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(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Friday, April 29, 2005/Vaisakha 09, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at three minutes past Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

11.03 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of our former colleague Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait.

Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait was a Member of the Fourth to Tenth Lok Sabhas from 1967 to 1996. He represented the Kozhikode Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala in the Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabhas; the Manjeri Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala in the Sixth to Ninth Lok Sabhas and the Ponnani Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala in the Tenth Lok Sabha.

Earlier Shri Sait was a Member of the Rajya Sabha from 1960 to 1966.

During his long and illustrious tenure as a parliamentarian, Shri Sait ably served on various Parliamentary Committees.

A renowned social and political activist Shri Sait started his career as a teacher. A multi-faceted personality, Shri Sait took active interest in socio-cultural and educational activities and was champion of religious and educational rights of the minorities. He was the Honorary Magistrate Cochin, from 1954 to 1957 and General Secretary, Kerala Muslim Education Association, Ernakulam from 1957 to 1959 and its Vice-President from 1959 to 1965. He was General Secretary, All India Muslim Personal Law Board in 1973 and member, National Integration Council. He was also a member of the Central Haj Advisory Board from 1982 to 1985 and Central Wakf Council.

A man of letters he was editor of a magazine published by the Urdu Society of Aligarh Muslim University. He had also to his credit a publication of selected Urdu Poems; and books on Muslim League, its History and Objectives and Muslim Personal Law.

A widely travelled person Shri Sait was a member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey in 1971 and to Switzerland and the United Kingdom in 1975.

Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait passed away on 27th April, 2005 at Bangalore at the age of 83.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.05 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 481, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty —not present.

Q. No. 482, Shri E. Ponnuswamy.

11.06 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuteekaran Yojana

+

*482. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuteekaran Yojana under the Rural Electrification Programme recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the broad objectives of this Yojana;

(c) the funds allocated to each State under the Yojana alongwith the share of State and Union Government therein;

(d) whether several districts in the country were identified under the Yojana;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether village Panchayats are also to be involved in implementing the Yojana to achieve desired goal; and

(g) if so, the number of rural population below poverty line targeted to provide electricity under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidutikaran Yojana Scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification" has been launched for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of providing access to electricity to all Rural Household in five years. The scheme would be implemented through the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for projects for:—

- (i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with on 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.
- (ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all unelectrified villages/habitations and provision of distribution transformer(s) of appropriate capacity in every village/habitation.
- (iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System from conventional sources for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).

The scheme inter alia provides for financing of electrification of all unelectrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme in all rural habitations.

For projects to be eligible for capital subsidy under this scheme prior commitment of the States would be taken before sanction of the projects for:—

- (i) deployment of franchisees for the management of rural distribution in projects financed under this scheme.
- (ii) provision of requisite revenue subsidy to the State utilities as required under the Electricity Act, 2003.

The States would also be required to make adequate arrangements for supply of electricity and there should be no discrimination in the hours of supply between rural and urban households:—

The scheme would also cater to the requirement of agriculture and other activities including

- Irrigation pumpsets
- small and medium industries
- khadi and village industries
- cold chains
- healthcare
- education and IT

This would facilitate overall rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation.

(c) It is estimated that Rs. 16,000 crore would be required for the entire scheme. For Phase-I of the scheme approved for implementation during the 10th Five Year Plan Period, Rs. 5,000 crore has been provided by the Central Government as Capital Subsidy.

(d) and (e) The scheme covers the entire country and the funds would be released on the basis of sanction of the projects submitted.

(f) Panchayat institutions would be associated in the management of rural electricity distribution through

franchisees who could be Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Users Associations, Co-operatives or individual entrepreneurs.

(g) According to estimates of the scheme, 2.34 crore rural households living Below Poverty Line (BPL) are targeted for electrification under this scheme.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: I am very happy to note that the Government have launched a Scheme during the first week of this month named after our late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to provide electricity to all the rural households in 5 years. It is to be implemented by the Rural Electrification Corporation with a 90 per cent Central subsidy. It is a dream project to make BPL people to see the light in their life time.

Already there is a Scheme called *Kutir Jyoti* with 100 per cent Central subsidy. Even after the reply of the hon. Minister, there are 1,12,401 villages, and 780.9 lakh households yet in the darkness in the country. They do not know when they can have access to electricity leave alone the 63 lakh farmers waiting to have connections for their pump-sets in the villages.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how he plans to mobilise funds for all these time-bound projects, especially for the rural electrification.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time of independence, we had electrified only 1,500 villages in the country. Now, we have electrified 4.75 lakh villages. Sir, let me share the concern of the Member. Initially, there were as many as 25 Members who wanted to put this Question. When it was balloted, only Shri Ponnuswamy got the first chance. That speaks the importance that Members also give to the subjects.

Sir, in this rural electrification, we could electrify on an average during the entire 6th and 7th Plans as many as 22,000 villages every year. May I mention this for the benefit of the House that the whole thing went wrong during 9th Plan? It was reduced to 2,200 villages per year, just 10 per cent of the 6th and 7th Plans. It was during 1997 to 2002 when it was said that India is shining. That was the period. I am not blaming it. When I took over the Ministry in May, we had applied our mind

seriously. At this rate, we will not be able to electrify the villages for another 10 years.

So, there must be some solid projects.

As hon. Member Shri E. Ponnuswamy has mentioned, the *Kutir Jyoti Yojana* was there. That was initiated by Shri Rajiv Gandhi in 1988 and that was 100 per cent free to the below the poverty line families. It included wiring, service connection and one bulb. Only five lakh connections could be made available for the below the poverty line families because the inherent defect was that the electricity to the village under rural electricity connection was not there at all. Therefore, this scheme could not spread throughout the country.

Now, on the 4th of this month, the hon. Prime Minister has initiated and launched the programme called Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuteekaran Yojana. This is unlike the old one. The earlier definition was that if there was even a single connection in a village, that village was considered to be electrified. The new definition was notified in February, 2004, according to which ten per cent of the people in the village must be given connection. In public places like schools, community health centres and hamlets, there must be connection and then only it would be considered to be an electrified village according to the new definition.

Under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuteekaran Yojana, 100 per cent fund goes from the Centre; 90 per cent fund is given as grant to the States; and ten per cent would be financed by the Rural Electrification Corporation.

Apart from that we intend to give our wholehearted support to making our public sector undertakings' services available to the State Governments so that in the planning period, till the execution, they get the services of the Corporations and the funds would be going to them. In this way, we intend to see that the entire country is involved in electrification.

MR. SPEAKER: How long would you take? That is the question. How long would you take to do this?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Within five years, we want to cover 1,25,000 villages.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you do it in five years?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Yes, we would do it in five years.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Of course, with all the collective wisdom—and knowledge of all people concerned, the Government is taking steps to mitigate this situation but still my question was how he was going to mobilise funds for all these programmes. As long as there are lapses in the generation, transmission and distribution system and unless we take steps to eradicate thefts and the huge losses incurred by the State Governments to the tune of Rs. 60,000 crore and realise the dues from the State Governments, I do not know how we are going to meet the target of the time-bound programme to provide electricity to the rural poor, especially the people below the poverty line. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how he contemplates taking steps to realise the dues and to eradicate the thefts and losses so that we could have more power to distribute to the poor.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: For the entire project, it is estimated to be Rs. 16,000 crore spread over for five years. So, for the remaining two years of the Tenth Plan, it is now committed to have Rs. 5,000 crore.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arjun Sethi—not present.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: One of the items of our agenda is to provide electricity to all uncovered villages. The Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuteekaran Yojana Scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure is a most welcome scheme.

Now, for this scheme the hon. Minister has stated:

"The States would also be required to make adequate arrangements for supply of electricity and there should be no discrimination in the hours of supply between rural and urban households."

In this connection, I am to state that the present situation of power supply is very grim. Urban areas go without electricity and there are load shedding and power cuts for hours together....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: Sir, I am coming to that. In the rural areas the condition is worse. They do not get even kerosene oil for lighting purposes.

Now, for the extension of electrification in rural areas or any uncovered area, we need more power and for that there was a study made by the Central Electricity Authority. That was reassessment study of the hydro-electric potential of the country. That study reveals that there is a tremendous potential of electricity generation in North East Region including Assam. If explored that can meet our present need and future demand also.

My question to the hon. Minister is this. Would he be kind enough to explain as to what steps are planned to be taken to explore the potential of great resources of hydel power in Assam?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, this question relates to the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuteekaran Yojana Scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification. But I will be in a position to give the hon. Member some reply.

With regard to harnessing of the hydel energy, we have already included in the Eleventh Plan, for 50,000 mega watt generation, almost 162 projects have already been identified and 73 projects are identified for the DPR. We are giving more emphasis particularly to the North-Eastern Region.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister deserves to be congratulated for launching an ambitious scheme in the power sector with a target to electrify all the villages and household of the country in five years. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the status of electrification in Bihar, since I belong to Bihar. It has been stated that thousands of villages have been electrified in Bihar however the fact is that not even a single electric pole has been erected in the said villages. It has been claimed that 4 lakh 75 thousand villages have been electrified in the country. I

would like to know whether an inquiry will be held to substantiate what has been said about Bihar and whether the rest of villages will be electrified in Bihar?

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: It is true that there is a regional imbalance in electricity supply in the rural areas and villages. I think, I can give the hon. Member some statistics.

There is a wide range of disparity with regard to the village electrification in various States....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You say that you will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Now, in Bihar, nearly 50 per cent of the villages could not be electrified. As far as the rural electrification is concerned, the condition is worse....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It has to be done.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: As I mentioned earlier, in Bihar, particularly 22,400 villages have been entrusted to the Powergrid Corporation. Now, it is easy for us.

Sir, this is a Concurrent Subject. The State Government has to give consent. The State Government has given the consent also.

MR. SPEAKER: Good news.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Also, the State Government has come forward to accept the consultancy and implementation work of Powergrid in Bihar. That is why they have given 22,400 villages.

MR. SPEAKER: You are paying special attention to it.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: It is progressing very much. So Shri Jha's apprehension will be reduced. We are now going ahead with full speed in Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER: Good answer.

Dr. Babu Rao to ask the next supplementary. I think we are travelling much beyond the main question.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Sir, the *Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyuteekaran Yojana* is a very appreciable step. My question is whether the State of Andhra Pradesh is covered in the scheme or not. Previously, the *Kuteer Jyoti's Scheme* was not covered in our State. If this scheme is covered how many SC/ST villages are covered in the State because they are the people who are living below the poverty line?

MR. SPEAKER: How can the answer be given?

Hon. Minister, does this scheme extend to Andhra Pradesh, and how many SC/ST villages are covered?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, It is difficult. I do not have that figure. We do not prepare that list.

MR. SPEAKER: Does this scheme apply to Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: The scheme is applicable throughout the country.

MR. SPEAKER: You may give the details to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister of Power for launching an ambitious scheme namely *Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Viduteekaran Yojana*. The UPA Government also deserves commendations for this. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the criteria of selection of areas under this scheme which has the target of electrification of rural areas of the entire country in five years. Which villages will be selected in the first year and whether priority will be given to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes dominated villages in the selection of villages in the first year.

My second question is also related to this. The Government is allocating hundred per cent amount to the state government under the scheme. I would like to know whether guidelines will be issued by the hon'ble Minister to the State Governments instructing them to accept the proposals of electrification of villages only from the hon'ble Members and these should be given priority.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has asked whether the scheme for electrification of villages within five years time will prove successful or not. The villages are identified for electrification in all the states of the country on the basis of their capacity. Now the scheme is not confined only to providing funds from the centre. If we provide funds, then like on earlier occasions, the funds would not be diverted. There would be no such thing under the said scheme. Under this scheme first of all the state governments will have to prepare plan for identification of the area, where electrification is to be undertaken. The officials working in the Corporation will provide their assistance for preparing the plan. The scheme that will be prepared in this fashion will be implemented by our Corporation. It will depend on the individual states as to which are they give priority. We will have to see it from the point of view of the states.

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not yet got reply to my question. My question was, whether the proposals of the hon'ble Members will be covered under the norms proposed to be fixed by the State Government....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It will be the responsibility of the state government to see all this.

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Hon'ble Members are ignored in states. I would like to know whether the proposals of the hon'ble Members will be accepted.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, the MPs can send recommendations.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: What I feel is that this scheme is such an important scheme....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We can have a Half-an-Hour Discussion.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Since this subject is in the Concurrent List, I feel that of the representatives of the

people, at the level of both Assemblies as well as Parliament, there must be some association by way of which an assessment can be made and progress can be watched by it as a monitoring group.

MR. SPEAKER: That is your recommendation to the State Government.

GDP Target

*483. SHRI MADHU GOUD YAKSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set any target of GDP growth for the next three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to 'Asian Development Outlook' released by the Asian Development Bank recently in which the Bank has forecast sharp fluctuation in the GDP growth;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reasons given by ADB alongwith the suggestions given in the outlook; and

(e) the steps taken or likely to be taken by Government to achieve GDP target?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Growth targets of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are not fixed annually. The Tenth Five Year Plan envisages an average annual growth rate of 8 per cent during the Tenth Plan period (2002-07).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. ADB Outlook 2005 has estimated India's overall real GDP growth rate at 6.5 per cent, 6.9 per cent, 6.1 per cent and 7.0 per cent during 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

The ADB estimates indicate that the growth will accelerate to 6.9 per cent in 2005-06, mainly due to agriculture growth of 4.4 per cent, and industry and

services growing at 6.7 per cent and 7.7 per cent, respectively. In 2006-07, GDP growth is estimated to slow down to 6.1 per cent due to lower growth of 5.2 per cent and 7.3 per cent in industry and services, respectively. With revival of industry and services, growth has been estimated to increase to 7.0 per cent in 2007-08. The ADB Outlook has indicated the medium-term challenges for the economy as stepping up infrastructure investments, managing burgeoning foreign exchange reserves, and reinforcing the economy's competitive advantage in textiles and garments in the Post-MFA world, among others.

(e) The Union Budget for 2005-06 has proposed a number of initiatives such as emphasis on enhanced public investment, diversifying agriculture, promotion of public-private partnership for infrastructure development, liberalisation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and facilitating growth in industries and services sector through an enabling policy environment. The various measures are expected to have a favourable impact on the growth of the economy.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister regarding the steps, the initiatives taken by the Government to achieve the target of GDP growth at eight per cent, which is laid in the Tenth Plan. The opinion of experts of the World Bank is that India may equal the GDP growth of China by 2010 and surpass the GDP growth of China by 2020. In his reply, the hon. Minister has mentioned the initiatives proposed by the Government in the Budget of 2005-06. Though the initiatives are there, I would like to know whether the Government has specific targets for achieving this by giving top priority to devising the ways and means of attracting greater private investments, faster reforms, improvement and development of country's infrastructure and more importantly, fiscal consolidation.

Sir, more importantly, the reforms should continue without forgetting the responsibility of lifting over 300 million people from their poverty. I would like to know whether there are any specific targets fixed for achieving the overall target.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the Plan document sets out the Plan objectives and the Budget presented every year sets out the annual objectives. If we have to achieve an 8 per cent growth and if you look at it sectorally, we would have to achieve an average of 4 per cent in agriculture, 8.9 per cent in industry and 9.3 per cent in services. Now, obviously, we are falling short of these sectoral targets. In the three years of the current Plan, we have achieved an overall average of only 6.5 per cent and sectorally also, we have achieved only 1.2 per cent in agriculture, 7 per cent in industry and 8.6 per cent in services.

It is with this in mind that we have proposed a number of initiatives and I have briefly mentioned them in my reply. We have to enhance public investment, diversify agriculture, promote public-private partnership, liberalise FDI and facilitate growth. Now on many of these matters, there is a consensus; on some matters, we are still working on a consensus. It is only if we attempt all these things that we can achieve an eight per cent growth. In the Budget Speech, I have set out our goals which we have described as *Bharat Nirman*. *Bharat Nirman* sets out clear physical outcomes over the next five years. I am confident that if we continue to maintain a growth rate of about seven per cent in the remaining years of the current Plan, and in the next Plan, we should be able to aim at eight per cent growth.

MR. SPEAKER: Second supplementary, if you have any.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Sir, ours is a relatively poor nation with burgeoning population. The Chinese experience proves that the rapid growth in manufacturing is the stairway out of the basement of poverty. My second supplementary to the hon. Minister is this.

Is there an initiative to link the agricultural sector, industrial sector, and service sector, and systematically encourage domestic consumption in parallel with sharp focus on exports?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, often comparisons are made with China. I think, some of these comparisons are useful, but we must also remember that China works under a system that is different from India's system. China's manufacturing sector grew rapidly because of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and because of an export-led strategy of growth. This is my understanding of China's manufacturing sector growth.

Now, we have also placed emphasis on the manufacturing sector. If you recall, both the NCMP as well as the Budget speeches—presented last year and this year—give emphasis to agriculture, and next only to agriculture we have given emphasis to the manufacturing sector. We have also appointed the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council in order to give a competitive edge to our manufacturing sector. But our strategy is slightly different. In our strategy, bulk of the investment is raised from the domestic resources. Only at the margin we are allowing FDI, and even in FDI there are sectoral caps in some sectors.

Secondly, our manufacturing sector largely caters to the domestic market. Of course, the exports have increased tremendously in the last year and many of our leading manufacturing companies have now re-engineered their production in order to cater to the export markets, but I think, there is opportunity for greater space for both foreign investment as well as an export-led strategy. These are the two areas on which emphasis should be given by us in order to raise manufacturing growth to say over 9 per cent.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, one of the key areas to achieve any growth target is through urgent development of the infrastructure. One of the challenges being faced by us is this. How to manage the burgeoning foreign exchange reserves? I am not speaking and commenting about the quantity of the reserves, but the manner in which it can be used for the development of an infrastructure. The Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission had come out with some ideas on this issue, and we noticed that some financial institutions instantly reacted about these proposals, namely, to use the foreign exchange reserves for our infrastructure.

Mr. Finance Minister, does the Government have any concrete plans to use the burgeoning foreign exchange reserves for the development of our urgent infrastructural needs?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this is a very interesting question that arises from time to time. But I would urge the hon. Members to examine it closely. Infrastructure requires money, and the money can be rupee resources or foreign exchange resources. If we put money in infrastructure projects like building a canal or building an irrigation system, then that infrastructure will require largely rupee resources only, and it might not require any foreign exchange resources. But if you put the money to build an infrastructure like a high-speed freight corridor—which is being talked about—then a large part of the money would be required in the form of foreign exchange resources. I am saying this because we would have to import the locomotives; import the rolling stock; and even import the tracks.

The foreign exchange reserves give us a high degree of comfort to go for infrastructure projects that are import intensive. Hence, this is what the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission had in mind. Therefore, we are on the same wave length, and we are going for infrastructure projects. We raise the money in India for projects where rupee resources are required, and we spend those resources. On the other hand, for projects where foreign exchange reserves are required, we do have the comfort of having a large foreign exchange reserve. Therefore, we need not fear entering into infrastructure projects, which required large foreign exchange reserves.

We have agreed on that. In the Budget, I have announced the setting up of the SPV. The SPV will *catalyse additional investment of about Rs. 10,000 crore*. When that is leveraged, we can hope for an additional investment of about Rs. 20,000 crore to Rs. 25,000 crore. Whatever foreign exchange is required out of that investment will be met from our very comfortable foreign exchange reserves. That is the philosophy behind this suggestion.

SHRI MILIND DEORA: Sir, half of our GDP is attributed to the services sector, a quarter is attributed to the agricultural sector, and another quarter is attributed to the manufacturing sector. By and large, our services sector is doing very well, whether it is IT sector or the capital markets. However, pertaining to manufacturing, particularly the textile sector which today is one of the largest employers in India after the Government, I just would like to know that in the post-MFA, after the Multi Fibre Agreements have been abolished, we have seen since January to April now that China has increased its exports by a huge amount, and India has still not been catching up with it. What are the major initiatives that the Government proposes in the textile sector, although many have been announced in this Budget and in the last Budget, which will go a long way in making India compete with China?

Lastly, in the agricultural sector, we see always a natural growth of about five per cent, and the rest is largely dependent on the monsoons. I just would like to know what the Government is proposing in addition to things like the Horticulture Mission to make agriculture more monsoon-proof.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not know why the hon. Member is pessimistic about the textile sector. Textile sector is booming now. Last year, 2004-05, estimates tell us that there was an additional investment of Rs. 20,000 crore in the textile sector. In the current year, we expect an investment of Rs. 30,000 crore. CENVAT has been abolished, TUF has been revitalised, and the textile sector has been given a large number of benefits. Capital Subsidy Scheme has been introduced. I have announced a cut in Excise Duty from 24 per cent to 16 per cent on one of the man-made yarns. I think, our textile industry is very bullish. Whatever I travel, whether it is Gujarat or Tamil Nadu, I found the textile sector is very bullish. However, I agree that we have a long way to go to catch up with China. China scores an edge over India because of the scale of manufacturing. For many years, we had put many segments of the textile sector into the reservation

category. Many of them have been removed last year and this year. What we need to do if we want to be internationally competitive is to encourage large-scale manufacturing. Once our scale goes to world size, I think, we can compete with China. We are already competing with China. In every Department Store abroad, you will find ready to wear clothing from China, India, and a few other developing countries, including Bangladesh. I think, our textile sector is bullish. If there are any suggestions which hon. Members have, I would request them to either pass it on to me or to the Ministry of Textiles.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 484 Shri Suresh Chandel—absent; Shri Santosh Gangwar—absent.

Fast Track Court

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*485. **SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:**

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fast track courts functioning in the States to clear huge pendency of cases have achieved the objective for which they were set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases pending and disposed off by these courts till 31-12-2004;

(d) whether 1690 fast track courts set up to clear huge pendency of cases are facing closure due to non-allocation of funds by 12th Finance Commission;

(e) if so, the reasons for not allocating funds in this regard; and

(f) the alternative arrangement made by the Government for quick disposal of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per information available with the Department of Justice, as on 31st March, 2005, 1711 Fast Track Courts have been notified out of which 1562 courts have been made functional. These courts have disposed of 7.87 lakh cases out of 14.33 lakh cases assigned to them.

(c) As per information available with the Department of Justice, As on 31-12-2004, the Fast Track Courts and disposed of 6.07 lakh cases out of 12.58 lakh cases assigned to them.

(d) and (e) Department of Justice had requested the Twelfth Finance Commission for the continuation of the existing FTCs and also creation of another 1500 FTCs at the Magisterial Level. However, the Twelfth Finance Commission has not made any recommendations in this regard. The Supreme Court in its order dated 31st March, 2005, in the case of Brij Mohan Lal Vs. Union of India, has extended the functioning of Fast Track Courts for a month, upto April, 2005.

(f) The Department of Justice had placed a proposal before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for the continuation of existing 1562 FTCs for a further period of five years. The CCEA, in its meeting held on 27-4-2005 has approved the proposal of the Department of Justice for a provision of Rs. 509 crore for continuation of existing 1562 FTCs for a further period of five years i.e. upto 31-3-2010.

The Government have been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arrears in courts. Besides increasing the Judge strength from time to time, various steps have been taken by the courts, viz., grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, etc. The Government has also encouraged alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts,

Labour Courts and Consumer Courts have been set up to expedite disposal of cases. Information technology is being used in generation of cause lists, providing information to the litigants and Advocates, for speedy disposal of cases.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: As per the answer given, the rate of disposal of the cases is only 50 per cent every year and, therefore, the number of pending cases is increasing. Even though 1711 Fast Track Courts were notified, only 1,562 Courts were made functional. The Department of Justice had requested the Twelfth Finance Commission for the continuation of the existing Fast Track Courts and also creation of another 1500 Fast Track Courts at the Magisterial level. However, the Government have allotted funds for only the continuation of the existing Courts. In this situation, what are the steps proposed to be taken to increase the number of Courts for speedy disposal of the cases?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I would like to inform the august House that this was a new programme taken up to dispose of old cases which were pending for a long time and the money provided by the Finance Commission was used. That money lapsed on the 31st March, 2005. Thereafter, this Government has taken note of the pending arrears. In order to dispose of the remaining cases, this Government has agreed to provide the funds, for the remaining five years, to the tune of Rs. 509 crore. This matter is engaging the attention of the Government. We have also provided about Rs. 305 crore for computerisation of courts so that they can dispose of cases quickly. There is also under consideration a review of the strength of judges in the High Courts. That exercise is being taken. So, the Government, is aware that this problem of arrears in the courts has to be grappled with and we are providing the resources demanded by the States.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: What is the sanctioned strength of judges? How many of the posts are vacant? What is the number of fast-track courts functioning in Kerala, and what is the number of cases pending as on 31st March, 2005?

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got the figures? You can send them to the hon. Member.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I will send them, Sir.

SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI: I want to know from the hon. Minister as to whether, by introducing the fast-track courts, justice has been done properly by the courts. What is the reason that retired judges are not placed in the fast-track courts?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: The courts have done very well because they have disposed of about 7.87 lakh cases out of the arrears. Now it was left to the High Courts to decide to employ the judicial manpower. In most of the States in High Courts they have employed regular judges. But in some cases, retired judges were also used. We have requested the High Courts that as far as possible they should employ the stipendiary Courts, and not retired judges, so as to inspire the confidence of people. So, this has been left to the High Courts in consultation with the Supreme Court.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Though the Minister is successful in getting Rs. 509 crore for the continuation of the existing fast-track courts, in the answer itself it is said that the Department has recommended for 1500 new courts. The hon. Member earlier asked about the new courts to be created. Is the Department not interested, or has the Cabinet Committee not agreed to give money for the new courts to be created? The expenditure involved is only one-third of the expenditure of the usual courts as there is no permanent structure in these courts. Speedy disposal of the cases is also being carried on. So, it is advisable that more new courts should be created.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: You are aware that these courts are located in the States in the subordinate judiciary, which is primarily the concern of the States. But, having regard to the problem of arrears the Government is cognizant of the needs of the State. The States at this juncture requested that these fast-track courts, namely 1562, be continued and it was agreed to in totality. So far as the other courts are concerned,

we are studying this problem to see as to how many magisterial courts can be provided. I went to the State of West Bengal. There the Law Minister told me that they need more magisterial courts than the sessions courts. I am requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts that wherever they do not need the district or sessions courts, they can turn them into magisterial courts. But this is an on-going programme. We will not relent unless the arrears are completely wiped out. I am asking the Law Ministers of the States to meet in a Conference. We will see if a joint programme can be found out so that we can grapple with the arrears. So, the Government is determined to help the States.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY: Sir, the concept of special courts is a welcome and radical step. However, are the special courts, or fast-track courts, or fast justice, only confined to the lower judiciary or to the higher judiciary? They are Constitutional courts where there is a lot of pendency. Appointment of judges is being delayed for years together.

In my State of Andhra Pradesh, appointment of Judges is delayed for the last one year. Hence, I would like know as to whether the concept of Fast Track Courts are only for lower Judiciary or for other courts. I know that it is not related to the question.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I would like to inform the hon. Member that the High Courts do not fall in the category of Fast Track Court. High Courts have their own norms. Wherever there is pendency in the High Court, we review the pendency and disposal is made every three years. Correspondingly, after the review, additional courts are created every third year. That is the arrangement which we have with the Supreme Court and the High Courts. So far as these Fast Track Courts are concerned, we went out of our crease to help the States so that there, the work which is pending in lower courts can be reduced.

So far as the arrears in the High Courts and the Supreme Court are concerned, we are in touch with the High Courts. We had inherited more than 300 vacancies when we assumed power. We have record

appointments of 110 within a period of one year. We have appointed 10 Chief Justices. So, the problem is that the vacancies are not filled up in time so that the whole lot of judges are in position. So, this problem needs to be resolved first and then we will create more courts, if required.

MR. SPEAKER: What about the alternative modes of disposal you have mentioned?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I am happy to know now that a movement has picked up in the country about the alternative dispute resolution. We had recently a Seminar in West Bengal. It was so encouraging that the Judges, Lawyers and Legislators frankly discussed that the conciliation method which is in the ethos of our country should be adopted in the country. There is no use of taking the poor people to litigation. We would try to resolve their dispute locally with the help of conciliation and mediation and that experiment has been started from West Bengal. I would like that the country should follow their tradition and will like to promote it in whatever way we can. We have started a Centre in right earnest in Delhi also. I think, if this conciliation method starts in the country, most of the problems of the rural poor will be resolved. We will give incentive and legal aid also wherever necessary. But without conciliation and mediation, regular courts will not be able to grapple with the arrears because this consensus is reached by all the Chief Ministers and the Chief Justices. Regular courts alone cannot grapple with the arrears. So, we will have to adopt ADR method where West Bengal shows the way we should adopt it.

**Financial Assistance for Tsunami
Affected Areas**

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***486 SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:**

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint assessment/Mission of World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the United

Nations Development Programme has visited the States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry during February, 2005 to assess the quantum of assistance required for post Tsunami reconstruction activities from these international agencies;

(b) if so, the details of such assessments submitted by these bodies, State-wise;

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Central Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of assistance provided so far for the relief work in these areas, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment report prepared by the Asian Development Bank, United Nations and World Bank has estimated the overall rehabilitation and reconstruction needs at \$ 1,213 billion in the short and medium term for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry. The break-up is as follows:—

Andhra Pradesh	—	\$ 72.6 million
Kerala	—	\$ 157.7 million
Tamil Nadu	—	\$ 868.3 million
Pondicherry	—	\$ 114.4 million

(c) An Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project for Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry involving World Bank assistance of approximately US \$ 465 million has been recently negotiated with the World Bank. In addition, Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project involving Asian Development Bank assistance of approximately US \$ 200 million for the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu has been recently approved by the Asian Development Bank Board.

(d) Government of India has approved a special package of Rs. 3644.05 crore called the "Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami affected areas" to provide assistance for immediate relief, revival of fishery and agriculture sectors, immediate construction of temporary shelters and the repair and restoration of infrastructure. The package for Tamil Nadu is Rs. 2347.19 crore, Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 70.00 crore, Kerala, Rs. 249.36 crore and Pondicherry, Rs. 155.62 crore.

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Through you, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister that as per the assessment made by the World Bank, ADP and UNDP, \$ 1,213 billion has been estimated for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Tsunami-hit States. Out of which, as per my knowledge, in Andhra Pradesh there is a loss of lives, colossal damages to properties, school buildings and hospitals. The amount sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh is meagre, that is, Rs. 70 crore only. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to how much funds have been received within the country by way of donations and as to how much from the foreign agencies. I would like to know the allocations made to the Tsunami-hit States in detail.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I think the hon. Member is reading the figures wrongly. The assessment is \$ 1,213 billion. This is broken up and I have given the particulars in my answer. The assessment for Andhra Pradesh is \$ 72.6 billion and not Rs. 72.6 crore.

MR. SPEAKER: It is about Rs. 300 crores.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: That will be close to about Rs. 300 crore. In the earlier rehabilitation package announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, Andhra Pradesh was given Rs. 70 crore. It is not only Rs. 70 crore. The assessment of the damages is Rs. 300 crore. Under this scheme, Andhra Pradesh will get the money that is released by the external agencies.

SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has taken any steps to survey and protect the unaffected coastal regions financially from such instances in future.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: This does not concern the Ministry of Finance. This is an issue relating to Disaster Management. He should put the question to the Minister of Home Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ravi Prakash Verma—Not Present.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: One of the worst affected parts of the country by Tsunami is the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The reconstruction work in Andamans will also take longer time and will require more funds. There is a subsidence of the entire area in the Andaman group of Islands. I want to know from the hon. Minister, the amount of money that will be spent for the reconstruction work in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from the Central Government and from foreign sources.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: A policy decision was taken that we would not involve external agencies in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Therefore, no part of this is going to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Let me say very clearly that Andaman and Nicobar Islands is the total responsibility of the Central Government. Whatever money is required for reconstruction and rehabilitation of affected people in Andaman and Nicobar will be the responsibility of the Central Government and we will provide the money for that. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package—I have mentioned in part 'd' of my answer about the States—an amount of Rs. 821.88 crore has been given initially for Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale to put the question. I hope, the hon. Member will be sartorially less prominent.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have provided excellent assistance after the Tsunami Maharashtra Government also adopted some Tsunami affected areas of Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu. I would like to know whether other

states have also adopted some areas for rehabilitation as has been done by the Maharashtra Government. The Government should provide more and more assistance for the rehabilitation of the affected people at the earliest.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not for the Finance Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will pass on the Member's concern to the Minister of Home Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta—Not present.

Shri N.S.V. Chitthan—Not present.

Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad—Not present.

Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh—Not present.

Minting of Coins

*489. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coins minting capacity of Government Mints are not being fully utilized by the Government and coins of smaller denominations like one rupee, 50 paise and 25 paise are being minted from abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the foreign exchange spent on minting of such coins from abroad annually;

(d) whether the Government proposes to utilize the facility existing in the Salem Steel plant coins blanks mill;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government to fully utilise the minting capacity of our Mints?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Mints invite tender(s) for procurement of raw materials which are decided as per prescribed

procedure. Salem Steel Plant has supplied the following quantity during the last two years:—

Ferritic Stainless Steel

Year	Coin Blanks (in MTs)	Coils (in MTs)
2003	1524	4856
2004	666	2525

(f) The annual production target of coins is fixed as per the indent received from the Reserve Bank of India for that particular year. For the last three years Reserve Bank of India has reduced their annual indent of coins and their indent for the year 2005-2006 is Nil, in view of surplus stocks of coins with them for distribution to the public. General Managers of the mints have been asked to explore the possibility of export of coins to other countries to utilise their spare capacity, if any, without involving any capital expenditure.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: It is common knowledge that coins available in our country have been manufactured abroad. But the reply makes no mention of it.

If there is any intent this year, why is it so?

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: As regards last year, what was minting of coins from abroad by the Ministry? Please give details.

MR. SPEAKER: Details of what?

Mr. Minister, have you got it?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes, Sir. I do not understand why we need minting of coins from abroad. We have the capacity, we have the design capacity.

MR. SPEAKER: I also opposed it when I was the President of the Union.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Therefore, we have made it very clear.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Sir, currency of Re 1/- notes is the real money with real value. But its circulation is very less now. Will the Government study the ground reality and act accordingly?

MR. SPEAKER: It is from minting of coins to Re 1/- notes.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: it is not economically advisable to print Re 1 currency notes. Therefore, we have switched over to Re 1. In fact, the Reserve Bank of India's assessment is that there is a surplus of coins. That is why, the Reserve Bank of India is not placing upon our mints intent for coins.

If there is any shortage of coins of any denomination, we will ensure that those coins are supplied. At the moment, I am looking for orders for my mints. If the hon. Member would place some orders, I would be very grateful...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mega Power Projects

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*490. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated the March 11, 2005 under caption "NHPC concentration on mega hydel power projects";

(b) if so, the number of such projects undertaken by NHPC during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the quantum of power generated from each of these projects during the above period and power distributed to the States there from;

(d) the future plans of NHPC in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to involve private participation in setting up of Hydro power projects in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Mega Power Projects Policy of the Government of India, to incentivise development of large projects, was first announced in 1995 and has been revised from time to time. As per the latest amendment to the policy in March 2003, all inter-state projects which, inter alia, fulfill the basic criteria of minimum threshold capacity of 1000 MW for Thermal and 500 MW for Hydel Projects, are eligible for the customs duty waiver subject to meeting conditions laid down in the policy. Details of the large hydel projects (with installed capacity of 500 MW or more) sanctioned by Government and taken up for implementation by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) during the last three years, viz. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in Annexure-I.

(d) Details of the large hydel power projects (with installed capacity of 500 MW or more) under consideration of NHPC are given in Annexure-II.

(e) and (f) The policy to encourage investments by private enterprises, including foreign investors, has already been introduced by the Government of India in 1991, with the objective of mobilizing additional resources for capacity addition in power generation (both in the thermal and hydel sectors) and distribution. A hydro policy was announced in August 1998 on hydropower development, which among others emphasized the need for private sector participation. Under the 50,000 MW hydroelectric Initiative launched by the Government of India in May, 2003, Preliminary Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 162 schemes, spread over 16 States with an aggregate installed capacity of 47,930 MW, have been prepared. Out of these 73 low tariff schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of 33,000 MW (approx.) have been taken up initially, for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), which is the next step for development of these projects. Private sector would also be encouraged to participate in the implementation of these schemes.

Annexure-I

Details of large hydel projects (500 MW or more) sanctioned by Government and taken up for implementation by NHPC during last 3 years

Sl. No.	Year of sanction	State	Name of the project/Installed capacity (MW)	Design energy (In MUs per annum)	Remarks
1.	2002-03	Himachal Pradesh	Parbati-II (800 MW)	3108.66	The beneficiary States are Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Delhi, Rajasthan, J and K and UT of Chandigarh. Project is scheduled to be completed by September 2009. The project has been accorded 'in-principle' mega status.
2.	2003-04	Arunachal Pradesh	Subansiri Lower (2000 MW)	7421.59	The beneficiary States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa. Project is scheduled to be completed by October 2010. The project has been accorded 'in-principle' mega status.
3.	2003-04	Madhya Pradesh	Omkareshwar (520 MW)	1166.57	The project is being constructed by Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Ltd. (NHDC), a joint venture company with equity participation of NHPC and Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. The beneficiary State is Madhya Pradesh. The project is scheduled to be completed by Feb. 2008.

Annexure-II

Details of large hydel projects (500 MW or more) under consideration of NHPC

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Installed capacity (MW)	Design energy (in MUs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Parbati-III	Himachal Pradesh	520	1977.23
2.	Siyom	Arunachal Pradesh	1000	3640.95

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Purulia Pumped Storage Scheme*	West Bengal	900	1666.97
4.	Pakal Dul	Jammu and Kashmir	1000	3590
5.	Bursar	Jammu and Kashmir	1020	2018
6.	Siang Lower	Arunachal Pradesh	1600	7744.55
7.	Subansiri Middle	Arunachal Pradesh	1600	4875
8.	Subansiri Upper	Arunachal Pradesh	2000	6581
9.	Dibang	Arunachal Pradesh	3000	To be established
10.	Siang Upper/Siang Intermediate	Arunachal Pradesh	11000	To be established

* The project is being implemented by Government of West Bengal in the State Sector. However, a joint venture between Government of West Bengal and NHPC is under consideration of Government of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q No. 490—Shri Narendra Kumar Kushwaha—Not present.

Shri Munshi Ram. Please put your supplementary. We have very little time.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to the hon'ble Minister as I am satisfied with the point-wise reply of the questions given by the Minister.

I represent Bijnaur area of Western Uttar Pradesh. My question is also related to the same area. If you permit, I will ask the question to the hon'ble Minister.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It depends upon his knowledge whether that information is available with him right now. Yes, you may put your supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bareilly, Muradabad and Saharanpur districts of Western Uttar

Pradesh are located along Uttaranchal border and these areas are facing serious power crisis. Most of the areas of these districts get power supply for 8 hours only. The Tehri Hydro Power Project has been launched on Alaknanda, Bhagirathi, Yamuna and Ganga rivers in Uttaranchal. I would like to know as to by what time Tehri Hydro Power Project is likely to be completed and out of the total generated, how much power will be given to Western Uttar Pradesh. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how much power will be given to Western Uttar Pradesh out of the total power generated from all the new hydro power projects proposed to be constructed on Alaknanda, Bhagirathi, Ganga, Yamuna rivers?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, let him answer now, because not much time is left. Mr. Minister you may also please be brief.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: This question is not related to the original question.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not originate from the original question.

Mr. Minister, you may send him the required information later on.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Yes, Sir, I would send him the details. In whatever way it is possible, we will help him also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the North-East has got enough potential for hydel power. There is not Tipaimukh Mega Project of Assam, which was sanctioned long back, but due to some security problems, the construction work of this project is yet to start.

May I know from the hon. Minister that in order to augment its hydel generation, what steps are being taken? Today, the hydel ratio is 26:74, which should be 40:60. So, in order to increase this ratio and the hydel generation capacity, and also to harness the potential of the North-Eastern region, whether the Ministry of Power will expeditiously start the construction of the Tipaimukh project.

MR. SPEAKER: You may say, yes or no because time is not there.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, about this particular project, which he has mentioned, my esteemed friend Shri Santosh Mohan Dev is always...

MR. SPEAKER: ...pressing you!

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: He is chasing me. So, we are doing it, and seeing as to how best we can do it. The question of security aspect, as he has mentioned, was also there.

As far as the increase of the ratio of hydel and thermal is concerned, we are now in an upward trend. Earlier it was 24, and now it is 26.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a particular project he is asking for.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: For that, yes, Sir. We are looking at it. Its cost aspect is also disturbing us. We are at it. In whatever way it is viable; if it is viable, we will definitely try.

MR. SPEAKER: Too many 'ifs' in your answer.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Sale of Shares

*481. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to sell the residual Government stake in Maruti Udyog Ltd. and BALCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be raised by this disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No specific decision has been taken with respect to disinvestment of government equity in Maruti Udyog Ltd. In the case of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), the Strategic Partner has exercised a Call Option, in accordance with the Shareholders Agreement entered into at the time of disinvestment, for the residual shares of upto 49% of the Government. Out of the residual shareholding of 49% held by the Government, upto 5% will be offered to the employees for purchase as is provided in the Shareholders Agreement while the remaining shares will be sold to the Strategic Partner. Valuation of the shares to be transferred to the Strategic Partner is being done, as per the provisions of the Shareholders Agreement.

(c) The realisation from the sale of residual shares of 49% held by the Government in BALCO will depend upon the valuation of the shares.

[Translation]

Cash Deposit Ratio of RRBs

*484. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a considerable increase in cash deposits ratio of Regional Rural Banks during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether strict conditions of single exposure norms have been imposed in sanctioning of loans by banks and the extent of loan these banks can sanction to any party or person under the single exposure norms and the rate thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to exempt these banks from the condition of single exposure norms;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There has been a marginal fluctuation in Cash Deposit Ratio of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) during the last three years. Year-wise details of Cash Deposit Ratio of RRBs for last three years are as under:—

Year	Deposit (Rs. lakh)	Cash (Rs. lakh)	Cash Deposit Ratio (%)
2001-02	4453915.09	63822.95	1.43
2002-03	5009833.52	68635.81	1.37
2003-04	5635008.23	77283.05	1.37

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the ceiling for single borrower/investment for RRBs from the existing limit of 20 per cent to 15 per cent of owned funds effective from March 31, 2002. As the rates of interest on loans and advances have been deregulated, the rate of interest is fixed with the approval of Loan Committee/Executive Committee of the RRB.

(d) to (f) RBI has reported that there is no proposal to exempt RRBs from the single exposure norms, as the concept of owned funds has been broadened to include "Share Capital Deposits" also.

[English]

VAT Implementation

*487. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Value Added Tax (VAT) has come into effect from April 1, 2005;

(b) if so, details of the States which have implemented the scheme;

(c) whether problems have arisen due to implementation of VAT;

(d) if so, details thereof, State-wise alongwith action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to deal with States which have not implemented VAT system, State-wise;

(f) whether traders are on agitation in various States as a result of implementation of the system;

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government;

(h) the time by which VAT will be implemented throughout the country; and

(i) the likely change in revenue collection under the new system?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (i) 20 States/Union Territories have implemented VAT with effect from 1st April, 2005. The State of Haryana has already implemented VAT with effect from 1st April, 2003. Thus, 21 States/Union Territories have implemented VAT. A statement indicating the status of implementation of VAT by States/Union Territories is enclosed.

As VAT is a tax intended to replace the State Sales Tax, it is a State subject. The Central Government is only playing the role of a facilitator in this tax reform

process jointly undertaken by the States. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers was set up to decide on all issues relating to implementation of State level VAT. Therefore, the Empowered Committee has to take steps to resolve the problems, if any, which have arisen due to introduction of VAT. Moreover, the Central Government shall continue to play the role of a facilitator to assist the States in implementation of VAT where it is yet to be implemented.

It is true that a section of the trading community is agitating against VAT. The Empowered Committee is seized of the issue and is looking into their genuine problems/concerns. In addition, the Empowered Committee has launched a publicity campaign to inform and educate the trading community about the benefits of VAT system in order to dispel their misgivings about VAT.

It is not possible to predict the revenue collection under the VAT system at this stage. However, the State of Haryana, which implemented VAT w.e.f. 1st April, 2003 has reported increase in revenue as a result of switch over to VAT. Moreover, international experience also corroborates that VAT is revenue enhancing.

Statement

Status of Implementation of VAT by States/UTs

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Status
1	2	3
1.	Haryana	VAT introduced earlier w.e.f. 01 April, 2003.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	VAT implemented w.e.f. 01 April 2005.
3.	West Bengal	
4.	Kerala	
5.	Karnataka	
6.	Orissa	

1	2	3
7.	NCT of Delhi	
8.	Tripura	
9.	Bihar	
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	
11.	Sikkim	
12.	Punjab	
13.	Goa	
14.	Mizoram	
15.	Nagaland	
16.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	
17.	Daman and Diu	
18.	Jammu and Kashmir	
19.	Manipur	
20.	Maharashtra	
21.	Himachal Pradesh	
22.	Assam	VAT to be introduced shortly.
23.	Meghalaya	
24.	Chandigarh	
25.	Pondicherry	
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	No sales tax/VAT.
27.	Lakshadweep	
28.	Uttar Pradesh	States which have declined to introduce VAT at this stage.
29.	Tamil Nadu	
30.	Uttaranchal	
31.	Rajasthan	

1	2	3
32.	Gujarat	
33.	Madhya Pradesh	
34.	Chhattisgarh	
35.	Jharkhand	

Modernisation of Power Plants

*488. SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the rising prices of diesel, naphtha and shortage of coal for generation of power the Ministry has decided to focus on improving the performance of old and badly maintained plants to make up the short fall in power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the action plan drawn to modernize these plants;

(c) the likely increase in power generation after the modernization of these plants; and

(d) the agencies proposed to be involved in the modernization of these plants alongwith the time frame for completion of modernization of plants and the expenditure likely to be incurred on the modernization of these Plants?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (d) Government of India have identified 106 old thermal units having capacity of 10413 MW for Life Extension (LE) works during 10th Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 9200.00 Crores. After implementation of the LE Scheme, the economical life of the units would get extended by another 15-20 years and the generating capacity would increase to 10747 MW besides overall improvement in the performance of the units. In addition, 57 thermal units having capacity of 14270 MW, which are comparatively new units and are performing well, have also been identified for Renovation and

Modernization (R and M) works to sustain their performance at an estimated cost of Rs. 977.00 Crores.

Government of India have also identified a programme to renovate 62 existing hydroelectric power projects having installed capacity of 9977.5 MW for implementation during the 10th Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 2227.062 Crores. After implementation of the Programme, a benefit in the form of 1516.31 MW would be accrued.

The utilities based on their procurement procedure identify agencies to implement R and M Projects as advised by their consultants/authorities.

Ministry of Power has identified 26 thermal power stations where Plant Load Factor (PLF) is below 60% for maintaining the PLF performance and directed the Utilities to take action to improve the performance to 60% PLF and more.

[Translation]

Mega Power Projects

*490. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara dated the March 11, 2005 under caption "NHPC concentration on mega hydel power projects";

(b) if so, the number of such projects undertaken by NHPC during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the quantum of power generated from each of these projects during the above period and power distributed to the States there from;

(d) the future plans of NHPC in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to involve private participation in setting up of Hydro power projects in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Mega Power Projects Policy of the Government of India, to incentivise development of large projects, was first announced in 1995 and has been revised from time to time. As per the latest amendment to the policy in March 2003, all inter-state projects which, inter alia, fulfill the basic criteria of minimum threshold capacity of 1000 MW for Thermal and 500 MW for Hydel Projects, are eligible for the customs duty waiver subject to meeting conditions laid down in the policy. Details of the large hydel projects (with installed capacity of 500 MW or more) sanctioned by Government and taken up for implementation by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) during the last three years, viz. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in statement-I enclosed.

(d) Details of the large hydel power projects (with installed capacity of 500 MW or more) under

consideration of NHPC are given in statement-II enclosed.

(e) and (f) The policy to encourage investments by private enterprises, including foreign investors, has already been introduced by the Government of India in 1991, with the objective of mobilizing additional resources for capacity addition in power generation (both in the thermal and hydel sectors) and distribution. A hydro policy was announced in August 1998 on hydropower development, which among others emphasized the need for private sector participation. Under the 50,000 MW Hydroelectric Initiative launched by the Government of India in May, 2003, Preliminary Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 162 schemes, spread over 16 States with an aggregate installed capacity of 47,930 MW, have been prepared. Out of these 73 low tariff schemes with an aggregate installed capacity of 33,000 MW (approx.) have been taken up initially, for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR), which is the next step for development of these projects. Private sector would also be encouraged to participate in the implementation of these schemes.

Statement-I

Details of large hydel projects (500 MW or more) sanctioned by Government and taken up for implementation by NHPC during last 3 years

Sl. No.	Year of sanction	State	Name of the project/Installed capacity (MW)	Design energy (In MUs per annum)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	2002-03	Himachal Pradesh	Parbati-II (800 MW)	3108.66	The beneficiary States are Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Delhi, Rajasthan, J and K and UT of Chandigarh. Project is scheduled to be completed by September 2009. The project has been accorded 'in-principle' mega status.
2.	2003-04	Arunachal Pradesh	Subansiri Lower (2000 MW)	7421.59	The beneficiary States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Sikkim,

1	2	3	4	5	6
					Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa. Project is scheduled to be completed by October 2010. The project has been accorded 'in-principle' mega status.
3.	2003-04	Madhya Pradesh	Omkareshwar (520 MW)	1166.57	The project is being constructed by Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Ltd. (NHDC), a joint venture company with equity participation of NHPC and Govt. of Madhya Pradesh. The beneficiary State is Madhya Pradesh. The project is scheduled to be completed by Feb. 2008.

Statement-II*Details of large hydel projects (500 MW or more) under consideration of NHPC*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Installed capacity (MW)	Design energy (in MUs)
1.	Parbati-III	Himachal Pradesh	520	1977.23
2.	Siyom	Arunachal Pradesh	1000	3640.95
3.	Purulia Pumped Storage Scheme*	West Bengal	900	1666.97
4.	Pakal Dul	Jammu and Kashmir	1000	3590
5.	Bursar	Jammu and Kashmir	1020	2018
6.	Siang Lower	Arunachal Pradesh	1600	7744.55
7.	Subansiri Middle	Arunachal Pradesh	1600	4875
8.	Subansiri Upper	Arunachal Pradesh	2000	6581
9.	Dibang	Arunachal Pradesh	3000	To be established
10.	Siang Upper/Siang Intermediate	Arunachal Pradesh	11000	To be established

* The project is being implemented by Government of West Bengal in the State Sector. However, a joint venture between Government of West Bengal and NHPC is under consideration of Government of India.

*[English]***Non-performing Assets of Banks**

*491. SHRI D.P. SAROJ:

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI) is not effective in reducing the non-performing Assets of Banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up special cell in the Banking Division of the Ministry to consider the advise of banks in regard to the recovery of outstanding dues;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether various big industrial houses are not paying their dues to banks resulting in increasing of NPA;

(f) If so, the details thereof and the total amount of NPA of various banks, bank-wise during each of the last three years as on date;

(g) the total amount written off by banks, bank-wise during the said period;

(h) the criterion adopted by banks for writing off NPA; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government/Banks to recover this outstanding amount thereby reducing NPA?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The recovery made by Public Sector Banks through "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002" as on 30th September, 2004 is as under:—

Particulars	Number of Accounts	Amount (Rs. in crores)
Notices issued	70254	21988.74
Recovery affected	29301	2237.95

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) Top ten defaulting companies owe about Rs. 3900 crores to various banks. The names of these companies that have appeared in the list of suit filed accounts of Rs. 1 crore and above as on 31st March 2004 as published by Credit Information Bureau India Limited (CIBIL) are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower	Amount Outstanding (in crores)
1.	Malvika Steel Limited	1037.59
2.	Mardia Chemical Ltd.	581.05
3.	Daewoo Motors India Limited	373.63
4.	Lloyds Steel Industries Limited	307.42
5.	Mardia Steels Limited	284.58
6.	Indian Charge Chrome Limited	284.20
7.	Shrishma Fine Chemical and Pharmaceuticals (K) Limited	275.43
8.	Altos India Limited	263.93
9.	JCT Electronics Limited	261.95
10.	Lloyd Steel Industries Limited	259.18
Total		3908.96

The bank-wise details of net non-performing assets and amount written off by each of the 27 public sector banks for the last three years are enclosed as statement I and II respectively.

(h) Writing off of non-performing assets is resorted to by the banks as a last resort when all efforts to recover loans do not materialize. This is a technical write off wherein the outstanding amount is written off from the books of the banks at the head office level whereas it remains in the books of the concerned branches. The

bank branches keep making efforts to recover these loans through all possible means even after the loans have been written off.

(f) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have taken various steps for recovery of loans which inter-alia include evolving and implementing a recovery policy by banks, filing of suits in civil courts/DRTs, compromise settlement and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. A Credit Information Bureau has been set up to disseminate information on borrowers

among the banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme has been put in place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of corporate debts of viable entities facing problems due to internal and external factors. Asset Reconstruction Company (India Ltd.) has been incorporated for the purpose of addressing Non-performing Assets. The recent amendment of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 has further strengthened the recovery process of the Banks.

Statement-I

Net NPAs of Public Sector Banks

(Rupees in crores)

Name of the Bank	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4
Allahabad Bank	1160	887	363
Andhra Bank	237	206	121
Bank of Baroda	1913	1700	1761
Bank of India	2304	2382	2062
Bank of Maharashtra	480	459	288
Canara Bank	1288	1454	1378
Central Bank of India	1699	1582	1264
Corporation Bank	253	198	249
Dena Bank	1227	997	884
Indian Bank	904	755	383
Indian Overseas Bank	958	912	570
Oriental Bank of Commerce	454	225	0
Punjab and Sind Bank	651	639	577
Punjab National Bank	1810	1527	449
Syndicate Bank	674	700	532

1	2	3	4
UCO Bank	724	697	753
Union Bank of India	1338	1253	845
United Bank of India	542	406	299
Vijaya Bank	373	206	100
State Bank of India	6810	6183	5442
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	342	282	107
State Bank of Hyderabad	417	315	77
State Bank of Indore	153	138	0
State Bank of Mysore	362	273	186
State Bank of Patiala	255	161	0
State Bank of Saurashtra	204	164	0
State Bank of Travancore	425	280	154
Total (Public Sector Banks)	27958	24963	18852

Statement-II**Bank-wise Details of Amount Written Off**

(Rupees in crores)

Name of the Bank	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4
Allahabad Bank	57.54	159.74	208.5
Andhra Bank	80.95	71.03	93.65
Bank of Baroda	465.60	424.53	456.77
Bank of India	324.34	556.11	535.7
Bank of Maharashtra	78.03	83.24	92.35
Canara Bank	558.14	515.41	112.24

1	2	3	4
Central Bank of India	242.54	257.38	418.22
Corporation Bank	33.76	88.89	16.15
Dena Bank	53.73	193.27	637.87
Indian Bank	215.85	153.65	57.1
Indian Overseas Bank	175.06	106.14	125.81
Oriental Bank of Commerce	256.69	Nil	4.97
Punjab and Sind Bank	97.04	47.17	55.32
Punjab National Bank	0.57	6.85	157.93
Syndicate Bank	119.74	13.45	42.32
UCO Bank	53.42	116.89	132.59
Union Bank of India	135.38	197.43	378.22
United Bank of India	385.48	329.79	.223
Vijaya Bank	2.64	2.70	122.59
State Bank of India	1104.83	2331.05	3939.93
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	94.62	92.05	94.84
State Bank of Hyderabad	120.52	116.26	289.34
State Bank of Indore	57.84	80.88	110.57
State Bank of Mysore	64.43	64.11	129.99
State Bank of Patiala	80.25	154.29	175.29
State Bank of Saurashtra	31.70	99.18	98.69
State Bank of Travancore	113.61	100.18	81.65
Total (Public Sector Banks)	5002.30	6261.67	8791.6

Helping Rural Artisans

*492. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural artisans constitute an important segment of the rural economy and there is a need to equip them with new skills to compete in the market;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to upgrade the skills of rural artisans;

(c) if so, there is any proposal to provide the working capital to the rural artisans by the institutional sources to procure raw materials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The rural artisans with inherent skill who form a significant segment of the rural society are given due priority under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development as a self employment scheme for rural poor. Artisans eligible for coverage under the scheme can be provided training for skill development/upgradation by organising appropriate training programmes through reputed institutions like engineering colleges, polytechnics, NGOs etc. to enable them to compete in the market. The scheme also envisages provision of support for creation of infrastructure such as common facilities, design development, marketing support and development of market linkages etc.

To assist the artisans to market their products a large number of "SARAS" fairs and "Gram Shri" Melas have been organised by the Ministry and CAPART in different parts of the country.

(c) and (d) Under SGSY, financial assistance is provided to Swarozgaries for procurement of raw materials and for income generating activities through government subsidy and bank credit.

Food for Work Programme

*493. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:

SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food for Work Programme initiated in November, 2004 has achieved the desired results;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quality of foodgrains released under the scheme;

(c) whether the States, where the programme has been implemented, have asked for more foodgrains to implement the scheme;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has received reports from these States about the utilization of foodgrains supplied to them under this scheme;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to check blackmarketing of foodgrains released under this scheme;

(f) whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines for the effective implementation of the scheme;

(g) if so, whether State Governments are implementing this scheme as per guidelines;

(h) the allocation made under this scheme for 2005-06 alongwith the utilization of funds allocated for 2004-05;

(i) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of this scheme; and

(j) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) launched in November 2004 is under implementation in the identified 150 most backward Districts of the country with the objective of providing additional supplementary wage employment and food security to the rural poor through creation of need based, economic, social and community assets/infrastructure. The programme is on going in nature and its continuous and regular implementation would ensure attainment of its objectives. Since, the programme has been launched from November 2004, the performance reports from all the States are expected by May 2005. The Ministry has not received any complaint regarding the poor quality of foodgrains distributed under the programme.

(c) and (d) The NFFWP is a allocation based programme. Under the programme the entire allocation is distributed among the identified Districts based on defined criteria and as such there is no scope of providing more foodgrains than the entitled share. Moreover, no such request was received during the year

2004-05. As has been mentioned in the para above the performance report from all the States are expected by May 2005.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. For the smooth and effective implementation of NFFWP, programme Guidelines has been framed and issued to all the State Governments and the Districts concerned. The focus of the programme will be on works relating to water conservation, drought proofing (including afforestation/tree plantation), land development, flood-control/protection (including drainage in waterlogged areas) and rural connectivity. A five-year Perspective Plan for the district and shelf of works, Block-wise and Gram Panchayat-wise, will be prepared under the programme in consultation with Panchayati Raj Institutions, local MPs and MLAs. The Guidelines provide for timely payment of wages not later than a fortnight and 5 kgs. of foodgrains per day will be given as part of the wage and minimum 25% of the wages will be given in cash. The Programme Guidelines also envisage strict and vigilant monitoring at each and every level of implementation. The monitoring mechanism includes supervision and monitoring by the Panchayats, 100% verification of works and test check of quality and cost would be carried out under the District Level Monitoring to be conducted by the independent agencies at the behest of the Ministry, mandatory provision of

certain number inspection of works by the State, District, Divisional and Block level Officers to be reported to this Ministry every month. Besides, for every work sanctioned under the programme, there will be a monitoring committee of the villagers of the area comprising five to nine members. The report based on periodic assessment by this committee would be required at different stages beginning from commencement to the completion of a particular work.

(h) The State-wise allocation of resources for 2005-06 is enclosed as statement-I and State-wise allocation of funds and utilization during 2004-05, so far reported by six States is enclosed as statement-II.

(i) and (j) Yes, Sir. The programme implementation in major States was reviewed on 3rd March 2005, through video conferencing and again on 15th March 2005 in the meeting of the Performance Review Committee in which States have been asked to further accelerate the pace of utilization of resources and complete the preparation of Perspective Plan for Five Years. A series of regional workshops of the Collectors/ CEO of Zilla Panchayats or the authority nominated by the State Governments to implement the National Food for Work Programme are proposed to be held in the months of May and June.

Statement-I

Allocation of Resources under National Food for Work Programme during 2005-06

Sl. No	States	No. of Distts	Allocation of Funds (Rs. in lakhs)	Allocation foodgrains (in MTs)		
				Wheat	Rice	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	27199.63	0	301948	301948
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	425.26	0	0	0
3.	Assam	5	37100.61	0	416151	416151

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Bihar	15	58812.89	0	655916	655916
5.	Chhattisgarh	10	23181.35	0	262540	262540
6.	Gujarat	6	8895.33	98814	0	98814
7.	Haryana	1	627.62	6968	0	6968
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	676.75	3337	4177	7514
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	1100.60	3589	8627	12216
10.	Jharkhand	14	50315.90	160249	398331	558580
11.	Karnataka	3	6514.20	14465	57855	72320
12.	Kerala	1	1218.36	4509	9017	13526
13.	Madhya Pradesh	15	35201.76	259507	131275	390782
14.	Maharashtra	11	34504.70	201426	181381	382807
15.	Manipur	1	889.78	0	9982	9982
16.	Meghalaya	1	1212.16	0	13601	13601
17.	Mizoram	1	212.89	0	2390	2390
18.	Nagaland	1	1015.71	5697	5697	11394
19.	Orissa	18	49621.06	0	551018	551018
20.	Punjab	1	1595.09	17711	0	17711
21.	Rajasthan	5	7866.58	87322	0	87322
22.	Sikkim	1	703.70	0	7897	7897
23.	Tamil Nadu	4	10803.45	0	119936	119936
24.	Tripura	1	3439.89	0	38585	38585
25.	Uttaranchal	2	2259.88	8402	16681	25083
26.	Uttar Pradesh	15	58738.53	513459	138477	651936
27.	West Bengal	6	25496.32	0	283063	283063
Total		150	449630.00	1385455	3614545	5000000

Statement-II***State-wise Allocation, Release and Utilization of Funds under National Food for Work Programme during 2004-05***

Sl. No	States	No. of Distts	Funds (Rs. in Lakhs)			% of Utilization
			Allocation	Released	Utilization	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	12214.72	12214.72		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	190.80	190.80		
3.	Assam	5	16645.79	16645.79		
4.	Bihar	15	26411.54	26456.54	1030.89	3.90
5.	Chhattisgarh	10	10410.19	10410.19	2628.39	25.25
6.	Gujarat	6	3994.69	3994.69		
7.	Haryana	1	281.85	281.85		
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	303.91	303.91		
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	494.26	494.26		
10.	Jharkhand	14	22595.70	22595.70		
11.	Karnataka	3	2925.38	2925.38		
12.	Kerala	1	547.14	547.14		
13.	Madhya Pradesh	15	15808.32	15808.32	2894.58	18.31
14.	Maharashtra	11	15495.26	15495.26		
15.	Manipur	1	399.22	399.22		
16.	Meghalaya	1	543.85	543.85		
17.	Mizoram	1	95.52	95.52		
18.	Nagaland	1	455.72	455.72		
19.	Orissa	18	22283.67	22283.67		
20.	Punjab	1	716.32	716.32		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	Rajasthan	5	3532.69	3532.69	1672.00	47.33
22.	Sikkim	1	315.73	315.73	150.00	47.51
23.	Tamil Nadu	4	4851.58	4851.58	739.73	15.25
24.	Tripura	1	1543.37	1543.37		
25.	Uttaranchal	2	1014.86	1014.86		
26.	Uttar Pradesh	15	26378.11	26378.11		
27.	West Bengal	6	11449.81	11449.81		
Total		150	201900.00	201945.00	9115.59	4.51

Rural Electrification

*494. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to launch a new scheme "Rural Electricity Infrastructure and House Electrification" with 90% Capital subsidy;

(b) if so, the States identified and the number of villages proposed to be covered under this scheme;

(c) the target set and funds allocated for the purpose to each State;

(d) the time frame by which all the villages in the country are proposed to be electrified;

(e) whether the villages in North-Eastern States are lagging behind in rural electrification programme; and

(f) if so, the efforts made by the Government to release adequate funds for North-Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (f) The "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana Scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification" has been launched for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of providing

access to electricity to all Rural Household in five years. The schemes would be implemented through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for projects for:—

- (i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with on 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.
- (ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all unelectrified villages/habitations and provision of distribution transformer(s) of appropriate capacity in every village/habitation.
- (iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System from conventional sources for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).

The scheme inter alia provides for financing of electrification of all unelectrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country with 100% capital subsidy as per norms of Kutir Jyoti Programme in all rural habitations.

For projects to be eligible for capital subsidy under this scheme prior commitment of the States would be taken before sanction of the projects for:—

- (i) deployment of franchisees for the management of rural distribution in projects financed under this scheme.
- (ii) provision of requisite revenue subsidy to the State utilities as required under the Electricity Act, 2003.

The States would also be required to make adequate arrangements for supply of electricity and there should be no discrimination in the hours of supply between rural and urban households.

The scheme would also cater to the requirement of agriculture and other activities including:—

- Irrigation pumpsets
- small and medium industries
- khadi and village industries
- cold chains
- healthcare
- education and IT

This would facilitate overall rural development, employment generation and poverty alleviation.

The scheme covers the entire country and the funds would be released on the basis of sanction of the projects submitted.

State-wise status of un-electrified villages as on 31-03-2004 is enclosed as statement-I. The scheme has the objective of completing electrification of all un-electrified habitations in next five years.

It is estimated that Rs. 16,000 crore would be required for the entire scheme. For Phase-I of the scheme approved for implementation during the 10th Five Year Plan Period, Rs. 5,000 crore has been provided by the Central Government as Capital Subsidy.

The status of village electrification in North-Eastern States is enclosed as statement-II.

REC has been asked to give special attention to the North Eastern States in the implementation of the scheme.

Statement-I

Status of Village Electrification as on 31-3-2004

Sl. No.	State	Balance unelectrified villages
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	\$
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1314
3.	Assam	5604
4.	Bihar	19224
5.	Jharkhand	21695
6.	Goa	—
7.	Gujarat	\$
8.	Haryana	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	106
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	176
11.	Karnataka	295
12.	Kerala	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1332
14.	Chhattisgarh	1188
15.	Maharashtra	\$
16.	Manipur	139
17.	Meghalaya	2468
18.	Mizoram	7

1	2	3
19.	Nagaland	—
20.	Orissa	9326
21.	Punjab	—
22.	Rajasthan	613
23.	Sikkim	42
24.	Tamil Nadu	—
25.	Tripura	37
26.	Uttar Pradesh	40080
27.	Uttaranchal	2550
28.	West Bengal	6205
Total (States)		112401
Total UTs		\$
All India		112401*

\$ Balance villages are not feasible for electrification.

* As per the new definition of village electrification (effect from 2004-05) indicated below, total number of un-electrified villages is estimated to be around 1,25,000.

Rural Electrification

1. Definition of village electrification

The old definition of village electrification as adopted by the Government in October 1997 provides that

"A village will be deemed to be electrified if the electricity is used in the inhabited locality, within the revenue boundary of the village, for any purpose whatsoever".

2. Rural Electrification—The new definition (effective from 2004-05)

"A village would be declared as electrified if"

- (i) Basic infrastructure such as Distribution Transformer and Distribution lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the Dalit Basti/hamlet where it exists. (For electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources a Distribution Transformer may not be necessary).
- (ii) Electricity is provided to public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centres, Dispensaries, Community centres etc. and
- (iii) The number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village.

Mandatory certification from Gram Panchayat regarding completion of Village Electrification is to be obtained.

Statement-II

Status of Village Electrification in North Eastern States as on 31-3-2004

Sl. No.	North Eastern States	Total No. of inhabited villages as per 1991 census	Total No. of villages electrified	Balance unelectrified villages	% age of electrified villages
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2335	1314	64
2.	Assam	24685	19081	5604	77.30

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Manipur	2182	2043	139	93.63
4.	Meghalaya	5484	3016	2468	55
5.	Mizoram	698	691	7	99
6.	Nagaland	1216	1216	—	100
7.	Tripura	855	818	37	95.67
8.	Sikkim	447	405	42	90.60
Total (NE States)		39216	29605	9611	75.49
All India		587556	474982	112401*	80.80%

* As per the new definition of village electrification (effect from 2004-05) total number of unelectrified villages is estimated to be around 1,25,000.

Profit and Losses of SEBs

*495. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether T and D losses of some State Electricity Boards are still high;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce T and D losses;

(d) the accumulated profit and loss of each State Electricity Board during the last three years;

(e) the nature of assistance provided by the Union Government to SEBs, State-wise; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the losses of SEBs?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The transmission and distribution (T and D) losses of some of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are high on account of old and weak systems,

overloading of existing lines and substation equipments, lack of up gradation of old lines and equipments, low High Tension to Low Tension Ratio, poor repair and maintenance of equipments, insufficient capacitors, low metering, billing and collection efficiency, pilferage, tampering of meters and high theft.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to reduce the transmission and distribution losses include:—

(i) Metering of 11kV feeders and consumer metering;

(ii) Energy accounting and auditing;

(iii) Strengthened provisions relating to theft of power in Electricity Act, 2003;

(iv) Upgradation and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system under APDRP;

(v) Incentivising for reduction of cash losses by State power utilities under APDRP;

(vi) Introduction of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDSA); and

(vii) Introduction of IT applications.

(d) As reported by the Power Finance Corporation, Statewise details of Commercial Profit/Losses of Power Utilities during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are enclosed as statement-I.

(e) Assistance is provided for

(i) Upgradation and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system under APDRP—statement-II is enclosed.

(ii) Incentivising for reduction of cash losses by State power utilities under APDRP—statement-III is enclosed.

(f) The Government of India has initiated various steps to revive the poor financial health of SEBs/Power Utilities. The Ministry of Power has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with States on power sector reform envisaging support of Central Government subject to States progressing satisfactorily on agreed reform agenda. The Union Government, in order to help the State Utilities is providing funds to States under Accelerated Power

Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for investment in identified distribution areas for, inter-alia, reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising, through grants, reduction of cash losses. Past debts of SEBs due to Central Public Sector Undertakings have been securitised under tripartite agreements.

The Electricity Act, 2003 creates a liberal framework for development of electricity industry, promoting competition therein, protecting interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalization of electricity tariff, ensuring transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies, constitution of Central Electricity Authority, Regulatory Commissions and establishment of Appellate Tribunal. The Act reduces entry barriers in different segments of power supply industry and promotes competition and in turn efficiency improvements. It also provides for stringent measures for dealing with theft of electricity and for rationalization of tariffs.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Commercial Profit/Losses of Power Utilities

				Total (Rs. crore)
Sl. No.	SEBs/Utilities	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-2948	-1209	-1399
2.	Assam	-696	-775	-655
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-93	-117	-82
4.	Bihar	-893	-1095	-980
5.	Chhattisgarh	203	792	587
6.	Delhi	N.A.	-658	-1750
7.	Goa	-7	131	153

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Gujarat	-3102	-2250	-3021
9.	Haryana	-947	-804	-769
10.	Himachal Pradesh	-107	-53	-46
11.	Jharkhand	-255	-397	-522
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	34	-1243	-1229
13.	Karnataka	-1846	-1566	-1236
14.	Kerala	-1253	-935	-915
15.	Madhya Pradesh	-1347	-822	-1230
16.	Maharashtra	-540	-255	-549
17.	Manipur	-129	-128	-125
18.	Meghalaya	-38	-19	64
19.	Mizoram	-30	-34	-49
20.	Nagaland	-50	-55	-42
21.	Orissa	221	-433	582
22.	Punjab	-1868	-1386	-663
23.	Pondicherry	-44	34	38
24.	Rajasthan	-1324	-1738	-1777
25.	Sikkim	-10	-30	-15
26.	Tamil Nadu	-5175	-2099	-1417
27.	Tripura	-100	-94	-5
28.	Uttar Pradesh	-2518	-2374	-2848
29.	Uttaranchal	-27	32	-35
30.	West Bengal	-1705	-913	-296
Total		-26,596	-20,494	-20,232

Statement-II*Funds released to the States under investment component of APDRP***(Rs. in crores)**

Sl.No.	Name of State	Funds Released		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	163.82	402.94	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	36.68	0.00
3.	Assam	96.97	0.00	61.88
4.	Bihar	66.11	20.88	226.19
5.	Chhattisgarh	10.00	43.07	106.14
6.	Delhi	105.51	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	22.04	8.54	82.82
8.	Gujarat	105.41	183.45	111.40
9.	Haryana	56.33	112.66	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	43.05	120.87	0.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	20.00	180.50	114.47
12.	Jharkhand	12.00	43.60	98.27
13.	Karnataka	145.15	290.30	0.00
14.	Kerala	30.43	74.23	125.89
15.	Madhya Pradesh	74.87	10.00	45.00
16.	Maharashtra	138.48	107.98	21.77
17.	Manipur	2.67	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	6.57	14.56	37.24
19.	Mizoram	3.78	25.18	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Nagaland	13.14	10.47	19.22
21.	Orissa	54.35	0.00	19.67
22.	Punjab	53.98	124.76	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	125.64	219.70	40.49
24.	Sikkim	17.21	60.17	77.35
25.	Tamil Nadu	111.57	232.59	97.66
26.	Tripura	2.67	6.10	28.87
27.	Uttar Pradesh	80.12	0.00	54.40
28.	Uttaranchal	174.63	6.13	60.00
29.	West Bengal	19.02	21.15	0.00
Total		1755.52	2356.51	1428.73

Statement-III*[Translation]*

Funds released to the States under incentive component of APDRP

Solar Energy to Villages

(Rs. in Crores)

***496. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:**

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

Sl. No.	State	Incentive Released
1.	Gujarat	236.38
2.	Maharashtra	137.89
3.	Haryana	105.49
4.	Rajasthan	137.71
5.	Andhra Pradesh	265.11
6.	West Bengal	73.00
Total		955.58

(a) the steps taken by the government to boost non-conventional energy sector;

(b) the target set to provide energy facilities to the far flung villages of the country;

(c) whether solar energy is likely to be provided to the people living below poverty line at a rate lower than its actual cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Provision of Central Financial Assistance (CFA), fiscal incentives such as

accelerated depreciation, concessional custom and excise duties apart from preferential tariff are available for promotion of grid-interactive renewable electricity. CFA and fiscal incentives are also available for renewable energy systems/devices for rural, urban, industrial and commercial applications in order to make the same affordable. District Advisory Committees (DACs) on Renewable Energy with the District Collector as Chairman are being constituted for the accelerated and coordinated implementation of renewable energy programmes in an integrated manner with other rural development programmes. So far, around 400 DACs have been set up across the country. In order to create mass awareness about renewable energy, several steps have been taken which include, the 20th August being declared as "Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas" in order to create mass awareness at the national, state, district, block and village levels; release of special postage stamp on renewable energy on the occasion of the "Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas"; three major conferences organized on grid power, rural and urban applications respectively; bi-monthly news letter "Akshay Urja" has been released in Hindi and English for wider circulation of developments in the sector; pamphlets and booklets to provide information on renewable energy technologies, systems/devices; provision of Mobile Exhibition Vans; and establishing Aditya Solar Shops to provide retail outlets for renewable energy products and back-up support services.

(b) to (e) Over 25,000 remote unelectrified census villages, where grid extension is neither cost-effective nor feasible, are to be electrified through renewable means, including solar energy of which 5,000 such remote villages are to be electrified during the 10th Plan period. Under the remote village electrification programme, CFA upto 90% of the project cost is being provided for electrification of households in remote unelectrified census villages, including those living below the poverty line.

[English]

Assistance from NABARD

*497. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:

SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from various States for release of loan/financial assistance from NABARD for various projects;

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

(c) the amount released/sanctioned by NABARD to States during last three years, as on date;

(d) whether NABARD has achieved the target for disbursement of loan to States during the said period;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the NABARD has set any conditions for utilizing the loan amount; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Proposals from various State Governments for loan/financial assistance are received at NABARD under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). State-wise and Sector-wise details of proposals received from State Governments for sanction under RIDF-X, as on 31st March, 2005 are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) State-wise amount of loan/financial assistance sanctioned and disbursed during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 by NABARD is given in statement-II enclosed.

(d) and (e) Disbursement under RIDF is made on the basis of claims made by the State Government after expenditure has been incurred under sanctioned

projects. As per internal target set by NABARD for disbursements under RIDF, the achievements are 86%, 80.04% and 95.93% during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The general terms and conditions for utilising the loan amount are, inter-alia, as under:—

- The State Government shall utilize the loan amount solely and exclusively for the purpose for which it is sanctioned by NABARD.
- State Government shall execute and complete the projects within such time as stipulated in the sanction letter.
- The State Government shall adhere to certain stipulations as a pre-qualification requirement for tendering, such as satisfactory track record

of the contractor, adequate net worth, experience etc.

- Early completion of the project through re-deployment of additional staff to be ensured by State Government.
- Maintaining records and furnishing information to NABARD for satisfactory progress of the projects.
- State Government shall take all necessary steps to remove legal/procedural hurdles in implementation of the projects.
- Quality control and project monitoring is to be ensured by the project implementing authority.
- Loans shall be repaid by State Government to NABARD in accordance with the prescribed repayment schedule.

Statement-1

**State-wise Sector-wise Proposals for Sanction under RIDF X
(As on 31 March 2005)**

[illegible]

[illegible]

Contd...

Rs. Crore

Sl. No.	State	Power Proj.		Rural Drinking		Education		**Others		Total	
		No.*	Amount	No.*	Amount	No.*	Amount	No.*	Amount	No.*	Amount
1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1.	Andhra Pradesh			364	167.28	1176	239.67	327	327.81	3094	1990.48
2.	Arunachal Pradesh			2	6.35					10	20.15
3.	Assam							1	3.92	37	67.65
4.	Bihar					902	132.84	2378	110.38	3319	725.56
5.	Goa										
6.	Gujarat			22	643.93					25	1311.69
7.	Haryana			222	84.06			162	4.53	444	370.02
8.	Himachal Pradesh			1	35.02					237	190.23
9.	Jammu and Kashmir							1	1.99	12	49.36
10.	Karnataka			21	26.55	1411	47.95	101	18.00	2372	454.61
11.	Kerala							171	62.37	300	223.83
12.	Madhya Pradesh					42616	181.03			42761	573.88
13.	Maharashtra									1976	1084.71
14.	Manipur							1	0.53	1	0.53
15.	Meghalaya										
16.	Mizoram									16	6.90
17.	Nagaland							13	7.83	63	30.24

18. Orissa					487	487.69
19. Punjab	126	147.90			419	549.74
20. Rajasthan	3	68.57		2056	2958	482.15
21. Tamil Nadu	499	22.37	549	184.90	2544	797.32
22. Tripura					1	65.34
23. Uttar Pradesh					2711	519.31
24. West Bengal	3	180.00	11	1.85	126	637.51
25. Sikkim	2	1.84			11	7.98
26. Jharkhand					297	344.56
27. Chhattisgarh					39	62.53
28. Uttaranchal					257	308.45
Total	1265	1383.87	46665	788.24	7892	11362.42

** Others Include Market Yard/Godown, Cade, Cold Storage, Fishing Harbour, Inland Waterways, Rubber Plantation, Public Health Care, Seed/Agr/Horti/Farms, Citizen Information Centres, Food Park, Animal Husbandry, Forest Management, Soil Conservation and Rural Library, Riverine Fishery, Rain W. Hrvstg. and Meat Processing.

● Education includes Primary and Secondary Schools.

• Indicate Number of projects.

Statement-II

State-wise Year-wise Sanctions and Disbursements (as on 31-03-2005)

State	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			Total	Rs. Crore
	Sanctions		DISB	Sanctions		DISB	Sanctions		DISB		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Andhra Pradesh		907.76	577.11	868.20	648.34	1560.86	655.98	3336.82	4310.49		
Karnataka		231.03	238.71	297.17	266.17	420.96	242.40	949.16	1465.41		
Kerala		196.21	134.60	81.17	127.26	222.74	71.01	500.12	636.78		
Tamil Nadu		387.97	358.85	547.73	363.24	657.72	275.91	1593.42	2203.45		
Goa		16.1	2.58		14.99			16.10	17.57		
Gujarat		283.82	193.76	899.21	373.85	1311.69	510.16	2494.72	3288.67		
Maharashtra		443.09	220.10	67.03	2.75	258.49	512.75	768.61	1061.12		
Haryana		270.87	124.24	153.62	144.88	173.21	145.00	597.70	740.95		
Himachal Pradesh		170.73	141.58	142.15	142.35	91.72	83.18	404.60	600.98		
Jammu and Kashmir		175.64	140.07	153.82	80.39	49.35	138.60	378.81	562.23		
Punjab		210.17	188.46	288.18	180.02	312.62	165.99	810.97	1135.27		
Rajasthan		346.75	296.40	140.27	178.55	356.25	163.93	843.27	1135.40		
Chhattisgarh		281.3	96.99	432.88	140.60	62.54	182.32	776.72	915.33		
Madhya Pradesh		575.23	382.44	277.46	391.96	533.50	249.30	1386.19	1834.66		
Uttar Pradesh		322.71	307.93	217.84	272.20	516.35	300.67	1056.90	1614.99		

Uttaranchal	75.43	54.98	230.08	49.88	308.44	122.41	613.95	765.79
Bihar	218.93	16.28	97.24	47.97	290.90	66.29	607.07	518.68
Jharkhand			49.13		174.79	5.00	223.92	228.92
Orissa	246.83	182.42	185.11	107.57	375.68	154.60	807.62	1005.38
West Bengal	520.73	308.44	213.41	251.63	526.97	195.45	1261.11	1495.90
Arunachal Pradesh								
Assam	76.23	40.07	189.75	29.96	13.77	13.83	279.75	287.38
Manipur					0.53		0.53	0.53
Meghalaya	18.39	12.65	15.52	20.70		15.09	33.91	63.96
Mizoram	2	18.32	13.50	23.25	6.90	2.11	22.40	64.08
Nagaland	6.68	7.11	16.94	11.60	28.65	16.76	52.27	81.06
Tripura	50.13	23.67	3.17	24.95		10.44	53.30	62.23
Sikkim	4.89	4.73	3.30	4.72	7.97	5.07	16.16	25.79
Grand Total	6039.62	4103.42	5599.00	3922.09	8282.75	4317.02	19921.37	26224.28

Recommendations of BIFR

*498. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for industrial and Financial Reconstruction has recommended winding up of 27 public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of such undertakings;

(c) whether any efforts were made by Government to make these undertakings viable before referring to BIFR;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the suggestions made by BIFR for rehabilitation of the employees of these undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) As on 31st January, 2005, 72 Public Sector Undertakings (31-Central Public Sector Undertakings + 41 State Public Sector Undertakings) have been recommended for winding up. A list of Central

Public Sector Undertakings and State Public Sector Undertakings are placed at statement I and II respectively.

(c) and (d) It is for the Board of Directors of each Company to ensure its viability. Reference to BIFR is statutory in nature. Under Section 15 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985, when an industrial company has become a sick industrial company, the Board of Directors shall, within sixty days from the date of finalization of the accounts of the company, make a reference to the BIFR. However, Government of India have constituted a Board for reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises in December, 2004 to undertake strengthening, modernizing, reviving and restructuring of Public Sector Enterprises.

(e) Due consideration is given by BIFR towards the interest of workers while sanctioning the scheme for sick companies. There is no mandate for BIFR to make suggestions regarding rehabilitation of employees of Public Sector Undertakings.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Company	State
1	2	3
1.	IDPL	Haryana
2.	Bharat Gold Mines Limited	Karnataka
3.	Tannery and Footwear Company Limited	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Triveni Structural Limited	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Cycle Corporation of India Limited	West Bengal
6.	Richardson Crudas Limited	Maharashtra
7.	Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited	West Bengal
8.	Heavy-Engineering Corporation Limited	Jharkhand

1	2	3
9.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited	Maharashtra
10.	Orissa Drug and Chemicals Limited	Orissa
11.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited	Bihar
12.	The Elgin Mills Limited	Uttar Pradesh
13.	Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineering	West Bengal
14.	Mandya National Paper Limited	Karnataka
15.	Weighbird India Limited	West Bengal
16.	Bharat Breakes and Valves Limited	West Bengal
17.	Cawnpore Textiles Limited	Uttar Pradesh
18.	Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceutical Limited	West Bengal
19.	National Instrument Limited	West Bengal
20.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited	West Bengal
21.	Bengal Immunity Limited	West Bengal
22.	National Jute Manufactures Association	West Bengal
23.	IISCO Ujjain Pipe and Foundry Company Limited	Madhya Pradesh
24.	Southern Pesticides Corporation Limited	Andhra Pradesh
25.	Rayrolle Burn Limited	West Bengal
26.	Swadeshi Mining and Manufacturing Company Limited	Uttar Pradesh
27.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited	Tamil Nadu
28.	Maharashtra Antibiotics and Pharmaceutic	Maharashtra
29.	Birds Jute and Exports Limited	West Bengal
30.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited	NCT Delhi
31.	Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited	Jharkhand

Statement-II

Sl. No.	Company	State
1	2	3
1.	Autokast Limited	Kerala
2.	Keltron Rectifiers Limited	Kerala
3.	Keltron Power Devices Limited	Kerala
4.	U.P. State Cement Corporation Limited	Uttar Pradesh
5.	U.P. Tyres and Tubes Limited	Uttar Pradesh
6.	U.P. Carbide and Chemicals	Uttaranchal
7.	A.P. Steels Limited	Andhra Pradesh
8.	Bhadohi Wollens Limited	Uttar Pradesh
9.	Keltron Counters Limited	Kerala
10.	Kerala State Detergent and Chemicals Limited	Kerala
11.	A.P. Heavy Machinery and Engineering Limited	Andhra Pradesh
12.	A.P. Scooter Limited	Andhra Pradesh
13.	Republic Forge	Andhra Pradesh
14.	Karnataka Implement and Machinery Company Limited	Karnataka
15.	Orichem Limited	Orissa
16.	Orissa Textile Mills	Orissa
17.	Gujarat State Textile Corporation Limited	Gujarat
18.	Shayadri Glass Works Limited	Maharashtra
19.	Trivandrum Spinnings Mills Limited	Kerala
20.	The Pratap Spg. Wvg. and Manufacturing Company Limited	Maharashtra
21.	Pulgaon Cotton Mills Limited	Maharashtra
22.	NGEF Limited	Karnataka

1	2	3
23.	Punjab Spg. and Wvg. Mills Limited	Punjab
24.	Kumardhubi Metal Casting and Engineerings	Bihar
25.	Punjab Power Packs Limited	Punjab
26.	Marine and Communication Electronic	Andhra Pradesh
27.	Southern Tranformers and Elec. Limited	Andhra Pradesh
28.	Karnataka State Textiles Limited	Karnataka
29.	Ghatampur Sugar Company Limited	Uttar Pradesh
30.	Haryana Concast Limited	Haryana
31.	Tamil Nadu Magnesium and Marine Chemicals	Tamil Nadu
32.	Nandgunj Sihori Sugar Company Limited	Uttar Pradesh
33.	The Mysore Lamp Works Limited	Karnataka
34.	Karnataka Telecom Limited	Karnataka
35.	Nagaland Pulp and Papers Company Limited	Meghalaya
36.	IDCOL Piping and Engineering Works Limited	Orissa
37.	Electronics Systems Punjab Limited	Punjab
38.	Karnataka State Veneers Limited	Karnataka
39.	The Mysore Acetate and Chemicals Company Limited	Karnataka
40.	Maharashtra Electronics Corporation Limited	Maharashtra
41.	Gujarat Communications Electronics Limited	Gujarat

Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

*499. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for textile and jute industries launched in 1999 has been extended upto 2007;

(b) if so, the benefit/facilities available to textile and jute industries under the scheme;

(c) the steps taken to provide more Capital subsidy to small scale jute and textile industry under this scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme mainly provides for reimbursement

of five per cent interest charged by the financial institutions/banks for technology upgradation projects in conformity with the Scheme. However, in addition to this, the following incentives are also available under this Scheme:—

- (i) Coverage of exchange rate erosion not exceeding 5% points per annum in respect of foreign currency loans instead of 5% interest support;
- (ii) For small scale textile and jute industrial units, an option to avail of either 15% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) or the existing 5% interest reimbursement;
- (iii) For small scale powerloom units, an additional option of credit linked 20% capital subsidy for powerloom and weaving preparatory machinery, upto a cost of Rs. 100 lakh, with the facility to obtain credit from an enlarged credit network that includes all cooperative banks and other genuine non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) recognized by the Reserve Bank of India; and
- (iv) For the textile processing sector only, a credit linked capital subsidy @ 10%, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(c) and (d) To provide more Capital Subsidy to small scale jute and textile industry under the TUFS, the Government has introduced the following modifications under the Scheme w.e.f. 13-01-05:—

- (i) For decentralised powerloom sector, the capital ceiling for machinery was enhanced from Rs. 60.00 lakh to Rs. 1.00 crore; and
- (ii) For small scale textiles and jute industries, the rate of credit linked capital subsidy was enhanced from 12% to 15%.

High Court Bench

*500. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government for setting up of High Court Bench in States;

(b) whether there is a long pending demand for increasing the number of benches of the High Courts in several States;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to take action regarding setting up of more benches for speedy disposal of cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (e) In its report, the Jaswant Singh Commission suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expediency and desirability of establishment of a Bench of a High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench.

The question of opening a High Court Bench is considered by the Central Government in the light of these principles and criteria as and when a complete proposal is received from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. No such proposal received from the State Government in consultation with the concerned Chief Justice of the High Court is pending.

Tax Outstanding against Reliance Group of Industries

5162. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4952 dated August 8, 2000 regarding Reliance Group of Industries and state:

(a) the quantum of tax recovered from Reliance Group of Industries and the amount of tax is still outstanding against them; and

(b) the reasons for not recovering the entire amount from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No demand is outstanding against eleven companies of Reliance Group of Industries mentioned in reply to Lok Sabha USQ No. 4952 answered on 25th August, 2000 (not August 8, 2000 as mentioned in the Question).

(b) Does not arise.

Discrimination against GDS Section of Postal Department

5163. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the benefit of 50% of DA merger is not extended to the GDS Section of the Postal Department despite recommendation of the Postal Board and Communication Ministry to that effect;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to extend the benefit to GDS section of Postal Department at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Government has constituted an inter-departmental Committee to look into this issue.

[Translation]

CBI Enquiry against Excise Officers

5164. SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has conducted any enquiry against the excise officers and the licence holders of

'doda chura' traders in Madhya Pradesh for indulging in illegal trading from the year 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the said officers and traders?

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

[English]

Rural Water Management Schemes

5165. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rural water management schemes of the Union Government;

(b) the details of amount provided under these schemes for projects in Uttar Pradesh during 2004 and 2005 so far;

(c) the amount allocated for the States for the financial year 2005-2006; and

(d) the details of the projects undertaken/proposed to be undertaken under the above schemes in various districts of Uttar Pradesh during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The Ministry is not implementing any rural water management schemes as such. However, the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three programmes namely the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP) for development of non-forest wastelands/degraded lands on watershed approach w.e.f. 1-4-1995. Water Management is one of the components under these Programmes.

(b) In Uttar Pradesh, DDP is not being implemented. The details of amount provided under IWDP and DPAP to Uttar Pradesh for implementation of watershed projects during the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 are given as under:—

Programme	Funds released (Central Share) (Rs. in Lakhs)	
	2003-2004	2004-2005
IWDP	1974.33	1802.86
DPAP	1498.13	1456.68

(c) IWDP and DPAP are demand driven programmes and no State-wise allocation of funds is made under these programmes.

(d) The details of the projects sanctioned/undertaken in Uttar Pradesh under IWDP and DPAP during 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in the enclosed statement I and II respectively.

Under IWDP, districts are prioritized by the State Governments for sanction during the year. The priority list for sanction of 10 projects in 10 districts of Uttar Pradesh for treatment of 50,000 ha. area @ 5000 ha. in each district has been received in this Department for sanction during 2005-06. These districts are, Unnao, Hardoi, Lakhimpur Kheri, Badaun, Moradabad, Banda, Kanpur Nagar, Jaunpur, Mahoba and Lalitpur, Under DPAP, this Ministry suo-moto sanctions every year new watershed projects to all the Programme states. During 2005-06, no new watershed project has been sanctioned under DPAP to Uttar Pradesh so far.

Statement-I

Details of Projects Sanctioned under IWDP to Uttar Pradesh during 2003-04 and 2004-05

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Project Period	Area (in ha)	Total Project Cost	Funds Released (Central Share)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Kaushambi-I	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	41.25
2.	Agra-III	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	123.63
3.	Etawah-I	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	41.25
4.	Ferozabad-II	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	41.25
5.	Saharanpur	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	41.25
6.	Hardoi	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	123.75
7.	Muzaffarnagar	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	41.25
8.	Mirzapur-III	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	41.25
9.	Mahoba	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	41.25
10.	Jalan	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	41.25

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Allahabad-II	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	41.25
12.	Pratapgarh-II	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	41.25
13.	Sultanpur-II	2003-04 to 07-08	5000	300.00	123.75
14.	Shahjahanpur-II	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
15.	Rae Bareilly-II	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
16.	Sitapur-III	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
17.	Faizabad-II	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
18.	Barabanki-II	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
19.	Agra-IV	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
20.	Kannauj	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
21.	Lalitpur-III	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
22.	Allahabad-III	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
23.	Mirzapur-IV	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
24.	Jhansi-IV	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
25.	Auraiya-II	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
26.	Hamirpur-III	2004-05 to 08-09	5000	300.00	41.25
Total			130000	7800.00	1319.88

Statement-II*Details of Projects Sanctioned under DPAP to Uttar Pradesh during 2003-04 and 2004-05*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	District	No. of Projects Sanctioned		Area covered (in ha.)		Total Project Cost		Funds released
		2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Allahabad	3	3	1500	1500	90.00	90.00	20.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Behraich	30	30	15000	15000	900.00	900.00	202.50
3.	Shrawasti	12	12	6000	6000	360.00	360.00	81.00
4.	Balrampur	12	12	6000	6000	360.00	360.00	81.00
5.	Banda	18	18	9000	9000	540.00	540.00	121.50
6.	Chitrakoot	15	15	7500	7500	450.00	450.00	101.25
7.	Hamirpur	6	6	3000	3000	180.00	180.00	40.50
8.	Jalaun	6	6	3000	3000	180.00	180.00	81.00
9.	Jhansi	15	15	7500	7500	450.00	450.00	101.25
10.	Lakhimpur Kheri	6	6	3000	3000	180.00	180.00	40.50
11.	Lalitpur	4	4	2000	2000	120.00	120.00	27.00
12.	Mahoba	4	4	2000	2000	120.00	120.00	27.00
13.	Mirzapur	4	4	2000	2000	120.00	120.00	27.00
14.	Sitapur	9	9	4500	4500	270.00	270.00	60.75
15.	Sonebhadra	16	16	8000	8000	480.00	480.00	108.00
Total		160	160	80000	80000	4800.00	4800.00	1120.50

Tirupur Water Supply and Sanitation Project

5166. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Tirupur Water Supply and Sanitation Project' billed as a pioneering project of public-private participation, is all set for commissioning;

(b) the main characteristic of this project;

(c) the estimated cost of this project;

(d) the financial assistance given by the Union Government to this project; and

(e) the number of beneficiaries of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. Government of India supplement the efforts of State Governments by extending financial and technical assistance through the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). As per the information furnished by Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, the main characteristic of Tirupur Water Supply and Sanitation Project is that it has been developed on a public-private partnership framework and on a commercially viable basis. The project envisages

supply of 185 million litres of water per day (mld), and construction of sewerage system within Tirupur Municipality. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1023 crore. Rs. 10 crore was given by Ministry of Commerce, Government of India as equity through the Government of Tamil Nadu. Also, a sum of Rs. 30 crores was received as assistance for infrastructure development programme for export promotion from Government of India. Project will benefit 7,50,000 people in Tirupur Municipality and its adjoining town and villages in getting drinking water supply. 2,00,000 people in Tirupur Municipality will get proper sewage system. Besides 675 industrial units at Tirupur will also be benefited.

[Translation]

Handloom Development Centres

5167. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom development centres have been set up in the country for benefiting workers;

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

(c) the amount of grant provided to these centers by the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The scheme for setting up of Handloom Development Centres/Quality Dyeing Units (HDC/QDU) was introduced in the year 1993 and continued upto 31-3-1999. The committed liabilities under the scheme were entertained, however, upto 31-3-2002.

(b) and (d) During the currency of the scheme, an assistance of Rs. 9570.19 lakh was released to setup 1848 HDCs and 391 QDUs. No location Specific details are available, the statement showing State-wise details of HDC/QDU sanctioned and amount released is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Unit Scheme (Status of Funds Released from 1993-94 to 2000-01)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.N.	Name of State	1993-94			1994-95			1995-96			1996-97		
		HDC	QDU	Amount	HDC	QDU	Amount	HDC	QDU	Amount	HDC	QDU	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50	24	246.95000	30	13	414.09000	47	3	217.82000	159	49	671.67000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh												
3.	Assam	45		100.00000	58	12	489.235000			84.49000			
4.	Bihar				14		74.48000	35	4	114.41000	1		4.00000
5.	Gujarat				6		20.42000			8.25000	1		0.15000
6.	Goa												
7.	Haryana							1		4.00000			
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1		2.00000	4		30.36000	5	1	26.19500	1	2	23.99500
9.	Jammu and Kashmir				2		6.08000	1		3.04000			
10.	Karnataka	6	1	17.50000	15	3	84.69000	2		26.69500	7		12.51000
11.	Kerala	8		29.37000	36	3	260.98000	18	5	116.05000	9	4	86.95400
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5		20.00000	12	6	82.06500	11		31.87000			
13.	Maharashtra	1	1	6.00000	14	1	53.38500	5	1	26.48000			
14.	Manipur	41		113.74000	96	7	607.52500			132.00000			

Sl.N. Name of State		1997-98			99-2000			2000-01			2001-02			Total		
		HDC	QDU	Amount	Balance only			Balance only			Balance only			HDC	QDU	Amount
1	2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	111	62	460.34000	13.68624	27.89300		397	151	2052.44924						
2.	Arunachal Pradesh									0.00000						
3.	Assam							103		673.72500						
4.	Bihar	3	3	16.97000				53	19	209.86000						
5.	Gujarat							7		28.82000						
6.	Goa									0.00000						
7.	Haryana			5.00000				1		9.00000						
8.	Himachal Pradesh				2.84.000	5.10000		11	3	90.49000						
9.	Jammu and Kashmir							3		9.12000						
10.	Karnataka							30	4	141.39500						
11.	Kerala	1		4.06000	15.99192			72	12	513.40592						
12.	Madhya Pradesh							28	6	133.93500						
13.	Maharashtra							20	3	85.86500						
14.	Manipur							137	7	853.26500						
15.	Meghalaya									0.00000						
16.	Mizoram									0.00000						

17. Nagaland	80	6	315.63000	61.39000	78.84000	142	7	703.77000
18. Orissa	16	2	24.11000			214	42	718.96000
19. Punjab								0.00000
20. Rajasthan						1.77500	1	7.05000
21. Tamil Nadu	38	4	116.07000	290.08887		324	36	1900.14387
22. Tripura						13	10	65.88500
23. Uttar Pradesh	4	1	19.69200	12.18960		89	51	579.28160
24. West Bengal	7		6.66000			198	40	775.26500
25. Pondicherry						5		18.50150
26. Sikkim								0.00000
27. Delhi								0.00000
Total	260	78	968.53200	396.18663	111.83300	1.77500	391	9570.18713

Model Villages under Sanitation Programme

5168. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages developed as model villages in Gujarat under the Centrally sponsored rural sanitation programme;

(b) the amount earmarked for this purpose during the last year;

(c) whether Gujarat has submitted proposals on special projects for approval under the aforesaid programme and release of funds therefor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) Under Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), the scheme of developing model villages has been discontinued and in its place, Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) has been launched. Under TSC, an incentive scheme, namely Nirmal Gram Puraskar, has been introduced for encouraging Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in developing their villages as clean villages. During the last year, Raj Samadhiyala Gram Panchayat in Rajkot district was awarded Nirmal Gram Puraskar for achieving full sanitation coverage.

Under TSC, Gujarat Government has submitted proposals for 20 districts during the last financial year and all these projects have been sanctioned. At present, TSC projects have been sanctioned in all 25 districts of Gujarat. During the last year, Rs. 36.90 crore was released for TSC projects in Gujarat.

[English]

Cheque Fraud

5169. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that 'Cheque Fraud' is reported frequently in various parts of the country particularly in Tamil Nadu causing huge loss to the banks and the account holders;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and to punish the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that in the cases of withdrawal of money through fake cheques/demand drafts in Public Sector Banks during the financial year 2002-03, 2003-04 and April 2004 to December 2004, an amount of Rs. 1399.03 lakhs, Rs. 477.19 lakhs and Rs. 437.04 lakhs respectively was involved. In Tamil Nadu five cases of more than one lakh each involving a total amount of Rs. 33.48 lakhs have been reported during the financial year 2003-04 and four such cases involving a total amount of Rs. 424.33 lakhs have been reported during April-December, 2004.

(c) With a view to prevent recurrence of incidents of withdrawal of money through fake cheques/drafts, RBI has issued circulars to Banks from time to time cautioning them to be more careful in the transactions involving collection/realization of drafts. As fake and stolen cheques/demand drafts are encashed through fictitious bank accounts, RBI, with a view to plug loopholes, has issued detailed guidelines to banks in November 2004 on 'Know Your Customer' norms. In the case of lost and stolen demand drafts, the concerned bank issues a caution advice to its branches and the branches of other banks functioning in the area. Banks also bring the matter to the notice of IBA with a request to circulate the information amongst the member banks regarding fake drafts/cheques. Strict action is taken as per rules against the employees whose involvement in the frauds is established.

Proposals under SGRY

5170. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra had submitted a number of proposals under SGRY in April, 2002;

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

(c) whether the same have since been approved and sanctioned; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in approval/sanction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) The Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) launched from 25th September, 2001, is an allocation based programme and is operational in all the rural districts of the country including those of Maharashtra. The Scheme is not project based.

Royalty on Minerals

5171. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam and other States in the North Eastern Zone have been losing royalty from mineral resources including crude natural gas, coal and limestone since 2001-02;

(b) if so, the quantum of mineral resources exploited each year and the royalty received therefrom by the respective State Governments; and

(c) the main reasons for the decline in royalty and the steps taken or being taken to augment the State resources by way of royalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Mineral crude and natural gas are under administrative control of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, coal is under administrative control of Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Mines is concerned with limestone.

As per information furnished by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the total amount paid by

National Oil Companies and Private/Joint venture operators as royalty to various States in the North Eastern Zone is 452.67 crore, 599.42 crore and 667.98 crore for the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

Ministry of Coal has reported that Assam and other State in the North Eastern Zone are not losing royalty on coal since 2001-2002.

As far as royalty on limestone is concerned, although rates of royalty are notified by the Ministry of Mines, the collection of royalty is done by the concerned State Government. The rates of royalty on limestone are given below:—

	12-9-2000 to 13-10-2004	14-10-2004 onwards
(a) L.D. grade (less than one and half per cent silica content)	Rs. 50 per tonne.	Rs. 55 per tonne.
(b) Others	Rs. 40 per tonne.	Rs. 45 Per tonne.

As per the information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under administrative control of Ministry of Mines, limestone production in North Eastern Zone States was 7.30 lakh tonne, 8.39 lakh tonne and 8.60 lakh tonne during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-2004 respectively.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise. However, rates of royalty are revised by the Central Government periodically.

Profit of Overseas Bank Branches

5172. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of profits made by the overseas branches of nationalised banks of the country during the last three years, Bank-wise and Branch-wise;

(b) whether there is any loss or fall in profits experienced by those overseas branches during the above period and in comparison with subsequent years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The details of profits made by the overseas branches of eight public sector banks for the last three years are as under:—

Name of the Bank	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
UCO Bank	-10.00	-5.79	9.76
Syndicate Bank	0.77	0.55	0.28
State Bank of India	0.95	22.95	39.08
Indian Overseas Bank	-2.70	-2.71	8.97
Indian Bank	0.31	-9.56	1.78
Canara Bank	2.22	0.37	0.89
Bank of India	19.35	18.64	-44.00*
Bank of Baroda	23.40	31.95	42.17
Total	34.30	56.40	58.93

* Due to payment of USD 82.00 million by Bank of India to the liquidators of BCCI (Bank of Credit and Commerce International) following the adverse judgement by the London High Court against the bank.

In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst the banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing the financial institutions as also the provisions of the Public Financial Institutions (obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to profit of individual overseas branches of these banks cannot be divulged.

[Translation]

Ten Rupees Coins

5173. SHRI ATIQ AHMAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce ten rupees coins; -

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to introduce ten rupees coins in view of the shortage of ten rupee note?

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

(b) The new ten rupee coin would be bi-metallic, round in shape of 27 millimeter diameter having ring and centre piece made of Cupro-Nickel and Aluminium-Bronze respectively. The weight of the coin would be 7.71 grams.

(c) Presently there is no shortage of Bank Note of Rupee 10 denomination. The introduction of Rupee 10 coin is in pursuance of the long term Coinage Policy of the Government i.e. to coinise the lower denomination Bank Notes.

Publication of Gramin Bharat

5174. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to stop the publication of Hindi edition of "Gramin Bharat";

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

(c) whether other than this edition, any other edition is porposed to be published; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Presently, 'Grameen Bharat' Newsletter is published by the Ministry in Hindi and English, which are sent to District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) for incorporation of local information and publication in their respective State language. There is no proposal to publish any other edition.

(d) Does not arise.

Safe Drinking Water

5175. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated funds under safe drinking water programme to Bihar in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned to Bihar during 2004-2005 for this programme;

(c) whether District Water and Sanitation Committee is also being constituted for the success of this programme;

(d) if so, the details of its composition; and

(e) the districts identified to be included under the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) For providing potable drinking water to the rural habitations, the Central Government allocates funds to the State Governments under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). ARWSP (Normal) and ARWSP (Swajaldhara) are the two main components of the said programme. The funds allocated and released to Bihar during 2004-05 under these components are as under:—

(Rs. in Lakh)

Component	Amount allocated
ARWSP (Normal)	7405.00
ARWSP (Swajaldhara)	923.98

(c) and (d) Under ARWSP (Swajaldhara) funds are released to the District Water and Sanitation Committees (DWSC). The guidelines of Swajaldhara provide that DWSC will be headed by CEO of the District Panchayat/ District Collector/District Magistrate. The other members of the DWSC will be District Level Officers such as Executive Engineer of Drinking Water, District Education Officer, District Health Officer, Project Director DRDA, District Panchayati Raj Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, and District Information and Public Relations Officer. In addition three experts from reputed NGOs may be coopted into the Committee as members.

(e) Five districts of Bihar—Patna, Vaishali, East Champaran, Bhagalpur and Siwan have been included under Swajaldhara programme during 2004-05.

[English]

Thermal and Hydro Power Generation

5176. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of power generation through the Hydro-electric Power Projects is cheaper in

comparison to power generation through the Thermal Power Projects;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the average cost of power generated from both the sectors separately, State-wise;

(c) the quantum of power being generated from these sectors in the country at present State-wise; and

(d) the reasons for low power generation from the Hydro-electric Power Sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The cost of power generation by Hydro Electric

Power Stations is generally cheaper in comparison to power generation by thermal power stations.

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

(c) The quantum of power generated from thermal, hydro and nuclear power stations during 2004-05 is enclosed as statement.

(d) The actual generation from hydro electric power stations in the country during 2004-05 has been more than the target. As against generation target of 84000 million units (MUs), actual generation has been 84497 MUs.

Statement

Quantam of Power being Generated from Thermal/Hydro/Nuclear Projects for the year 2004-2005—State-wise (figure in million units)

State	Sector	2004-05*			
		TH	HY	NUC.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Delhi	State	5711.52			5711.52
	Central	5464.1			5464.1
	Total	11175.62			11175.62
Jammu and Kashmir	State	23.74	686.98		710.72
	Central		5658.09		5658.09
	Total	23.74	6345.07		6368.81
Himachal Pradesh	State		1274.32		1274.32
	Central		13277.78		13277.78
	Pvt		1462.85		1462.85
	Total		16014.95		16014.95

1	2	3	4	5	6
Haryana	State	6878.57	288.66		7167.23
	Central	3161.43	0		3161.43
	Total	10040	288.66		10328.66
Rajasthan	State	17472.44	937.88		18410.32
	Central	2784.35		4572.81	7357.16
	Total	20256.79	937.88	4572.81	25767.48
Punjab	State	14388.08	3356.7		17744.78
	Central		4339.32		4339.32
	Total	14388.08	7696.02		22084.1
Uttar Pradesh	State	19701.9	1169.33		20871.23
	Central	50221		2759.19	53080.19
	Total	70022.9	1169.33	2759.19	73951.42
Uttaranchal	State		3118.02		3118.02
	Central		496.84		496.84
	Total	0	3614.86		3614.86
N. Region	State	64176.25	10831.89		75008.14
	Central	61730.88	23772.03	7332	92834.91
	Pvt		1462.85		1462.85
	Total	125907.13	36066.77	7332	169305.9
Gujarat	State	28305.47	1088		29393.47
	Central	6863.51		2512.43	9375.94

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Pvt	12820.56	0		12820.56
	Total	47989.54	1088	2512.43	51589.97
Maharashtra	State	47046.45	3993.67		51040.12
	Central			2586.72	2586.72
	Pvt	13950.3	1441.41		15391.71
	Total	60996.75	5435.08	2586.72	69018.55
Madhya Pradesh	State	14349.24	2226.22		16575.46
	Central	17813.09	1351.18		19164.27
	Pvt		29.75		29.75
	Total	32162.33	3607.15		35769.48
Chhattisgarh	State	7918.1	388.21		8306.31
	Central	17048.98	0		17048.98
	Total	24967.08	388.21		25355.29
W. Region	State	97619.26	7696.1		105315.36
	Central	41725.58	1351.18	5009.15	48175.91
	Pvt	27106.7	1471.16		28577.86
	Total	166451.54	10518.44	5099.15	182069.13
Andhra Pradesh	State	25347.62	5817.7		31164.79
	Central	25279.45	0		25279.45
	Pvt	6169.67	0		6169.67
	Total	56796.74	5817.17		62613.91

1	2	3	4	5	6
Karnataka	State	10989.96	8754.78		19744.74
	Central			2926	2926
	Pvt	1426.91	169.44		1596.35
	Total	12416.87	8924.22	2926	24267.09
Kerala	State	296.91	6070.66		6367.57
	Central	610.28	0		610.28
	Pvt	127.45	70.58		198.03
	Total	1034.64	6141.24		7175.88
Tamil Nadu	State	22004.91	4425.49		26430.4
	Central	16741.04	0	1480.44	18221.48
	NUC				1480.44
	Pvt	3270.42	0		3270.42
	Total	42016.37	4425.49	1480.44	47922.3
Pondichary	State	275.52			275.52
Lakshadweep	State	23.78			23.78
S. Region	State	58938.7	25068.1		84006.8
	Central	42630.77	0	4406.44	47037.21
	Pvt	10994.45	240.02		11234.47
	Total	112563.92	25308.12	4406.44	142278.48
Bihar	State	154.53	47.4		201.93
	Central	6082.79	0		6082.79
	Total	6237.32	47.4		6284.72

1	2	3	4	5	6
Jharkhand	State	2069.74	150.79		2220.53
	Central	4356.99	148.57		4505.56
	Pvt	816.24			816.24
	Total	7242.97	299.36		7542.33
Orissa	State	3163.44	6869.63		10033.07
	Central	19442.22	0		19442.22
	Pvt	1095.34	0		1095.34
	Total	23701	6869.63		30570.63
West Bengal	State	17080.04	509.01		17589.05
	Central	15908.62	114.29		16022.91
	Pvt	7252.08	0		7252.08
	Total	40240.74	623.3		40864.04
Sikkim	State	0.16	58.67		58.83
	Central	0	369.7		369.7
	Total	0.16	428.37		428.53
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	State	33.27	6.8		40.07
E. Region	State	22501.18	7642.3		30143.48
	Central	45790.62	632.56		46423.18
	Pvt	9253.19	0		9253.19
	Total	77544.99	8274.86		85819.85
Assam	State	756.1	0		756.1
	Central	1614.82	911.55		2526.37

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Pvt	136.76	0		136.76
	Total	2507.68	911.55		3419.23
Meghalaya	State	0	615.42		615.42
	Central	0	196.33		196.33
	Total	0	811.75		811.75
Tripura	State	484.87	68.65		553.52
	Central	570.93	0		570.93
	Total	1055.8	68.65		1124.45
Manipur	State	0	0		0
	Central	0	628.92		628.92
	Total	0	628.92		628.92
Arunachal Pradesh	State	0	2		2
	Central	0	1650.65		1650.65
	Total	0	1652.65		1652.65
Nagaland	State	0	0		0
	Central	0	255.17		255.17
	Total	0	255.17		255.17
N.E. Region	State	1240.97	686.07		1927.04
	Central	2185.75	3642.62		5828.37
	Pvt	136.76	0		136.76
	Total	3563.48	4328.69		7892.17

1	2	3	4	5	6
All India	State	244476.36	51924.46		296400.82
	Central	194063.6	29398.39	16837.59	240299.58
	Pvt	47491.1	3174.03		50665.13
	Total	486031.06	84496.88	16837.59	587365.53

*Actual cum Assessment.

[Translation]

Financial Crunch in LIC

5177. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC is facing financial problems due to strict implementation by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and amount of assistance provided to LIC during 2005-2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is required to comply with the Solvency Margin Requirement prescribed under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) (Asset, Liabilities and Solvency Margin) Regulations, 2000. Looking to the difficulty in providing huge amount in one go, LIC was permitted by IRDA to comply with this requirement over a period of time. As on 31-3-2004, LIC has provided 110.7% of the Required Solvency Margin (RSM) as against the requirement of 150%. LIC has not asked for any assistance from the Government for the year 2005-2006 to meet its solvency requirement.

Drinking Water Scheme

5178. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Union Government for sanctioning Rs. 207.60 crore for the implementation of

various drinking water supply schemes for the uncovered population of 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) Water Supply is a State subject. Government of India supports the efforts of the States by releasing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme as per the following criterion for inter-state allocation:—

Weightage for	Percentage (%)
(a) Rural Population	40
(b) States under DDP, DPAP, HADP and special category hill States in terms of rural areas	35
(c) Not Covered/Partially Covered villages (at 2:1 ratio)	15
(d) Quality affected villages	10
Total	100

Individual rural water supply schemes are planned and implemented by the State Governments themselves and there is no need for taking up such proposals with Government of India.

*[English]***Expenditure Reforms Commission**

5179. SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal from the Expenditure Reforms Commission Report 1999-2000 to place India Security Press and four Indian Government Press and four Indian Government mints under a corporate body, is pending consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time expected in implementing the proposal?

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

Based on the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission, a proposal to corporatise four India Government Mints, two currency presses, two security printing presses and a security paper mill is under consideration of the Government. The proposal has been mooted with a view to providing greater operational freedom, financial autonomy and improving efficiency in the security Units.

*[Translation]***Losses in Mining Sector**

5180. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector and joint sector companies functioning in mining sector are continuously facing losses and the production is less despite investment of huge capital;

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

(c) whether losses in the mining sector have increased as the rates of imported minerals have come down;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the company-wise details of investments made therein;

(f) whether some of the sick public sector undertakings are proposed to be closed down;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to revive the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Mines, at present has three public sector undertakings namely—(1) National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO); (2) Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL); and (3) Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL)—under its administrative control; and two joint sector companies namely—(1) Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL); and (2) Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. The company-wise details is as under:—

NALCO:

It has been a consistingly profit earning enterprise ever since its inception. Its production has also been increasing over the years. The Government of India has invested Rs. 1288.62 crores as paid up capital in the Company.

HCL:

Hindustan Copper Limited had been suffering recurring losses for a decade. However, the company has posted profit during the last 15 months and in 2004-05, the company earned a profit of Rs. 52.07 crores (provisional). So far the Government has invested Rs. 768.22 crores in the equity capital and Rs. 180.73 crores in the preference capital of the company.

MECL:

The premier exploration agency in the country, carries out its exploration activities under Promotional Programmes funded by Government of India and Contractual Programmes on behalf of other agencies

including Public Sector, Private Sector and State Governments. Though the company has been suffering losses during the last 14 years (with accumulated losses of Rs. 93.43 crores). It has earned a profit of Rs. 2.44 crores during 2004.05.

BALCO:

There has been increase in production and profits of BALCO during the last four financial years.

HZL:

HZL is a consistently profits making enterprise. During the financial year 2004-05, the company has made capital investment of Rs. 204.27 crores in its mining activities.

(f) to (h) The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), as per the definition of the sick enterprises as given in para 4 of the resolution dated 6-12-2004 relating to constitution of Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE), has identified HCL and MECL as sick enterprises. However both HCL and MECL are not sick companies as per SICA Act 1985. The Financial restructuring proposals of HCL and MECL have been received for referring them to BRPSE. There is no proposal to close HCL and MECL because of accumulated losses.

[English]

Pending Court Cases

5181. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a large number of cases pending in the High Court of West Bengal in which the Central and State Governments or Government agencies/undertakings are either appellants/petitioners or respondents;

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to sort out these cases so as to bring down the pendency of cases;

(c) whether steps are proposed to be taken to fix accountability on officers for causing delay; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

Silk Mark Organisation of India

5182. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up a "Silk Mark Organisation of India" under the auspices of the Central Silk Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to establish facilities to undertake the testing of silk products and also to promote the concept of quality silk with a "Silk Mark Label"; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The "Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI)" has been set up on 17th June, 2004 by the Central Silk Board. "Silk Mark" is a Hall Mark for the products made from pure and natural silk.

(c) and (d) The Central Silk Board has the required facilities for testing of silk available at its Silk Conditioning and Testing Houses, Regional Offices, Regional Development Offices and Certification Centres all over India. Central Silk Board organizes workshops with consumer forums in nodal offices at Chennai, Bangalore and Mumbai and participate in various Handloom Expos and Silk Fabs for promoting the concept of quality silk with a Silk Mark label.

Smuggling of CFC Gases

5183. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banned of Chloro-Flouro-Carbons (CFC) are being smuggled into country from Nepal, Bangladesh, Tibet and Myanmar through North-Eastern borders as reported in the daily *The Hindu*, dated March 21, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to dispose of confiscated CFC gas, which has piled up in large quantity over the years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Sir, instances of smuggling of CFCs have come to light and seizure cases of smuggled CFCs have been effected. The details of CFCs seized are as under:—

Year	No. of cases of seizure of CFC gases booked	Quantity of CFC gases seized (in Kgs.)	Value of CFC gases seized (in lakhs of Rs.)	Quantity and value of CFC gases pending disposal as on (31-3-2005)
2002-2003	47	27511.10	6234	—
2003-2004	110	30236.00	82.60	—
2004-2005	262	49825.36	128.76	25785.80 Kgs. Rs. 66.84 lakhs

(c) Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, CBEC have issued guidelines dated 26-12-2001 for effecting disposal of the seized/confiscated CFC gases. Disposals are regularly being effected as would be seen from the table above. Ministry has directed all Customs field formations to effect expeditious disposal of all seized/confiscated goods including CFC gases.

Basel-II Norms

5184. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Public Sector Banks to comply with the norms laid down by Basel-II in respect of maintaining adequate capital base;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by individual banks during the current financial year; and

(c) the extent to which banks are likely to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Basel Committee on Banking Supervision has issued a revised frame work known as Basel II to build on the current framework to align capital requirements more closely with underlying risks and to provide banks and their supervisors with several options for assessing capital adequacy. Later, RBI also issued draft guidelines for implementation of Basel II in India to all the banks for feedback. Banks are at various stages of implementation of Basel II and are expected to comply with the Basel II requirement by March 2007. With a view to ensuring smooth transition to the revised Framework and with a view to providing opportunity to banks to streamline their systems and strategies, banks in India are required to commence a parallel run of the revised Framework with effect from April 1, 2006.

Sale of RIL Shares

5185. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ:

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Industries Ltd. and its sister organisation have sold out shares at discounted price in violation of law of the land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that Reliance Infocom sold their 10 million shares @ Re. 1 each, but their parent Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) had paid @ 250/- each for the shares given to them;

(d) if so, the reason for such differences in share price;

(e) whether the Government/Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)/Company Law Board has instituted any enquiry into the matter;

(f) if so, the details thereof and outcome of such enquiry; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of shareholders of Reliance Industries Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) As per records available with the Registrar of Companies (ROC), 10 million shares of M/s. Reliance Infocom Ltd. were acquired by three companies on 12th

September 2002 as under:—

(i) M/s. Fairever Traders and Consultants Pvt. Ltd.	—	34,00,000 equity shares
(ii) M/s. Softnet Traders and Consultants pvt. Ltd.	—	33,00,000 equity shares
(iii) M/s. Prerna Auto Pvt. Ltd.	—	33,00,000 equity shares

As per the statutory form filed by the company with ROC, M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. was not allotted any equity shares of the company after amalgamation order dated 16-12-2002 of Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat.

(d) Does not arise.

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

(g) Reliance Industries Ltd. is a listed company. There is regulatory institutional structure in the form of SEBI to protect the interest of the shareholders of the company. In the event of violations of any other law, the Government may take legal action as appropriate.

Setting up of Power Projects

5186. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Power Ministry in order to avoid a repeat of now closed Dabhol Power Project has assumed a proactive role to ensure completion of nine new power projects coming up across the country;

(b) whether Ministry has decided to deal directly with State Governments and other utilities to ensure things are on course;

(c) whether Ministry has roped in Central Electricity Authority for the purpose and is at present advising Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd. on inking its PPA with Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation; and

(d) if so, the other decisions taken by Ministry to deal with States?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) Post electricity act 2003, thermal generation has been delicensed and captive generation freely permitted. Open access in transmission and power trading have been permitted to facilitate inter-state sale and multi-buyer models. The project promoters have to however, tie up all necessary inputs and Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for sale of power to distribution utilities. Encouraged by the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Financial Institutions/banks have conveyed that there would be no dearth of funds for viable power projects implemented by promoters having credible backgrounds. However, Ministry of Power plays a protective role in facilitating financial closure of these projects through review meetings with the concerned Stake holders including state distribution utilities, project developers and financial institutions, etc. with the view to remove the bottlenecks in achieving financial closure. An Inter Institutional Group (IIG) comprising of senior representatives from the Financial Institutions and Ministry of Power has been constituted to specially focus on fast track power projects with could achieve early financial closure. 11 private power projects having a total capacity of about 4000 MW have since achieved financial closure and another 11 projects with a total capacity of 12,000 MW are being monitored by the IIG for facilitating early financial closure.

(c) and (d) Wherever required, representatives from State Governments, CEA and other utilities are also invited for the IIG meetings in order to resolve outstanding issues. The 1015 MW Mangalore Thermal Power Project of M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd. (NPCL) is one of the projects presently being monitored by the IIG for early financial closure. Since finalisation of the Power Purchase Agreement was one of the outstanding issues holding up financial closure of the project, Ministry of Power has facilitated meetings between the stakeholders in the project including KPTCL and the Government of Karnataka for resolution of this and other outstanding issues.

[Translation]

Agreement on Power Sharing

5187. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

SHRI VISHVENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has signed any agreement with the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in respect to their share of power generated by hydel power projects in Punjab;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement;

(c) whether share of Rajasthan has been fixed in these projects mentioned in the said agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (e) An agreement was reached between the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Government of India on 10-05-1984 wherein it was agreed that in view of the claims raised by Haryana and Rajasthan to sharing of power in Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project, Mukerian Hydel Project, Thein Dam Project, UBDC Stage-II and Shahpur Kandi Hydel Scheme, the Government of India shall refer the matter to Supreme Court for its opinion. A reference was to be made to the Supreme Court seeking its opinion whether the States of Haryana and Rajasthan are entitled to a share in the power generated from the above mentioned schemes and in case they are, what would be the share of each State. It was agreed that the Supreme Court's opinion obtained by Government of India shall be remitted to the signatory states and shall be binding on them.

The matter has not been referred to Supreme Court. However, a number of formal and informal

discussions have taken place since 1984 to settle the issue amicably. These issues were also discussed in the Northern Zonal Council meetings held in 1997 and 1999. Subsequently, numerous discussions have been held with the State Governments with a view to bring about a consensus on the issues.

[English]

Service Charges on Credit Card-Holders

5188. SHRI BHARATSINH MADHAVSINH

SOLANKI:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has expressed its concern over the harassment of customers and lack of transparency in levying service charges and other areas and also asked the Indian Banks Association and banks to evolve a code of conduct for banking entities issuing credit cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that even the public sector banks like SBI are the biggest flouters of ethical business practices issuing service charges bills for the services which they never provide;

(d) if so, the action proposed in such cases;

(e) whether the Government is aware that foreign banks are charging exorbitant rate of interest from the credit card-holders;

(f) if so, the facts and the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(g) whether the Government has received representations from Bhartiya Samajik Servasena Sahayogi Sanstha, Mumbai in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a), (b), (e) and (f) Yes, Sir, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have already taken steps like convening meeting of all credit card issuing banks and Indian Banks' Association (IBA). IBA has finalized the Fair Practice Code for Credit Card Operations and Model Code of Conduct for Direct Sales Agents (DSAs). It has also been decided to include credit card complaints within the jurisdiction of Banking Ombudsman.

(c) and (d) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that SBI Card does not levy any service charges other than those clearly advised to the customers at the time of issue of credit cards. Any change in the charges area are also advised to the cardholders before revision. The bank has further reported that all complaints related to the services or charges levied received either through letters or telephone calls are redressed to the satisfaction of the cardholder.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. RBI have reported that Bharatiya Samajik Sarvaseva Sahayogi Samstha, Mumbai has requested RBI to direct foreign banks to follow rational interest rate guidelines. In this connection, RBI have already advised them on March 15, 2005 about the action being taken by RBI and IBA on the credit card related complaints.

Compensation for Fiscal Deficit from "Reserve Fund"

5189. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

SHRI ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fiscal position of the country is in poor state;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to withdraw amount from the "Reserve Fund" of the Monetary Fund to compensate the fiscal deficit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount in Reserve Fund of the Monetary Fund at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Fiscal consolidation was an integral part of economic reforms introduced in the early nineties. After a promising start in the early nineties, progress in fiscal consolidation faltered somewhat from 1997-98. Fiscal deficit of the Central Government, after declining from 6.6 per cent of GDP in 1990-91 to 4.1 per cent in 1996-97, had risen to 4.8 per cent of GDP in 1997-98 and thereafter maintained a rising trend till 2001-02. Growing deficits and public debt and the resultant declining share of the private sector in total credit have been preventing the economy from realising its growth potential. However, there are some signs of renewed progress in this area in the recent years with the fiscal deficit in 2004-05(RE) at 4.5 per cent of GDP and budgeted for 2005-06 at 4.3 per cent of GDP.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per Weekly Statistical Supplement (WSS), Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) in the Fund as on April 15, 2005 is US \$ 1,430 million.

Interest on Dues against Food-for-Work Programme

5190. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there are outstanding dues on account of foodgrain supply under food-for-work programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action proposed/taken in this regard;

(d) whether it is proposed to charge interest on such dues; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Food for Work Programme was replaced with the Special Component of the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) from 1-4-2002. Foodgrains are provided under normal SGRY and Special Component of SGRY free of cost to the States/UTs. The Ministry of Rural Development make payment to Food Corporation of India (FCI) on receipt of Bills for the foodgrains ligted by the Implementing Agencies under the Scheme. As intimated by FCI, there is an outstanding payment of Bills amounting to Rs. 17,396.67 crores.

(c) The Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance have been requested to provide additional grants to make payment to FCI as against their outstanding Bills.

(d) and (e) The FCI has requested this Ministry to make payment of Rs. 1157.95 crores for cumulative interest on outstanding dues for the year 2004-05.

IT Evasion Detected During Raids

5191. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of raids carried out by income tax authorities during the last two years;

(b) the quantum and details of tax evasion established by them; and

(c) the action taken against the tax evaders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of Search and Seizure operations conducted by the

Income Tax-Department during the last two Financial Years are as under:

Financial Year : 2003-04

No. of warrants executed : 2492

Seizure (Rs. in lakhs):—

(a) cash	: 11316.00
(b) jewellery	3143.58
(c) Other Assets	8677.84
Total	23137.42

Financial Year : 2004-05

No. of warrants executed : 2377

Seizure (Rs. in lakhs):—

(a) cash	11825.16
(b) jewellery	3165.94
(c) Other Assets	5236.72
Total	20227.82

(b) Tax evasion is established by the department after the conclusion of the assessment which then is a subject matter of appeal. The appeals often go upto High Court/Supreme Court. The quantum and details of tax evaded in respect of searches conducted during the last two Financial Years can only be known when appeals etc. are finalized.

(c) Whenever concrete information is received about financial irregularities and consequential evasion of taxes, appropriate action which may consist of searches, surveys/surveys of returns of income etc., is initiated to bring the unaccounted income to tax. In suitable cases penalty is imposed and prosecution is launched.

FII Investment

5192. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has gone into details about FII investment through PN route;

(b) whether a detailed study has been made during 2004-05 in this regard;

(c) whether 4/5 layers have been observed in some PN route investment;

(d) whether "know your client principle" is implemented;

(e) if so, the monthwise details about the investment made through PN route; and

(f) the amount out of which this has come through direct investment and amount came through various layers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that under Regulation 20 of the SEBI (Foreign Institutional Investors) Regulations, 1995, the issuers of PNS are required to report the date on outstanding PN to SEBI on monthly basis. A format has been prescribed for the said PN reporting. The date received through the monthly reports are collated every month.

(c) As per the prescribed reporting format the issuers have to submit the name of the person to whom instrument have been issued.

(d) Yes, Sir. The SEBI (Foreign Institutional Investors) Regulations, 1995 was amended by inserting Regulation 15A, where the issuance of PNS is subject to compliance of "know your client" requirement by the issuers.

(e) and (f) Aggregated value of underlying instrument as disclosed in the Monthly PN reports for last seven month is as follows:—

Total of the National Value of the Underlying**Rs. crores**

Month	Equity	Index	Debt	Derivatives	Total
August-04	28,552	1,314	2,696	3,164	35,726
September-04	34,251	519	287	1,936	36,993
October-04	37,457	483	277	2,302	40,519
November-04	41,864	7,653	600	3,400	53,517
December-04	55,424	7,646	722	4,095	67,886
January-05	48,922	1,139	500	4,489	55,050
February-05	48,762	1,293	482	4,405	54,941

National Wasteland Development Board

5193. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Wasteland Development Board was constituted in the recent past;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has taken some fresh steps for the development of wasteland; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) The National Wasteland Development Board (NWDB) was set up in the Ministry of Environment and Forests in May 1985 with the mandate of tackling problems of land degradation, restoration of the ecological balance and meeting the growing demand for fuelwood and fodder. With a view to promoting development of non-forest wastelands, Department of Wastelands Development (DoWD) was created in the Ministry of Rural Development in July 1992 and NWDB was transferred to DoWD. In April 1999, DoWD was renamed

as the Department of Land Resources (DoLR). The DoLR is administering three main programmes namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) for development of wastelands/degraded lands on watershed basis.

(c) and (d) No new scheme has been launched for development of wastelands/degraded lands; the ongoing schemes viz. IWDP, DPAP and DDP are being administered.

Establishment of Aluminium Plants

5194. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of aluminium plants operating in the country, location-wise;

(b) the quantum of aluminium produced during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a new aluminium plant in the country especially in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) As per the information received from primary producers of aluminium, the details of aluminium plants operating in the country and their production are given below:—

Company	Location of Plant	Production of Aluminium (MT)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
National Aluminium Company Limited	Angul, Orissa	244708	298207	338483
Bharat Aluminium Company Limited	Korba, Chhatisgarh	95490	97088	100272
HINDALCO Industries Limited	Renukoot, Uttar Pradesh	266837	323184	343448
	Hirakud, Orissa	37102	60877	65620
	Alupuram, Kerala	14131	4528	—
Madras Aluminium Company Limited	Meetur Dam, Salem, Tamil Nadu	30900	32226	35649

(c) and (d) Presently, there is no proposal to set up any new aluminium plant in the country by the Government of India. According to information available, HINDALCO Industries Limited has entered into Memorandum of Understandings with Jharkhand and Orissa Governments for setting up of aluminium smelters of 2,60,000 MT per annum and 3,25,000 MT per annum respectively and Bharat Aluminium Company Limited is in process of implementation of a new smelter of 2,45,000 MT per annum.

Customs Duty on Ships for Recycling

5195. SMT. JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received requests from the State Government of Gujarat regarding reduction of customs duty on ships for recycling/breaking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far on these requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Union Government had received a suggestion from Chief Minister of Gujarat that customs duty on ships for breaking up should be at par with that on melting scrap.

(c) The suggestion was examined as part of the budget 2005-06 proposals. Ships for breaking up attract 5% customs duty. Steel melting scrap is exempt from customs duty. Ship breaking activity gives rise primarily to re-rollable materials and hence it is considered appropriate that the customs duty on ships for breaking up is at par with the customs duty on re-rollable materials and not with the duty on steel melting scrap. Customs duty on re-rollable ferrous material is 5%. It was thus decided not to reduce the customs duty on ships for breaking up below 5%.

Gold Ornaments

5196. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by the Indian Government to get back the gold ornaments pledged with Lisbon based Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) during Portuguese rule in India which was taken to Portugal by BNU on the eve of liberalization of Goa, Daman and Diu;

(b) whether some of the ornaments were reimported by SBI;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to exempt customs duty on the import of the gold ornaments held in the Portuguese bank to facilitate the return of these ornaments to their claimants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The major portion of the gold ornaments pledged with BNU were brought back to India in 1991, barring a few packets pertaining to Indian who migrated to/settled in Portugal which were retained by BNU for delivery to the claimants presently residing in Portugal.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. More than 5800 gold packets were re-imported to India by SBI in 1991 for handing over to the claimants residing in India.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Waiver of Customs duty has been granted as a special measure on the gold ornaments handed over to the claimants on or before 31st July 2005. The customs duty exemption lapses thereafter.

Tehri Hydro Power Project

5197. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval for last phase of Tehri Dam, Uttaranchal has not been conveyed to Tehri Hydro

Development Corporation (THDC) resulting in uncertainty over anticipated power generation from March, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present power generation capacity of the project against 2000 MW anticipated and when the optimum level of power generation is likely to commence after implementation of final phase of the dam?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (c) The Tehri Power Complex (2400 MW) comprises of the Tehri Dam and HEP Stage-I (1000 MW), Koteshwar Dam HEP (400 MW) and Tehri Pumped Storage Plant (PSP) (1000 MW). Government of India had approved in March 1994 execution of Tehri Dam and HEP Stage-I (1000 MW) alongwith committed and essential works of Koteshwar HE Project (400 MW) and Tehri PSP (1000 MW). Thereafter, Government of India approved implementation of Koteshwar Project (400 MW) in April, 2000.

The work on the Tehri Dam and HEP, Stage-I (1000 MW) is in full swing and all the four units of 250 MW of this project are now likely to be commissioned progressively from February, 2006 onwards. The work on the Koteshwar Dam and HEP is also in progress and is scheduled to be commissioned in 2007-08.

With the construction of the Tehri HEP Stage-I (1000 MW) and the Koteshwar HEP (400 MW), the pre-requisite for the Tehri PSP (1000 MW), viz. upstream and downstream reservoirs, would be available. The Tehri reservoir would function as the upstream reservoir for Tehri PSP, while Koteshwar reservoir would function as the lower reservoir. The power from the three projects i.e. Tehri HEP Stage-I (1000 MW), Koteshwar HEP (400 MW) and Tehri PSP (1000 MW) would be regulated independently. In a meeting held recently, the beneficiary States have agreed for sale of off-peak power to Tehri Hydro Development Corporation for the pumping operations of Tehri PSP and purchase corresponding peaking power.

Task Force on Procurement Norms

5198. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Task force on revision of procurement norms" to ensure greater transparency, competition, fairness, and elimination of discretion in procurement of goods by the Union Government has submitted its Report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had accepted recommendations of the task force *in toto*; and

(d) the action taken/initiated by the Government to implement the report of the task force?

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

(b) to (d) The Task Force in its recommendations has suggested ways and means for bringing in greater efficiency, economy, accountability and transparency in public procurement system.

Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, three separate Working Groups have been set up by the Govt. for preparation of *standard* documents for 'Goods', 'Works' and 'Consultancy'.

New Power Policy

5199. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI RAVICHANDRA SIPPIPARAI:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2249 replied on December 14, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the National Power Policy has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Salient features of the policy are enclosed as statement.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The policy has come into force from 12-02-2005, i.e. the date on which it has been notified in the gazette.

Statement***Salient features of the National Electricity Policy***

1. Aims at accelerated development of power sector, providing supply of electricity to all areas and protecting interests of consumers and other stakeholders.

2. Objectives :

- Access of Electricity—Available for all households in next five years.
- Availability of Power—Demand to be fully met by 2012. Energy and peaking shortages to be overcome and spinning reserve to be available.
- Supply of Reliable and Quality Power of specified standards in an efficient manner and at reasonable rates.
- Per capita availability of electricity to be increased to over 1000 units by 2012.
- Minimum lifeline consumption of 1 unit/household/day as a merit good by year 2012.
- Financial Turnaround and Commercial Viability of Electricity Sector.
- Protection of consumers' interests.

3. CEA to notify first National Electricity Plan in six months with a perspective up 12th Plan period. The Plan prepared by CEA to be used by prospective generating companies, transmission utilities and transmission/distribution licensees as reference document.
4. Development of Rural Electrification Distribution backbone, village electrification and household electrification to achieve the NCMP target of completing household electrification in next five years. Financial support in terms of capital subsidy to States for rural electrification. Special preference to Dalit Bastis, Tribal Areas and other weaker sections for rural electrification. REC to be nodal agency for rural electrification at Central Government level.
5. Creation of adequate generation capacity with a spinning reserve of at least 5% by 2012 with availability of installed capacity at 85%.
6. Full development of hydro potential. Provision of long tenor finance for these projects.
7. Choice of fuel for thermal generation to be based on economics of generation and supply of electricity.
8. Development of National Grid.
9. Cost of recovery of service from consumers at tariff reflecting efficient costs to ensure financial viability of the sector.
10. Provision of support to lifeline consumers (households below poverty line having consumption of 30 units per month) in terms of tariffs.
11. Availability based tariff (ABT) to be extended to State level for better grid discipline through economic signaling.
12. Special emphasis on time bound reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

13. Measures to promote competition aimed at consumer benefits.
14. Reliability and quality of power supply to be monitored by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.
15. Exploitation of non-conventional energy sources such as small hydro, solar, biomass and wind for additional power generation capacity.

Other Features

16. Emphasis on achieving higher efficiency levels of generating plants through necessary renovation and modernization.
17. Central Government to facilitate the continued development of national grid. CTU and STU to undertake coordinated planning and development.
18. Transmission capacity to have redundancy level and margins as per international standards.
19. Adequate transitional financial support for reforming power utilities. Encouragement for private sector participation in distribution.
20. The State Regulatory Commissions to put in place independent third party meter testing arrangement.
21. Support for adoption of IT system for ensuring correct billing to consumers.
22. Speedy implementation of stringent measures against theft of electricity.
23. Full emphasis on augmentation of R and D base. Mission approach for identified priorities areas.
24. Demand side management through energy conservation measures. Labels regarding energy efficiency to be displayed on appliances. Efficient agricultural pumpsets and efficient lighting technologies to be promoted. Appropriate tariff structure for managing the peak load.

25. Special attention for developing training infrastructure in the field of regulation, trading and power market.
26. For giving boost to renewable and non-conventional energy sources, a prescribed percentage of power, as specified by State Regulatory Commissions, to be purchased from such sources of energy at the earliest.
27. Necessary regulations and appointing Ombudsman for redressal of consumers' grievances to be in place in six months.

MSP of Cotton

5200. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Cotton Corporation of India while buying cotton from the farmers;

(b) whether almost half of the cotton brought by the farmers to the Cotton Corporation of India are indiscriminately rejected;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to purchase all the cotton brought by the farmers; and

(d) the target fixed by Cotton Corporation of India for purchasing of cotton during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Whenever the market prices of kapas (seed cotton) falls to the level of Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government of India, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) undertakes support price operations and purchases kapas without any quantitative restrictions, otherwise it procures kapas under its commercial operations at its own risk.

(b) and (c) The MSP is fixed for Fair Average Quality kapas. While making purchases under MSP

operations, the CCI purchases entire kapas offered to it by the farmers at authorized market yards meeting the quality parameters of FAQ grade without any deduction. In order to ensure remunerative prices to the cotton farmers and avoid distress sales, the CCI also purchases kapas upto three stages below FAQ grade with suitable deductions. As on 19th April, 2005, the CCI has purchased a record 138.35 lakh quintals of kapas equivalent to lint cotton of 26.98 lakh bales (of 170 kg. each).

(d) No target for cotton procurement is fixed by the CCI, as under the support price operations it purchases kapas without any quantitative restrictions.

SIDBI

5201. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SIDBI proposes to provide assistance to small scale entrepreneurs through various public sector banks;

(b) if so, whether SIDBI has signed any strategic agreement with such banks;

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

(d) the time by which such assistance from public sector banks for small scale sector will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Since its inception in 1990, SIDBI has been providing refinance assistance to SSI and SME Enterprises through public sector banks. SIDBI has entered into an MOU with five public sector banks for joint financing to the SME sector viz. Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Indian Bank, which would further enhance assistance to the small scale sector.

Assistance by IFAD for Development Project

5202. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) has given assistance for development project in the country particularly for Orissa and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the work undertaken under the said project, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons benefited so far by such project in various parts of the country; and

(d) the terms and conditions of the assistance given by IFAD to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has provided assistance to the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) There is currently no on-going IFAD assisted project in the State of Andhra Pradesh. One IFAD assisted project namely Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme (OTELP) is being implemented in the State of Orissa. This project is expected to benefit a large number of rural poor people.

(d) IFAD assistance is passed on to States in accordance with Additional Central Assistance mechanism.

[Translation]

Cotton Import

5203. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large scale import of cotton coupled with abundant production of cotton this year has led to crash in prices of cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to impose restriction on import of cotton; and

(d) if not, the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to save the domestic cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Due to higher domestic as well as global production, cotton prices during the current cotton year (October 2004-September 2005) are ruling lower than the prices prevailed during the corresponding period last year. Domestic cotton production during the current year is estimated at an all time high of 232 lakh bales as against 177 lakh bales in the last year. Global cotton production in 2004-05 is estimated at 25.91 million tons as against 20.7 million tons in 2003-04. Import of cotton is likely to decrease from 7.21 lakh bales to 6 lakh bales during the current cotton year.

(c) To enable the user textiles mills to procure raw material of desired quality parameters at a competitive price import of cotton is free subject to the payment of customs duty (presently 10%). At present there is no proposal for imposing any other restrictions on import of cotton.

(d) The Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton to improve the quality and productivity of cotton so as to make available quality cotton at a competitive price domestically. Moreover, to protect interests of the cotton growers the Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) of kapas (seed cotton) and whenever the market prices of kapas touches the MSP level the Cotton Corporation of India undertakes MSP operations and purchases kapas without any quantitative restrictions. During the current cotton year the CCI has procured a record 138.35 lakh quintals of kapas equivalent to lint cotton of 26.98 lakh bales.

*[English]***Rural Development Blocks**

5204. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether category of States that have lesser number of Rural Development Blocks;

(b) whether some of the category States level proposed some new Rural Development Blocks and have the paraphernalia in position for such newly created blocks offices;

(c) whether the State Governments have formally recommended the recognition of such newly created Rural Development Blocks; and

(d) if so, the difficulties in recognizing such Blocks and releasing the grant to such Rural Development Blocks to enhance the speed of rural development in backward areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) The subjects relating to the rural development comes under the purview of the State Governments, including creation of new Blocks, restructuring of Blocks, positioning of staff/officials at district/block levels etc. The Ministry of Rural Development do not have any role either in categorizing the States on the basis of Blocks or recognition of such newly created Rural Development Blocks. The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial assistance and guidance to the State Governments for implementation of its schemes/programmes.

*[Translation]***Foreign Financial Institutions**

5205. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Financial Institutions are playing a major role in creating a situation of boom and slump in the stock market since their entry;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and whether the said situation is affecting the health of our economy;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken certain steps to keep the situation in control; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Securities and Exchange Board of India has informed that amongst the various types of investors in the Indian securities market, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) form a significant group and invest according to their perception of the Indian economic fundamentals. With the exception of one year (1998), net FII investments in India have always been positive from inception (1992), till date. During the same period, the stock markets have witnessed a number of cyclical rises and falls. As of March 31, 2005 net investments by FIIs amount to about US \$ 36 billion.

(c) and (d) Investments made by FIIs is governed by the guidelines for Foreign Institutional Investors issued by Government of India and the SEBI (FII) Regulations, 1995, which together lay down certain checks and balances. Some of them being:

1. The FII Regulations, 1995, specifies the categories of institutional investors which are eligible for grant of FII registration. Further, only board-based institutional investors which are regulated in their country of origin, are granted FII registration.
2. The aggregate investment by one FII in a company is subject to an investment limit of ten per cent of the total issued capital of that company. Further, aggregate investments by all FIIs in a company is limited to the FDI sectors cap applicable to the sector to which the

company belongs. additionally, investments by FIs in debt securities are limited to the overall limit specified by the government and to a FI-wise individual limit specified by SEBI. Further, FI investments in futures and options are restricted to the position limits laid down by SEBI.

3. FI can transact business only on the basis of taking and giving deliveries of securities bought and sold and are prohibited from engaging in short selling of securities.

[English]

PMGSY

5206. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sought additional fund from the Union Government to implement Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) whether Rajasthan is one such State which has exhausted most of the available fund under PMGSY;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to sanction additional fund to Rajasthan and other States where the work is pending due to paucity of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Several States, including Rajasthan have requested for additional funds. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is estimated to require approximately Rs. 1,32,000 crore including Rs. 69,450 crore for providing new connectivity. The Bharat Nirman Programme announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 28th February 2005, requires an investment of about Rs. 48,000 crores upto 2009 for rural roads. The funding presently identified for the

programme, from 50% share for rural roads from the cess on High Speed Diesel is inadequate. Additional funding is being arranged, inter-alia, from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank. A loan agreement has been signed with ADB in November 2004 for \$ 400 million for the States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. A loan agreement has been signed with World Bank in August 2004 for a loan/credit of \$ 399.5 million for the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Discussions are at an advanced stage for a second ADB loan of \$ 400 million. Finance Ministry has also been requested to impress upon ADB to advance a third loan of \$ 350 million and club it with the second loan, as well as to expedite a second World Bank IDA loan/credit of \$ 500 million.

[Translation]

Purchase of Cotton at District Level

5207. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme to purchase cotton from cotton producer at district level;

(b) if not, the policy of the Government regarding purchase of cotton;

(c) whether the Government is aware about problems being faced by cotton growers in selling of cotton; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ascertain remunerative price for cotton to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Whenever the market prices of kapas (seed cotton) falls to the level of Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government of India, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) undertakes support price operations, otherwise it procures kapas under its commercial operations at its own risk. While making purchases under MSP operations, the CCI purchases entire kapas offered to it by the farmers at authorized market yards.

(c) and (d) In order to ensure remunerative prices to the cotton farmers the CCI has purchased a record 138.35 lakh quintals of kapas equivalent to lint cotton of 26.98 lakh bales (of 170 Kg. each) under support price operations wherever the market prices have touched the MSP level.

Import of Cotton

5208. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton is being imported by the Government on large scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the price of the imported cotton in Indian market in comparison to the Indian cotton; and

(d) the reasons for import of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Government of India does not import cotton. However, to enable the user textiles mills to procure raw material of desired quality parameters at a competitive price, import of cotton is free, subject to the payment of customs duty (presently 10%). Import of cotton is likely to decrease from 7.21 lakh bales in last cotton year (October 2003-September 04) to 6 lakh bales during the current cotton year (October 2004-September 05).

(c) Average domestic cotton price and average landed price of imported cotton of equivalent variety is given in the following table.

(In Rupees Per Candy For Mills In South/Central India)

Indian Variety	Average Domestic Price	Foreign Equivalent Variety	Average Landed Price of Import at Mill Premises
J-34 (Haryana)	17,308	Pak Alaka	18,609
H-4 (MP)	17,528	Nigerian-Wanac	19,364
S-6	18,672	Turkey Vilma-D	20,306

Note: The comparison of India/Foreign varieties is only indicative.

(d) Import of cotton depends upon a number of factors such as demand, supply, price, quality etc. in both domestic as well as international markets. Varietal imbalance in demand and supply of extra long staple cotton, import under advance Licencing Scheme and under buy-back arrangement are also contributing factors for import of cotton into India.

Production in Handloom

5209. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhagalpur district of Bihar is a major centre of handloom and textile production;

(b) if so, whether this industry is at the verge of closure due to lack of assistance from the Government;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to give a special package for development of handloom and silk industry in Bhagalpur;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up Yarn Bank in Bhagalpur;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which this bank is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such report has been received in the office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms from Government of Bihar.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No request has been received from the Government of Bihar for setting up of Yarn Bank in Bhagalpur.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Shilpagram Project at Guwahati

5210. DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government has taken up the Shil pagram project at Guwahati;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the progress made so far and target set for final commissioning; and

(c) the details of financial assistance provided and action plan contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) There is no scheme of the Government titled Shilpagram project for handicraft sector.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Instructions of SEBI

5211. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued instruction to the listed public sector undertaking (PSUs) to have half of the board members as independent Directors on the board of Directors by April 1, 2005;

(b) if so, whether some of the listed PSUs have expressed their inability to comply with the norms for appointment of independent Directors; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures being taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per the provisions relating to composition of board as given in clause 49 of the listing agreement, listed companies including Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are required to have an optimum combination of Executive and Non-Executive Directors on their Boards with not less than fifty per cent of the Board of Directors comprising of Non-Executive (Independent) Directors. This requirement is in force since February 21, 2000.

(b) and (c) Some PSUs sought clarification from SEBI on whether Government Directors can also be treated as independent Directors. They were informed that Government Directors will not qualify to be considered as independent Directors.

Setting up of Bio-Gas Plants

5212. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for setting up of bio-gas plants in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(b) the targets achieved till date in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The physical target for setting up of family type biogas plants in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan is 10,00,000 against a financial allocation of Rs. 415 crore. The State-wise targets are fixed on year to year basis based on the annual budgetary provisions and the demands projected by the States. The targets allocated State-wise and achievements made during the first three years of the Plan period are enclosed as statement. The cumulative physical achievement during the Plan period so far is 3.88 lakhs plants against a financial allocation of Rs. 127.67 crore.

Statement**National Biogas Programme**

**State-wise targets and achievements during the first three years of the
tenth Five Year Plan (i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05)**

Sl.No.	State/UT/Agency	2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15400	15755	20000	22812	11500	13000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	300	157	300	237	200	136
3.	Assam	200	0	200	298	100	0
4.	Bihar	500	550	4000	31	1000	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	8000	5010	5000	5400	1500	2175
6.	Goa	100	73	100	80	90	88
7.	Gujarat	7000	7002	7000	7414	4000	6474
8.	Haryana	1000	1254	1500	1433	1000	1036
9.	Himachal Pradesh	250	251	250	306	200	247
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	100	0	20	0	10	0
11.	Jharkhand	200	25	1000	34	100	0
12.	Karnataka	20000	17169	27500	8118	11500	11500
13.	Kerala	1500	1465	2500	2369	2500	2576
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10850	12110	12000	11053	7000	4778
15.	Maharashtra	10000	10020	8000	8288	8000	7221
16.	Manipur	300	70	300	81	200	21
17.	Meghalaya	200	112	300	300	200	0
18.	Mizoram	400	197	400	232	400	123
19.	Nagaland	300	75	300	300	300	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Orissa	13000	13002	15000	15231	8000	9000
21.	Punjab	3000	2759	3000	2794	1500	880
22.	Rajasthan	200	176	200	192	0	0
23.	Sikkim	400	400	400	249	200	200
24.	Tamil Nadu	2000	1986	2000	2118	1500	1622
25.	Tripura	300	250	300	200	200	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	10000	10165	10000	9909	7000	5676
27.	Uttaranchal	500	519	500	500	400	478
28.	West Bengal	13000	15790	15400	17367	11500	13473
29.	Others (KVIC, Mumbai SDA, Kerala BIOTECH, Kerala etc.)	31000	30727	32530	24998	19900	17851
Total		150000	147069	170000	142344	100000	98555

• Targets as per the Administrative Sanctions.

** Final reports are still awaited from some of the States.

External Audit

5213. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to introduce external audit for monitoring the progress of the projects for the next fiscal year;

(b) if so, the projects proposed to be brought under the purview of External Audit; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c)

A system for audit of Government expenditure through Comptroller and Audit General of India is already in place. Further, as announced in the Budget Speech for 2005-06, it has been decided to lay emphasis on measurement of development outcomes and programme impact through evaluation of major plan schemes and programmes. These evaluations will provide feedback regarding the relevance and impact of programmes and enable Government to make course corrections to improve quality. Evaluations will be funded from the budgets of the concerned Departments/programmes.

[Translation]

Non-Conventional Energy Sources Projects

5214. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received certain proposals from Madhya Pradesh involving Panchayat Raj institutions and voluntary organizations in Non-Conventional Energy Sources during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the proposals cleared and funds allocated for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry has sanctioned 11 "Test Projects" on Villages Energy Security covering eight districts of Madhya Pradesh, namely, Seoni, Mandla, Hoshangabad, Dhar, Chhindwara, Jhabua, Betul and Harda at a total cost of Rs. 1.76 crore, which includes a Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of Rs. 1.5 crore. An amount of Rs. 0.46 crore has already been released as the first installment during 2004-05. Under these projects, the entire energy needs of cooking, lighting and motive power of a village would be met through biomass, cattle dung and biofuels in conjunction or otherwise with micro-hydel and other renewable energy systems/devices. It is estimated that, on average, the system cost would be Rs. 20,000/household. Upto 90% of this cost would be met through CFA. Plantations of fast growing and oil seed bearing species will also be taken up in these villages. While the village community will own the assets, a village energy committee will operate and maintain the assets.

Farmers Club

5215. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and

Rural Development is contemplating to set up farmers club to promote agriculture in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main objectives of setting up of such clubs;

(c) if not, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(d) the number of such clubs likely to be set up in the country State-wise particularly in Maharashtra;

(e) whether the Government have selected some nationalised banks in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which farmers are likely to be benefitted from these clubs?

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

(b) and (c) NABARD has started the programme of setting up of Farmers' Clubs (earlier called Vikas Volunteer Vahini) in 1983. Since then, under the programme, NABARD is facilitating formation of Farmers' Clubs by banks, agriculture universities, Non-Government Organisations and Krishi Vigyan Kendras. The broad objectives of the Farmers' club are:—

(i) Enrollment of farmers as club members and drawing up of annual calendar of various agriculture events;

(ii) Co-ordination with banks to ensure timely credit flow among its members;

(iii) Interface with subject matter specialists in the various fields of agriculture and allied activities and also arrangement for guest lectures;

(iv) Liaison with corporate input suppliers for purchase of bulk inputs on behalf of members; and

(v) Facilitation in organizing joint activities like value addition, processing, collective farm produce marketing etc. for the benefit of members.

(d) The number of Farmers' Club likely to be set up in the country during the year 2005-06 are 3500, the details are as under:—

Andaman and Nicobar-12; Andhra Pradesh-200; Assam-120; Arunachal Pradesh-20; Bihar-150; Chhattisgarh-100; Delhi-10; Goa-35; Gujarat-225; Himachal Pradesh-65; Jammu and Kashmir-45; Jharkhand-115; Karnataka-250; Kerala-153; Madhya Pradesh-200; Maharashtra-370; Manipur-20; Meghalaya-20; Nagaland-20; Orissa-200; Punjab and Haryana-250; Rajasthan-225; Sikkim-20; Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry-200; Tripura-35; Uttar Pradesh-175; Uttaranchal-100 and West Bengal-165.

(e) and (f) All the Nationalised Banks have been sponsoring Farmers' clubs. The nationalized banks have sponsored 2467 clubs as on 31st March, 2004.

(g) These clubs have helped the farmers in the following manner:—

- (i) Enhancing contact with support agencies like extension agencies, Government Departments and Banks;
- (ii) Increasing awareness in respect of new technologies, package of agricultural practices, soil-testing and the support available from Government Departments and Banks; and
- (iii) Empowering the rural populace, specially women through farmers club training programme.

Organizing activities like cattle fair, village library, legal awareness camps, health camps and afforestation etc.

[English]

Supreme Court observations regarding Anticipatory Bail

5216. SHRI DALPATSINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has made any observation with regard to grant of anticipatory bail by the courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court has recently laid down certain principles/guidelines with regard to the grant of Anticipatory Bail in *Adri Dharan Das vs. West Bengal* 2005(2) SCALE 212: JT 2005(2) SC 548. These guidelines are mainly covered in para 6 to 16 of the judgment, extract of which is enclosed as statement hereto. These guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court are binding in nature and as such all the courts are under obligation to follow them.

Statement

Extracts from 2005(2) SCALE 212

Adri Dharan Das vs West Bengal (Pasayat, J.)

6. In response, learned counsel appearing for the respondent submitted that there is no provision in the Code for the direction not to arrest and if such a direction is given it would be contrary to law. It was also submitted that the appellant has not made out any case for interference and his conduct is not above board. Considering the serious nature of the allegations, it is not a fit case where any order in terms of Section 438 of the Code can be passed. The appellant has abused process of law. He had not been granted protection by the Karnataka High Court which he mis-utilized. The two co-accused who had been granted protection by the High Court are not co-operating in the investigation. It is, therefore, submitted that the application of the appellant has been rightly rejected by the impugned order. By way of clarification Mr. Subramaniam submitted that the order passed by the Karnataka High Court has not been violated. In fact, by order dated 20-10-2003, the learned Single Judge of the Karnataka High Court has clarified that mere filing of charge sheet does not mean that the petitioner has no right to file anticipatory bail application before the concerned competent court and, therefore, the application was filed before the Calcutta High Court.

7. The facility which Section 438 of the Code gives is generally referred to as 'anticipatory bail'. This expression which was used by the Law Commission in its 41st Report is neither used in the section nor in its marginal note. But the expression 'anticipatory bail' is a convenient mode of indication that it is possible to apply for bail in anticipation of arrest. Any order of bail can be effective only from the time of arrest of the accused. Wharton's Law Lexicon explains 'bail' as 'to set at liberty a person arrested or imprisoned, on security being taken for his appearance.' Thus bail is basically release from restraint, more particularly the custody of Police. The distinction between an ordinary order of bail and an order under Section 438 of the Code is that whereas the former is granted after arrest, and therefore means release from custody of the Police, the latter is granted in anticipation of arrest and is therefore effective at the very moment of arrest. [See: *Gur Baksh Singh v. State of Punjab* 1980(2) SCC 565]. Section 46(1) of the Code, which deals with how arrests are to be made, provides that in making an arrest Police officer or other person making the same "shall actually touch or confine the body of the person to be arrested, unless there be a submission to the custody by word or action". The order under Section 438 of the Code is intended to confer conditional immunity from the touch as envisaged by Section 46(1) of the Code or any confinement. The apex Court in *Balachand Jain v. State of Madhya Pradesh* (AIR 1977 SC 366) has described the expression 'anticipatory bail' as misnomer. It is well-known that bail is ordinary manifestation of arrest, that the court thinks first to make an order is that in the event of arrest a person shall be released on bail. Manifestly there is no question of release on bail unless the accused is arrested, and therefore, it is only on an arrest being effected the order becomes operative. The power exercisable under Section 438 is somewhat extraordinary in character and it is only in exceptional case where it appears that the person may be falsely implicated or where there are reasonable grounds for holding that a person accused of an offence is not likely to otherwise misuse his liberty then power is to be exercised under Section 438. The power being of important nature it is

entrusted only to the higher echelons of judicial forums, i.e. the Court of Session or the High Court. It is the power exercisable in case of an anticipated accusation of non-bailable offence. The object which is sought to be achieved by Section 438 of the Code is that the moment a person is arrested, if he had already obtained an order from the Court of Session or High Court, he shall be released immediately on bail without being set to jail.

8. Sections 438 and 439 operate in different fields. Section 439 of the Code reads as follows:

"439. (1) A High Court or Court of Session may direct—

(a) that any person accused of an offence *and in custody be released on bail*, and if the offence is of the nature specified in sub-section (3) of Section 437, may impose any condition which it considers necessary for the purposes mentioned in that sub-section; and

(b) That any condition imposed by the Magistrate when releasing any person on bail be set aside or modified."

(underlined for emphasis)

9. It is clear from a bare reading of the provisions that for making an application in terms of Section 439 of the Code a person has to be in custody. Section 438 of the Code deals with "Direction for grant of bail to person apprehending arrest".

10. In *Salauddin Abdulsamad Shaikh v. State of Maharashtra* (AIR 1996 SC 1042) it was observed as follows:

"Anticipatory bail is granted in anticipation of arrest in non-bailable cases, but that does not mean that the regular court, which is to try the offender, is sought to be bypassed and that is the reason why the High Court very rightly fixed the outer date for the continuance of the bail and on the date of its expiry directed the petitioner to move the regular court for bail. That is the correct procedure to

follow because it must be realised that when the court of Sessions or the High Court is granting anticipatory bail, it is granted at a stage when the investigation is incomplete and, therefore, it is not informed about the nature of evidence against the alleged offender. *It is, therefore, necessary that such anticipatory bail orders should be of a limited duration only and ordinarily on the expiry of that duration or extended duration the court granting anticipatory bail should leave it to the regular court to deal with the matter on an appreciation of evidence placed before it after the investigation has made progress or the charge-sheet is submitted.*

(Emphasis supplied)

11. In *K.L. Verma v. State and Anr.* [1996(7) SCALE 20] this Court observed as follows:

"This Court further observed that anticipatory bail is granted in anticipation of arrest in non-bailable cases, but that does not mean that the regular court, which is to try the offender, is sought to be bypassed. It was, therefore, pointed out that it was necessary that such anticipatory bail orders should be of a limited duration only and ordinarily on the expiry of that duration or extended duration the court granting anticipatory bail should leave it to the regular court to deal with the matter on an appreciation of evidence placed before it after the investigation has made progress or the charge-sheet is submitted. By this, what the Court desired to convey was that an order of anticipatory bail does not ensure till the end of trial but it must be of limited duration as the regular court cannot be bypassed. The limited duration must be determined having regard to the facts of the case and the need to give the accused sufficient time to move the regular court for bail and to give the regular court sufficient time to determine the bail application. *In other words, till the bail application is disposed of one way or the other the court may allow the accused to remain on anticipatory bail. To put it*

differently, anticipatory bail may be granted for a duration which may extend to the date on which the bail application is disposed of or even a few days thereafter to enable the accused persons to move the higher court, if they so desire."

(Emphasis supplied)

12. In *Nirmal Jeet Kaur v. State of M.P. and Another* [2004(7) SCC 558] and *Sunita Devi v. State of Bihar and Anr.* Criminal Appeal arising out of SLP (Crl.) No. 4601 of 2003 disposed of on 6-12-2004 certain grey areas in the case of *K.L. Verma's* case (Supra) were noticed. The same related to the observation "or even a few days thereafter to enable the accused persons to move the Higher Court, if they so desire". It was held that the requirement of Section 439 of the Code is not wiped out by the above observations. Section 439 comes into operation only when a person is "in custody". In *K.L. Verma's* case (supra) reference was made to *Salauddin's* case (supra). In the said case there was no such indication as given in *K.L. Verma's* case (supra), that a few days can be granted to the accused to move the higher Court if they so desire. The statutory requirement of Section 439 of the Code cannot be said to have been rendered totally inoperative by the said observation.

13. In view of the clear language of Section 439 and in view of the decision of this court in *Niranjana Singh and Anr. v. Prabhakar Rajaram Kharote and Ors.* (AIR 1980 SC 785), there cannot be any doubt that unless a person is in custody, an application for bail under Section 439 of the Code would not be maintainable. The question when a person can be said to be in custody within the meaning of Section 439 of the Code came up for consideration before this Court in the aforesaid decision.

14. After analyzing the crucial question is when a person is in custody, within the meaning of Section 439 of the Code, it was held in *Nirmal Jeet Kaur's* case (Supra) and *Sunita Devi's* case (Supra) that for making an application under Section 439 the fundamental requirement is that the accused should be in custody.

As observed in *Salauddin's* case (*supra*) the protection in terms of Section 438 is for a limited duration during which the regular Court has to be moved for bail. Obviously, such bail is bail in terms of Section 439 of the Code, mandating the applicant to be in custody. Otherwise, the distinction between orders under Sections 438 and 439 shall be rendered meaningless and redundant.

15. If the protective umbrella of Section 438 is extended beyond what was laid down in *Salauddin's* case (*supra*) the result would be clear bypassing of what is mandated in Section 439 regarding custody. In other words, till the applicant avails remedies upto higher Courts, the requirements of Section 439 become dead letter. No part of a statute can be rendered redundant in that manner.

16. Section 438 is a procedural provision which is concerned with the personal liberty of an individual who is entitled to plead, innocence, since he is not on the date of application for exercise of power under Section 438 of the Code convicted for the offence in respect of which he seeks bail. The applicant must show that he has 'reason to believe' that he may be arrested in a non-bailable offence. Use of the expression 'reason to believe' that he may be arrested in a non-bailable offence. Use of the expression 'reason to believe' shows that the applicant may be arrested must be founded on reasonable grounds. Mere "fear" is not 'belief' for which reason it is not enough for the applicant to show that he has some sort of vague apprehension that some one is going to make an accusation against him in pursuance of which he may be arrested. Grounds on which the belief on the applicant is based that he may be arrested in non-bailable offence must be capable of being examined. If an application is made to the High Court or the Court of Session, it is for the Court concerned to decide whether a case has been made out of for granting the relief sought. The provisions cannot be invoked after arrest of the accused. A blanket order should not be generally passed. It flows from the very language of the section which requires the applicant to show that he

has reason to believe that he may be arrested. A belief can be said to be founded on reasonable grounds only if there is something tangible to go by on the basis of which it can be said that the applicant's apprehension that he may be arrested is genuine. Normally a direction should not issue to the effect that the applicant shall be released on bail "whenever arrested for whichever offence whatsoever". Such 'blanket order' should not be passed as it would serve as a blanket to cover or protect any and every kind of allegedly unlawful activity. An order under Section 438 is a device to secure the individual's liberty' it is neither a passport to the commission of crimes nor a shield against any and all kinds of accusations likely or unlikely. On the facts of the case, considered in the background of legal position set out above, this does not *prima facie* appear to be a case where any order in terms of Section 438 of the Code can be passed.

Assistance to Unemployed Youth

5217. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has granted/proposes to grant financial assistance to the unemployed youth to provide them self-employment opportunities in the rural areas of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the total funds allocated and released for the same during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) as a major Self Employment Programme in rural areas of the country including the State of West Bengal w.e.f. April, 1999. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to below Poverty Line (BPL) families to enable them to cross the poverty line. It does not specifically target unemployed youths. However, eligible unemployed youths are covered under the scheme. A statement

showing funds allocated and released during the last three years to the state of West Bengal under SGSY is given below:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Year	Central Allocation	Total Release
1.	2002-03	3900.11	1121.19
2.	2003-04	5388.01	2617.59
3.	2004-05	6744.42	4608.31

Centre for Advanced Management and Power Study

5218. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has set up a "Centre for Advanced Management Power Studies" under National Power Training Institute, Faridabad;

(b) if so, the courses offered in this Centre;

(c) the procedure followed for admission of students in these courses;

(d) whether the MBA (Power Management) course is recognized by some Universities;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the source of funding for this Centre; and

(g) the placements offered for students passing out of these Institutes?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The courses offered in the Centre are:—

(i) Two year MBA in Power Management Programme.

(ii) Power Plant Management for Transnational participants sponsored by Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Finance.

(iii) Lead Auditors Course on ISO 9001 and 14001.

(iv) Management Development programmes for working executives like Attitudinal Development, Team Building, Self-Management etc.

(v) Seminars and Conferences on Power Sector issues like Availability Based Tariff, Open Access in Transmission Lines, Power Exchange, Power Trading, Electricity Act, 2003, Regulatory issues, Power Sector Reforms, Energy Efficiency and Power Environment Interface etc.

(c) The procedure followed for admission of students in these courses is as follows:—

(i) Admission into 2 year MBA in Power Management programme is done by the affiliating University Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak. The prospective candidates seeking admission have to appear in the Management Aptitude Test (MAT) being conducted by All India Management Association (AIMA) on All India basis. Thereafter, short-listed candidates in the order of merit are called for Group Discussions and Personal interviews being conducted by Maharishi Dayanand University representatives. The maximum number of seats (including reservation for SC/ST candidates) per year is limited to 60. (Non-sponsored 40, Sponsored 17, NRI 03).

(ii) Admission to Trans-national Power Plant Management programme is done by Ministry of External Affairs; Government of India.

(iii) The nominations for other short-term courses are invited from the different power sector organizations on chargeable basis.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The MBA (Power Management) Programme is approved by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and is recognized and affiliated to Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak.

(f) The Centre is self-sustained in view of revenue earned in the form of fee received from MBA students

and participation fee received from the trainees of short-term courses.

(g) The students of first batch passed out have got cent percent placement. The placement of second batch students passing out in July, 2005 is in progress and is also expected to be cent percent shortly in the reputed companies like Credit Rating Information Services India Ltd., (CRISIL), Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG), Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC), Reliance Energy, etc.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification

5219. SHIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of the Madhya Pradesh Government regarding electrification of 37 villages located in inaccessible and forest area through non-conventional energy sources are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared;

(c) whether financial assistance is provided 40 per cent in the form of grants and 60 per cent as loan as per the rural electrification policy;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to increase the grant more than 40 per cent in view of geographical condition of Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the likely increase in the grants and percentage terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd (MPUVN), the State Nodal Agency, have forwarded proposals for electrification of 82 remote

villages in the State through non-conventional energy sources. These include 49 villages in the forest area.

The proposals would be considered in terms of the provisions of the Scheme for Remote Village Electrification after it is approved for implementation during 2005-06.

(c) Under the Remote Village Electrification Programme of the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources, Central Financial Assistance upto 90 per cent of the Eligible project cost is provided for electrification of remote villages through non-conventional energy sources.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Oil Seeds Plants for Bio-diesel

5220. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the oil seed plants, used in the production of Bio-diesel;

(b) regions, where these plants are found and the quantity of their availability; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to encourage its cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Bio-diesel can be produced from edible oil seeds like sunflower, rapeseed, soyabean etc. and various non-edible oil seeds. In the Indian context, non-edible oil seed trees are the preferred route for bio-diesel production. The promising non-edible oilseed tree species in India are jatropha, karanja, kusum, mahua, neem, sal, Salvador among others. These non-edible oil producing tree species and shrubs are spread all over the country and grow in diverse agro-climatic regions. According to the Report on Development of Bio-fuel prepared by Planning

Commission in 2003, the potential of total non-edible oils in India is around 0.1 MMT per annum.

(c) The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for processing the recommendations of the Report on Development of Bio-fuel, prepared by Planning Commission. The main recommendation of the Report include launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with special focus on plantation of *Jatropha curcas*. The Ministry of Rural Development have informed that Draft Project Report (DPR) for this mission has been submitted to the Planning Commission for their 'in principle' approval and is also being processed for submission to the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for approval.

[Translation]

Energy Parks

5221. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up 'Energy Parks' during the year 2005-06 in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the districts have been selected to provide this facility; State-wise particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Energy Park Scheme for setting up Energy Parks is proposed to be continued during 2005-06. The scheme includes District level and State level Energy Parks. As per existing guidelines, one state level park can be set up in each state and upto two district level parks can be set up in a district.

(c) The districts and the institutions in these districts for setting up Energy Parks are not selected by the Ministry. The State implementing agencies recommend the District Energy Park proposals to the Ministry, which considers them as per the guidelines of the Energy Park

Scheme. So far, 375 District level Energy Parks, which include 34 District level Energy Parks in Maharashtra, have been sanctioned in the country as per details given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise Break-up of the District Level Energy Parks Sanctioned (till 31-3-2005)

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Energy Parks
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
3.	Assam	11
4.	Bihar	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	9
6.	Delhi	11
7.	Goa	2
8.	Gujarat	10
9.	Haryana	16
10.	Himachal Pradesh	12
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	7
12.	Jharkhand	15
13.	Karnataka	19
14.	Kerala	14
15.	Madhya Pradesh	11
16.	Maharashtra	34
17.	Manipur	10
18.	Meghalaya	6

1	2	3
19.	Mizoram	7
20.	Nagaland	5
21.	Orissa	9
22.	Punjab	19
23.	Rajasthan	10
24.	Sikkim	4
25.	Tamil Nadu	19
26.	Tripura	9
27.	Uttar Pradesh	38
28.	West Bengal	10
29.	Uttaranchal	8
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6
31.	Chandigarh	3
32.	Pondicherry	2
33.	Others (ICAR)	10
Total		375

[English]

Pooyamkutty Hydro Power Project

5222. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hydro power projects commissioned during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the details and number of the ongoing power projects, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has project reports with regard to Pooyamkutty Hydro Power Project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The list of Hydro power projects commissioned in the last three years, State-wise is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) The details and number of ongoing hydro power projects, State-wise is enclosed as statement-II.

(c) and (d) The Pooyamkutty (actually named as Puyankutty) Hydro-electric Project (2x120 MW) was cleared by the Central Electricity Authority in January, 1984 at an estimated cost of Rs. 250 crores. The project was also sanctioned by the Planning Commission in August, 1986 subject to clearance from the forest angle. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) rejected the proposal in January, 1991 as the project was located in the prime forest area of the Western Ghats. The Project was again reviewed by Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1996 and was rejected by them on the ground of "adverse ecological impact". On recommendations of an Expert Committee, the State Government had been asked to carry out studies pertaining to (i) Environment Impact Assessment, (ii) Social Impact Assessment, (iii) Social and Environmental cost-benefit analysis; and (iv) Engineering Evaluation.

The Tropical Botanical Garden Research Institute (TBGRI) at Palode was entrusted with the task of assessment of the ecologically sustainable optimum submergence level by the State Electricity Board. TBGRI carried out the studies and submitted its report to Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) in July, 2003. As informed by KSEB, the Engineering Evaluation, Social Impact Assessment and Social and Environmental Cost Benefit Analysis will require recasting. The Detailed Project Report would also need to be modified by KSEB in view of the change in project components based on the report of Tropical Botanical Garden Research Institute (TBGRI) report submitted to KSEB. The detailed DPR of the project is under preparation by KSEB.

Statement-I*Hydro power projects commissioned during the last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of Project/State/Organization Nos. x Size=Capacity MW, sector	Unit No.	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
Units commissioned during the year 2002-03			
1.	Bansagar Tons PH-III Madhya Pradesh/MPEB 3x20=60 MW, State Sector	3	20
2.	Bansagar Tons PH-II Madhya Pradesh/MPEB 2x15=30 MW, State Sector	2	15
3.	Srisaillam LBPH Andhra Pradesh/APGENO 6x150=9000 MW, State Sector	4 5	150 150
4.	Sardar Sarovar CHPH Gujarat/SSNL 5x50=250 MW, State Sector	2 3	50 50
5.	Baspa H.E. Project Himachal Pradesh/JPHPL 3x100=300 MW, Private Sector	1 2	100 100
Total (8 Units)			635 MW
Units commissioned during the year 2003-04			
6.	Chamera Stage-II Himachal Pradesh/NHPC 3x100=300 MW, Central Sector	1 2 3	100 100 100

1	2	3	4
7.	Nathpa Jhakri	6	250
	Himachal Pradesh/SJVNL	5	250
	6x250=1500 MW, Central Sector	4	250
		3	250
		2	250
		1	250
8.	Kopli St. II	1	25
	Assam/NEEPCO		
	1x25=25 MW, Central Sector		
9.	Indira Sagar	1	125
	Madhya Pradesh/NHDC (JV NHPC)	2	125
	8x125=1000 MW, Central Sector	3	125
		4	125
10.	Srisaillam LBPH	6	150
	Andhra Pradesh/APGENCO		
	6x150=900 MW, State Sector		
11.	Almatti Dam	1	15
	Karnataka/KPCL		
	1x15+5x55=290 MW, State Sector		
12.	Baspa H.E. Project	3	100
	Himachal Pradesh/JPHPL		
	3x100=300 MW, Private Sector		
Total (17 Units)			2590 MW
Units commissioned during the year 2004-05			
13.	Indira Sagar	5	125

1	2	3	4
	Madhya Pradesh/NHDC (JV NHPC)	6	125
	8x125=1000 MW, Central Sector	7	125
		8	125
14.	Sardar Sarovar CHPH	1	50
	Gujarat/SSNL	4	50
	5x50=250 MW, State Sector	5	50
15.	Almatti Dam	2	55
	Karnataka/KPCL	3	55
	1x15+5x55=290 MW, State Sector	4	55
16.	Sardar Sarovar RBPH	1	200
	Gujarat/SSNL		
	6x200 MW, State Sector		
Total (11 Units)			1015 MW
Grand Total			4240 MW

Statement-II*State-wise Details of Ongoing Hydropower Projects***A. Ongoing hydro power projects under execution.**

Sector, State	Project Name	Installed Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
Central Sector		
Arunachal Pradesh	1. Kameng	600
	2. Subansiri Lower	2000
Himachal Pradesh	3. Parbati St-II	800
	4. Koldam	800

1	2	3
Jammu and Kashmir	5. Dulhasti	390
Jammu and Kashmir	6. Sewa-II	120
Madhya Pradesh	7. Omkareshwar	520
Sikkim	8. Teesta St—V	510
Uttaranchal	9. Dhauliganga	280
	10. Koteswar	400
	11. Tehri St. I	1000
West Bengal	12. Teesta Low Dam-III	132
	Sub-Total:	7522 MW
State Sector		
Andhra Pradesh	13. Priyadarshini Jurala	78
		156
Assam	14. Karbi Langpi	100
Gujarat	15. Sardar Sarovar RBPH	1000
Himachal Pradesh	16. Larji	126
	17. Uhl-III	100
Jammu and Kashmir	18. Baglihar-I	450
Karnataka	19. Almatti Dam	110
Kerala	20. Kuttiyadi Addl. Ext.	100
Madhya Pradesh	21. Madhikheda	40
	22. Bansagar Tons PH-IV	20
Maharashtra	23. Ghatghar PSS	250
Meghalaya	24. Myntdu	84
Orrisa	25. Balimela Ext.	150
Tamil Nadu	26. Bhawani Barrage-I	30
	27. Pykara Ultimate	150

1	2	3
Uttaranchal	28. Maneri Bhali-II	304
West Bengal	29. Purilia PSS	900
	Sub-Total:	4148 MW

Private Sector

Uttaranchal	30. Vishnu Prayag	400
	Sub-Total:	400 MW
	Total: =30 Projects	12100 MW

B. Projects under Hold/Award/Works yet to commence

Sector, State	Project Name	Installed Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
Central Sector		
Manipur	1. Loktak D/s	90
Mizoram	2. Tuirial	60
	Sub-Total:	150 MW
State Sector		
Himachal Pradesh	3. Kashand I	66
Karnataka	4. Varahi Extn	230
Orissa	5. Balimela Dam Toe PH	60
Tamil Nadu	6. Bhawani Barrage-II	30
	7. Bhawani Barrage-III	30
Uttaranchal	8. Lakhwar Vyasi	420
	Sub-Total:	836 MW

1	2	3
Private Sector		
Himachal Pradesh	9. Allain Duhangan	192
	10. Karcham Wangtoo	1000
	11. Dhamvari Sunda	70
Madhya Pradesh	12. Maheshwar	400
Uttaranchal	13. Srinagar	330
Sub-Total:		1992 MW
Total=13 projects		2978 MW
Grand Total (A+B)=12100+2978 MW=		15078 MW

Investment in Nationalised Banks

5223. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is getting 20% to 80% dividends by way of their investment in the nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) For the year 2003-04, 13 nationalised banks paid an amount of Rs. 1015 crores as dividend which is 19.50% of the total equity held by Govt. in these banks. Further, for the year 2004-05, ten nationalised banks have paid Rs. 444.65 crores as interim dividend.

Violation by Insurance Companies

5224. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority is seized of unethical ways of operation by insurance companies in selling insurance products of intricate nature through telemarketing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the IRDA proposes to enforce strict vigilance over such companies selling insurance products through multi-level marketing;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether many insurance companies selling life insurance policies are tying up with those selling general insurance policies in violation of IRDA regulations; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to curb such unethical practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Insurance Policies are legal contracts. Insurer accepts the risk based on the material information submitted in the proposal form and after collecting the premium, issues the policies, clearly mentioning the scope of cover, terms, conditions and exclusions etc. Standard policies are also canvassed through telemarketing.

(c) and (d) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) is concerned about the wrong selling practices taking place through multi-level marketing

channels. Based on the complaints received, IRDA has initiated action against some of the companies. IRDA has suspended issuing of fresh Corporate Agency licence by the insurers. IRDA has made specific provisions in the draft guidelines on Corporate Agency Regulations discouraging multi level marketing, which have been circulated to insurers recently.

(e) and (f) IRDA has declined the requests from some of the insurers for entering into such tie ups as the provisions of Insurance Act, 1938 and IRDA Regulations do not allow granting of permission for such an arrangement.

Coparcenary Rights of Women in Andhra Pradesh

5225. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the Hindu Succession Andhra Pradesh (Amendment) Act, 1986 and the changes it has brought about in the rights of daughters in relation to ancestral property of Hindus;

(b) whether the National Commission for Women has carried out a study of the coparcenary rights of women in Andhra Pradesh in the light of this amendment; and

(c) the recommendations made by the report and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Handloom Export Promotion Council

5226. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom weavers and artisans who are member of the Handloom Export Promotion Council;

(b) the details of the expenditure made by the Handloom Export Promotion Council during each of the last three years;

(c) the status of utilisation of amount allocated under Marketing Promotion Programme;

(d) whether the Implementation of Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 is a success; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Handloom Export Promotion Council does not have a segregated list of weavers and artisans in its membership roll. Only the exporters, both merchant as well as manufacturers, enroll themselves as members of the Council. As on 31-3-2005, the total number of the Members of the Council stands at 2,088.

(b) Expenditure details of the Handloom Export Promotion Council during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 on various heads are as under:—

Various heads	Expenditure incurred in Rupees		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Administrative Expenses	91,54,894.60	91,11,816.65	1,01,46,833.65
Promotional Expenses	1,35,78,667.50	3,37,29,128.70	5,15,25,091.90
Miscellaneous Expenses	12,33,862.25	8,03,319.05	9,54,281.05
Total	2,39,67,424.35	4,36,44,264.40	6,26,26,206.60

(c) During the year 2004-05, the Handloom Export Promotion Council was released a sum of Rs. 301.09 lakh under Marketing Promotional Programmes including Market Development Assistance (MDA) provided by Department of Commerce, of which Rs. 300.88 lakh was utilised and balance utilisation of Rs. 0.21 lakh is awaited from the Council.

(d) and (e) The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 was enacted with a view to protect the interest of the handloom weavers from the encroachment made on their livelihood by the powerloom and mill sectors. Under the Act 11 textile articles or class of articles are reserved for exclusive production on handlooms. So far, 188 cases of violation of the Act have been booked by the implementing agencies, out of which 146 cases ended in conviction and remaining 42 cases are pending in the courts.

Increase of Assistance to Weavers

5227. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the rate of financial assistance to the weavers from 12 per cent to 15 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any schemes for the benefit of the weavers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government of India is implementing following schemes for the benefit of handloom weavers:

- (1) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.
- (2) Marketing Promotion Programme.
- (3) Handloom Export Scheme.
- (4) Mill Gate Price Scheme.
- (5) Workshop-cum-Housing Scheme.

(6) Weavers Welfare Schemes comprising of:—

- Health Package Scheme
- Thrift Fund Scheme
- New Insurance Scheme

(7) Bunkar Bima Yojana.

(8) Integrated Handloom Training Project.

(9) Design Development and Training Programme.

(10) Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

[Translation]

Suggestion by Law Commission

5228. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has suggested to the Government to set up a high powered regulatory body to check the misuse of funds mobilized by the private agencies for carrying out relief and rehabilitation work in the event of natural or manmade disasters; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Law Commission of India in its 191st Report dated 15-12-2004 on Regulation of Funds Collected for Calamity Relief has recommended the establishment of a Contribution Regulatory Authority. The Report has been forwarded to different Departments for consideration.

Simplification of Tax Laws

5229. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to simplify the tax laws so as to make simple and tax payers friendly;

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

(c) to what extent such a step can help in achieving higher growth rate in the coming years?

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

(b) The scope of the exercise to simplify the tax laws will extend to all the provisions relating to the tax structure, compliance procedures and administration so as to facilitate voluntary compliance.

(c) Simple and tax payer friendly tax laws encourage voluntary tax compliance and increase the tax buoyancy.

[English]

NPA of Cooperative Banks

5230. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has prescribed additional provisioning requirements for NPAs of State and District Co-operative Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NPAs of cooperative banks have been mounting day by day; and

(d) if so, the strategies to be adopted to check such NPAs of cooperative banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Additional provisioning requirement for NPAs was prescribed by RBI for State Cooperative Banks (SCBs)/ District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) vide RBI circular dated December 30, 2002, with a extension of 90 days norms to them for recognition of loan impairment from the year ending March 31, 2006, so as to facilitate smooth transition to the 90 days norm from the existing 180 days.

The prudential norms pertaining to State Government guaranteed exposures i.e. advances and investments, were reviewed and instructions were issued to SCBs/DCCBs vide RBI circular dated January 20, 2005, to delink the requirement of invocation of State Government guarantee for Asset classification and provisioning in respect thereof and subject them to the same norms as applicable to exposures not guaranteed by the State Government. Further, graded additional provisioning according to the age of NPAs in 'doubtful for more than 3 years' category has been introduced for SCBs/DCCBs, with effect from April 01, 2007.

(c) Based on the records of the Statutory Inspection conducted by NABARD, the level of NPAs of SCBs/DCCBs has been observed to be mounting.

(d) As regards SCBs/DDCBs, NABARD has issued a comprehensive guidelines for NPA Management which, inter-alia, includes loan recovery policy and its effective implementation, setting up of recovery cells, strengthening Credit Management System, time bound plan for reduction of NPAs, filing of claims with courts in respect of willful defaulters, besides, preventive measures, for example proper credit appraisal and management, quick diagnosis and remedial measures of potential and borderline NPA accounts.

Adherence to these guidelines/instructions by Cooperative Banks are periodically monitored by NABARD during regular Statutory Inspection and through off—site surveillance system.

Auditing of Accounts of Vanished Companies

5231. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of companies whose accounts were duly audited by chartered accountants have vanished;

(b) if so, the number of such vanished companies during each of the last three years till date;

(c) whether investor body has demanded an investigation into the auditor's role in such vanishing companies;

(d) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government against such companies as well as on chartered accountants during the said period; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such activities in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA):

(a) Yes, Sir. At present, 115 companies stand identified as vanished companies.

(b) No such case meeting the criteria agreed to by Ministry of Company Affairs and Securities and Exchange Board of India for treating a company as vanished, has been reported/noticed during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Midas Touch Investors Association had taken up the matter with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) which is a statutory body set up under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, for investigation into role of Chartered Accountants of "Vanishing Companies" and sought action by ICAI against those Auditors who were negligent and/or violated the Code of Conduct.

Cases in respect of certain Chartered Accountants/Auditors are under process in accordance with statutory provisions.

(e) Following steps have been taken in this direction:—

(i) A Coordination and Monitoring Mechanism between Ministry of Company Affairs and Securities and Exchange Board of India has been put in place to continuously monitor this phenomenon.

(ii) Prosecutions have been filed against the unscrupulous companies, their promoters/directors under various provisions of the Companies Act. Similarly, action has also been initiated by filing First Information Reports against these promoters/directors under the

Indian Penal Code. These steps are likely to act as deterrents for others as well.

(iii) Securities and Exchange Board of India has debarred the promoters/directors of Vanishing Companies from entering the Capital Market for a period of five years.

[Translation]

Problems of Opium Growers

5232. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations regarding the problems of the opium growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the problems of opium growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received, from time to time, regarding the problems of the opium cultivators.

(b) The main problems highlighted in the representation pertain to cancellation of licence, fixation of the Minimum Qualifying Yield criteria for grant of licence, testing of opium for determination of grade, compensation on account of damage to the opium crop, uprooting of the opium crop under Departmental supervision, renewal of licence in case of damage to the poppy crop due to natural calamity, expansion of opium cultivation area by issue of new licence, increase in the procurement price of opium, etc.

(c) Over the years several measures have been taken to solve the problems of opium cultivators. All representations relating to the problems of cultivators are attended to and remedial action taken to resolve the same. The Opium Licensing Order, which lays down the conditions of licence, for any crop year is finalized

after considering the problems faced by the opium cultivators in the preceding crop year. Efforts are made to promptly attend to the supervision of uprooting of the unlaunched opium crop in all cases where application for uprooting of such crop is received. In other cases also, action is initiated to conduct survey of the concerned areas to ascertain the extent of damage to the poppy crop, if any, due to natural calamity, etc. Periodic meetings of the Grievance/Advisory Committees are held at the Unit Headquarters to redress the grievances of cultivators and suggestions received are examined for appropriate action.

Shetty Commission

5233. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted Shetty Commission for fixing pay and allowance of judges and to bring parity in it;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the number of States providing pay and allowances and other facilities to the Judges in accordance with the said report at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the First National Judicial Pay Commission (FNJPC) (Shetty Commission) was constituted by the Government of India on 21-3-1996 under the Chairmanship of Justice K.J. Shetty. The Commission submitted its Report to the Prime Minister on 11-11-1999. The Commission made wide ranging recommendations covering salary structure, emoluments and other conditions of service of judicial officers throughout the country, including higher pay for judicial officers. The various recommendations of FNJPC have been implemented by the Central Government, with approval from the Cabinet, in so far as they relate to the judicial officers of the Union Territories, including the NCT

of Delhi for which the Central Government is administratively responsible, vide orders dated 11-10-2001, 11-3-2002 and 11-02-2005.

(e) Since the Department of Justice is administratively responsible in respect of judicial officers in the Union Territories only, the detailed information regarding implementation of the recommendations of Shetty Commission in States is not available with us. However, the Supreme Court is also monitoring the implementation of the Shetty Commission recommendations by all the States, who are also respondents in the WP (Civil) No. 1022 to 1989—All India Judges Association and ors Vs. Union of India and ors.

[English]

Customs Duty on Sugar

5234. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether around 6.77 lac metric tons of raw sugar was imported by various companies during 2002-03 and 2003-04 under the Advance Licensing Scheme subject to fulfilling export obligation within the stipulated period;

(b) if so, whether these companies have met export obligation;

(c) whether the period of export obligation was varied by Government from 18 months to 24 months and then 36 months;

(d) if so, reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government has allowed permission for sale of processed sugar in the domestic market during the period of extension, and if so customs duties levied if any;

(f) whether there have been breach of export obligation by these companies by diverting processed sugar for sale in domestic market; and

(g) if so, the loss of revenue to the exchequer in respect of non payment of customs duty normally payable on the corresponding raw sugar imported by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) 2.66 lac metric tonnes of raw sugar was imported by various companies during 2002-03 and 2003-04 under the Advance Licensing Scheme.

(b) Some of the companies have fulfilled the export obligation and others have sought extension of time limit for fulfilling the same.

(c) and (d) The period of export obligation has been changed by the Government from 18 months to 24 months as a conscious policy decision.

(e) and (f) In order to augment the supply of sugar in the country the Government has taken a decision in public interest to permit sale of processed sugar in the domestic market. There is no breach of export obligation in such cases because, the Advance License holder will have to fulfil the export obligation within the specified period.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

Kayamkulam Power Project

5235. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of power generated from the Naphtha based Kayamkulam power station of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is very high due to high cost of Naphtha;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to supply Naphtha at cheaper rates or convert the plant to coal based in order to reduce the cost of the power generation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The variable charges for Kayamkulam power are high. The prevailing rate of naphtha is Rs. 24727.57/MT and the variable charge is around Rs. 4.5 per Kilo Watt Hour (k Wh). Alternative fuel for Kayamkulam is Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)/Gas. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is making efforts for sourcing

of LNG at competitive rates for use in its expansion plan of Kayamkulam as well as in Stage-I of the Station.

Construction of Roads

5236. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Government of Orissa to construct 8 roads in 7 left wing extremism affected districts in Orissa in the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 476.00 lakhs has been earmarked for 51.14 km. and has been released to Orissa; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Government of Orissa forwarded proposals under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for construction of 8 roads for a length of 51.14 kms. valued at Rs. 11.13 crores in 7 left wing extremist affected districts of Orissa. The State Government has been asked on 22-1-05 to provide certain clarifications on eligibility of these roads under the PMGSY. A response from Government of Orissa has not so far been received.

PMGSY

5237. SHRI CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made any survey to identify the Core network about 1.70 lakh unconnected habitations need to be connected under the PMGSY;

(b) if so, the complete details of State of J and K with district-wise details of unconnected habitations particularly in the districts of Udhampur-Kathua-Doda;

(c) whether the Government is planning to cover these unconnected habitations during the financial years 2004-2005; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) As per the latest estimates based on surveys conducted by the State Governments to identify the Core Networks, 1,72,772 Habitations in the rural areas of the country are eligible for coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

(b) In the State of Jammu and Kashmir, 2792 Habitations comprising 785 Habitations of population of 1000 or more, 942 Habitations of population 500-999 and 1065 Habitations of 250-499 were found to be eligible for coverage under the programme. The Ministry of Rural Development has already cleared proposals of the State for coverage of 300 Habitations, upto Phase III (2003-04) of the programme. Since rural roads is a State subject, District level details of unconnected Habitations are not maintained at Central level. State Governments are required to place these details in the programme website www.pmgsonline.nic.in.

(c) and (d) The State Government is to make annual proposals based on the budget provisions and allocation therefrom. As per the PMGSY guidelines, the State Government is required to make its proposals giving preference to connecting Habitations with higher populations. Proposals of the State Government for Phase IV (2004-05) and Phase V (2005-06) are awaited.

Subsidy to Small Powerloom

5238. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide subsidy for technical advancement of small powerlooms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of powerlooms in the country at present, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat;

(d) the quantum of textile produced annually by powerlooms particularly in Gujarat; and

(e) the extent to which the subsidy for technical advancement of small powerlooms will be helpful?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has already implemented w.e.f. 06-11-2003, a 20% credit linked capital subsidy scheme for benchmarked technology pertaining to weaving and preparatory machinery in the powerloom sector. The investment limit on this machinery has been raised to Rs. 1.00 crore with effect from 13-01-2005 from the previous limit of Rs. 60,00 lakhs. The powerloom sector is free to choose between benefits under this scheme or the 5% interest subsidy under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS).

(c) The details of total number of powerlooms in the country, State-wise, is enclosed as statement.

(d) the production for the last 3 years in respect of the decentralized powerloom sector alongwith the estimated production figures of Gujarat state in sa follows:—

Year	Production in Textiles (in million sq. meters)	
	All India	Gujarat State
2001-02	25192	4812
2002-03	25954	4880
2003-04	26947	4985

(e) The decentralized powerloom sector suffers from technological obsolescence, low level of technical skills, poor productivity, poor product quality and low unit value realization from exports. The above Scheme is aimed at helping rapid modernization and technology upgradation so that the powerloom sector reaps the benefits of cost-competitiveness in the international market.

Statement

Position of the State/Union Territory-wise Installation of Powerlooms as on 31-03-05

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Unit/looms reg. under the erstwhile (Textiles Control) Order A, 1986		Unit/looms covered under the textiles (D and R) order 1992 and The Textiles (D and R)				Updated position of unit/looms		No. of Workers as at the end of the Month
		Upto the Previous Month		Added During the Month						
		No. of Units	No. of Looms	No. of Units	No. of Looms	No. of Units	No. of Looms	No. of Units	No. of Looms (3B+4B+5B)	
(1)	(2)	(3A)	(3B)	(4A)	(4B)	(5A)	(5B)	(6A)	(6B)	(7)
I. State										
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5656	37696	4025	6456	6	22	9687	44174	110435
2.	Assam	261	2726	0	0	0	0	261	2726	6815
3.	Bihar	1439	2850	4	44	0	0	1443	2894	7235
4.	Goa	18	122	0	0	0	0	18	122	305
5.	Gujarat	28167	257658	4015	64699	1	12	32183	322369	805923
6.	Haryana	2647	9844	8	57	0	0	2655	9901	24753
7.	Himachal Pradesh	159	1302	23	159	0	0	182	1461	3653
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	56	65	0	0	56	65	163
9.	Karnataka	21146	61967	4333	19902	0	0	24579	81869	204673
10.	Kerala	434	1971	226	760	0	0	660	2731	6828
11.	Madhya Pradesh	15106	32981	15559	42752	1	1	30666	75734	189335

12. Maharashtra	146749	472509	67017	382834	542	4952	214308	860295	2150738
13. Orissa	754	3151	38	170	0	0	792	3321	8303
14. Punjab	3412	21618	249	2002	0	0	3661	23620	59050
15. Rajasthan	3624	27793	394	4516	0	0	4018	32309	80773
16. Tamil Nadu	56365	227135	17458	135939	493	2723	74316	365797	914493
17. Uttar Pradesh	25028	65366	101	598	0	0	25129	65964	164910
18. West Bengal	806	4180	80	479	2	6	888	4665	11663
19. Delhi	124	1102	0	0	0	0	124	1102	2755
20. Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
II. Union Territory									
21. Chandigarh	11	42	0	0	0	0	11	42	105
22. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	17	444	21	518	0	0	38	962	2405
23. Pondicherry	117	830	0	0	0	0	117	830	2075
24. Andaman and Nikobar, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	312040	1233287	112707	661950	1045	7716	425792	1902953	4757383

**Stagnation in Production Capacity of
Textiles Mills**

5239. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the weaving capacity of the organised mill sector has stagnated;

(b) whether the Government has made any study to find out the reasons behind such stagnation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the target set and achievements made for production of cloth during each of the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the capacity of organised mill sector for production of cloth?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The weaving capacity of

the organised sector mills (composite units and exclusive weaving units) showed a mixed trend during the last three years as can be seen from the table below:—

('Zero' Numbers)

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Looms in the organised sector (including exclusive weaving units)	36118	34037	34258

(b) and (c) Though the Government has not got done any study to find out the reasons behind such stagnation, the available data indicate that the fall/stagnancy in the weaving capacity is attributed to competition from decentralised weaving sector including powerloom sector and the discriminatory excise duty structure in favour of decentralised sector which prevailed for a very long period. The drastic fall in weaving capacity in 2003-04 is due to closure of 57 composite mills including 35 National Textile Corporation Mills.

(d) The target and achievement of cloth production during the last three years is given below:—

(Million Square Meter)

Item	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Total cloth production	44500	41973	47100	42383	49900	45349

(e) The steps taken by the Government, in the recent past, to enhance the capacity of the organised mill sector for production of cloth include:—

- Rationalization of excise duty structure to bring organized sector at par with decentralized sector in the Budget 2004-05.
- Coverage of weaving sector under TUFs.
- Concessional import duty of 5% with nil Counter-Vailing Duty (CVD) on import of shuttle less looms.

[Translation]

Wages to Textile Workers of Tamil Nadu

5240. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers engaged in textiles sector in Tamil Nadu are getting less wages in comparison to such workers in other States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to take any steps to increase the share of the workers in the profit or to increase their wages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

PMGSY

5241. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of roads proposed to be constructed under PMGSY during 2005-06, State-wise; and

(b) the amount allocated for the said fiscal year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Proposals for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are made by the State Governments, on the basis of allocation indicated by the Ministry of Rural Development. The proposals for the year 2005-06 have so far been received from the States of Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, for 1186 road works.

(b) The State-wise allocation of the cess on High Speed Diesel earmarked for PMGSY in accordance with the provisions of the Central Road Fund Act is given in the statement enclosed. Funds made available under World Bank/Asian Development Bank loans to 6 project States are not governed by the provisions of the Act and are not included.

Statement

Tentative State-wise Allocation of the Cess on High Speed Diesel earmarked for PMGSY during 2005-06

Sl. No.	State	Allocation (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52
3.	Assam	176
4.	Bihar	332
5.	Chhattisgarh	235
6.	Goa	5
7.	Gujarat	60
8.	Haryana	25
9.	Himachal Pradesh	82
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	60
11.	Jharkhand	170
12.	Karnataka	105
13.	Kerala	25
14.	Madhya Pradesh	435
15.	Maharashtra	140
16.	Manipur	28
17.	Meghalaya	40
18.	Mizoram	27
19.	Nagaland	25
20.	Orissa	228
21.	Punjab	30

1	2	3
22.	Rajasthan	229
23.	Sikkim	25
24.	Tamil Nadu	85
25.	Tripura	35
26.	Uttar Pradesh	370
27.	Uttaranchal	95
28.	West Bengal	221
Total		3480

[Translation]

Funds Allocated under SGSY

5242. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons to whom funds have been allocated by various branches of banks in the country under Centrally sponsored Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana;

(b) whether the Government is aware that non-allocation of funds by banks to unemployed persons has led to resentment in them;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to take action against the banks which have allocated funds to the unemployed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), subsidy being only a minor and enabling element. The financing of the programme is shared between the centre and the states

in the ratio of 75:25. The Central allocation earmarked is distributed in relation to the poverty in states. Since inception of the programme from 1st April, 1999 a total of 54,48,556 Swarozgaries have been assisted under SGSY.

(b) to (d) Ministry is aware of the fact that banks are lagging behind in credit mobilisation under the scheme. Ministry has been taking up the matter of poorly performing banks at various fora, and also with Ministry of Finance, RBI, State Governments and the concerned individual banks for stepping up credit flow.

Wind and Solar Energy

5243. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on wind and solar energy during the last financial year separately;

(b) the total power demand met through these sources during the period.

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the same in the coming financial years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Information on the expenditure incurred and capacities of wind and solar energy systems installed during the financial year 2004-05 is enclosed as statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Higher targets have been planned for installation of various wind and solar energy systems during the financial year 2005-06, which include commercial wind power projects, Small Wind Energy/Hybrid Systems, and solar photovoltaic and thermal systems for rural, urban and industrial applications.

Statement

Sector	Expenditure	Installed
Wind Energy Programme	Rs. 15.48 Crore	— Commercial wind power projects: 1111 MW. — Aero-generators/hybrid systems: 40 KW
Solar Energy Programme	Rs. 28.35 Crore	— Solar Photovoltaic Sysems: 2.71 MWp — Solar Thermal Systems: 30,000 Sq. mtr. Collector area.

Non-functioning of High Court Benches

5244. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some benches of High Courts in the country are non-functional;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date;

(c) the names of High Courts whose benches have been sought to be made functional again; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

T and D of Power in M.P.

5245. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh is not getting the optimum benefits in terms of power being generated through Indira Sagar and Sardar Sarovar Dam in the state;

(b) if so, the absence of power transmission system in the State is the cause behind it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The State of Madhya Pradesh is getting its due benefits, without any constraint, in respect of the power being presently generated at Indira Sagar and Sardar Sarovar Dam projects.

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

[English]

Repayment of Outstanding Debts of NTC

5246. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to repay the outstanding debts of Rs. 1891 crore towards National Textile Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any progress has been achieved in selling surplus land of closed NTC mills in the country especially in Mumbai;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the steps proposed to early sale of surplus land with NTC;

(g) whether proceeds from sale of land will be utilized for revival of sick NTC mills; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The rehabilitation schemes for NTC approved by BIFR proposes conversion of loan advanced by Government of India to the corporation into equity as a part of capital restructuring. Accordingly, Government has approved conversion of an amount of Rs. 2514.79 crores of outstanding loans provided to NTC into equity. The Government has also approved waiver of outstanding interest amounting to Rs. 1454.01 crores on such loans.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. NTC has sold surplus land measuring 514.31 acres of closed and viable mills worth Rs. 375.94 crores as on 31-3-2005.

In so far as the sale of land of NTC mills located at Mumbai is concerned, BMC has granted permission for sale of surplus land of 7 NTC mills located in the city under the Development Control Regulation Act, 58. The Government appointed reputed consultants for maximum value realization of the land proposed to be sold. However, further action on the proposed sale has been stalled following a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Mumbai Environment ction Group before the High Court at Mumbai. The Hon'ble High Court has granted stay on further sale of land of NTC mills in Mumbai. The matter is sub-judice.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Government is vigorously pursuing the matter for grant of permission by the State Government for sale of surplus land of NTC mills in various States. The requisite permission is still awaited from State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, and partially from the State Government of Maharashtra.

(g) and (h) The rehabilitation Schemes of NTC subsidiaries approved by BIFR envisages implementation of the proposals for revival of viable mills through resources generated from the sale of surplus assets. This mainly comprises the proceeds by the Government from the sale of surplus land, particularly in the States of Maharashtra, U.P. and M.P.

Service Area Restriction on Loan to Farmers

5247. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently revised/ released the service area restrictions on loans to farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain banks have reluctance to implement the new policy; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The scheme of Service Area Approach (SAA) has been reviewed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and it has been decided to dispense with the restrictive provisions of the scheme as announced in the mid term review of annual policy statement for the year 2004-05, while retaining the positive features of the SAA such as credit planning and monitoring of the credit purveyance. The revised guidelines have been issued by RBI on 8th December, 2004 to all banks. According to the revised guidelines, allocation of villages among the rural and semi-urban branches of banks shall not be applicable for lending, except under Government sponsored schemes. While the Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) will be free to lend in any rural and semi-urban area, the borrowers will also have the choice of approaching any branch for their credit requirements. Consequently, the requirement of obtaining 'no due certificate' from the service area branch for lending by non-service area branch would also stand dispensed with. However, banks at their discretion may take steps considered to be necessary, to avoid multiple financing.

(c) and (d) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government.

Collection of Service Tax

5248. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth in Service tax collection is not encouraging;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the service tax collection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Revenue collection from service tax during last three years was as under:—

Year	Service Tax Revenue (in Rs. crore)	Growth (in %) over previous year
2002-03	4122	24.83
2003-04	7891	91.44
2004-05*	14134	79.12

*Provisional figures.

From the above, it can be seen that the growth in service tax collection during last three years has been encouraging.

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

(c) To further improve service tax collection, it has been the policy of the Government to expand the service tax base by extending the same to new services and expanding the scope of existing services, besides streamlining the procedures to improve tax collection.

Changes in Insurance Claim

5249. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make changes in the existing insurance claim systems; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Protection of Policyholders' Interests) Regulations, 2001, the insurance companies are required to communicate details of claims procedure and documents required for a claim to all policyholders. There is no proposal under consideration for changes in the existing Regulations.

(b) Does not arise.

Service Charges

5250. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some banks and financial institutions are imposing a service charge on its borrowers without informing them of the same;

(b) if so, the details of the banks and financial institutions imposed service charges so far on its borrowers, bank-wise and financial institution-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such banks and financial institutions;

(d) whether NABARD has strictly prohibited such impositions; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to strictly implement the norms issued by NABARD in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Banks have been permitted to fix their service charges for various services rendered by them with the approval of their Board of Directors. The service charges are no longer prescribed by Reserve Bank of India or Indian Banks' Association. However, banks have been

advised that while fixing charges for various services, they should ensure that these charges are reasonable and are in tune with the average cost of providing these services. Further, banks are also required to ensure that customers with low volume of activities are not penalized.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

Upper Sewang Power Project

5251. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce power generating capacity of Upper Sewang Power Project in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether earlier power generating capacity of this project was fixed 1100 MW; and

(d) if so, the exact power generation capacity proposed to be fixed for this project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (d) There is no project named as Upper Sewang in Arunachal Pradesh. The reference is probably to Upper Siang Hydroelectric Project, located in the upper reaches of the Siang Basin in Arunachal Pradesh, with an estimated generating capacity of 11,000 MW. This generating capacity figure is only a rough estimate based on desk studies carried out by Brahmaputra Board. The final power generating capacity of the project would be firmed up/revised on the basis of optimization studies carried out at the site after completion of Survey and Investigation works and after taking into account the views of the concerned States on the height of the dam.

[English]

Illegal Transaction of Foreign Exchange

5252. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have detected any cases of illegal transaction of foreign exchange in the country during each of the last six months;

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

(c) the amount of foreign exchange recovered during the above period, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the illegal transaction of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) During the last six months, 14 Show Cause Notices under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 have been issued by Enforcement Directorate, on detection and conclusion of investigation of cases involving illegal transaction of foreign exchange. The monthwise number of the Show Cause Notices issued are as under:—

October, 2004	5
November, 2004	1
December, 2004	2
January, 2005	—
February, 2005	4
March, 2005	2

(b) and (c) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Whenever instances of illegal transaction of foreign exchange are brought to the notice of Enforcement Directorate, action under Foreign Exchange Management Act is taken.

Statement***Illegal Transaction of Foreign Exchange***

(b) The Statewise details are as follows:—

State	No. of Show Cause Notices issued	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs approx)
Andhra Pradesh	4	29.88
Assam	1	0.33
Gujarat	3	548.43
Maharashtra	5	423.94
Tamil Nadu	1	19.92

(c)

Name of the State	Amount
Maharashtra	Foreign exchange equivalent of Rs. 2.48 lacs
Tamil Nadu	US. \$. 10900 Sing. \$ 1200
—do—	Us. \$. 25557
West Bengal	BD Taka 5100

Pollution Control in Textile Sector

5253. SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan for adopting the latest technology in pollution control in the textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up any committee to look into this matter; and

(d) if so, the recommendations received by the Government; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The plan for adopting the latest technology for pollution control in the textile sector depends on the strategy of the individual industry to meet the norms of the concerned pollution control board.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Encouragement to Public to Pay IT

5254. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made efforts to encourage the public to pay the income tax as well as to file the income tax return;

(b) if so, the number of persons paid tax and file their return during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has authorized centers to collect income tax and other direct taxes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for simplification of tax procedures?

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

(b) The number of taxpayers who filed return of income and paid income-tax (if due) in the last three years is as under:—

Financial Year	Number of returns of income filed (In lacs)*
2002-03	240.35
2003-04	233.54
2004-05	202.74
Upto February 2005	

*Returns filed under One By Six Scheme have been excluded.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Reserve Bank of India offices and designated branches of nationalized banks and certain banks promoted by public financial institutions are authorized to receive payments of income-tax and other direct taxes on behalf of the Government.

(e) The steps taken by the Government towards simplification of tax procedures include:—

- (i) Simplification of return of income forms and introduction of single page *Saral* forms.
- (ii) Simplification of tax-payment *challans* and introduction of single copy *challans* for tax payment.
- (iii) Introduction of On-Line Tax Accounting System (OLTAS) with effect from 1-6-2004 for on-line credit of tax-payments.
- (iv) Introduction of Electronic Clearing System (ECS) in certain cities for direct credit of refunds upto specified amount in the bank account of the taxpayer, at the option of the taxpayer.
- (v) Simplification of TDS returns, forms and procedures.
- (vi) Electronic filing of TDS returns.
- (vii) e-filing of PAN application, on-line preparation of return, e-filing of return, etc.

Infrastructure Projects

5255. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Inter-Institutional Group of financial Institutions and several banks for speedy implementation of infrastructure project; and

(b) if so, the number of projects that have been taken by the Inter-Institutional Group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. An Inter-Institutional Group (IIG) of financial institutions and commercial banks has been formed to provide an institutional response to the sponsors of infrastructure projects and stimulate investments in the infrastructure sector.

(b) The Inter-Institutional Group has facilitated the financial closure of 12 power projects. In addition, nine more power projects are under the consideration of the IIG.

Supply of Water to Rural Habitants

5256. PROF. M. RAMDASS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the new initiatives taken by the Government to collect data on the status of rural water supply with respect to source, quality, etc.;

(b) the current status of rural water supply including the provision of water supply to all rural habitations;

(c) the steps taken to provide integrated water supply; and

(d) the measures taken to provide institutional finance for the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) In order to ascertain status of drinking water supply in rural

habitations and water quality problems in various rural habitations, the Central Government requested the State Governments to conduct habitation survey and quality survey. The job of validation of habitation survey data has been entrusted to Indian Institute of Public Administration.

(b) As per the Comprehensive Action Plan, 1999 and the subsequent coverage position reported by the States/UTs, the status of coverage of habitations with drinking water supply is as under:—

Category	No. of Habitations
Fully Covered	13,56,031
Partially Covered	60,884
Not Covered	5,368
Uninhabited/Urbanized etc.	381
Total	14,22,664

The quality survey results reveal that there are 2,16,968 quality affected habitations as per the following details:—

Nature of Quality Problem	No. of affected habitations
Excess Fluoride	31306
Excess Arsenic	5029
Excess Salinity	23495
Excess Iron	118088
Excess Nitrate	13958
Multiple	25092
Total	216968

(c) and (d) Water is a State subject. State Governments are expected to ensure coverage of rural habitations with drinking water supply. Central Government supplement the efforts of the States in this regard by rendering financial assistance and technical support under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

[Translation]

Power Tariff Policy

5257. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to reduce the power tariffs in the country;

(b) if so, whether the power tariffs in the country are higher than the average power tariffs internationally;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has taken steps for power reforms to bring competition in this sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the States in which power competition has since been brought?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (c) Under the provision of the Electricity Act, 2003, the tariff for supply of electricity to various categories of consumers is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) and in doing so these Commissions are required to be guided by the National Electricity Policy and Tariff Policy and by the provisions contained in Section 61 which, inter alia, include the factors which would encourage competition, efficiency, economical use of the resources, safeguarding of consumer's interest and at the same time ensure recovery of the cost of electricity in a reasonable manner.

Retail prices of electricity in India and other countries is enclosed as statement.

One of the objectives of the National Electricity Policy notified by the Central Government is "supply of Reliable and Quality Power of Specified standards in an efficient manner and at reasonable rates".

(d) and (e) The Electricity Act, 2003 creates a liberal framework for development of electricity industry, promoting competition therein, protecting interest of consumers and supply of electricity to all areas, rationalization of electricity tariff, ensuring transparent policies regarding subsidies, constitution of Regulatory Commissions and establishment of Appellate Tribunal. The Act reduces entry barriers in different segments of power supply industry and promotes competition and in turn efficiency improvements.

The Act provides for non-discriminatory open access in transmission from the very outset. Open access in distribution is to be introduced by the SERCs in phases.

Generation has been delicensed by the Act.

Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the Appropriate Commission shall adopt the tariff if such tariff has been determined through transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government. Central Government has issued the guidelines for competitive bidding for determination of tariff for procurement of power by distribution licensees.

The Act also provides for multiple distribution licenses in same area through their own distribution system.

Trading has been recognized as a licensed activity.

The National Electricity Policy notified under the provisions of the Act lays down policy approach for promoting competition aimed at consumer benefits.

Statement

Retail prices for Industry and domestic consumers in US Dollars/kWh

Sl. No.	Country	Industry	Domestic
1	2	3	4
1.	Austria	0.07	0.13
2.	Belgium	0.04	0.13
3.	Canada	0.03	0.05
4.	Chinese Taipei	0.06	0.08
5.	Czech Republic	0.04	0.05
6.	Denmark	0.05	0.19
7.	Finland	0.04	0.07
8.	France	N.A.	0.10
9.	Germany	0.05	0.12
10.	Hungary	0.05	0.06
11.	India	0.07	0.03
12.	Ireland	0.05	0.10
13.	Italy	0.09	0.13
14.	Japan	0.16	0.23
15.	Korea	0.06	0.07
16.	Luxembourg	N.A.	0.10
17.	Mexico	0.05	0.07
18.	Netherlands	0.06	0.13
19.	New Zealand	0.02	0.06
20.	Norway	N.A.	0.06

1	2	3	4
21.	Poland	0.04	0.07
22.	Portugal	0.06	0.11
23.	Slovak Republic	0.04	0.05
24.	South Africa	0.02	0.03
25.	Spain	0.05	0.12
26.	Sweden	0.03	0.08
27.	Switzerland	0.08	0.11
28.	Turkey	0.09	0.09
29.	United Kingdom	0.05	0.10
30.	United States	0.04	0.08

Prices for fourth quarter of 2000.

NA=Not available.

Source: International Energy Agency (IEA), Key World Energy Statistics, 2001 Edition.

[English]

Sick Grameena Banks

5258. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Grameena Banks sponsored by various Nationalised banks across the country, which are facing the problems of closure due to funds and management constraints, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to revitalize such sick Grameena Banks in form of merger with other banks or by special packages; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) No

Grameena Bank (RRB) is facing the problem of closure due to funds and management constraints. In order to monitor the performance of RRBs closely, each sponsor bank has been made squarely accountable for the performance of RRBs under its control. RRBs that adopt a new governance standard and that abide by the prudential regulations will qualify for receiving funds from the Government for restructuring. Further as a step towards the consolidation of RRBs, the Government has initiated the process of amalgamation of contiguous RRBs sponsored by the same bank within a State in consultation with the respective State Government and NABARD.

[Translation]

Growth Rate of Loan

5259. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of growth in the total loan provided by the banks is less to the industrial sector as compared to the loans provided for housing, real estate personal loans, agriculture loan during the last three years;

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

(c) the amount of loan provided to each sectors during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The total outstanding bank credit to industrial sector, housing sector, real estate, personal loans and agriculture and also growth rate in the respective sector (in brackets) is as under:—

(Rupees in crores)

Sector	Outstanding as on			
	19-03-04	21-03-03	22-03-02	22-03-01
Industrial credit (including SSI)	313065 (5.92%)	295562 (28.77%)	229523 (4.88%)	218839
Housing	51981 (42.08)	36587 (63.73)	22346 (38.43%)	16143
Real Estate	5577 (-5.38)	5894 (127.04)	2596 (47%)	1766
Personal loans (non priority sector)	35165 (26.02)	27905 (19.24)	23402 (29.55)	18064
Agriculture	90541 (23.15)	73518 (21%)	60761 (17.02)	51922

*[English]***Projects for Mumbai**

5260. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various projects for Mumbai that are encouraged/supported by the Union Government; and

(b) likely cost for these projects/amounts actually spent on these projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) Scheme, announced in Budget 2005-06 and viability Gap funding Scheme could cover projects like Mumbai Metro Rail Project, Mumbai Trans Harbour Link and Mumbai Western Expressway Sealink. These projects are in early stage of formulation.

Super Thermal Power Projects

5261. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC propose to set up some new Super Thermal Power Plants in the country;

(b) if so, the funds approved by NTPC for the purpose;

(c) the details of States where these plants are likely to be set up; and

(d) the expected date on which these plants are proposed to be operated?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) The details of large coal based super thermal power projects being set up by NTPC both ongoing and proposed projects for which Feasibility Reports are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Project	State	Capacity (MW)	Approved/ Estimated cost (Rs. Crores)/ base date	Commissioning Schedule/ Actual	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
On-going Super Thermal Power Project						
1.	Rihand-II	Uttar Pradesh	2x500	3451.97 III Quarter, 1998	01/2005 (Actual) Unit-II—May, 2006	Commissioned ahead of schedule Work is progressing as per schedule
2.	Vindhyachal-III	Madhya Pradesh	2x500	4201.50 IV Quarter, 2001	Unit-I—Feb., 2007 Unit-II—Aug., 2007	Work is progressing as per schedule
3.	(a) Kahalgaon-II Phase-I	Bihar	2x500	4002.28 IV Quarter, 2002	Unit-I—Nov., 2006 Unit-II—May, 2007	Work is progressing as per schedule
	(b) Kahalgaon-II Phase-II	Bihar	1x500	1866.10 I Quarter, 2003	March, 2007	Work is progressing as per schedule
4.	Sipat-I	Chhattisgarh	3x660	8323.39 II Quarter, 2003	Unit-I, April, 2008 Unit-II, Feb., 2009	Work is progressing as per schedule
5.	Sipat-II	Chhattisgarh	2x500	4039.67 II Quarter, 2003	Unit-III, Dec, 2009 Unit-I, June, 2007 Unit-II, Dec., 2007	Work is progressing as per schedule

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Barh STPP	Bihar	3x660	8692.97 IV Quarter, 2004	Unit-I, March, 2009 Unit-II, Jan., 2010 Unit-III, Nov., 2010.	Work is progressing as per schedule
New Super Thermal Power Projects for which Feasibility Reports have been prepared						
1.	North Karanpura	Jharkhand	3x660	8584.20 III Quarter, 2001	Unit-I, 2010-II Unit-II, 2010-II Unit-III, 2011-12	Various clearances/inputs have been obtained for the project For water supply to the project Govt. of Jharkhand to construct dam/reservoir. Govt. of Jharkhand to obtain environmental/forest clearance and construct Dam/Reservoir matching the project schedule.

Co-operative Banks

5262. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of co-operative banks set up in the country so far as on March 31, 2005, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more number of co-operative banks in rural areas of the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The State-wise number of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) is as follows:—

Andhra Pradesh—169, Assam—14, Bihar—09, Delhi—19, Goa—07, Gujarat—361, Haryana—8, Himachal Pradesh—05, Jammu and Kashmir—04, Jharkhand—1, Karnataka—324, Kerala—66, Madhya Pradesh—91, Maharashtra—671, Manipur—5, Meghalaya—03, Mizoram—01, Nagaland—01, Orissa—19, Pondicherry—01, Punjab—05, Rajasthan—44, Tamil Nadu—136, Tripura—01, Uttar Pradesh—79, Uttaranchal—07 and West Bengal—55.

There are 31 State Cooperative Banks, 1 in each State/UT, except in Jharkhand. There are 20 State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs), one in each State/Union Territory except in Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Delhi, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Sikkim, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh.

The State-wise number of District Central Cooperative banks is as follows:—

Andhra Pradesh—22, Bihar—22, Chhattisgarh—06, Gujarat—18, Haryana—19, Himachal Pradesh—02, Jammu and Kashmir—03, Jharkhand—08, Karnataka—21, Kerala—14, Madhya Pradesh—38, Maharashtra—31, Orissa—17, Punjab—19, Rajasthan—27, Tamil Nadu—23, UP—50, Uttaranchal—10, West Bengal—17.

The Statewise number of Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs) is as follows:—

Chhattisgarh—12, Haryana—86, Himachal Pradesh—1, Karnataka—177, Kerala—44, Madhya Pradesh—38, Maharashtra—29, Orissa—53, Punjab—87, Rajasthan—36, Tamil Nadu—181, West Bengal—24.

(b) No, Sir. Government of India does not propose to set up any Cooperative Bank.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Mineral Exploration in Madhya Pradesh

5263. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the company-wise details of the areas of forest land in hectare allowed for extraction of minerals in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the period for which the above companies have been allowed giving the date of start and end of the mineral extraction work;

(c) the number of the cases pending for approval so far;

(d) whether the extraction work is going on at the prescribed place; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Mining Leases are granted by the concerned State Governments under Section 10(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Only those minerals for which prior approval of the Central Government is needed for grant of mining lease as specified under the First Schedule to the aforesaid Act are sent by the respective State Governments for Central Government's approval. Therefore, data on company-wise lease area with break-up of forest land is not maintained centrally in the Ministry of Mines.

(c) 29 proposals of Mining Lease and 3 proposals of Prospecting Licence relating to State Government of Madhya Pradesh are pending with the Central Government for prior approval in respect of minerals specified under the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957

(d) and (e) As per information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, mining activity is concentrated in Katni, Satna, Balaghat, Chhatarpur, Jhabua, Jabalpur, Chhindwara, Shahdol, Bhadwani and Umaria districts of Madhya Pradesh. In all 339 mines have reported production in 2003-2004.

[English]

NRI Deposit

5264. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NRIs have started withdrawing money from Indian Banks;

(b) if so, the amount withdrawn by them during the financial year 2004-2005;

(c) whether the Government has identified the reasons for the same;

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the total deposits by the NRIs with Indian Banks as on 31-03-2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) The NRI deposits with Indian Banks as on January, 2005 (latest available) were US \$ 32582 million.

Cases Filed and Disposed of

5265. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court and all the High Courts have decided to come out with their annual

reports containing reports about cases filed and disposed of;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this practice is likely to be started;

(d) whether this step is likely to make judiciary more accountable to common man; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) During the Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts held on 18th September 2004, it has been resolved that the Court system should publish Annual Reports of achievements and use of resources.

(c) No time frame has been fixed in this regard.

(d) and (e) The Annual Report is expected to contain judicial statistics as well as other information relating to administration of justice. This would provide the necessary insight into the performance of courts on disposal of cases and facilitate monitoring and evaluation.

Pollution from Power Plants

5266. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that power plants are significant contributors of environmental pollution of all types viz. air, water and noise;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any efforts to reduce the pollution in and around power plants; and

(c) if so, the results achieved so far in reducing the pollution?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has brought out norms (i) to limit Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM), Sulphur Oxide, Nitrogen Oxide, water effluents, noise level, and (ii) for fly ash utilization through various notifications so as to restrict SPM to the notified level of 150 mg/Nm³ in old projects and 100 mg/Nm³ in new projects effective from April, 2005. Treatment of effluents before disposal is mandatory for power plants. Government has also issued a Gazette Notification stipulating 100% utilization of ash produced within specific period of time and in stages. However, the old thermal power plants which were not able to meet the regulatory norms, pollution control equipments have been refurbished/replaced/ installed under the Renovation and Modernization Programme.

(c) The above measures have resulted in reduction of pollution due to power plants' operation and most of power stations are operating within permissible environmental norms.

Fund for Water Supply Schemes

5267. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide additional funds to finance various rural water supply schemes to water deficient areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the areas for which funds have been provided during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. Government of India, however, supplements efforts of the State Governments in this regard by extending financial and technical assistance under the centrally sponsored. Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). For rural water supply schemes funds are allocated and released to the States under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) as per the following laid down criteria in the guidelines:—

Weightage for	Percentage (%)
(a) Rural Population	40
(b) States under Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme, Hill Area Development Programme (DDP, DPAP, HADP) and special category hill States in terms of rural areas	35
(c) Not Covered/Partially Covered villages (at 2:1 ratio)	15
(d) Quality affected villages	10
Total	100

The State Governments are empowered to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply projects from the funds released to them as per the above criteria. There is no proposal under consideration to grant additional funds to Andhra Pradesh over and above the above formula based allocation.

Uniform Interest Rate

5268. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether PHDCCI has requested the RBI to evolve mechanism to facilitate medium and small scale borrowers to get funds from banks on uniform interest rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Promotion of Handloom Sector

5269. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government conducts programmes for protection and promotion of handloom workers;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such programmes;

(c) the details of the amount released for above programmes during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether facilities in terms of financial grants, credits, interest subsidies, market intervention, etc. have been provided for increase in handloom production;

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

(f) the details of the amount released for above programmes during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The Government of India is implementing following schemes/programmes for promotion, development and protection of handloom sector and welfare of

handloom weavers:—

- (1) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.
- (2) Marketing Promotion Programme.
- (3) Handloom Export Scheme.
- (4) Mill Gate Price Scheme.
- (5) Scheme for reimbursement of one time rebate @ 10% given by the handloom agencies on the sale of handloom cloth.
- (6) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
- (7) Weavers Welfare Schemes comprising of:—
 - Health Package Scheme
 - Thrift Fund Scheme
 - New Insurance Scheme
- (8) Bunkar Bima Yojana.
- (9) Integrated Handloom Training Project.
- (10) Design Development and Training Programme.
- (11) Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

Statement showing State-wise and scheme-wise, details of funds released during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05), is enclosed.

Statement

Details of releases made under during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to various States under different Handloom Plan Schemes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Handloom Export Scheme		Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY)		Marketing Promotion Programme		Integrated Handloom Training Project		Bunkar Bima Yojana						
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	1238.85	1668.45	406.09	61.88	42.88	75.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.33	0.00	0.00	19.59	7.26	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	33.75	15.00	837.87	445.71	0.00	112.55	101.41	107.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.85
4.	Bihar	6.25	0.00	0.00	0	12.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	6.10	0.00	0.00	42.92	43.88	11.20	29.19	1.00	2.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	100.00	100.00	13.70	12.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.66	19.25	22.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55
9.	Haryana	0.00	9.85	13.50	0.00	0.00	4.58	11.52	17.73	51.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	32.33	41.55	6.75	137.64	99.18	96.82	9.05	8.09	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.89	21.56	20.42	53.42	18.29	42.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	156.61	126.66	104.76	24.45	24.10	46.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
14. Kerala		20.25	11.25	6.73	1067.13	679.35	594.10	4.00	11.67	17.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36
15. Madhya Pradesh		0.00	0.00	0.00	62.20	9.06	40.19	41.87	29.70	17.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16. Maharashtra		0.00	0.00	0.00	2.82	3.59	38.00	68.31	6.79	22.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
17. Manipur		0.00	0.00	0.00	481.32	112.79	426.35	0.00	5.00	4.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18. Meghalaya		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.98	3.91	3.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19. Mizoram		0.00	0.00	0.00	2.46	3.47	7.76	14.92	28.72	19.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20. Nagaland		5.90	5.50	0.00	117.81	516.33	489.21	14.00	34.00	42.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21. Orissa		0.00	6.44	20.25	22.34	20.66	123.36	18.00	43.81	80.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.15
22. Pondicherry		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23. Punjab		14.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	5.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24. Rajasthan		0.00	0.00	0.00	9.77	4.70	43.37	59.08	51.92	26.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
25. Sikkim		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26. Tamil Nadu		0.00	0.00	5.63	2520.65	1581.41	3375.20	0.00	44.11	28.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.02
27. Tripura		0.00	0.00	0.00	7.72	5.49	34.16	19.07	10.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28. Uttar Pradesh		69.40	76.72	34.18	589.04	908.84	1283.83	103.74	84.52	48.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33
29. Uttaranchal		0.00	0.00	0.00	27.25	2.13	53.49	31.67	8.00	8.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30. West Bengal		31.93	21.30	14.52	347.88	77.91	881.37	11.86	29.26	58.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		186.26	206.36	116.56	7873.50	6423.79	8134.26	760.08	643.91	755.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.00

Details of releases made under during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to various States under different Handloom Plan Schemes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Workshed-cum Housing Scheme				Health Package Scheme				Thrift Fund Scheme				Group Insurance				New Insurance				Grand Total Plan 2004-05
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	92.81	253.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	2.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	848.21					
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	28.00	13.50	120.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	122.25					
3.	Assam	117.95	181.99	137.67	63.55	0.00	208.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	469.33					
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	5.09	11.42	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.70					
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.26	115.43					
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					
8.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.02	0.00	0.00	0.59	2.22	0.00	1.32	3.46	0.00	22.55					
9.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.71					
10.	Himachal Pradesh	22.30	24.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	110.59					
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.91	0.00	63.41					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12. Jharkhand		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13. Karnataka		250.00	288.28	236.45	50.00	0.00	36.42	10.00	0.00	40.00	7.51	12.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	472.18
14. Kerala		34.69	96.85	52.93	0.00	19.64	17.16	26.10	3.08	17.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	706.53
15. Madhya Pradesh		0.00	0.00	3.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.77	0.00	0.00	61.22
16. Maharashtra		35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.28	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.73
17. Manipur		127.25	0.00	50.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	480.70
18. Meghalaya		15.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.97
19. Mizoram		36.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.74
20. Nagaland		24.45	484.51	371.75	0.89	73.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	903.13
21. Orissa		0.00	0.00	24.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.83	7.12	0.00	250.33
22. Pondicherry		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23. Punjab		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.33
24. Rajasthan		0.00	51.71	51.71	5.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.96	3.34	2.61	124.66
25. Sikkim		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26. Tamil Nadu		227.80	514.44	172.29	106.22	122.64	100.07	210.00	318.79	278.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3978.96
27. Tripura		0.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.00	54.16
28. Uttar Pradesh		109.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1366.90
29. Uttaranchal		20.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.31
30. West Bengal		0.00	28.51	0.00	0.00	1.71	7.09	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	961.26
Total		1050.00	1797.10	1500.00	237.08	221.25	369.26	275.03	321.87	436.39	10.45	17.93	0.00	7.44	14.83	2.87	11360.29

Details of releases made under during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to various States under different Handloom Plan Schemes

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Implementation of the HCL (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985					NDA Scheme			Janata Cloth Scheme					Reimbursement of CENVAT					10% Special Rebate	Total 2004-05 Non Plan
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	559.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	127.54	26.12	0.00	262.31	227.77	253.89				
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	2.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.00	112.00	625.40	625.40				
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00				
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
8.	Gujarat	18.66	39.25	19.19	60.76	97.80	75.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.16	13.33	108.30				
9.	Haryana	6.05	7.68	5.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	173.59	179.19				
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	71.21	71.21				
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.65	0.00	16.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	95.59	112.07				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12. Jharkhand		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13. Karnataka		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.47	25.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.56	220.22	245.60
14. Kerala		0.00	0.00	0.00	45.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.69	0.00	0.00	287.50	731.58	731.58
15. Madhya Pradesh		6.88	5.99	7.20	0.00	42.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.20
16. Maharashtra		0.00	0.00	0.00	17.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17. Manipur		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18. Meghalaya		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00
19. Mizoram		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.13	3.05	3.05
20. Nagaland		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21. Orissa		0.00	0.00	0.00	119.65	44.85	172.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	114.04	243.65	416.15
22. Pondicherry		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.49
23. Punjab		0.00	0.00	0.00	22.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.23	10.23
24. Rajasthan		8.73	10.11	23.41	0.00	11.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.12	61.53
25. Sikkim		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26. Tamil Nadu		61.75	38.08	64.60	38.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	560.85	630.82	695.42
27. Tripura		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.05	19.13	19.13
28. Uttar Pradesh		0.00	0.00	0.00	113.15	54.86	262.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	136.76	394.31	656.43
29. Uttaranchal		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.24	0.00	0.00
30. West Bengal		0.00	18.89	0.00	0.00	159.60	34.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.26	0.00	0.00	190.30	303.63	338.06
Total		120.00	120.00	120.00	500.00	1000.00	586.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	173.84	39.61	0.00	1950.00	3826.63	4572.93

[English]

Villages Covered by RRBs

5270. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages and cities semi-urban and urban, districts and States covered by Regional rural banks in the country;

(b) the number of outstanding loan during the last three years;

(c) the number of persons benefited by these banks so far; and

(d) the number of districts, States and Union Territories not covered by RRBs so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The existing system does not generate village related information. However, as on March 2004, 196 Regional Rural Banks were operating in 26 States covering 518 districts. As per report of Reserve Bank of India cut of a total 14423 branches of RRBs operating as on December 31, 2004, 11825 were operating in rural areas, 2153 in Semi-Urban areas and 445 numbers in Urban/Metropolitan areas.

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

National Silkworm Seed Regulatory Authority

5271. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Silkworm Seed Regulatory Authority (NSSRA);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its terms of reference;

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to ensure quality of Silkworm seeds and also to safeguard the interest of silkworm farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Textiles has prepared the Bill for setting up regulatory mechanisms to ensure quality of silkworm seeds which requires approval of the competent authorities:—

(c) and (d) Following steps have been taken by the Central Silk Board for supply of quality silkworm seed to the farmers and also to safeguard their interests:

(i) Central Silk Board is taking utmost care for the maintenance and multiplication of basic seeds which are supplied to the CSB units, State Sericulture Departments and licensed seed producers for further multiplication and supply of commercial seed to the farmers.

(ii) Central Silk Board is promoting the adopted seed rearers concept for the generation of quality seed cocoons.

(iii) Central Silk Board is providing extensive training in quality silkworm seed production to the licensed seed producers through the Silkworm Seed Technology Laboratory (SSTL) which has developed improved technology packages to improve the quality of silkworm seed.

Pykara Power Project

5272. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from Tamil Nadu for laying transmission line for the 'Pykara Power Project' in the State;

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

(c) whether any assistance has been given to Tamil Nadu for 'Kollimalai Power Project'; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (d) Government of Tamil Nadu has not requested the Union Government for laying transmission line for Pykara Power Project or for any assistance for Kollimalai Power Project. However, for the transmission line for Pykara Power Project, Government of Tamil Nadu had approached the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India for approval. We have been informed by Government of Tamil Nadu that Ministry of Environment and Forests have finally given their approval on 11-03-2005.

[Translation]

PMGSY

5273. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted a proposal regarding Phase-4 project under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana to the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount asked for by the Government of Uttar Pradesh under the said project;

(d) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded to the said proposal; and

(e) the reasons for delay in according the approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Rural Development has considered the Phase-IV (2004-05) proposals submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in its meeting on 11-3-2005. The projects considered for clearance are for 2301 road works covering a total length of 4230.69 Km. The value of the projects is Rs. 1007.76 crore. The State Government has to comply with certain procedural requirements including

estimation of maintenance requirements and adoption of on-line PMGSY works accounting system, so that clearance can be issued.

Use of Hydrogen as Energy Sources

5274. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLALGANJ):

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the use of hydrogen and solar energy in view of damage being caused to the environment by the pollution emanating from fossile fuels like coal, diesel, petrol and natural gas;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate a long-term scheme in this regard;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Hydrogen energy, which has the potential to be used as a clean fuel for transport and for power generation, is at present in the research, development and demonstration stage. The Government is supporting research and development efforts on different aspects of hydrogen energy including its production, storage, applications etc. Solar Energy, however, is in operational use and is currently being harnessed for generating electricity and heat, through solar photovoltaic and solar thermal routes, respectively. The Government is providing financial support to users for purchase/installation of solar energy systems for lighting, pumping, stand alone power generation, water heating, cooking, air heating, passive buildings etc.

(b) to (d) In view of the importance of hydrogen as a major source of energy in the coming years, the Ministry has constituted a National Hydrogen Energy Board, which has high level representation from Government, industry, academic institutions and experts.

The Board is providing guidance for the preparation and implementation of the National Hydrogen Energy Road Map and Programme covering different aspects of Hydrogen Energy, including the production of hydrogen from various existing and new methods such as solar and other renewable sources of energy. Solar Energy systems have niche applications for low power off-grid use and water heating systems in favourable climatic zones. As part of the Ministry's R and D Programme, efforts are in progress to improve cost-competitiveness and efficiency of solar energy systems which would facilitate their widespread applications.

[English]

Gujarat Urban Reform Project

5275. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

SHRI HARILAL MADHAVAJI BHAJI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had received a proposal from World Bank Mission to develop a Gujarat through Urban Reform Project (URP) during the year 2001;

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

(c) the progress made in each of the above projects so far; and

(d) the reasons for delaying the implementation of the above projects?

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

(b) and (c) The draft Urban Reform Project submitted to the Bank by Govt. of Gujarat during September, 2004 highlighted three components (i) urban policy reform; (ii) capacity building at both the State and Urban Local Bodies (ULB) levels; and (iii) supporting investments in infrastructure. Department of Economic Affairs has recommended to the Bank to consider funding the project and provide assistance from the Project Preparation Facility amounting to US \$ One

Million. The Government of Gujarat is required to submit a Project Concept Note (PCN) in order to enable further discussions.

(d) The project got delayed in the past, due to the Gujarat earthquake and consequences thereof.

PMGSY

5276. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved road projects worth Rs. 3,200 crores covering 10,396 km.;

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

(c) the source of funding of these projects;

whether these projects are in addition to the projects worth Rs. 80,000 crores already approved under the Prime Minister Gramin Sadak Yojana;

(e) if so, the States likely to be benefited therefrom; and

(f) the role of State Governments therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a), (b), (d) and (e) The Ministry of Rural Development has cleared proposals of State/Union Territories for road works amounting to Rs. 18,327.85 crore for covering a length of 1,18,497.73 kms. so far under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). In addition, proposals valued at Rs. 947.23 crore from the States of Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have been cleared in respect of World Bank/Asian Development Bank project States. State-wise details are enclosed as statement.

(c) The main source of funding for the PMGSY is currently the cess on High Speed Diesel accrued into the Central Road Fund, 50% of which is earmarked for rural roads. Loan agreements have also been signed

with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for US \$ 400 million and World Bank (WB) for US \$ 399.5 million.

(f) Rural roads is a State subject. The State Governments are responsible for implementation of the programme, including planning, selection of road works, construction management, supervision, monitoring, quality assurance and subsequent maintenance of the constructed assets.

Statement

*Value of proposals cleared under PMGSY from
Phase-I (2000-01 to Phase-V (2005-06)*

(as on 20-4-2005)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Value of proposals (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	918.53
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	365.32
3.	Assam	874.10
4.	Bihar	656.84
5.	Chhattisgarh	1184.48
6.	Goa	9.72
7.	Gujarat	325.20
8.	Haryana	173.83
9.	Himachal Pradesh	776.76
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	171.69
11.	Jharkhand	501.25
12.	Karnataka	424.70
13.	Kerala	131.18
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2727.08

1	2	3
15.	Maharashtra	684.75
16.	Manipur	120.71
17.	Meghalaya	145.72
18.	Mizoram	211.24
19.	Nagaland	124.23
20.	Orissa	1360.53
21.	Punjab	217.90
22.	Rajasthan	1944.94
23.	Sikkim	149.37
24.	Tamil Nadu	550.51
25.	Tripura	116.19
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2913.04
27.	Uttaranchal	258.93
28.	West Bengal	1356.71
Total (States)		19195.71
Union Territories		
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	32.39
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9.95
31.	Daman and Diu	15.00
32.	Delhi	5.00
33.	Lakshadweep	4.89
34.	Pondicherry	12.40
Total (UTs)		79.63
Grand Total		19275.08

Duty Drawbacks

5277. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any Committee to fix the rates of duty drawback for the new fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition.

(c) whether the Government has invited various administrative ministries and private entrepreneurs for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the suggestions received from them; and

(e) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The Central Government vide its order dated 9th March, 2005 had constituted a three-member Committee consisting of Shri Saumitra Chaudhuri (Member of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister) as Chairman, Shri S.B. Mohapatra, Secretary (Retired) and Shri T.R. Tustagi, Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise (Retired) as Members. As per the terms of reference, the Committee was required to interact with the stakeholders and work out the modalities for calculation of All Industry Rates of Duty Drawback, 2005-06. In pursuance of this mandate, the Committee has had consultations with stakeholders, various administrative Ministries, Export Promotion Councils, trade bodies and individual exporters. The Committee submitted its report on 20-4-2005. Further action will be taken by the Government after examining its recommendations.

Implications of FDI Hike

5278. SHRI T.K. HAMZA:

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the implication of allowing Foreign Direct Investment hike in Private Banks on the resource mobilization capabilities of the State Governments;

(b) whether the above proposal involves discrimination against Indian banks and foreign banks already operative in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) State Governments mobilize resources from the market through their market borrowing programme where investments are made by both banks and non-banks. Investment in government securities by Scheduled Commercial Banks has already been much in excess of the required SLR of 25%. There has been instances of under subscription of some of the issues by State Governments. However, this is on account of need for prudent fiscal management rather than effect of FDI flow. It is expected that finalisation and implementation of fiscal responsibility legislation at State level and implementation of recommendations of the Twelve Finance Commission will further improve the situation.

Loans to SSI

5279. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the fact that central agencies and commercial banks taken an unusually long time, causing problems for entrepreneurs for the development of the small scale industries in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken or to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of entrepreneurs provided loans upto Rs. 25 lakh without any collateral security from banks and financial institutions, State-wise;

(d) whether collateral guarantee is required for obtaining bank loan by Kashmiri migrants for setting up small scale industries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is not a fact that dispensing of loans to SSI units takes unusually long time. The steps taken by Government/RBI to ensure adequate and timely credit flow to SSI Sector are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) RBI has reported that they do not capture data on loans upto Rs. 25.00 lakh without any collateral security from Banks and Financial Institutions State-wise. The number of accounts and amount outstanding without collateral security as on 31st December, 2004 are given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Loands upto Rs.	Number of Accounts	Amount Outstanding
25,000	635302	107415
1,00,000	247844	145592
5,00,000	59024	108110
15,00,000	5568	43647
25,00,000	1322	23061

(d) to (f) Collateral guarantee is not required for obtaining bank loans upto Rs. 5,00,000/- by entrepreneurs including Kashmiri Migrants for setting up of Small Scale Industries. If any specific complaint is received for insistence of collateral security the matter is investigated and remedial action is also taken.

Statement

- (i) To make available timely credit to the sector a time frame has been fixed for disposal of loan applications i.e. upto Rs. 25000/- within 2 weeks and upto Rs. 5 lakh, within 4 weeks, provided the loan applications are complete in all respects and accompanied by a 'check list'.
- (ii) Banks to ensure that out of their total funds lent to SSI sector, at least 40% should be made available to units with investment in plant and machinery upto Rs. 5 lakh and Rs. 25 lakh.
- (iii) Increase in the exemption limit for all SSI borrowal accounts for obtention of collateral security for loans from the existing Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh.
- (iv) Composite loan limit has been increased from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore.
- (v) Collateral free loan upto Rs. 25 lakh is covered for guarantee under the new Credit Guarantee Scheme for Small Industries.
- (vi) Banks have been advised to set the interest rate on advances keeping in view prevailing general southward movement in interest rates.
- (vii) Banks have been advised to adopt the method of computation of working capital requirement of SSI units, on the basis of simplified method of minimum 20% of the projected annual turnover of the borrowing unit for limits upto Rs. 5 crore.
- (viii) Banks have been advised to open at least one Specialised SSI branch in each district.
- (ix) Banks have been advised to develop schemes to encourage investment by SSI units in technology up-gradation. Government have also introduced the scheme of Credit Linked Capital Subsidy for the up-gradation of the Small Scale Industries.

Export of Handicrafts/Handloom

5280. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the actual figures of the exports of Handicrafts and Handloom products State-wise and craft-wise for the last three years;

(b) the funds allocated for export promotion and funds utilized by the Handloom and Handicraft sector, State-wise;

(c) whether most of the schemes announced for weavers/artisans have not achieved its targets;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure the proper utilization of the funds allocated for various schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) State-wise figures of export of handicrafts and handloom products are not maintained. However, the figures of export of handicrafts products, craft-wise, is as per the statement attached. For handloom sector, craft-wise, data is not available. Overall exports figures for handloom products, group-wise, for the year 2002-03 are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Cotton Handloom Fabrics	Cotton	Total Export
2002-03	842.94	1790.33	2633.27

From 1-4-2003 onwards, segregated export data is not available in the absence of separate ITC (HS) Codes for the handloom products.

(b) No state-wise funds are allocated for export promotion in handloom and handicraft sector. However, the details of funds allocated for export promotion in

handloom and handicrafts sector and funds released during the last three years are as under:—

Handloom Sector

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Year	Funds allocated	Funds Released
1.	2002-03	Rs. 325.00	Rs. 305.90
2.	2003-04	Rs. 485.00	Rs. 441.68
3.	2004-05	Rs. 415.00	Rs. 415.00
Total		Rs. 1225.00	Rs. 1162.58

Handicraft Sector

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Year	Funds allocated	Funds Released
1.	2002-03	Rs. 700.00	Rs. 355.00
2.	2003-04	Rs. 987.00	Rs. 981.76
3.	2004-05	Rs. 1435.00	Rs. 985.35 (Provisional)
Total		Rs. 3122.00	Rs. 2322.11

(c) to (e) Most of the schemes being implemented for handlooms weavers/handicrafts artisans have achieved 100% targets during the year 2004-05 except under the scheme of Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) for handloom weaver and under export promotion, workshop and credit Guarantee schemes for the handicraft artisans. To ensure proper utilization of funds, regular monitoring is carried out to review physical and financial progress to achieve the targets in a time bound manner.

Statement

Statement showing export of handmade carpets and other handicrafts for the period from 2002-03 to 2004-05

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Items	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
A. Carpet and other Floor Coverings				
1.	Woolen	2293.79	2015.11	1974.00
2.	Silk	209.42	198.69	187.25
3.	Synthetic	87.05	86.24	61.95
Total (A)		2590.26	2300.04	2223.20
% (-/+)		+6.33	-11.20	-3.34
B. Other Handicrafts				
1.	Art Metalware	2165.21	2642.42	3364.93
2.	Woodwares	511.35	609.07	721.18
3.	M.P. Textiles Scarves	1466.52	1611.43	1848.76
4.	Embroidered and Crocheted	2477.75	3286.05	4199.86
5.	Shawls as Artware	32.70	43.27	53.65
6.	Zari and Zari goods	159.47	210.54	252.28
7.	Imitation Jewellery	138.79	161.90	200.56
8.	Misc. Handicrafts	1391.62	1900.46	2391.48
Total (B)		8343.41	10465.14	13032.70
% (-/+)		+23.25	+25.43	+24.53
Grand Total (A+B)		10933.67	12765.18	15255.90
% (-/+)		+18.77	+16.75	+19.51

Sick PSUs

units viable?

5281. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified unviable PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and State-wise alongwith trade in which they are involved;

(c) whether any plan has been drawn for revival of these PSUs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds likely to be required to make these

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Sir, as per available information, 73 central PSEs were registered with BIFR as on 31-12-2004. Status of these PSEs is enclosed as statement-I.

Further, a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) has been set up in December, 2004 to advise the Government on financial, organizational and business restructuring/revival/disinvestment/closure/sale of CPSEs.

The list of proposals referred to BRPSE till 15-4-05 is enclosed as statement-II.

Need based funding is provided on the merits of each case.

Statement-I**List of Central PSEs registered with BIFR as on 31-12-2004**

Sl. No.	Public Sector Enterprise	Trade	Status as on 31-12-2004
1	2	3	4
1.	The British India Corporation Limited	Textiles	Revival scheme sanctioned
2.	Braithwaite and Co. Ltd.	Heavy Engineering	Revival scheme sanctioned
3.	Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Revival scheme sanctioned
4.	NTC (APKK and Mahe) Ltd.	Textiles	Revival scheme sanctioned
5.	NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.	Textiles	Revival scheme sanctioned
6.	NTC (Maharashtra North) Limited	Textiles	Revival scheme sanctioned
7.	NTC (MP) Ltd.	Textiles	Revival scheme sanctioned
8.	NTC (WB A B and O) Ltd.	Textiles	Revival scheme sanctioned
9.	NTC (UP) Ltd.	Textiles	Revival scheme sanctioned
10.	NTC South Maharashtra Limited	Textiles	Revival scheme sanctioned

1	2	3	4
11. Instrumentation Limited	Medium and Light Engineering	Revival scheme sanctioned	
12. NTC (DPR) Ltd.	Textiles	Revival scheme sanctioned	
13. The Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	Steel	Revival scheme sanctioned	
14. Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd.	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Revival scheme sanctioned	
15. Projects and Development India Ltd.	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Revival scheme sanctioned	
16. Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	Minerals and Metals	Revival scheme sanctioned	
17. Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd.	Medium and Light Engineering	Winding up notice issued	
18. Hindustan Antibiotics Limited	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Winding up notice issued	
19. U.P. Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Winding up notice issued	
20. Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Winding up recommended	
21. National Instrumentation Ltd.	Medium and Light Engineering	Winding up recommended	
22. Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.	Heavy Engineering	Winding up recommended	
23. National Jute Manufacturing Corporation Ltd.	Textiles	Winding up recommended	
24. Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.	Consumer Goods	Winding up recommended	
25. Maharashtra Antibiotics and Pharma Ltd.	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Winding up recommended	
26. Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd.	Consumer Goods	Winding up recommended	
27. Triveni Structurals Ltd.	Heavy Engineering	Winding up recommended	
28. Orissa Drugs and Chemicals Ltd.	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Winding up recommended	
29. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited	Consume Goods	Winding up recommended	

1	2	3	4
30.	Richardson and Crudass (1972) Ltd.	Medium and Light Engineering	Winding up recommended
31.	Nagaland Pulp and Paper Limited	Consumer Goods	Winding up recommended
32.	Fertilizers Corporation of India Limited	Fertilizers	Winding up recommended
33.	Birds Jute and Exports Limited	Textiles	Winding up recommended
34.	Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd.	Medium and Light Engineering	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
35.	Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineering Ltd.	Medium and Light Engineering	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
36.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.	Transportation equipment	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
37.	Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd.	Heavy Engineering	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
38.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.	Transportation equipment	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
39.	Rayrolle Burn Ltd.	Medium and Light Engineering	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
40.	Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Ltd.	Consumer Goods	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
41.	Weighbird India Ltd.	Medium and Light Engineering	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
42.	Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
43.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	Minerals and Metals	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
44.	The Elgin Mills Co. Ltd.	Textiles	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
45.	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	Textiles	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
46.	Bengal Immunity Limited	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed

1	2	3	4
47.	Smith stanistreet and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
48.	Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.	Fertilizers	CPSEs recommended for winding up and closed
49.	Manipur State Drugs and Pharamceuticals Ltd.	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Dismissed as not maintainable
50.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	Minerals and Metals	Dismissed as not maintainable
51.	Biecco Lawrie Limited	Medium and Light Engineering	Dismissed as not maintainable
52.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	Consumer Goods	Draft Scheme Circulated
53.	Hindustan Salts Limited	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Draft Scheme Circulated
54.	Andrew Yule and Company Ltd.	Medium and Light Engineering	Under Inquiry
55.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	Coal and Lignite	Under Inquiry
56.	Bharat Wagon and Engineering Co. Ltd.	Heavy Engineering	Under Inquiry
57.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	Consumer Goods	Under Inquiry
58.	NEPA Ltd.	Consumer Goods	Under Inquiry
59.	Praga Tools Ltd.	Medium and Light Engineering	Under Inquiry
60.	Maharashtra Elektros melt Ltd.	Steel	Under Inquiry
61.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	Medium and Light Engineering	Under Inquiry
62.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Under Inquiry
63.	NTC (TN and Pondicherry) Ltd.	Textiles	Under Inquiry
64.	Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd.	Heavy Engineering	Under Inquiry
65.	ITI Limited	Medium and Light Engineering	Under Inquiry
66.	Tungbhadra Steel Products Limited	Heavy Engineering	Under Inquiry
67.	Scooters India Limited	Transportation Equipment	Declared no longer sick

1	2	3	4
68.	North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation	Consumer Goods	Declared no longer sick
69.	Vignyan Industries Ltd.	Medium and Light Engineering	Declared no longer sick
70.	Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Ltd.	Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Declared as Net worth Positive
71.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd.	Heavy Engineering	Failed and reopened
72.	Hindustan Fertilizers Corp. Ltd.	Fertilizers	Recommended by AAIFR
73.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	Minerals and Metals	Remanded by Court

Statment-II*List of CPSEs referred to BRPSE as on 15-4-2005*

Sl. No.	Name of CPSE	Name of Ministry/Department
1	2	3
1.	Hindustan Salts Limited	Department of Heavy Industries
2.	Bridge and Roof Co. India Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industries
3.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd.	Department of Heavy Industries
4.	Tyre Corporation of India Limited	Department of Heavy Industries
5.	British India Corporation Ltd.	Ministry of Textiles
6.	National Textile Corporation Ltd.	Ministry of Textiles
7.	Madras Fertilizers Limited	Department of Fertilizers
8.	HMT Bearings Limited	Department of Heavy Industries
9.	Praga Tools Limited	Department of Heavy Industries
10.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited	Department of Heavy Industries
11.	Tungbhadra Steel Products Limited	Department of Heavy Industries
12.	Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.	Department of Fertilizers
13.	Braithwaite and Co. Limited	Department of Heavy Industries
14.	Nagaland Pulp and Paper Co. Limited	Department of Heavy Industries

1	2	3
15.	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals
16.	NEPA Limited	Department of Heavy Industries
17.	Eastern Coalfields Limited	Ministry of Coal
18.	MECON Limited	Ministry of Steel
19.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited	Department of Shipping

Premature Winding up of DDP

5282. SHRI E. PUNNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Desert Development Projects (DDP) have been wound up prematurely;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for fore-closure of each project and expenditure incurred thereon by the Union and State Governments separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under DDP, 241 projects have been foreclosed during the last three years. The Year-wise details are as below:—

Year	No. of projects wound up
2002-03	Nil
2003-04	150
2004-05	91
Total	241

(c) Out of the 11476 projects sanctioned under DDP, 241 projects have been foreclosed. The percentage of foreclosed projects is 2.1% only. These projects were foreclosed as they could not claim the entire central fund even within the extended project period on account of excessive delay in their implementation. A statement showing releases of Central and State share towards the foreclosed projects is enclosed.

Statement

Releases of Central and State Share against the Projects Foreclosed

(Rs. in crores)						
Sl. No.	State	Project Discription			Central Share Released	State Share Released
		District	Year of Sanction	No. of Projects		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Karnataka	Bijapur	1995-96	41	6.23	2.07
		Bagalkot	1995-96	24	3.07	1.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Ralchur	1998-99	9	0.68	0.23
		Bijapur	1998-99	15	1.14	0.38
		Bellary	1998-99	40	3.37	1.12
		Bagalkot	1998-99	18	1.36	0.45
		Davengere	1998-99	9	0.38	0.13
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	Leh	1998-99	24	5.32	Nil
		Leh	1996-97	24	5.32	Nil
		Kargil	1998-99	25	5.00	Nil
		Leh	1998-99	36	7.03	Nil
			Total	241	33.58	5.40

VAT on CSD Canteens

5283. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Ministry has sought the waiver of VAT from Finance Ministry as several and retired Defence personnel purchase their provisions and daily necessities from Defence canteen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether representations from army personnel have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

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

(b) to (d) VAT is a tax intended to replace the State Sales Tax. Hence, the Central Government has no role to play either in imposing VAT on any particular item or exempting any item from VAT. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers was set up to decide on all issues relating to implementation of State level VAT. Therefore, any decision in this regard, can be taken only by the Empowered Committee and the State Governments.

[Translation]

Reduction of Staff in PSBS

5284. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether staff strength has been substantially reduced in the public sector banks due to computerization and restructuring of the organisational set up, V.R.S. ban on recruitment and on appointment of person on

compassionate ground as a result of which bank services are being affected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether about one lakh employees have been affected on account of introduction of V.R.S. in public sector Banks thereby work pressure on the remaining staff has increased;

(d) if so, whether the Government is considering on lifting the ban on recruitment including compassionate appointments in Banks; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) There has been marginal reduction in the staff strength in the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) from 7,57,048 (as on 31-03-2002) to 7,52,627 (as on 31-03-2004), as a result of manpower planning by them to ensure optimum utilization of manpower at various levels to meet their requirement and business strategies. Banks have also taken steps to speed up computerization of their branches/offices towards improving customer services and reducing the workload on their staff. Consequently, bank services have improved substantially with lesser workload on its staff.

(d) and (e) There has been no ban imposed by the government on recruitment in PSBs, who enjoy autonomy on personnel matters. However, as regards the compassionate appointments, PSBs were advised in July 2004 to formulate their own schemes for payment of ex-gratia lump sum amount in lieu of compassionate appointments to the dependents of deceased employees, on merits.

[English]

Losses to General Insurance Company

5285. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Insurance Company suffered losses to the tune of Rs. 955.20 crores under Motor Vehicle Insurance and miscellaneous operation between 2001 and 2004;

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

(c) whether CAG has rapped non-life insurance firms and have asked the Government to investigate into the matter to fix responsibility; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As per the Report of C and AG—Union Government (Commercial)—No. 1 of 2005 which was placed in the Parliament on 22nd March, 2005, the general insurance companies during the year 2003-04 suffered losses of Rs. 955.28 crores consisting of Rs. 667.00 crores under motor insurance and Rs. 288.28 crores under miscellaneous insurance as against a profit of Rs. 1485.36 crores under fire and marine portfolio. According to the Report, these companies reported overall total profit of Rs. 530.08 crores during 2003-04 as against losses of Rs. 1732.11 crores and Rs. 243.34 crores during 2001-02 and 2002-03 respectively from insurance business.

(c) and (d) As a continuous process, during audit of insurance companies, C and AG has been bringing out various lapses to the notice of the management/ Government. These issues are taken up with the management of the companies for appropriate action on a regular basis.

Strike by Employees of Public Sector Insurance Companies

5286. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers and employees of four public sector general insurance companies went on a

two day strike on March 23 and 24, 2005 demanding wage revision and also protesting against the proposed hike in FDI in the insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to each of their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. About 57% of the officers and employees of four public sector general insurance companies observed two days strike on 23rd and 24th on March, 2005 in support of their demands i.e. wage revision, filling up of promotional vacancies and to protest against the proposed hike in Foreign Direct Investment in Insurance Sector.

(c) Demands relating to wage hike and filling up of vacancies are basically management functions. On wage hike, it is for the management to reach a negotiated settlement with the Associations/Unions. As regards proposed hike in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Insurance Sector, the insurance companies periodically require additional capital for growth of their business. Indian promoters, at times, due to financial constraints are not in a position to contribute additional capital proportionate to their share holdings. Therefore, in the Budget Speech of 2004-05, an announcement was made for the increase in the Foreign Direct Investment limit from the present 26% to 49%. However, no legislative proposal has been finalized so far.

Tax on Salt

5287. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI T.K. HAMZA:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to tax processed branded salt in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the revenue that the proposed tax will yield;

(d) whether the proposed tax will drive people to go for non-iodized salt;

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to protect consumers from the ill effects of non-iodised salt;

(f) whether representation for withdrawal of tax on iodised salt have been received by the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) VAT is a tax intended to replace the State Sales Tax. Hence, the Central Government has no role to play either in imposing VAT on any particular item or exempting any item from VAT. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers was set up to decide on all issues relating to implementation of State level VAT. The Empowered Committee, in its meeting held on 26th April, 2005 has decided that salt, branded or otherwise shall be exempt from VAT.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The representations were forwarded to Member Secretary, Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers for consideration.

[Translation]

New Insurance Policy

5288. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new insurance policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main objectives of this new insurance policy;

(d) the time by which the said policy is likely to be implemented; and

(e) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Renewable Energy Sources

5289. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is focussing on replacing diesel in agricultural sector with other alternative fuels;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made so far in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is thinking for setting up of new projects for renewable energy sector in West Bengal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to replace diesel with alternate fuels in the agricultural sector in the medium-term. Alternate fuels, namely, hydrogen, bio fuels and synthetic fuels are still in the development phase. R and D efforts are underway to align the characteristics and cost of bio-fuels to those of diesel. In this connection, some test projects on village energy security that aim to meet the entire energy needs of cooking, lighting and motive powers of a village through renewables, notably biomass and bio-fuels are being implemented. Successful completion of the test projects will pave the way for a programme covering remote villages, i.e., where grid extension is neither cost-effective nor feasible, in the first instance.

(c) to (e) This Ministry provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for the setting up of renewable energy

projects, the proposals for which are received, among others, from state governments, including West Bengal, in keeping with the terms and conditions of its programmes/schemes and subject to availability of funds.

Rural Electrification

5290. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses in a village required to be electrified to treat the entire village as electrified under Rural Electrification Programme;

(b) whether the Government takes the entire village as electrified if 10 out of every 100 families residing therein may have been provided with electricity;

(c) if so, the whether Rural Electrification has been done State-wise as per criteria laid down by the Government during the year 2004-05; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (d) As per new definition of village electrification.

"A village would be declared as electrified if

(i) Basic infrastructure such as Distribution Transformer and Distribution lines are provided in the inhabited locality as well as the Dalit Basti/hamlet where it exists. (For electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources a Distribution Transformer may not be necessary);

(ii) Electricity is provided to public places like Schools, Panchayat Office, Health Centres, Dispensaries, Community centers etc.; and

(iii) The number of households electrified should be at least 10% of the total number of households in the village."

This definition has become effective since 2004-05. The State Government have been asked to report the status of electrification of villages henceforth according to this definition.

*[English]***Private Sector Investment in Infrastructure**

5291. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide incentives for Private sector investment in infrastructure development for higher GDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) response from the private sector thereof?

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

(b) Government of India proposes to provide viability gap support to public private partnership projects in infrastructure and establish a Special Purpose Vehicle that would provide debt of longer term maturity to eligible projects in infrastructure sector. Also, a Committee on Infrastructure has been constituted at the highest levels of the Government to oversee the policy and regulatory issues facing these sectors.

(c) The actual response of the private sector would be known once the proposed measures become operational.

Budgetary Allocation for Rural Development

5292. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enhance budgetary allocation for rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified some specific region based schemes for rural development; and

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

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

THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The budget allocation for implementation of various rural development schemes is proposed to be enhanced to Rs. 24,480 crore for 2005-06 as against the budget allocation of Rs. 15,998.40 crore during the year 2004-05.

(c) and (d) Considering the problems of specific areas, regional development schemes being implemented in the country are—Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) and Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). DPAP is being implemented in 182 districts of 16 States covering an area of 7,45,914 Sq. Kms. and DDP is being implemented in 40 districts of 7 States covering an area of 4,57,949 Sq. Kms. NFFWP has been launched from November, 2004 in 150 most backward districts of the country. Under PMGSY, in addition to the normal allocation of the States, special allocation of upto 5% of the annual allocation from the Rural Roads share of the Diesel Cess is proposed to be made for:—

- (i) Districts sharing borders with Pakistan and China (in coordination with Ministry of Home Affairs).
- (ii) Districts sharing borders with Myanmar, Bangladesh and Nepal (in coordination with Ministry of Home Affairs).
- (iii) Left Wing Extremists areas in the Districts identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (iv) Extremely backward District (as identified by the Planning Commission), which can be categorized as Special Problem areas.
- (v) Research and Development Projects and innovations.

State-wise number of districts where DPAP, DDP and NFFWP is being implemented in the country is enclosed as statement.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Districts Covered Under		
		NFFWP	DPAP	DDP
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	11	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	NC	NC
3.	Assam	5	NC	NC
4.	Bihar	15	6	NC
5.	Chhattisgarh	10	8	NC
6.	Goa	NC	NC	NC
7.	Gujarat	6	14	6
8.	Haryana	1	NC	7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	3	2
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	2	2
11.	Jharkhand	14	14	NC
12.	Karnataka	3	15	6
13.	Kerala	1	NC	NC
14.	Madhya Pradesh	15	23	NC
15.	Maharashtra	11	25	NC
16.	Manipur	1	NC	NC
17.	Meghalaya	1	NC	NC
18.	Mizoram	1	NC	NC
19.	Nagaland	1	NC	NC
20.	Orissa	18	8	NC
21.	Punjab	1	NC	NC
22.	Rajasthan	5	11	16

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Sikkim	1	NC	NC
24.	Tamil Nadu	4	16	NC
25.	Tripura	1	NC	NC
26.	Uttar Pradesh	15	15	NC
27.	Uttaranchal	2	7	NC
28.	West Bengal	6	4	NC
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	NC	NC	NC
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	NC	NC	NC
31.	Daman and Diu	NC	NC	NC
32.	Lakshadweep	NC	NC	NC
33.	Pondicherry	NC	NC	NC
Total		150	182	40

NC—Not Covered.

Rural Housing Scheme

5293. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rural housing scheme funded by the nationalised banks in the country, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) whether any nationalised bank has extended loan to the rural people of Karnataka during any of the last three years;

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

(d) the extent to which the people living in rural areas are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The National Housing Bank (NHB) has launched Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme (GJRHFS) in

1997. Under the scheme, housing loans are permitted to be given for construction, purchase or improvement of houses in rural areas and the scheme is being implemented through Scheduled Commercial Banks, Housing Finance Companies and the Cooperative Sector Institutions. Till date, about 13 lakh dwelling units in the rural areas have been financed under the scheme by the primary lending institutions. Out of these, 653,625 units have been financed by Public Sector Banks (PSBs). In the State of Karnataka, PSBs have financed 33,042 units during three years period 2002-05 (upto January 2005). The Bank-wise details of housing loan for dwelling units extended by banks under GJRHFS during the last three years are enclosed as statement.

(d) The GJRHF scheme has received good response from the borrowers in the rural areas. As a result, the targets under the scheme had been steadily increased over the years from 50,000 in 1997 to 2.75 lakh units in 2005-06.

Statement**Statement Showing Progress under GJRHFS by Public Sector Banks in Karnataka State**

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Banks	2004-05*		2003-04		2002-03	
		Units	Amount	Units	Amount	Units	Amount
1.	Allahabad Bank	0	0.00	399	542.00	7	25.00
2.	Andhra Bank	406	1006.00	9	20.00	—	—
3.	Bank of Baroda	3	3.20	17	31.00	51	146.00
4.	Bank of India	195	396.00	35	45.00	151	176.00
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	8	4.00	0	0.00	1	0.20
6.	Corporation Bank	1324	4721.00	1290	4099.00	936	2844.00
7.	Canara Bank	1590	2019.80	2389	3576.00	4415	6542.00
8.	Central Bank of India	68	198.00	50	99.00	65	130.00
9.	Dena Bank	0	0.00	5	6.00	1	2.00
10.	Indian Bank	524	540.00	2	2.00	9	9.00
11.	Indian Overseas Banks	127	569.00	—	—	3	3.00
12.	Punjab National Bank	0	0.00	35	52.00	119	227.00
13.	State Bank of Hyderabad	385	262.00	232	379.00	230	153.00
14.	State Bank of India	160	355.00	648	1320.00	486	1296.00
15.	Syndicate Bank	3277	6907.16	3942	8057.00	2081	3478.00
16.	UCO Bank	4	0.75	33	12.00	16	27.00
17.	Union Bank of India	185	227.42	230	237.00	63	70.00
18.	Vijaya Bank	2603	7610.02	2799	8436.00	1434	3899.00
Total		10859	24819.35	12115	26913.00	10068	19027.20

* — upto January, 2005

0 — Not financed by primary lending institutions (PLIs)

— — State-wise breakup not furnished by PLIs.

*[Translation]***Debt of Punjab**

5294. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab State Government has approached the Union Government to reduce its debt servicing burden;

(b) if so, the total debt position of the Punjab as on date;

(c) the interest burden of Punjab against State loan; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to help the Punjab State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government of Punjab has not made any specific request for reducing its debt servicing burden. However, the State Government has requested for waiver of the balance Special Term Loan granted to the State for combating insurgency and militancy.

(b) and (c) Outstanding loan of the State payable to Ministry of Finance as on 31-3-2005 is Rs. 7182.58 crore. Interest payments estimated for financial year 2005-06 (without taking into debt consolidation) is Rs. 887.88 crore.

(d) Government of India has accepted the recommendations of Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) for debt consolidation and waiver of outstanding GoI debts. This is expected to benefit the State with estimated lower interest of Rs. 523.18 crore, lower repayment of Rs. 351.48 crore and debt waiver of Rs. 763.42 crore over the next five years i.e. 2005-10, if the State meets necessary conditions.

*[English]***Grant/Loans from Japan**

5295. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of grant/loan received from Japan during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the terms and conditions of such grant/loans indicating the mode of repayment and interest payable thereon; and

(c) the fields in which said grant/loan has been utilized, project-wise and State-wise during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A statement-I is enclosed.

(c) A statement-II is enclosed.

Statement-I**Grant/Loans from Japan**

Details of grant/loans under Official Development Assistance received from Japan during the last three years are given below

Year	Amount disbursed (in Yen million)	
	Grant	Loan
2002-03	242	80,824
2003-04	65	79,828
2004-05	876	68,846

Terms and conditions of grant/loans received from Japan under Official Development Assistance are given below:—

- The grant is not required to be re-paid by Government of India to Government of Japan.

Hence there are no conditions attached with regard to repayment.

- During 2002-03 Japanese Official Development Assistance loans were available at interest rate of 1.8% for thirty years (including a grace period of ten years) for general projects and at interest rate of 0.75% for forty years (including a grace period of ten years) for environmental

projects. During 2003-04 and 2004-05 Japanese Official Development Assistance loans were available at interest rate of 1.3% for thirty years (including a grace period of ten years) for general projects and at interest rate of 0.75% for forty years (including a grace period of ten years) for environmental projects. These are denominated in Japanese Yen.

Statement-I

Grant/Loans from Japan

**Projects implemented during the last three years state-wise
with Japanese grant/loans**

Grant

State/Central	Name of the Project	Field
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Procurement of equipment for Monitoring Air and Water Pollution by Environment Protection Training and Research Institute, Hyderabad	Environment
Central	Procurement of machines/instruments for Footwear Moulding Training Centre at Footwear Design and Development Institute, NOIDA.	Industry
Central	Procurement of Mass-media and mass-communication equipment for Indraprastha College, Delhi	Education
Central	Procurement of spare parts for Assam Gas Based Power Project by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.	Power
Karnataka	Procurement of contraceptive appliances in Bangalore Mahanagar Palike Hospitals	Health
Kerala	Procurement of a Linear Accelerator by Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram	Health
Maharashtra	Project for Improvement of Medical Equipment for Sir J.J. Hospital and Cama and Alibless Hospital, Mumbai	Health
Maharashtra	Procurement of computers and accessories for secondary schools in Karveer Taluka in Kolhapur district	Education

1	2	3
National Capital Territory of Delhi	Procurement of autoclaves, shredders and ambulances for Government of NCT, Delhi	Health
Punjab	Procurement of Open Hole Percussion Rig by Punjab State Tubewell Corporation Ltd.	Water Supply
Loans		
Andhra Pradesh	Kothagudem 'A' TPS Project	Power
Andhra Pradesh	Simhadri and Vizag Transmission System Project	Power
Andhra Pradesh	Srisailem Left Bank Power Station Project	Power
Andhra Pradesh	Simhadri and Vizag Transmission System Project II	Power
Andhra Pradesh	KC Canal Modernization Project	Water resources
Andhra Pradesh	KC Canal Modernization Project II	Water resources
Chhatisgarh	Chhatisgarh Sericulture Project	Textiles
Central	Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project	Power
Central	Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project II	Power
Central	Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project III	Power
Central	Simhadri Thermal Power Station Project IV	Power
Central	Turija Hydroelectric Power Station Project	Power
Central	Dhauliganga Hydroelectric Power Plant Construction Project	Power
Central	Dhauliganga Hydroelectric Power Plant Construction Project II	Power
Central	Dhauliganga Hydroelectric Power Plant Construction Project III	Power
Central	Northern India Transmission System Project	Power
Central	Yamuna Bridge at Naini	Road
Central	NH-5 Improvement Project	Road
Central	NH-5 Improvement Project II	Road
Central	NH-24 Improvement Project	Road
Central	Ajanta-Ellora Conservation and Tourism Dev. Project II	Tourism

1	2	3
Central	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project	Urban Transport
Central	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (II)	Urban Transport
Central	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (III)	Urban Transport
Central	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (IV)	Urban Transport
Central	Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project (V)	Urban Transport
Central	Yamuna Action Plan	Environment
Gujarat	Afforestation and Development Project	Environment
Haryana	Integrated Natural Resource Management and Poverty Reduction Project in Haryana	Environment
Karnataka	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	Environment
Karnataka	Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Project	Urban Dev.
Kerala	Attappady Wasteland Comprehensive Environment Project	Environment
Kerala	Kerala Water Supply Project	Urban Dev.
Manipur	Manipur Sericulture Project	Textiles
Meghalaya	Umium Hydro Power Station Renovation Project	Power
Maharashtra	Ghatghar Pumped Storage Project	Power
Madhya Pradesh	Lake Bhopal Conservation and Management Project	Environment
Madhya Pradesh	Rajghat Canal Irrigation Project	Water resources
Orissa	Rengalli Irrigation Project	Water resources
Orissa	Rangalli Irrigation Project (II)	Water resources
Punjab	Punjab Afforestation Project	Environment
Punjab	Punjab Afforestation Project (II)	Environment
Rajasthan	Rajasthan Forestry Development Project	Environment
Rajasthan	Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project	Environment
Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu, Afforestation Project	Environment

1	2	3
Uttar Pradesh	Anpara 'B' Thermal Power Project	Power
West Bengal	Purulia Pumped Storage Project	Power
West Bengal	Industrial Pollution Control Project	Environment
West Bengal	West Bengal Transmission System Project	Power
West Bengal	Bakreswar Thermal Power Project (II)	Power
West Bengal	Bakreswar Thermal Power Project (III)	Power
West Bengal	West Bengal Transmission System Project II	Power
West Bengal	Bakreswar Thermal Power Station Units Extension Project	Power
West Bengal	Purulia Pumped Storage Project (II)	Power
West Bengal	Calcutta Transport Infrastructure Development Project	Urban Transport

Supply of Power

5296. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are frequent load shedding in power supply in the Capital;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total demand and supply of power in Delhi as on date; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of power during the ensuing summer season in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) As informed by Delhi Transco Limited (DTL), load shedding in Delhi has been 0.85% of the total energy consumption during 2004-05 as compared to 1.12% in 2003-04. Load shedding is attributable mainly to grid conditions, transmission and distribution breakdown and low voltage prevailing in certain areas due to high reactive load during summer.

(c) The details of actual power supply position in Delhi during the month of March, 2005 are given below:—

	Energy (MU) March, 2005	Peak (MW) March, 2005	
Requirement	1513	Peak Demand	2875
Availability	1507	Peak Met	2839
Shortage	6	Shortage	36
Shortage (%)	0.4	Shortage (%)	1.3

(d) The peak demand during the ensuing summer months has been anticipated in the range of 3300 MW to 3700 MW in different months. A meeting was held in the Ministry of Power in March, 2005 with officials from , Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and all concerned agencies where preparedness for meeting the power demand in Delhi during ensuing summer season was reviewed. Consequently, DTL have

made arrangements for adequate availability of power to meet the demand during the ensuing summer. Central Government has allocated 280 MW from unallocated quota of central generating stations during peak period to augment availability of power during the ensuing summer.

[Translation]

Hydro Power Generation

5297. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the hydro power potential in the country;

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

(c) whether any target for hydro power generation has been fixed under the Tenth Plan;

(d) if so, the details of the projects to be undertaken for this purpose;

(e) the details of Central, State and private participation in these projects; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to exploit the potential of hydro power projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) The re-assessment studies of hydro-electric potential of the country, completed by Central Electricity Authority in 1987, have placed the economically exploitable hydro power potential at 84,044 MW at 60% load factor. When fully developed, it would result into an aggregate installed capacity of about 1,48,701 MW. A total of 845 hydro-electric schemes have been identified in various basins. Status of State-wise hydro-electric potential in the country in terms of installed capacity is enclosed as statement-I.

(c) to (e) A target of capacity addition of 14,393 MW has been planned through hydro power generation during Tenth plan of which a 8,742 MW of hydro power

is planned through Central Sector, 4,481 MW through State Sector and 1,170 MW through Private Sector. The details of the projects undertaken for this purpose are enclosed as statement-II.

(f) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) had conducted Ranking Studies in 2001-02 in which 399 schemes aggregating to an installed capacity of 1,06,910 MW were prioritized on the basis of weightage criteria of various aspects involved in the development of hydro schemes. Based on the Ranking Studies, 50,000 MW Hydroelectric Initiative was launched by Government of India during 2003-04 under which Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 162 schemes located in 16 States have been prepared. Based on preliminary analysis, 78 schemes aggregating to an installed capacity 34,020 MW, whose first year tariff works out below Rs. 2.50/Kwh, have been identified for taking up detailed Survey and Investigation and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). This exercise would provide a shelf of bankable DPRs for development of hydroelectric schemes which would yield benefits during 11th Plan period and beyond.

In addition to above, the Government has taken the following steps to exploit the untapped hydro potential:—

- (i) A Hydro Policy was announced by the Government in August, 1998 incorporating several steps and measures to facilitate accelerated development of hydro power. The Policy also encourages greater participation by private sector;
- (ii) A number of Hydro Power Corporation in the Central Sector and Joint Ventures with State Governments have been created for development of hydro power;
- (iii) The Government has also approved a Three-Stage Clearance procedure for expeditious execution of hydro electric projects in the Central Sector. Other procedural reforms have also been undertaken; and

- (iv) To meet the all India peak demand and energy requirement at the end of 11th Plan, based on the demand projections as per 16th Electric Power Survey (EPS), advance action has been taken to identify hydroelectric schemes for inclusion for benefits in the 11th Plan period.

Statement-I**Status of Hydro Electric Potential as per Reassessment Studies**

Sl. No.	Region/State	Identified potential in terms of installed capacity (MW)
1	2	3
Northern		
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	14146
2.	Himachal Pradesh	18820
3.	Punjab	971
4.	Haryana	64
5.	Rajasthan	496
6.	Uttaranchal	18175
7.	Uttar Pradesh	723
Sub Total (NR)		53395
Western		
8.	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	4485
9.	Gujarat	619
10.	Maharashtra	3769
11.	Goa	55
Sub Total (WR)		8928

1	2	3
Southern		
12.	Andhra Pradesh	4424
13.	Karnataka	6602
14.	Kerala	3514
15.	Tamil Nadu	1918
Sub Total (SR)		16458
Eastern		
16.	Jharkhand	753
17.	Bihar	70
18.	Orissa	2999
19.	West Bengal	2841
20.	Sikkim	4286
Sub Total (ER)		10949
North Eastern		
21.	Meghalaya	2394
22.	Tripura	15
23.	Manipur	1784
24.	Assam	680
25.	Nagaland	1574
26.	Arunachal Pradesh	50328
27.	Mizoram	2196
Sub Total (NER)		58971
All India		148701

Statement-II*10th Plan (2002-2007): Original Commissioning programme-Hydro Capacity additions*

ID No.	Name of Project/State	Rating Nox MW=MW	Target for capacity addition during 10th plan (MW) (2002-07)
1	2	3	4
Central Sector (C.S.)			
	N.H.P.C.		
CS-1	Dhauliganga-I, Uttaranchal	4x70=280 MW	280
CS-2	Chamera Stage-II, Himachal Pradesh	3x100=300 MW	300
CS-3	Dulhasti Jammu and Kashmir	3x130=390 MW	390
CS-4	Teesta-V, Sikkim	3x170=510 MW	510
CS-5	Sewa-II Jammu and Kashmir	3x40=120 MW	120
CS-6	Teesta Low Dam-III, West Bengal	4x33=132 MW	132
CS-7	Teesta Low Dam-IV, West Bengal	4x42=168 MW	168
CS-8	Bav-II, Maharashtra	37 MW	37
	Sub Total N.H.P.C. (alone)		1937
Join venture with M.P. State (N.H.D.C.)			
CS-9	Indira Sagar, Madhya Pradesh	8x125=1000 MW	1000
CS-10	Omkareshwar, Madhya Pradesh	8x65=520 MW	520
Joint Venture with W.B. State			
CS-11	Purlia PSS, West Bengal	4x225=900 MW	900
	Sub Total N.H.P.C. including Joint Venture		4357
	N.J.P.C.		
CS-12	Nathpa Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh (Joint Venture)	6x250=1500 MW	1500

1	2	3	4
CS-13	Rampur H.E. Project, Himachal Pradesh (Joint Venture)	400 MW	400
	Sub Total N.J.P.C.		1900
	T.H.D.C.		
CS-14	Tehri St. I, Uttaranchal	4x250=1000 MW	1000
CS-15	Tehri St. 2, PSS Uttaranchal	4x250=1000 MW	1000
CS-16	Koteshwar, Uttaranchal	4x100=400 MW	400
	Sub Total THDC		2400
	N.E.E.P.C.O.		
CS-17	Kopli St-II, Assam	1x25=25 MW	25
CS-18	Tuirial, Mizoram	2x30=60 MW	60
	Sub Total NEEPCO		85
	Total—Central Sector		8742
State Sector (S.S.)			
Northern Region (NR)			
SS-1	Larji, Himachal Pradesh	3x42=126 MW	126
SS-2	Kashang-I, Himachal Pradesh	2x33=66 MW	66
SS-3	Baglihar, Jammu and Kashmir	3x150=450 MW	450
SS-4	Shahpurkandi, Punjab	2x2x40+1x8=168 MW	168
SS-5	Maneri Bhali-II, Uttaranchal	4x76=304 MW	304
	Sub Total State Sector (Northern Region)		1114
Western Region (WR)			
SS-6	Sardar Sarovar, Gujarat/Maharashtra/ Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat	6x200+5x50=1450 MW	1450

1	2	3	4
SS-7	Madhikheda, Madhya Pradesh	2x20=40 MW	40
SS-8	Bansagar Tons PH-II, PH-III; Madhya Pradesh	2x15 3x20=90 MW	15 20
SS-9	Bansagar Tons PH-IV, Madhya Pradesh	2x10=20 MW	20
SS-10	Ghatghar PSS, Maharashtra	2x125=250 MW	250
Sub Total State Sector (Western Region)			1795
Southern Region (SR)			
SS-11	Priyadarshini Jurala, Andhra Pradesh	6x39.1=235 MW	78.2
SS-12	Srisaillam LBPH, Andhra Pradesh	6x150=900 MW	450
SS-13	Almatti Dam, Karnataka	1x15+5x55=290 MW	290
SS-14	Kuttiyadi Aug., Kerala	2x50=100 MW	100
SS-15	Pykara Ultimate, Tamil Nadu	3x50=150 MW	150
SS-16	Bhawani Kattalai Barrage I, II and III, Tamil Nadu	3x2x15=90 MW	90
Sub Total State Sector (Southern Region)			1158.2
Eastern Region (ER)			
SS-17	Balimela Ext., Orissa	2x75=150 MW	150
Sub Total (Eastern Region)			150
North Eastern Region (NER)			
SS-18	Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani), Assam	2x50=100 MW	100
SS-19	Myntdu-Leishka St-I, Meghalaya	2x42=84 MW	84
SS-20	Bairabi Dam, Mizoram	2x40=80 MW	80
Sub Total (North Eastern Region)			264
Total (State Sector)			4481.2

1	2	3	4
Private Sector (PS)			
PT-1	Baspa-II, Himachal Pradesh	3x100=300 MW	300
PT-2	Dhamwari Sunda, Himachal Pradesh	2x35=70 MW	70
PT-3	Vishnu Praayag, Uttaranchal	4x100=400 MW	400
PT-4	Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh	10x40=400 MW	400
Sub Total—Private Sector			1170
Total All India			14393.2

*[English]***Urban Renewal Fund**

5298. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to create an urban renewal fund to develop infrastructure in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the metropolitan cities proposed to be covered under the funds; and

(d) by when the work is likely to be started?

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

(b) to (d) For this purpose:—

(i) A National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) is proposed to be set up for some selected cities; and

(ii) An omnibus scheme to be known as Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) to cover cities/towns other than those covered under NURM is being drawn up. Details of NURM and UIDSSMT are being finalized.

*[Translation]***Arms Smugglings**

5299. SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether arms are being smuggled into the country at present;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to check the smuggling;

(c) the number of such cases detected so far and the number of persons arrested in this regard;

(d) the action taken against the arrested persons; and

(e) the details of the arms smuggled during each of the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Sir, a few instances of smuggling of arms have come to light.

(b) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband items including arms into the country.

(c) to (e) The details of cases of seizures of arms during last three years and the action taken against the arrested persons are as under:—

Year	No. of cases of seizures of arms	No. of arms seized	Make of the arms	No. of persons arrested	Action taken against persons arrested
2002-2003	2	4	AK-47	5	—
2003-2004	6	14	Pistol, Gun, Rifle, Assault Rifle	3	Case booked under Arms Act.
2004-2005	2	3	Pistol	4	—do—

[English]

Solar Energy

5300. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

SHRI KIREN RIJU:

SHRI AJIT JOGI:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of generation and consumption of solar energy in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the total funds sanctioned and released as grants/subsidy to each state during the period separately, year-wise; and

(c) the number of proposals received by the Government for the installation of solar energy projects

during the last two years and the number out of them cleared so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing programmes for the installation of solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems in all states and union territories for a variety of uses such as lighting, water pumping and electrification of the villages and hamlets. The electrical energy estimated to be generated and consumed by these systems during last three years, year-wise and state-wise is given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) The total funds released to each state, year-wise, under the above programmes are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) Information concerning the proposals received and sanctioned during the last two years under the above programmes is given in the statement-III enclosed.

Statement-I

Estimated state-wise and year-wise electrical energy generated from solar photovoltaic system installed under the programmes of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

Sl. No.	State/UT	Energy generated (in Million kWh)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.8	2.2	2.252

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.2	0.227	0.332
3.	Assam	0.26	0.307	0.436
4.	Bihar	0.94	0.968	1.247
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.67	1.7	1.81
6.	Goa	0.022	0.022	0.052
7.	Gujarat	0.92	1.0	1.09
8.	Haryana	1.53	1.8	2.30
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1.20	1.2	1.33
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.18	1.96	2.13
11.	Jharkhand	0.28	0.28	0.64
12.	Karnataka	1.1	1.22	1.91
13.	Kerala	2.9	3.77	3.77
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1.4	1.431	1.52
15.	Maharashtra	0.11	1.15	1.2
16.	Manipur	0.17	0.1	1.12
17.	Meghalaya	0.24	0.25	0.562
18.	Mizoram	0.27	0.42	0.462
19.	Nagaland	0.05	0.05	0.05
20.	Orissa	0.99	1.084	2.34
21.	Punjab	1.20	3.60	3.68
22.	Rajasthan	3.35	3.5	3.867
23.	Sikkim	0.05	0.05	0.078
24.	Tamil Nadu	1.85	1.96	2.025
25.	Tripura	0.58	0.6	0.881
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4.9	4.93	5.719
27.	Uttaranchal	2.49	2.88	3.795
28.	West Bengal	3.04	5.9	5.929

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.43	0.438	0.565
30.	Chandigarh	0.135	0.140	0.145
31.	Delhi	0.2	0.2	0.25
32.	Lakshadweep	1.1	1.1	1.252
33.	Pondicherry	0.045	0.05	0.093
34.	Others (BHEL, BEL, CEL and NGOs)	0.64	1.00	1.01

Statement-II

Fund released state-wise and year-wise for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems under the programmes of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

Sl. No.	State	Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	326.68	33.51	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	147.89	546.09	129.61
3.	Assam	88.50	336.70	23.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	620.47	441.04	78.41
5.	Goa	—	18.63	8.03
6.	Gujarat	297.21	48.43	—
7.	Haryana	517.74	273.61	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	119.75	114.63	103.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	715.83	642.15	173.24
10.	Jharkhand	131.18	1057.93	—
11.	Karnataka	103.45	229.47	143.27
12.	Kerala	—	35.16	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	109.25	2.62	66.24

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Maharashtra	22.80	313.63	38.08
15.	Manipur	738.23	241.53	79.01
16.	Meghalaya	340.92	43.00	187.32
17.	Mizoram	57.33	306.71	28.22
18.	Orissa	—	—	42.89
19.	Punjab	1049.25	1546.23	36.25
20.	Rajasthan	493.58	55.19	262.69
21.	Sikkim	20.90	40.19	26.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	73.75	671.71	—
23.	Tripura	399.10	954.56	1062.40
24.	Uttar Pradesh	707.61	1962.58	518.82
25.	Uttaranchal	587.04	1121.10	50.54
26.	West Bengal	603.87	2780.85	109.43
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	88.92	—	—
28.	Chandigarh	12.65	16.37	—
29.	Delhi	—	350.00	—
30.	Lakshadweep	392.00	151.95	—
31.	Pondicherry	14.94	31.68	1.65
32.	Others (BHEL, BEL, CEL and NGOs)	593.18	204.91	1301.60

Statement-III*Proposals received and sanctioned during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005*

Sl. No.	Item	Number of projects/systems	
		Proposals Received (Nos.)	Proposals Sanctioned (Nos.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Solar Lanterns	80,000	15,000

1	2	3	4
2.	Solar Home Lights	2,15,050	81,731
3.	Solar Street Lights	35,362	6782
4.	Water pumping systems	7261	1319
5.	Stand alone power plants	1846.26 (kWp)	213.5 (kWp)
6.	Grid-interactive power plants	700 (kWp)	350 (kWp)
7.	Electrification of remote villages	4041 villages	1039 villages
8.	Electrification of hamlets	950 hamlets	585 hamlets

Indo-USA Agreement on NCES

5301. SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and USA have reached any agreement on certain power projects;

(b) if so, whether formation of energy dialogue forum has been considered for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the areas in the country that is likely to get help with the formation of the said forum; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) Indo-US new and renewable energy dialogue is being pursued under the overall umbrella of the Indo-US Economic dialogue. Under this dialogue pre-competitive research in specific areas, as given in statement enclosed, among research and development Institutions of the two countries have been identified. However, no agreement has been entered into for the purpose.

Statement

Suggested Activity(s) for Pre-competitive Research

Sl. No.	Broad Area	Suggested activity(s) for pre-competitive research
1	2	3
1.	Biomass Gasification	Design, Development and Demonstration of upto MW scale pressurized gasification systems and integration with 100% gas engine/turbine.
2.	Wind Energy	Design, Development and Demonstration of MW scale wind electric generators.
3.	Solar Photovoltaics (SPV)	Design, Development and Demonstration of low cost high efficiency SPV cells.

1	2	3
4.	Solar Thermal	Design, Development and Demonstration of MW scale grid-interactive solar thermal electricity systems.
5.	Alternate Fuels (hydrogen, synthetic and bio-fuels)	(c) Production, transportation, storage, delivery and applications. (d) Design, Development and Demonstration of alternate fuel systems for transport, portable and stationary applications.
6.	Waste of Energy	Design, Development and Demonstration of upto MW scale Waste to Energy Systems.

[Translation]

Stock Exchanges

5302. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of stock exchanges operating in the country alongwith their locations;

(b) the number of shares enlisted in these exchanges, exchange-wise;

(c) the annual turnover in these stock exchanges during the last three years, exchange-wise;

(d) the estimated number of shareholders in the country;

(e) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of shareholders especially small investors and to promote

awareness about shares among the people during the last three years (till date);

(f) whether the Government have received any suggestions regarding the functioning of the stock exchanges; and

(g) if so, the action taken/proposed by the Government on these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) There are 22 recognized stock exchanges functioning in the Indian securities market. The details of their locations, number of shares listed in these exchanges, exchange-wise, annual turnover in these exchanges during the last three years, exchange-wise are given in the following table. The information on estimated number of shareholders in the country is not available/maintained by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Name and location of Stock Exchange	No. of Listed Companies	Turnover (Rs. Crores)		
		2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1. The Stock Exchange—Ahmedabad Kamdheni complex, opp. Sahjanand college, Amedabad.	2774	8.37	4,544.40	15,458.64

1	2	3	4	5
2. Bangalore Stock Exchange Ltd. Stock Exchange Towers, 51, 1st cross, J.C. Road, Bangalore	456	Nil	0.05	Nil
3. Bhubaneswar Stock Exchange 6th floor, IDCO towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar	65	Nil	Nil	Nil
4. The Calcutta Stock Exchange Association Ltd. 7, Lyons Range, Kolkata	3075	2714.67	1,927.50	6,539.90
5. Cochin Stock Exchange Ltd. MES Dr. P.K. Abdul Gafoor Memorial Cultural Complex, 36/1563, 4th floor, Judges Avenue Kaloor, Cochin.	211	Nil	Nil	Nil
6. Coimbatore Stock Exchange Ltd. Stock Exchange building, 683-686, Trichy Road, Coimbatore.	188	Nil	Nil	Nil
7. The Delhi Stock Exchange Association Ltd. DSE House, 3/1 Asaf Ali Road, N. Delhi.	3086	Nil	3.40	11.10
8. Gauhati Stock Exchange Ltd. Saraf building 353g, Annexe A T Road, Gauhati.	259	Nil		0.05
9. The Hyderabad Stock Exchange Ltd. 6-3-654, Adjacent to Erramanjil bus stop, Somajiguda, Hyderabad.	820	253	1.90	4.60
10. Inter Connected Stock Exchange Ltd. International Infotech park, tower 7, 5th floor, sector 30, Vashi.	12	Nil	0.05	64.80
11. Jaipur Stock Exchange Ltd. Stock Exchange building, J L Nehru Marg, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur.	869	Nil	Nil	Nil
12. The Ludhiana Stock Exchange Association Ltd. Feroze Gandhi Market, Ludhiana	391	Nil	Nil	Nil
13. Madhya Pradesh Stock Exchange Palika Plaza, Phase II, 2nd floor Mth Compound, Indore	353	Nil	Nil	Nil
14. Madras Stock Exchange Ltd. Exchange building, Post Box No. 183, 11 Second Line Beach, Chennai	1451	27.34	100.80	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
15. Magadh Stock Exchange Association 9th floor, Ashiana Plaza, Budg Marg, Patna	66	Nil	Nil	0.51
16. The Stock Exchange, Mumbai Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers, 26th Floor, Dalal Street, Mumbai	4731	5,14,293.27	5,02,618.40	3,14,073.20
17. National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. Exchange Plaza, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E) Mumbai	970	11,40,968.34	10,99,533.90	6,17,988.60
18. OTC Exchange of India 92, Maker Towers, "F" Cuffe Parade, Mumbai	111	0.0122	15.70	0.10
19. Pune Stock Exchange Ltd. Shivaleela Chmbers, 752, Sadashiv Peth, R B Kumthekar Marg, Pune	246	0.38	Nil	1.81
20. Saurashtra Kutch Stock Exchange Ltd. Ponath Bhai Sorathia Bhavan, Sadar Bazar, Rajkot	207	Nil	Nil	Nil
21. The Uttar Pradesh Stock Exchange Ltd. Padam Towers, 14/113, Civil Lines, Kanpur	725	5,242.97	11,751	14,763.40
22. Vadodara Stock Exchange Ltd. Fortune Towers, Sayajigunj, Vadodara	514	Nil	0.14	2.59

Source: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

(e) SEBI has a double pronged strategy to help small investors. The first is a comprehensive system to redress investor grievance that may arise and the second is a comprehensive campaign to educate common investor about the inherent risks in investments and the rights and responsibilities of investors.

(f) and (g) It is the constant endeavour of the Government and SEBI to ensure smooth and efficient functioning of the stock exchanges. Some of the recent initiatives undertaken, inter-alia, include operationalisation of the first phase of INDONEXT trading platform, issue of comprehensive guidelines for Investor Protection Fund (IPF)/Customer Protection Fund (CPF) at the stock exchanges and amendment of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 paving the way for corporatisation and demutualisation of stock exchanges.

Setting up of NCES Projects

5303. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL
ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage subsidy available at present for development of non-conventional energy sources;

(b) the share of each State in this subsidy; and

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the subsidy limit in respect of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry provides

Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for development and deployment of various non-conventional energy systems/devices in the country based on proposals received, among other, from state governments. The details of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) provided under various non-conventional energy programmes are given in statement enclosed. CFA is not allocated state-wise for a majority of the programmes/schemes of this Ministry.

Statement

The details of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) provided under various non-convention energy programmes

Sl. No.	Programmes/Sector	Subsidy
1	2	3
1.	Wind Power	For Demonstration Projects upto 60% of the equipment cost subject to certain benchmarks. No Capital subsidy.
2.	Small aero-generators and hybrid systems	Rs. 2.00 lakhs per kilo-watt or 50-75% of ex-works cost, whichever is less. Rs. 2.40 lakhs per kilo-watt or 90% of ex-works cost, whichever is less—in un electrified islands.
3.	Family Type biogas plants	Rs. 2100-Rs. 11,700 per plant depending upon the capacity of the plant, category of the beneficiaries/areas.
4.	Biomass Gasifiers	For Thermal Applications (upto 3 MWth): Rs. 1.25 lakh/300 kWth For electrical/mechanical applications (upto 1 MWe): Rs. 15.00 lakh/100 kWe 20% higher CFA of the above for Special category States and Islands.
5.	Bagasse Co-generation Projects	Interest subsidy
	(i) Projects by cooperative/public/joint sector Sugar Mills	3-6% depending upon configuration.
	(ii) Projects in IPP Mode Cooperative/ Public/Joint Sector Sugar Mills	2-4% depending upon configuration.
	(iii) Projects by Private Sector Sugar Mills	1-3% depending upon configuration.

1	2	3
	Biomass Power Projects	Interest subsidy
	Projects with MW-scale 100% Producer Gas Engines/Advanced Biomass Gasification projects.	2-3% depending upon technology/configuration.
6.	Industrial Waste-to-Energy Interest subsidy	To reduce interest rate upto 4% in special category states and upto 6% in other states, to be paid through Financial Institutions. Subject to certain limits based on type of projects.
7.	Small Hydro Power	
	Capital Subsidy	Govt. Sector Private Sector
	1	2 3
	— N E Region and Sikkim	Upto Rs. 6.00 crores/MW Upto Rs. 3.00 crores/MW
	— Middle Himalayas, Ladakh, A and N	Upto Rs. 4.00 crores/MW Upto Rs. 2.00 crores/MW
	— Other Hilly areas	Upto Rs. 2.00 crores/MW Upto Rs. 1.00 crores/MW
	Water mills—mechanical	Upto Rs. 30,000/watermill (mechanical)
	Water mills—electrical+mechanical	Upto Rs. 100 lakh watermill (electrical or electrical cum mechanical)
8.	Solar Photovoltaic Systems/devices	From Rs. 2400/- Rs. 9100/- for SPV lighting systems depending upon wattage. Rs. 43000/- Rs. 16390/- for Special Category States.
9.	PV water pumping systems	Rs. 100 per WP of PV array used, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,80,000 per system. 90% of approved ex-works cost of the system for Special Category States.
10.	Power Plants and Other systems	Rs. 1,19,000/kWp of PV array Capacity or 50% of Ex-works cost, which ever is less for Special Category States.
11.	Solar Water Heating Systems (SWHS)/ other Solar Thermal systems	For Solar Water Heating systems: Through Banks/FIs (including housing financing org.): Interest Subsidy to reduce the interest to 5% to end-user. For Solar Water heating/air heating systems/desalination system, steam cooking systems, ect.: through IREDA:

1	2	3
		<p>Interest Subsidy of 5% for non-profit organizations and of 7% for profit-making organizations.</p> <p>For dish/community type solar cookers:</p> <p>50% of cost limited to Rs. 2500/- for dish type cookers;</p> <p>Rs. 25,000/- for Scheffler/community type cooker.</p> <p>For steam cooking systems:</p> <p>50% of actual system cost.</p>

*[English]***Investment In Power Sector**

5304. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR:

SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has asked the NTPC to invest in the transmission sector;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has decided to offer 90% Capital subsidy for rural power distribution system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) As a part of its Business Strategy, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is exploring various diversification options including setting up of high voltage transmission lines at appropriate time.

(c) and (d) A new scheme "Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana" for Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification has been launched for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme

of completing Rural, Household Electrification in five years. Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for:—

- (i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with on 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.
- (ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all unelectrified villages/habitations and provision of distribution transformer(s) of in every village/habitation.
- (iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).
- (iv) Electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country free of charge.

Diversion of Money Borrowed from Banks

5305. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering insertions of a separate clause in the Indian Penal Code treating

siphoning off money or diversion of money borrowed from banks as a criminal offence;

(b) whether the Government has been prompted on such a move by the recommendations of SS Kohli Committee and NL Mitra Committee on legal aspects of fraud involving funds borrowed from bank;

(c) whether the Khandelwal Committee set up by Indian Banks Association has opined against amending the IPC; and

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

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

Hawala Money

5306. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether multinational banks are allowing the militants to operate their hawala money through their banks;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to nab such culprits; and

(c) the amount of such hawala money unearthed by the Government during each of last three years?

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

Scheduled Bank Status

5307. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study team was constituted by the Reserve Bank of India in regard to loan provided to the Self Help Group people under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total loan distributed to Self Help Group during the last three years by banks, bank-wise, State-wise;

(d) whether the said team has reported ninety eight per cent recovery of loan from the Self Help Group people and appreciated the said scheme;

(e) whether various branches of banks have not incorporated in sanctioning of loan even after this performance;

(f) whether the Government propose to review the said scheme;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the action proposed to be taken against the zero lending branches of banks?

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

Draft Vision Documents for Cooperative Banks

5308. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a draft vision document proposed by the RBI has suggested State level strategies for urban cooperative banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether urban cooperative banks are mostly indulged in malpractices resulting faith of consumers being eroded; and

(d) if so, the strategies to be formulated by the Government to keep urban cooperative banks out of any malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A draft Vision Document on Urban Cooperative Banks was placed RBI web-site on March 4, 2005 to obtain feed back from the public on the proposals contained therein, viz. 2 tiered regulation and supervision for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs), Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed with State Governments, Role of Task Force for Cooperative Urban Banks (TAFUCBs), Corporate Governance etc. in order to facilitate UCBs to emerge as a sound and healthy network of jointly owned, democratically controlled, and ethically managed banking institutions providing need based quality banking services, essentially to the middle and lower middle classes and marginalized sections of the society.

(c) Not all UCBs have indulged in malpractices. However, some major frauds/malpractices have come to the notice of RBI.

(d) Detailed guidelines/instructions have been issued by RBI to UCBs with a view to curb occurrence of frauds. Steps have also been taken by RBI to improve the functioning of Boards, Audit, Inspection in UCBs e.g. establishment of separate cell to monitor fraud, prescribing system of classification and reporting of frauds, prescribing concurrent audit and investment audit for UCBs etc.

Setting up of Power Projects in Foreign Countries

5309. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India extend cooperation to various countries for construction of power projects;

(b) the details and number of power projects functioning at present and the number of projects are under construction in various countries;

(c) the contribution of Government of India and of that country where the project has been set up or under construction; and

(d) the time by which the under construction projects are likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has been extending technical and financial assistance to our neighbouring countries for construction of power projects. Details of such power projects already in operation and those under construction including installed capacity, and funding details are given below:—

(i) Power projects already in operation:—

Sl. No.	Name of HEP	Country	Installed Capacity (MW)
1.	Trisuli HEP*	Nepal	21.00
2.	Devighat HEP	Nepal	14.10
3.	Western Gandak HEP	Nepal	15.00
4.	Pokhra HEP	Nepal	1.00
5.	Kataiya HEP	Nepal	10.00
6.	Chukha HEP	Bhutan	336.00
7.	Kurichu HEP	Bhutan	60.00
8.	Gyesta HEP	Bhutan	1.50
9.	Khaling HEP	Bhutan	0.60
10.	Yanglachu HEP	Bhutan	2.00
11.	Sedawgyi HEP	Myanmar	25.00

(ii) Power projects under construction:—

Sl. No.	Name of HEP	Country	Installed Capacity (MW)	GOI Funding	Likely Completion Schedule
1.	Tala HEP	Bhutan	1020.00	Grant 60% Loan 40%	2005-06
2.	Salma HEP (Reconstruction)	Afghanistan	42.00	100%	2008

*HEP=Hydro Electric Project

APDRP

5310. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the year 2004 the Indian energy sector witnessed a roller-coaster ride as the power sector showed signs of taking off;

(b) if so, whether new benchmarks are also being created with an investment for new projects falling to 3-3.25 crores MW as against Rs. 4.0 crores MW in earlier years;

(c) whether power distribution reforms programme also shows success with 11 States, reporting a reduction of their losses by Rs. 800 crores;

(d) if so, the extent to which the Ministry has improved the power sector during 2004-05; and

(e) projects for future improvements in power sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Number of positive developments have taken place in power sector in recent past:—

- Generation exceeded the target and registered growth of 5.2%.
- The Plant Load Factor of thermal power stations further improved from 72.7% in 2003-04 to 74.8% in 2004-05.
- Under the Electricity Act, 2003, National Electricity Policy and Tariff Policy were

announced for development of power system. The National Electricity Policy envisages per capita availability of electricity to be increased to over 1000 units by 2012 and minimum lifeline consumption of 1 unit/household/day as a merit good by year 2012.

- Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana for providing access to electricity to all villages and households in five years, with 90% capital subsidy, has been launched.

(b) As per the present trend, the capital cost of the coal based mega power project would work out to be about Rs. 3.5 crores per megawatt and new benchmarks in executing 500 MW thermal projects in 36-37 months have been set.

(c) to (e) The ever increasing trend of commercial losses of State Power Utilities has been arrested after 2001-02. The commercial losses (without subsidy) in State Electricity Boards have increased from Rs. 4,560 crores during 1992-93 to Rs. 25,259 crores during 2000-01. According to data compiled by Power Finance Corporation, the losses of State Utilities have reduced from 26,596 crores in 2001-02 to Rs. 20,231 crores in 2003-04. Losses as percentage of turnover have started exhibiting a declining trend which is expected to be maintained in coming years.

The Union Government, in order to help the State Utilities is providing funds to States under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for investment in identified distribution areas for, inter

alia, reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising, through grants, reduction of cash losses.

Six States have been provided incentive under APDRP for actual reduction in losses. State-wise details are as under:—

Sl. No.	States	Reduction in cash loss	Incentive released (Rs. crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	530.22	265.11
2.	Gujarat	472.76	236.38
3.	Haryana	210.98	105.49
4.	Maharashtra	275.78	137.89
5.	Rajasthan	275.42	137.71
6.	West Bengal	146.00	73.00

[Translation]

Remunerative Prices to the Silk Producers

5311. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take any concrete steps to ensure remunerative prices to the silk producers for their yield in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have taken several initiatives to safeguard the interests of domestic silk industry and to improve the quality and productivity of silk production thereby ensuring remunerative price to the producers of silk in the country. These initiatives include the following:—

(i) Antidumping duty has been imposed by Govt. of India with effect from 2nd January, 2003 on

all imported mulberry raw silk (not thrown) of international grade 2A and below, originated in or exported from People's Republic of China, so as to keep the landed value of these goods at US \$ 27.97 per kg.

(ii) Several programmes and schemes to increase the quality, productivity and the competitiveness of the domestic silk industry have been instituted. The important ones are:—

- Research and Development efforts of Central Silk Board have been stepped up to improve quantity and productivity of sericulture, by evolution of more productive and stress tolerant breeds and hybrids of mulberry and non-mulberry food plants and silkworms; and development of low cost reeling and processing technologies in silk.
- Seed Support and Technical Assistance is being given by the Central Silk Board to State Governments, farmers and reelers by maintenance of parent races and basic seed, supply of commercial seed, and augmentation of grainage facilities for production of disease free high yielding and drought resistant seeds.
- Central assistance is being extended to States through Centrally Sponsored and Central sector schemes to strengthen farm infrastructure, increase area under sericulture, upgrade reeling facilities, improve finishing processes, strengthen seed supply, cocoon and silk testing systems.
- Low cost and productivity enhancing technologies developed by the Central Silk Board are being popularized through central assistance to beneficiaries, training to the States' extension machinery and beneficiaries, organizing of various awareness programmes, etc.

- For technology upgradation of the indigenous silk industry loan at 5% point less than applicable bank rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textiles sector is available inter alia to silk sector.
- Supply chain issues between the farmers, raw silk producers and the weavers are being addressed by advocating contract farming models, price linked grading, etc.
- Establishing quality certification systems for silkworm seeds, cocoons, yarn and fabric.
- An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been provided in the X Plan for the Sericulture sector to support the above strategy and programmes.
- Export of value added silk items is being encouraged through assistance to exporters for participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad, market research and surveys, etc.

[English]

Foodgrains for SGRY

5312. DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains allocated for SGRY during 2001-05 and for NFFW Programme during 2004-05 to districts of Assam is yet to be delivered by FCI as per the allocation made to these two districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof including quantity and delivery, year-wise;

(c) the status of such delivery in other districts of Assam;

(d) the action taken to ensure timely delivery of foodgrains;

(e) whether certain districts are compelled to lift the rice from Nowgaon depot of FCI; and

(f) if so, the compensation on transportation cost made to these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) 97% of the total authorization of foodgrains have been lifted under SGRY upto the year 2003-2004. The lifting of foodgrains authorized as first instalment during the year 2004-05 is under process while the second instalment and additional instalment of foodgrains were authorized under the scheme during the month of March, 2005. Under Special Component of SGRY, 98% of the authorized foodgrains have been lifted during the 2003-2004. During the year 2004-2005, foodgrains were authorized in December, 2004 and the lifting of foodgrains is under process. No foodgrains have been lifted under NFFWP as authorized to five districts during the year 2004-2005.

(b) and (c) The district-wise details of authorization and lifting (delivered) under normal SGRY, Special Component and NFFWP are given in the statement-I, II and III enclosed.

(d) Meetings have been conducted with the Officials of FCI from time to time to ensure timely delivery of foodgrains in their designated depots to supply the same for implementation of these Programme.

(e) The FCI has authorized Districts like Dhemaji, Karbi Anglong and N.C. Hills to lift the rice from Nowgaon and Hojai Depot of FCI.

(f) The Govt. of Assam has been authorized to meet expenditure on transportation cost of foodgrain at the rate of Rs. 25 per quintal out of cash component under the programme in respect of Karbi Anglong and N.C. Hills districts while the excess expenditure will be borne by the State Government. Transportation cost in respect of remaining districts is also to be borne by the State Govt.

Statement-I***District-wise Foodgrains Authorised and Lifted under SGRY during
2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005***

Foodgrains in MT (Rice)

Sl.No.	Districts	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Authorised	Lifted	Authorised	Lifted	Authorised	Lifted	Authorised	Lifted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Barpeta	13869	13869	15816	15816	16854	16854	15792	7479
2.	Bongaigaon	20162	20082	22982	22982	21757	21757	17745	17252
3.	Cachar	14914	14826	17007	13911	15952	15952	14376	730
4.	Darrang	16761	12167	19109	18394	20213	20213	18002	8220
5.	Dhemaji	13869	10715	15828	14756	17476	15858	14378	1804
6.	Dhubri	14149	14149	16088	16088	17487	17487	14341	9100
7.	Dibrugarh	8293	8293	9468	9468	10771	10771	9568	3500
8.	Goalpara	9083	9083	10365	10365	11188	11188	10376	3391
9.	Golaghat	11064	10100	8188	8188	11757	11757	12373	8792
10.	Hailakandi	9994	9994	11405	10905	12213	12213	11527	2120
11.	Jorhat	12401	10816	14123	14123	16689	16689	13715	6300
12.	K. Anglong	19430	19360	17618	17618	22646	17940	21732	7070
13.	Kamrup	15428	15397	14343	14343	17940	22646	16706	4400
14.	Karimganj	12288	8472	10525	10525	14776	14777	12907	1000
15.	Kokrajhar	24970	24970	28479	28479	30237	30237	28591	21380
16.	Lakhimpur	13632	12228	15542	11587	14671	14167	14795	7250
17.	Morigaon	12088	11957	10326	10326	14527	14527	13038	500
18.	N.C. Hills	11857	11857	13531	13531	13601	13601	12791	1519
19.	Nagaon	14343	11544	16355	16355	16867	16867	15645	1400

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20.	Nalbari	16801	16801	19163	19163	19973	19973	19113	5043
21.	Sibsagar	5911	4209	7724	7724	6207	6207	5879	1500
22.	Sonitpur	17312	17270	19748	19748	19418	19418	17781	4000
23.	Tinsukia	6822	6822	9712	9712	8263	8264	7566	5833
Total		315441	294981	343445	334107	371483	369363	338737	129584

Statement-II*District-wise foodgrains authorised and lifted under Special Component SGRY*

in MT (Rice)

Sl. No.	District	2003-2004		2004-2005	
		Authorised	Lifted	Authorised	Lifted
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Barpeta	1900	1900	9246	500
2.	Bongaigaon	Nil	Nil	5777	943
3.	Cachar	Nil	Nil	6769	2000
4.	Darrang	1700	1252	4412	1259
5.	Dhemaji	4200	3872	2998	2998
6.	Dhubri	10300	10300	9910	7500
7.	Dibrugarh	1300	1300	1198	1198
8.	Goalpara	7000	7000	6541	199
9.	Golaghat	Nil	Nil	1690	1690
10.	Hailakandi	4450	4450	2314	500
11.	Jorhat	3600	3600	2406	1248
12.	Kamrup	4200	4200	9301	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Karbi-anglong	Nil	Nil	1476	1000
14.	Karimganj	1350	1350	4029	277
15.	Kokrajhar	Nil	Nil	982	982
16.	Morigaon	1800	1800	6154	1339
17.	N.C. Hills	Nil	Nil	456	750
18.	N. Lakhimpur	Nil	Nil	2233	100
19.	Nagaon	2800	2800	10770	2549
20.	Nalbari	3300	3300	4429	1270
21.	Sivasagar	Nil	Nil	1410	1410
22.	Sonitpur	2100	2100	4108	3200
23.	Tinsukia	Nil	Nil	1391	1391
Total		50000	49224	100000	34303

Statement-III

*District-wise foodgrains authorised
under NFFWP*

		In MT (Rice) 2004-2005
Sl. No.	District	Authorised
1	Kokrajhar	32490
2	North Cachar Hills	15437
3	Karbi-anglong	25282
4	Dhemaji	18047
5	North Lakhimpur	17728
Total		108984

Foreign Loan for Koel Karo Power Project

5313. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Saudia Arab Government has extended a second loan of SR 100 million to set up the Koel Karo Project in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the oustees of the projects has been rehabilitated;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which all the oustees are likely to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (e) Even though the investment approval for execution of Koel Karo Hydroelectric Project (710 MW) by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) was accorded by the Government of India in June 1981, no major work on the project could be started due to resistance from the local people. Therefore, the question of rehabilitation of the oustees of the project does not arise.

Wind Energy

5314. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for setting up wind energy system in the country;

(b) the actual expenditure likely to be incurred for setting up of the same;

(c) whether the Union Government is providing any assistance to the farmers for setting up of this system;

(d) whether it is mandatory for the farmer to get permission for the Union as well as State Government; and

(e) if so, the number of days normally taken for granting permission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Ministry has been promoting utilization of wind energy by setting up of wind turbines for power generation and wind mills for water pumping applications. The wind turbines are normally installed in the areas having annual mean wind power density of 200 watt per square metre or more at 50 metre height. Water pumping wind mills are installed in the areas having annual average wind speed of more than 10 kilometers per hour.

(b) The expenditure for setting up of large capacity wind turbines varies from Rs. 4.0 crore to Rs. 5.0 crore per megawatt and Rs. 2.0 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh per kilowatt for small capacity systems upto 30 kilowatt. The

expenditure in setting up of a water-pumping windmill varies from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2.40 lakh, depending upon the type of windmill.

(c) The Ministry is providing central financial assistance (CFA) to individual users including farmers upto 50% of the ex-works cost of wind turbines upto 30 kilowatt capacity, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.25 lakh per kilowatt. The CFA for installation of water pumping windmills is upto 50% of ex-works cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 45,000 per windmill, depending upon the type of windmills.

(d) and (e) No permission is required from the Union as well as State Governments for setting up of windmills and small capacity wind turbines by farmers. However, the beneficiaries, including farmers, are required to approach the nodal agencies, implementing the programme of non-conventional energy sources in the respective states, for setting up of the above systems availing the CFA.

Restructuring of UTI and IDBI

5315. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the non-performing assets of UTI and IDBI during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to restructure UTI and IDBI to revitalise their organisations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Details of non-performing assets (NPAs) of SUUTI and IDBI are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) UTI has been restructured with effect from February 1, 2003. The Unit Trust of India Act, 1963 has been repealed paving for the bifurcation of UTI into two entities—Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI); and UTI Mutual Fund (UTIMF). While SUUTI manages schemes which involve the commitment of the Government of India, UTIMF manages the pure

Mutual Fund schemes/products, which are fully SEBI complaint.

The Government have taken adequate measures to revitalize IDBI as follows:—

- (i) IDBI Act, 1944 has been repealed and IDBI has been vested with a banking license to enable IDBI to access low cost deposits.
- (ii) Amalgamation of IDBI Bank with IDBI Ltd. has been permitted.
- (iii) Stressed Assets Stabilisation Fund has been set up as a Trust outside the books of IDBI Ltd. to which IDBI Ltd. has transferred its non-performing assets amounting to Rs. 9000 crore.

Statement

Non Performing Asset of SUUTI

Period	Gross NPA's (Rs. in crore)	Net NPA's (Rs. in crore)
As on 31-3-2003	6230.77	427.48
As on 31-3-2004	5984.91	0.00
As on 31-3-2005	4748.01	0.00

1. As on march 31, 2004 NPA's have been fully provided.
2. Gross NPA's have dropped by Rs. 1482 crore during the past two years on account of recoveries.

Non Performing Asset of IDBI Ltd.

Period	Gross NPA's (Rs. in crore)	Net NPA's (Rs. in crore)
2001-02	79.00	3873.00
2002-03	8751.00	7517.00
2003-04	10292.00	8693.00

[Translation]

Sub-Committee on CAPART

5316. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a sub-committee to make recommendations in respect of CAPART;

(b) if so, the terms of reference assigned to the sub-committee for recommendations and the time by which its report is likely to be submitted;

(c) the grants made by CAPART to NGOs, State-wise during each of the last three years;

(d) whether are complaints in respect of grants approved by CAPART to NGOs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government has not constituted any Sub-Committee to make recommendations in respect of CAPART. However, a Review Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development in the year 2002 to submit recommendations in respect of CAPART in regard to CAPART's role and functioning in the coming years, its organizational structure, administrative/financial procedures and related issues. The Committee's report has since been received.

(c) State-wise grants extended to NGOs during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Since inception of CAPART, as many as 338 NGOs were blacklisted for reasons like misutilisation of funds, non-accomplishment of stipulated work, forgery etc. and out of which 240 cases involve recovery of assistance extended. Recovery proceedings have been initiated by filing FIRs with the concerned Police Departments of various States/District Administrations.

Statement*State-wise details of grant sanctioned and released to the NGOs during 2002-2003*

(Amount Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.02	6.22
2.	Assam	0.47	0.01
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—
4.	Bihar	15.61	8.75
5.	Delhi	0.91	0.63
6.	Gujarat	1.75	0.98
7.	Haryana	4.91	2.86
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.59	1.28
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.47	0.99
10.	Jharkhand	1.48	1.20
11.	Karnataka	1.88	1.08
12.	Kerala	1.49	1.15
13.	Manipur	0.84	0.51
14.	Meghalaya	0.02	—
15.	Mizoram	0.10	0.05
16.	Maharashtra	2.79	2.58
17.	Madhya Pradesh	1.14	0.93
18.	Chhattisgarh	0.15	0.48
19.	Nagaland	0.01	0.05
20.	Orissa	2.42	2.06
21.	Punjab	0.65	0.26
22.	Rajasthan	2.57	0.86

1	2	3	4
23.	Sikkim	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	3.46	2.89
25.	Tripura	0.08	0.21
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6.03	4.79
27.	Uttaranchal	1.68	1.11
28.	West Bengal	3.59	2.89
29.	Goa	0.01	0.01
30.	Pondicherry	0.14	0.01
Total		67.26	44.94

State-wise details of grant sanctioned and released to the NGOs during 2003-2004

(Amount Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.39	6.19
2.	Assam	0.60	0.44
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.03	1.48
4.	Bihar	8.37	9.11
5.	Delhi	1.00	0.13
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haweli	0.01	—
7.	Gujarat	3.58	2.17
8.	Haryana	5.23	4.63
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.42	2.22
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.54	0.48
11.	Jharkhand	2.42	0.74

1	2	3	4
12.	Karnataka	3.84	3.02
13.	Kerala	2.23	1.17
14.	Manipur	0.77	0.89
15.	Meghalaya	0.04	0.03
16.	Mizoram	0.12	0.06
17.	Maharashtra	7.81	3.43
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1.90	2.23
19.	Chhattisgarh	0.16	0.36
20.	Nagaland	0.16	0.36
21.	Orissa	4.06	2.86
22.	Punjab	0.45	0.43
23.	Rajasthan	4.81	3.72
24.	Sikkim	0.01	0.01
25.	Tamil Nadu	2.89	2.30
26.	Tripura	0.10	0.09
27.	Uttar Pradesh	13.57	6.04
28.	Uttaranchal	3.13	1.56
29.	West Bengal	5.12	2.78
30.	Goa	0.01	—
31.	Pondicherry	—	0.05
Total		83.77	58.72

State-wise details of grant sanctioned and released to the NGOs during 2004-2005

(Amount Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.17	4.48

1	2	3	4
2.	Assam	1.01	0.26
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.06	0.04
4.	Bihar	1.44	2.14
5.	Delhi	0.86	0.16
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haweli	Nil	Nil
7.	Gujarat	1.56	2.21
8.	Haryana	1.27	0.63
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.08	0.51
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.43	0.36
11.	Jharkhand	0.01	0.41
12.	Karnataka	2.95	1.31
13.	Kerala	2.69	1.38
14.	Manipur	1.37	0.43
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	0.05	Nil
17.	Maharashtra	4.94	3.18
18.	Madhya Pradesh	1.53	0.97
19.	Chhattisgarh	0.35	0.16
20.	Nagaland	0.09	0.04
21.	Orissa	1.37	2.25
22.	Punjab	0.79	0.75
23.	Rajasthan	0.75	2.20
24.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil
25.	Tamil Nadu	2.55	1.80
26.	Tripura	0.09	0.02
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2.01	7.54

1	2	3	4
28.	Uttaranchal	1.19	1.82
29.	West Bengal	2.25	3.01
30.	Goa	—	0.02
31.	Pondicherry	—	—
Total		39.86	38.08

Note: Provisional.

[English]

Monitoring of Cooperative Banks

5317. KUNWAR MANVAENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently made some recommendations regarding the functioning and monitoring of Co-operative Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has placed a draft Vision Document for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) on its website inviting feed back from the public, with the objective that UCBs emerge as a sound and healthy network of jointly owned, democratically controlled and ethically managed Banking Institutions providing need based quality banking services, essentially to the middle and lower middle classes and marginalized sections of the society.

Further, a Task Force on Rural Cooperative Credit Structure was constituted by the Government. Reserve Bank of India has agreed with most of the recommendations made by the Task Force, but suggested some options regarding changes in the legal

frame work for regulating/monitoring of the Cooperative Banks.

The Government has accepted the report of the Task Force in principle for implementation and consultation with State Governments has been initiated.

[Translation]

Sanitation/Drinking Water Projects

5318. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects of the States like sanitation, supply of drinking water and development of rural areas are pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time since when they are lying pending;

(c) the State-wise details of the total amount provided for implementing these project during the last three years, allocated and the year-wise details of achievement in this regard;

(d) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded to these pending projects and the reasons for delay in according approval to these projects;

(e) whether the Government proposes to accord approval to some projects during the current year; and

(f) if so, the State-wise and project-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Under the Schemes for rural drinking water supply, funds are allocated every year by the Central Government to States and the State Governments are empowered to formulate, finalise and approve the Projects. As such, no drinking water supply projects of the States are pending with the Union Government for approval. However, in the case of Sanitation, the receipt of the TSC proposals and their sanction is a continuous process. Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects from some States received after the date of the last National Scheme Sanctioning Committee in March 2005 are pending for approval:—

States	No. of projects pending with Union Government
1	2
Rajasthan	8
Karnataka	8
Bihar	3
Mizoram	3

1	2
Assam	1
Chhattisgarh	1
Himachal Pradesh	1

In the case of area development programmes of DDP (Desert Development Programme) and DPAP (Drought Prone Area Programme), funds are released to DRDAs/Zilla Parishads for the identified Districts/Blocks. In the case of the area development programme of Integrated Waste Land Development Programme (IWDP), prioritized list of districts is invited every year from the States and projects are sanctioned accordingly for that year. There is no pending project for sanction under IWDP upto the year 2004-05.

(c) State-wise details of the total amount provided for implementing the TSC projects alongwith year-wise achievements for the last three years is given in the enclosed statement I to III respectively.

(d) The receipt of the TSC proposals and their sanction is a continuous process. All the pending projects are under consideration of the Department.

(e) and (f) It is proposed to accord approval to all the pending proposals in the current year itself provided they are in accordance with TSC guidelines.

Statement-I

**State-wise Central Share Releases and Achievements during 2002-03
under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)**

Sl. No.	State	Centre Share Release (Rs. in lakhs)	IHHLS	School Toilets	Toilets of Balwadles	Sanitary Complexes	RSM/PC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1600.87	73474	1999	300	0	10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0	6	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3. Assam	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	3
4. Bihar	1548.70	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Chhattisgarh	175.64	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.15	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Goa	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Gujarat	94.65	0	114	0	0	0	0
9. Haryana	402.90	99	151	0	0	0	0
10. Himachal Pradesh	79.29	29	18	0	2	0	0
11. Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0	4	0	5	4	4
12. Jharkhand	223.87	13	0	0	0	8	8
13. Karnataka	0.00	13707	142	0	7	0	0
14. Kerala	439.27	100867	112	0	71	2	2
15. Madhya Pradesh	644.93	10034	891	0	5	0	0
16. Maharashtra	591.37	60570	3430	1	296	3	3
17. Manipur	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Meghalaya	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Mizoram	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Nagaland	13.79	0	0	0	0	0	0
21. Orissa	1113.85	44876	1582	0	60	47	47
22. Pondicherry	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
23. Punjab	52.67	15263	277	0	24	7	7
24. Rajasthan	265.62	0	0	0	0	0	0
25. Sikkim	17.98	700	306	43	16	0	0
26. Tamil Nadu	2192.49	14894	381	743	70	0	0
27. Tripura	249.56	33825	233	44	2	16	16
28. Uttar Pradesh	2137.30	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
29. Uttaranchal		151.16	0	0	0	0	0
30. West Bengal		2011.21	334163	1551	0	0	10
31. Others		100.00	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		14110.27	702505	11197	1131	558	110

Statement-II

*State-wise Central Share Releases and Achievements during 2003-04
under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)*

Sl. No.	State	Centre Share Release (Rs. in lakhs)	IHHLS	School Toilets	Toilets of Balwadles	Sanitary Complexes	RSM/PC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Andhra Pradesh		4660.35	2156487	24515	227	10	412
2. Arunachal Pradesh		0.00	5240	256	10	0	0
3. Assam		199.31	10308	75	0	0	8
4. Bihar		0.00	32973	380	0	198	87
5. Chhattisgarh		0.00	892	1098	0	12	13
6. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0.00	0	0	0	0	0
7. Goa		0.00	0	0	0	0	0
8. Gujarat		0.00	7	293	0	0	0
9. Haryana		62.06	40956	314	0	8	15
10. Himachal Pradesh		0.00	41	189	2	13	3
11. Jammu and Kashmir		76.48	623	65	0	0	0
12. Jharkhand		284.61	8970	618	0	58	29
13. Karnataka		0.00	17754	873	12	12	2
14. Kerala		864.13	115025	757	15	331	36
15. Madhya Pradesh		4425.96	43267	5543	479	59	103

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Maharashtra	725.05	135236	2051	1115	237	67
17.	Manipur	103.56	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Meghalaya	221.37	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Mizoram	11.51	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Nagaland	0.00	24124	271	34	65	2
21.	Orissa	284.16	220780	4027	0	1	217
22.	Pondicherry	0.00	900	26	2	1	2
23.	Punjab	0.00	2432	98	0	2	0
24.	Rajasthan	119.12	16372	2164	0	10	20
25.	Sikkim	38.37	3000	173	0	16	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	2770.53	684103	8401	8163	288	106
27.	Tripura	819.21	246413	538	661	4	476
28.	Uttar Pradesh	3120.44	487248	3847	0	276	63
29.	Uttaranchal	13.40	767	0	0	0	0
30.	West Bengal	1181.10	2574863	10767	0	472	383
31.	HRD	12.50	0	0	0	0	0
32.	IEC	250.00	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Others	256.67	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		20500.00	6828781	67339	10720	2073	2044

Statement-III

*State-wise Central Share Releases and Achievements during 2004-045
under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)*

Sl. No.	State	Centre Share Release (Rs. in lakhs)	IHLS	School Toilets	Toilets of Balwadles	Sanitary Complexes	RSM/PC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3362.27	367818	8729	7	12	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2. Arunachal Pradesh		100.00	2393	52	3	0	0
3. Assam		254.95	28307	37	0	0	5
4. Bihar		120.00	47547	66	0	68	43
5. Chhattisgarh		1100.17	4325	586	0	3	11
6. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0.00	37	0	0	1	0
7. Goa		134.67	0	0	0	0	0
8. Gujarat		3690.44	54972	223	0	0	0
9. Haryana		811.13	217700	539	1406	154	17
10. Himachal Pradesh		50.00	199	112	0	6	0
11. Jammu and Kashmir		1044.88	1878	51	0	0	0
12. Jharkhand		1946.71	16883	1362	7	0	142
13. Karnataka		461.99	3450	557	19	22	0
14. Kerala		805.53	166432	435	476	110	20
15. Madhya Pradesh		2242.97	355613	7996	670	79	193
16. Maharashtra		3493.05	382478	7011	2094	394	251
17. Manipur		0.00	0	0	0	0	0
18. Meghalaya		0.00	0	0	0	0	0
19. Mizoram		60.00	0	0	0	0	0
20. Nagaland		62.69	1827	6	0	6	0
21. Orissa		4582.48	374064	2619	17	0	191
22. Pondicherry		47.42	0	0	2	4	0
23. Punjab		699.94	0	55	0	0	0
24. Rajasthan		700.86	116552	4245	6	8	69
25. Sikkim		74.07	34208	35	0	30	0
26. Tamil Nadu		2972.06	717346	5207	5399	588	94
27. Tripura		368.73	51380	754	970	16	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28. Uttar Pradesh		3475.35	806537	5821	0	144	82
29. Uttaranchal		503.23	35359	69	0	10	13
30. West Bengal		1566.85	426429	3425	1	70	107
31. HRD		500.00	0	0	0	0	0
32. IEC		1439.00	0	0	0	0	0
33. M and E		9.00	0	0	0	0	0
34. MIS and Computerisation		25.00	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		36705.44	4213734	49992	11077	1725	1256

*[English]***Wind Energy**

5319. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wind energy producers have requested the Government for incentive in the existing tax schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the performance based incentive scheme can attract more investors and help to produce more electricity at a low cost to consumers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) Wind power receives numerous concessions in the form of fiscal incentives like 80 per cent accelerated depreciation, concessional custom and excise duties and preferential tariffs in most potential states. As a result, 13 per cent of the additional

power generation installed capacity set up during the first 3 years, i.e., 2002-03 to 2004-05 of the 10th Plan has come from wind power alone against a target of 5 per cent. Accordingly, the target for wind power for this period has been exceeded by as much as 160 per cent. The progress in this sector is highly satisfactory.

Central Legislation for Compulsory Registration of Marriage

5320. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is actively considering to introduce Central legislation for compulsory registration of marriage in the country and in order to check the growth of foreign nationals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[Translation]

Royalty for Iron Ore

5321. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) when the royalty was fixed on iron ore and the average market price of the iron ore at that time;

(b) the percentage of per tonne amount of royalty as compared to the average market price of the iron ore last time when the royalty of it was being fixed;

(c) the date on which royalty of iron ore was fixed prior to October, 2004 and the percentage of average market price to the amount of royalty at the time of its determination;

(d) whether the percentage of market price of

royalty fixed in October, 2004 was very less in comparison to the percentage of royalty fixed before;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to revive it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINERALS (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) Royalty on iron ore was last fixed vide Gazette notification dated 14-10-2004. In case of iron ore, there are large number of grades based on both chemical composition and physical characteristics with varying prices. Royalty on iron ore is charged on tonnage basis and not on the percentage of average market price thereof. Prior to 2004, royalty rates on minerals including iron ore were notified on 12-9-2000. Rates of royalty on tonnage basis of different grades of iron ore have been enhanced in 2004 in comparison to the rates notified in 2000 as follows:—

Year	2000	2004
Iron Ore		
(i) Lumps:		
(a) with 65% Fe content or more	Twenty four rupees and fifty paise per tonne.	Twenty seven rupees per tonne.
(b) with 62% Fe content or more but less than 65% Fe content	Fourteen rupees and fifty paise per tonne.	Sixteen rupees per tonne.
(c) with less than 62% Fe content	Ten rupees per tonne.	Eleven rupees per tonne.
(d) Less than 60 per cent Fe content	Seven rupees per tonne.	
(ii) Fines:		
(a) With 65% Fe content or more	Seventeen rupees per tonne.	Nineteen rupees per tonne.
(b) With 62% Fe content or more but less than 65% Fe content	Ten rupees per tonne.	Eleven rupees per tonne.
(c) With less than 62% Fe content	Seven rupees per tonne.	Eight rupees per tonne.
(iii) Concentrate prepared by beneficiation and/or concentration of low grade ore containing 40% Fe or less.	Three rupees per tonne.	Four rupees per tonne.

(e) and (f) In view of reply to (a) to (d) do not arise.

[English]

Irregularities in Nationalised Banks

5322. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irregularities found in various nationalised banks during the last two years, bank-wise;

(b) the action taken against such banks; and

(c) the remedial measures initiated to stop recurrence of such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The working of Banks and Financial Institutions is reviewed on a continued basis by RBI. All cases of divergence and non-implementation of guidelines of RBI by banks detected during the course of inspection are reviewed and taken up with the managements of the respective banks for corrective action. The irregularities mainly relate to divergence in provisioning, high level of NPAs, practice of swapping of non-performing assets (NPAs) amongst banks, deficiency in internal control, transgression of delegated powers, inadequacy of provisioning of terminal benefits, frauds and slippage of income etc. The Inspection Reports conducted under Section 35 of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 of banks are confidential in nature and the contents of these report are not disclosed by RBI as per section 34-A of B.R. Act, 1949.

[Translation]

Health Study of Workers of Asbestos Mining

5323. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Mines Bureau has conducted study regarding the impact on the health of labourers engaged in asbestos mining;

(b) if so, the findings of the study;

(c) whether any recommendation has been made in the study to remove the ban imposed on mining of asbestos;

(d) whether the Government proposes to implement these recommendations and remove the ban on leases of asbestos mining; and

(e) if so, the time by which these recommendations are proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) In 1998, Ministry of Mines had approved a S and T Project titled 'Study of Pollution Level in Asbestos Mines and processing plants in Rajasthan' to be undertaken by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office of the Ministry to assess the feasibility of lifting the ban on expansion of asbestos mining through a scientific study of pollution level in asbestos mines and processing plants in Rajasthan and in Andhra Pradesh and to suggest appropriate mitigation measures. The Study recommended that the ban imposed on grant and renewal of mining leases and expansion of mining may be lifted subject to control of pollution level in work environment of various operations and other remedial measures.

(d) and (e) Recommendations of the Study have been examined in consultation with all Stake holders. Some stake holders have suggested that asbestos mining can be permitted with appropriate safeguards. IBM in consultation with Central Pollution Control Board has been asked to work out these safeguards. At present the ban on mining of asbestos has not been lifted.

Kahalgaon Power Project

5324. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second phase of NTPC project in Kahalgaon, Bhagalpur proposed to be completed by March, 2007;

(b) whether the project work has slowdown due to bad roads and bridges;

(c) if so, whether any funds have been allocated for the said roads and bridges; and

(d) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) The expansion of Kahalgaon Stage-II, comprising Phase-I (2x500 MW) and Phase-II (1x500 MW) is under implementation. Two 500 MW units of Stage-II are scheduled to be commissioned by March, 2007 and the 3rd unit of 500 MW is scheduled for commissioning in May, 2007. Project work is progressing as per schedule.

(c) and (d) Work is being executed by Roadways Department, Government of Bihar in association with Ministry of Surface Transport (MOST), Government of India. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has deposited Rs. 112 lakhs with MOST as per their demand for strengthening of road in one section (153 to 157 KM) of NH-80. The work is in progress.

[English]

Counter Guarantee to Private Power Projects

5325. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given counter guarantees to a number of private sector power projects in the country;

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

(c) the power generation capacity of each of such projects as on date?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (c) Government of India has provided counter guarantee to 6 private sector power projects viz. the 740 MW Dabhol (Phase-I) and 1082 MW Bhadrawati power projects in Maharashtra, 216 MW, Jegurupadu (Phase-I) and 1040 MW Visakhapatnam projects in Andhra Pradesh, 250 MW Neyveli—Zero Unit project in Tamil Nadu and 420 MW Ib Valley project (Units 3

and 4) in Orissa. Three of the projects viz. Dabhol (Phase-I), Jegurupadu (Phase-I) and Neyveli—Zero Unit having a total capacity of 1206 MW have been commissioned. However, Dabhol (Phase-I) Project has subsequently shut down since 2001. Counter guarantees given for the Bhadrawati, Visakhapatnam and Ib Valley projects have Lapsed due to inability of the projects to comply with the required conditions.

[Translation]

Non-Banking Operations of Banks

5326. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mainly public and private sector banks bear the responsibility of meeting the credit requirement of industrial, agricultural and business sectors;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether banks are earning most of their profit from their non-banking operations;

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

(e) the average percentage of the total capital being annually utilized by the banks in non-banking operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Banks in different groups viz. public, private and co-operative are catering to the credit requirements of different sectors including industry, agriculture and trading. The banks exercise commercial judgement in extending credit in accordance with their well established loan policy duly approved by their Board of Directors. A bank group-wise analysis for the year 2003-04 given below indicates that a major share of the profits of Public Sector Banks and private sector banks was on account of trading income while in the case of foreign banks foreign exchange transactions accounted for a major share in profits.

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Bank Group	Trading Income	Operating Profit
Scheduled Commercial Banks	19532	52671
Public Sector Banks	15410	39475
(a) Nationalised Banks	10482	25111
(b) State Bank Group	2928	14364
Old private sector banks	1476	3196
New private sector banks	2034	5013
Foreign Banks	612	4987

*[English]***Gas-based Power Projects**

5327. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas-based power plants set up by National Thermal Power Corporation in the country so far;

(b) the performance of these units during the last three years;

(c) whether NTPC proposes to set up new gas-based power units during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) national Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has set up seven (7) Gas/liquid fuel based power plants in India so far. NTPC's various gas based power plants are operating as per gas availability and grid demand. Their performance during last three years is as follows:—

(Generation figures in Million Units)

Project	Fuel	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Anta	Gas/Naphtha	2758.2	2772.5	2785.3
Auraiya	Gas/Naphtha	4268.2	4248.9	4118.5
Dadri Gas	Gas/High Speed Diesel	5211.0	5060.3	5456.6
Kawas	Gas/Naphtha	4203.2	3888.7	2822.4
Gandhar	Gas	3369.7	3220.2	4031.7
Faridabad	Gas/Naphtha	2702.3	2788.5	3161.7
Kayamkulam	Naphtha	2118.5	2118.0	621.7

(c) and (d) NTPC proposes to start construction activities of Stage-II expansions of 1300 MW each at Kawas and Gandhar located in Gujarat in the current year 2005-06. All clearances of these projects except environmental clearance are available. Environmental clearance is presently in progress. Bids for main plant equipment for these projects have also been received.

Promotion of Textile Industry

5328. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote textile industry in the country especially in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up new textile mills in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, locationwise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a vast scope to promote textile industry in the country including the state of Rajasthan due to India's rich cultural heritage, its distinct strength in strong and diverse multi-fibre raw material base, availability of abundant low cost skilled work force, design capability, entrepreneur skills and its presence across the entire value chain of the textiles and apparel industry from raw material to the finished goods.

(b) Government has taken a number of measures and introduced various schemes from time to time to promote textile industry of the country including that of Rajasthan. A list of such steps taken in the recent past is furnished in the statement enclosed.

(c) Through various policy regimes and schemes, Government provides a favourable and conducive environment for entrepreneurs to set up textile units. In view of this, the present policy of the Government is

not to set up any textile mill in the country including Rajasthan.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Measures taken by the Government in the recent past to help the textile sector

- To improve productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission has achieved success in increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning and Pressing factories.
- The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganised sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the repaid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- In order to facilitate modernisation of the Powerloom Sector, Schemes such as Hightech Weaving Parks, Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centers, Group Workshop Scheme and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme @ 20% have been introduced.
- In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-added Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These

modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.

- To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% on continues to be at 5% in respect of most of machinery items.
- In 2005-06 Budget, 30 items of knitting and knitwear have been de-reserved. This would facilitate setting up of large sized modernized units for meeting the international competition.
- Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- "Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme" has been launched with a view to imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports. Under the Scheme, Government gives grant upto Rs. 17 crores per apparel park for infrastructure work, training and common facilities.
- Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) has been introduced with the objective of modernizing infrastructure facilities at major textile centres of the country. Government of India gives grant upto Rs. 20 crores for a particular centre.
- In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Ministry of Textiles is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs).

- National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the Industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.

[Translation]

Mineral Mines

5329. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mines under public sector;
- (b) the names of mines alongwith the details of minerals found in them;
- (c) whether all the mines are earning profits;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, mine-wise;
- (e) the number of persons working in the said mines, mine-wise; and
- (f) the number of mines in the country which have been handed over to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a), (b) and (e) As per the information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines, the number of mines under Public Sector and other details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Mine-wise profit/loss is not centrally maintained by the IBM.

(f) As per information furnished by IBM, the number of reporting mines during 2003-04 (excluding those of fuel, atomic and minor minerals) in the private sector were 2317.

Statement*Company-wise average daily employment in public sector during 2003-04(P) and total reporting mines (**)*

Company Name	No. of mines	Avg. Daily Employment	Mineral Name
1	2	3	4
Almora Magnesite Ltd.	1	210	Magnesite
Andhra Pradesh Mineral Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	2	71	Limestone
		307	Barytes
Bargarh Cement Ltd.	1	163	Limestone
Bharat Process and Mechanical Engg. Ltd.	5	1121	Iron Ore
		115	Manganese Ore
Burn Standard Co. Ltd.	1	414	Magnesite
			Dunite
Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	6	258	Limestone
		20	Laterite
			Shale
Chhattisgarh Mineral Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	2	65	Bauxite
			Tin
Directorate of Geology and Mining, Madhya Pradesh			Diamond
Fertiliser Corpn. of India Ltd.	9	69	Gypsum
Gujarat Mineral Dev. Corpn. Ltd	8	52	Fluorite Concentrate
		430	Bauxite
Hindustan Copper Ltd.	4	2677	Copper Ore
			Gold
			Silver
Hindustan Salt Ltd.	2	45	Rock Salt
Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd.	2	3773	Gold
			Silver

1	2	3	4
Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	4	1769	Iron Ore
Indian Rare Earths Ltd.	3	1712	Sillimanite
		142	Garnet
Industrial Dev. Corpn. of Orissa Ltd.	3	27	Limestone
		489	Chromite
Jammu and Kashmir Cements Ltd.	1	27	Limestone
Jammu and Kashmir Minerals Ltd.	2	43	Limestone
		62	Gypsum
Jharkhand State Mineral Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	6	81	Mica
		57	Limestone
		24	Kyanite
Kerala Clays and Ceramics Products Ltd.	3	245	Kaolin
Keshkal G.N. India Bauxite Mines and Minerals Ltd.	1	18	Bauxite
Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.	1	1361	Iron Ore
Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corpn. Ltd.	8	483	Phosphorite
		73	Pyrophyllite
			Diaspore
		5	Dolomite
		480	Bauxite
Maharashtra State Mining Corpn. Ltd.	6	22	Limestone
		18	Iron Ore
		82	Dolomite
		79	Sillimanite
			Corundum
			Pyrophyllite
		49	Silica Sand

1	2	3	4
Malabar Cements Ltd.	1	187	Limestone
Manganese Ore India Ltd.	10	6244	Manganese Ore
Mawmluh Cherra Cements Ltd.	1	61	Limestone
Mysore Minerals Ltd.	21	354	Magnesite
		187	Limestone
		47	Felspar
			Quartz
		24	Bauxite
		251	Chromite
		138	Iron Ore
		149	Dolomite
		183	Kaolin
			Fireclay
National Aluminium Co. Ltd.	1	592	Bauxite
National Mineral Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	7	3058	Iron Ore
		34	Silica Sand
		320	Diamond
Neyveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd.	1	10	Ball Clay
Orissa Mineral Dev. Co. Ltd.	5	123	Iron Ore
		511	Manganese Ore
Orissa Mining Corpn. Ltd.	19	2544	Iron Ore
		1082	Chromite
		925	Manganese Ore
Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Ltd.	43	887	Phosphorite
		256	Gypsum
		23	Fluorite (Graded)

1	2	3	4
		12	Selenite
		298	Limestone
		10	Selenite
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	4	21	Manganese Ore
		143	Limestone
		207	Dolomite
		18	Silica Sand
Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.	6		Sand (Others)
Sikkim Mining Corpn. Ltd.	2	148	Copper Ore
			Lead Concentrate
			Lead and Zinc Ore
			Zinc Concentrate
Steel Authority of India Ltd.	17	8544	Iron Ore
		1902	Limestone
		634	Dolomite
Tamil Nadu Cements Corpn. Ltd.	2	156	Limestone
Tamil Nadu Magnesite Ltd.	1	598	Magnesite
			Dunite
Tamil Nadu Minerals Ltd.	9	148	Quartz
			Felspar
		24	Silica Sand
		22	Limestone
		28	Vermiculite
		38	Graphite
The Bisra Stone Lime Co. Ltd.	1	1415	Limestone
			Dolomite

1	2	3	4
The Karanpura Dev. Company Ltd.	2	130	Limestone
The Kerala Ceramics Ltd.	1	133	Kaolin
The Maharashtra State Mining Corpn. Ltd.	1	39	Fluorite (Graded)
Travancore Cement Ltd.	1	70	Limeshell
Visvesvarayya Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	3	15	Limestone
		15	Dunite
		103	Iron Ore
W.B. Mineral Dev. and Trading Corpn. Ltd.	2	203	Apatite
		29	Fireclay
West Bengal Projects Ltd.	1	78	Kaolin
Western Coalfields Ltd.	1		Sand (Others)
			Fireclay
Total	244	50509	

(P): Provisional, Source: MCDR Returns

(**): Excluding fuel, atomic and minor minerals

[English]

Bogus Accounts

5330. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that bogus accounts are being opened in the banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such accounts that have come to notice of the Government during the last three years as on date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve

Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not come across any instance of bogus accounts being opened in the Banks as observed from Annual Financial Inspection (AFI), scrutiny etc.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Ramagundam Power Project

5331. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seventh unit of Ramagundam power plant has started production from April 1, 2005;

(b) if so, the total installed capacity of the plant and total power generation capacity being made at present;

(c) whether NTPC has prepared itself for the summer demand of power in the southern States;

(d) if so, the total electricity likely to be available to Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the total power generation of Ramagundam and Simhadri Power plants and total power out of that being supplied to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) The 500 MW seventh unit of Ramagundam under Stage-III, was commissioned during 2004-05, has been declared commercial with effect from 25-3-2005. With this the total installed/power generation capacity of Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station is 2600 MW.

(c) and (d) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) stations meet only part requirement limited to allocation from NTPC stations to each State Electricity Board (SEB)/Transmission Utilities who distribute power within each state either themselves or through the distribution utilities. NTPC stations would make all efforts to meet generation targets fixed by Central Electricity Authority for the current year including for the summer months.

The Power allocation to Andhra Pradesh from NTPC stations is as under:—

Station	Installed Capacity (MW)	Allocation to Andhra Pradesh (MW)
Ramagundam Stage-I and II	2100	677
Ramagundam Stage-III	500	172
Simhadri	1000	1000
Talcher Stage-II	2000	*482
Total	5600	2331

*This is from the total capacity of 2000 MW out of which 1500 MW capacity has been declared commercial.

(e) During 2004-05, details of power generation from Ramagundam and Simhadri power plants and that supplied to Andhra Pradesh from these stations are as follows:—

(Figures in Million Units)

Station	Ex-bus Generation	Supply to Andhra Pradesh
Ramagundam	15277.35	4405.00
Simhadri	7663.51	7663.51

[Translation]

Committee for Promotion of RRB Staff

5332. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestions of Dr. K.P. Aggarwal Committee constituted regarding the promotion of Regional Rural Banks staff have been accepted by the Government;

(b) if so, the time by which the said suggestions are likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Dr. K.P. Aggarwal Committee regarding the career progression in RRBs were examined in consultation with the RBI, but could not be accepted as these were not in conformity with the Recruitment and Promotion of Officers and Employees Rules, 1998. However, keeping in view the recommendations made by the Committee, RRBs were advised to identify the number of vacancies under scale III category in consultation with the sponsor bank and effect promotion in accordance with the RRBs (Appointment and Promotion of Officers and other Employees) Rules, 1998.

[English]

White Paper on Disinvestment

5333. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to publish white paper on disinvestment in public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the time by which the white paper is likely to be published?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The White Paper on disinvestment in Public Sector Enterprises is under preparation and is expected to be tabled in Parliament during the forthcoming Monsoon Session.

Revenue Collected in AP

5334. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) details of revenue collected from the State of Andhra Pradesh directly or indirectly during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) the share of Andhra Pradesh out of this revenue collected during the period; and

(c) the allocation made/released by the Union Government to Andhra Pradesh during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of revenue collected on account of direct taxes from the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last two years is as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Amount collected
2003-2004	3846
2004-2005*	4728

*Figures for Financial Year 2004-2005 are provisional.

So far as direct taxes are concerned, state-wise figures are not maintained separately.

(b) and (c) The share of Andhra Pradesh in Central taxes which has been calculated and released to the State during the last two years based on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission is as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Amount released
2003-2004	5068.52
2004-2005*	6058.42

Insurance Cover to Mobile Phones

5335. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Public sector insurance company has entered into an agreement with a leading private telephone service provider for providing insurance cover to the mobile phones of that company;

(b) if so, whether the company incurred heavy losses in this transaction; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) During the year 2003-04, two public sector general insurance companies had provided insurance cover to mobile telephone service providers. While National Insurance Co. Ltd. (NIC) granted cover to M/s. Reliance Infocomm and Tata Teleservices for Handsets insurance and Default Liability insurance, Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd. (OIC) granted cover to M/s. Reliance Infocomm for Default Liability only.

(b) and (c) The details of premium and incurred claims for the year 2003-04 in respect of handsets insurance and default liability for both NIC and OIC are furnished below:—

(Rs. in Crores)

	Reliance Infocomm				Tata Teleservices			
	Handsets Insurance		Default Liability		Handsets Insurance		Default Liability	
	Premium	Incurred	Premium	Incurred	Premium	Incurred	Premium	Incurred
NIC	29.49	89.36	60.43	152.34	2.39	0.0003	5.04	7.18
OIC	—	—	16.20	51.75	—	—	—	—

Sanction by ADB

5336. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has agreed to sanction a Rs. 300 crore loan for rural roads construction in Assam;

(b) if so, the terms thereof;

(c) whether it has had the approval of Union Government; and

(d) the details of the roads to be constructed from the said fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) The Asian Development Bank has agreed to provide a loan of US \$ 400 million for construction of rural roads under PMGSY. The State of Assam, Orissa and West Bengal will be the project States for the purpose. The terms of the loan will be the standard terms as agreed by the Department of Economic Affairs. The selection and construction standards of the roads to be constructed will generally be in accordance with the PMGSY guidelines.

[Translation]

Handloom Cluster Scheme

5337. SHRI NARRENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA:
SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate the handloom cluster scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified the area for setting up handloom clusters in various States of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India proposes to take up a new scheme titled 'Integrated Handloom Cluster Scheme'. The scheme inter-alia envisages to provide assistance in a comprehensive and coordinated manner towards setting up of infrastructure, upgradation of technology, supply of raw material, design inputs, marketing support etc. The scheme is at the stage of formulation and has to be approved by the competent authorities.

(c) and (d) The areas for setting up of handloom clusters in various States will be identified in consultation

with the State Governments. It would, therefore, not be possible at present to identify thereas for setting up of handloom clusters in various States of the Country. However, a diagnostic study is being undertaken through Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI), Gandhinagar (Gujarat) in five selected districts viz. Banaras in Uttar Pradesh, Madhavaram of Cuddappa district in Andhra Pradesh, Kurunchipadi in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu, Sonapur district of Orissa and Bijoinar of Assam.

[English]

Strike by Employees of PSBS

5338. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Public Sector Banks observed one day strike on March 22, 2005 in protest against the merger of banks and private investment in banking sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has received memorandum from associations in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for promoting private/multinational banks in the country;

(f) whether the Government propose to reconsider merger of banks/private investment thereof; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Employees' Union and Officers' Associations of the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) were

on strike on 22nd March, 2005 in protest against merger and acquisition of PSBs and foreign Banks/Institutions/Investors taking over Indian banks.

(c) and (d) A strike notice in this connection served by the United Forum of Bank Unions was received by the Indian Bank's Association (IBA).

(e) to (g) After liberalization the Private/Multinational Banks have been functioning in the country in the post financial sector reform period and have since become active players in the Financial Sector. At present, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government, suo moto, for merger/privatization of any PSB. However, any proposal for consolidation by way of merger etc. of one nationalized bank with another nationalized bank has to come from their managements with Government playing only a supportive role as the common shareholder. Also, to bring the Indian banking industry to global level, new initiatives have to be introduced including, consolidation of the domestic banking system in both public and private sectors on the one hand and gradual enhancement of the presence of foreign banks in India in a phased manner on the other.

Kisan Credit Card

5339. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the performance made in the issue of Kisan Credit Cards during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government Intends to enhance extent of Kisan credit and broad base it issue to all States, districts and villages;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government has launched another new scheme for the benefit of farmers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the new scheme is likely to benefit the farmer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme which is applicable to all States in India, KCCs have been issued to cater to timely and adequate credit needs of the farmers. Commercial Banks, Co-operative Banks and Regional Rural Banks have issued 9340534, 8242756, 9246633 and 7043341 cards during the year 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto 28th February, 2005) respectively.

(d) to (f) With a view to provide credit for comprehensive credit requirements of farmers under single window, KCC scheme has been revised recently and its procedure has been simplified, making it more flexible and adopting whole farm approach. The scheme covers term credit as also working capital for agriculture and allied activities and a reasonable component for consumption needs.

Textile Items for Rapid Growth

5340. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified 30 items in the textile production category to poise for rapid growth in textile trade industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to boost the textile trade industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To facilitate the rapid growth of textile trade industry, the Government in the Budget 2005-06 has de-reserved thirty items relating to knitting and knitwear from the purview of SSI. The list of de-reserved items is enclosed as statement.

(c) The Government has initiated the following important measures to boost the textile trade industry:—

(i) Rationalisation of the fiscal duty structure;

- (ii) Launching of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector, Rs. 435 crore has been allocated for 2005-06;
- (iii) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn, was provided optional exemption from excise duty, and Central Value-added Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%, which aims at attracting more investments for modernization of the textile sector;
- (iv) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery, the customs duty on specified textile machinery was brought down to 10% in Budget 2005-06;
- (v) For accelerating modernization of the powerlooms segment of the textile industry, the ceiling for machinery under TUFS has been increased from Rs. 60 lakh to Rs. 1 crore under Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) @ 20%, and Capital assistance is available on investment upto Rs. 1 crore in specified machinery subject to a ceiling of Rs. 20 lakh on the amount of assistance;
- (vi) Announcement of a package for restructuring of debt portfolios of potentially viable textile units with debt exposure of Rs. 2 crore and above;
- (vii) De-reservation of the woven segment of readymade garments from the SSI sector. Further de-reservation of 30 items of knitting and knitwear from the SSI has also been done;
- (viii) A centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" has been launched for imparting a focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give a fillip to exports. An amount of Rs. 2 crore has been set aside for setting up training facilities in each apparel park;

- (ix) Government is already operating a Brand Equity Fund Scheme to promote Indian brands in overseas markets with the primary objective of brand promotion;
- (x) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) under implementation;
- (xi) The Cotton Technology Mission was launched to improve the productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products; and
- (xii) Announcement and implementation of the National Textile Policy 2000, which aims at developing a strong and vibrant textile industry that can attain and sustain a pre-eminent global standing in the manufacture and export of clothing in the global scenario.

Statement

Name of the Textile Products De-Reserved

- 1. Cotton cloth knitted.
- 2. Cotton vests knitted.
- 3. Cotton socks knitted.
- 4. Cotton undergarments knitted.
- 5. Cotton Shawls knitted.
- 6. Other cotton knitted wears.
- 7. Woolen cloth knitted.
- 8. Woolen vests knitted.
- 9. Woolen socks knitted.
- 10. Woolen scarves knitted.
- 11. Woolen undergarments knitted.
- 12. Woolen caps knitted.
- 13. Woolen shawls knitted.

- 14. Woolen gloves.
- 15. Woolen mufflers knitted.
- 16. Other woolen knitted wears
- 17. (i) Synthetic knitted socks and stocking.
- 18. (ii) Synthetic knitted underwears such as vest, briefs and drawer.
- 19. (iii) Synthetic knitted outerwears such as jersey slipover, pullover, cardigans and jacket.
- 20. (iv) Synthetic knitted children wear such as baby suits, knicker, frock, underwear and outerwear.
- 21. (v) Synthetic knitted fabrics except high pile fabric made by sliver.
- 22. (vi) Synthetic knitted swim wear such as trunk and costume.
- 23. (vii) Synthetic knit wear such as scarf, shawl, cap, ties, blouse and jean.
- 24. (viii) Synthetic knitted Shirt, T-Shirt, Collar Shirt and Sports-Skirts.
- 25. (ix) Synthetic knitted hose.
- 26. (x) Other Synthetic knit wear.
- 27. Stove wicks.
- 28. Cotton belting.
- 29. Belt lacing.
- 30. Measuring Tapes-Cotton.

National Legal Literacy Mission

5341. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2402 on March 18, 2005 and state:

(a) the number of branches proposed to be set up under National Legal Literacy Mission;

(b) the funding pattern for the Mission; and

(c) the response of State Government to the Mission and steps taken to promote this mission in the right earnest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The National Legal Literacy Mission shall be implemented through State Legal Services Authorities, District Legal Services Authorities, Taluk Legal Services Committees and High Court Legal Services Committees which have already been set up and are functioning in all States and Union Territories. It is also proposed to involve village panchayats and Non-Governmental Organisations.

(b) Funds are allocated by the Central Government to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and it further allocates funds to State Legal Services Authorities. Efforts are being made to bring the mission within the ambit of Plan Expenditure and National Legal Literacy Fund would be created.

(c) The Government is committed to implement the said mission in right earnestness, and resources for the mission would be augmented in all possible manner.

Computerisation of IT Offices

5342. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to complete the computerization of the Income Tax Offices across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total estimated expenses likely to be incurred on this account;

(d) time by which the work is likely to be completed; and

(e) steps being taken to familiarize the officials of the IT Department to improve the performance of the department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Computerization programme of the Income Tax offices across the country is in three phases. Phase I and II have been completed while Phase III is underway.

(c) The estimated expenditure inclusive of running expenses on all India Network, National Data Centre and Facilities Management Services for 5 years in Rs. 693.59 crores.

(d) The work is likely to be completed by December, 2005.

(e) Extensive training on a continuous basis is provided to Income Tax officials for the purpose.

[Translation]

Prices of Cotton

5343. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking specific steps to safeguard the interest of the cotton growers in future keeping in view the loss suffered due to fall in prices of cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Cotton Corporation of India failed to procure all the cotton due to paucity of funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken to check recurrence of the said situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Interests of the

cotton growers are protected through the support price operations of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) whenever the market price falls to the level of the Minimum Support Price declared by the Government of India.

(c) and (d) The CCI has not faced any shortage of funds. During the current cotton season 2004-05 the CCI has purchased an all time high 138.35 lakh quintals of kapas equivalent to lint cotton of 26.98 lakh bales valued at Rs. 2620 crore approximately.

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

[English]

Tenure of CMDs in LIC

5344. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to ensure fixed five-year tenure for CMDs of public sector banks and Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Clause 8 (1) of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme, 1970/1980 provides that whole time director including Managing Director shall hold office for such term not exceeding the five years as the Central Government may, after consultation with Reserve Bank of India, may specify and shall be eligible for re-appointment. As regards tenure of Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation, there is no proposal to fix five-year tenure for Chairman Life Insurance Corporation.

[Translation]

Robbery/Theft in Banks

5345. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of robbery and theft from lockers of various branches of nationalised banks in various States have rapidly increased during the last three years till date;

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

(c) whether investigations have been conducted in each case;

(d) whether bank employees/officers have also been found involved in these incidents;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that they have not come across any rising trend in the cases of robbery and theft from lockers of various branches of nationalized banks in various States during the last three years. During this period only two incidents of thefts from lockers i.e. one at Allahabad Bank, Commercial Agricultural Finance Branch, Ludhiana, Punjab in December, 2003 and another at Punjab National Bank, Nauroji Nagar Branch, New Delhi in July 2004, occurred, which are under investigation of police. In the case of Allahabad Bank, no involvement of any staff has been reported. However, PNB has observed certain lapses on the parts of its officials against whom the Departmental enquiry is in progress.

RBI has issued a circular elaborating on the relationship between the bank and the locker holder as also liability of the bank in case of lapses in taking adequate measures to safeguard deposit lockers. Further, security measures to be taken by public sector banks are reviewed in the State Level Security Committee meetings convened periodically by RBI.

*[English]***Merger of IFCI**

5346. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Industrial Finance Corporation of India Officers Association requesting for merger of IFCI with IDBI instead of Punjab National Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have received representations from Industrial Finance Corporation of India Officers Association requesting for merger of IFCI with IDBI instead of Punjab National Bank.

(c) IFCI is a company under the Companies Act, 1956 with no direct shareholding of the Government. IDBI has also become a company with effect from October 1, 2004. As such, the merger of two or more institutions would have to be considered first by their respective Boards keeping in view the benefits and synergies of such a proposal.

CAIT's Objection of VAT

5347. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the All India Trader's bandh, called by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) to protest against the Value Added Tax (VAT) regime;

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

(c) whether the Government had any discussion with CAIT; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As

VAT is a tax intended to replace the State Sales Tax, it is a State subject. Therefore, an Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers was set up to decide on all issues relating to implementation of State level VAT.

(c) and (d) Discussion, if any, in this regard is to be held between representatives of CAIT and the Empowered Committee.

Appointment of Notaries

5348. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed by the Government for appointment of Notary Public;

(b) the number of applications received by the Government for appointment of Notary Public during each of the last two years, state-wise;

(c) the number of persons appointed as Notary Public out of the above;

(d) whether the number of applications of Notary Public are lying pending with the Union Government sent through the Members of the Parliament from the last three years till date;

(e) if so, the reasons for their pendency; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The norms for appointing a Notary Public are laid down under the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. Under Section 3 of the said Act, the Central Government as well as the State Governments are empowered to appoint Notaries. The Central Government has power to appoint Notaries for the whole or any part of India, whereas a State Government is empowered to appoint Notaries for whole or any part of the State

concerned. Under Rule 3 of the Notaries Rules, a person from amongst legal practitioners may apply for appointment as a notary, if he had been practising at least for 10 years. In case the applicant for notaryship is a person belonging either to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes or a woman, then the condition for eligibility for appointment as a notary is 7 years of legal practice. A person is also eligible for appointment as a notary if he has been a member of Indian Legal Service under the Central Government or if he has been for ten years, a member of Judicial Service, or held an office under the Central Government or a State Government requiring special knowledge of law after enrolment as an Advocate or held an office in the Department of Judge Advocate General or in the legal department of the Armed Forces. The eligible persons may apply for appointment as notary on a prescribed form i.e. Memorial, which has to be countersigned by a Magistrate, a Nationalized Bank Manager, a Merchant and two prominent local residents. The Competent Authority, appointed by the Central Government, thereafter examines the Memorial and calls for comments/objections from the State Bar Council where the memorialist is enrolled as an advocate. The applicant is also requested to submit an affidavit deposing that he is neither a notary already appointed by any State Government nor his application for appointment as Notary is pending with the concerned State Government and also state the number of courts and the number of notaries in the desired area of practice. After considering the objections and the various facts mentioned in Rule 7 of Notaries Rules, a decision to recommend for appointment or otherwise of the applicant is taken by the Competent Authority. On receipt

of the report of the Competent Authority, the Central Government after considering the same takes an appropriate decision.

(b) The State-wise applications received by the Government for appointment as Notary Public for last two years as the Statement marked as statement-I enclosed.

(c) the number of persons appointed as Notary Public out of these applications are as per the Statement marked is enclosed as statement-II.

(d) and (e) During the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 the Government has appointed 305,160 and 255 notaries respectively. The process for appointment is that on receipt of an application the applications shall be examined by the Competent Authority if he is satisfied that the applicant does not possess the qualifications specified in Rule 3, or that any previous application of the applicant for appointment as a notary was rejected within six months before the date of application, shall reject it and informed the applicant accordingly. If the Competent Authority does not reject it and informed the applicant accordingly. If the Competent Authority does not reject the application, he may if he thinks fit, seeking comments from Bar Council, Bar Association etc. in the area where the applicant proposes to practice, the objections if any to the appointment of the applicant as notary. The applicant is also requested to submit an affidavit. The number of application being large completing all the process in respect of each application takes sometime.

(f) As soon as the necessary informations/affidavits in respect of applicants are received.

Statement-I

*Number of applications received by the Government for appointment of
Notary Public during last two years State-wise*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Application received for 2003	Application received for 2004
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	08	12

1	2	3	4
2.	Assam	—	—
3.	Bihar	—	03
4.	Gujarat	—	76
5.	Kerala	—	06
6.	Madhya Pradesh	02	06
7.	Tamil Nadu	03	17
8.	Maharashtra	64	19
9.	Karnataka	04	42
10.	Orissa	03	04
11.	Punjab	34	51
12.	Rajasthan	33	27
13.	Uttar Pradesh	49	118
14.	West Bengal	17	03
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	01
16.	Nagaland	—	—
17.	Haryana	16	33
18.	Himachal Pradesh	—	01
19.	Manipur	—	—
20.	Tripura	01	—
21.	Meghalaya	—	—
22.	Sikkim	—	—
23.	Mizoram	—	—
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
25.	Goa	—	08
26.	Uttaranchal	04	02
27.	Chhattisgarh	05	01

1	2	3	4
28.	Jharkhand	—	02
29.	Delhi	35	38
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	01
33.	Daman and Diu	—	—
34.	Pondicherry	—	—
35.	Chandigarh	04	01

Statement-II

Number of Notary Public appointed State-wise during each of the last two years

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Notary Public	
		2003	2004
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	02	04
2.	Assam	—	—
3.	Bihar	—	02
4.	Gujarat	08	15
5.	Kerala	03	28
6.	Madhya Pradesh	02	—
7.	Tamil Nadu	02	04
8.	Maharashtra	35	35
9.	Karnataka	08	09
10.	Orissa	—	—

1	2	3	4
11.	Punjab	18	31
12.	Rajasthan	10	14
13.	Uttar Pradesh	33	51
14.	West Bengal	03	04
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—
16.	Nagaland	—	—
17.	Haryana	33	42
18.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—
19.	Manipur	—	—
20.	Tripura	—	—
21.	Meghalaya	—	—
22.	Sikkim	—	—
23.	Mizoram	—	—
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
25.	Goa	—	—
26.	Uttaranchal	—	—
27.	Chhattisgarh	03	—
28.	Jharkhand	—	—
29.	Delhi	08	16
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—
33.	Daman and Diu	—	—
34.	Pondicherry	—	—
35.	Chandigarh	—	—

Power Tariff Policy

5349. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to reduce cross subsidy on electricity for consumers above poverty level in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new power tariff policy have been formulated by the Power Ministry recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the State Governments have agreed to implement the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) The National Electricity Policy notified on 12-2-2005 provides that—

"A minimum level of support may be required to make the electricity affordable for consumers of very poor category. Consumers below poverty line who consume below a specified level, say 30 units per month, may receive special support in terms of tariff which are cross-subsidized. Tariffs for such designated group of consumers will be at least 50% of the average (overall) cost supply."

"The existing cross-subsidies for other categories of consumers would need to be reduced progressively and gradually."

(c) to (e) Under the provisions of section 3 of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Central Government is required to prepare a tariff policy in consultation with the State Governments. A draft policy has accordingly been prepared on which comments of various State Governments have been obtained. The draft tariff policy lays down approach for determination of the tariffs for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity.

Reform in Rural Water Supply Sector

5350. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring reforms in rural drinking water supply sector to institutionalize community participation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of water supply schemes initiated during 2004-05 and the number of persons benefited thereby, State-wise; and

(d) the target fixed by the Government for 2005-06 under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Rural drinking water is a State subject. The Central Government supplements the efforts of States in this endeavour by extending financial and technical assistance through a Centrally Sponsored programme, called Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (AWRSP). In 1999, the States were granted incentives upto 20% of the annual ARWSP allocations for institutionalization of community involvement in rural drinking water sector. Accordingly, Sector Reforms Projects (SRPs) were taken up in 67 districts of 26 States since 1999 on pilot basis on the basis of capital cost-sharing to the extent of 10% and taking up full responsibilities for operation and maintenance of the scheme. The reforms initiative was scaled up as Swajaldhara in December 2002.

(c) and (d) Under AWRSP, the State Governments are empowered to plan, design, sanction and implement rural water supply schemes. No record of schemes is kept at the Central level. Under Swajaldhara, State Sanitation and Sanitation Mission (SSWM) and District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC) approve the schemes. During 2004-05, State Governments submitted lists of a total 4611 schemes for district-wise release of funds. Details of the schemes are not kept at the Central level. Since the Swajaldhara schemes are demand responsive, no targets are fixed by the Central Government. The Statewise details are enclosed as statement.

Statement

No. of Swajaldhara Schemes submitted by State Governments for release of funds during 2004-05

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Schemes
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	605
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4.	Assam	41
5.	Bihar	21
6.	Chandigarh	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	61
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
9.	Daman and Diu	0
10.	Delhi	0
11.	Goa	0
12.	Gujarat	119
13.	Haryana	155
14.	Himachal Pradesh	440
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	220
16.	Jharkhand	0
17.	Karnataka	114
18.	Kerala	67
19.	Lakshadweep	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	242
21.	Maharashtra	557

1	2	3
22.	Manipur	0
23.	Meghalaya	28
24.	Mizoram	2
25.	Nagaland	4
26.	Orissa	265
27.	Pondicherry	0
28.	Punjab	20
29.	Rajasthan	397
30.	Sikkim	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	354
32.	Tripura	226
33.	Uttar Pradesh	482
34.	Uttaranchal	106
35.	West Bengal	85
Total		4611

Rural Electrification

5351. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has sanctioned Rs. 1,234 crore for strengthening and enhancing the power system in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages proposed to be electrified there from; and

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):
(a) to (d) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has

sanctioned a loan assistance of Rs. 688 crore for 256 schemes in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2004-05. Out of the above sanctioned schemes, 102 schemes involving loan outlay of Rs. 477 crore were sanctioned for strengthening and enhancing the power system as detailed in the statement enclosed.

This sanction also includes 96 Dalit Basti Schemes involving loan assistance of Rs. 82 crore for electrification of 5806 Dalit Bastis.

The schemes sanctioned are targeted to be completed within next two years.

Statement

A. Schemes sanctioned for strengthening and enhancing the Power System during 2004-05 in Andhra Pradesh

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Category	No. of Schemes	Loan Amount Sanctioned
1.	Project for System Improvement (Transmission) P:SI	8	145
2.	Project for Meters SI(M)	16	60
3.	Project for Transformers SI(Tran)	17	141
4.	Projects for System Improvement (Distribution) (P:SI)	57	117
5.	Projects for System Improvement (GVDS) (P:SI)	4	14
Total		102	477

B. Other Schemes sanctioned during 2004-05 in Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Category	No. of Schemes	Loan Amount Sanctioned	Remarks
1.	Project for Intensive Electrification (P:IE)	1	2	This scheme covers electrification of 5250 rural households
2.	Project for Energization of Pumpsets (SPA:PE)	57	127	
3.	Project for Dalit Bastis (P:DB)	96	82	for electrification of 5806 Dalit Bastis
Total		154	211	—
Grand Total A+B		256	688	

*[Translation]***SBI in USA**

5352. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a branch of SBI located in USA has been honoured as the fastest emerging foreign bank;

(b) if so, the details of achievements made by SBI branches in USA during the last three years; and

(c) the number of branches proposed to be opened in USA during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has given approval to State Bank of India for opening one additional branch at Jackson Heights New York and upgradation of Washington Representative Office of SBI to a branch.

*[English]***Budgetary Allocation from Ministries/Deptts.**

5353. DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Ministries/Departments/have strictly complied with 10 per cent budgetary allocation in the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there are instances wherein a part of the 10 per cent budgetary allocations for North Eastern Region is spent on projects undertaken elsewhere; and

(e) if so, details thereof for the last three years, year-wise Ministry-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) A statement giving Ministry/Department-wise details of the lumpsum provision made during BE 2005-06 for projects/schemes for the benefit of North Eastern Areas and Sikkim is enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Ministries/Department	Plan (BE) 2005-06	EAP	Net (GBS-EAP)	Allocation for North East	% of total Allocation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Agriculture and Cooperation	4179.32	3.09	4176.23	418.00	10.01
2.	Agricultural Research and Education	1150.00	61.18	1088.82	115.00	10.56
3.	Animal Husbandry and Dairying	669.08		669.08	67.10	10.03
4.	Agro and Rural Industries	859.00		859.00	85.90	10.00
5.	Chemicals and Petro Chemicals	83.00	24.00	59.00	8.30	14.07
6.	Fertilisers	111.82	14.95	96.87	14.00	14.45
7.	Civil Aviation	370.85	1.00	369.85	7.08	1.91

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Coal	152.05		152.05	15.20	10.00
9.	Mines	220.88	0.00	220.88	16.50	7.47
10.	Commerce	1350.00		1350.00	136.00	10.07
11.	Industrial Policy and Promotion	550.00		550.00	55.00	10.00
12.	Posts	354.00		354.00	15.23	4.30
13.	Telecommunications	158.61	36.00	122.61	0.00	0.00
14.	Information Technology	929.30	9.50	919.80	93.00	10.11
15.	Consumer Affairs	107.94		107.94	10.79	10.00
16.	Food and Public Distribution	93.87		93.87	9.39	10.00
17.	Culture	551.12		551.12	55.11	10.00
18.	Environment and Forests	1234.91	55.01	1179.90	123.50	10.47
19.	Food Processing Industries	180.00		180.00	18.00	10.00
20.	Health	2881.77	1030.38	1851.39	290.80	15.71
21.	AYUSH	345.00		345.00	35.00	10.14
22.	Family Welfare	6424.00	2266.93	4157.07	642.40	15.45
23.	Heavy Industry	406.00		406.00	40.80	10.00
24.	Public Enterprises	30.00		30.00	3.00	10.00
25.	Home Affairs	300.00		300.00	30.00	10.00
26.	Elementary Education and Literacy	12531.76	1996.50	10535.26	1053.50	10.00
27.	Secondary Education and Higher Education	2710.50	100.00	2610.50	261.06	10.00
28.	Women and Child Development	3875.29	128.25	3747.04	387.53	10.34
29.	Information and Broadcasting	528.00		528.00	111.25	21.07
30.	Labour and Employment	219.48		219.48	23.25	10.59
31.	Law and Justice	220.00	1.00	219.00	22.00	10.05
32.	Non-Conventional Energy Sources	599.75	26.00	573.75	60.00	10.46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33.	Panchayati Raj	50.00		50.00	5.00	10.00
34.	Power	3000.00		3000.00	924.00	30.80
35.	Rural Development	18334.00	700.00	17634.00	1833.40	10.40
36.	Land Resources	1396.00	80.00	1316.00	140.00	10.64
37.	Drinking Water Supply	4750.00		4750.00	475.00	10.00
38.	Shipping	535.00		535.00	54.00	10.09
39.	Road Transport and Highways	10585.00	3200.00	7385.00	820.72	11.11
40.	Small Scale Industries	408.91		408.91	41.29	10.10
41.	Social Justice and Empowerment*	1533.70	1.00	1532.70	70.03	4.57
42.	Statistics and Programme Implementation	112.70	7.46	105.24	11.27	10.71
43.	Textiles	1150.00		1150.00	115.00	10.00
44.	Tourism	786.00	14.00	772.00	79.00	10.23
45.	Tribal Affairs	391.81		391.81	39.00	9.95
46.	Urban Development	1976.00	400.00	1576.00	160.00	10.15
47.	Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	500.00	5.00	495.00	50.00	10.01
48.	Water Resources	621.00	8.11	612.89	62.76	10.24
49.	Youth Affairs and Sports	438.99		438.99	39.40	8.98

* The Ministry is required to earmark 2% of their budget for Scheduled Caste Development the 10% norm is applicable to other programmes of the Ministry which has been provided for.

The 10% provision is exclusive of EAP component as per the decision taken in the meeting of COS held on 16-2-2004.

In the case of Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Mines, Department of Posts, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports there is under-provisioning/non-provisioning of 10 per cent of their Plan Budget for NER in BE-2005-06. The Ministry of Civil Aviation have made provision for NER after excluding the provision of Rs. 325 crore for the acquisition of aircraft by Indian Airlines (IA) as aircraft to be acquired by IA would also be deployed in NE region. In respect of

Department of Mines, loss making PSUs and others who have no activity in NER and Sikkim have been exempted from earmarking 10% by the Planning Commission. In respect of Department of Posts, less than 10% of total Plan outlay for NER has been made because computerization is the focus of their Plan programme and the major post offices and administrative offices in NER have already been covered in the previous years. In respect of Telecommunications, a substantial investment is being made by BSNL for telecom facilities in NE

Region. Further, the Plan Budget of the Department of Telecommunications is for funding the schemes of ITI, C-DOT, TEC, TRAI, TD-SAT and WPC/WMO which are not directly relevant to NE Region. In respect of Ministry of Tribal Affairs the provision of Rs. 39 crore for NER has been made after excluding the provision of Rs. 10 crore meant for Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED), as approved by the Planning Commission. In respect of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports the 10% lumpsum provision for NER has been arrived at after excluding the provision of Rs. 45.50 crore meant for Commonwealth Games 2010.

Non-Banking Finance Companies

5354. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is considering to strengthening the Non-Banking Finance Companies further so as to help the sector grow in terms of its assets base;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the representatives of NBFC requested that provision of Debt Recovery Tribunal Act and the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 available to banks and housing finance companies would be extended to NBFCs to protect their assets;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the RBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) are playing an important role in asset creation particularly in transport sector and the RBI is taking steps to further support the non-banking financial companies sector.

(c) to (e) The representatives of NBFCs have been requesting the Reserve Bank for extension of Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) and SARFAESI Act to NBFCs

as available to banks and housing finance companies. The matter is being examined in consultation with RBI.

Wasteland Development

5355. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has earmarked the wasteland which has to be developed by the Government in various parts of the country through public investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the public investment the Government has in principle agreed for the development of wasteland in different States;

(d) the response received by the Government thereon; and

(e) the land so far developed from public investment in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) As per the 'Wasteland Atlas of India, 2000' brought out by the Department of Land Resources in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, the total extent of wasteland/degraded lands in the country is 63.85 million hectares. Out of which, 36.98 million hectares are treatable non-forest wastelands and 14.065 million hectares are forest wastelands.

(c) and (d) The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three programmes namely, the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP) for treatment of non-forest wastelands/degraded lands on watershed approach. DPAP and DDP are being implemented in the identified blocks of the country whereas IWDP is being implemented in the non-DPAP/DDP areas of the country. IWDP is a demand driven programme and is being implemented in all the States of the country. DPAP and DDP are being

implemented in 16 and 7 States respectively. An amount of Rs. 849.90 crores under IWDP, Rs. 844.99 crores under DPAP and Rs. 614.78 crores under DDP have been released for implementation of the projects under these programmes during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05). The State-wise details of release of funds under these Programmes are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(e) Under IWDP, an area of 24.60 lakh hectares, under DPAP an area of 37.81 lakh hectares and under DDP, an area of 23.82 lakh hectares have been sanctioned during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05). The State-wise and year-wise details of area sanctioned under these Programmes are given in statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Funds released during last 3 years (from 2002-03 to 2004-05) under Area Development Programmes of Department of Land Resources

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	IWDP	DPAP	DDP
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7793.46	13800.71	35.53
2.	Bihar	871.88	884.02	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	3470.76	1796453.73	
4.	Goa	82.50		
5.	Gujarat	4300.38	260354.27	147.11
6.	Haryana	1107.31		52.75
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4195.46	1325.45	18.83
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	885.74	867.69	22.48
9.	Jharkhand	519.67	2830.86	
10.	Karnataka	6181.16	5719.13	60.42
11.	Kerala	570.65		
12.	Maharashtra	3314.55	6265.18	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8861.74	15030.58	
14.	Orissa	4282.54	3088.64	
15.	Punjab	244.54		

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Rajasthan	4990.56	4984.07	287.66
17.	Tamil Nadu	5302.07	6278.07	
18.	Uttar Pradesh	5434.23	4672.67	
19.	Uttaranchal	1927.72	1976.22	
20.	West Bengal	239.40	594.00	
Total		65581.32	84478.00	614.78
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1614.48		
2.	Assam	6372.88		
3.	Manipur	1501.30		
4.	Meghalaya	661.71		
5.	Mizoram	2742.63		
6.	Nagaland	5320.33		
7.	Tripura	355.88		
8.	Sikkim	839.73		
Total of NE		19408.95		
Grand Total of IWDP		84990.27	84499.00	614.78

Statement-II

*Area sanctioned for treatment during last 3 years (from 2002-03 to 2004-05) under
Area Development Programmes of Department of Land Resources*

(in Hectares)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	IWDP	DPAP	DDP
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	132000.00	432500.00	165000.00
2.	Bihar	90000.00	94000.00	

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Chhattisgarh	83576.00	174000.00	
4.	Goa	10000.00		
5.	Gujarat	102500.00	370500.00	436500.00
6.	Haryana	35000.00		178500.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	58000.00	65000.00	80000.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	24000.00	99000.00	79000.00
9.	Jharkhand	53000.00	282000.00	
10.	Karnataka	101448.00	337500.00	248500.00
11.	Kerala	15000.00		
12.	Maharashtra	95000.00	449500.00	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	154972.00	401500.00	
14.	Orissa	83000.00	226000.00	
15.	Punjab	15400.00		
16.	Rajasthan	90000.00	152500.00	1194500.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	106025.00	232000.00	
18.	Uttar Pradesh	130000.00	239000.00	
19.	Uttaranchal	72463.00	138500.00	
20.	West Bengal	23820.00	88000.00	
Total		1475204.00	3781500.00	2382000.00
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	158671.00		
2.	Assam	349732.00		
3.	Manipur	114500.00		
4.	Meghalaya	42000.00		
5.	Mizoram	120685.00		
6.	Nagaland	137250.00		

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Tripura	27529.00		
8.	Sikkim	34455.00		
Total of NE		984822.00		
Grand Total of IWDP		2460026.00	3781500.00	2382000.00

Prosecution Cases against Ministry Officials

5356. SHRI KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officials in his Ministry and departments, under its administrative control in respect of whom sanction of prosecution has been sought during 2002, 2003 and 2004 separately, by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) on the basis of corruption complaints received against them;

(b) the number of cases, out of the above, in which sanction of prosecution has been given, year-wise;

(c) the number of cases, out of the cases referred to in part (a) above, pending with Ministry for more than (i) 3 months (ii) 6 months (iii) 9 months, and (iv) 1 year and more;

(d) whether the concerned Ministries/Departments are required to give the sanction of prosecution within a period of three months; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not giving sanction of prosecution in a large number of cases within the prescribed period?

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

[Translation]

Funds under Waste Land Development Programme

5357. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds allocated to the State Governments under Waste Land Development Programme have been fully utilised by them;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount spent by each State out of the funds allocated;

(d) whether any scheme for development of barren land into fertile land is proposed to be sponsored by the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (e) The Department of Land Resources (DoLR) in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) for development of non-forest wastelands/degraded lands on watershed approach w.e.f. 1-4-1995. IWDP is a demand driven programme and no State-wise allocation of funds is made under this programme. The details of funds released (State-wise) under the Programme during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05) and the current year (2005-06, upto 25-4-2005), are given in the statement enclosed. The watershed development projects are implemented over a period of 5 years and funds are released in five instalments on project to project basis. First instalment is released at the time of sanction of a project and each subsequent instalment is released after utilisation of more than 50% funds of the last instalment released. The total sum utilized is calculated after the completion of the projects. However, the release procedures ensure utilisation of funds released to the States for the projects under the Programme.

There is no specific programme under implementation for development of barren land into fertile land by the Union Government. However, the IWDP has components

to develop/reclaim wastelands and degraded lands by checking land degradation and putting such lands to productive use.

Statement

The funds released under IWDP during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05) and the current year (2005-06) (as on 25-4-2005)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No. Name of the State		Funds released under IWDP during the period			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1395.33	3444.82	2958.32	0.00
2.	Bihar	66.00	371.25	434.63	0.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	549.54	1197.26	1723.96	0.00
4.	Capart (Delhi)	0.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Goa	0.00	82.50	0.00	0.00
6.	Gujarat	1494.42	1733.56	1072.40	0.00
7.	Haryana	206.27	388.55	512.49	31.17
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1500.73	1349.51	1345.22	49.26
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	220.86	241.96	422.92	0.00
10.	Jharkhand	41.77	272.25	205.65	0.00
11.	Karnataka	1394.38	2319.84	2466.93	0.00
12.	Kerala	96.20	314.75	159.70	0.00
13.	Maharashtra	705.08	949.41	1660.06	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3089.13	2866.22	2906.39	184.97
15.	Orissa	885.06	1940.11	1457.37	4.86
16.	Punjab	0.00	50.66	193.88	0.00
17.	Rajasthan	772.06	2097.32	2121.18	150.89

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Tamil Nadu	837.95	1993.50	2470.62	19.49
19.	Uttar Pradesh	1657.04	1974.33	1802.86	163.65
20.	Uttaranchal	335.90	364.30	1227.52	0.00
21.	West Bengal	0.00	82.50	156.90	82.50
Total		15247.72	25034.60	25299.00	686.78

NORTH-EASTERN STATES

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	458.54	351.89	804.05	0.00
2.	Assam	1440.19	1729.91	3202.78	0.00
3.	Manipur	642.18	313.25	545.87	0.00
4.	Meghalaya	23.68	443.65	194.38	0.00
5.	Mizoram	1156.16	612.44	974.03	0.00
6.	Nagaland	1740.56	1868.31	1711.46	0.00
7.	Tripura	0.00	31.61	386.63	0.00
8.	Sikkim	184.12	268.98	324.27	0.00
Total of NE		5645.43	5620.04	8143.48	0.00
Grand Total of IWDP		20893.15	30654.64	33442.48	686.78

*[English]***Assets Reconstruction Companies**

5338. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the modalities of the Asset Reconstruction Companies;

(b) if so, whether legal aspect involved in setting up of such companies has also been examined;

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

(d) the time by which the Government proposes to set up such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Government had enacted The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) in December 2002, which came into effect from June 21, 2002. In terms of the SARFAESI Act, a Securitisation Company/

Reconstruction Company can be set up. In order to commence or carry on the business of securitisation/asset reconstruction, a company has to obtain a certificate of registration from RBI. The Bank has so far granted Certificate of Registration to three companies.

[Translation]

Waiving Off Loans

5359. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have requested the Union Government to waive off loan amount taken from the State Bank of India by the riots victims of Bhagalpur which took place in 1989.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to waive off the said loans; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Bihar (Ministry of Industry) had requested the Government of India (Ministry of Finance) in June, 1999 that Central Government should treat the Bhagalpur riots on par with the 1984 riots and consider waiver of Principal and interest amounting to Rs. 2,32,97,059.

(c) and (d) Government is not in favour of any loan waiver scheme because of its possible adverse impact

on the recoveries and financial discipline. However, immediately after the 1989 Bhagalpur riots, all scheduled commercial banks were advised by RBI in November, 1989 to extend relief and rehabilitation assistance to the affected people in terms of the standing guidelines issued to banks in this regard in August, 1984. The relief provided to November, 1984 riot victims was due to extraordinary circumstances and wide-spread nature of riots.

[English]

Proposal from Tamil Nadu

5360. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has sent any proposal for development of horticulture, animal husbandry; sericulture, aquaculture projects for rural in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Four proposals have been received from the Govt. of Tamil Nadu in the fields of horticulture, animal husbandry; sericulture, aquaculture etc. The details of the proposals alongwith action taken is given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Proposal	Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	Special Project for Establishment of Hi-tech Horticultural farms in the holding of SHGs of Salem district, Tamil Nadu	Project returned to State Govt.
2.	Sustainable self employment of fishermen in Thoothukudi district	Project returned to State Govt.

1	2	3
3.	Comprehensive Dairy project in Tiruvannamalai district	Project is under examination in consultation with the other Administrative Ministries.
4.	Project for the tsunami affected fisher folk in coastal areas received from State Govt.	Project is under examination in consultation with the other Administrative Ministries.

Sick Silk Industry

5361. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the silk Industry in the country specially in Orissa particularly "Berhampuri Patta" is in doldrums;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any effort is being made by the Government to promote silk industry in the country including "Berhampuri Patta" and other silk items of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The large scale import of Chinese raw silk and silk fabrics has affected the domestic silk industry in the country including Orissa.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have taken several initiatives to promote silk industry in the country including "Berhampuri Patta" and other silk items of Orissa. The major initiatives include the following:—

(i) Antidumping duty has been imposed by Govt. of India with effect from 2nd January, 2003 on all imported mulberry raw silk (not thrown) of international grade 2A and below, originated in or exported from People's Republic of China, so as to keep the landed value of these goods at US \$ 27.97 per kg.

(ii) Several programmes and schemes to increase the quality, productivity and the competitiveness of the domestic silk industry have been instituted. The important ones are:—

— Research and Development efforts of Central Silk Board have been stepped up-

to improve quantity and productivity of sericulture, by evolution of more productive and stress tolerant breeds and hybrids of mulberry and non-mulberry food plants and silkworms; and development of low cost reeling and processing technologies in silk;

— Seed Support and Technical Assistance is being given by the Central Silk Board to State Governments, farmers and reelers by maintenance of parent races and basic seed, supply of commercial seed, and augmentation of grainage facilities for production of disease free high yielding and drought resistant seeds.

— Central assistance is being extended to States through Centrally Sponsored and Central sector schemes to strengthen farm infrastructure, increase area under sericulture, upgrade reeling facilities, improve finishing processes, strengthen seed supply, cocoon and silk testing systems.

Based on the proposals received from the State of Orissa, Central Silk Board has released Rs. 50.62 lakhs, Rs. 82.29 lakhs and Rs. 24.32 lakhs respectively during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

— Low cost and productivity enhancing technologies developed by the Central Silk Board are being popularized through central assistance to beneficiaries, training to the States' extension machinery and beneficiaries, organizing of various awareness programmes, etc.

The Central Silk Technological Research Institute of Central Silk Board is extending

services in post cocoon technology aspects in Orissa, through the demonstration-cum-technical service center at Cuttak.

- For technology up-gradation of the indigenous silk industry loan at 5% point less than applicable bank rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textiles sector is available inter alia to silk sector.
- Supply chain issues between the farmers, raw silk producers and the weavers are being addressed by advocating contract farming models, price linked grading, etc.
- Establishing quality certification systems for silkworm seeds, cocoons, yarn and fabric.
- An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been provided in the X Plan for the Sericulture sector to support the above strategy and programmes.

Ways and Means Advance

5362. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for sanctioning ways and means advance to various States;

(b) the reasons for not sanctioning ways and means advance to the State Government of Rajasthan during 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) whether such advance is being extended to Rajasthan during 2005-06 Financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of ways and means advance extended to the States for 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There are no 'norms'. All States have a regular Ways and Means

Advance facility from Reserve Bank of India. The States which are likely to face further inter-temporal gaps in their Ways and Means during a year can be assisted with Ways and Means Advance from Government of India.

(b) The State Government of Rajasthan did not make a specific request in this regard in 2004-05. A request for Ways and Means Advance was made as an alternative if advance releases were not made. As advance releases were made, Ways and Means was not sanctioned.

(c) and (d) No such request has been received. Therefore no such occasion arises.

(e) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	200.00
2.	Assam	200.00	0.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	100.00	0.00
4.	Kerala	350.00	350.00
5.	Madhya Pradesh	250.00	0.00
6.	Manipur	331.00	0.00
7.	Meghalaya	65.00	0.00
8.	Nagaland	100.00	0.00
9.	Punjab	200.00	0.00
Total:		1596.00	550.00
BE		2000.00	1000.00
RE		2000.00	

Grant for Upgradation of Urban Infrastructure

5363. SHRIMATI PARMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently proposed a technical assistance grant for upgradation of urban infrastructure in various States;

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

(c) whether the Government has identified the projects proposed to be taken up with ADB technical assistance in consultation with the respective north Eastern States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) ADB has proposed technical assistance for the following projects:—

(i) Karnataka North East Urban Development Project, for \$ 500,000 to support formulation of the third urban loan project in Karnataka covering 25 cities in north east of state.

(ii) North East Urban Development Project II (Guwahati), for \$ 600,000 to prepare an investment project in Guwahati and major district cities in Assam

(iii) Uttaranchal Urban Development Project, for \$ 600,000, to prepare an urban development project for 25 towns in the State, with focus on environmental protection of upper reaches of Ganges and Yamuna rivers.

(c) and (d) The Government has identified two urban projects to cover the state capitals in all 8 North East States.

National Institute of Design

5364. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up new centre of National Institute of Design in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) At present there is no proposal, either pending or contemplated, to set up new centres of National Institute of Design in the country.

Tipaimukh Dam Project

5365. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the concerned States of Manipur, Mizoram and Assam have agreed to construct the Tipaimukh Dam;

(b) if so, whether the mandatory environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest has been obtained;

(c) if so, the funds allocated so far and spent on this project;

(d) whether the work has begun; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No funds have been released by the Government so far for this project. However, the Detailed Project Report has been prepared by the Brahmaputra Board and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation have spent about Rs. 1.5 crore on survey and investigation required for getting environment and forest clearances.

(d) No, Sir.

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

Judicial Accountability

5366. SHRI M. APPADURAI:

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court in 1997 made three resolutions regarding comprehensive legislation aimed at ensuring an effective judicial accountability and reported to have been sent to the Government suggesting for such legislation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the suggestions of Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) The then Chief Justice of India vide his letter of 12-12-1999 to the then Prime Minister, informed that the issue of restatement of values of judicial life and the two resolutions adopted in the Full Court Meeting of the Supreme Court held on 7th May, 1997 were discussed in the Conference of the Chief Justices held on 3rd and 4th December, 1999. The Chief Justice of India also informed that the Conference resolved further that the report dated 31st October, 1997 of the Committee constituted to devise and "In-House" procedure for taking suitable remedial action against Judges who by their acts of omission or commission, do not follow universally accepted values of judicial life, including those stated in the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life, be circulated to the Judges of the High Courts by their Chief Justices for their suggestions and approval.

The Supreme Court of India, on being further consulted in the matter, has stated that appropriate action is being taken in accordance with the procedure laid down in the 'In House Procedure', for dealing with the erring Judges.

The Constitution (Ninety-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2003 for setting up of National Judicial Commission was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9-5-2003 which would

have *inter-alia* drawn up a Code of Ethics for Judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices and the Judges of High Courts. The Commission was also to inquire into, suo-moto or on a complaint or reference, cases of misconduct or such deviant behaviour of a Judge other than those calling for his removal and advise the Chief Justice of India or the Chief Justice of the High Court appropriately after such inquiry. The Bill has since lapsed with the dissolution of the last Lok Sabha.

There is no proposal at present to bring any legislation in regard to Judicial Accountability.

Revenue Collected from Gujarat

5367. SHRI HARILAL MADHAVAJI BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the break up of the revenue collected from the States directly and indirectly during the last three years, yearwise; and

(b) the share of the States out of this, year-wise and state-wise, particularly of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The break up of the revenue collected on account of direct taxes from the States during the years 2002-2003 and 2003-04 is enclosed as statement I and II respectively.

The information in respect of revenue collected on account of direct taxes from the States during the year 2004-05 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

So far as indirect taxes are concerned, state-wise figures are not maintained separately.

(b) The release of share to States during the last three years 2002-03 to 2004-05, particularly Gujarat, is enclosed as statement-III.

Statement-I

State and U.T. wise Break-up of Direct Tax Collection for 2002-2003

(Figures in crores of Rupees)

State	0020	0021	0023	0024	0028	0031	0032	0033	Total
	Corpn. tax	Income tax	Hot. Rect. Tax	Interest Tax	Expdtr. Tax	Est. Duty	Wealth Tax	Gift Tax	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	1243.27	1831.07	2.29	-0.14	4.86	0.00	-1.75	-2.02	2879.58
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.75
Assam	388.50	390.30	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.00	0.60	0.00	779.56
Bihar	9.42	292.98	0.00	0.12	0.03	0.00	0.21	0.00	302.76
Chhattisgarh	445.29	216.42	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.14	-0.02	661.89
Goa	43.60	97.30	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.00	141.64
Gujarat	1271.90	1966.14	0.22	0.25	1.45	0.00	4.12	-1.34	3242.74
Haryana	206.95	660.60	0.00	0.16	0.44	0.00	4.18	0.00	872.33
Himachal Pradesh	9.36	160.18	0.00	1.52	0.09	0.00	-0.24	0.00	170.91
Jharkhand	20.32	534.59	0.00	0.12	0.01	0.00	0.30	0.00	555.34
Jammu-Kashmir	148.46	124.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	273.42
Karnataka	2141.50	3181.93	0.00	-5.59	10.32	0.00	7.31	0.00	5335.47
Kerala	573.10	795.95	0.01	-6.05	1.93	0.00	2.20	0.21	1367.35
Madhya Pradesh	809.80	615.67	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.01	1426.31

Maharashtra	20500.35	10963.09	0.00	2.13	63.61	0.00	74.40	0.13	31603.72
Manipur	-0.01	6.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	6.89
Meghalaya	2.14	20.40	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.04	-0.01	22.59
Mizoram	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11
Nagaland	0.03	6.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	6.23
New Delhi	8085.93	5126.15	0.00	-314.18	40.96	0.00	25.22	0.07	12963.15
Orissa	606.40	334.62	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	1.57	0.00	942.74
Punjab	370.08	835.08	0.00	0.56	0.01	0.01	0.89	-0.20	1206.43
Rajasthan	233.88	746.54	0.00	0.34	2.21	0.00	0.92	-0.07	983.82
Sikkim	0.00	4.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.56
Tamil Nadu	2340.62	2896.99	0.00	0.97	9.52	0.25	10.86	0.02	5259.13
Tripura	-0.25	20.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.72
Uttar Pradesh	326.08	1531.99	0.00	21.06	0.79	-0.01	5.44	-0.01	1884.32
Uttaranchal	4647.66	241.85	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	1.09	0.00	4890.52
West Bengal	1582.49	1984.28	0.00	23.14	34.08	0.00	15.09	0.00	3619.06
Total (l)—	45985.65	35390.26	2.53	-276.26	170.43	0.26	154.40	-1.23	81427.04
Union Territories									
Andaman Nicobar	0.69	4.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.87
Chandigarh	132.19	235.12	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	-0.79	-0.56	365.97
Daman	3.81	3.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	7.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Diu	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	13.67	93.44	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.17	0.00	107.48
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Silvassa	4.38	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.30
Total (II)	154.74	337.71	0.00	0.01	0.20	0.00	-0.52	-0.56	491.58
Total —(I) and (II)	46140.39	35727.97	2.53	-275.25	170.63	0.26	153.88	-1.79	81918.62
C.T.D.S.	31.96	1137.99							1169.95
Grand Total	46172.35	36866.96	2.53	-275.25	170.63	0.26	153.88	-1.79	83088.57

Statement-II

State and U.T. wise Break-up of Collection for the Year 2003-2004

(Figures in crores of Rupees)

State	0020	0021	0023	0024	0028	0031	0032	0033	Total
	Corpn. tax	Income tax	Hot. Rect.	Interest Tax	Expendr. Tax	Est. Duty	Wealth Tax	Gift Tax	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	1804.26	2035.92	0.04	-0.50	1.86	0.00	4.86	-0.08	3846.36
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	4.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.58
Assam	688.93	515.96	0.00	0.08	0.05	0.00	0.63	-0.01	1205.64
Bihar	21.28	318.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	340.16
Jharkhand	65.06	537.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	602.28
Goa	178.42	178.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.68	0.00	355.74
Gujarat	1648.20	2125.03	0.00	0.03	1.55	0.00	4.26	0.04	3779.11
Haryana	295.25	831.73	0.00	0.03	0.18	0.00	0.83	0.00	1128.02
Himachal Pradesh	11.72	184.44	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.00	196.21
Jammu-Kashmir	201.25	144.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	345.50
Karnataka	3365.99	3960.98	0.00	-2.78	3.12	0.00	7.42	0.00	7334.73
Kerala	988.32	747.40	0.00	0.04	0.77	0.00	1.79	0.16	1739.48
Madhya Pradesh	1028.27	593.80	0.02	0.00	0.04	-0.17	0.63	0.04	1622.63
Chhattisgarh	483.52	414.94	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.14	0.00	898.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Maharashtra	28671.36	11895.69	0.00	-73.23	21.61	0.00	67.27	-0.11	40582.59
Manipur	-0.01	8.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	8.45
Meghalaya	1.39	17.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	18.44
Mizoram	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22
Nagaland	0.07	11.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	11.42
New Delhi	10416.80	5722.78	0.00	9.30	9.80	0.00	13.31	-0.04	16171.95
Orissa	1018.55	380.47	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	1399.38
Punjab	446.76	1036.04	0.00	0.51	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.08	1483.25
Rajasthan	560.75	835.49	0.00	0.56	0.22	0.00	1.38	-0.01	1398.39
Sikkim	0.07	7.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.09
Tamil Nadu	3164.91	3148.79	0.00	4.59	2.61	-0.09	11.55	1.18	6333.54
Tripura	0.09	27.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	27.86
Uttar Pradesh	388.51	1794.55	0.01	0.13	0.18	0.00	3.28	-0.45	2186.21
Uttaranchal	5151.34	431.34	0.00	0.01	0.06	-0.12	1.34	0.00	6583.97
West Bengal	2730.37	1961.25	0.00	14.79	8.10	0.00	14.87	0.00	4729.32
Total (I)—	63330.37	39871.34	0.07	-46.28	50.28	-0.38	135.15	0.66	103341.21
Union Territories									
Andaman Nicobar	1.80	5.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.96
Chandigarh	161.64	238.92	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.02	401.04

Daman	6.01	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	12.63
Diu	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	23.68	18.31	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.11	0.04	42.46
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Silvassa	6.39	2.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.13
Total (II)	199.67	271.80	0.00	0.01	0.17	0.00	0.68	0.06	472.39
Total —(I) and (II)	63530.04	40143.14	0.07	-46.27	50.45	-0.38	135.83	0.72	103813.60
C.T.D.S. (Prev.)	30.86	1243.30							1274.16
Grand Total	63560.90	41386.44	0.07	-46.27	50.45	-0.38	135.83	0.72	105087.76

Statement-III

***Releases of States Share to the State Governments during
the last three years 2002-03 to 2004-05***

(In crore of Rupees)

Sl. No.	State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4315.81	5068.52	6058.42
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	121.68	160.60	191.95
3.	Assam	1814.36	2162.07	2584.33
4.	Bihar	6559.38	7627.47	9117.13
5.	Chhattiegarh	1349.91	1569.72	1876.28
6.	Goa	114.62	135.59	162.07
7.	Gujarat	1596.69	1856.69	2219.30
8.	Haryana	534.30	621.31	742.62
9.	Himachal Pradesh	347.63	449.54	537.32
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	646.80	817.05	961.00
11.	Jharkhand	1702.52	1979.73	2366.40
12.	Karnataka	2786.20	3244.73	3878.44
13.	Kerala	1715.21	2012.00	2404.95
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3652.43	4247.14	5076.63
15.	Maharashtra	2621.72	3048.64	3644.02
16.	Manipur	188.12	240.89	287.96
17.	Meghalaya	176.11	225.08	269.04
18.	Mizoram	94.59	130.33	155.78
19.	Nagaland	96.07	144.80	173.98
20.	Orissa	2605.58	3327.68	3977.56
21.	Punjab	849.21	754.91	902.35

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Rajasthan	3063.10	3602.14	4305.61
23.	Sikkim	97.11	121.08	144.73
24.	Tamil Nadu	3047.91	3544.20	4236.39
25.	Tripura	249.71	320.52	383.10
26.	Uttar Pradesh	10831.55	12595.30	15055.20
27.	Uttaranchal	374.11	435.03	519.97
28.	West Bengal	4586.74	5341.65	6384.89
Total		56141.17	65784.41	78616.52

National Rehabilitation Policy

5368. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Rural Development has formulated a "National Rehabilitation Policy";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time-frame by which the Policy would be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development have formulated a National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation for Project Affected Families-2003 (NPRR-2003). The salient features of the Policy are as given below:—

- This Policy will be applicable to Project displacing 500 families or more enmasse in plain areas and 250 families or more in hilly areas, Desert Development Programme (DDP) blocks, areas mentioned in Schedule V and Schedule VI of the Constitution of India.
- This Policy would be in the form of broad guidelines for guidance of all concerned.

— This Policy document provides R and R benefits to those Project Affected Families who have lost their land and house. These benefits will also be available to small and marginal farmers, agricultural and non-agricultural labourers, rural artisans/small traders/self employed youths whether belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) or non BPL category. However, the States where R and R packages are higher than that proposed in the Policy are free to adopt their own packages.

— The above said categories of PAFs shall be entitled to get R and R benefits in monetary terms like allotment of house sites, grants for construction of house and cattle shed, grant for land development and agriculture production, construction of shop/work shed to rural artisans and one time grant for monthly subsistence allowance to those Project Affected Families who have lost their land and house and employment.

— The tribal PAFs will get 20% higher R and R benefits in monetary terms in addition to other R and R benefits.

- A Grievance Redressal Cell will be set up at Project level and a Monitoring Cell at National level for monitoring the progress of various R and R projects.

(c) Does not arise.

Government Expenditure

5369. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the expenditure of the Ministry rose from Rs. 6,681 crore to Rs. 8,261 crore between November to December, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of this abnormal increase in expenditure during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce the expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. During the financial year 2004-2005 the total Central funds released upto November, 2004 were Rs. 8967.64 crore and upto December, 2004 Rs. 11216.66 crore for implementation of schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development. The increase in the release in high during December, 2004, as most of the implementing agencies become eligible for release of their next instalment and a new scheme namely National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) has been launched in 150 most backward districts of the country and Rs. 297.10 crore were released for implementation of the scheme in the month of December, 2004.

[Translation]

Fake PAN Card

5370. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether preparing of fake 'PAN' cards is going on the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the nature thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) An instance of tampering with data and issuing fake PAN cards by some private persons by unauthorizedly obtaining password of some Assessing Officers of Income Tax Department at Delhi came to the notice in December, 2004.

(b) and (c) On a complaint filed by the Income Tax Department, the Crime Branch of Delhi Police has arrested the persons involved in the crime.

(d) Not applicable in view of reply to (b) and (c) above.

Merger of DRDA with Zila Parishad

5371. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a policy has been prepared for the merger of district rural development agencies with Zilla Parishads in order to strengthen Panchayati Raj;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the purposes it is supposed to fulfil;

(c) whether the policy also envisages the proposal to absorb the employees of district rural development agencies in Zilla Parishads;

(d) if so, whether there will be a common inter-seniority of the employees of district development agencies and Zilla Parishads and they will be entitled to other facilities available to the Government employees after the merger;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of states where district rural development agencies have been merged with Zilla Parishads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The guidelines of the DRDA Administration Scheme issued by the Ministry of Rural Development do not prescribe merger of DRDAs with Zilla Parishads as a general policy. However under the guidelines the State Governments have been allowed flexibility to operate the DRDAs as a distinct cell in Zilla Parishads having a separate identity.

(c) to (e) As per the DRDA Guidelines there is no uniform policy for engaging and/or recruiting the staff by the DRDAs. As a matter of policy, the DRDA should not have any permanent staff nor are they allowed to

make direct recruitment. With the objectives to strengthen DRDAs and to equip them with professional capacity and have a flexible-standing pattern DRDAs are urged to take staff on deputation. In respect of the Staff that is currently borne on the DRDA, the State Rural Development Department had to draw up a 3-5 year plan for absorption of the staff into the line departments. Under no circumstance the Scheme envisages absorption of DRDA employees in Zilla Parishad. Therefore, the question of maintaining inter-se seniority and providing facilities to them does not arise.

(f) In three states namely Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal the DRDAs have been merged with the Zilla Parishads. Position regarding other states is enclosed as statement.

Statement

State-wise Status of the Chairman of the DRDAs

Sl. No.	State	Chairman
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Dy. Commissioner
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dy. Commissioner
3.	Assam	Chairman ZP
4.	Chhattisgarh	Chairman ZP (DRDA Cell within ZP)
5.	Bihar	Chairman ZP
6.	Goa	Chairman ZP
7.	Gujarat	C.E.O.
8.	Haryana	Dy. Commissioner
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Chairman ZP
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Dy. Commissioner
11.	Jharkhand	Dy. Commissioner (No ZP)
12.	Karnataka	Chairman ZP (Merged)

1	2	3
13.	Kerala	Chairman ZP
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Chairman ZP (Merged)
15.	Maharashtra	Chairman ZP (DRDA Cell within ZP)
16.	Manipur	Chairman ZP
17.	Meghalaya	Dy. Commissioner
18.	Mizoram	Dy. Commissioner
19.	Nagaland	Dy. Commissioner
20.	Orissa	Chairman ZP
21.	Punjab	Dy. Commissioner
22.	Rajasthan	Chairman ZP (DRDA Cell within ZP)
23.	Sikkim	Secretary RD
24.	Tamil Nadu	Dy. Commissioner
25.	Tripura	Chairman ZP
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Chairman ZP
27.	Uttaranchal	Chairman ZP
28.	West Bengal	Chairman ZP (Merged but with separate account)

[English]

Harassment of Loan Borrowers

5372. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of increasing incidence of ex-parte termination of loan contracts by certain finance companies and forcible taking away of vehicles or other goods from the borrowers;

(b) if so, the details of such cases which came to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to amendment of the relevant laws, by the Government

and to check harassment of borrowers at the hands of the financiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that termination of loan contracts and seizure of the vehicles and other goods financed by the finance companies are governed by the terms of contract/agreement entered into between the borrower and financing company. The company and the borrower have to act as per terms of the contract/agreement. As such matters are not covered under the regulatory provisions of the RBI. Currently, details are not available.

(c) Does not arise in view of the position stated above.

Rural Infrastructure Fund

5373. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to set Rural Infrastructure Incentive Fund;

(b) if so, whether any concrete programme in this regard has been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the contribution of the Union Government thereto;

(e) the source from which the Government proposes to mobilize funds for the said purpose; and

(f) the time by which this fund is likely to be released?

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

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Wind Energy

5374. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of wind mills functioning in Maharashtra at present;

(b) the number of wind mills sanctioned for the State during the current financial year alongwith the location thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to explore the possibilities for setting up of wind mills in the next year in the State; and

(d) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A total of 1040 wind turbines with an aggregate capacity of about 456 MW in grid connected mode and 58 aero-generators with an aggregate capacity of 265 kW in off-grid mode have so far been installed in Maharashtra.

(b) No specific sanction is required for setting up of commercial wind power projects in any state, including Maharashtra. During the current financial year, no aero-generators have been sanctioned so far for the State of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Survey has been conducted to explore the possibility for setting up of aero-generators at about 40 locations in Maharashtra. Wind monitoring is also in progress at 21 locations in the state to explore the possibility for setting up of commercial wind power projects.

[English]

FDI in Insurance Sector

5375. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the Foreign Direct Investment cap in the insurance sector and also work out a policy to permit foreign investment in retail trade as reported in the Hindu dated April 6, 2005;

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

(c) whether cash-and-carry is allowed in retail sector as per the policy worked out by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a leading German retail chains named Metro has requested for expanding their business in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Insurance Companies periodically require additional capital for growth of business. Indian Promoters, at times, due to financial constraints are not in 3 position to contribute additional capital proportionate to their shareholdings. Therefore, in the Budget Speech of 2004-05, an announcement was made for the increase in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from 26% to 49%. However, no legislative proposal has been finalized so far. At present there is no proposal before the Government for decision on allowing FDI in retail trade sector.

(c) and (d) FDI is not allowed for retail trading. However, FDI upto 100% is permitted in cash-and-carry wholesale trading with prior approval of the Government.

(e) and (f) Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has not received any request from M/s. Metro, Germany for expanding their business in the country.

Total Sanitation Campaign

5376. SHRI KINJARAPU YERANNAIDU:

SHRI HANSAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State where total sanitation campaign operates at present, location-wise;

(b) the fund allocation of the Union government for the campaign during 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to create public awareness regarding sanitation in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is operational in 478 districts

in 30 States and Union Territories. Names of the States and Union Territories, alongwith the number of approved projects, are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The total budget provision made for Rural Sanitation programme for the year 2004-05 was Rs. 400 crore, and for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 700 crore. Under this programme, no State-wise allocation of fund is made. On receipt of proposals for release of next installments in respect of ongoing projects or for starting TSC projects in new districts, funds are released as per guidelines.

(c) and (d) TSC projects employ Information, Education and Communication (IEC) as the core strategy for creating public awareness on sanitation and hygiene issues for generating demand for such facilities. More than 15% of the total TSC fund can be used for creating awareness.

Statement

Total Sanitation Campaign

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs	Total No. of TSC Projects
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4
3.	Assam	15
4.	Bihar	16
5.	Chhattisgarh	7
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	25
9.	Haryana	19
10.	Himachal Pradesh	7

1	2	3
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	14
12.	Jharkhand	22
13.	Karnataka	18
14.	Kerala	13
15.	Madhya Pradesh	45
16.	Maharashtra	33
17.	Manipur	4
18.	Meghalaya	2
19.	Mizoram	2
20.	Nagaland	4
21.	Orissa	30
22.	Pondicherry	1
23.	Punjab	14
24.	Rajasthan	21
25.	Sikkim	4
26.	Tamil Nadu	29
27.	Tripura	4
28.	Uttar Pradesh	70
29.	Uttaranchal	13
30.	West Bengal	18
Grand Total		478

Potential of Renewable Energy

5377. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the potential of renewable energy from

wind, small hydro and biomass is estimated to be around 80,000 MW; in the country;

(b) if so, whether out of this only around 5500 MW grid interactive renewable power installed capacity has been set up so far;

(c) if so, the major factors hindering the tapping the renewable sources of energy to the optimum level; and

(d) the time by which the full potential of these to be tapped in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The potential for renewable energy in the country from wind, small hydro and biomass has been estimated at around 60,000 MW, against which around 6160 MW grid interactive renewable power installed capacity has been set up, as on 31-03-2005.

(c) The major barriers to the accelerated growth of grid-interactive renewable power are, inherent intermittent nature of renewable energy sources; relatively lower capacity utilization factors; grid penetration limitations on account intermittent nature of supply; relatively high capital costs when compared to conventional power projects; and the requirement of preferential tariffs apart from concessional custom and excise duties to make grid interactive renewable power a commercially attractive proposition.

(d) The aim is to deploy around 10% of the additional grid-interactive power installed capacity through renewables during the 10th Plan. During the first 3 years, i.e., 2002-03 to 2004-05, of the Plan as much as 18% of the additional installed capacity has come through renewables, of which the contribution from wind power is 13% (1967 MW), small hydropower is 2% (267), and bio-energy is 3% (407 MW). The progress in this sector is highly satisfactory.

Foreign Assistance

5378. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign assistance received by Government during each of the last three years for various projects in the country and the amount utilized out of that, project-wise and agency-wise;

(b) the details of projects on which the above amount has been spent so far; and

(c) the number of projects which have already

completed and the number of projects pending with the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The details of foreign assistance authorized and the amount utilized during each of the last three years agency-wise are given in the enclosed statement. Details of the project-wise utilisation of funds are available in the web site of Ministry of Finance at www.finmin.nic.in/caaa.

(c) 207 projects have been completed during the last three years and 297 projects are under implementation.

Statement

Details of Foreign Assistance authorized and amount utilized during last 3 years

(In Rs. Crore)

Agency	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Amount Authorized	Amount Utilized	Amount Authorized	Amount Utilized	Amount Authorized	Amount Utilized
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Multilateral						
Asian Development Bank	3097.1	1705.98	2618.87	2202.112	6481.36	1845.496
IBRD	5836.11	2751.754	3209.03	3492.392	2630.57	3263.902
IDA	5326.82	4303.492	3292.98	4178.266	6057.01	4631.613
IFAD	0.43	51.783	288.69	50.044	0	32.597
IDF (World Bank)	0	19.312	4.5	9.231	3.9	0.627
UNDP	54.16	108.695	324.08	55.398	70.05	95.903
OPEC	0	16.014	0	2.75	0	0
Bilateral						
Switzerland	0	1.79	0	10.85	0	26.415
Germany	44.14	184.608	41.33	107.776	56.52	84.853

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
France	21.87	51.672	0	40.93	0	51.34
Japan	4571.46	2713.404	4159.15	2867.191	7.74	2580.751
Denmark	11.27	56.749	15.34	48.945	0	15.679
Russia	0	316.056	0	771.706	0	1180.374
Canada	0.86	1.481	0	1.259	0	1.972
European Commission	0	326.033	0	147.539	186.53	426.312
Netherlands	722.36	127.897	0	251.869	6.74	64.248
United Kingdom	361.77	778.726	1693.38	1279.944	2502.28	1506.934
Norway	0	3.304	0	0	0	1.226
USA	96.78	49.864	381.34	110.564	0	80.168
Others	27.34	0.128	152.51	4.61	31.05	46.692
Grand Total	20172.47	13568.74	16181.2	15633.38	18033.75	15917.102

[Translation]

Criminal Procedure Code

5379. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modify the criminal procedure code;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken up in this regard;

(d) whether an early decision is likely to be taken up in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (e) The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 is being amended as and when need arises, on the basis of the

recommendations of the Law Commission of India or other special Committees set up for the purpose.

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha is based on the recommendations made by the Law Commission, National Police Commission and other agencies. The thrust areas of the Bill are:—

(i) Toning up the investigative machinery and process;

(ii) Strengthening the prosecution and related machinery;

(iii) Streamlining and improving procedures, especially from the point of view of expediting trial court procedures;

(iv) Tackling the problem of undertrials and matters connected with the grant of bail; and

(v) Effecting miscellaneous improvements.

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August, 2003, has also proposals to amend various provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Apart from the above, the Malimath Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System in its report has recommended various changes to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and other laws. The Criminal Law and the Criminal Procedure are in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and they are administered by State Governments. Therefore, before effecting major changes in these laws, consultations with State Governments are essential. Accordingly, the Report of the Malimath Committee was forwarded to the State Governments for their views. So far, views of eleven (11) State Governments and four (4) Union Territory Administrations have been received.

[English]

Risk Factors Filing with SEBI

5380. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Infosys Technologies has listed the possibility of the Maharashtra Government passing legislation on reservation in the private sector as a risk factor in his latest fillings with the securities and exchange commission of United States;

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

(c) whether any other company has also mentioned it as risk factor in its filing to SEBI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Company in its Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. while setting

forth various risk factors as perceived by it in its American Depository Share offer included the above risk factor. Other risk factors enumerated by the Company, inter alia, include proposed legislation by some U.S. States restricting government agencies from outsourcing their back office processes and I.T. solutions work to companies outside the U.S.

(c) SEBI has intimated that no other company has mentioned it as a risk factor in its filing to SEBI.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

Branches in Rural Areas

5381. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENG
PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has decided to adopt rigid stand on bank's reluctance to open branches in the rural and semi-urban areas, as committed by them in their licensing agreements;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Finance has urged RBI to ask the banks to go by the licensing condition under which each of them are required to have at least 25 per cent of their branches in the rural and semi-urban areas;

(c) the total number of new private banks opened in the country;

(d) the number of banks which have followed this directive; and

(e) the reasons for not followed the instructions of the Government by other bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Under the extant branch licensing policy, identification of locations for opening of branches is left to the discretion of the banks. The banks take into consideration factors

such as potential for business at the center, profitability of the proposed branch, availability of infrastructure, security etc. before submitting a proposal for opening of new branches. As per the data available, the percentage of rural/semi-urban branches of Public Sector Banks to total branches stands at 64.81%. The New Private Sector Banks are required opening 25% of their branches in rural/semi-urban areas as a part of the condition stipulated in the license issued to them. The banks have not shown any reluctance to comply with this condition while opening new branches.

(c) In all, ten banks in the private sector are presently functioning which have been set up subsequent to issuance of guidelines for licensing new banks on 03-01-2003.

(d) and (e) These banks have not shown any reluctance to Comply with the condition of opening 25% of their branches in rural/semi-urban areas while opening new branches.

[Translation]

ADB Trust for Tsunami

5382. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank (ADB) is setting up a Asian Tsunami Trust Worth \$ 60 crores for providing assistance in rehabilitation works in Tsunami affected countries; and

(b) if so, the contribution of India to the fund alongwith the percentage of relief likely to be received from this fund?

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

(b) While India will not be contributing to the Fund, Asian Development Bank has approved US \$ 100 million grant to India from ADB's Asian Tsunami Fund, for the Tsunami Emergency Assistance (Sector) Project.

[English]

National Council of Rural Institutes

5383. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up a National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI) in Hyderabad way back in 1995;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the Council;

(c) whether the Council had become fully operational;

(d) if so, the number of rural institutes set up by the NCRI as on date; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The aims and objectives of NCRI are:—

- (i) promote rural higher education on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary ideas on education so as to take up challenges of micro-planning for transformation of rural areas as envisaged in National Programme of Education (NPE) 1986 (as modified in 1992);
- (ii) consolidate network and develop institutions engaged in programmes of Gandhian Basic Education and Nai Talim;
- (iii) encourage other educational institutions and voluntary agencies to develop in accordance with Gandhian Philosophy of education;
- (iv) strengthen teacher training facilities for Gandhian Basic Education;
- (v) design a variety of courses at tertiary level around emerging rural occupations;
- (vi) strengthen the content of all these institutions with emphasis on science and technology;

- (vii) encourage field-oriented courses of rural institutes;
- (viii) promote research as a tool for social and rural development;
- (ix) promote extension services to the community through micro-level planning; and
- (x) advise Govt. of India on all such matters pertaining to rural institutes as may be referred to it from time to time.

(c) Though the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI), Hyderabad was established in October, 1995, it could not be made fully operational mainly due to the lack of regular staff. The Council has been functioning only by engaging consultants. Recently, the Government has approved creation of the post of Chairman, NCRI, Hyderabad in the scale of pay of Rs. 25,000/- pm (fixed) and the process has been initiated to fill up the post. The Ministry of Human Resources Development, the administrative Ministry for NCRI has initiated action for creation of 14 more posts to make the Council fully operational during 2005-06.

(d) The Council has 22 rural institutes in the field of Rural Higher Education, Rural Education Programme, Application of Nai Talim and Skill Development in Rural Artisans. However, no rural institute has been set up, since the Council is yet to be fully functional.

(e) The total amount sanctioned to NCRI is Rs. 7.00 crores. As on 31-03-04, Rs. 6.77 crore has been utilized by the Council.

[Translation]

Village Gyan Kendras

5384. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up village Gyan Kendras the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount required therefor;

(c) the main objectives behind setting up of such centers;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has no proposal at present to set up Village Gyan Kendras in every village of the country.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

[English]

Violation of Guidelines of RBI/Government

5385. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector banks and financial institutions are violating the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India/Government in regard to its working;

(b) if so, the names of the banks which have violated such guidelines and the nature of such violations during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints/representations for violation of guidelines by public sector banks particularly Oriental Bank of Commerce;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the government has taken any action against the officers found responsible for such violations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Both public sector banks and financial institutions are following the guidelines prescribed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Government of India from time to time on different aspects of banking/financial dealings. There is a system in place in RBI, which regulates the functioning of these institutions. RBI regularly conducts Annual Financial Inspections to diagnose violation of guidelines or any kind of irregularities. RBI takes up these findings with the respective banks, if considered necessary for corrective action.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Govt./RBI keeps on receiving complaints/representations on certain operational aspects of banking service provided by banks on a continued basis. These complaints are of general nature and they are taken up with concerned banks by RBI and Govt. for redressal etc.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Disappeared Companies

5386. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN:

SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of limited companies registered during 1993, 1994 and 1995 and the number of companies that applied for selling of their shares in the market; and

(b) the number of limited companies registered during the period whose financial records are not available with the company registrar;

(c) the action taken by the Government against each of such companies; and

(d) the details of the companies that disappeared after collecting the money from public, FIs, FIs during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) The number of companies limited by shares which were registered during the years 1993, 1994 and 1995 is given below:—

1993	—	25511
1994	—	30291
1995	—	47928

The number of companies which applied for selling of shares in the market is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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

(d) No company has been identified as disappeared/ vanished during the last three years.

[English]

Assistance for Rural Development Projects

5387. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the state Government of Gujarat has sought additional Central assistance and external assistance for various rural development projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has been urged to approve the external aid for development of non-forest wastelands in Gujarat;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat had sought Additional Central Assistance (ACA) under the wage employment scheme namely, the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), and the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development has released the additional instalment of Rs. 334.22 lakh and 33342 MT of wheat, besides normal release of Rs. 9607.01 lakh and 110098 MTs of wheat under the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) during the year 2004-05 as Central share. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 2.26 crore was released during 2004-05 under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) for reconstruction of 16969 Houses affected by floods in 13 districts of Gujarat. In addition, an amount of Rs. 1.56 crore was also released as additional central assistance under the IAY from out of saving for the purpose.

(c) and (d) The proposal to approve the external aid for development of non forest Wastelands in the State of Gujarat has not been received.

Extension for Watershed Programme

5388. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Extension for Watershed Programme of Fifth batch allotted under DPAP, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra's proposal is under consideration;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether other States have applied for this project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith their present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to

(e) The matter relating to the extension of project period of fifth batch DPAP projects, sanctioned to various programme states including Maharashtra, is under examination of the Ministry.

Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme

5389. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Duty Entitlement Passbook scheme has since been replaced;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the benefits which are likely to accrue to the exporters/importers by replacement of this scheme alongwith the salient features of the new scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the Foreign Trade Policy, 2004-2009 (updated as on 31st March, 2005), it has been stated that the DEPB Scheme will continue to be operative until it is replaced by a new scheme which will be drawn up in consultation with exporters. The matter is under examination by the Department of Commerce.

[Translation]

Vigilance Committee Meetings

5390. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite constitution of District vigilance and monitoring committees in every districts of all the States the meetings of the said committees are not being held in some of the States;

(b) if so, the names of the States where meetings are not being held despite constitution of the committees;

(c) whether the Government proposes to stop the Central assistance to the States which are not holding meetings of the said committee or are not cooperating with the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information furnished by the State Government/District Administrations meetings of the District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been held in districts given in the statement enclosed. The remaining districts have not reported about the holding of the meetings of Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.

(c) to (e) The Central Government have issued instructions to all States/District Administration to ensure holding of the meetings of the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees regularly. Members of Parliament who have been made chairman/co-chairman have also been requested to ensure holding of the meetings on time. The State Secretaries in-charge of rural development have been reminded to expedite holdings of the meetings as per the schedule in the revised guidelines.

Statement

Name of the State and District where meeting of the District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee held

(As on 26-04-2005)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Sl. No.	Districts
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.	Mahabubnagar
2.	Gujarat	2.	Surat
		3.	Navsari
3.	Karnataka	4.	Bidar

1	2	3	4
		5.	Bellary
		6.	Dharwad
		7.	Haveri
4.	Madhya Pradesh	8.	Betul
		9.	Mandsaur
		10.	Ratlam
		11.	Rewa
		12.	Seoni
5.	Maharashtra	13.	Raigad
6.	Meghalaya	14.	West Garo Hills
7.	Mizoram	15.	Saiha
		16.	Lawngtlai
8.	Orissa	17.	Bargarh
		18.	Phulbani
		19.	Khurda
		20.	Sundargarh
9.	Rajasthan	21.	Badmer
		22.	Udaipur
10.	Tamil Nadu	23.	Tiruvuallur
		24.	Vellore
		25.	Tiruvannamalai
		26.	Salem
11.	Uttar Pradesh	27.	Bijnor
		28.	Mau
		29.	Shaharanpur

1	2	3	4
		30. Hardoi	
		31. Bageswar	
		32. Mainpuri	
12. Uttaranchal		33. Pithoragarh	
13. Lakshadweep		34. Lakshadweep	

[English]

Expenses on Medical Research

5391. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private hospitals are entitled to get income tax exemption for expenses incurred on medical research activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount of tax exemption granted to such hospitals in the four Metropolitan cities during the last three years, year-wise and hospital-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Under section 35 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, a private hospital is eligible to claim deduction on account of expenditure incurred on medical research activity.

(c) The Income Tax Department does not maintain data of deductions allowed on account of classes of the tax payers under the relevant provisions of the Act. It is, therefore, not feasible to furnish information in respect of private hospitals with regard to the deductions claimed by them under section 35 of the Act, in respect of expenditure incurred on medical research activity.

12.01 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Mineral Concession (Second Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 153 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2005 under sub-section (I) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1985/2005]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2003-2004.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons or delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1986/2005]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (I) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons or delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1987/2005]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons or delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1988/2005]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:—
 - (i) The Intimation of Accidents (Form and Times of Service of Notice) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. I (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2005.
 - (ii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Preparation of Annual Reports) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 48 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2005.
 - (iii) The Forum of Regulators Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 75 (E)

in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2005.

- (iv) The National Load Despatch Centre Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 158 (E) Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 2005.
- (v) The Distribution of Electricity Licence (Additional Requirements of Capital Adequacy, Creditworthiness and Code of Conduct) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 188 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 2005.
- (vi) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Open Access in Inter-state Transmission) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. L-7/25(5)/2003-CERC in Gazette of India dated 23rd February, 2005.

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. L-7/25 (7)/2004-Legal (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2004 regarding provisional billing of charges for a period upto 31st March, 2005 subject to adjustment after final determination of tariff by Commission issued under the Electricity Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1989/2005]

- (5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1990/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (i) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Renewable Energy Development

[Shri Vilas Muttemwar]

Agency Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons or delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1991/2005]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): On behalf of my colleague Shri Palanimanickam, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under of section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:—
 - (i) The Income-tax (7th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 265 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (ii) The Electronic Filing of Returns of Tax Collected at Source Scheme, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 453 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (iii) The Income-tax (9th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 454 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1992/2005]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 194 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 96/2004-Cus., dated the 17th September, 2004.
- (ii) G.S.R. 209 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (iii) G.S.R. 248 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian Currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of import.
- (iv) G.S.R. 247 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purpose of assessment of export.
- (v) G.S.R. 257 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (vi) G.S.R. 270 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (vii) G.S.R. 147 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making

certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

- (viii) G.S.R. 148 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in four Notifications mentioned therein.
 - (ix) G.S.R. 169 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (x) The Baggage (Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 216 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2005 with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (xi) G.S.R. 222 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to operationalise the Target Plus Scheme announced under the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09.
- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 296 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 248 (E) dated the 23rd February, 2005 issued under the Customs Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1993/2005]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 160 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 40/2003-Cus., dated the 7th March, 2003 under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1994/2005]

- (5) A copy of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 104 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2005 under section 77 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1995/2005]

- (6) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—

(i) The Service Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 71 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) The Service Tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 107 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (7) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 97 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum appointing the 28th day of February, 2005 as the date on which the provisions of the Central Excise Tariff (Amendment) Act, 2004 to come into force issued under section 1 of the said Act,

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1996/2005]

- (8) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

(i) The Central Excise (Removal of Difficulties) Rules, 2005 published in

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Notification No. G.S.R. 98 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ii) G.S.R. 99 (E) to G.S.R. 101 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to substitute all references to 6-digit classification to existing notifications/rules/ad-hock orders under sections 5A (2), IIC, 37 and 3(2) of the Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1997/2005]

- (9) A copy of the Jaipur Nagaur Anchalik Gramin Bank (Officers and Employees) Service Regulations 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.B./Vividh/Karmik/04/1 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2005 under sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1998/2005]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th April, 2005 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and

to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.02½ hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Eighth Report

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): I beg to present the Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health)—Medical Council of India.

12.02¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Eighty-fourth to Eighty-eighth Reports

[English]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): 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) Eighty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Department of Road Transport and Highways;
- (2) Eighty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Culture;
- (3) Eighty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Department of Shipping;
- (4) Eighty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Tourism; and
- (5) Eighty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation;

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of Implementation of Recommendations in the Second Report of Standing Committee on Labour**[English]*

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): In pursuance of direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha published in Lok Sabha Bulletin Part II, dated September 01, 2004, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Textiles.

The Standing Committee on Labour examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2004-05 and presented their second report in this regard to Lok Sabha on 19th August, 2004. The Report contains 22 recommendation paragraphs. The recommendations of the Committee mainly relate to increase the allocation of funds and utilisation thereof in respect of various development and welfare schemes and intensification of existing schemes in order to increase productivity and to improve quality in various segments under the Ministry of Textiles.

The recommendations contained in the 22 paragraphs of the Report have been considered in the Ministry of Textiles and a statement on action taken/proposed to be taken on these recommendations was submitted to the Standing Committee on Labour in November, 2004. The recommendations contained in 10 recommendation paragraphs have been accepted by the Government. On 5 recommendation paragraphs, action as proposed by the Committee has been completed and action in respect of other 7 recommendation paragraphs also has either been taken or initiated. The Ministry of Textiles is making all efforts in this regard to implement the recommendations of the Committee in true spirit.

*Also placed in Library. See No. LT-1999/2005.

12.04 hrs.

(ii) Status of Implementation of Recommendations in the Third Report of Standing Committee on Rural Development

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 12, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you may please lay your statement. Your statement is long. You can lay it on the Table or you give a list of it.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): I beg to lay a statement* on the status of implementation of the recommendation contained in the 3rd Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2004-05), in pursuance of the direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated the 1st September, 2004.

2. The Standing Committee on Rural Development examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry for the financial year 2004-05 and presented the 3rd Report in this regard in the Lok Sabha on 19th August, 2004. The report contained 58 recommendations. The report was considered by the Ministry and the "Action Taken Report" (ATR) has since been sent to the Committee. The Committee has accepted the ATR and is satisfied with the action taken on 36 recommendations. On the remaining recommendations, the Government's stand/views have been communicated to the Committee and out of which 5 recommendations required further action in consultation with the other departments of the Government and the State Governments on which the action is continuing.

3. The Department of Rural Development administers 12 programmes out of which 4 are the major programmes directly relating to poverty alleviation and helping the rural poor for economic sustenance and social justice. These are related to wage-employment for the rural poor—Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) + National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP),

*Laid on the Table and also placed in the Library. See No. LT 2000/2005.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

self-employment for the BPL families for their self economic sustenance—Swarnajayanthi Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Rural Connectivity for facilitating access to villages—Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and financial support to housing for rural poor—Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). These programmes together account for over 93% of the annual budgetary support of the Department of Rural Development. The remaining programmes relating to training, awareness and other areas, although promotional in nature, have a large impact on the implementation of the programmes. For example, given the literacy levels etc. of the rural poor, awareness programmes not only promote the easy extension of benefit to the rural poor, the same will also lend to productivity improvement in the programme implementation. Similarly, the training programmes particularly in SGSY facilitate improvements in the skills of the self-employed and thereby enhancing their monthly incomes besides promoting their confidence. The PMGSY is a national programme, which provides the much required all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations. Experience has shown that such road connectivity has a direct bearing on the economic and social development of the backward rural areas.

4. Over 50% of the budgetary support is utilised on wage-employment. This includes the National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) for which Rs. 2020 crores, additionally to the existing allocation of Rs. 4500 crores for SGRY were provided. Besides the cash allocation, 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains under SGRY and an additional 20 lakh tonnes for NFFWP were provided, free of cost to the States under this programme. There has been progressive increase in the financial allocation for the wage-employment programmes in the year 2005-06 combined allocation of SGRY and NFFWP has been provided with a 53% increase over the previous year.

5. The SGRY programme envisages additional employment generation and food security alongside creation of durable community assets in the villages. 11.25% of the SGRY funds are also to be utilised for

beneficiary-oriented schemes for uplifting individual SC/ST BPL families. The second major portion of the budgetary support is utilised in the PMGSY. The utility of the programme hardly needs any emphasis and justification. The Rural Housing programme is a demand oriented scheme to help the BPL families and over 20% of the annual outlay is utilised for this programme.

6. Out of the 36 recommendations of the Standing Committee accepted by the Government, most of them are related to the following:—

- The Committee had made very many valuable suggestions for improving the performance of the SGRY. The need for close monitoring of the implementation of these programmes has been emphasized. Taking into consideration the spirit of these recommendations, we have in the Ministry taken a number of steps to improve the implementation.
- We have reconstituted the Vigilance and Monitoring Committees under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Members of Parliament. The guidelines have been carefully drafted to assist the Hon'ble Members in the discharge of their duties. A detailed format has been developed for each programmes and appended to the guidelines. We are also corresponding with the State Governments for their cooperation in this regard. Apart from this system, District Level Monitoring and National Level Monitoring are in operation. Instructions have been issued for Beneficiary Committees to supervise the implementation of the projects. This will bring about greater transparency and the purpose of social audit will be meaningfully implemented.
- Under the Self Employment Programme, the Committee has rightly expressed their concern regarding the mobilisation of credit from the commercial banks. We have taken a number of steps to obtain the full cooperation of commercial banks in the implementation of self employment programmes. We have drawn up a

list of zero lending branches and are monitoring the performance of various branches. I have myself taken up the issue with the Finance Minister. As the Committee has rightly observed, the role of marketing is very important for the success of the self employment programmes. We have increased the number of Melas and adopting other methods to increase the opportunity for marketing of the products by the self help groups. Apart from 'Saras Mela', held alongwith the India International Trade Fair, Regional Saras in various State capitals and Gram Shree Melas are also held.

- The Committee has made valuable suggestions for improving the construction of houses in the Indira Awaas Yojana. In line with the spirit of the recommendations, we have recently issued instructions for reducing the number of instalments in which the assistance is released to the beneficiaries. To bring about greater transparency in the implementation of the schemes, we are proposing to have a complete list of house-less persons prepared and it will be done according to priority. However, this is holding up on account of non-finalisation of the BPL census. We are taking steps to get the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to allow us to finalise the BPL census.
- The Committee made observations regarding slow progress of projects under PMGSY. The rural roads had to be constructed by the State level agencies and one of the major impediments has been the lack of capacity in the State Government departments to execute these works. A number of steps have been taken to enhance the capacity of the State Governments to implement the scheme. A shift in the emphasis in implementation has been made to ensure that not only the last mile link but the network of rural roads leading to the last linkage is also upgraded and modernised.

7. Some of the recommendations of the committee relate to improving the quality of the programmes with the support of the State Governments. While the government agrees totally with the spirit of the recommendations, it is stated that all the programmes, sponsored by MoRD, relate to the State subjects and are implemented with the active support and involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The government's endeavour has always been to take the State Governments along, in a participatory approach, to help the PRIs and other agencies involved in the programme implementation. The structural frame-work has been provided to promote the programme implementation in the participatory spirit.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to compliment you as you are one of the hon. Ministers regularly doing it.

In future, I shall be a little stricter than I am today regarding submission of statements regarding status of implementation of recommendations.

12.05 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government business during the week commencing Monday, the 2nd of May, 2005 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the Government of Union Territories and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2005

[Shri Bijoy Handique]

3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha:—

- (a) The Hire Purchase (Repeal) Bill, 2005;
- (b) The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004; and
- (c) The Navy (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

- (4) Consideration and passing of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Bill, 2004, after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): The following subjects may kindly be included in the next week's business:—

- 1. Reservation of OBC candidates in jobs in private sector.
- 2. Reservation of OBC students in AIIMS, IITs and IIMS and other national institutes.

[Translation]

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (1) The policy of "One Rank One Pension"—The long pending problem of retired soldiers should be accepted.
- (2) A Himachal Regiment should be raised keeping in view the historical sacrifices made by the soldiers of Himachal Pradesh for the defence of the country.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (Berhampur—Orissa): Sir, I would like to submit that the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda:—

- (i) A discussion may be allowed on the floor of the House regarding land reforms and land ceiling in the country.

- (ii) Discussion may kindly allowed regarding the fresh survey for below poverty line card holders in Orissa as the present survey conducted is not correctly done.

MR. SPEAKER: Mohd. Shahid—Not Present.

Shri Shishupal N. Patle—Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI (Gaya): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my parliamentary constituency a person named Rambali Bhueia of Guneri village in Gurua block of Gaya district, Sonamantri Devi of Agtha tola, Shekhvigaha of Belaganj and Amrit Bhueia of Imamganj Deoria died of starvation.

I would like to urge upon the Government to provide sufficient compensation to the families of deceased people and one person from each family should also be given government job.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us now come to the 'matters of urgent public importance, to be taken after Question Hour'. Some notices are being given. Shri Bellarmin.

SHRI A V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Thank you, Sir.

I have come across distressing messages from about 700 of our Indian workers who are confined in the prisons of Saudi Arabia, languishing there for a long time. These labourers of Indian origin are our Indian nationals who have gone there on job contracts and on similar such opportunities. Unfortunately they are behind bars now for petty reasons.

I have also received messages from our Indian workers put in prisons of Male, for no fault of theirs.

Our fishermen who set on sail for fishing—on losing their way due to water currents or strong winds—are arrested by the neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Their hard-earned property like vessels, fishing nets and even the laboured catch

are normally taken away from them. They are forfeited by authorities of those countries. Recently nine of our fishermen who belong to Kanyakumari have been arrested by Pakistan Navy and they are in Pakistan Jails.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to take effective steps to secure their early release and enable their return to our country at the earliest.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I am raising an important issue in the House. Although the river Ganga is a very important river but the water level in the river has been decreasing constantly for several years. The Ganga river flows through many cities. Patna city of Bihar is also situated near the Ganga river. The water of the Ganga river has completely dried up there for many years. The river is getting away by 4-5 kilometers from the city. The main reason for this is that the river is not cleared. Day by day silting is increasing in Ganga river. That is why water is receding in the river.

Second important matter is that the polluted water of Patna city flows into the Ganga river on a large scale. More drains of the city carrying contaminated water of the city flow into the Ganga river. A few years back Rajiv Gandhiji had started a drive to clean the Ganga river and funds were also allocated for this. Water treatment plants were also constructed under this programme in all the cities situated along the Ganga river. I believe that these water treatment plants have not been working properly because polluted water is still flowing into the Ganga river. The first thing is that until and unless river Ganga is cleaned and desilting is carried out, it will be difficult for water to come into the river. I would like to submit that proper arrangements should be made in this regard and water sources should be properly mobilised to bring water into the Ganga river so that water can flow into the river as it used to flow previously. In a number of beautiful cities like Lucknow, Banaras, Patna etc. transport system is being started through the Ganga

river. Recently a port is being constructed in Patna city by the transport department costing lakhs of rupees. When there would be no water in the Ganga river transporting goods from one place to another at lower cost would also not be possible. Therefore, I believe this requires special attention.

An integrated scheme was formulated for Lucknow and Patna for which Rs. 3 thousand crore were allocated. For Lucknow Rs. 3 thousand crore were sanctioned by the Government but the amount of Rs. 1488 crore which was to be allocated for Patna has not been sanctioned so far. Under this Project Ganga river could be cleaned and kept away from pollution by setting up treatment plants for drains, sewage system and schemes for water supply. But Lucknow was chosen under the Integrated Development Scheme because the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji was elected from there. There is nobody to address our problems. Hon'ble Finance Minister is sitting here. I would urge upon him to consider it. Otherwise also he is not supposed to fund this, the Government of Japan has to fund this because every year the Government of Japan chooses a city for this purpose. A number of proposals have been sent from our state and these are approved also but still Patna city has not received Rs. 1488 crore. Through you I would request the Government to make arrangements to prevent pollution in river Ganga and to ensure that sufficient water remains there in river Ganga. This is a very important issue. I believe that Bengal, from where he comes, is also not spared from this ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am also interested in it. I support you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please look into it and instruct hon'ble Minister to give some response in this regard and save the Ganga river from getting polluted further. Alongwith this they should also make some efforts to save the Ganga river from getting dried up.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I can only say that it is a very important issue. I agree with you.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL (Calcutta-North West): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the growing disparity in pay and gross discrimination among the employees working in Prasar Bharati.

The growing discontent among the employees of Prasar Bharati and the state of affairs in Prasar Bharati requires immediate attention of the House. It is due to the most arbitrary style of functioning of Prasar Bharati where the employees have been discriminated and treated unequally. This is reflected *vide* order No. 310/173/97-(D) dated 25-2-1999 wherein a section of employees pertaining to the Engineering and Programme Cadres were granted higher pay scales over and above the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission as they were agitated over this issue. The Prasar Bharati chose to settle and conveniently implement this pay hike just for the above two categories of employees by taking an undertaking from the concerned beneficiaries that they would be liable for refund and recovery of all the financial benefits in the event they choose not to work for Prasar Bharati. It is ironical but the fact still remains that, no such offer has been made to the Administrative Staff who also have been working for the Corporation ever since its transformation to Broadcasting Corporation of India (Prasar Bharati).

Sir, it may be worthwhile to submit here that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communication under the chairmanship of your goodself also recommended in its 49th Report that all the employees working in Prasar Bharati are to be given monetary benefit without exception. It is understood that about 150 Members of Parliament have recommended this matter to the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting for immediate redressal. The hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting had assured the delegation of this association led by Shri K.B. Krishnamurthy, hon. Member of Rajya Sabha and Shri Sharad Joshi, hon. Member

of Rajya Sabha on two different occasions in the recent past that this matter would be looked into and addressed immediately. In spite of all this, the disparity and unequal treatment still continues. This has caused enormous resentment amongst the employees which has led them to the path of agitation. They are now observing a total pen down strike in all AIR and TV centres throughout the country. They are boycotting the salary and also not undertaking the work of salary disbursement. They are also observing a token hunger strike on 28th and 29th April, 2005 at Akashwani Bhavan, New Delhi.

Sir, yesterday our Leader, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, myself alongwith two other Members of Parliament, namely, Shri Lakshman Seth and Dr. Ramchandra Dome visited the spot. We saw that they are observing the hunger strike. We feel that they should be treated properly.

So, I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and do the needful at the earliest.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the Central Administrative tribunal was set up 20 years back.

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is not on that. It is on abolition of Prasar Bharati.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is on CAT.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Please let me see. In the meantime, let me call Shri Raghunath Jha. I will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, large parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal touching Indo-Nepal border have been afflicted by terrorism and naxalites and criminals from across Nepal border sneak into Indian territory and commit several types of crimes. They even attack police stations, snatch weapons from the policemen and even circulate fake currency notes of Rs. 500 and one thousand denomination. They smuggle sophisticated weapons and drugs into India. Police force has been deployed to check it. Not only north Bihar, western and eastern Champaran, Sitamarhi,

Madhubani, Darbhanga, Kishanganj and Purnea but large part of south Bihar is also in grip of naxalites.

Hundred of tributaries originating from Nepal side pose. The biggest problem before the security forces deployed to check this menace is absence of even a single border road is another problem as for over six months. This area becomes inaccessible and it becomes very difficult to check smuggling and infiltration from across border. Time and again we have been requesting the Government of India to construct a border road in bordering areas of U.P., Bihar and right upto West Bengal, i.e. on entire Indo-Nepal border stretch so that it can facilitate patrolling by our security forces so as to keep a check on smuggling and other illegal activities. I urge hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to construct a border road in said area. Hon'ble Defence Minister, too, is sitting here. Border is important from defence point of view also. In view of recent developments in Nepal there is a need to construct an all weather road in Indo-Nepal border area. In absence of a proper road our security force face difficulty in patrolling on bordering area from western to eastern stretch during the whole year. For six months in a year the police force fails to check the border effectively. Consequently, smuggling of drugs and fake currency goes on unabated which adversely affect economy. Therefore my submission is that a border road should be constructed in this area.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, I am sorry for the mistake. You were right.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Central Administrative Tribunal was set up 20 years back. While a Bill for setting up Central Administrative Tribunals was introduced in this House, we supported it because our experience had been that the employees were not getting speedy redressal of their grievances. So, CAT was introduced for the purpose of giving speedy redressal of grievances to the employees.

Sir, now it has been reported in the newspapers that the Cabinet has approved a proposal to abolish CAT. The Government is now seeking to incorporate

an enabling clause in the Tribunal Act in order that the Government can abolish CAT as some of the States are asking for the abolition of the State Administrative Tribunals. Today, hundreds of employees are getting speedy redressal of their grievances because of CAT. If they have to now approach the High Court for redressal of their grievances, then the same thing would happen what used to be the case 20 years back—aggrieved employees would have to wait for 15 to 20 years to get justice. There is, therefore, no justification for the abolition of CAT.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government, if they have decided to incorporate an enabling clause in the Act in order to abolish CAT and to bring in a legislation to that effect, to desist from taking such a step as abolishing CAT, in the interest of thousands and thousands of employees of our country.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that time has now come to place restrictions on MNCs which use ground water as their sole raw material in large quantities to make aerated, mineral and sweetened bottled waters by extracting ground water for commercial use. These MNCs who sell water are making huge profits are equated with the common man who demands drinking water.

The individuals and the huge corporates are treated on the same level which is unjust.

In this regard, I bring to the notice of the Government the serious and alarming situation developing in Plachimada in the panchayat of Perumatti, Palghat District, Kerala, where because of the over exploitation of ground water by Coca Cola Company, there is acute shortage of drinking water. The adjoining area where the company is situated, the land is polluted and water is contaminated. The entire agricultural operations are at standstill. The struggle of the local people especially the adivasis have completed three years. The Perumatti panchayat has gone on appeal to the Supreme Court on the decision of the Division Bench of the Kerala High Court. I would request the Government to support and

[Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar]

help the Perumatti panchayat which is fighting to establish for their constitutional rights. How can a small Panchayat fight a mighty Multinational company.

I also urge the Government to direct the Ground Water Authority to conduct a study in Plachimada and also the adjoining Pudukkottai Panchayat where Pepsi is exploiting ground water so that safeguards can be taken to avoid the impending crisis. I also want the Government to reprioritise the allocation of water in order to protect the interest of the rural poor. It is equally important to have policy decisions and proper implementation of the same with regard to ground water exploitation.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very important issue.

DR. K. DHANARAJU (Tindivanam): Sir, nature plays a very important role in one's life. When something bad is done to us, we curse the nature on the one hand. But on the other hand, nature gives us many things which we never dream of.

Sir, amidst the tragic news coming in the wake of the Tsunami on 26th December, 2004, there is something which will bring some cheer to Indians. The natural phenomenon seems to have left behind millions of tonnes of titanium ore on the beaches of the coastal areas of the country particularly Tamil Nadu.

On account of high strength to weight ratio, titanium is a very important metal. It is 45 per cent lighter than steel and also stronger compared to steel. It is twice stronger than aluminum. It is very useful because of its specific qualities. It is used in aerospace industry because of its strength, lightness, extraordinary corrosion resistance and ability to withstand extreme temperatures. It is also very useful in the products of automobiles, computers and mobile phones. Sir, a year and a half earlier to 26th December, 2004, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research had set up a network project involving six of its own institutions and several other academic and industrial institutes to examine the possibility of 'Placer Mining'. A placer deposit consists of some valuable mineral or gemstone that accumulates in weathered rock, stream sediments or beach deposits as a result of natural weathering and erosion.

A team of scientists led by Dr. V.J. Loveson of the Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad has been monitoring the level of placer deposits on Tamil Nadu's coastline. When Dr. Loveson was contacted by the reporter of *Times of India*, he stated that fresh deposits of titanium are expected to be about 40 million tonnes. This figure is reportedly based on back-of-the envelope calculations extrapolating the observed thickness of the deposits on roughly 500 kilometres of the coastline that was hit by tsunami.

MR. SPEAKER: Which State are you talking about?

DR. K. DHANARAJU: It is about Tamil Nadu, Sir.

Obviously, nature has given wealth to the country by way of the painful tsunami. The Government should give special attention to find out other deposits in the seabed which tsunami seems to have dumped on the beach. Apart from titanium which is a very valuable ore for the country, many other deposits such as limonite and rutile reserves are there. I request the Government to set up a special and separate Department to find out the natural deposits which are left behind by navigational activities.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe that this is a matter on which the Government should pay attention.

12.30 hrs.

(i) RE: EDUCATIONAL LOAN SCHEME

[English]

SHRI ARUNA KUAMR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry): Sir, my issue is regarding Education Loan Scheme. Even though the guidelines in respect of the Education Loan Scheme clearly says that no security is needed for loans below Rs. 4 lakh, the bankers are rejecting all the applications given by the people belonging to lower middle class and below the poverty line. They cite the following clause for rejecting the applications.

"Where reputation/standing of the course/institution do not afford certainty of employment prospects commensurate with the repayment liability on

completion of the course, the aspect of repayment capacity/income level of the parent(s) will need to be taken into account while deciding the quantum of finance/evaluating repayment capability or the desirability of sanctioning the loan."

Showing this clause they are rejecting the applications of those people who are not in a position to provide any security. When I asked a banker to write down in the application that it is rejected on this ground, he said the application did not fulfil the other requirements such as borrower's bank account statement for the last six months; income tax assessment order of the last two years; brief statement of assets and liabilities of the co-borrower; and proof of income. A fellow who belongs to a BPL family cannot submit all this.

MR. SPEAKER: Instead of 'fellow', you can say 'person'.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: It should be 'person'. I am sorry. I stand corrected.

I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister that some sort of order should be given to the banks to the effect that whenever meritorious students apply for loan, especially those belonging to BPL families and middle class families, they should be provided loans so that they can use it and come up in life. Thank you.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (Bapatla): I associate with the observation of the hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER: All hon. Members are associating with what he said.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I gave information in this House that as of December, one lakh forty thousand education loans have been sanctioned throughout the country. Subsequently also a large number of loans have been sanctioned. I will reveal that number when I reply to the debate on the Finance Bill. Apart from that I have a whole file of applications which I have received. My officers have sent it to the banks concerned or the concerned branch of the bank and we have got responses. In eight out of ten cases, loans have been sanctioned. If the hon. Member has such a bad case in

hand, he can give me the details. This is a very bad case. Even if one-half of the allegations made are correct, it is a very bad case of an irresponsible attitude of the Manager of the branch of the bank. Please give the name of the bank and the branch to me. I will take action....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You send it to him.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Give the particulars to me. Give me the list....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has assured you. You have got more than what you expected.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Give me the list and I will take action. There are hundreds of applications.

MR. SPEAKER: I appreciate the immediate and favourable response of the hon. Minister.

12.33 hrs.

(ii) RE: NEED TO EXEMPT LIFE SAVING DRUGS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FROM VAT

[English]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important matter. The Committee empowered to take decision on VAT is deliberating these days. It has been given to understand that they are proposing to levy 12.5 per cent VAT on medical equipments and drugs, especially the life-saving ones. These days, for the treatment of heart diseases, cancer, kidney transplantation and for many other ailments, very costly drugs and medicines are being used. Heart valves, pace makers, Intra-aortic balloons, cardiac catheters, cardiac angio plasty catheters, cardiac angio plasty strands equipments which are used in dialysis and transplant operations are all sophisticated and costly ones.

So far, in most of the States like West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi, there was zero tax on all these things. So, it is a very serious matter. If we levy tax on them, the cost of treatment for cardiac ailments, cancer and tuberculosis will increase.

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

Patients who suffered heart attack use drugs like streptochynic. If the prices of these things go up, it will be very difficult for the common man to get the treatment done. I am fortunate that the hon. Finance Minister is present here.

I am sure he would use his influence on the Empowered Committee to see that these life-saving equipment like ventilators, respirators and intra-aortic balloon pumps, which save the lives of the people, the life-saving drugs of all kinds and the cardiac implants and valves, which are generally being used for the middle-class and poor people, should be exempted from any kind of VAT. In fact, the Government of India was not levying any Customs duty. They were exempted from Excise duty also. So, it is time that serious action be taken. A message from our quarter may be given to the Ministers who are deliberating on them. That is what I wanted to request.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, two days ago, the Empowered Committee met and addressed this very issue. While I cannot comment on the individual item mentioned, the general consensus there was that life-saving drugs must be exempted. But, if the hon. Members passes on the list that he has in his hand, I will pass it on to the Empowered Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. Just give the list.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): All the commercial establishments are closed today in protest against implementation of VAT in the country. I don't know what is the attitude of State Governments about it but I can definitely say that the people are not in its favour. Just now, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav expressed concern over it. Shri Ashok Mitra, who had been a Finance Minister in left front Government in West Bengal is of the view that implementation of VAT is an act against the spirit of the constitution. He is perplexed as to, how Finance Minister in West Bengal Government gave his assent in favour of VAT? Shri Ashok Mitra told

that VAT was implemented in European countries in fifties. It neither checked tax-evasion nor the public gained from it. Somehow, the Union Government wants to snatch away states right to levy sales tax, which is violative of Article 246. VAT stipulates that addition in value would entail increase in tax rates and the consumers would fall prey to it.

Hon'ble Prime Minister said that VAT is in vogue in 143 countries, so why we can't implement it in India? Ours condition is totally different from other countries. And without taking local conditions in account it would be unjustified to impose any tax. Other countries try to keep rates of eatables low whereas the Government of India has imposed VAT on eatables and the poor man bears a burnt of it which is not at all good. The logic in favour of VAT is that it will bring uniformity in taxes throughout the country. But the prevailing scenario indicates that it is neither going to bring uniformity in tax rates nor it is going to benefit the traders and nor the common man as corruption is rampant in our country.

VAT has been divided in four categories. 46 items have been made tax-free. There are certain items which can't be processed, then one-per cent tax four-per cent and 12½ per cent, these items have not been listed so far. I am surprised, foodgrains, rice, pulses, flour etc. is being brought under VAT. What else can be more irresponsible thing than it. Financial Advisor of our Finance Ministry, Shri Parthsarthy so may has given his consent to it. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has categorically stated that unless the Central Government withdraws Central Sales Tax, VAT will not be implemented in U.P. My submission is that until and unless Central Sales Tax is withdrawn, the Central Government have no right to ask the State Governments to withdraw their State Sales Tax. It is totally impracticable. It is anti-poor Hon'ble Finance Minister is sitting here. It has other lacuna also. All commercial establishments in the country are closed today. The Members of NDA and BJP are not present today. They took initiative in implementing VAT and the present Government took it further. They are also protesting against it. Entire country and all the State Governments should have been taken into confidence.

I would like to tell hon'ble Finance Minister that most of the State Governments say that until and unless central sales tax is withdrawn they would not accept VAT in their respective States. It is a crisis before us. It is totally impracticable and unjustified as well. There is a need to rethink over it as the whole country is not in its favour. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should give a serious thought to it.

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rai Station falls on Daltanganj-Badkakana route. So far as revenue earning of railways is concerned it ranks fourth but unfortunately no train has been provided halt at this station. The people of this area have been demanding for it for long. Since morning of 27th till 12 O'clock on 28th all the goods trains remained stranded at this place and no passenger train arrived. When DC and SP came to break the deadlock they gave an assurance in this regard.

Sir, people have been demanding for a stoppage of Hatia Amritsar Express, Shaktipunj, Jharkhand Swarnjayanti Express but so far the Ministry of Railways have paid no heed to it. I requested hon'ble Railway Minister and even wrote letters to the Chairman of Railway Board. He had assured me about it but nothing has been done so far. Similarly, requests have been made for providing a stoppage of Sharda Rajdhani Express at Kodarma as several hon. Members of Parliament and other passengers board the train to Delhi from here. We have been making efforts for its stoppage but so far no action has been taken in this regard.

Piparbar, Bachra and Ashoka areas are in proximity of Rai station. Magadh and Amarpali projects and NTPC's thermal power project are coming up near to it. When Government officials come to this place, they have to cover a distance of 150 kms. from Lucknow to Kadarma otherwise they have to travel enroute Ranchi, an extra journey of 125 kms. My submission is that a stoppage of said train should be provided at Rai Station. Sealdah Rajdhani Express should also be provided stoppage at this station.

[English]

***SHRI M. SHIVANNA** (Chamarajanagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the kind attention of the august House to a very important issue of drinking water. Malai Mahadeshawar Hills is a very important pilgrim centre in South India. During its annual utsav more than one and a half lakh devotees assemble at the temple. Unfortunately there is no drinking water facility and that is why the trustee of the temple have allocated about seven crore rupees for a project to provide drinking water. In fact half of this amount has already been spent and the final map is ready. The water has to be drawn from Kaveri river through tubes. Tamil Nadu Government and Karnataka Government have expressed their willingness to extend their helping hand to this project as devotees from both State through the temple every year to attend the annual festival. But strangely the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest has not cleared this project till today. This project does not reduce the forest area in any way. Trees will not be cut and the entire forest area would be safe.

Therefore, I do not understand why there is inordinate delay in clearing this vital project by the Union Ministry. Hence, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singhji and hon. Union Minister Shri A. Raja to clear this very important project without any further delay. I hope and trust that the dream of the people especially the devotees of Malai Mahadeshwara would become a reality very soon.

I thank you, Sir and conclude my speech.

12.46 hrs.

PREVENTION OF MONEY-LAUNDERING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, we will have to take up the Finance Bill. But, there is one Item 14. Would you like to introduce that Bill?

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

**Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-
dated 29-04-05.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Yes, Sir. Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I introduce* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us start the Finance Bill discussion from 2.00 p.m.

The House stands adjourned till 2.00 p.m.

12.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

FINANCE BILL, 2005—*contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 15. Shri Sudhangshu Seal.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL (Calcutta-North West): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to accept the Finance Bill placed by him fully. But, I would also like to point out certain things for his consideration.

* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

** At 1400 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 1404 hours, quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 1408 hours once again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter, the Secretary-General informed the Members present as follows:

"There is no quorum. The House cannot meet till there is a quorum. The hon. Deputy-Speaker has directed that the House will meet again at 2.30 p.m."

Sir, you know now that it is a very big challenge for us to fight against the unemployment problem. We will have to provide jobs to unemployed youths. While we are thinking of providing employment to youths, the Government have correctly taken a number of decisions which will definitely provide jobs to them. But in the Budget, there are certain sectors where the decision taken by the Government is going to hamper the existing jobs. There would be thousands of job losers.

In the Common Minimum Programme, we have decided to give importance to certain sectors, especially the agriculture sector by which we are very much hopeful that the time is very near when we would be in a position to provide jobs to several unemployed people. In the timber trade, wood, timber logs and sawn timbers are prime and important input materials for all kinds of industries like saw mills, timber processing industries, construction industry, furniture industry, handicrafts, industrial packaging and industries engaged in the production of other daily use household products, etc. Thus, wood forms the plank for existence and living, and is a social necessity for all sections of our society including the weaker section. This trade is one of the largest employers of urban youth and rural people in different categories all over the country. The total direct and indirect employment in domestic wood and timber based industry is around 12.5 million approximately. In West Bengal alone, there are approximately 4,500 saw mills and wood based industries as per the West Bengal Forest Department, and the total number all over the country is around 35,000.

The wood-based products like wood tar, wood tar oils, wood creosote, wood naphtha, etc., have been announced earlier by the hon. Minister of Finance in the VAT policy as eligible as industrial inputs and packaging materials for being taxed at the rate of four per cent. Surprisingly, timber and sawn timber have been excluded as industrial input in the policy announced and VAT at the rate of 12.5 per cent has been imposed on them whereas for paper and newsprint made out of wood and bamboo, the raw material has been taxed at four per cent. I therefore request you to please consider including wood timber and sawn timber in Schedule C, Part-III, as industrial inputs and packaging materials and charge VAT at four per cent.

Now, I come to the gems and jewellery sector. Only yesterday, our hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharya has written to our hon. Minister of Finance expressing his desire that the 10.2 per cent service tax imposed by the Central Government in the current Budget should be withdrawn. This industry employs millions of workers who should be nurtured in all possible manner by all the authorities and divisions concerned. They should not be harassed so much that they go out of their present activity. If this were not done, millions of new unemployment would be generated, which is most undesirable under any circumstances.

The workforce in the IT industry is literate and hence could be engaged in any other activity but like the textile industry, the gems and jewellery workers too, though highly skilled, are usually illiterate. If an artisan loses his job, he would be a burden to the nation. This imposition of service tax on gems and jewellery would result in lots of jobs being lost, exports would take a reverse turn, and create a mass scale unemployment.

My appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance is that unless he personally does not intervene and put the gems and jewellery industry at par with the IT and textile industry—the three thrust areas declared by the Government of India—the resulting chaotic situation would be uncontrollable.

Now, I will talk about the agricultural products like flowers. As you know, there is a big potential of our Indian flowers in the global market. But we do not have the infrastructure. So, to supply the cut flowers to global market, we need to have the cold chain. In most of the States, they are not having these cold chains. We are having the same problem in West Bengal. We have already approached the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in this regard. APEDA is taking interest. But what I suggest, as a matter of policy, if we give importance to this particular trade, then we will be in a position to create employment to a lot of youths. They can be engaged in floriculture business not only for cut flowers but also for dry flowers and other flowers. Flower is a very vast item. If we can explore this, we can have a very good share of global market.

It is the same case with potatoes. As you know, we have started supplying potatoes from West Bengal

for the last one year. Our experience has been that Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, the entire Arab countries, even Japan are not producing even a single piece of potato and they are importing from countries like USA, Australia, Holland and China. The reality is that while we are exporting these potatoes, we are not in a position to compete with USA, Australia, Holland, etc. They are the giant countries. They are providing subsidies to their suppliers. As a result, it is becoming a problem for us to compete with them. Moreover, in this case also, we need to have the infrastructure. Infrastructure means, since this is a perishable time, we will have to send it through referred containers. But the reality is that we do not have containers conforming to the international standard. We have started exporting potatoes to Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines etc. by obtaining containers from Germany. One German firm has given these containers. We have to supply the products as per the commitment. So, we are paying heavy fares for these containers. What I propose to the hon. Minister of Finance is this. If our Government can arrange at least 200 refrigerated containers conforming to international standard, I can tell you confidently—the quality which we are supplying from India is well-accepted in the global market, at least, in this sector—then, we will be in a position to grab the market in bulk within a very short period.

We have started sending mangoes very recently. In the case of mangoes also, we need to have the infrastructure. In the sense, the packaging, which is prevailing at this moment in our country, is not as per the international standard. So, for all vegetables, all fruits, the packaging industry should be improved. It should be modernised. It should be conforming to the global requirement, international market requirement and it can be a separate industry which will give employment to so many new youths.

Now, in the case of potatoes, transport assistance has been provided by APEDA. It is really very confusing. Yesterday, we had a meeting with the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Kamal Nath in this regard. It was explained to him that APEDA is saying that they are prepared to give transport assistance at the rate of

[Shri Sudhangshu Seal]

Rs. 3 for Asian countries, Rs. 6 for London and Rs. 8 for America. But if we go by the reality, then we will find that it is coming only to 50 paise or 80 paise.

I do not find any reason why this type of scheme has been prepared. On one side they are saying that they will be giving so much money etc. and on the other side they are saying about 10 per cent of FOB value. Do you know the price of potato? It cannot cross 80 paise per kilogram. However, we are very happy that our hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar has decided only two-three days back that the Department of Agriculture will provide an additional subsidy of Rs. 2 through APEDA to the exporters for potato. What I understand from the discussions I had with different Departments is that, this also needs concurrence of the Finance Department. My submission to the hon. Minister of Finance is that when this type of proposals are placed before you, you must consider them sympathetically in the interest of lakhs and lakhs of growers.

I will now conclude by mentioning one more point. Hon. Member Shri Rupchand Pal said about this yesterday also. I am talking about hand-tools industry. The hand-tools are used by carpenters and so on. The hand-tools are used by mostly artisans of different categories. In the hand-tools also we find that the tax is around 12.5 per cent. It should be reduced to four per cent to enable the lakhs and lakhs of artisans to have good tools at reasonable prices.

In case of wooden items also, I would like to conclude by saying one word, that, if we do not take the decision, then it will simply encourage our neighbouring countries like China, Indonesia, Italy etc. to flood our country with their finished products of furniture items and that will result finally in unemployment to so many of our workers.

Sir, with these words, I again accept the Finance Bill in full and request our hon. Minister of Finance to consider these points.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Pattali Makkal Katchi and its

Founder President Doctor *ayya*, I welcome and support the Finance Bill, 2005. This Bill, spread over 124 Clauses, contains various provisions relating to the tax system of the country. The first 64 Clauses deal with direct taxes including income-tax and corporate tax and the remaining 60 Clauses deal with the indirect taxes like customs duty, excise duty, banking cash transaction tax and service tax.

At the outset, I should say that all these provisions contained in these Clauses contribute to the strengthening of the contemporary Indian tax system. When we want to evaluate this Finance Bill, we can use several yardsticks. But, to my mind, the best yardstick is to refer the provisions of this Bill to three important Committee Reports of the Government of India. The first two Committee Reports are coming from the Kelkar Committee—one on direct taxes and the other one on indirect taxes. The third is the Task Force Report on implementing the FRBM Act.

All these three Committee reports raise four important issues in the assessment of the Finance Bill. The first important question is whether the Finance Bill is able to mobilise adequate resources that are necessary to the development of this country is growth with justice, whether the resources would be sufficient to generate employment opportunities, whether the revenue generated would help us to banish poverty from this country and also to bridge inter-sectoral, inter-regional and inter-personal disparities.

The second question is whether the Finance Bill is consistent with the celebrated canons of taxation and the principles of prudent finance. The third issue is whether the Finance Bill is able to remove the age-old ills that are plaguing the Indian tax system for several years. The fourth question is whether this Finance Bill carries forward the process of tax reforms that has been initiated in 1991 by the Hon. Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of this country. Or more specifically, we will have to look into the Finance Bill from the point of view of several questions like simplification of tax procedures, widening of the tax base, tax compliance, reducing the cost of compliance, transparency etc. When we pose all these questions to the Finance Bill, I tend to have a

feeling that answer to all these questions is 'Yes' and therefore, I have whole-hearted appreciation of the Finance Minister for his professional ability and acumen to present a near optimal or near perfect Finance Bill to this august House.

Now, let me draw some examples from the Finance Bill to illustrate my contention. When we take the resource part of the Finance Bill, I am able to see that the proposals contained in the Finance Bill help us to fetch an amount of Rs. 3,70,250 crore as against Rs. 3,06,021 crore in the RE of 2004-2005, marking an increase of Rs. 64,000 crore. This gives a revenue growth of 21 per cent over the previous year. Income tax revenue is expected to grow at 30.36 per cent, corporation tax at 33.2 per cent, excise duties at 20.66 per cent. The country's tax GDP ratio is now hitting at the highest level of 10.53 per cent. For the first time, it crosses the pre-reform level position of 10.12 per cent. As we know, this ratio of tax to GDP has been declining from 1991 onwards in the post-reform period from 10.12 per cent in 1990-91 to 9.22 per cent in 2003-2004. Therefore, for the first time in the history of India, the GDP ratio would be at the highest level and we should appreciate the Finance Minister for enabling the economy to raise so much of resources. Further this resource increase comes in the wake of reduced tax rates or moderate tax rates, both on the direct tax as well as on the indirect tax front. Therefore, it shows the resilience of the tax system to bring more of revenue.

Another admirable feature of the Bill is that the tax proposals in the Finance Bill do not impinge upon the common man. It does not impose greater burden on the poor and the revenue effect of the indirect taxes is almost revenue neutral and it does not distort the tax structure in any way.

The third important complimentary factor in this Finance Bill is that it helps us to increase the equity or progressiveness of the Indian tax system in the sense that it increases the share of direct taxes in the total tax revenue of the country. In 1991, the percentage of direct taxes to indirect taxes was only 24.4 per cent, but today it is 92.12 per cent. While excise and customs duties would bring Rs. 1,92,215 crore, income tax and

corporation tax alone would bring Rs. 1,77,077 crore. This means that at this rate, maybe next year, the revenue collections from income tax and corporate tax would even exceed the revenue from the customs duty and excise duties. This would be really a milestone in the tax history of India and according to economists, this trend or this characteristic is the characteristic of a developing economy maturing into a developed economy. That means the Finance Bill helps the country to move on to the path of a developed nation, a dream that is set by the Hon. President of India for India to reach by 2020.

The credit for this achievement must go to the Government as well as to the Hon. Prime Minister for bringing this. Therefore, by reducing the dominance of indirect taxes in the tax system, India today is moving away from the age-old regressive tax system and that is the credit of the Finance Bill.

The Finance Bill also provides a welcome package in the income tax structure. It increases the savings of the people and it contributes to more of investment and every tax-payer is now given the choice of saving in whatever instruments he likes to have it. Therefore, this brings more investment to the people.

There are more cheers for the corporate sector also. The lowest tax of 30 per cent has been fixed with a surcharge of 10 per cent. A rate of depreciation of 15 per cent for general machinery and plant is also there. All these translate to a relief of 3 per cent to the corporate sector.

As regards the indirect taxes, reduction in the customs duties to 15 per cent takes India closer to South-Asian levels. It is expected that the customs duty in India would be nearer to the Asian levels by the year 2006 or 2007.

India has already fulfilled its WTO commitment by removing the basic customs duties on IT agreement bound items. Further, the reduction of customs duty on capital goods—for specific industries—would promote more investment, especially, in the agriculture and food industries; research and development; chemical and petroleum products; etc.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

There has been a widening of tax base as far as the service tax is concerned. Although the service tax rate is 10 per cent, a number of services have been brought under the tax net. Therefore, it is widening the tax base of the service tax, but the hon. Finance Minister has been careful enough to give relief to the small service providers who have an annual turnover of upto Rs. 4 lakh.

I would like to say many more good things about the Finance Bill, but due to paucity of time I would restrict with these salient features of the Finance Bill. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to some of the important issues, which are agitating the minds of the people.

Firstly, I would like to talk about the fringe benefit tax. The fringe benefit tax is likely to affect the ability of the corporate sector to attract talents into the industry. Today, the scientists and management experts are willing to go abroad because they are able to get a large number of perquisites outside India. Today, many of the corporates are willing to give these perquisites in India itself. Therefore, the hon. Finance Minister should ascertain whether these perquisites are contributing to the business development. If he feels that it is so, then he can give some concession in the fringe benefit tax.

Secondly, I would like to mention about the abolition of standard deduction. The standard deduction is not a personal allowance given to the people. The standard deduction is a sort of expenditure, which must be deducted from the gross taxable income. The net income is calculated by deducting the expenditure from the gross taxable income. The standard deductions—this has been the practice for a long time—used to take care of the expenditure part. Therefore, the standard deduction must be maintained, and standard deductions should be deducted from the gross taxable income to arrive at the net income. Therefore, the hon. Finance Minister should give some thought to this issue also.

Thirdly, I would like to mention about the introduction of VAT system in the country. The hon. Finance Minister was very happy to announce that from 01 April, 2005 all the States in the country would go for

the system of VAT. But, unfortunately, the political opportunism among the States has not enabled the country to have uniform VAT system, as some States are not complying with it. It is the responsibility of the hon. Finance Minister to bring these States round the corner, so that there is system of integration of commodities and services throughout the country as a whole.

Lastly, I would like to mention about the Union Territory of Pondicherry, which is now suffering on account of VAT as well as on account of the presence of the Central Sales Tax (CST). I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to pay attention to this issue also. The Union Territory of Pondicherry is not a producing centre, but only a consuming centre. It is receiving the raw materials from the neighbouring States as it purchases commodities, and dispatches them to other places. When the rate of tax is uniform throughout the country as a result of implementation of VAT and if the Union Territory of Pondicherry purchases the raw materials from Tamil Nadu, then it has to pay a CST of 4 per cent. Assuming that the rate of sales tax is remaining the same, a 4 per cent imposition of CST increases the cost of purchasing for the producers in Pondicherry. Further, when the finished products are sold outside, they have to pay another 4 per cent tax. So an additional burden of 8 per cent is borne by the producers in the Union Territory of Pondicherry, which is affecting the trade, commerce, and industry in the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

15.00 hrs.

The territory which has made rapid strides in the economy is now suffering on account of VAT as well as simultaneous co-existence of the Central Sales Tax. On behalf of the people, I would urge upon the Central Government to reconsider whether CST could be abolished this year or at the earliest possible.

With these few words, I appreciate the features of the Finance Bill. On behalf of our Party, I support this Finance Bill.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad):
Respected, hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to start my speech in support of the Finance Bill. One survey

suggested that in the world as many as 60 per cent of the top politicians are lawyers. Being myself a lawyer, I would like to say that we are fortunate today to have a committed and a truly professional lawyer at the helms of affairs in the Finance Ministry. A true lawyer represents the best interests of his client and not his or her interests. Unlike NDA's tall claims of "India Shining", our hon. Finance Minister, under the leadership of the visionary economist and the guidance of a leader who is committed to national service, has rightly envisioned '*Bharat Nirman*' by fixing a target of about four years to provide irrigation, roads, water supply, housing, rural electrification, rural telecommunication connectivity and also to address the gaps in the basic needs at the rural level.

Though the emphasis is rightly upon rural development, and over the past many years, though we have been spending thousands of crores of rupees, we have not seen real development. What we need to see is proper implementation and monitoring. In respect of rural development, the late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi stated that only fifteen paise out of every single rupee reach the rural beneficiaries. According to a latest study, out of every rupee that we spend, at least, twenty paise is spent on some other thing and it does not reach the rural poor. To fulfil the vision of our Prime Minister, more emphasis has been laid on agricultural growth. On rural development, we are spending over Rs. 17,000 crore. What we have to ensure is the real implementation which would help in '*Bharat Nirman*'. Out of 700 districts that we have, over 100 districts are selected as most backward. The intention is to raise rural income and to alleviate poverty within the shortest possible time by way of rural development. What can be, indeed, more meaningful than selecting the most backward districts? Many of the districts in Telangana region, from where I come, are quite backward. The violence that we have seen in the recent past is due to the underdevelopment in socio-economic sectors, unemployment and lack of basic amenities the so-called Naxalite problem is related to that. Therefore, more focus has to be laid and funds have to be allotted to these backward districts.

The hon. Finance Minister rightly laid emphasis on the Backward Areas Development Fund by agreeing to give Rs. 5,000 crore every year for the next five

years. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to allocate more funds to these Districts and especially to Nizamabad District in Andhra Pradesh which is my District.

Some of the funds allocated to various sectors need to be re-looked. One such sector is micro-irrigation. An estimated amount of Rs. 10,500 crore is required to meet the target irrigation of 3 million hectares. However, the allocation made for this year is Rs. 400 crore only which is not good enough. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to have a re-look at it and increase the allocation for it. There is National Horticulture Mission for which the projected requirement is Rs. 2015 crore. However, only Rs. 630 crore have been allocated. This too has to be re-looked and allocation should be increased. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to draw an action plan to revamp the defunct cooperative credit infrastructure to make it more accountable.

Some of the other sectors also need to be re-looked and more funds should be made available. One of them is the Agricultural Research Centres. The meagre amount of Rs. 50 crore allocated is not good enough for this. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to look at it again and see if more funds can be allocated.

One of the programmes outlined in the Budget this year is the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for which over Rs. 7,000 crore have been allotted, and the National Highway Development Programme. During the previous NDA regime, there has been misuse of funds in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, especially in Andhra Pradesh. Of the total allocation of Rs. 235 crore made by the Central Government, the previous TDP Government diverted over Rs. 75 crore to other sectors.

There has to be greater monitoring and implementation of various programmes. While the Centre is allocating thousands and thousands of rupees to the State Governments, some of the State Governments are diverting those funds and spending them for more populist programmes.

I would draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to some of the new initiatives that have been taken particularly the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship

[Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi]

Programme for SC and ST population for helping in pursuing M.Phil and Ph.D. studies in select universities is to be extended to the Other Backward Classes also.

I would also draw the attention of the Government to the initiative of National Minorities Development Finance Corporation. Over the period of last six years or so, during the NDA regime, minorities have felt insecure and ignored. Proper attention has not been paid to the development of minority population during that regime. I would like to give the example of my own District where one-fourth of the population is minorities. Many of them are poor and employed and uneducated too. I would request that the allocation of funds may be increased to my district. Attention is drawn to the Kasturba Balika Vidyalyas. Some of the Districts have been selected for this scheme. I would request the Finance Minister to see whether my District can be included in the list. I say this because over two and a half lakh women in 12-16 age group are working as beedi workers there. When parents are dependent on the money earned by their children, the children are not able to attend to schools. As long as parents are not provided a viable income, they use their children to support their families. So, more funds may be allotted to my District under this programme.

These are some of the suggestions to which I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister. I would compliment and congratulate the Finance Ministry for initiating innovative measures.

Over the past decade, our attempt of leapfrogging from predominantly agricultural economy to knowledge-based service economy, India's growth of six per cent GDP for the past decade on the Software and Information Technology-enabled Services (SITS) sector, some of the supporters quoted that in support of the leapfrogging approach to this sector, one should not ignore the vital linkage with the other economic sectors. Information Technology sector is contributing only 10 per cent of the GDP growth. The other economic sectors are essential. Linkage has to be there which can exert a ripple of multiple effect on creating a large number of jobs for the entire spectrum of work force. We have at present 470 million workforce. Information Technology though

provided or providing for the past decade over 8,00,000 jobs yet it is mostly restricted to the educated elite and urban youth, leaving a large fraction of India's population. To pursue political and economic stable development strategy in a largely rural, unskilled agricultural economy the linking between knowledge-based sector and other sector is really essential.

I would like to draw the attention to the report of Goldman Sacks which suggests that India will be the third largest economy by 2032 behind the US and China. More focus has to be laid on the India's per capita GDP to see that India becomes the third largest economy in the world.

Before I conclude, I would like to draw the attention to the example of Chinese method where by investing huge amount of money in the infrastructure and manufacturing sectors, they have created over 40 million jobs. We need to take that experience and see that by giving more emphasis on manufacturing sector by exporting products from footwear to underwear and from hardware and software. We should formulate policies that touch the masses for the sustained development.

I would also like to draw the attention to the implementation of the programmes and schemes. Obviously, we need the funding for the implementation. I am sure substantial funding that we are raising through taxes and from other avenues may not be enough. We need to focus on the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Today, we are standing at four billion FDI. We need to attract more FDIs to have sustained growth.

I would like to draw the attention and seek the support of the Comrades of the Left parties to the policies of the Government on FDI. I would also like to quote here—because they may be closely looking to the Chinese economy—where great Chinese leader Mr. Deng Xioping has rightly summarised “that it does not matter if the cat is black or white. The important thing is that it catches the mice”. The idea is simple. If the growth and the well being of the people can come for attracting FDI and exporting, so be it. So, our hon. Finance Minister has rightly increased FDIs in some sectors.

Our supporting parties should come forward and support it so that we can collectively see the growth of India into the next century.

In the end, I say that though the initiative of the Government for creating a new Ministry of Indian Overseas is welcome, but yet there is more to be looked into it. More concerted and substantial efforts have to be drawn to attract more non-resident Indians to contribute into the socio-economic sectors of the country. There is a need for tapping the Indian Diaspora which is a rich source of talent, idea and money. The Prime Minister had rightly mentioned at the time of *Pravasi Bhartiya Divas* in Mumbai by inviting the big Indian Diaspora to be a part of the India's development.

I would like to make one more observation. We need to change our mindset. We need to create a culture of innovation which is a real, fundamental requirement for a global economic leadership. We should also create innovative incubator which is real and essential to nurture the talent among the scientists and engineers. Though the progress made so far in this regard is laudable yet still more to be done. "The glass must be viewed as half empty". The Central and State Governments should vigorously work to improve the basic infrastructure power, water, communications and transportation. The funds allocated to these sectors have to be properly utilised. I do not have any doubt in expressing my support to the hon. Finance Minister, I also say that under his dynamic leadership and with his experience and exposure and being at the driving seat of the Finance Ministry, I am sure, India can achieve the economic agenda that recognises democracy, sustainability and wide-spread socio-economic development. With these words I support the the Demands for Grans for General Budget.

*SHRI SIPPIPARAI RAVICHANDRAN (Sivakasi): Sir, let me thank the Chair at the outset for giving me an opportunity to speak on this occasion when this august House has taken up the Finance Bill for the year 2005-06. This year's Budget is a heartening one to the UPA partners, acceptable to the leftist parties and an

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

embarrassment to the opposition. It has received a wide appreciation from the public and people from several walks of life and all the economic sectors. We have passed the Demands for Grants for various Ministries and Departments after deliberating on them. Now before us is the Finance Bill. Economic experts and senior members have expressed their considered opinion and views on this Bill. They have all spoken ahead of me and hence I would like to make just two points before I could draw your attention to certain things pertaining to my constituency. As far as 'economic survey' is concerned, over the years it has become a kind of post mortem of economic performances of the previous years. It used to be a kind of test report which will just indicate the malady that afflict our economy. Only this year we find a report with a difference. It has been prepared under the supervision of our Finance Minister who had not merely diagnosed the disease but has also made valiant attempts to identify the root cause of the affliction or the disease. In the words of Saint Thiruvalluvar, the Tamil poet:—

"Noi Nadi Noi Muthal Nadi Athan

Vaai Nadi Vaaippa Seyal"

That means:

"Identify the cause rather than the disease to stem it at its emergence."

This year's report is like an advanced report. It has been prepared under the guidance of our able Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh who is an acclaimed economist. On behalf of MDMK I would like to congratulate and extend our support to this year's financial report.

Just in one year the tax revenue is sought to be increased by 21% that is 64,000 crores of rupees. The Finance Bill proposes to earn for the exchequer this much this year.

As far as income tax restructuring is concerned I would like to point out just one point. Due to IT revolution several MNCs have established themselves here and

[Shri Sippiparai Ravichandran]

our youth who are employed by them are paid Rs. 25,000 to 30,000 per mensem and even more as a normal thing. Till last year a person who was earning Rs. 3,50,000 was paying a tax not less than Rs. 50,000. But this year's announcement in the Budget that seeks to restructure the income tax provides a great relief to the people especially the salaried class. From this year that very same person will be paying a mere Rs. 23,000 as income tax. It is going to be a saving of Rs. 27,000 per year per salary-earner. It amounts to an additional income of Rs. 2,000 a minimum per month. This is a welcome feature of this Finance Bill and I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for this move. Salaried class are not merely happy, relieved and content but also free from the tension that used to be there when it comes to income tax. It has become people friendly in the fashion of being customer-friendly. The aged and the women have got concessions.

Next comes agricultural sector. 57% of our people have got agriculture as their occupation. You have taken adequate measures to safeguard the interests of the farmers.

Then comes the weaving sector. 10% of our population have been weavers. Last year the handloom sector was taken off from the CENVAT. This year our Finance Minister has given several incentives to our textile sector to give a boost to this industrial sector. Next only to IT, the greatest foreign exchange earner and job provider is our textile sector. That sector gets an impetus with the creative intervention of our Finance Minister who seeks to make its growth more even paced. The duty levied on import of textile machinery has been reduced from 20% to 10%. New dyeing and bleaching units will get a subsidy of 10%. Artificial fibre will attract a mere 14% duty as reduced from the 24% that was there. Thus our Finance Minister has infused new confidence, hope and vigour to textile sector.

Sethu Samudram project is taking shape now. It was a demand pending for long. Our leaders right from Anna to Vaiko have been reiterating this demand for

quite long. Now we have come to an important period when that dream is coming true for which many of our leaders have to strive a lot. Both our Surface Transport Minister and our Finance Minister have taken keen interest to complete this project. They have set apart Rs. 100 crore for this project in the current Budget. Narrow political differences have crept in and that is why there is no proper cooperation from the present State Government there and that has resulted in the delay to commence the project. I request our hon. Finance Minister and the Union Government to see that this project is taken up this year itself and I also request you to allocate additional funds that may be required to take it to completion. I urge upon the Union Government to be liberal in allotting funds and fulfil the hundred-year dream of the Tamils.

In my Sivakasi Lok Sabha constituency, matches manufacturing and production of crackers is a major industry. Till last year tax exemption was available to hand made matches industry. Machine made matches got a relief from CENVAT and a reduced excise duty of 12% from 16% this year. I do not want to go in to the compulsion that was on the Finance Minister. At this juncture I would like to point out at a particular stage of production. The tips of the match sticks are dipped in chemicals after having been fixed on the stacked frames using machines. This particular segment before it is being packed into match boxes are handled in an unlawful manner ther by evading tax that is due to the Government. Because this part of manufacturing is done in the name of cottage industries to get tax benefits and relief. This is an indirect tax evasion and I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government. This lacunae must be plugged and Government must take steps cautiously to ensure collection of excise duty in full. Such mechanised matches units must be made to bring out from their shop floors only the fully finished products. Hand made matches units and cracker units are to get enhanced tax exemption limit from Rs. 3 crore to 4 crore. That industry faces global competition. Hence the enhanced limit of Rs. 1 crore may kindly be raised to Rs. 1.5 crore.

Finally I want to raise a matter that may not be in the ambit of this Finance Bill. It has to be considered on humanitarian grounds. Public in general especially the poor used to get financial assistance for surgical treatments from PM's Relief Fund. People undergoing treatments like heart surgery, kidney transplantation, cancer treatment were getting financial assistance from the PMO as recommended by MPs. Now for the past one year that assistance is not forthcoming. I urge upon the Union Government to ensure a viable mechanism and create a fund to benefit the needy poor extending medical assistance. The official apathy to dismiss it on the grounds that it is a donated fund and the claim that Government cannot do much must be put aside. Rs. 16,000 crore is set aside for subsidy in the agricultural sector in a country like ours which is based on farm economy. When 57% of the people are having agriculture as their main occupation and many of them remain poor, the Finance Ministry proposes to allocate more funds for horticulture sector hoping that it could be a better alternative. Such funds allocated for horticulture and sought to be spent by the State Governments, I apprehend, may be misspent. But our hon. Finance Minister envisages plans to construct warehouses and godowns with refrigeration facilities in every district. He gives thrust to create economic zones and I feel the money set apart may be spent usefully. I hope he will succeed. Our Finance Minister has set a target to give Rs. 36,000 crore as loan to farmers while doubling the credit limit in 3 years. Every year about 50 lakh new farmers can get loan now. But many banks are making it jewel loans and show it as agricultural loans. The credit facility methods must be streamlined. Then only the target could be met with successfully and meaningfully.

At a time when we have globalised our economy, you have taken steps to attract more FDI to give pep to our economy. While giving boost to industrial growth, while adding pace to rural development you have taken care to see that the poor and the public in general are burdened. Hence I welcome this constructive Budget and extend my support to this Finance Bill.

With this I conclude my speech.

15.28 hrs.

MOTION RE: EIGHTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up Private Members' Business.

Shri Alok Kumar Mehta.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the House do agree with the Eighth Report of the Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 27th April, 2005".

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the House do agree with the Eighth Report of the Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 27th April, 2005"

The motion was adopted

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall now take up the introduction of Private Members Bills.

Shri Chandrakant Khaire—Not Present.

Item No. 18 and Item No. 19, Shri Kashiram Rana—Not Present.

Item No. 20 to Item No. 24, Shri Subodh Mohite—Not Present.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Item No. 24 Shri Brajesh Pathak—Not Present.

Item No. 25, Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'—Not Present.

Item No. 26, Shri Mani Cherenamoi.

15.30 hrs.

(i) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005
(Amendment of article 16 and Ninth Schedule)

[English]

SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI (Outer Manipur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.31 hrs.

(ii) STATE OF UTTARANCHAL (REGULARIZATION
AND CONVERSION OF THE PRE-1980
SETTLEMENTS ON FOREST LANDS
INTO REVENUE LANDS) BILL, 2005

[English]

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for conversion into revenue lands of all such forest lands which situate in the State of Uttaranchal forming part of reserved forest or protected forest and which had settlements prior to the 24th day of October, 1980; for regularization of all such encroachments and settlements and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a bill to provide for conversion into revenue lands of all such forest lands which situate in the State of Uttaranchal forming part of reserved forest or protected forest and which had settlements prior to the 24th day of October, 1980; for regularization of all such encroachments and settlements and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA': I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Item Nos. 28 and 29, Shri Abdullakutty—Not present.

15.22 hrs.

(iii) COMPULSORY VOTING BILL, 2004—*contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us now take up item no. 30, Compulsory Voting Bill. Last time when the House was adjourned, Shri Giridhar Gamang was on his legs. So, I request him to continue his speech.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG (Koraput): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir.

This is an important Bill. Democracy in India is not only a democracy, but it is also democracy with freedom. Therefore, you cannot compel the voters to vote. It should be given to them, whatever the line that they may take during the voting process.

So, I mentioned last time about the role of five 'VIPs'. I have analysed that the percentage of voting of very intellectual persons, very intelligent persons, very influential persons, very illiterate persons and very innocent persons, who make the five 'VIPs'. These five VIPs have a role to play during the election process. One is to assess what is the percentage of different category of voters. The election in the country definitely will give a different dimension to the democratic process. Why then we have frequent elections in the country? It is because there is no stability in the Government. Political environment is changing in such a way that there is no stability in the State or at the Centre.

In the third layer of Government, that is, in the Panchayats and the Municipalities also, there is a provision for a five-year term. If every year we have election after election, then definitely people will get disgusted with the voting process.

I would like to raise a very important question. When people cast vote to elect their representatives, they

are elected for a five-year term. So, they should remain the representatives of the people, either in the Parliament or the Assembly, for full five years. Experience today in the country is, there is no single-party Government for the past few years. Earlier at the Centre we had Governments enjoying absolute majority or two-thirds majority in the House. Those Governments had completed full five years' term. Then we had multi-party Government with single-party Opposition. Now, we have at the Centre multi-party Government with multi-party Opposition. As a result the stability of the Government is always in question. In the past we had the occasion when there was Government at the Centre enjoying absolute majority or two-third majority in the House. Then there were occasions when we had either mid-term or quarter-term elections. Now, there is no certainty of the term of the Government. We now have no-term Governments both at the Centre and the States. It is high time to review the Constitutional provision to find out whether the elected representatives who have been elected for five years should continue for five years or not.

There is a provision in article 83 of the Constitution, which says that the duration of the Lok Sabha is for five years. It needs to be examined and reviewed. We can amend it by adding, 'unless sooner dissolved, it will continue for five year'. In article 85, power is given to the hon. President to dissolve the House. On what basis can the President dissolve the House? Article 74 provides that the Council of Ministers should aid and advise the President. Definitely, the hon. President will act on the advice of the Council of Ministers. If a Government is defeated in the House then the House will not be dissolved but the Government will have to go. Only if a Government recommends for the dissolution of the House, the House should be dissolved. The Council of Ministers has the power to advise the President on important Money Bill and other Bills. No-Confidence Motion is to be moved by the Leader of Opposition in the House but Confidence Motion is to be moved by the Prime Minister on the instruction and advice of the President of India. If that is so, when the Council of Ministers recommends to the President for dissolution of the House before completion of five years

term—either in the mid-term or quarter-term—why can the Members of Parliament in the Lok Sabha or the MLAs in the Assembly not vote in the House for or against the dissolution of the House? If the Council of Ministers differ on a Bill or if it recommends again to the President and the President of India does not accept and return the Bill asking the Government to show the strength in the House then the House will be the deciding factor. Similarly, the House should decide whether it would go for election before the completion of five years term or not. We should have a similar provision for the State Assemblies also.

We have a five years term for Panchayat and Municipality. There also the words used are, 'unless sooner dissolved'. In that case also the power to dissolve should vest with Panchayat. A Government may or may not be there for five years but the elected representatives should remain for five years. Today, there is uncertainty everywhere. How well a Government run depends on a Party. But today a number of parties are involved. It is high time we should stop going for frequent elections.

If there are no frequent elections, we will not only be saving the money but also we will not be required to compel the voters to vote every year.

I would like to refer to what happened on 17th April, 1999. At that time, I was the Chief Minister. I came and voted. If I had not voted, it would have been a defection under the Anti Defection Act. It is because defection is not attracted only when you change a party but the Act also says that if you abstain from the voting or if you do not vote as per party's direction, it would attract defection. Before me also, a number of Chief Ministers came and voted. But I am very reluctant to say that due to my one vote in Lok Sabha the Government was defeated. I would like to say that the Lok Sabha was not dissolved because of my vote as it took six to seven days for the dissolution of the House. The Government lost because it was one vote short in the House. I have not been defeated by the people. It is my ninth term in the House. I have never defected from my Party. Therefore, it would have been wrong for me if I had not voted at that time. I am referring to this because holding frequent elections is a regular feature in the

[Shri Giridhar Gamang]

country. Today, there is no certainty of the Government. But why should there be uncertainty regarding the term of the representatives who have been elected to Parliament and Assemblies in the country?

Another point which I want to refer to is that under our democratic process definitely the Government will be elected by the people and the Government will work for the people. The Government would always try to show that it is for the people. But what is a Government? A Government should be acceptable to the people, answerable to the people and accountable to the people. In the same way, we have to have the same type of acceptability, answerability and accountability for the public representatives, namely, MLAs or MPs or third level representatives. Today, what we find is that uncertainty is growing at the Centre as well as in the States. It is high time that we see how to remove the word 'unless sooner dissolved' or there should be an amendment of the Constitution by which an elected representative continues for five years. He should remain a Member of the Assembly or Parliament for five years irrespective of Government or no Government. The situation is that there cannot be any President Rule at the Centre. Once a Government is defeated or if a Government resigns, it cannot continue for a longer period. Therefore, the provision which is there in the Constitution is the best thing. It is my personal opinion. It need not be an opinion of my Party or the other Members. But I can say that the interpretation of the Constitution is important today. Unless we remove this obstacle, there will be frequent elections. Unless there is an Act, the voters will be forced to vote frequently for the Assemblies, Parliament and for the third level Government, namely, Panchayats and municipalities.

There are three electoral rolls for Parliament, Assembly, Panchayats, and municipalities. Panchayats and municipalities have got different electoral rolls. Therefore, there should be one electoral roll through which all the three constitutional Governments could be formed. So, there should not be any contradiction in the electoral rolls.

With these remarks, I will say that it is high time that we have to see how best we can avoid frequent

elections in the country. If we cannot avoid that, instability will be prevailing everywhere.

In the absence of such a provision there will either be Governments dependent of coalition partners, or multi-party Governments, or a weak and unstable Government or a non-viable yet alternative Government. This type of a situation was not there during the earlier Congress regimes. It started only during non-Congress regimes at the Centre. It was because of such coalition Governments that concepts like Confidence Motion and No-Confidence Motion have gained ground. I have a very interesting fact here. There have so far been 11 Confidence Motions moved by the Government and 26 times No-Confidence Motions have been brought by the Opposition against the Government. Bringing in of No-Confidence Motion itself is indicative of the degree of instability of such Governments that are dependent on coalition partners. It is because the Government in such an event would have to prove their majority and show that they enjoy the confidence of the majority of the Members in the House every time a No-Confidence Motion is moved against them.

In the States today we almost do not have any single party rule. But this Government at the Centre will definitely complete their full term because of its political management and also for the support it enjoys from the different political parties. Running of a Government that is dependent on its allies, or running of a multi-party Government depends largely on the leadership that heads the Government. It is not certain whether we can continue with such type of uncertainty in our democratic process for long. It is because it would result not only in hampering the democratic process but people will also lose faith in democratic system over a period of time and also in the elected representatives. In the States the situation is somewhat different. The States can remain without a Government for months together, but at the Centre the situation is different. It is high time for us to think as to how best we can remedy this trend for the democratic process to be smooth and how to avoid holding frequent general elections. We should have elections to the Lok Sabha only once in five years and there should not be any mid-term elections.

With these few words, I support the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, if you wish to speak, then either you have to go back to your seat, or else you would have to seek a prior permission from the Chair if you wish to speak from where you are sitting now.

15.48 hrs.

(SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, voting should be compulsory and I support the Bill Presented by our hon'ble Member Shri Bachi Singh Rawat for this purpose.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for discussion of this Bill has been exhausted. Now, if the House agrees, then we may extend the time for discussion of the Bill by another half-an-hour. Moreover, the hon. mover of this Bill also is not present in the House today. Therefore, we extend the time by another half-an-hour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, democratic set up started functioning in our country on the 26th January, 1950. Our constitution was prepared under the leadership of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkarji and since then we have democracy in our country. It is believed that our democracy is the largest in the entire world. If we look at the voter's turnout percentage in our country, it is not high. At some places it is not more than 25-30 per cent. I believe that the Government should consider to bring an amendment in the constitution so as to make voting compulsory. Within five years voting should be made compulsory for all rich as well as poor people. But our constitution provides for one man, one vote and one value. In our democracy, votes of an industrialist, poor and middle class people all hold the same value.

Therefore whenever elections are held it should be made compulsory for every person to vote. As you said, in the year 1998 when the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji was there, at that time I was also a

Member of Parliament from the Republican Party of India. You were the Chief Minister and you came here for voting. We had wanted the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji to be defeated. This meant that we wanted to form the Government. We became successful in removing the Government of Shri Vajpayee. Even Advaniji could not sense that they were going to be defeated but we knew it well that we were going to win because you came here from your state for voting. That is why the Government of Shri Vajpayeeji lost by a single Member's vote. I support your statement that every Government should run for five years. If we want to remove one Government then another Government should be formed but at that time we could not form our Government. If any single party does not get majority and is not able to form the Government, then a National Government should be there which could run for five years. A provision is required to be made in the constitution in this regard.

Voting should be done in the party's name. My party is a small one. The voting takes place on the candidate's name but if voting take place on the party's name and our party contests elections from Maharashtra, then it can get 11-12 per cent votes. But if we contest alone then even a single candidate cannot be elected from our country. I would like to submit that if voting takes place in party's name instead of the candidates name, then every party can bring their nominated candidates in the House on the basis of the voting percentage they have received. I would like to submit that a new amendment to this effect is required to be made in the Constitution.

Many times it happens that we vote once and the next time when we go to vote we find that our name does not figure in the voting list. Some people have identity cards, but still their names do not figure in voting list. Therefore, we need to bring reforms in this regard. Despite being a citizen of India a person is not able to exercise his vote due to the lapses on the part of the officers. A fresh provision can be made for this also. Every person has a right to vote in the elections. It is not appropriate to deprive them of their constitutional rights. There should be a provision of punishment for those who do not cast their vote. A number of such persons are enjoying benefits of democracy and the

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

country's freedom but they do not spare even half an hour's time in a day to cast their vote. There should be a provision of punishment for all such big people who do not vote so that next time they are forced to vote.

Without taking much time, I support this Bill. This Bill should be brought by the Government. It is very important to make voting compulsory. If the democracy of India is to be strengthened further then voting should be made compulsory. Supporting this Bill, I conclude my speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): Sir, I am happy to express my sincere thanks to Shri Bachi Singh Rawat for bringing the focussed attention of this august House on the question of compulsory voting by introducing the Compulsory Voting Bill, 2004 in this House on 9th July, 2004. The Bill seeks to make voting compulsory in elections, subject to certain exemptions; to impose fine or punishment or both in respect of those who fail to cast their vote; and to provide incentives to those persons who, in spite of their illness or physical incapacity exercise their right to vote at an election or those who exercised their right at all elections held during a period of 20 years preceding this Act without any break, such as preference in jobs and admission of their children to the institutions of higher technical education or such other incentives as may be prescribed.

The hon. Member has explained the reasons in brief for the Bill in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill. The Statement of Objects and Reasons reads as follows:

"A very sad feature of our democracy that is revealed at all elections is that the number of voters who actually cast their votes is far less than those eligible. The average number of votes polled is around fifty per cent. It is a glaring commentary on the responsibility of citizens that the fate of the country's democratic institutions has been left to be decided by about fifty per cent of the electorate. Since the trend of voting from time to time does

not show any appreciable increase in the number of those who exercise their franchise, time has come to ensure that all the citizens exercise their sovereign right to choose their representatives, so that the elections may reflect the will of the whole electorate and not merely that of a part of it. The general elections to last few Lok Sabhas reveal that in a number of States the voting was less than 40 per cent and in a number of cases people had boycotted elections and thus did not vote deliberately.

With a view to increasing the voting percentage, the present Bill proposes to make it compulsory for every eligible voter to vote and to provide for exemption only in cases where the voter is physically incapacitated due to illness of serious nature or the voter has *bona fide* grounds to do so.

Since the provision is being made compulsory, punishment is also sought to be given to those who do not vote at elections. However, incentives are also proposed to be given to those persons who vote at elections despite illness or without any break at successive elections."

Clause 2 of the Bill makes a provision for making voting compulsory at elections. In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the recommendations of the Committee on Electoral Reforms 1990 which is commonly known as the Dinesh Goswami Committee appointed by the Government to go into the various proposals for electoral reforms. The Committee went into the reasons and remedial measures for low percentage of polling at the elections. In this connection, the Committee also considered the question of making 'voting compulsory'. The idea was, however, not accepted because of the practical difficulties involved in its implementation and the contradictory views expressed by the members of the Committee.

Now, I may mention some of the arguments against the system of compulsory voting. It is true that voting at elections by an overwhelming majority of citizens strengthens the democratic process in the country, but it is also equally true that such participation in the

process by a citizen should be on his own volition rather than by coercion. It is undemocratic to force people to vote, as this would amount to infringement of their fundamental rights.

16.00 hrs.

The ignorants and those with little interest in politics would be forced to go to the polls, if compulsory voting is introduced. The compulsory voting may increase the number of 'donkey votes', that is, bad votes that do not get counted. However, this argument may not hold good in case of voting by the electronic voting machines.

The compulsory voting may increase the number of invalid votes—ballot papers which are not marked according to rules for voting. However, this argument may also not hold in case of voting by the electronic voting machines. In compulsory voting, additional resources will have to be deployed to determine whether those who failed to vote have valid and sufficient reasons and the cases of people who are to be given incentives.

In the meeting of political parties held on 22nd May, 1998 to consider electoral reforms, the issue was part of its agenda. It was decided not to make voting compulsory, as such a measure was difficult to implement.

The hon. Member has sought to make provivisions in clause 3 of the Bill for punishments, fine, etc., in respect of those who fail to cast their votes. On the one hand, such a provision may not produce the desired results, and also may not be legally tenable under the Constitution of India unless the concept of negative voting is also brought in. This provision for rewards, as contained in clause 4 of the Bill, may also ultimately prove to be counter-productive and is likely to be misused.

Sarvshri K.S. Rao, Bharthruhari Mahtab and Kailash Meghwal have expressed themselves in support of the Bill moved by Shri Rawat for making voting compulsory. Sarvshri Basu Deb Acharia, Mohan Singh, Pawan Kumar Bansal, Hannan Mollah, C.K. Chandrappan, Rajesh Mishra, Shailendra Kumar, Alok Kumar Mehta, Thokchom Meinya, Kharabela Swain and Ms. Mamata Banerjee have opposed the Bill. Shri

Giridhar Gamang and Shri Ramdas Athawale have also aired their opinions. Besides, the views expressed by the hon. Members on the subject of the Bill under consideration, some issues like negative voting, better positioning of polling booths in difficult terrains, deletion of names from the electoral rolls and, in general, need for electoral reforms have also been raised by them while participating in the debates.

In this connection, I would like to reiterate that the UPA Government views State funding of elections in its true spirit as recommended by the Committee on State Funding of Elections headed by late Shri Indrajit Gupta, as an important step in electoral reforms which will effectively deal with many problems afflicting the electoral system. As regards negative voting it may be stated that the Election Commission of India has suggested that Rules 22 and 49B of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 may be suitably amended adding a proviso that in the ballot paper and the particulars on the ballot units, in the column relating to name of candidates, after the entry relating to the last candidate, there shall be a column 'None of the Above', to enable a voter to reject all the candidates, if he chooses so. The issue is also pending consideration in the Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 161 of 2004—PUCL and Another Vs. Union of India and Another.

The process of reforms/changes of electoral laws and other related matters is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties. Since it is a long-drawn process, it is not possible to indicate any timeframe. Besides, some members have quoted certain instances from their personal experiences where the system of election has not worked in a proper manner, for instance, deletion of names from electoral rolls or some individuals or voters being denied the right to vote.

I will request the hon. Members to give the requisite details in writing to me so that same can be pursued with the Election Commission for appropriate action.

Now, I would like to express my views on the merits of the proposal. An elector may not like to vote at the elections for a variety of reasons. He may not be satisfied with the developmental activities in his area or

[Shri K. Venkatapathy]

he may not be satisfied with the conduct of contesting candidates at particular elections. Instances are not far to seek where in the previous elections villages after villages boycotted the elections by way or protests against the lack of development in the areas concerned. Non-voting in such cases is to focus attention on the particular area or areas. In fact, in absence of the provision of negative voting, such step by voters may itself be very much construed as a democratic method to invite attention of the concerned authorities to various issues and problems affecting them. It is also true that an elector may not be able to vote due to reasons beyond his control, such as illness, inability to reach the place of voting, serious preoccupation with unavoidable exigencies or engagements or due to pressure tactics often employed by political parties or groups in elections these days characterised by what is known as 'muscles power.'

Active participation in the democratic process by the people, no doubt, will strengthen the democratic traditions in the country. But, such a participation should better come out from the people voluntarily rather than by coercion or allurements. A sense of duty in this regard should inform the people on their own and it is this sense of duty which should be the motivating factor in impelling people to turn up at the polling stations in larger numbers. The people have to be conscious about their rights, as well as, their duties and this consciousness should guide all their actions, including the voting at elections. It would, however, be unfair to blame the people for the low voting percentage. Examples are galore, baring sporadic incidents of total abstinence from voting, that at all elections, they have turned up in large numbers at election booths, even braving risks to life, to cast their votes. However, the Election Commission has been exhorting people to realise the importance of their precious vote. The Commission has been advising people to vote without 'fear and favour' by issuing advertisements in the press and electronic media. Such measures at least have the effect of awakening the conscience of the people. They may ultimately achieve the purpose by ensuring larger attendance at the polling booths.

In the circumstances explained by me, I feel that it would be more important that the people may rise to the occasion and respond to the need of the hour rather than making a law on compulsory voting. Hence, it is not possible to support the Bill in its present form or with any amendment. In this connection, political parties/groups and voluntary agencies have to play the greatest role in exhorting the people to exercise their voting rights, come what may, and contribute to the strengthening of the democratic institutions. The role of the Government maybe to accelerate the pace of developmental activities in all areas so as to relieve people from their basic problems and let them think about broader issues associated with their national identity. In view of the aforesaid, the remedy lies not in adding one more law in the statute book which may at best serve as an ornamental purpose, but in undertaking concrete and effective measures to motivate people to realise the value of their votes. Only such an awakening on the part of the people can bring about the desired results.

I once again thank the hon. Member for bringing a lively discussion on certain election laws and focussing our attention on an important aspect of our democratic functioning. However, I fervently request the hon. Member to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, I would like to ask a question. The hon. Minister while replying said that one of the important aspects of the matter is electoral reforms. You have said that the UPA Government will go for electoral reforms. You also mentioned that the Government had a meeting with political parties, maybe in Nineties.

Can the Minister assure the House now—since we are discussing the matter—that within a short period the UPA Government will call all the political parties to have a detailed discussion on this question of electoral reforms based on the various reports that are before it?

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: Yes, Definitely. Whenever there is a proposal, we will consider, we will consult all the political parties. We will appraise the present circumstances. A proper decision will be taken after taking into consideration the views of all the political parties.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: It is not when there is a demand from the political parties. *Suo motu* the Government can take initiative to call a meeting because this is a burning issue so far as democracy is concerned.

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: Yes, we are discussing about electoral reforms also. We can convene a meeting. We can discuss and arrive at a consensus.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Sir, with your permission, I would like to say something. There is a discussion under Rule 193 slated for this session only on electoral reforms. I would now like to request the Chair to use his office. Let it be assured that the discussion also takes place under Rule 193.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was listening to the discussion taking place just now and I also listened the views of hon'ble Minister. Through you I would like to convey, two things to the hon'ble Minister. The first problem being faced for enforcing compulsory voting is the distant location of polling booths. Therefore, hon'ble Minister should direct the Election Commission that the distance to a polling booth should not be more than one kilometer. Secondly, in the previous elections we saw that despite holding a voter identity card the voter could not cast his vote because his name did not figure in the voting list. Therefore, if someone has a voter identity card then he should not be deprived of his voting right and the voter list should be prepared in such a manner that there should not any errors in it and the voter's name should figure in the list. What happens is that the voter's name is struck off by red pen due to which the list does not contain his name.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can reply.

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: We will consider because we want that the people should be enabled to vote in the nearest pooling booths.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no provision to ask a question once the Minister has replied. Shri Bachi Singh

Rawat—the Mover of this Bill—is also absent. Therefore, we will put it to vote.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

The Motion was negated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up item 31.

Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi—not present.

16.15 hrs.

(iv) REGIONAL RURAL BANKS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2004

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Item No. 32.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, be taken into consideration."

Sir, three decades have passed since five RRBs were set up on 2nd October 1975. These five RRBs were set up by an ordinance promulgated by the President of India. Why? The Government of India, at that point of time, thought that in order to provide credit to the agriculture sector, to provide credit to the rural artisans, to the marginal farmers, there should be a separate bank, rural bank. The main object of setting up of rural banks in 1975 was to help the rural people and the farmers.

Seventy per cent of the people are living in rural areas majority of this population is depending on agriculture. We have the rural industries and traditional industries. We have lakhs and lakhs of rural artisans and weavers. The Government of India felt that there should be some institutional mechanism to help the people, particularly, who are in the agricultural sector and who are in the rural industrial sector.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Sir, a working group was constituted prior to promulgation of ordinance, prior to setting up of regional rural banks and that working group submitted its reports on 31st July 1975. That working group recommended for setting up of State sponsored region based rural oriented commercial banks, which would lend the rural touch, local feeling and familiarity with the rural problems and low cost profile with the professional discipline, ability to mobilise deposits and access to Central money markets and the modernised outlook of commercial banks. In a sense, it was an experiment to hybridise commercial banking culture with a rural ethos. This is the backbone or this was the main object for which these rural banks were set up in 1975, that is, commercial banking culture with rural ethos.

The role, as perceived, for this new institution was to supplement and not to supplant the existing financial institutions in the rural sector. It was envisaged that this institution would help reducing regional imbalance by mobilising and simultaneously deploying resources in the same region.

It was ascertained that these banks would cover primarily the small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, rural artisans, small traders and other weaker sections of the rural society for their productive credit needs and, to a limited extent, their consumption credit needs. This was the main object behind setting up of a creating a new institution with a rural orientation but with a commercial mentality.

Our banking sector was in the private sector prior to 1969. In 1969, 14 banks were nationalised. After, 1969, after nationalisation of commercial banks, what we have seen is the increase in the number of branches in the rural areas. From 1969 to 1975, there has been substantial increase in the number of branches not only in the urban areas but also in the rural areas. Prior to 1969 it was class bank, So, class bank was converted to mass bank. Bank should reach the people, not people will come to the bank. What was our experience during these years—from 1969 to 1975? Although the priority sector was identified, although the object at that time was that 40 per cent of the lending should be in the

priority sector, yet in spite of these objects, even after nationalisation, the people residing in the rural areas were not properly looked into. As a result of this, the Government of India felt that in order to take care of the needs of the rural people, the small and marginal farmers, the agricultural labours, and lakhs and lakhs of the rural artisans, there should be a separate lending institution whose main object would be to cater to the needs of these sections of the people.

Sir, we have traversed a long way. Thirty years is not a small period. Three decades have passed. We have gathered experience. From 5 RRBs, today we have 196 RRBs. Today, we have more than 14,000 rural branches of RRBs. The total deposit in RRBs is more than Rs. 62,000 crore and their total lending or total credit today stands at Rs. 32,000 crore. In RRBs the NPA is 12.5 per cent. Indeed, there are a number of RRBs which are incurring losses.

But a large number of RRBs, which used to incur losses, today are earning profit. But profit was not the sole motive for setting up of a separate rural credit institution.

After the enactment of the Act, within a decade, a Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Mr. Kelkar. That Committee made certain recommendations. On the basis of those recommendations, the RRB Act was amended. But what we have seen is, although there have been two or three amendments to the RRB Act, the main problem of the RRBs has not been addressed so far during the last 30 years of their existence.

Today what are the constraints which the RRBs are facing? They suffer from many in-built constraints, namely (a) they have a limited area of operation and spatial coverage to achieve the economic of scale; (b) the autonomy of the RRBs has been twisted or weakened under the overbearing attitude of sponsor banks and the officials deputed by them; (c) there is lack of space for achieving benefits of cross-subsidisation; and (d) there is absence of level playing fields of RRBs and uneven competition with sponsor banks who are their masters, formulating policies and business products of sponsor banks.

Autonomy is only in paper. It is fully controlled by the sponsor banks, rather sponsor banks are exploiting the RRBs. Due to the unfriendly and costly credit products of RRBs as designed by the deputed officers who are from the sponsor banks, off take of credit is very low; and sometimes it is negative and thus leading to a rapid migration of RRB funds to urban areas through the sponsor banks. Mobilisation is from the rural area but the fund is being utilised in the urban areas. It may be noted that out of Rs. 62,000 crore RRB deposits, around Rs. 37,000 crore has been taken away from the villages in the form of investment in bonds, securities and term deposit accounts of sponsor banks. This is the main problem. The RRBs have received only around Rs. 500 crore from the sponsor banks. Rs. 37,000 crore has been taken away from the RRBs and only Rs. 500 crore from the sponsor bank has been given, and Rs. 4,200 crore from the NABARD for their lending activities has also been given so far. This is the unhealthy situation which should be stopped.

A number of committees were set up. One Committee was set up in the year 2001 under the chairmanship of Mr. M.A.S. Chalapathi Rao. He was the Chairman of a Committee to recommend or suggest amendments to the Regional Rural Banks Act of 1976.

That Committee observed in para 2.7.1:

"The 196 RRBs covered nearly 500 districts in the country as on 31st March, 2001 spread over 23 States. However, rural areas of the States of Delhi, Goa, Sikkim and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry are not served by RRBs.

RRBs were initially set up with one or two districts notified as their area of operation. In subsequent phases, RRBs with regional consideration extended over larger areas were also established. RRBs in the North Eastern States were opened with one RRB in each State except Assam where 5 RRBs are in existence. However a large part of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are without any RRB, and certain districts in various other States are also kept out of the services of RRBs as initially the districts having favourable ratio

of per branch population served by bank branches, were not considered for opening of RRBs. Taking into consideration these issues as also the changing environment of banking in rural areas, the working group recommends that irrespective of banking network, all the districts of the country may be covered under the area of operation of RRBs."

That means continuance; not only continuance but also extension of area of operation for RRB has been recommended by a Committee appointed by the Government of India. Not only the extension of area—areas which have not been covered by RRBs—should be covered by RRBs but also there should be structural changes.

Sir, there were number of suggestions on this House also in the past. We raised and discussed this issue in regard to structural change of RRBs. One suggestion was to have one single RRB, National Rural Bank of India. There are suggestion for de-linking of RRB from the sponsor bank. Our experience is that the sponsored bank is not playing its role rather the sponsored banks are exploiting RRBs. I have already stated that Rs. 37,000 crore were taken away from the rural area to the urban area, and the areas of operation of RRB are also encroached upon by the sponsored bank or the commercial bank. That is why, there is a need for change in the structure. There is a need to strengthen RRBs concept whether district-wise or two or three districts-wise which was evolved at the initial stage. We have gathered experience during its 30 years of existence in our country. I want to know whether there is a need for a change in the structure or not, that is a question.

Sir, why are we asking for a National Rural Bank—not like NABARD? Our suggestion is this.

This would be an umbrella organisation and we could have State-level RRBs, like one in Orissa, one is West Bengal and so on. So, we could have 22-23 RRBs. These RRBs would have autonomy and the sponsor bank should be delinked from the RRBs. The concept of National Rural Bank is like that of the Steel Authority of India's organisation. Under the Steel Authority of India, there are a number of steel plants. The Coal India

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Limited has a number of subsidiaries. So, under one organisation, there could be a number of subsidiaries or a number of banks. If there is any objection for creating a separate or new organisation, the NABARD could take up the responsibility of playing that role. Then, there would be an end for the sponsor bank supervising or monitoring the Regional Rural Banks.

In the Common Minimum Programme, it has been stated that rural credit would be doubled. The hon. Minister of Finance, in his Budget Speech, has stated that a substantial increase has been made in regard to rural credit and within February, 2005, 85 per cent of the target has been achieved in providing rural credit to farmers and rural artisans. The rural people need help and assistance. What we have seen during the last decade—I say, 'a decade'—there has been a decline in institutional credit in the rural areas. There has not been growth in the agricultural sector which employs the largest number of people. Today, in our country, about 70 per cent people depend on agriculture but why are our farmers committing suicide?

Today, farmers are committing suicide. We have not seen five years ago instances of 10,000, 12,000, or 13,000 farmers committing suicide. The farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and even in some districts of Kerala have committed suicide. Even in Punjab, farmers have committed suicide. This is because there has been deceleration in the activities and in the role which these institutions should have played. If we go through the figures of rural credit, we could see how gradually it has reduced. As a result of this, the farmers had fallen into debt trap. As the farmers were not getting remunerative prices or even fair prices, they were not in a position to repay the loans which they had taken from the moneylenders.

They were forced to commit suicides. We will have to realise this situation. There is a change in the Government that means the change in the policy also. So, these institutions have to be strengthened. 'Strengthened' means the objects for which these institutions were set up in 1975. If the commercial banks were capable to provide assistance to the people living

in the rural areas, then there was no need for having a separate bank for these people. That need was felt at that time, some 30 years back. Today, we will have to discuss and we will have to see whether we have been able to achieve those objects or not or we will have to traverse faster to achieve those targets.

Today, a large number of people are engaged in the rural industry, our traditional industry, in the weaving sector and in the textile sector. Lakhs and lakhs of people are employed in the handicraft industry. This sector is also facing crisis. We have seen the crisis in the weaving sector. We have seen that weavers were burning their looms in Andhra Pradesh. Then, how can we save these people? We have about 22 crore agricultural labourers. The main problem in our country is that land reforms have not been implemented so far. The industrialisation can take place rapidly only if land reforms are implemented properly and if the purchasing power of the people living in the rural areas can be increased. The gap between the rich and the poor has increased during the last decade. We have a situation in our country where people have amassed wealth whereas we have a situation in our country—the official figure in 26 per cent people till today, about 27 crore people—who are still living below the poverty line.

Our main object should be to raise the people above the poverty line. In that respect, the Regional Rural Banks can play a vital role. So, with restructuring its organisation, the experience that we have gathered during the last 30 years of its existence was that from five RRBs it has grown upto 196 RRBs. So, we have to see how the economic condition of those people can be better off who are living below the poverty line. That should be the main object when restructure or reorganisation or strengthening of RRBs will be taken into consideration.

Sir, the problem that we are today facing with the existing structure of the RRBs is absence of the unity of command and unity of approach which is expected of the proposed State-level banks under independent, apex bodies. What I am suggesting is an independent apex body like NRBI. These 28 sponsors will go into 28 different directions. That will be the problem with the existing sponsor Banks.

The hon. Minister of Finance, in his Budget speech also, stated that he is not thinking to delink the sponsored bank. The autonomy about which I stated initially, was enshrined in the objects when Bill was moved for consideration. Shri Pranab Mukherjee was the Minister of Finance at that time. While moving the RRB Bill for consideration he said:

"The sponsor banks are entrusted with the duty of aiding and assisting the RRBs not only by subscribing to the share capital of the bank but in the recruitment and training of the personnel during the first years of the functioning of the RRB. The sponsor bank will also provide managerial and financial assistance to the RRB."

What financial assistance that the sponsor bank have provided? It is only Rs. 500 crore. I do not know what is the managerial assistance that is being provided. That was the object of providing a sponsor bank for each RRB. But that object was not fulfilled.

The NABARD also plays a role. I now come to the NABARD Act. In Section 26 it says:

"The national bank may contribute to the capital or purchase and sale of share or invest in the sureties of any institution concerned with agriculture and rural development which the Central Government may notify in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India."

This has been provided in the NABARD Act. My amendment is substitution of the following for sub-section 2:

"Of the capital issued by the Regional Rural Bank under sub-section (1), fifty per cent shall be subscribed by the Central Government, fifteen per cent by the concerned State Government or the group or State Government in such proportion as may be prescribed by the Central Government, and the remaining thirty five per cent shall be subscribed by the National Bank or any other nationalised Bank that may be notified by the Central Government under clause (g) of section 2."

For section 3 my suggestion is:

"The Central Government may, if considered necessary and expedient in the interest of the people of a particular area or State or Union Territory or a group of States, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish in the concerned area or State or Union Territory or a group of States one Regional Rural Bank with such a name as may be specified in the notification, or may by the said or any subsequent notification, specify the limits within which the Regional Rural Bank shall operate."

So, there should be one regional bank for each State. For the North-Eastern States, my recommendation is that there may be one regional bank for six, seven or eight States in the North-Eastern region.

Another committee was constituted by the Reserve Bank of India under the Chairmanship of Shri B.S. Vyas. He also recommended for restructuring of RRBs. He has also recommended continuation of RRBs and also retaining their regional character and rural focus. He has said that the mandate has to continue. What was the mandate? Even as they need to be restructured into viable financial institutions, simultaneously, their regional character and rural focus should be retained. The Tenth Plan target of four per cent growth in agriculture leads to a projected credit demand of Rs. 7 lakh crore. Even if their share in it is eight per cent to nine per cent, RRBs would have to deal with Rs. 66,000 crore or more during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Their role would be important because of their strong rural branch infrastructure of more than 14,000 branches and rural orientation of their staff. While moving the Bill, the then Finance Minister had stated that the staff also would be from the rural areas, having rural orientation.

Initially, there were different pay-scales for the employees of commercial banks the RRBs. There was one pay-scale for the employees of commercial banks and another pay-scale for the employees of RRBs. The staff of RRBs used to get the pay-scale of the concerned State Government. For example, the staff of RRBs of Orissa used to get the pay-scale at par with the employees of the State Government of Orissa. I think, in 1990, after National Industrial Tribunal's award, the

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pay parity was given. Now, today the pay-scale of staff of RRBs is at par with that of commercial banks though initially they were quite different and lower as if these banks were set up with some different objects. Why were two separate pay-scales there? The staff of both the RRBs and the commercial banks do the same work, same job. Why should there be discrimination of two separate pay-scales.

I have also suggested here in this Bill to insert a new Section 24B(1) after Section 24A of the principal Act. It reads:

"The Central Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank and the National Bank may by a notification in the Official Gazette or by a separate Act of the Parliament constitute a National Rural Bank of India or by such other name as specified in the notification or Act, with a Chairman and such other number of members, as it may specify in the said notification or in the specified Act, drawn from banks, financial institutions, academicians and experts in rural development and rural banking."

That is my suggestion.

Sir, the issue of participation by the workers was also raised by me when the RRB Act was first amended in the 1980s. The first amendment was brought before the House at that time, and I raised this issue at that time also. Why the representatives of the employees should not be included in the Board of Management? I was assured that it would be considered in the future, but it was not considered. Therefore, I have suggested in this Bill also that there should be one representative in the Board itself.

"The apex authority so constituted shall recommend to the Central Government about the policy guidelines to be followed by Regional Rural Bank and Sponsor Banks and in particular help the Central Government in matters of selection of Chairmen of Regional Rural banks and act as the negotiating forum for settlement of demands and disputes with trade unions of officers and employees of Regional Rural Banks."

There should be one representative in the Board from among the workers, and I have made this suggestion in this Bill also. I have stated in 7(1) (f) that :

"one director to be nominated by the largest association of officers of the Regional Rural Bank concerned from amongst their members who are working in the bank." and in 7(1) (g)—I have suggested inclusion of one Director from the largest association of employees also."

This is my suggestion with regard to this issue. Why is the issue of restructuring the rural banks being raised again and again? A number of committees were appointed, and recommendations made by them since 1985. A large number of working groups were also appointed to go into this issue. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also made recommendations on this issue, but the Government has not taken any positive decision with regard to the reorganisation and strengthening of the Regional Rural Banks (RRB). Now, there is a need to do it, as it is overdue. A delay of 30 years is not a small period. We have gathered enough experience in this area, and with this experience, today, the rural banks are playing a very vital role with regard to providing lending support to the rural areas. The economic condition of 70 per cent of the people to be raised.

We know the condition of most of the co-operative banks. Last month I went to Nashik, a district in Maharashtra and saw four co-operative banks being closed for the last one year. I saw thousands of depositors not being able to get their deposits, and crying for the same. So, we know the condition of the co-operative banks. A Committee was appointed to go into this issue, and that Committee recommended for certain structural changes in the co-operative banks also. It is learnt that nearly 40 per cent of the mandated lending activity is being done by these RRBs. These RRBs have organised over 5 lakh Self Help Groups (SHG) in different States. These banks, as a group, have so far negotiated over 5 crore borrowal amounts among the rural masses. It is not an insignificant amount.

17.00 hrs.

RRBs have implemented about 40 per cent of the total Government-sponsored poverty alleviation schemes. RRBs alone have organised 45 per cent of the total 12 lakh self-help groups in our country. RRBs issued over 40 lakh Kisan Credit Cards to the farmers; organised over 5,000 out of 11,000 Farmers' Clubs under NABARD Scheme. The Government of India advised RRBs to increase their agricultural credit by 40 per cent. During 2004-05, RRBS exceeded the target by September, 2004. Their recovery position at around 74 per cent is satisfactory and far better than that of the cooperative banks. The percentage of NPAs is around 12.6. Even after discharging tremendous social responsibilities in rural areas, RRBs, as a system, have become a profitable proposition. They have posted average net profit of Rs. 500 crore consecutively for the last five years. Above all, the staff of these banks, mostly sons of the soil, has developed a close rapport and affinity with the rural masses, which are most suited for rural credit and rural planning.

There is a need for a change in the outlook of the Government. My impression is, there is a stereotype outlook of the Government. There should be some changes in their attitude. If the poor are to be helped and particularly the village people and there is a large number of men, then we have to help the rural artisans by giving financial assistance for upgrading their technology, for modernisation of their technology. It has to be done because the largest number of people are employed in our rural and traditional industries. That can only be possible if RRBs and cooperative banks are strengthened. The commercial banks have some different outlook. Now, Sir, we are opening the doors, and FDI is being allowed in the commercial banking sector—from 49 per cent, it was raised to 51 per cent and then to 100 per cent. If this is allowed, I do not know whether this 40 per cent priority sector lending will be there. Who will take care of these rural masses? Only RRBs and cooperative banks take care of them. Unless these RRBs are strengthened and restructured, the problems of the rural masses, particularly the small and marginal farmers, and rural artisans, cannot be addressed. That can only be done if they are restructured, and State-level RRBs are formed with an

umbrella organisation, maybe, known as 'National Rural Bank of India, or NABARD can be entrusted with that work. Only then, the needs of the rural masses can be taken care of.

I am raising this question only with a view to draw the attention of the Government to the plight of the people living below the poverty line in the rural area. For them there is a need for reorientation, restructuring and strengthening of RRBs. I would request that if this Bill is not accepted by the Government, the Government bring a legislation to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act to strengthen and restructure them on the above lines.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir after this very eloquent speech of my learned colleague—there is much that he has mentioned in his Private Members' Bill that I support—I have to offer my own set of recommendation too.

The Regional Rural Banks, to a very large extent, have been a kind of lifeline of credit to the rural people. The experience of the cooperative banks has not been very good. The cooperative banks have been plagued by their own problems and mismanagement—problems of political interference, problems of practices that are not very ethical or very good for banks. On the other hand, the scheduled commercial banks have been found wanting as far as understanding of local realities is concerned, as far as developing tools that will actually work for rural livelihoods and the kind of nature and character that banks in rural areas should have. In both these cases they have been far below what the RRBs have actually been able to give to this country.

Another very important thing about the RRBs has been that they have the local staff. They now have almost 15 to 20 years, and in some cases 30 years, of experience of working in the rural economy and the institutional memory with regard to the livelihoods of that area, the kind of needs that the rural people have in that area is very strong. The linkages of rural people to Regional Rural Banks is strong. Therefore, a kind of cultural coordination and strength is also there in local RRBs.

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RRBs have also been suffering because of large scales of mismanagement, and sort of non-prudent banking policies and practices that they followed for a few years. However, the last decade had seen a considerable turn around in RRBs. While RRBs may be known to be loss making enterprises as my learned colleague has rightly said, they are now actually profit-making. Only about 50 out of 196 are actually making losses. That too, if we see, is concentrated in the Central, Eastern and the North-Eastern parts of India. These are regions which also are some of the most backward and the poorest regions of our country. They are also areas where concentration of business potential is not there so much as in other areas. The RRBs' health and strength has also reflected the rural reality of these States and these regions.

The local rooting of the Regional Rural Banks makes them the most-effective banks for, what the NCMP also calls its major focus, *Aam Aadmi*. The *Aam Aadmi* can go and approach the Regional Rural Banks. Almost all Members who must have worked with the RRBs must have seen that the kind of knowledge, the kind of cooperation that they give to the rural people is far more effective in RRBs than in any other form of banking that we have seen. The problem that RRBs have faced, as my learned colleague earlier on said, largely belongs to the way sponsored banks have actually tackled the RRBs.

In many sense, it has been, what we call absentee landlordism. They have often given Chairmen and Chairpersons to these banks. But they hardly ever come to their bank meetings. In many cases, General Managers also come from sponsored banks. They do not want to come to RRBs. In fact, within banking, it is known as punishment posting. Whenever you are given RRB postings, those people who do not get good branch postings or who want to be punished are often sent to RRBs.

These people stay there for just about a year or two and after that they go. So, the kind of vision and the kind of long-term strategic thinking that any good locally rooted bank requires is often missing from the RRBs. In spite of this, most of the RRBs have done

reasonably well, and 140 out of 196 RRBs are actually profit-making. The gross NPAs are actually reducing. The borrowings are actually increasing. It is a sign of the general strength of the RRBs. In that sense, the Bill to strengthen the RRBs to grant them greater autonomy in their functioning is a very welcome step. In some sense, I would offer some of my suggestions—in some sense different from what my learned friend has earlier said and in some senses in consonance with what he has said.

The RRBs problem comes from the mismanagement. Mismanagement has come from the sponsored banks. In the meeting of six CMDs with the Finance Minister, the one previous to Shri Chidambaram, there was a suggestion to amalgamate most of the RRBs into seven or eight or nine large level banks. This, I personally feel, is a bit of a dangerous move. I would personally oppose it here. The RRBs are strong because of the local character. They reflect local realities and that character tends to get weakend if we amalgamate them into these six or seven large trans-national banks. There is no problem of large overarching, supervisory institution that can look after RRBs and move them from the situation they are in now into more profitable, better managed and more efficient banks. There is a move to see that all the RRBs get transferred into nine or ten large regional banks or large rural banks. If we do this, I think, the strength that RRBs have today, will get destroyed. There is very little reason to believe that the kind of problem that Scheduled Commercial Banks have today in servicing rural areas would not reach the RRBs that we already have.

The move and the recommendations of the Chalapati Committee Report was that there should be 57 or 60 RRBs—I am not sure of the number—instead of 196 RRBs that are there today. It would be a far better and far more thought out recommendation. It takes RRBs in socio-culturally and socio-economically contiguous zones. It also takes into consideration the fact that some of the loss-making banks can be amalgamated into more profit-making RRBs so that their balance sheets also start looking better. Let us start looking at the regional strengths of various RRBs in the kind of the economic situation they operate in, and in that sense if we pool the strengths of many of these

RRBs, it will be a far more effective medium than the current suggestion of having nine or ten large banks. The suggestion of my learned colleague earlier was that of having 22 or 23 State level apex institutions. I think, it is also nearer to the Chalapati Committee Report of 1957. I think, the larger in this case would certainly be better.

In this, I would also point out the phenomena that while in international practices, especially when we look at the United States, we often try to follow the banking practices that the United States follows. I think, one of the strengths of the United States banking infrastructure is the tremendous regionality and local focus of most of their banks. They bring that flavour to banking institution. Of course, they have very highly and well regulated atmosphere in the sense that banks by and large conform to prudent practices and remain legal and above board. Some of that, we must also copy to the RRBs and try to get them as local as possible.

In terms of the problems of RRBs, there are host of suggestions that we can put forth. Some of them need management changes and some of them need changes in their regulatory framework, for which suggestions are already there to amend the Act.

I would like to just place a few of these in front of you. Right now, some of the principles that I would follow for the proposed amendment would be that the RRB system would probably be the most effective system to cater to the financial needs of rural India as it is growing. The financial needs of rural India are today diversifying. There is a much more diversified economy today in rural India where agriculture is no longer the main stay and non-farm activities or non-agriculture activities are becoming equally curcial if not more curcial than agriculture. Today, the types of financial services those rural areas require are going beyond mere credit and saving. Insurance, for example, is an extremely critical need of rural entrepreneurs, rural farmers, rural artisans and that is agian something that almost no financial insurance institution in India is actually able to provide. Nobody, in fact, has the spread, the local spread that RRBs today have.

In the coming century, there is also much greater rural-urban linkages that are coming up. As we see,

unlike the generally proposed and accepted policies that Government of India used to follow, of pushing all kinds of programmes across India, there is tremendous rural strength in the kind of economic opportunities that are opening up. Sericulture is succeeding and succeeding only in areas which have the factor condition for sericulture to continue. The entire programme of the National Sericulture Board actually failed when we tried to push sericulture in areas where sericulture could not succeed. Similar is the case with powerloom, similar is the case with tiles and similar is the case with host of other activities that are emerging in rural areas. Therefore, the more localised, the more local friendly the bank is, the more important it is and the greater it will be able to contribute to the economy in rural areas. Therefore, whatever changes in the Act we propose, we must see to it that it does not impose a uniformity on all RRBs. There can be some uniformity in terms of bringing some of these RRBs together. There can be uniformity in the kind of management practices that could be followed in the kind of direction that RRBs could be given in trying to be more poor friendly, but to bring greater uniformity, I think, would destroy the strength and the character of the RRBs and that needs to be singled out and strengthened further.

There could also be an attempt to consolidate something amongst RRBs. In fact, why should there not be consolidation between RRBs and rural branches of commercial banks? Commercial banks are not at all happy with some of their rural branches. Some kind of consolidation can even happen at that level. We have already seen some of these cases where commercial banks have actually consolidated their branches. Why can it not be with RRBs?

In terms of the management structure, I think, the RRBs are already gradually moving towards becoming sustainable financial institutions. But, there is very little role that each stakeholder is actually playing in the running of RRBs. I have already mentioned that sponsored banks are hardly interested in what happens to RRBs except for the fact that they have used them to squeeze rural areas to get credit deposit which they have used for their own purposes. The State Governments do not seem to play much of a role. The Government of India sometimes sleeps when anything

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really happens to RRBs, and occasionally wakes up when the conditions of RRBs went particularly down, especially in 1997 when they did the re-capitalization of RRBs. There is a gradual move somewhere. For example, NABARD has been trying to help RRBs improving their management practices with more prudent norms in banking. But apart from that, the three key stakeholders have actually left the RRBs to be the way they are. The State Governments have now awakened themselves when they want RRBs to move in for these schemes or the IRDP type programmes where RRBs play significant role. Their interest in RRBs ends there.

There is also a case of chronic loss making RRBs in the less developed States. Can we compare and can we give the same solution to improve the conditions of RRBs in our high growth zones, high agriculture zones or areas where they are doing better, for example, in Southern India or Western India with those of what is happening in Eastern or Central India? It is, perhaps, not. Perhaps the amount of monetization of rural economy, the amounts of surplus that are available in these different areas of our economy are substantially different.

Therefore, the kind of approaches, the kind of business practices that the RRBs would require in different areas, would differ. One of the examples that we could actually see, is that more narrow banking and micro credit mandate could actually be given to RRBs unlike the kind of rural banking credit that some of the others would get. Surplus funds in this case could even be passed with RIDF, and these RIDF funds could actually be mandated to be spent in and only in these areas from where this money actually comes from.

Some of this would need regulatory changes and some of this would need change of thinking on the part of the Government of India.

Sir, in terms of the legal status, I think it is very important that the RRBs become banking companies and come under the Banking Regulations Act. That is the area of benefit which they have not got till now.

The new RRBs could actually be licensed by the RBI. The system of local area bank, which in many parts of India has found tremendous success today, could actually be taken on and similar identities could actually be given to the Regional Rural Banks. The role of the Government of India and the State Governments in management of the RRBs could be minimised. The RBI is to play its regulatory role; and the local people, the local community could actually bring in this. I must share one thing with you that the RRB is the only institution we have, which you can actually link with a community bank where we really do not have any other community bank in India.

In that sense, some of the suggestions that I am giving are actually based on this. The authority of the Board as well as the accountability of the Board with these banks also need to go up. Right now, we have boards in the RRBs, which are completely disinterested, except for the occasional regulatory mechanisms that they need to have. In terms of the key change that could be brought in the mission of RRBs, the RRBs, should now finance the entire range of the rural economy and not just agriculture. To ensure credit flow to their areas, I think, 60 per cent of the deposits of banks could be forcibly lent back in their own areas. It is not an issue that the demand is not there. Some repeated studies have shown that the RRBs cater to roughly six to seven per cent of the formal rural credit. The formal rural credit is just about 30 per cent of the total number of loans that are taken, and about 60 per cent of the quantum of rural loan taken. So, the field open for the formal banking is extremely wide.

As Shri Basu Deb Acharia mentioned, our bankers are not really the bankers. They never go to the real people who need credit. They actually wait for the people to come to them. Therefore, the RRBs are the actual institutions in the current context, which can actually start becoming effective local community focussed and culturally tuned banks.

Sir, the loss-making banks, as I had mentioned earlier, could for sometime be restricted to narrow banking to take on credit, and probably merged into the micro credit either through Self-Help Groups that I have already mentioned with their surplus funds going in SLR, or in RIDF.

The RRBs also could take on other financial services. But the role that they can play, can be critical on life and non-life, as the agents of the insurance companies, and even in the market based mutual fund units. This is something that has been tried in certain parts of India and it has been found fairly effective. Some of the local area banks that are routed in rural areas have shown remarkable work in micro credit and micro finance. They have made it possible.

In terms of ownership, we need to bring in certain recognition. I think, some of this need to be in terms of the Government of India lessening its control. So, they may bring in sponsoring banks to take up more. This is the kind of suggestion that Shri Basu Deb Achariaji has also made. So, these are some of the issues that the Government can look at.

But the important thing is that the management structure and the management system of the bank need to be run by the Boards or the ownership authorities that are completely answerable to these areas, which the RRBs service. My fear is that if you have the apex level banks, the policy-making efforts of all the RRBs will become so far away, and it will become so remote that they will become the instruments that are more tuned to push in the fiscal and the credit policies of the Government of India, rather than the fiscal and credit requirements of the local areas, specially our villages.

That is something that most of the apex-level institutions have shown. They have shown that their distance from the customers is not just geographical but, at times, even philosophical.

In terms of the ownership, open ownership is also something that is possible. It would enable any entity, including current banks, to start owning and even sponsor institutions. About sixty-five per cent of the ownership is actually possible today. That is something that Government may consider. The sponsoring banks interested in retaining the ownership may even enhance the stake in RRBs to sixty-five per cent. The Canara Bank has shown it. Whenever the Canara Bank has sponsored the institutions, the role it has played in the RRBs is far more effective than other banks. I can give you the example of the Central Bank of India. The Central Bank of India has been far much wanting. The

role of the Canara Bank has been very very effective. It is a model, which the Government of India may probably study more deeply. Some of its references are already in the Report of Chalapati Committee.

In terms of proposed changes in the governance, I am for the RRBs to become board-managed institutions. Key Stakeholders—including depositors and employees—must be given a role in the management of these RRBs. I think that it is extremely critical. The Chairman or the Chairperson of the Board must be separated from the executive authority and to become Board-appointed. Therefore, they would become accountable.

The powers, and the duties of the Boards have to be delineated in a far greater detail than the amorphous status, which is now continuing. The sense of responsibility fixing because of the sponsoring institutions is today very very limited in most of the RRBs.

I come to the change in the supervision. As Basudebbhai has already mentioned, NABARD may play a role of an apex-level institution. I think that it is an excellent suggestion. Already, in the current context, NABARD seems to be losing much of the role that it was playing earlier on. Its refinanced money is not acceptable by banks because banks can take money from the markets, which are cheaper. Even in priority-sector lending, the money of the NABARD is no longer as critical and as necessary as it was earlier. As far as rural credit is concerned, NABARD also needs to redefine its role and re-look itself in the coming years. Maybe, NABARD can take a pro-active role in this. They already have presence in almost 500 or 600 districts of this country. They have officers far rooted in the local reality and probably can play a very effective role of supervisory authority.

In terms of restructuring the RRBs they could even be enabled to merge with each other as per the merger procedure under the Companies Act. But, here, I would recommend that we take out the need and necessity of the Government of India, approval. When it comes to RR banks and their modification, let the RBI, which has shown itself to be a fairly effective institution, to become the authority and start giving most of the approvals. RRBs could be allowed to take over the business of

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

rural and semi-rural branches of commercial banks. They may be allowed to be liquidated and wound up under the Companies. In this case, again, as said earlier, it should be the RBI approval and not of the Government of India's. Then we really start looking at them as banking and financial institutions and not as last-mile connection. Debt-recovery mechanism is an area where RRBs have already been saying that they require Debt Recovery Tribunals—that are already in existence—needs to be strengthened. Recovery rate of RRBs, which was about 45 per cent to 50 per cent in 1997, has gone up to 74 per cent in 2003-04. Their recovery is already increasing. I think that with some more effort, it may go up to 80 per cent to 85 per cent. That itself is a remarkable achievement of the RRBs.

In terms of dispute—resolution mechanism, we can...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASHAD SINGH) : You continue with it.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : Even the RRBs Restructuring Tribunal could be thought of. It is because of many of such suggestions are going to be made or are being made by the Government of India. There will be issues that the restructuring tribunal would need to look at. Thinking of such things in the very beginning would make a tremendous difference and this could be given judicial powers comparable to the High Courts. There is nothing that can prevent this.

'Restructuring Tribunals' could be the final authority for all disputes whether it is among employees, depositors, creditors, borrowers, investors or any other party that would get affected by these changes, which means changes like amalgamation, which means changes of character of RRBs or changes in any other form that we may talk about.

Moving towards prudential norms that RRBs would require, there has already been a prudential system of NPAs that the RRBs have effected. That has already led to pretty good practice over the last 5-10 years. All norms, as per the Banking Regulation Act, the RBI rules

therein, including capital adequacy, income recognition, risk, concentration, etc., should also be taken up by the RRBs. In addition, to prevent RRBs with high NPAs from continuing to take deposits and put depositors money at risk, there is a provision for limiting the amount of deposit that RRBs can make as multiple of its net-owned funds, and this limit becomes less and less. There can also be systems of half-yearly audit and declaration of results which are to be mandated.

These are some suggestions that I have given. I would assume that some of these would require regulatory changes and some of them would require some kind of a commitment from the Government of India. I am sure that RRBs have strengths; they have the local realities; the strengths of the staff is that they seem to know their areas extremely well. If some of those suggestions get implemented, I am sure that with the general goodwill that people have, the RRBs would go a long way in making our RRBs some of our most effective rural banking institutions.

With this I sit down; I support large parts of what Shri Basu Deb Acharia has said. I presume that implementing the suggestions that I made would probably take the RRBs a long way forward.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar) : Sir, I would like to share my views with regard to the recommendations or with regard to the suggestions made by the hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia, in order to bring forward amendments to the RRB Act, 1976. This is an important subject that we are deliberating today.

As way back in 1975, five Regional Rural Banks were set up; the objective behind setting up those RRBs was really very nice because always in this august House we have been talking about the development of rural economy and we are talking about the people residing in rural areas. So, setting up of RRBs in 1975 was really a milestone in our economy.

Unless and until we strengthen the economy of our rural areas, we cannot think of overall development of India. That is the reason why it gets importance and with passage of time over the last 30 years, 196 RRBs have been made to function in the rural areas. Out of

196 RRBs in India, 165 RRBs have been running on profit. In 2003-04, we have observed that these 165 RRBs have earned a profit of Rs. 930.93 crore.

Out of 196 RRBs, there are only 31 RRBs which incur loss to the tune of Rs. 177.12 crore. That means, RRBs have been doing a wonderful job. RRBs as a whole earned a net profit of Rs. 753.81 crore in the year 2003-04. As on 31st March, 2004, the deposit and advances of the RRBs as a whole was Rs. 56,350 crore and Rs. 26,074 crore respectively. CD ratio and percentage of recovery of RRBs were 46.2 per cent and 72.33 per cent. The performance of RRBs has really been wonderful. They have been doing a commendable job in regard to the economic development of rural India.

All 196 Regional Rural Banks have participated in the Self-Help Groups Bank Linkage Programme, during the year 2003-04. This concept of Self-Help Groups has become very-very important in regard to development of the rural sector or rural areas, particularly the women folk of the interior villages. Some of them are from forest villages and some others are from far off villages. They were never motivated with regard to deposit mobilisation. Neither have they been told regarding loans nor advances which are being made available by the Regional Rural Banks. So, Self-Help Group is also playing an important role in giving support to the networking of the RRBs.

Although the concept of Self-Help Group may not be scientifically acceptable to me as far as sustenance of this concept is concerned because through the Self-Help Groups women are constituting groups. They are mobilising deposits from their own resources. They are bringing small deposits. Earlier there was a provision for a revolving amount against deposits mobilised by the Self-Help Group women. It was to the tune of Rs. 25,000 but that has been done away with. Now, whatever deposits they are making, although they are being advised to bring more individual deposits so that in turn they will be given four-fold of the amount they have been depositing, the criteria of below poverty line, the base line of below poverty line, is there. It is something like Rs. 447. If their income is Rs. 447 per month, how can we expect that these women can mobilise more amount through their own earning and saving?

I do not think it is scientific. However, it is to be analysed properly. I would request the Government of India to look into it in order to make this concept and the idea of Self-Help Group sustainable so that more and more benefits can go to the rural poor.

The number of Self-Help Groups linked by Regional Rural Banks increased from 77,340 in 2002-03 to 4,05,998 in 2003-04 which means there has been a tremendous increase in the Self-Help Groups being financed by the RRBs. The total amount of bank loan is to the tune of Rs. 705.44 crore. The Gramin Banks alone cover around 40 per cent of the total Self-Help Groups. The linked bank credit cover five lakh Self-Help Groups out of 12 lakh Self-Help Groups in India which are being taken care of by different commercial banks all over India.

The Government of India has asked the Regional Rural Banks to increase their agricultural lending by 40 per cent from the level which was there in the year 2003-04 because agriculture is a priority lending. So, as far as agricultural lending is concerned, RRBs were supposed to increase their target, at least, by 40 per cent. You will be astonished to learn that within a period of nine months, they achieved their target of 40 per cent. Not only they achieve their target but within this short period of time they exceeded this target.

Now as far as agricultural lending is concerned, it is to the tune of 65 per cent of the total contribution being made by the RRBs whereas it is less than 18 per cent in the case of other commercial banks. Naturally, the RRBs have become inseparable from the rural society in our country. We can expect an important role to be played by the RRBs. While discussing the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development, we tried to give importance to it by saying that there should be utmost care as far as flow of credit and funds are concerned which are meant for the rural sector.

Unless and until we take care of our rural India, we cannot even think of any progress of our country. Therefore, the Regional Rural Banks have been playing very important role as far as the socio-economic development of our rural India is concerned. It is because more than 70 per cent of our total population lives in the countryside. So, we have to be naturally

[Shri Joachim Baxla]

very careful to find out whether this section of our population is being properly served by the commercial as well as the rural banks or not. There are branches of commercial banks also in the rural areas but the services rendered by the Regional Rural Banks are something of a special nature. The employees of the Regional Rural Banks are approaching the people at their doorsteps and thereby they are basically playing a dual role in the rural areas.

The first is the mobilisation of deposits. This is really very difficult in the rural areas. It is very difficult to motivate the people in the rural areas where people are mostly illiterate who do not have proper sources of income, who do not have proper roads, who do not have drinking water facilities and who do not have facilities for proper schooling of their children. How can we expect such people to be aware about deposit mobilisation? How can we expect them to go to the banks themselves and take advantage of the various facilities that are offered by the banks in order to improve their living standards? That role of bringing awareness amongst the rural masses is being played by the Regional Rural Banks. They are motivating the people and are making them aware about banking habits.

The other role that they are playing is that of giving credit. The interest of the artisans, the people engaged in agricultural activities and the people in the service sector is being taken care of by the Regional Rural Banks. Mere advancing of loan is not enough. We can issue credit cards to the people but unless they learn to use those credit cards for their benefit, for the benefit of the activities they are engaged in and unless they are trained as to how to generate income out of the activities they are engaged in and for which they are being financed by the banks, mere issuance of such cards is of no use. That is the problem we are facing in the rural areas. That is one of the reasons why NPA had been on the increase earlier.

But with the sincere efforts put by the Regional Rural Banks, it has come down to 12.5 per cent which is quite negligible.

Another thing is, agriculture being industrialised after globalisation, liberalisation and all these things, a

new phenomenon has come up and new things are to be experimented. In this new changing socio-economic scenario, a lot of modern mechanisms are to be used. Particularly in the field of agriculture, modern technologies are to be brought into so that we will be able to compete with other countries. This is the time for competition. We cannot remain behind. We have to go forward and we cannot go forward alone. We have to take our rural India together with us. So, massive investment in rural economy is imperative. Regional Rural Banks will have to reorient their activities properly. Since the Regional Rural Banks are thinking of reorienting their activities as early as possible, they need support and they are seeking support of the Government of India so that in this present scenario, they can compete with others.

Small scale industry and service sector have a local and rural bias and can emerge as high growth area leading to employment potentiality. They are doing deposit mobilization. On the other hand, they are extending financial assistance by means of loans through different schemes to the farmers, artisans and persons engaged in service sector. At the same time, they are very sincere about generating employment to the unemployed rural young men and women.

The core sector of irrigation warrants massive investment. The RRBs, therefore, have to be geared up. That is the need of the day. That is why, I say that the focus of the Government of India should be on Regional Rural Banks as they have to be geared up to assume a pivotal role in the economic regeneration of rural India with the funds mobilised as deposits from rural areas themselves. If we make proper use of that deposit, that will be a very strong resource for their development itself. But deposits mobilised by the Regional Rural Banks should be used properly. That should not remain at one place. The adverse effect of globalisation could be neutralized in this manner to some extent by minimizing rural poverty and creating self-employment opportunities in the villages.

They are mobilising deposits. At the same time, they are extending financial support to the artisans, farmers etc. In the process, employment generation is also in the offing. Unemployment problem is being

arrested. They are trying to resolve this problem also to the extent possible by creating jobs, by giving loans to the educated unemployed and to our sister who are forming Self-Help Groups. But transferring resources from rural to urban areas through sponsored banks, I think, is an aspect which needs to be looked into very carefully. Deposits are being mobilised by the Regional Rural Banks from the rural areas. But through sponsored banks these deposits are being transferred and shifted to urban areas. We have to be very careful about it. I do not demand that the entire amount or the entire should be sent back as lending to the rural areas. But part of it must be spent for the development of the rural areas.

Against the borrowing of Rs. 4,710 crore by the Regional Rural Banks from the sponsored banks, which is Rs. 450 crore, and the NABARD, which is Rs. 4,260 crore, the RRBs' deposits to the order of Rs. 32,000 crore are lying parked with the sponsored banks and different other approved organisations as on 31st March, 2003. So, this aspect has to be looked into very carefully. There must be an end to this hoax, which is going on in the name of monetisation of the rural economy. The re-organised structure may be harnessed as an effective instrument for fighting against the massive outflux of resources, from rural to urban areas...(*Interruptions*)

Therefore, I would like to suggest—it has been suggested by some other hon. Members also—that a National Rural Banks be constituted through which restructuring of all the Regional Rural Banks can be done in order to give proper shape to the Regional Rural Banks. It is very important. I would request the

Government of India to bring in a legislation to this effect. In order to strengthen RRBs, something solid has to be done. This is high time we should have done it, when we are giving importance to the rural India.

Finally, I would suggest that the Government of India should come forward with concrete steps in order to strengthen the Regional Rural Banks. It has to be restructured and monitored properly so that ultimately the objective of setting up proper Regional Rural Banks is fulfilled..

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : Thank you, Sir, I think, we are at the fag end of the day. We are discussing a very important subject which is concerned with the 78 crore of the population of our country. The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have started with a noble idea of more effectively giving credits to rural population, particularly, agriculture and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and all that. It has been fulfilled successfully, though not totally satisfactory. There are several lapses, of course....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next time, you will continue your speech.

The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 2nd of May, 2005 at 11.00 a.m.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, May 2, 2005/Vaisakha 12, 1927 (Saka).

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