

At that point of time, Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Dr. Ambedkar had said that they had endeavoured to prepare a "Practical document" which was in confirmity with the then prevailing circumstances as directed by the Constituent Assembly instead of preparing an "original document." He pointed out that the Constituent Assembly was unable to make any changes in the original outlines of the Constitution as was envisaged in "Cabinet Mission Scheme." Indeed, there was no expression of the will of people at all in the draft. But Jawahar Lal Nehru said that creating any controversies can push our freedom back. So in whatsoever shape the Constitution is, it should be allowed to move on and ultimately on 26th January, 1950, this "non-Indian" constitution of India was implemented.

Why am I calling "non-Indian Constitution"? come and let us understand its some other aspects also.

First of all, if you read the Preamble of the Constitution, you will notice certain basic flows therein. "In our Constituent Assembly this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949 (Mit, Margshish Shukla Saptmi Somvat 2006 Vikrami) do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution." In the above declaration Vikrami Samvat has been referred to but how we adopted Sak Samvat in every Government work later? The main reason for this is that Vikrami Samvat is longer than Eshwi San and Vikrami Samvat symbolises our ancient culture and archaic history of the country. How the English

would have accepted this? and we were so much embedded of English slavery that we accepted this saka Samvat. Which is why we have to say that this Constitution is basically anti-Bharat.

The second thing, in Article 1 of the Constitution it has been said that "India that is Bharat" Does India imply Bharat? Bharat means Bharat? The country, which was called Hindostan, Hindustan, Bharat, Aaryavrat before independence was later made "India" so to speak, the identity of motherland itself was lost. "Bande Mataram" was dumped. We forgot our identity and the glory. This was the beginning of all problems.

The partition between India and Pakistan did not allowed India to achieve its complete sovereignty. The integrity of the nation was attacked by raking up the issue of Kashmir.

When we look at the Constitution, we find word "Socialism" after "Sovereignty" What is the plight of our country? The poor is becoming poorer and the rich is getting richer. Inflation is rising-unemployment and social inequality is on the rise. Consequently, several social evils like partition violence, rape, loot, dacoity, infidelity, profiteering are increasing in our society. The gap between rich and poor is on the rise and we take pride in making claims that there are more than 500 billionaires in India. The country is making a lot of progress. Whether there is any provision in our Constitution to cap the maximum accumulation of property by an individual? And if not then what kind of socialism is it? The entire system is based on exploitation. Capitalism is being promoted in the name of socialism and Government interference in the name of nationalism is increasing.

The third debatable objectives in the Constitution is "Panth Nirpeksha" which is called "Secular" in English. A great harm has been done to Indian culture by distorting the meaning of 'Secular' as 'Dharm Nirpeksha' In Indian, life, the 'Dharma' element is used in broader sense. "Yato Abhyudya Nishreyas Sidhi Sah Dharmah" i.e. a "Dharm" means a religion which aims to promote the interest and welfare of every human being in this world and the next world also. In pursuance of this, many sects and communities came into existence in India to discover the "truth" on the basis of 'Aikam Sad Vipraah Bahuda Vadanti'. But sadly our politicians mixed religion and sect together and included the word "secularism" in our Constitution.

This has divided the people of the country on the basis of religion. More rights and more facilities were given to minorities. There is competition among people

to take undue advantage of religion. Not only this the demand for job reservation and other facilities on the basis of caste and community has increased much which is leading the country to disintegration. Communal fanaticism is being fuelled by making different laws by different religion despite common civil code and right to equality for all in the Constitution. Even today the provision for providing reservation is in force which was initially for ten years for social upliftment of SCs and STs and bringing them at par with other people in the society. Whether the condition of the society has improved despite reservation? Why the new generation of the people who have been benefited by the reservation does say courageously that it will not take the benefit of reservation? What is the purpose behind the provision of creamy layer? Today everybody is competing for getting the benefits of reservation on the basis of caste, creed and community. What can be bigger mockery of condition than this?

The fourth feature enumerated in the Constitution is democracy. Earlier the Government reined power of the country controlled from London and now it is being controlled from Delhi. What is the say of public representatives in the democracy? Have they not become Kings in today's time? Whether the democracy of today is really for the people of the people and by the people?

Today's representatives also, have lost their dignity. They are looked at scornfully by the people. The whole atmosphere has become full of vicious corrupt and non-reliable. The musclemen who grind their own axes are dominating the politics. The people have started to recognize the politicians as white collar mafia. The politicians have to go out with security and bullet proof jackets only. The people have lost their faith in their representation. They have lost respect for them. What message is being given by the proceedings in Parliament and legislatures?

On the other hand, administration i.e. bureaucracy has got dominance. The work of the people is not being done in the name of rules and acts. The public is aggrieved, afflicted and exploited today. There is none to listen their grievances. How the administration which is an offshoot of British legacy will be able to work in the country?

Freedom has become inaccessible to the people. The democracy is being blown to pieces. Such is the plight of democracy.

Our fifth objective is "Republic". This term also has not been defined in the Constitution. It is written in the

Constitution of India, i.e. the Union of States." Correctly, it should be "National Republic" of States, So that the peculiarity of Nationalism remains there and State and Nation supplement each other and be helpful in development. Today, Union-State relations are becoming sour. Regional politics is on the rise. National unity can be in peril. The National feeling is losing before the regional interests. The disputes and differences between States have become a headache. The States and the Centre are making charges and counter-charges against each other. Everyone is taking undue advantage of the situation.

Considering the situation, the whole Constitution seems to be representing mentality of British Slavery and it needs to be change. There is now synonym for women President in this Constitution. The articles A,B,C,D have been described in the form of Ka, Kha, Ga, Gha. The issue of Kashmir has become complicated under Article 370. Not only this, today it has become the basic source of the problem of terrorism. Hindi has been declared the official language, but English is being given more importance. According to Article 120, there is a provision of doing away with the English language itself after 15 years but the actual situation is something different.

Perhaps, on account of this only that Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Ambedkar might have said that he was only the 'Chairman' of the Drafting Committee. This Constitution is a bag of beggings taken from the constitutions of most of the countries of the world.

[English]

This Constitution is a bag of beggings.

[Translation]

These were the views of Late Jaiprakash Narayan also who said that "the present Constitution of India is such a jacket which has been made from Constitutional rags of a number of countries and it has a number of holes all over it. In real terms, it is only a document of slavery."

The language of the whole Constitution is so complicated that it is also difficult to understand the intent. It can never maintain national unity. In the Constitution, the emotional and cultural feelings have not been inter related with the people. Due to this reason, the Constitution has not become the Constitution of a common man. The section 28 and 30 are anti-character building and anti-success sections. If religious i.e. moral education

[Shri Vallabhbal Kathiria]

is not imparted, then how will the character building and a value based society come into existence? The redressal of problems through the present Constitution is impossible which has undergone more than 104 amendments. This constitution is completely non-Indian. Therefore, it is necessary to bring a radical change in this Constitution. Now, it is high time, when we need to take right steps in this direction. Only then we may think that the country has got freedom in the true sense. Only then Indian will truly become the golden India of its dream.

Let us think seriously in this regard. With these words, I am concluding my speech.

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): The Presidential address to the joint houses of the Parliament by our first woman President is historic on that count. But with all due respect to that august office, I would like to critically comment on behalf of my party and the poor. In a democracy, and this bears repeating, the welfare of the poor and the needy is paramount. By this criterion, is there anything substantial that lends hope to their dreams, especially farmers? I will confine myself only to agriculture, which still sustains the livelihood of 57 crore of our people.

Permit me to quote certain statistics: Agriculture which accounted for 55% of our GDP in 1950-51, has tumbled to 20% in 2006-07, with services now accounting for 55% of GDP. In 2004-05 while agriculture accounted for 52% of total workforce, it formed only 20.2% of total GDP.

19.57 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

This has to be read along with the candid observation made in NSSO 62nd round report on employment situation of India in 2005-06: 'Agriculture sector is projected to generate no increase in employment during the 11th plan period Public sector which accounted for 54% of agricultural Gross Capital Formation in 1980-81 has shrunk to around 25% by late 1990s. This fall in public investment has led to net irrigated area remaining stagnant at around 53-55 million hectares since mid-1990s. NSSO 59th round which studied the issue of farmer indebtedness found that 42.3% of loans were availed of from moneylenders, traders, relatives and friends. Out of the Rs. 48,000 crore availed of from non-institutional channels, Rs. 18,000 crore was at an interest rate of 30% per annum or more.

*A related aspect is the extent of deprivation revealed in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-3), carried out during 2002-04: 48% of children below 3 and 49% of those under 6 suffer from malnutrition. Here, it is pertinent to quote the Magsaysay award winning journalist P. Sainath, who has mapped the contours of our national destitution like few others have: "Meanwhile, the United Nations Human Development Report records that almost a third of India's children, or 30 per cent, are below average weight at birth. In Sierra Leone, ranked at 177 rock bottom of the Human Development Index, we are ranked a dismal 128 down from 126 last year, it is 23 per cent. Even in Ethiopia, ranked 169, the figure is 15 per cent. So we're down there with the bottom five on that count." Or as Dr. R. Radhakrishna (the economist who headed the Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness) and S. Chandrasekhar have it: 'The performance of India in terms of nutritional outcomes is worse than that of less developed African countries in recent years (UNDP 2003).'

Public expenditure on agricultural research & extension was low at 0.49% of GDP, on average developing countries spend 0.7% and developed countries 2-3%. Research is paramount to overcome substantial variations in agro-climatic conditions, compatible with local farming requirements. No innovations have been envisaged, especially in dry land agriculture. China Agricultural University together with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), has been working on aerobic rice. Aerobic rice requires 50-70% less water, although its yields are about 30% less than hybrid rice.

Three vital suggestions I would like to make for ensuring our food security and sovereignty are:

- (a) Stopping wheat imports.
- (b) Bringing back Quantitative Restrictions: in 1998, QRs for 470 agricultural products were dismantled. In 1999, another 1,400 were brought under OGL. To compound this, average tariffs on agricultural imports were reduced from 100% in 1990 to 30% in 1997.
- (c) Scrapping the U.S India Knowledge Initiative in Agriculture which in effect is a plan to hand over control of India's seed sector and the retail market to transnational corporations.

Unless, we have the political will and vision to implement such long-term measures, short-term steps

* This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

apart from creating temporary euphoria, will not substantially contribute to a life of dignity to the farmers of our country."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Discussion on the Motion of Thanks is over. The reply to it will be given tomorrow. Now, the House shall take up Special Mentions.

[Translation]

*SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me time to speak on motion of thanks on Her Excellency the President's Address. The work done by the UPA during this period of almost four years and the works likely to be done by the UPA Government in the future have been mentioned in the address would have been much better, if the issue of suicides being committed by the farmers in Bundelkhand had found a mention in the Hon'ble Presidents' Address. Today, by waiving off their loans, we are not addressing their problem of suicides. If we want to stop the farmers to Bundelkhand from committing suicides, then certainly Bundelkhand should be given a special package under which money should be spent on the problems being faced by the farmers so that the farmers are provided with water for agriculture. A dam should be constructed anywhere between Auraiya and Bhusanagar over Yamuna river so that the farmers from Auraiya, Kanpur Dehat, Fatehpur and Allahabad can be provided with water. Through this Dam the water can also be made available to the Jalaun and Hamirpur districts which will make the farmer self-reliant and also stop them from committing suicides. The Central Government is providing electricity to the villagers under Rajiv Gandhi hundred percent electrification scheme but the companies which have carried out the work in my State of Uttar Pradesh have used poor quality material. In those villagees where electrification has taken place recently, the poles have bent down and these poles are collapsing with the heavy blow of wind. Certainly, the Central Government should take care of it so that good and better quality work may be maintained while doing electrification and its benefits can be ensured to the villagers. I have already sent a complaint to the Minister with all the documents and the Central Government will definitely examine the matter.

The Central Government has failed to defeat the terrorists because through all those terrorists who tried to

explode the Parliament House have been killed, yet Azal, who had planned the terrorist attack, has not been hanged till today even after the verdict of the Supreme Court. Hon'ble Sir, almost a couple of year back a bomb blast took place in the house of a person belonging to minority community in Samwar town of Jhansi District in my Lok Sabha Constituency. The explosion was so powerful that the body of the head of the family had blown up and fallen on the ground after getting entangled with the electric wires. The body parts of some people fell into the pond at the backside of the house. These body parts were seen to be floating in the pond for quite a few days. As long as, the UPA Government goes on ignoring such things for the sake of votes, definitely they cannot put any check on the terrorists. Under the Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojna the roads are being constructed in my district which are going in bad shape after one year only. The roads, which are already in good condition have been taken under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna and these roads are being dug up for reconstruction but the pounding work on the roads is being done with dry soil instead of using water. This is certainly a matter of concern.

*SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI (Akbarpur): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the motion of thanks on President's Address, a complete document of the works done by the Government, and would like to draw the attention of the Government towards some important issues.

1. The prosperity of the country is not possible without the prosperity of farmers. The farmers cannot be benefited without implementing the Swaminathan report in toto. We cannot think about the welfare of farmers without deciding the cost price of agro-products due to which the farmers are in distress, as agriculture has become a loss making business. As a result more than 40 thousands farmers have been compelled to commit suicide. The Government has started to waive off the loans taken by farmers prior to 2007 but it will not make them prosperous unless they are provided fertilizers, seeds, pesticides along with adequate and timely electricity on subsidized rates. The country cannot be made prosperous without giving due attention to these concrete measures to make the condition of the farmers strong. I therefore, demand that at least a grant of Rs. ten lakh may be given to those farmers who have committed suicide.

*Speech was laid on the table.

*Speech was laid on the table.

[Shri Sankhlal Majhi]

2. We all know that Water is Life. The limited source of drinking water and steep decline water level of 839 units out of 5723 units of the country is posing a serious threat to the country. The unavailability of water for drinking and irrigation purposes has become the cause of suicides by farmers in Western Uttar Pradesh especially in Bundelkhand. But neither arrangement nor any budgetary provision has been made in this regard.

3. The entire Poorvanchal has been ruined due to devastating floods which caused loss of life and property of worth crores of rupees, and shortage of accommodation. But there is not mention in the President's Address about the safety measures for the districts of Poorvanchal especially Ambedkar Nagar Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Azamgarh, etc. neither any arrangements have been made in this regard.

4. There were high talks about Sachchar Committee throughout the year but it also lacks proper arrangements. The poor weavers have been rendered jobless due to shortage of electricity and their children are forced to remain hungry and resultantly have been victims of malnutrition. How can a hungry poor educate his children and it would not help improve the condition of Muslim Community. The development of Muslim Community is not possible without providing infrastructure, adequate power and yarn on subsidized rates to weavers along with provisions for buying the finished goods and requisite funds for this.

No arrangements have been made to provide free education in other integrated universities along with the demand to provide grants to Aligarh, Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia University. The suggestions of Sachchar Committee can be implemented by providing free books up to Secondary level along with free hostel facility and vocational education.

5. The unemployment problem of the country cannot be removed by providing employment to mere 70 lakh families under the National Employment Guarantee Scheme. A survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organization has revealed that 5 per cent of the total population of the country i.e. 6-7 crore people are deprived of minimum means of livelihood. Only 2.7 crore people could be provided employment under NREGP. In such circumstances 3-4 crore people are compelled to sleep without food. Neither the problem of unemployment can be removed, nor the migration from villages to cities be

stopped by merely making a statement to remove the unemployment. There is no meaning of having 9 percent GDP and more than 30 per cent growth in GDP unless any concrete plan is made for the 2-3 percent people having no food.

6. The Prime Minister has admitted that it is shameful for the country that children and women are suffering from malnutrition. Unless the Government provide food to all, make them free from starvation and diseases, makes Public Distribution System transparent, unbiased and making distribution without corruption, expands Integrated Rural Development Programme and National Rural Guarantee Scheme and makes a concrete plan for effective and simplified I.C.D.S Yojana, the 'Bharat Nirman' slogan of UPA will remain just like the slogan of 'India Shining' given by NDA Government.

Sir, the roads of all districts of my parliamentary constituency have been completely damaged due to three time torrential rains and floods since 2002 to date. Thousands of houses have collapsed. The poor people built them with many years of hard labour but now they have been rendered homeless. I met Rural Development Minister and demanded for a package of five thousand additional dwelling units for Ambedkar Nagar district but no arrangement has been made so far.

Sir, through you, I demand a package of at least five thousand Indira Awas units along with hundred crores rupees for the damaged roads of entire districts of my constituency and with this, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my constituency area Bareilly is one of the main metropolitan cities of Uttar Pradesh. Keeping in view its utility, the Government has decided to develop it as counter magnet under National Capital Region. It is getting all civic facilities which it deserves. The Uttar Pradesh Government had declared Bareilly as a metropolitan city 25 years ago. Since then it has been developing as a metro city and the process is still on. Recently, I have come to know that Bareilly is not included in the metropolitan category of the Union Government. It has been included in the category of small and medium cities. Therefore, it is not getting the facilities that it deserves. I would like to urge upon the Urban Development Minister, through you, to take necessary action in this regard and provide all such facilities to it that are being provided to

metropolitan city by getting it included in the Union List. I hope that he would give a direction to provide the same facilities by including it in the Union List. I hope that he would give a direction to provide the same facilities by including it in the Union List. Thank you.

20.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House had been extended up to 8 p.m. If you agree it may be extended till the Zero Hour is over.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an urgent matter of public importance.

The prices of essential commodities are on the rise particularly all the foodgrains across the country. The price of rice and wheat has been on the rise and there is even scarcity of foodgrains in the market. The segregation of beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System as APL beneficiaries and BPL beneficiaries has, in effect, kept a larger number of deserving sections out of the benefits of the Public Distribution System. The efforts of the Government since the introduction of the policy of economic liberalisation have been to undermine the importance of the Public Distribution System. The UPA Government assured in the Common Minimum Programme to strengthen the Public Distribution System and to move towards universalizing it. But that promise, even after four years in office, has not been fulfilled.

The meager increase in the food subsidy allocation in the present Budget too is inadequate to ensure food security for more than 70 per cent of the population living below the poverty line. The needs of food deficit States like Kerala cannot be met with this. The Centre has reduced the allotment of rice to Kerala from 1,13,420 metric tonnes to 21,334 metric tonnes which results in a shortage of 82 per cent for monthly distribution. This has severely affected the foodgrains availability and pushed the prices of foodgrains in the open market. Therefore, the Government should take urgent steps to universalize the Public Distribution System in order to ensure the food security of the vast majority of our population.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving

me the opportunity to raise an urgent matter of public importance.

There is a need to expedite the construction of four lane road on NH-4 between 280 and 404 kms. and a service road in Shiggaon Town in Haveri District of Karnataka under the Golden Quadrilateral Project. This road ought to have been completed by September, 2003, but till today the road has not been completed. The Government of India has extended the deadline and the road is in the worst condition in and around towns like Chitradurga, Davangere, Haveri and Hubli. Then, they have constructed a fly-over bridge in Kakol village in Haveri District which is also incomplete. So, the maintenance of the road is very bad. So, I urge upon the Government to take immediate action to repair the road.

Regarding the construction of service road in Shiggaon town, I would like to submit that they have laid a road of only 3 metres on the left hand side and on the right hand side. They have to lay the road for at least 7 metres on both sides for the movement of carts, vehicles etc. Now, due to the narrow service road, a large number of accidents are taking place in Shiggaon town. As the service road is very congested near Shiggaon Bus Stand and the fly-over bridge, the vehicles are not able to move to and fro at this place. The officers of the National Highway Authority of India have assured to construct 7 metres service road, but they have constructed only 3 metres to 3.5 metres road. It is absolutely necessary to take up the construction of this service road. The people of that area have become frustrated with the Government and they are resorting to *rasta roko* agitation very frequently.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India, through you, to take up these works immediately, on top priority.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue. The earth-work in connection with the road being constructed from Jhanai to Bara by the Central Government under the Golden Quadrilateral Project is not up to the mark. Earth-filling up to the level of one metre is being done without watering the soil. Presently that area is facing draught condition and now road would be constructed there, but

[Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma]

the road will become so weak after one year that when the vehicles will ply on this road, there will be pitholes from place to place. This is the condition of the four-lane and six-lane road. The agencies which have been awarded the tender are not doing the work themselves. They have assigned the work to the local contractors due to which the work is not being done up to the desired standard qualitatively.

I, therefore, demand that the Government should instruct these agencies to do the work themselves so that the common people could use and get benefit of roads being constructed.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): The Century year old Louis Pasteur Institute in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu is the pioneering institution of its kind in India that has been manufacturing life-saving vaccines like Anti-rabies, triple antigen, tetanus to prevent Diphtheria, Polio and Epilepsy alongwith Small-Pox. This is the first among the four such public sector units in India to have obtained ISO standardisation certificate. This institute can meet 60% of the total need of such vaccines in our country. The vaccines manufactured here are very-very economical when compared to such products available from the private sector. Anti Rabies vaccine costs Rs. 150/- at this institute whereas it costs Rs. 37/- to Rs. 1200/- in the private market. Triple antigen costs Rs. 1.10 at this institute whereas it costs Rs. 10 to Rs. 18 at the hands of private players. The anti-epilepsy vaccine costs a mere 60 paise per mool while it costs Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 in the private sector. WHO has recently suggested to this institute to do away with the bottlenecks that come in the way of obtaining Good Manufacturing Practice-GMP certificate. Instead of taking right steps to help strengthen this Pasteur Institute, the Executive Director is trying to convert this institute to a mere hospital thereby leaving the needy Indian Public to fend for themselves at the hand of exorbitant private markets. Production of certain invaluable life saving vaccines have been stopped and some more production will also be stopped soon. Carefully bred 544 guinea pigs needed for quality tests have been wiped out thoughtlessly and there is an urgent need to rear them up once again following the cherished tradition of this institution.

Hence, I urge upon the Prime Minister to intervene and impress upon the Health Ministry to go slow on this winding up operations and preserve this institute with a long term perspective and shelve the proposal to convert this great institute to a mere hospital.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[English]

SHRI A. V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Thank you Sir. I would like to invite the urgent attention of the Government over the perennial menace perpetrated by stray dogs in the remote villages, rural hamlets, urban and semi-urban centres in the country. The legislation enacted by the Government banning killing of stray dogs, using painless morphine drugs and treating it as a punishable offence, awarding fine and rigorous imprisonment, has prevented the authorities from doing away this menace.

The proliferation of the species has resulted in running most of the stray dogs mad and their bites are spreading rabies incurable and dreadful disease. Winter season is the mating period for them and resulting in the growth of their population in alarming proportions. A haunting phenomenon being developed now-a-days is that the animals are turning blood thirsty as they are breeding upon the animal waste strewn away by the slaughter houses and butchers' malt, which is easily available, in rural and urban areas. Thus the dogs are tempted to attack the pet animals like goats, lambs and calves. Often they are much prone to attack the passers by. Such stray dogs often fall across the vehicle riders causing serious and fatal road accidents.

It is very queer to know that the Act provides for sterilization and castration of dogs, both male and female, by allotting enormous funds. It is funny to note that a sum of Rs. 445 is sanctioned for castrating a single dog. But the matter of pity is that fabulous amounts are either being kept unutilized or are being misused.

I therefore, request the Government to bring in a suitable amendment in the Act enabling the local administration to kill the stray dogs 'calling them mad and a matter of euthanasia having mercy for mankind' so that this menace may be eradicated permanently.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the State of Kerala is on the verge of an acute shortage of power. This has happened because of the recent decision of the Central Government to cut down the Central allocation of power supply to Kerala. We see that the Government is forced or the Electricity Board is forced to impose load-shedding in the State. The net result will be that the normal life in Kerala will be curtailed. The factories will not function, and it will also affect the functioning of other institutions also.

So, considering all these aspects, I request the Central Government to restore the power supply which

was there long before. The recent cut may be withdrawn and the State be saved from power shortage.

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL (Katwa): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very burning issue. It is a matter of great concern that the Union Government has taken decision to close down different TV relay centres of the country in the name of upgradation of LPTV/installation of high-power transmitter. Electronic media today being the most competitive and challenging broadcaster, the LPTV units in the different parts of the country should be used for spreading the voice of the local regional people.

In West Bengal, as I know, Prasar Bharati has decided to close down two LPT centres, namely Ranaghat and Kalna. I would like to inform the House that Krishi Darshan and other few programmes have become much popularized of these centres.

These LPTVs have been installed to give extensive coverages of terrestrial transmission in regional language and to uplift the rich heritage of local culture covering almost 99.13 per cent of the people in the largest democracy of the world.

Keeping in view the subjective regional programmes within the present infrastructure, I urge upon the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Department, Government of India to continue the LPTV centres with programmes of national interests and grass-root people without closing down the said existing centres.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister of Finance has announced waiving of loans of farmers. Its reality is something different. It has come to the notice after talking to the farmers. I congratulate the Minister of Finance that he has accepted our demand by waiving of loans of the farmers. To get this demand accepted thousands of farmers had staged a public demonstration under the leadership of our Shiv Sena Chief Shri Uddhav Thakre in Sahgaon, Pune and Dhulia, but the demand of loan waiver has not been met in toto so far. Only 50 per cent farmers in Marathwada and 30 per cent in Vidharbha will get benefit of this loan waiver in Maharashtra. At the same time, there are farmers holding at least five acre agriculture land and they have been making timely payment of the installments of their loans.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your demand?

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, let me continue. There is no benefit to the farmers who have been making timely payment of the installments of their loans to the banks or the financial institutions. Those who did not make regular payment have been benefited. That is why they are saying whether they have committed any mistake by making regular payment of the installments. So, they should also be considered in this context. This is the request which I want to make to the Minister of Finance through you. Yesterday under the leadership of hon'ble Uddhav Thakre Ji, the team of five Members of Parliament including myself—Adsul Ji, Gudhe Ji, Yadav Ji and Sanjay Ji, who is the Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha—visited Marathwada and Vidharabha and personally interacted with the farmers over there. So, we are putting before you the feelings and reactions of the farmers. The benefit of this loan waiver is, in fact, not reaching them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 5500 farmers in Maharashtra and 1,50,000 in the whole country have committed suicide. There was no mention about this thing in the President's Address. There should have been some help to such people. There was also no mention about the loans given by the money lenders at the exorbitant rate of interest. Our Minister of Agriculture has stated that the farmers should not repay their loans to the moneylenders in Maharashtra; but what is about the farmers who were given loans by the moneylenders by taking their thumb impressions on stamp paper. There should be some stringent action for this. The total loans of such farmers should be waived for only then the incidence of suicide by the farmers will be checked and they will be benefited from this budget. This is the demand on the part of our party Shiv Sena.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no such lengthy matter in Special Mention.

[*English*]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention a very important matter of concern of the farmers of my district and also Kuttanad. When the Government announced 31 districts as the Distress-prone Districts in the country, two Districts in my State—one is Alappuzha and the other one is Idukki—have been left behind. Later on, the Government of India has appointed a Committee headed by a renowned agricultural scientist, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan to study on the agrarian crisis and ecological security of the wetland system of

[Dr. K.S. Manoj]

Kuttanad, Alappuzha District. The Committee has submitted its Report and the State Government of Kerala has submitted a detailed project report, as per the direction from the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India but the final decision on that detailed project report has not yet been taken. Sir, it was, with great expectation and hope, the people of Kuttanad welcomed the project but now the people are distressed and despondent as no steps have been taken by the Government of India. Sir, it is learnt that the Planning Commission has cleared the proposal and it is awaiting the Cabinet note.

So, I would urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to sanction and implement the project so that the agrarian crisis in that region, that is, the region of Kuttanad, could be met out. Thank you.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili)
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kindly permit me to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance during Zero Hour today regarding speedy takeover of Bharat Heavy Plate Vessels Limited, Visakhapatnam by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited.

Based on the Union Cabinet decision on 26th November, 2007 BHPV once again submitted revaluation report valued by the Industrial Credit Rating Agency to the Ministry of Heavy Industry for immediate takeover of BHPV by BHEL. I understand that the report is under study and review by the Finance Department of the Ministry of Heavy Industry for sending the same to the Finance Ministry for their comments. The employees of BHPV are eagerly looking at the Centre and public representatives for an early settlement of the issue once and for all.

Since BHPV and BHEL are under administrative control of the Department of Heavy Industry, the takeover process will not pose any problem. Therefore, through this House, I would request the Government to expedite the process. Thank you.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Health Ministry about the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS incidence in Bellary District, Karnataka and about the successful steps being initiated by Bellary District AIDS Prevention Society (BDAPS) to bring it down with the help of "Coordinated HIV/AIDS Response through Capacity Building and Awareness" (CHARCA), a joint United Nations project in reducing women vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.

Sir, when the project was progressing and the population of 398 villages was covered, the Union Government suddenly stopped the project. Bellary was the only district in Karnataka and among the six districts in the country selected by UNDP for implementing the HIV AIDS -CHARCA programme. The main intention of the project was to bring down the spread of HIV infection among women between the age 13 to 25 years.

Sir, Bellary District AIDS Prevention Society is the only district level society in Karnataka and the second in the country, next to Mumbai Mahanagar Palika. Sir, the previous Union Government has announced to make Bellary as AIDS-free district. Among the other activities, the CHARCA village information centres were set up in 146 villages. The efforts put in by BDAPS and its partners had started yielding positive results with the HIV prevalence which was 1.7 per cent in the year 2003-04 and has now come down to 1.1 per cent. Yet the percentage is considered as very high going by the national average.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Sir, I am coming to my demand. It is surprising that suddenly the project has been stopped and there are no signs of it being extended. Such being the situation and Bellary facing a lot of immigration, there is an urgent need to extend this programme to the Bellary district.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to consider extending of the CHARCA scheme and provide necessary Central assistance to curb the prevalence of the HIV/AIDS in Bellary district.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on 5th March, 2008.

20.21 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, March 5, 2008/
Phalgun 15, 1929 (Saka).*

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