

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Monday, April 21, 2008/Vaisakha 1, 1930 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Two Minutes Past Eleven
of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha.
Q. No. 381.

Wheat Virus

+
*381. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has warned wheat producing nations including India of a rapidly spreading Ug 99 wheat virus; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the preventive measures taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND
MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a)
and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has warned wheat producing nations including India about the spread of Ug 99, an African race of black (stem) rust fungus of wheat.

(b) According to the experts, the effect, speed and the route of the movement of the fungus is unpredictable in near future. Therefore, at present, it is only an apprehension that this African race may reach India.

A vigil is kept on the movement of this race by Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal, through international collaboration. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, in collaboration with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), Mexico has taken steps to identify varieties possessing resistance against the new race of the stem rust fungus. A regular surveillance for pest and disease emergence in the country is conducted to take emergency measures, wherever required, through the Central Integrated Pest Management Centres, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the State Agricultural Universities and Departments.

Also, the Plan Quarantine regulatory system in the country prevents the introduction and spread of exotic pests and diseases that are destructive to crops by regulating/restricting the import of plant materials and plant products. Post entry quarantine inspection is undertaken to ensure that imported plant material is free from any pests and diseases.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for the comprehensive reply. If we fail to contain the wheat fungus, it could bring calamity to tens of millions of farmers and hundreds of millions of consumers. May I know from the hon. Agriculture Minister whether the recommendation of the National Commission on Farmers for building a strong National Agricultural Bio-Security System and for establishing an offshore screening and quarantine facility in an unmanned island in the Lakshadweep Group of Islands has been examined and acted upon?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, we recently got that recommendation from Dr. Swaminathan, but a final view has not yet been taken. But on the particular question which has been raised in the House today, I would like to inform that appropriate action has been taken to keep a close vigilance on this particular type of virus.

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Sir, my second supplementary is that this dangerous wheat disease has come as a bolt from the blue for the wheat farmers in the backdrop of low production in the country and depletion of water table in wheat producing States

like Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh. I am afraid that the National Food Security Mission Programme to ensure food security by 2012 will remain a pipe-dream. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have established genetic shields with rust resistant wheat varieties in order to prevent the spread of stem, leaf and stripe rusts on wheat in our country? Is there a gene development strategy in place for preventing the loss of wheat crops from disease epidemics?

MR. SPEAKER: You are talking of some other virus.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, firstly it is true that the Food and Agriculture Organisation has communicated on 5th of March regarding this new disease which is called black rust. It is really found in Uganda. That is why it is known as Ug 99, but it has not reached India. The FAO has just communicated that there is a possibility of this fungus moving and creating havoc in wheat producing countries, particularly in Iran, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. But it has not actually reached our country.

We have taken all precautions and particularly, we are also developing a number of wheat resistant varieties. This particular disease has started mainly from Yemen, Uganda and Kenya. In Kenya, even today, there is a presence of this particular type of disease.

We have taken more than 140 varieties and planted them in Yemen. We are taking their reaction and seeing what exactly the repercussions are on our varieties. Simultaneously, we are also developing resistant varieties in some of our research centres and agricultural universities.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Sir, the recent advice by the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN says that the virus Ug 99 can spread through the wind. If it reaches Pakistan, the districts of Amritsar and Gurdaspur, which are a few yards away in the neighbouring State of Punjab, the maximum wheat producing State, may get affected. Though, the hon. Minister has given a detailed explanation of what preventive measures have been taken, since it can

spread through wind and if it reaches Pakistan, there is a good amount of risk that it can reach Punjab. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what steps are taken to advise those farmers and the State Government, through the Agricultural Department.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, in fact, this particular problem has not reached our neighbouring countries, including Pakistan. That is our information.

It is true that the stem rust is air-borne and genetically variable. It can also travel long distance through air, through passengers' clothes and through a number of other reasons. But the solution is to provide and develop a resistant variety in our country and exactly we are working in that direction.

In fact, this particular problem was first located in 1976 in some of the countries. Since 1976 it has not reached us, though it is air-borne. We are taking precautions. We are developing resistant varieties and let us hope that this problem will not create any havoc in our own country. All the agricultural universities and wheat research centres are fully aware of that and regular surveillance has been kept in all the crops.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 382—Shri Jasubhai Dhanabhai Barad—Not present.

Q. No. 383—Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya.

[Translation]

Loan Waiver to Farmers

+

*383. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of farmers likely to be benefited under the scheme for waiving of the loans of farmers, category-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the existing limit of two hectares to cover more farmers within the purview of the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(d) whether alongwith the loan waiver scheme, the Government proposes to provide quality seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and other inputs free of cost to small and marginal farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Government estimates that about three crore small and marginal farmers and about one crore other farmers will benefit from the scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers announced in the Union Budget for 2008-09. All the eligible farmers in the country are entitled to receive the benefit of debt relief under the scheme. However, category-wise and state-wise details in this regard will be available with the Government after implementation of the scheme.

(b) and (c) The scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers announced by the Government in the Union Budget for 2008-09 is applicable to all the farmers in the country. All direct agricultural loans disbursed to farmers by scheduled commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative credit institutions up to March 31, 2007 and overdue as on December 31, 2007 will be covered under the scheme. However, for marginal farmers (i.e., holding upto 1 hectare) and small farmers (1-2 hectare), there will be a complete waiver of all loans that were overdue on December 31, 2007 and which remained unpaid until February 29, 2008. In respect of other farmers, there will be a one time settlement (OTS) scheme for all loans that were overdue on December 31, 2007 and which remained unpaid until February 29, 2008. Under the OTS, a rebate of 25 per cent will be given against payment of the balance of 75 per cent.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am putting a pointed question. The loans raised by farmers have been waived off, how it is calculated. What are the reasons for their indebtedness? What are the measures taken so far to provide remunerative price to farmers in order to strike a balance between remunerative price on total cost and the sale price, proving ineffective.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes please, put your question.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I am saying that the indebtedness of farmers is oily because they are not getting remunerative prices proportionate to their total cost. So, I would like to ask you as to what measures are being taken by Government to provide remunerative price to farmers and how you have calculated that loan of three crore farmers would be waived.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are so many questions in this.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: It is a question pertaining to the matter that by December 31....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: One by one, Not in one. I wish I have received some notices for a discussion on this. But nobody has taken pains to give notice.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Sir, through you I would like to ask as to what measures will be taken by him to provide remunerative price to the farmers and to strike a balance with sale price.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can decide to answer some of them and not all.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, this Question is restricted to Loan Waiver to Farmers. The farmer whose loan amount is overdue as on 31st December, 2007 are eligible. The farmer whose holding is below two hectares is considered as small and marginal farmer and his entire loan will be waived. The farmer whose holding is above two hectares and if he is ready to accept the bank's Scheme of One Time Settlement and if he deposits the amount, then 25 per cent of the amount will be waived. This is the Scheme applicable all over India.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his written reply also.

MR. SPEAKER : You please put your question.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after paying 75 per cent, 25 per cent will be waived. As you know this, the person who owns a credit card, makes the payment also. You have said that the loan waiver in respect of the total overdue amount as on 31 Dec. 2007, was to be given but they are not covered under this. You have stated in the first sentence of your reply that the loan of all the farmers will be waived. This is not being fulfilled. I would like to ask you as to what steps are being taken to waive off the loan of all farmers. Moreover, what steps are likely to be taken by you to waive off the loans of farmers because no loan is big or small?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this scheme is restricted to small and marginal farmers who are ready to get the benefit of 25 per cent. There are 81 per cent small and marginal farmers out of total number of farmers in the country. Only 81 per cent farmers whose payment is overdue since 31 December can get this benefit. Presently, it is not possible for the Government to take responsibility of 100 percent farmers in this regard. The total burden of this commitment on

the Government is worth Rs. 60,000 crore including Rs. 50,000 crore and one time settlement of rupees 10,000 crore. First let this scheme be completed. The Government is not in a position to take up any new responsibility unless this scheme is implemented.

[English]

SHRI. S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, the entire debt-affected farming community of this country is welcoming our Government's announcement of the Debt Relief Scheme. While we are extending relief to defaulting farmers, I would like to know as to what kind of facilities are going to be extended to those small and marginal farmers who got loan from banks and repaid it within the stipulated period. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, whether the Government has proposed to repay the interest paid by those farmers and also give priority to them in future advances.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, this Scheme is applicable to only those farmers whose loans are overdue on that particular date, that is, on the 31st December, 2007. Regarding interest, in fact two years or three years back, the Government of India had announced some relief to the farmers who regularly paid the amount, and that is, Interest Subvention Scheme. As on today, all the institutions are charging seven per cent rate of interest to the farmers who have taken loan up to three lakhs of rupees, and there, the subvention amount is provided by the Government of India through the Budget, and that amount is passed on to various banks. This particular Scheme has already been implemented. Originally the interest was 12 per cent, which was reduced to 10 per cent, then reduced to eight per cent, and now it is seven per cent. So, these facilities are already provided.

[Translation]

PROF. RAMGOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the small and marginal farmers were very happy with the official announcement of the waiver of their loans. But, the new development is that the farmers who have paid even a single instalment and are in possession of less

than two hectares of farm land, will not get benefit of this scheme. Secondly, small and marginal farmers belonging to the regions like Vidarbha and Bundelkhand own big holdings but are not having irrigation facilities. We can't afford to treat irrigated and unirrigated regions of land on equal footing. The two hectare land of Western Uttar Pradesh is more important than 20 hectares land of Bundelkhand. Will you consider this matter as to why these lands have not been differentiated? If the farmer has committed a mistake by paying one instalment, he will be deprived of any benefit. Please clarify whether all the dues of farmers as on 31st March will be waived irrespective of any payment of instalments.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have clarified that it is not correct that the farmers holding land upto two hectares who have one instalment but not paid remaining outstanding instalments as on 30 Dec. 2007, their amount is overdue and thus they do not get benefit. It is a fact that in some areas, there is a huge irrigated land. Therefore, a demand has been made to do something about it, be it the areas in Rajasthan or that of Bundelkhand. However, the Government have decided that in the first place 81% small farmers will be covered under this scheme. Thereafter, the overall impact of its implementation will be reviewed. We will observe the status of overall credit system. Till then, the Government do not seem to be in a position to take up any new responsibility.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the question is on loan waiver to farmers. There is a specific scheme, which seeks to waive the loan of a particular category of farmers, who have taken loan from the banks. But as the hon. Minister does know, the problem of indebtedness of the peasants including those, who have committed suicide arises because of the fact that they have taken loan from the moneylenders.

Therefore, while the Government has formulated a scheme to consider the problems of those, who have taken loan from the banks, will the Government consider

having a scheme to give relief to those farmers, who have taken loan at exorbitant rate from the moneylenders?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There is no specific scheme like this. As I said, as on today, our total effort is to execute or to implement the scheme. It is true that there are some States, which have requested about the waiver of loan from the moneylenders but neither there is a definite record nor one knows on what basis, it should be accepted. That is why, it is not possible to take that responsibility now.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had announced in this House that the farmers would be benefited by the waiver of loans worth Rs. 60 thousand crore. I would like to ask the Government whether they are calculating the amount instalment-wise that is year-wise. How much amount is proposed by the Government of India for farmers during the year 2008-09? In case a waiver of less than 60 thousand crore is provided, will it not be cheating with the farmers?

Further, I would like to say in Part 'B' whether any distinction has been made between irrigated and unirrigated areas of land in the computation of two hectares for providing relief to farmers. Please clarify these two points.

MR. SPEAKER: You have put two questions simultaneously.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister of Finance had clarified in this House about the mode of payment. He had talked of the creation of a new fund which has already been approved in a way. He has also shown a calendar in this House.

[English]

that immediately, after 30th June, 2008 as soon as the first Rs. 25,000 crore supplementary for the year 2008-09 is approved by the Parliament; in the Budget of 2009-10, Rs. 15,000 crore; in the Budget of 2010-11

Rs. 12,000 crore; in the Budget of 2011-12, Rs. 8,000 crore would be kept.

[Translation]

The arrangement of amount has been made in this way.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: This is a cheating against the farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We have not cheated anyone. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything else.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Government have arranged to release the first instalment in this June itself and the House has given its consent to it. Payments will be made through banks. Hence, it does not involve any cheating with farmers. There will be no cheating and nobody will be misled or misguided.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Anil Shukla Warsi, new hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have got half the reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: My question is

*Not recorded.

whether the limit of two hectares covers irrigated land only or unirrigated land has also been covered.

MR. SPEAKER: I will consider it. [English] No, I would not allow the second supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The limit of two hectares covers all types of land, be it irrigated or unirrigated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear a new Member. [Translation] Please give him an opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL SHUKLA WARSI: Sir, it has been provided in the Budget that the overdue amount as on 31st March, 2008 including principal amount and interest thereon will be waived off. My point is regarding the principal amount and interest thereon which has not become due. Suppose a farmer has taken the loan of Rs. 5 lakh out of which an amount of Rs. 1 lakh is overdue and the remaining amount of Rs. 4 lakh has not become due. Then in such a case, will the entire amount of Rs. 5 lakh will be waived off or the waiver will be limited to Rs. 1 lakh?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Whatever is overdue, will be taken into account.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever is overdue will be waived.

[English]

What you wanted, you had it. Your question is very good, your maiden intervention. I appreciate you. I compliment you.

SHRI ANIL SHUKLA WARSI: Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Your deputy leader is absent.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: The Government in its expression should have talked about the assistance they wanted to provide this year only, because nobody knows who shall be in power next year. One should not make a misleading statement. It is my request to Government. It appears to me that there is lack of coordination between the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Finance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is time for questions and not the time for a discussion.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, Hon. Minister himself is quoting figures of 4 crore. I want to ask on two points. It seems to my those who are defaulters will be placed at a premium and on the other hand it will be disadvantageous to the prompt payer. Has the Hon'ble Minister has thought anything about it? You may recall that earlier when there was waiver of loans upto Rs. Ten thousand, people had perceived that they would not have to repay the loan. As has been stated earlier, due to KCC....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question. I am sorry.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Moreover, I would like to submit that he should care of the accounts of KCC. As far as the waiver of 25 per cent is concerned, had it been 75 per cent, one would not have borne the burden of Rs. 100. When the Government are waiving 25 per cent and if they make a provision of instalment for 75 per cent and 21 per cent then only the farmers will be able to repay it otherwise not. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: They will not reap the advantage of the waiver announcement. Therefore, I request you to consider the point of 25 per cent waiver

and make an announcement of its repayment in instalments.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is much beyond the question.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: The main point is that as many as fifty days have elapsed since then and as of now, the farmers have not been made aware that their loans have been waived off. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry Santoshji. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Recovery of loan from farmers is going on constantly, their crops have been auctioned. Would you please issue directions to the banks in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry. No. I am not allowing this. It is a suggestion for action. Q 384, Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh—Not present. Q 385, Dr. K.S. Mnoj.

Payment of Minimum Wages to Fishermen

*385. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to instruct the State Governments to ensure payment of statutorily prescribed Minimum Wages for each day of work done by the traditional fishermen living in the marine fishing villages in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix/revise minimum wages in the scheduled employments in Central and State sphere respectively. Since fishing and allied activities fall under the purview of State sphere, the State Governments as appropriate Governments have notified minimum wages for such scheduled employments. This benefits traditional fishermen living in the marine fishing villages as well. On the basis of

Information available, a statement showing minimum wages fixed for different category of workers engaged in fishing and allied activities in different States/Union Territories is enclosed as Annexure.

Payment of minimum wages in the State sphere is secured through regular inspections by the State Enforcement Machinery. In the event of detection of any case of non-payment or under-payment of minimum wages, the employers are advised to make good the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions prescribed in the Act are resorted to.

Annexure

Rates of Minimum Wages for different category of Workers in Fishing and Allied activities in different States/Union Territories

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Name of Scheduled Employment	Category	Rates in Rupees per day
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Fisheries and Sea Foods	Lowest	136.19
2.	Assam	Fishing	Un-skilled	73.60
			Semi-skilled/unskilled supervisory	78.05
			Skilled/Clerical works	83.75
3.	Bihar	Fisheries	Un-skilled	68.00
			Semi-skilled	70.00
			Skilled	86.00
			Highly skilled	105.00
4.	Goa	Processing and Canning of Food Stuffs including Fish and Beverages	Un-skilled	103.00
			Semi-skilled	114.00
			Skilled B	122.00
			Skilled A	129.00
5.	Gujarat	Fisheries Industries	Un-skilled	103.70

1	2	3	4	5
			Semi-skilled	104.70
			Skilled B	105.80
			Skilled A	107.80
6.	Jharkhand	Fisheries	Un-skilled	86.40
			Semi-skilled	88.59
			Skilled	118.12
			Highly Skilled	133.53
7.	Karnataka	Fishing, Fish Curing, Fish Peeling and Frog Legs Exporting	Workers engaged in peeling and veining	106.77
8.	Kerala	Fish Peeling and Fish Canning, Freezing and Exporting of Sea Foods	Lowest Rate	100.39
9.	Orissa	Fisheries and Sea Foods Industries	Un-skilled	70.00
			Semi-skilled	80.00
			Skilled	90.00
			Highly skilled	100.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	Sea Food Processing Industry		77.98
11.	West Bengal	Fishery	Un-skilled	77.50
12.	Daman and Diu	Sea Food Industry	Un-skilled	95.00
			Semi-skilled	105.00
			Skilled	112.00
13.	Lakshadweep	Department of Fisheries	Unskilled	71.90
		(a) Boat Building Yard	Semiskilled/	
		(b) Canning Factory	Unskilled supervisory	77.90
			Skilled/clerical	83.90
			Highly skilled	88.90

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are more than 10 million fishermen in the country. Out of this, more than 90 per cent of the fishermen are from the traditional sector, and in the allied fishing sector, good number of women workers are also there. Fishing is the only sector where minimum wages are not assured. When the fishermen go to the sea, unless they get some catch, they will not get any daily wage.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Fishing is a very risky occupation also. The Minimum Wages Act and also the other welfare Acts like Payment of Bonus Act, Provident Fund Act and the ESI Act are not applicable to the fishermen.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, what is your question, please?

DR. K.S. MANOJ: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is contemplating to take some measures to ensure minimum wages to the fishermen. It is not the workers in the allied fishing sector. In the Statement, it is said that minimum wages for the workers in the allied sector are given.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Manoj, I would not allow your second supplementary.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Yes, Sir, I am finishing.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to put a question.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: I would like to know whether the Government will take some measures to ensure minimum wages to the fishermen. Also, whether the Government would bring them under the ambit of Payment of Bonus Act, ESI Act, etc?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, basically fishing is in the unorganised sector. We are making minimum wages applicable to the fishermen. In my written answer I have already given the minimum wages being levied in various States. The rate has been fixed and it is given.

Sir, also, there has been action taken in various

States. Wherever it is noticed that minimum wages are not enforced, action has also been taken. Now, we are treating this as unorganised sector and we are bringing in various measures to help the unorganised sector and the people below the poverty line are covered under the various schemes that we have brought forward.

MR. SPEAKER: Second supplementary—please put a pointed question.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Yes, Sir. As the hon. Minister has rightly pointed out, fishing and allied sector, to a greater extent, is in the unorganised sector. Only to some extent, some people in the mechanised fishing etc. are in the organised sector. I would like the hon. Minister to assure that the Government would include fishing and allied sector under the ambit of the law for the welfare of the labourers in the unorganised sector. Will the hon. Minister assure?

MR. SPEAKER: Will they be eligible for loan?

DR. K.S. MANOJ: No, Sir. They should be treated under the law for the welfare of the unorganised sector.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, fishermen are traditionally under the unorganised sector. Whosoever comes under the organised sector, for example, those who do mechanised fishing, there are certain numbers where power is used, come under the organised sector. The law of the land prevails and those who come under the purview of the organised sector, who are 20 people etc. and within that purview of mechanised fishing, it can be examined and I think we will be able to enforce it.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to ask question. You are aware that the coastal area of Gujarat is very vast and a number of fishermen are at work there but there is hardly a difference of Rs. 1/- or Rs. 2/- between the wages of skilled and unskilled workers, fixed by this Government. In this way, there is no distinction between the skilled and unskilled workers. I would like to know whether there is a proposal of increasing the daily wages of skilled workers.

Besides, a number of fishermen working in unorganized sector are not paid on daily wages basis. Be it in Junagarh or Kandla sides, they work for fifty-sixty rupees daily wages. They put their lives at stake and go in the sea. You know that a large number of fishermen from Gujarat have to undergo imprisonment in jails in Pakistan and it is only after our request that they are freed from there.

MR. SPEAKER: We get more leave, it is correct. But they do not get leave.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, minimum wages is the subject of state government. It is under their purview. We shall advise the state governments to examine the difference between skilled and unskilled workers, and if the state governments can increase the wages we shall definitely advise them to do so.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Good question Varmaji.

Q. 386—Shri Hansraj G. Ahir—not present.

Q. 387—Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb Patil—not present.

Q. 388—Shri P.S. Gadhavi.

Selection of T.V. Channels by MTNL

*388. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the private TV channels included in Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) programme for Delhi and Mumbai viewers by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in their Media Plan during 2001-08 and 2008-09;

(b) whether some of the prominent TV channels have not been included in the Plan;

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

(d) the criteria adopted by the MTNL for selecting TV channels?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) MTNL is providing IPTV services under agreement with M/s Akash and M/s I.O.L. Broadband under revenue share in Delhi and Mumbai respectively. The TV channels are made available by the vendor after entering into an agreement with broadcasters. As on 31-03-2008 a total number of 150 and 165 channels have been made available by MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai respectively.

MTNL has selected the TV channels for advertisement for its services by negotiating with the broadcasters. The details of private channels selected in the Media Plan during 2007-08 as per the criteria (given in part (d)) is as follows:

- Zee TV
- Sony.
- Aaj Tak (along with Headlines Today, Tez, Delhi Aaj Tak).
- CNN-IBN.
- Times Now.
- CNBC.
- Discovery.
- MTV.
- Channel V.

Media Plan for 2008-09 is under initial stage of preparation.

(d) The criteria adopted to select media by MTNL are as under:

- (i) Popularity/reach of TV channel in MTNL's market viz. Delhi and Mumbai.

- (ii) Type of MTNL's product intended to be promoted through TV and profile of target customers for such product.
- (iii) Profile of viewers watching the TV channels being considered.
- (iv) Cost of advertising on TV channel, keeping in mind frequency and time bands of airing the advertisements.
- (v) Budgetary constraints.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, thank you very much. In reply to my Question, the hon. Minister has given the criteria adopted to select media by MTNL. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when was this criteria to select media by MTNL adopted and whether this criteria is being reviewed from time to time or not. I want to know when it was last reviewed and who is the reviewing authority.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the criteria that were framed to select the TV channels are permanent in nature. If the hon. Member wants to add any new guidelines, then the Government is open to hear it. At this juncture, I do not feel that the criteria are fluid in nature, and that it has to be reviewed as such. It is because the Television Rating Per-Second is the modality available with the Government to determine as to how many viewers are watching a particular TV at a particular time. This is the mechanism available with us, and through this mechanism we decide that a particular TV is having much popularity wherein the MTNL advertisements can go. If it is necessary, then it can be reviewed provided the criteria are new. If the hon. Member feels that these criteria have to be incorporated in the Committee, then the Government is open to those suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER: You can send your suggestions to him.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, the hon. Minister has informed in his reply that the Media Plan for 2008-09 is under initial stage of preparation. I would like to ask a question on this point. When is the Media Plan for

2008-09, which is under initial stage of preparation, likely to be finalized?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, we have spent around Rs. 6 crore for 2007-08. This year, after the financial year, the MTNL has to decide in the Board as to how much can be spent for the advertisements. Thereafter, it will be finalized within a month's time.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 389, Shri Sunil Khan—not present.

Q. 390, Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava.

[Translation]

Bogus Ration Cards

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*390. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent surveys have indicated large scale prevalence of bogus ration cards in the country;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has issued directions/suggestions to the States to launch a drive for review of list of Public Distribution System (PDS) beneficiaries and for the cancellation of bogus ration cards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States thereto indicating the number of bogus ration cards detected and cancelled during the last two years, State-wise?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has recently submitted a report on concurrent evaluation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in six States, namely, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Based on its estimation of number of families in the country in 2006, NCAER in its report has drawn an inference about 2.3 crore excess ration cards in the country during that year in comparison with the estimated families. However, this inferred number is of excess ration cards and not of bogus ration cards.

(c) and (d) Based on findings of earlier evaluation studies on TPDS conducted by Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission and ORG MARG,

a 9-point action plan evolved for strengthening TPDS is under implementation by State and UT Governments. As part of this action plan, State and UT Governments have been directed to continuously review lists of BPL and AAY families to eliminate bogus ration cards so that only eligible, BPL and AAY families be covered under TPDS. As a result of such review, 13 State Governments have reported detection and deletion of 67.455 lakh bogus/ineligible ration cards since July, 2006. A statement containing details of the deleted ration cards is enclosed as Annexure.

Instructions have been issued to all State UT Governments take action as per law against the persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and the Government staff found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible families/persons.

Annexure

The number of bogus/ineligible ration cards deleted by the State/UT Governments with effect from July 2006 onwards.

(as on 05-03-2008)

Sl. No.	State	Year	BPL/AAY Lists and Nos. of bogus cards deleted (in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	06-07	10.46
2.	Assam	06-07	0.02
3.	Chhattisgarh	06-07	2.00
4.	Delhi	06-07	14.62
5.	Gujarat	06-07	0.36
6.	Karnataka	06-07	3.47
7.	Madhya Pradesh	07-08	24.87
8.	Orissa	06-07	2.50
9.	Uttar Pradesh	06-07	3.96

1	2	3	4
10.	Uttaranchal	06-07 and 07-08	0.14
11.	West Bengal	06-07	5.00
12.	Meghalaya	06-07	0.00219
13.	Sikkim	06-07	0.00914
Total			67.45468

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that my question was regarding bogus ration cards in the country. I am not fully satisfied with the reply given by the Government. As regards the fake ration cards, the Government have admitted that there are more than 2 crore fake ration cards in the country, and it has been proved also. About bogus ration cards, I would like to know whether Pakistani and Bangladeshi citizen are also included in these bogus ration card cases. In these circumstances, whether the Government have some power, and if so, what steps the Government would like to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very simple that the Planning Commission has already issued guidelines about BPL and according to that every State Government has the responsibility of allotting ration cards after collecting information in the respective state. Some facts have come before us about the ration cards issued to these people so far. One fact is that some cards might be bogus. But the more important fact is that the family which is not under BPL category and is under APL category, has also been issued a BPL category ration cards.

Some figures have been given here in this regard. So far as the information available as per the guidelines of the Planning Commission is concerned

[English]

6.52 crore families are under the category of PBL. Actually, the State Government has issued 10.28 crore ration cards for BPL people.

[Translation]

Actually, 3.76 crore more cards have been issued for BPL people by the State Government. We have brought this thing to the notice of the Government and the Government has also taken some steps. Recently, as per the information given in Annexure-I, states have taken some steps and cancelled some cards as well.

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all know that this work of bogus ration cards is not done through one person or organization. In this work, many officials, fair price shop owners and people or organizations involved in anti-national activities are involved. Do the Government have any such information or not? If so, what steps you would like to take along with the Ministry of External Affairs against such people?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, if the hon. Member has any specific complaint about any state, he can send it to me. I will bring it to the notice of the concerned State Government and ask them for conducting an enquiry.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kashiram Rana—Not present

Shrimati Maneka Gandhi

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, the Minister has

given a very comprehensive answer, but I want to inform the Minister on behalf of Uttar Pradesh, in my constituency, thousands and thousands of people have complained again and again to me, not so much about *jaali* ration-cards or BPL cards, but about the inadequacy of BPL cards. Only three, four or five people per village have been selected at random, and there are hundreds of people who have not got their BPL cards even though they are eligible. Part (c) of the question states whether any direction was given that the number of BPL cards must be increased, or that the process should be started again. It seems to have come to a halt and lots of people have been left out of the system.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In fact, I have given the figures in the House. As per the Planning Commission's Report, the total number of BPL families in this country is 'x' and the actual number of cards that have been allotted is 'x' plus something. In fact, we have written to the State Government

[Translation]

those who do not fall under BPL category have been issued ration cards. Government should cancel such cards and issue it to only BPL category. Every State Government is fully responsible for it. If there is any specific complaint, then we will send your complaint to that State and also write to them to take necessary action.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Sir, same criterion had been fixed in BPL survey conducted in 2000. There are provisions that a household having a T.V. set and cycle will not be included under BPL category. Nowadays everyone whether he is a Rickshaw Puller or a Labourer is holding a mobile phone in his hand. The provision and rules framed by the government for BPL category should be kept in mind and a survey should be conducted properly so that more people may be included under BPL. Due to the policy framed by the Government for the survey conducted in 2000 a large number of people in Orissa could not be included under BPL. Do the government propose to conduct a fresh survey by modifying the criterion appropriately.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As I have clearly stated that the BPL cards have been issued by the State as per the criterion fixed by the Planning Commission and Ministry of Rural Development. There may be some complaints, which I am not ignoring. Now the situation is that three crore more cards than the number of BPL families have been issued.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There should be full cooperation between the Centre and the States.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that an Expert Committee has already been set up to look into or examine afresh the 13 point parameters or criteria by which 'BPL' is determined? The Standing Committee has also strongly recommended that it should be expedited.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I think, the Expert Committee's Report is dealt with by some other Ministry and the details are not with me.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell the hon. Minister that survey had been conducted in far flung areas. They should have been covered under the parameters framed by the Government. The State Government have not yet reached there. The people living in far flung and hilly areas are still not getting ration.

As you are aware when a person gets an improper BPL card we cannot get his house constructed under Indira Awas Yojana. And he cannot avail many other facilities. What I mean to say that I have myself seen such people. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you speaking about fake cards.

...(Interruptions)

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Yes Sir, I have myself seen people who have retired and they are running

ration depots and issuing ration to themselves. I would like to know as to why this is not being corrected. In some cases the head of the family is working as a labourer and his family is running smoothly.

My submission is that if a person dies in an accident his family immediately becomes BPL. If you will conduct an enquiry in this regard some new things will emerge. Here, I would like to know as to what will be done by the government for the widow of the deceased and her children who have become orphan. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not covered under it.

...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I want to know how he is in BPL?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, important matter, but does not arise out of the main question.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir I want its reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. you want a reply but it cannot be given.

[English]

Good suggestion for action.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have clearly stated that it is the responsibility of the Central Government to supply required foodgrains for BPL and AAY as per the guidelines of the Planning Commission and the requisition received from the State Government. It is the responsibility of the State Government that after getting the supply of foodgrains it will supply it to the distribution shops as well as to the people. As I said in the

beginning itself that there may be some people who were not covered under BPL, they should have been included but unfortunately it could not be done. Such complaints are regularly received. Whenever we received such complaints, we send them to the State Government with the remarks to please pay attention to them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They should also wake up. Q. No. 391.

[Translation]

Provision of Mobile Telephone Service

*391. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile telephone service has not been launched in many areas of the country, so far;

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

(c) the reasons due to which the Government has not provided this facility in those areas;

(d) the efforts made by the Government to provide this facility in the above-mentioned areas during the previous year and in the current year; and

(e) the success achieved as a result thereof so far?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

At present around 65% of geographical area of the country has got mobile coverage. However, location-wise details are not maintained in respect of areas where such service is not available.

Further, Government has issued 120 new Unified

Access Service Licences in January 2008 for increasing competition which will help to roll out mobile services in uncovered areas. Moreover, in order to expedite the roll out of mobile services in rural and remote areas, the Government is providing a total subsidy of approximately Rs. 587.88 crores over a period of 5 years through Universal Service Obligation Fund for setting up and managing 7871 infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 States where there is no existing Fixed Wireless or mobile coverage. The agreements were signed with successful bidders in May, 2007. The mobile services from these towers are likely to be launched in a phased manner by the end of year 2008. Till 29th February, 2008, 150 towers have been set up under this scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister in reply to my question, he has mentioned that the facility of mobile phone is available in 65 per cent geographical areas of the country. However, status wise details of such areas is not maintained. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister, through you, that 65 per cent areas are getting enough mobile facility but the remote areas and villages are not getting this facility. Private companies are running their mobile network there. The mobile, of BSNL is cheaper and the poor people of the country have access to this mobile facility but the fact remains that the mobile facility is not made available in the villages. In this way, it is not used there. I would like to know the time by which rest of 35 per cent areas would be covered with those facilities. The officers do not have interest in it. They join private companies after retirement. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister as to the time by which remaining 35 per cent area of villages is likely to be covered. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please give time to the Hon'ble Minister to reply.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, it is true that around 65 per cent of the territorial area of the country is covered by

the mobile service. But it is not in the exclusive domain of the Government. All service providers including the private operators must have a common commitment to roll out the service in the rural areas. At the same time the Government is committed to have its own leverage to put pressure on the private operators and PSUs, i.e., BSNL and MTNL, to go for the rural areas for which we are collecting adjusted gross revenue out of the profit being earned by all operators invariably whether it is government or private operators. Some percentage is being collected in terms of AGR and it has been put into the Universal Service Obligation Fund which is a statutory fund under the Telegraph Act. To put it in other words, all service operators are having an obligation to go for the rural areas as a result of which people in the rural can get the service. The fund collected for this is about Rs.15,000 crore till 2007. Out of that fund of Rs.15,000 crore, we have spent Rs. 5,383 crore so far. The remaining Rs. 9,900 crore are lying with the Government. The tenders are being floated. Out of that we are going to put up some 8000 new towers across the country in rural areas.

The service will start, as soon as the tender process is over.

MR. SPEAKER: After tender, you would get it.

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Minister that it is also the responsibility of private companies but I want to say that networks of Vodafone and Reliance function properly their mobiles give satisfactory services.

Sir, due to faulty network of BSNL its mobiles do not work properly even in the office of Hon'ble Minister...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to know the time by which the functioning of BSNL network will become smooth.

MR. SPEAKER: BSNL good services are good.

SHRI V.K. TUMMAR: No, Sir, it doesn't work smoothly. It does not function in villages. No BSNL and MTNL connection functions smoothly in village home.

Vodafone and Reliance are providing good services. May be that there is connivance of the officials in it. Therefore, I want to know from the hon'ble Minister ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Please speak softly. Why are you speaking so loudly?

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, by when BSNL services would be streamlined? I thank Shri Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of our country, who introduced this technology in the country and facilitated its reach to the poor. What efforts are being made by the hon. Minister to ensure proper functioning of BSNL and MTNL services in the country?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know when it will be done. We should feel very proud that India has a very large network of mobile phones. In my constituency, I have seen that even in small villages, they are using mobiles.

SHRI A. RAJA: In general, I can say as to what is the target that has been fixed by the Government. By 2006-07, 250 million mobile connections have effectively reached the people. So, our target is over. Of course, some allegations that have been levelled against the officer concerned; if any specific allegation is levelled against the officer, let me know, I would take action. But I can submit before the House, whether it is cell phone or the landline, out of 5,60,000 villages, we have almost reached 5,40,000 villages in and around through VPTs, that is, village telephones. Whether cell phone or otherwise, the coverage is through landline or the mobile connections, we reached more than 90 or 93 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, we should also encourage BSNL as they are doing good work.

SHRI KIREN RIJU: You are right, Sir, in saying that BSNL has a wide reach, geographically at least. Airtel has taken over your rights through advertisement. BSNL has the right to stay all over India. My point is, when we go to the border areas, especially in the North-

Eastern part, the moment you reach the border area but still inside India, you start catching the network of the other countries. This is a very serious matter connected to the Ministry of Home Affairs also. My question to the hon. Minister is: How are you going to facilitate those areas particularly bordering China, Myanmar and Bangladesh so that our people can use our own service, not the service of the other countries?

SHRI A. RAJA: I have come across this peculiar situation. Of course, the Government of India declared that there are the buffer zones where the cell phone operations should not be there, for security reasons. In spite of that, they are the crossing areas and other countries are putting the tower without caring for any security, those mobile signals are coming to our part of the country in the border areas. But our commitment is, so far as the border area is concerned, we have to use the landline alone for the security of this country. It is being discussed with the Ministry of Home Affairs as to what type of barricades or stoppage can be put to stop the signals. But the Government is committed to go for landline for security reasons.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: As the Minister has just now stated, Rs. 14,000 crore has been collected from the Universal Service Obligation Fund and only a small percentage of this Fund has so far been utilized. Now, tender has been floated and then, it will be finalized. Our experience is, in rural areas, basic telephone service. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question relates to mobile telephones.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But he has stated it in regard to Universal Service Obligation Fund. May I know from the Minister how much time he would take to utilize the entire Fund of Rs. 14,000 crore? Only Rs. 5,000 crore has so far been utilized and Rs. 9,000 crore is yet to be utilized. How much time he would take to utilize the entire fund so that rural telephony services and our tele-density can be increased? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the remaining fund of Rs. 9,900 crore will be spent within this financial year itself. It is a

non-lapsable fund. Next year we are going to get fresh funds. So, it will be spent this year itself. Another 11,000 towers are proposed to be set up in this country.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How much time will it take?

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that it will be spent within this financial year.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: That means we will have to wait for another one year.

SHRI A. RAJA: Next year we will get fresh funds.

MR. SPEAKER: Otherwise, nobody will be able to spend that much of money!

SHRI A. RAJA: Putting up 11,000 towers is not a joke.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not volunteer unnecessarily. Otherwise, I cannot control it.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon'ble Members have expressed their views and all are aware that the services of BSNL and MTNL in comparison to private operators are not good. You can talk on private operators services without interruptions but BSNL network is so faulty that you will encounter messages like 'number is busy', 'out of order' or sudden loss of sound. during the conversation hon'ble Minister would take steps to improve the services being provided by BSNL and MTNL. Because gradually, people are shifting to private service providers. Would the Minister present the ways and means by which the credibility as well the service provided by BSNL are improved.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are all influenced by the advertisements.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, it is known that in the month of March there were some problems in the MTNL since it wanted to switch over to the updated technology. That was announced in the newspapers also. Now the system has been perfectly shifted to the updated

technology. From May onwards there will be no problem at all in the MTNL services. Let me know if there is problem in any specific area concerning the BSNL services; I will look into it.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: The Minister has categorically stated in this House while answering the question that USO Fund is a non-lapsable fund but mobilizing that fund does not have unlimited time period. Recently, the contributors of USO Fund have come out very categorically stating that they need not provide for the USO Fund because that money is not being spent for the purpose for which that Fund has been created. The Minister has also said that out of around 6 lakh villages, 5,40,000 villages have already been covered. My question here is, how much is the penetration of mobile facility in the country. Is it two per cent or more? If it is less than two per cent or around two per cent what provisions the Government is taking to ask BSNL to increase the mobile penetration?

SHRI A. RAJA: Rural tele-density is 7.8 per cent. Of course, we want it to improve. Though the urban tele-density is more, in order to enhance the rural tele-density we are using the USO Fund. As the hon. Member himself has put it, it is a non-lapsable fund. So far, the rules contemplated in the USO Fund are very stringent. They did permit for the broad-band services also but since we are having huge funds, the rules contemplated thereon have been relaxed even for broad-band services so that cables can be laid for OFC connections. We are enlarging the rules so that all bigger services can be given under the USO Fund. Accordingly, I do hope the entire fund can be spent in this year. Based on the anticipatory amount next year, we are proposing the schemes now itself. As I have submitted earlier, 11,000 towers apart from these 8,000 towers are proposed to be put up next year.

[Translation]

Private Sector Participation in Water Management

*392. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to allow private sector partnership in water management and project planning;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the benefits likely to accrue therefrom; and

(c) the details of the works and projects approved and completed under research and Development programmes for water management and project-planning during the last three years alongwith the amount sanctioned therefor, State-wise?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The National Water Policy, 2002 states that "Private sector participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses, wherever feasible. Private sector participation may help in introducing innovative ideas, generating financial resources and introducing corporate management and improving service efficiency and accountability to users." Water being a state subject, all related activities are undertaken by the respective State Governments.

(c) Various activities related to water resources

sector including research and development activities are undertaken by the respective State Governments. However, Ministry of Water Resources promotes research in the area of water resources development and management. The premier research organisations of Ministry of Water Resources i.e. Central Water and Power Research Station, Central Soil and Materials Research Station and National Institute of Hydrology undertake research in specific areas. Ministry of Water Resources also provides assistance to various academic and research institutions for undertaking research in water sector.

The details of the research schemes approved by the Ministry of Water Resources during the last three years and completed in the last three years (since 01-04-2005) are at Annexure-I.

The Ministry of Water Resources initiated 5000 Farmer's Participatory Action Research Programmes at a cost of about Rs. 24.47 crore throughout the country with the help of Agricultural Universities, Institutes of Indian Council for Agricultural Research, International Crop Research institute for Semi-Arid Tropics and Water and Land Management Institutes and other similar institutes with a view to increase yield and income per drop of water. The above said 5000 programmes are to be implemented by 60 institutes throughout the country. Institute wise details of sanctioned amount and funds released are given in Annexure-II. So far, an amount of about Rs. 13.12 crore has been released.

Annexure-I

List of Research Schemes approved and completed during last three years (01-04-2005) under the Research and Development Programme

Sl.No.	Title of Project	Name of Institute	Fund	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Study of Trace Metal in surface and sub-surface water in and around Tirupati	S V University, Tirupati		Scheme was sanctioned in April 99. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 488000.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Studies on under water bodies in the combined wave and current field.	College of Engineering, K. Rangarao University, Visakhapatnam		Scheme was sanctioned in Jan-95. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 593100.
3.	Integrated Hydrological Studies in Kodaveeti Vegu Watershed.	Nagarjuna University, Nagarjunanagar, Guntur		Scheme was sanctioned in Feb-95. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 137000.
4.	Solar power trickle irrigation system for sandy tracts of coastal Andhra Pradesh	College of Agriculture, Andhara Pradesh Agricultural University		Scheme was sanctioned in Aug-99. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 521800.
5.	Feasibility of artificial recharge study through mathematical modeling in Kongal river basin, a hard rock region in Nalgonda District Andhra Pradesh	National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad	203082	Scheme was sanctioned in Sep.-03. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 1097082.
6.	Development of integrated irrigation information systems (IIS) for a part of Nagarjuna-sagar command area, Andhra Pradesh using remote sensing, GIS, GPS and field studies	Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	2536000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 3650000.
7.	Remote sensing data based soil conservation studies to control sedimentation in Sriramsagar reservoir	Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	2739082	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1524000.
Assam				
8.	Crop and crop planning for flood and flood prone areas	North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management, Tezpur	1792000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 3748000.

1	2	3	4	5
Bihar				
9.	History of Irrigation development in Bihar and Jharkhand	Water and Land Management Institute, Patna	37000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 216000.
Gujarat				
10.	Determination of Optimal Cropping Pattern and Release Policy for a Conjunctive use of Surface and groundwater by linear programming.	Water Resources Engineering and Management Institute, Samiala		Scheme was sanctioned in Mar-94. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 137000.
11.	Ground water studies using satellite data, Helium and geophysical techniques-A pilot study project	Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad		Scheme was sanctioned in Mar-01. Completion Report has been received after pilot 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 603000.
Haryana				
12.	Control of Water-logging and Salinity through Agroforestry Interventions	Forest Department, Government of Haryana	2018000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 4595000.
Jharkhand				
13.	Sedimentation Appraisal Around Barrage in Bokaro River Basin under Intensive Coal Mining and Processing Units	Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad		Scheme was sanctioned in Jan-98. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 716000.
14.	Influence of shape of underground caverns on the development of maximum stresses vis-a-vis bolt length requirement	Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad		Scheme was sanctioned in Mar-01. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 370650.
15.	Estimation of Rock Mass Strength and Modulus by Fractal Analysis	Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad	591600	Scheme was sanctioned in Mar-04. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 1289600.

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Optimisation of non-monsoon flow from water dams required to assimilate the pollution level of Damodar river	Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad	1200000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction cost is Rs. 2314200.
17.	Development of an artificial intelligent system for optimised tunnel blasting practice	Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad	864000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction cost is Rs. 1760000.
18.	Development of a setup for stress measurement in concrete tunnel lining dam walls and pillars	Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad	1091000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction cost is Rs. 1522000.
Karnataka				
19.	Evaluation of long term properties of super plasticized concrete	Karnataka Engineering Research Station, Krishnarajsagara		Scheme was sanctioned in Nov-96. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 275700.
20.	Development and Commissioning of Microseismic Monitoring System	National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Kolar		Scheme was sanctioned in Nov-98. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 1200000.
21.	Fuzzy-Stochastic modelling for stream water quality	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.	531000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 784000.
22.	Assessment of water resources under Climate Change scenarios at river basin scale	Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore	910000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 3074000.
23.	Diversified utilization of harvested farm pond water to augment the water productivity in rainfed Alfisols of eastern dry zone in Karnataka	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	328000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1815000.

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Aerobic rice—water saving method for southern dry zone of Karnataka	University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore	631000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1630000.
Kerala				
25.	Study on hydrology of small watersheds of highland Kerala	Centre for Water Resources Development and Management Kozhikode	546000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs.130000.
Madhya Pradesh				
26.	Identification of suitable tree species and other vegetation for bio-drainage in Bargi command area	Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur	1822000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 3189000.
Maharashtra				
27.	To Develop Infrastructural Facilities for R.C.C. Research and Testing	Maharashtra Engineering Research Institute, Nasik		Scheme was sanctioned in Nov-96. Completion Report has been received after 14-2-05. Total fund released is Rs. 1080000.
28.	Role of flyash in minimizing corrosion in reinforced concrete structures	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	1273000	SCHEME continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1530000.
29.	Development of Drought Vulnerability Indices for preparedness and mitigation	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	6308000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 14243000.
30.	Stepped spillway versus normal Ogee spillway as an energy dissipation arrangement	Maharashtra Engineering Research Institute, Nasik	1859000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 3947000.
Orissa				
31.	Pilot study on pressurized irrigation system forming adjunct with the canal Irrigation system in Deras irrigation command, Bhubaneswar.	Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region, Bhubaneswar		Scheme was sanctioned in Aug-7. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 2326206.

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Efficient use of water for increasing cropping intensity through conjunctive use planning in coastal tract of Orissa	Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region, Bhubaneswar	699000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1892000.
33.	History of irrigation development in Orissa	Water and Land Management Institute, Cuttack	154700	Scheme completed. Total fund released is Rs. 154700.
34.	Water use efficiency for accelerated economic growth in the irrigated command of drought prone KBK Distt. in Orissa	Spatial Planning and Analysis Research Centre, Bhubaneswar (NGO)	1136000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1473000.
Punjab				
35.	To develop a sedimentation rate estimation model for reservoirs in Kanji area of Punjab	Irrigation and Power Research Institute, Amritsar	567000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1163000.
Rajasthan				
36.	Study of impact of Indira Gandhi Canal on agricultural development and socio-economic condition	Rajasthan Gramotthan Sanstha, Jaipur	1820000	Scheme completed. Total fund released is Rs. 1820000.
37.	Ground water recharge studies in the Thar Desert terrain of Rajasthan through surplus water	IDR Unit, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur	1780000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 8800000.
38.	Identification and evaluation of potential vegetation for bio-drainage in semi arid environment of Chambal command area of Rajasthan	Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology	1196000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 3977000.
39.	Identification and mapping of Palaeo-channels in the eastern fringe of the Thar desert for water resources augmentation plan	B.M. Birla Science and Technology Centre, Jaipur	796000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1691000.

1	2	3	4	5
40.	Artificial neural network for water resources planning: An innovative approach	Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani	294000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 462000.
Tamil Nadu				
41.	Development of Coastal Protective Structure in Tamilnadu	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras		Scheme was sanctioned in Mar-04. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 1113000.
42.	Assessment of shoreline changes in the vicinity of Ennore Port due to construction of break waters	Institute of Hydraulics and Hydrology, Poondi	558000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1570000.
43.	Experimental design to determine the interaction of surf zone hydraulics and Beach (Ground) Water Table Hydraulics in the natural environment	V.C. Chidambaram College, Tuticorin	2855000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 3355000.
44.	Development of Models for the Cleanup of Cr (VI) Contaminated Aquifers Using Bio-Remediation	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	1395000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 2212000.
45.	Rain Water Harvesting in Veeranam Catchment	Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar	1773000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1630000.
46.	Towards an objective EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) procedure for irrigation projects.	Anna University, Chennai		Scheme was sanctioned in Jan-98. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 764000
47.	Water quality assessment and characterization in Pondicherry region	Anna University, Chennai		Scheme was sanctioned in Aug-00 Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 618000.

1	2	3	4	5
48.	Impact Analysis of Watershed Development and Management Including Environmental Aspects	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	1206000	Scheme was sanctioned in Mar-04. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 1613000.
49.	Study on effects of partial desilting of small tanks	Anna University, Chennai	1190000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 2794000.
50.	Rainfall-Runoff modelling and ground water dynamics of irrigation tank clustered catchment in semi-arid region	Anna University, Chennai	1217000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 3527000.
51.	Evaluation of an irrigation system including on-farm development works with special focus on the functioning of farmers council	Anna University, Chennai	848000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 2417000.
52.	Flood estimation in mixed/ urban/rural catchments of South India	Anna University, Chennai	733000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 2221000.
Uttar Pradesh				
53.	To assess the impact of presence of septic tank on ground water and spread of water borne disease, and to identify means to solve the problems created by the wastewater in Balrampur district in Uttar Pradesh	Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi	550000	Scheme was sanctioned in Oct-04. Completion Report has been received after 1.4.2005. Total fund released is Rs. 901000.
54.	Investigation of local scour at bridge piers under pressure flow condition Uttarakhand	Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	241000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1315000.
55.	Development of Dynamic Flood Frequency Model	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee		Scheme was sanctioned in Sep-97. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 360000.

1	2	3	4	5
56.	History of irrigation in Uttar Pradesh (Ganga Basin)	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	71000	Scheme was sanctioned in Dec-02. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 354000.
57.	Hydrological Investigation of Lake Pichhola Udaipur (Rajasthan) for its Rejuvenation	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	459000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1079000.
58.	Use of environmental isotopes for the measurement of erosion rates and soil conservation measures in the catchments of reservoirs in UP	Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee	452000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1034000.
59.	Integration of fuzzy logic and GIS for delineating ground water source areas in Bazada land of Solani river basin	Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee	548000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1439000.
60.	Compilation of Information on research and development in irrigation and drainage in India in last four decades	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	308000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1934000.
61.	Agrotechnical constraints analysis for improving water productivity in Upper Ganga Canal Command	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	303000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 557000.
62.	Identification of Vulnerable Areas in Himalayan Watersheds	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	389000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 2155000.
63.	Experimental Study on Labyrinth Spillway	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	676000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1779000.
64.	Identification of sites for artificial ground water	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	565000	Scheme continuing. Total sanction Cost is Rs. 1041000.

1	2	3	4	5
	recharge in upper Ganga plain, using remote sensing GIS			
65.	Testing and development of devices for reduction of scour around bridge piers	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	1455000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1953000.
West Bengal				
66.	Optimal management of Irrigation Water under Deficit Conditions	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur		Scheme was sanctioned in Dec-96. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 920000.
67.	Identification, quantification and control of non-point source pollution of water resources from agricultural land	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	500000	Scheme was sanctioned in Mar-01. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 4832000.
68.	Design of stillingbasin and flexible apron for barrages under variable hydraulic conditions	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	391000	Scheme was sanctioned in Aug-03. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 1615823.
69.	Ascertaining arsenic mobilisation in Soil-Water-Plant system and exploring the possible remedial measure, West Bengal	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Nadia	417189	Scheme was sanctioned in Sep-03. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 845189.
70.	Extension of some low cost lining materials for increasing the area of irrigation command	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Nadia	605000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1237000.
71.	Development of deflouridation media for contaminated ground water and its lab to field application Delhi	Presidency College, Kolkata	499000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 614000.

1	2	3	4	5
72.	Improving water use efficiency of crops and cropping system	Water Technology Centre, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi		Scheme was sanctioned in Mar-95. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 56000.
73.	Fabric based material for canal lining	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi		Scheme was sanctioned in Aug-03. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 3204000.
74.	Industrial water auditing-A case study of Ghaziabad Industries Ghaziabad District	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi (NGO)	550000	Scheme completed. Total fund released is Rs. 550000.
75.	Development of a runoff and sediment yield estimating SDSS for ungauged watersheds	Water Technology Centre, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	1116000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 2335000.
76.	Development of Water Accounting Guidelines for Different Sectors	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi (NGO)	803000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 4069000.
77.	Study on ground water contamination through municipal landfills in the NCT Delhi	Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	107000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1617000.
78.	Institutional framework for regulating use of ground water in India	Institute for Resource Management and Economic Development, Delhi (NGO)	1170000	Scheme continuing. Total Sanction Cost is Rs. 1409000.
Puducherry				
79.	Hydrological and Ecological Studies on the Oustery Lake Ecosystem	Pondicherry University. Kalapet	118700	Scheme was sanctioned in Feb-95. Completion Report has been received after 1-4-2005. Total fund released is Rs. 1648700.

Annexure-II**Details of Amount Sanctioned and Released for Farmer's
Participatory Action Research Programmes**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Institute with address	State in which to be implemented	No. of Demonstrations	Sanctioned Cost	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Central Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR), P.B. No. 181, Port Blair, Andman Nicobar,	Andaman and Nicobar	48	24	8.4
2.	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	100	50	35
		Chhatisgarh	100	50	35
		Madhya Pradesh	100	50	35
		Rajasthan	100	50	35
3.	Water Technology Centre, College of Agriculture, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad. Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	50	25	8.75
4.	Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) Santosh Nagar Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Maharashtra	50	25	8.75
5.	IACRP (Water Management) Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam	Assam	100	50	35

1	2	3	4	5	
6.	North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management, Kaliabhomora, Tezpur, Assam	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur	100	50	35
7.	ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, ICAR Parisar, PO B.V. College, Patna. Bihar	Bihar	100	50	35
8.	Faculty of Agricultural Engineering, Indra Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalay, Raipur, Chattisaarh	Chhattisgarh	30	15	5.25
9.	Soil and Water Management Research Unit, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat	Gujarat	100	38	26.6
10.	Directorate of Research, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat	Gujarat	80	40	14
11.	Sardar Krushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University Distt. Banaskantha Gujarat	Gujarat	100	50	17.5
12.	Director Extension Education, Chaudhary Charan Singh Agricultural University, Hissar, Harayna	Haryana	100	50	35
13.	Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI). Kamal, Haryana	Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat	100	50	35
14.	Director of Research, University of Horticulture Forestry, Nauni (Solan), Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	100	50	35

1	2	3	4	5	
15.	Deptt. of Agricultural Engineering, CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyala, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	100	50	17.5
16.	Division of Agricultural Engineering, SKUAST-K, Shalimar Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir	160	80	56
17.	Water Management Research Centre, SKUAST-Jammu, Main Campus, Chatha, Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir	100	50	35
18.	Watershed Association for Training Employment and Resources Utilisation- New Dethi, Plot 23 Goela Vihar-II, PO Goela Dairy, New Delhi	Jharkhand	70	35	12.25
19.	Birsa Agricultural University, Ranch, Jharkhand	Jharkhand	50	25	8.75
20.	SARPAN Agriculture Horticultural Research Centre (SAHRC), P. B. No. 401, Belgaum Road, Dharwad, Karnataka	Karnataka	50	25	17.5
21.	Director of Extension, University of Agriculture Sciences. Dharwad, Karnataka	Karnataka	100	50	35
22.	Deptt. of Genetic Plantics and Plant Breeding, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bangalore-65	Karnataka	100	50	17.5

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hessaghatta Lake Post Bangalore	Karnataka	50	25 8.75
24.	AICRP on Water Management University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Water Management Research Centre, Belvatagi Tq. Navalagund Dt. Oharwad Karnataka State	Karnataka	50	25 8.75
25.	Director of Research Kerala Agricultural University, Valanikkara, Thrissur, Kerala	Kerala	50	25 17.5
26.	Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Kasaragad, Kerala	Kerala	40	20 7.0
27.	Centre for Water Resources Development and Management, P.B. No. 2, Kunnamanglam, Calicut, Kerala	Kerala	40	20 7.0
28.	Society for Promotion of Eco-friendly Sustainable Development (SPEED), Surbhi Lala Lajpat Rai Society E-7/65, Arera Colony, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	100	50 35
29.	MP Water and Land Management Institute (WAIMI), PB No. 538, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	100	50 17.5
30.	Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Nabi Bagh, Berasia Road Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	70	35 12.25

1	2	3	4	5
31.	Confederation of Indian Industry, Bungalow no.- 2, Ganesh Khind Road, New Rahul Theatre, Pune Maharashtra	Maharashtra	100	50 35
32.	Water and Land Management Institute, Kanchanwadi, P.B. No. 504, Aurangabad, Maharashtra	Maharashtra	50	25 17.5
33.	Directorate of Extention Education, Mahtama Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri, Maharashtra	Maharashtra	100	50 17.5
34.	Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidya Peeth, Krishinagar, Akola Maharashtra	Maharashtra	83	41.5 14.525
35.	Deptt. of Soil and Water Conservation Engineer- ing, CAET, Marathawada Agricultural University, Parbhani, Maharashtra	Maharashtra	36	18 6.3
36.	WM Division, ICAR Research Station for NEH Region, Umroi Road, Umiam, Meghalaya	Meghalaya	50	25 17.5
37.	Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Orissa	Orissa	100	50 35
38.	Department of Soils Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. Punjab	Punjab	100	50 17.5

1	2	3	4	5
39.	Punjab Agricultural University, Regional Station, Dabwali Road Bhatinda, Punjab	Punjab	60	30 10.5
40.	Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology, PO Ludhiana, Punjab	Punjab, Uttaranchal, Himachal, Rajasthan	40	20 7.0
41.	Department of Soil and Water Technology, College of Technology and Engineering, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur, Rajasthan	Rajasthan	50	25 17.5
42.	Director of Research Rajasthan Agricultural University Bikaner, Rajasthan.	Rajasthan	100	50 17.5
43.	Central Arid Zone Research Institute, ICAR Jodhpur, Rajasthan	Rajasthan, Gujarat	100	50 17.5
44.	PALMYRA Centre for Ecological Landuse, Water Management and Rural Development, Aurobrindavan, Auroville Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu	60	30 21
45.	ICAR-WMs, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Madurai, Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu	70	35 24.5
46.	Soil and Water Management Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Kattuthottam, Thanjavur. Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu	20	10 7.0

1	2	3	4	5	
47.	Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu	50	25	8.75
48.	Water Technology Centre, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu	70	35	12.25
49.	Agricultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu	50	25	8.75
50.	DHAN Foundation, 18 Pillaiyar Koil Street, SS Colony, Madurai, Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh	98	36	25.2
51.	Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Rae Bareilly Road, Post Dilkusha, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	100	50	17.5
52.	Director Extension, CSA, University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh	100	50	17.5
53.	BAIF Development Research Foundation, 27-A, Tagore Town, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh	50	25	8.75
54.	Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh	100	25	8.75
55.	Centre for Agricultural Technology Assessment and Transfer, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana	100	50	35

1	2	3	4	5
56.	Department of Soil Science, College of Agriculture, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar Distt Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarkhand	Uttaranchal	100	47.65 33.355
57.	Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anushandhan Sanathan (ICAR), Almora Uttarakhand	Uttaranchal	75	37.5
58.	Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, 218, Kaulagarh Road, Dehradun	Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnatak, Orissa	100	50 35
59.	Bidhan Chandra Viswa-vidyalaya, Gayeshpur, Nadiã, West Bengal,	West Bengal	100	49.2 34.44
60.	Uttar Banga Krishi Viswa-viyalaya Pundlbari, Cooch Behar, West Bengal	West Bengal	100	50 17.5
Total			5000	2446.85 1311.695

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, water management is very necessary. The importance of Inter-linking of rivers becomes project very important when there is flood in some areas and drought in others, through this project irrigation can be provided to all agricultural land. Sir, hon'ble Minister has stated in reply to my question that on the basis of its feasibility private sector participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses. Earlier, the Government had appointed a Commission with a view to implement inter-linking of river project. The Commission has submitted its report which is under

consideration of the Government. Some States have further considered that report. Would the Minister like to take action to allow private sector partemership in research and allied activities in the matter of management of inter-linking of river projects?

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Sir, the question raised by the hon'ble Member is not related to his original question; he is raising another question. I respect him, so I shall answer his question.

[English]

For the first time, such a question regarding private-public partnership has been raised. So I must

place on record the policy of the Ministry. Our policy is that the private sector participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resource projects for diverse use wherever feasible. Private sector participation may help in introducing innovative ideas, generating financial resources, introducing corporate management, improving service efficiency and accountability to users. Depending upon the specific situations, various combinations of private sector participation in building, owning, operating, leasing and transferring of water resource facilities may be considered. This is the policy of the Government.

[Translation]

Sir, his question regarding linking of rivers is a different question. His question was that private sector participation also should be allowed. Among them Ken-Betwa link project is the first of those projects which are under our consideration. Its DPR is being prepared. As I have said earlier, inter-linking project of Ken-Betwa will be completed within a year and it will benefit the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. I would like to inform that work on the remaining projects is going on. There are four other links. I would like to tell their names—Parvati-Kalisindh, Narmda-Par-Tapi, Damanganag-Pinjal and Godavari-Krishna. Private sector participation has been allowed in it.

MR. SPEAKER: He has covered the whole policy in it. Have you any more supplementary?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Yes, Sir. In the last part of the answer of the question hon'ble Minister has given one more information that the Ministry of Water Resources has initiated 5000 Farmers Participation Action Research Programme throughout the country with the help of various institutes to increase yield and income by using all the available sources of water and for this purpose funds have been sanctioned and released. I would like to know the details of work done under 5000 Farmers Participation Action Research Programme till date?

MR. SPEAKER: How will he give such a big reply? The particulars have been given in 6 pages but still you are not satisfied.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: My question relates to the information given in last two pages.

MR. SPEAKER: It's O.K.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: The most important thing is that 5000 places in various parts of the country, and large villages have been identified for establishing such centers. Funds required by them have been released. The farmers would be benefited directly from the research conducted.

SHRIMATI JAYAPARDA : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: There is not much time so please be brief.

SHRIMATI JAYAPARDA: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards Bundelkhand of Uttar Pradesh. Hon'ble Minister also spoke about it and replied in detail but the situation of Bundelkhand is....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is not related to the question. *[Translation]* Please ask relevant question.

SHRIMATI JAYAPARDA: Sir, due to draught, the condition of farmers is very bad in that area. No package has been given to them in the budget presented here. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there is any plan to give any water resources package by allowing private sector participation?

MR. SPEAKER: Please send a written reply to this question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Sugarcane Production

*382. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in production of sugarcane in the country over the years;

(b) if so, the production of sugarcane at the end of the season 2007-08 *vis-a-vis* that for the previous two years;

(c) the reasons for low production and the areas where that has been prominent;

(d) whether the Government proposes to fix a target for higher production of sugarcane in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken for the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The production of sugarcane in the country shows an increasing trend over the last five years (2003-04 to 2007-08). The sugarcane production was 233.86 million tones in 2003-04, which increased to 237.09 million tones in 2004-05, 281.17 million tones in 2005-06 and further to 355.52 million tones in 2006-07. The sugarcane production during 2007-08 is estimated at 340.32 million tones (2nd Advance Estimates released on 7th February, 2008), which is less than the production during the previous year. The decrease in production during 2007-08 is on account of less area coverage under sugarcane during 2007-08 as compared to 2006-07. Among the major producing States, lower production during 2007-08 has been reported in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

(d) and (e) During the years 2005-06 to 2007-08, sugarcane production in the country has been more than the corresponding targets. Keeping in view the demand for sugar in the country, it is not considered desirable to have higher target for sugarcane production than what is being achieved.

To increase the production and productivity of sugarcane in the country, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System (Subacs) in different States subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture since April, 2004.

[Translation]

Foodgrains Availability in Remote Areas

*384. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints regarding non-availability and non-distribution of foodgrains under Public Distribution System (PDS), Targeted Public Distribution System and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) in the remote and inaccessible areas of the country has been received during the last two years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for failure to supply adequate quantity of foodgrains to these regions during the said period; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to ensure adequate and timely distribution of foodgrains in such areas?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A few complaints have been received from individuals, organizations and through press reports about non-availability and non-distribution of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in some States. A statement containing State-wise details of complaints received during 2006, 2007 and 2008 is enclosed. Government of India has ensured adequate availability of foodgrains for all BPL and AAY families. The responsibility for ensuring further transportation and proper distribution to eligible ration card holders is of the State and UT Governments. Therefore, all the complaints have been sent to the concerned State and UT Governments for taking appropriate action.

(c) Government of India allocates foodgrains to all States and UTs as per applicable norms. These allocations of the foodgrains are issued in advance. As per existing instructions, FCI delivers the allocated foodgrains to State and UT Governments from its depots/godowns. Decentralized procurement States also lift the allocated foodgrains from the stocks maintained by them.

In some rare cases if FCI is not able to deliver the allocated quantities to State and UT Governments from the designated depots/godowns, it delivers them from the nearest depots/godowns.

For remote and inaccessible areas in States, advance allocations of foodgrains are also permitted for stocking during monsoon and winter seasons.

Statement

Complaints Received by the Department from Individual Organisation and through media reports regarding Non-Availability and Non-Distribution of TPDS Foodgrains in States/UTs during 2006, 2007 and 2008

Sl. No.	States/UT	Number of Complaints received on				Total
		Non-availability of Foodgrains		Non-distribution of foodgrains		
		2006	2006	2007	2008	
1.	Assam	1	—	—	—	1
2.	Bihar	—	—	1	—	1
3.	Delhi	—	3	6	—	9
4.	Haryana	—	1	—	—	1
5.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	1	—	1
6.	Manipur	1	—	—	—	1
7.	Orissa	—	1	—	—	1
8.	Rajasthan	—	1	—	—	1
9.	Uttar Pradesh	—	10	6	1	17
Total		2	16	14	1	33

Training to Handloom Workmen

*386. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Institute of Fashion Technology will be asked to assist in the modernisation and development of handloom industry by imparting necessary training to handloom workmen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan worked out by the Government to provide training to such workers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms introduced Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme in 2005-06 for development of 20 handloom clusters, spread in 12 States for their holistic and integrated development. The

action plan of these clusters is under implementation through the identified Implementing Agency concerned. As per the approved Action Plan, a designer has been provided to each cluster and preference is given to the designers passed from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)/National Institute of Design (NID) for development/diversification of handloom products of the clusters and developing a market linkage with buyers, both domestic and international markets.

During XI Plan period, a Scheme called "Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme" as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme has been introduced by merging the components of Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY), Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP), Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme and Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (IHCDP) with or without modifications. Under this scheme, one of the components is Design Development and Product Diversification and there is a provision to engage the designer by the Implementing Agency. As per the guidelines, the textile designer to be engaged in the cluster should have atleast 3 years of experience. He/She should be graduate from NIFT/NID. In case, the designer of the other Institution is to be engaged, he/she should be appointed with the prior approval of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms). The State Governments/Weavers' Service Centres have accordingly been requested to engage the designers in the clusters sanctioned during the year 2007-08 under the Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme.

[English]

Delay in Providing Broadband Connections

*387. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in urban areas the subscribers have to wait for a long period to avail of the broadband services being provided by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL); and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce the delay in providing broadband connections in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) There is a waiting list of 12,924 and 1,341 for broadband connections of MTNL in Mumbai and Delhi respectively as on 31-03-2008. However, in other parts of the country, broadband connections of BSNL are available on demand.

MTNL has recently added 34,000 and 30,000 capacity to its existing broadband network in Mumbai and Delhi respectively. These new additions will take care of the present backlog and fresh demands, which is likely to be generated. MTNL has further planned to add 1.66 lakh and 2.7 lakh capacity in Mumbai and Delhi respectively to its broadband network in 2008-09.

BSNL has provided 20.32 lakh broadband connections as on 31-03-2008. It has also planned for augmenting its present broadband capacity of 34.7 lakh by 14 lakh (including rural areas) to maintain on demand status.

Market Share of BSNL

*389. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL's position in wireless segment has gone down to the fourth from the second position in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there was delay in the procurement of GSM and broadband equipment which has caused this fall;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the market share of BSNL in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a)

and (b) Yes, Sir. The decline in market share of BSNL in wireless segment is due to increase in number of private players in the telecom sector which has resulted into fierce competition among different service providers. However, the total wireless connection of BSNL has increased from 3.09 crores as on 31-03-2007 to 4.07 crores as on 31-03-2008.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The equipment procurement efforts for BSNL's new mobile expansion project received a setback with one of the bidders approaching the Hon'ble High Court against the decision of BSNL rejecting their bid.

(e) The Market share of BSNL in wireless segment is 15.52% as on 29-02-2008.

[Translation]

**Minimum Daily Wages to Women
Agricultural Labourers**

*393. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH

DEO:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding minimum daily wages being paid to the women labourers in the agricultural sector;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made efforts to ensure payment of minimum daily wages to women agricultural labourers; and

(d) If so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the rates of minimum wages, notified for scheduled employments by the appropriate Governments, apply equally to male and female workers. On the basis of information available, a statement showing the rates of minimum wages to agricultural workers, State-wise, is annexed.

The enforcement of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is secured at two levels. While in the Central sphere, the enforcement is secured through the Inspecting Officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated as Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM), compliance in the State sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery. Officials conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment or under-payment of minimum wages, they advise the employers to make good the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions prescribed in the Act are resorted to.

Annexure

***Rates of Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers Fixed by Different States/Union Territory
Administrations under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948***

Sl. No.	Appropriate Governments	Category	Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers (in rupees per day)
1	2	3	4
	Central Sphere	Unskilled	117.65

1	2	3	4
		Semi-skilled	122.68
		Skilled	132.22
		Highly Skilled	143.79
States/Union Territories			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Lowest	64.00
		Highest	149.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Unskilled	55.00
		Semi-skilled	60.00
		Skilled	65.00
3.	Assam	Unskilled	76.35
		Semi-skilled	80.96
		Skilled	87.81
4.	Bihar		66.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	Unskilled	69.00
6.	Goa	Unskilled	110.00
7.	Gujarat		50.00
8.	Haryana	Unskilled	135.00
		Semi-skilled A	140.00
		Semi-skilled B	145.00
		Skilled A	150.00
		Skilled B	155.00
		Highly skilled	160.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Unskilled	75.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Unskilled	66.00
		Semi-skilled	88.00
		Skilled	147.00

1	2	3	4
11.	Jharkhand		50.06
12.	Karnataka		71.28
13.	Kerala		72.00 for light work 125.00 for hard work
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Unskilled	61.37
15.	Maharashtra		Zone-I 72.00 Zone-II 70.00 Zone-III 68.00 Zone-IV 66.00
16.	Manipur	Unskilled	72.40
		Semi-skilled	77.65
		Skilled	79.40
17.	Meghalaya	Unskilled	70.00
		Semi-skilled	75.00
		Skilled	85.00
18.	Mizoram	Un-skilled	103.00
		Semi-Skilled/Unskilled Supervisory	115.00
		Skilled Grade-II	143.00
		Skilled Grade-I	183.00
19.	Nagaland	Unskilled	66.00
		Semi-skilled	70.00
		Skilled	75.00
20.	Orissa	Unskilled	70.00
		Semi-skilled	80.00
		Skilled	90.00
		Highly skilled	100.00

1	2	3	4
21.	Punjab		100.70 (Without meal) 91.00 (With meal)
22.	Rajasthan	Unskilled	73.00
		Semi-skilled	77.00
		Skilled	81.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	For Men 6 Hour Work	80.00
		For Women 5 Hour Work	70.00
24.	Tripura		85.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh		100.00
26.	Uttarakhand		73.00
27.	West Bengal		71.13 (with meal) 74.33 (without meal)
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Andaman	
		Unskilled	130.00
		Semi-skilled	151.00
		Skilled	183.00
		Highly skilled	204.00
		Nicobar	
		Unskilled	139.00
		Semi-skilled	165.00
		Skilled	204.00
		Highly skilled	222.00
29.	Chandigarh	Un-skilled	133.46
		Semi-skilled-II	139.26
		Semi-skilled-I	143.06
		Skilled-II	150.76

1	2	3	4
		Skilled-I	159.46
		Highly skilled	174.86
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Unskilled	99.80
		Semi-skilled	106.30
		Skilled	112.80
31.	Delhi	Unskilled	140.00
		Semi-skilled	146.00
		Skilled	156.00
32	Puducherry Puducherry/Karaikal	Unskilled	54.00
		Skilled	100.90
	Yanam	Unskilled	55.00
		Skilled	68.00

Note: Haryana: Unskilled employees having 10 years experience would be deemed categorised as Semi-Skilled "A". After 3 years of experience in Semi-skilled "A" the employees would be categorised as Semi-skilled "B". After 3 years of experience in Skilled "A", the employees would be categorised as Skilled "B".

Maharashtra: Zone I shall comprise of the areas falling within the limits of all Municipal Corporations;

Zone II shall comprise of the areas falling within the limits of all "A" and "B" grade Municipal Corporations;

Zone III shall comprise of all other areas in the State, not included in Zone I and II. New line Zone IV shall comprise the areas mentioned in Jalgaon, Dhule, Nashik, Pune, Solapur, Ahmednagar, Sangli, Satara, Aurangabad, Beed, Osmanabad and Buldhana districts.

Wheat Import at Higher Price

*394. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat was imported at prices higher than its Minimum Support Price (MSP) paid to the farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the excess amount paid on imports during the last three years and in the current year;

(c) whether there is any proposal to procure wheat at the price being paid for import;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to import wheat at competitive price?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Import of wheat was done by floating global tenders at prevailing international prices which were higher than Minimum Support Price. Wheat was not

imported on Government account during the year 2005-06. 54.54 lakh MT of wheat was imported at a weighted average price of US \$ 204.66 per MT during the year 2006-07 and 17.69 lakh MT of wheat was imported at a weighted average price of US \$ 372.82 per MT during the year 2007-08.

(c) to (e) Wheat is procured at Minimum Support Price. Import of wheat is done through global tenders floated by designated Public Sector Undertakings who have the requisite expertise in international trade. The tender is published in leading newspapers as well as on the websites of these Undertakings in order to get wider participation in the tender. Further, the tender terms were streamlined to get competitive bids.

[English]

River Bank Protection Scheme

*395. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals from various States under River Bank Protection Scheme have been received during the recent past; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of proposals approved and pending with the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) There is no scheme with a name as "River Bank Protection Scheme" launched during the recent past but a state sector scheme namely, "Flood Management Programme" (FMP) (with an estimated cost of Rs. 8,000 Cr) has been approved in principle, by the Cabinet in November, 2007 for providing central assistance to the States during XI plan. Under the scheme, central assistance would be provided to the States for taking up river management, flood control, anti-erosion and drainage development works for which detailed guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Water Resources on 27th December, 2007 to all states.

A total of 315 proposals of flood management were

received from 13 States, for consideration under FMP in January 2008 which were examined as per the detailed guidelines by the Ministry of Water Resources. Out of them, a total of 239 schemes have been included for providing central assistance.

Employment and Unemployment Growth Rate

*396. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of employment and unemployment witnessed during each year of the Tenth Plan Period alongwith the target fixed for reducing unemployment in each year of the Eleventh Plan Period;

(b) the details regarding rate of unemployed among educated, uneducated skilled and unskilled rural and urban youth in the country during each year of the Tenth Plan Period, category-wise; and

(c) the scheme formulated and funds allocated for generating additional employment opportunities in order to reduce the unemployment rate in the country during the Eleventh Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial Labour force surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The last such quinquennial Survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of the NSSO on employment and unemployment, growth of employment on Current Daily Status (CDS) basis has been estimated at 2.62 per cent per annum during 1999-2000 to 2004-2005 and growth of unemployed at 5.42 per cent per annum during the same period. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) document, approved by the National Development Council, has projected that about 58 million employment opportunities on Current Daily

Status basis are likely to be generated during the Plan period and during the corresponding period the number of unemployed persons are likely to decrease from 34.74 million in 2004-05 to 23.35 million in 2011-12. Details regarding education level specific usual status basis

unemployment rate for persons of age 15-29 years during 2004-05 are given below:

Education-level specific usual status (ps+ss) unemployment rate (%) for persons of age 15-29 years during 2004-2005.

General education level	Unemployment rate			
	Rural		Urban	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Not literate	1.3	0.6	2.8	1.0
Literate and up to primary	2.5	1.7	4.6	5.1
Middle school	3.1	4.7	7.8	11.7
Secondary	6.4	13.3	9.6	22.5
Higher secondary	9.2	22.1	10.5	25.4
Diploma/certificate	15.2	32.5	17.5	24.5
Graduate and above	15.7	36.3	18.5	30.4
Secondary and above	9.1	20.8	13.3	26.7
All	3.9	4.2	8.8	14.9

Government has also been implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes of which some important ones are Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY); Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY); Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY); Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA), etc. for generating gainful employment in the country.

Setting up more Employment Exchanges

*397. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employment exchanges functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more employment exchanges in the country during the Eleventh Plan Period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) There were 965 employment exchanges functioning all over the country as on 31-12-2007. The State-wise number of employment exchanges is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The employment exchanges function

under the direct financial and administrative control of respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Setting up of new employment exchanges in the States/Union Territory Administrations is, therefore, decided by them keeping in view the local needs and resources available. The Central Government has no direct role to play in this regard.

Statement

Number of Employment Exchanges functioning State-wise as on 31-12-2007 are indicated below

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Employment Exchanges
1	2	3
(A) States		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11
3.	Assam	52
4.	Bihar	37
5.	Chattisgarh	17
6.	Delhi	14
7.	Goa	01
8.	Gujarat	44
9.	Haryana	61
10.	Himachal Pradesh	15
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	14
12.	Jharkhand	39
13.	Karnataka	37
14.	Kerala	89
15.	Madhya Pradesh	58
16.	Maharashtra	47

1	2	3
17.	Manipur	11
18.	Meghalaya	12
19.	Mizoram	03
20.	Nagaland	08
21.	Orissa	40
22.	Punjab	46
23.	Rajasthan	42
24.	Sikkim*	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	34
26.	Tripura	05
27.	Uttarakhand	24
28.	Uttar Pradesh	90
29.	West Bengal	75
(B) Union Territories		
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	01
31.	Chandigarh	02
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	01
33.	Daman and Diu	02
34.	Lakshadweep	01
35.	Puducherry	01
Total		965

* No of Employment Exchange functioned in the State.

Talent Search Scheme of DRDO

*398. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Research Development Organisation (ORDO) proposes to launch talent search scheme to attract Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in order to overcome attrition of its scientists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of NRI scientists and engineers who submitted their applications to DRDO during 2007; and

(d) the number of scientists selected by DRDO so far and the estimated number of scientists and engineers proposed to be selected under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The talent search scheme for attracting Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in DRDO already exists. Under this scheme, any NRI willing to return to the country may apply directly to Recruitment and Assessment Centre (RAC)/DRDO laboratories for his/her possible induction in DRDO. NRIs are interviewed through video conferencing and offered initially ad-hoc appointments, if their qualifications and experiences are of direct interest to DRDO. This scheme is not to overcome attrition of scientists, but to induct talent in ORDO.

(c) A total 54 number of NRI scientists/engineers submitted their applications to DRDO during 2007.

(d) Under the scheme, so far 70 scientists have been selected by the DRDO including 19 scientists in the year 2007 and the estimated number of scientists proposed to be selected are approximately 20 per year.

[Translation]

Difference in Minimum Wages

*399. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a major difference in the Minimum Wages in various States of the country at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the said difference, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the said difference and to bring parity in it; and

(d) the extent of success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is variation in fixation of minimum wages by the appropriate Governments throughout the country due to divergence in socio-economic factors, agro-climatic conditions, cost of living, productivity, paying capacity, local conditions etc. A statement showing the range of minimum wages for unskilled, workers, State-wise, is annexed.

(c) and (d) In order to reduce the disparity in minimum wages across the country, the Central Government has mooted the concept of National Floor Level Minimum Wage. It has been revised from time to time and presently stands at Rs. 80/- per day with effect from 01.09.2007. The State Governments are persuaded to fix/revise minimum wages in such a way that in none of the scheduled employments, is the minimum wage less than the National Floor Level Minimum Wage.

Further, the Government has also formed five Regional Committees of States/Union Territories in Eastern, North Eastern, Southern, Western and Northern Regions so as to meet periodically with the main objective for reducing disparity and to bring about uniformity in the fixation/revision of minimum wages for similar scheduled employments, at least at the regional level.

Statement**Range of Minimum Wages for Unskilled Workers in different States/Union Territories**

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Range of Minimum Wage for Unskilled Workers (Rs. Per day)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49.15-135.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	55.00
3.	Assam	54.80-76.35
4.	Bihar	66.00-88.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	66.70-101.00
6.	Goa	90.00-110.00
7.	Gujarat	50.00-109.90
8.	Haryana	135.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	75.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	66.00
11.	Jharkhand	50.06-76.81
12.	Karnataka	71.28-125.17
13.	Kerala	72.00-288.03
14.	Madhya Pradesh	61.37- 94.12
15.	Maharashtra	46.13-201.30
16.	Manipur	72.40
17.	Meghalaya	70.00
18.	Mizoram	103.00
19.	Nagaland	66.00-90.00
20.	Orissa	70.00

1	2	3
21.	Punjab	96.90-100.70
22.	Rajasthan	73.00-87.81
23.	Sikkim	85.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	57.94-158.70
25.	Tripura	47.15-85.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	73.31-113.70
27.	Uttarakhand	70.82-133.20
28.	West Bengal	49.81-138.04
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	130.00-161.77
30.	Chandigarh	133.46
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	99.80
32.	Daman and Diu	95.00
33.	Delhi	140.00
34.	Lakshadweep	71.90
35.	Puducherry	54.00-120.00

*[English]***Growth in Textile Sector**

*400. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Willi the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) The details regarding investment made and employment generated in the textile sector during each year of the Tenth Plara Period;

(b) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding expected growth, employment potential and investment required in the textile sector during the Eleventh Plan Period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the bottlenecks and impediments for textile exports have also been identified;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps taken by the Government thereon; and

(f) the reforms and innovative initiative proposed to be introduced in the textile sector to achieve the goals fixed?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: (a) The total plan expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Textiles during the Tenth Five Year Plan is Rs. 4475.42 crore. The year-wise details of plan expenditure are as follows:

Year	Plan Expenditure (Rs. crore)
2002-03	602.45
2003-04	638.66
2004-05	729.87
2005-06	1101.37
2006-07	1403.07
Total	4475.42

The Government does not maintain the statistics of private investment in the textile sector except for the investment induced through Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). The amount of investment made during the last 5 years under TUFS is as under:

Period	Project Cost (Rs. crore)
1	2
2002-03	1438
2003-04	3289

1	2
2004-05	7349
2005-06	15032
2006-07	48145

The total employment in textile sector in the terminal year of 10th Plan was 88.02 million against 81.95 million in the year 2001 showing a growth of 7.4%.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As per the Report of the Working Group on Textiles and Jute Industry for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) constituted by the Government, the textiles industry is projected to grow at the rate of 16 per cent per year in value terms to reach the level of US\$ 115 billion (current market size US\$ 47 billion) consisting of exports valued at US\$ 55 billion and production for the domestic market valued at US\$ 60 billion by the terminal year of the Eleventh Plan, i.e., 2012. Cloth production is expected to grow at the rate of 12 per cent in volume terms; clothing and apparel are expected to grow at the rate of 16 per cent in volume terms and 21 per cent in value terms and exports are expected to grow at the rate of 22 per cent in value terms.

With the growth in textiles production, employment in the sector is also expected to grow at the rate of 3.05 per cent per year. The employment in textiles is expected to increase from 33.17 million persons in 2006 to 45.19 million persons by 2012. The employment in allied sectors is also expected to increase from 54.85 million in 2006 to 60.20 million persons by 2012. The Working Group has estimated that the total investment requirement of the textile sector would be Rs. 150600.00 crore during the Eleventh Plan period.

(d) and (e) The bottlenecks and impediments for textile export include appreciation of the Indian rupee against the US dollar resulting in price disadvantage as compared to our competitors, slow down in demand from some of the major importers such as the US due to internal economic problems, high transaction costs, high cost of power and other infrastructural problems,

obsolete production technology, high degree of fragmentation of the industry and consequent lack of economies of scale, rigid labour laws etc.

(f) The reforms and innovative initiatives drawn-up for the growth of textile industry has identified the following thrust areas:

- Apparel and Garments;
- Fibre Availability;
- Manpower Development;
- Textile Machinery; and
- Technical Textiles.

Necessary action to implement an Action Plan has since been initiated. In addition to the ongoing schemes, the two flagship schemes, viz. Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks have been approved for continuation in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Some other new initiatives proposed by the Government include Scheme for Market Development and Product Diversification, Manpower Development Scheme—known as the "Neighbourhood Apparel and Textile Training Institutes for Job Assurance (NATIJA)", Creation of Investment Regions, Technology Mission on Technical Textiles, etc.

In the Budget 2008-09, a provision has been made for establishment of six mega-clusters in the country in handloom, powerloom and handicraft sectors to further ameliorate the problems of such industries.

[Translation]

Protection of Linguistic Rights of Telecom Subscribers

3780. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made efforts for removing linguistic and other related problems of telecom subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of telecommunication companies that made available their service provider terms and supply forms, deposit receipts etc. in regional languages included in the constitution including official language Hindi besides English;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to take any step to protect subscribers' linguistic rights; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Standard for Manufacture of Non-Stick Utensils

3781. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any standard ratio has been fixed by the Government regarding quantity of Aluminium, Nickel and Chromium to be used in manufacture of non-stick steel utensils; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has not formulated any Indian Standard in this regard.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

[English]

Free Trade of Cotton

3782. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China's refusal to allow free trade of cotton will have negative implications for Indian cotton growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and remedial steps taken thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of cotton growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the information available with the Ministry of Agriculture there is restriction on export of cotton from China, but there is no restriction on import of cotton to China. The value of the export of raw cotton including waste from India to China during the period April-December, 2007 increased by about 36% over the corresponding period of 2006.

(c) Government is implementing a Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) which consists of four Mini Missions.

Mini Mission-I deals with research and development of improved cotton production and crop protection technology and is being implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Mini Mission-II deals with the developmental programmes for increasing production and productivity of the cotton and is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Under this Mini Mission, assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds of varieties/hybrids not older than 15 years, transfer of technology mainly through demonstrations, training of farmers and extension workers, plant protection measures including IPM demonstrations, supply of sprayers, pheromone traps, bio agents as well as water saving devices like sprinklers and drip irrigation system etc.

The Mini Mission-III focuses on the development of marketing infrastructure by undertaking activities like construction of marketing yards, auction centers, grading

facilities, laboratories for testing of cotton qualities etc. The upgradation and modernization of ginning and pressing factories to improve quality of cotton is under taken under Mini Mission-IV. The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, implements Mission-III and IV with the main aim to improve the quality of cotton.

[Translation]

Irregularity in Post Office

3783. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have been noticed in the Shahdol R.S. post office in Shahdol Postal Division in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether financial loss is also incurred due to irregularities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any enquiry has been conducted to identify the reasons for such irregularities;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof;

(g) whether any policy has been formulated for transfer of Gramin Dak Sevaks in the country; and

(h) if so, the facilities provided to Gramin Dak Sevaks and the procedure followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) A case pertaining to misappropriation of government money by Sub Postmaster (SPM), Shahdol R.S. Post Office (PO) in Shahdol Postal Division has come to notice. The SPM, Shri SL Rohini committed the fraud by way of non-accounting the amount tendered by the public for deposit in their accounts under various savings schemes. The SPM has also fraudulently

withdrawn money from various savings accounts/instruments by forging signatures of depositors/investors. Fraud to the tune of Rs. 50,25,454/- has been established against which a recovery of Rs. 3,06,020/- has been made. The fraud could not be detected immediately on its occurrence due to lapses in supervision by the officials of Shahdol Head Post Office and the inspectorial staff also failed to perform their duties as prescribed in different manuals. In addition to SPM, 36 other officials have also been found guilty for various lapses during inquiry and disciplinary action against them is under process. Principal offender, Shri SL Rohini, SPM has been placed under suspension on 09.05.2006 afternoon and is absconding.

(g) and (h) As per extant Gramin Dak Sevak (GDS) (Conduct and Employment) Rules, 2001, a GDS shall not be eligible for transfer in any case from one post/unit to another post/unit except in public interest. Public interest has also been defined. A GDS posted at a distant place on redeployment, a GDS appointed on compassionate grounds, a woman GDS on her marriage/remarriage and a GDS suffering from serious illness or having a physically/mentally challenged member of family dependent on him/her, can be

considered for transfer from one post/unit to another.

(English)

Export of Cotton

3784. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achieved regarding quantum and value, of different varieties of cotton, cotton materials and cotton clothes exported during each year of the Tenth Plan Period and thereafter, till date, variety-wise; and country-wise; and

(b) the targets fixed, for export of cotton during the years 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No target is fixed for export of raw cotton. Variety wise export details on raw cotton including waste, cotton yarn, fabrics and made-up and ready made garment of cotton are not available. The target fixed and achieved for export of Cotton Raw incl. Waste, Cotton Yarn, Fabrics and Madeups and Accessories during tenth plan period (2002-2007) is as under:—

Textiles	(Value in Rs. crore)											
	(Target in million US\$)											
	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target
Cotton Raw Incl. Waste	50.28	—	942.37	—	422.58	—	2904.35	—	6101.84	—	3881.52	—
Cotton Yarn, Fabrics Madeups	18217.49	4250	15599.87	4775	15501.85	6000	17484.92	4200	18717.70	8000	13640.93	8350
Ready Made Garments of cotton and accessories	21510.00	8000	22009.11	8250	22863.09	4200	29015.48	8450	30554.21	9500	20951.23	12085

Country-wise details of exports of raw cotton are given in the enclosed Statement.

Cotton Advisory Board has estimated cotton export at 65 lakh bales (170 kg. each) during the cotton year 2007-08 (Oct.-Sept.).

(b) No target is fixed for export of cotton. However,

Statement

Commodity: Cotton Raw Including Waste—Unit: Ton

Sl.No.	Country	April-March 2003	April-March 2004	April-March 2005	April-March 2006	April-March 2007
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Algeria	—	—	—	—	—
	Angola	0.03	—	—	—	—
	Australia	0.01	0.03	—	0.06	0.02
	Baharain IS	—	—	—	—	0.25
	Bangladesh PR	0.18	42.76	—	44.66	39.46
	Belgium	1.49	0.16	—	0.75	2.55
	Bosnia-Harzgovin	—	—	—	—	0.20
	Cambodia	—	—	—	1.92	0.80
	Canada	0.05	—	—	0.10	1.11
	Chad	—	—	—	0.00	0.20
	Chile	—	—	—	0.07	29.64
	Taiwan	0.03	13.94	—	23.72	32.81
	China PRP	0.28	28.07	—	388.05	552.42
	Colombia	—	0.02	—	—	—
	Czech Republic	—	0.02	—	0.04	—
	Djibouti	—	—	—	0.02	—
	Domnic Rep.	—	—	—	0.02	—
	Egypt A RP	0.03	0.93	—	0.02	0.02
	Fuji IS	—	0.01	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	France	0.20	0.19	—	0.41	0.10
	Germany	0.08	0.23	—	0.94	2.03
	Guam	—	—	—	—	0.02
	Guatemala	—	—	—	0.11	—
	Greece	—	0.02	—	—	0.01
	Honduras	—	—	—	—	0.20
	Hong Kong	—	1.17	—	17.51	46.49
	Hungry	—	0.01	—	—	—
	Indonesia	0.29	14.27	—	26.88	59.87
	Israel	—	0.02	—	0.04	—
	Italy	—	1.69	—	0.19	2.71
	Jamaica	—	—	—	—	0.20
	Japan	5.51	3.78	—	4.28	4.41
	Korea DP RP	—	0.63	—	0.05	0.07
	Korea RP	0.88	8.39	—	4.15	8.29
	Kenya	—	—	—	0.01	—
	Kuwait	—	—	—	—	—
	Latvia	—	—	—	—	0.10
	Lithuania	—	—	—	0.06	—
	Madagascar	—	0.02	—	—	—
	Malaysia	1.12	0.43	—	1.50	5.34
	Maldives	—	—	—	0.01	—
	Mali	—	—	—	—	0.62
	Mauritius	—	4.93	—	9.66	-4.87
	Morocco	—	0.04	—	—	—
	Moldova	—	—	—	—	0.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Nepal	0.69	1.40	—	2.28	1.18
	Netherlands	—	—	—	0.08	0.46
	Nigeria	—	1.36	—	—	—
	Philippines	—	1.22	—	0.99	1.10
	Pakistan IR	—	40.49	—	39.41	172.87
	Poland	—	—	—	0.02	0.02
	Portugal	0.23	0.57	—	0.03	1.27
	Qatar	—	—	—	—	1.15
	Russia	—	—	—	0.02	—
	Saudi Arab	—	—	—	0.12	0.12
	Singapore	—	0.50	—	0.26	1.95
	Slovenia	—	0.01	—	—	—
	South Africa	—	0.11	—	0.16	0.22
	Spain	0.04	0.02	—	0.18	0.21
	Sri Lanka DSR	0.19	0.09	—	0.17	0.08
	St. Helena	—	—	—	—	0.20
	Suriname	—	—	—	—	0.60
	Sweden	—	—	—	—	0.83
	Switzerland	0.05	0.04	—	0.21	0.00
	Tanzania Rep.	—	0.01	—	—	—
	Thailand	0.07	7.15	—	21.26	61.13
	Tunisia	—	0.01	—	0.04	0.10
	Turkey	0.04	0.38	—	4.63	79.09
	Uganda	—	0.02	—	—	—
	United Arab Emirates	—	1.27	—	0.70	0.91
	U.K.	0.19	0.16	—	0.01	0.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	U.S.A.	0.08	0.03	—	0.09	1.72
	Vietnam Soc. Rep.	—	2.69	—	18.96	43.19
	Virgin US	—	—	—	—	0.23
	Unspecified		0.14	—	—	1.01
	Total	11.75	179.61	—	614.81	1,165.06

Fraud and Illegal Transfer of Money and Documents

3785. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of fraud and illegal transfer of money and other documents including passports detected by Foreign Post Offices in different States during each of the last three years;

(b) the action taken and penalties imposed on defaulters by the Government;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide scanning machines at each of the Foreign Post Offices to thoroughly check all dak/parcels going out or coming into the country and take other measures to check the practice of people travelling abroad on fake passport documents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Nil.

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

(c) At present there is no such proposal to provide scanning machines at each of the Foreign Post Offices.

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

Government Agencies in Broadcasting

3786. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is concerned over the moves by several political parties, State Governments and other entities to foray into broadcasting space/cable TV business in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has ventured into distribution of cable TV and floated a State-owned multi-system operation unit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether TRAI has held that the broadcast space sector should purely be the domain of private telecom operators; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Government has requested Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to submit its recommendations on the issue. As required under the TRAI Act, the issue has been put in public domain by way of a Consultation Paper by TRAI.

(b) and (c) In Tamil Nadu, a Public Sector unit

M/s Arasu Cable TV Corporation has registered itself as a Cable Operator for working as Multi-System Operator to provide cable services.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Military Schools

3787. SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Military Schools recognised by his Ministry;

(b) the number of Military Schools not receiving grant and the conditions on which they have been granted recognition;

(c) the quantum of grant provided to the schools for their expenses and salaries and whether full salaries are paid to the staff, officials and teaching staff employed in Military Schools;

(d) whether there are any rules for hostels and food arrangement in the Military Schools; and

(e) if so, the authority/person responsible for checking them and the provision for redressal in case of objectionable report against them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) There are five Rashtriya Military Schools (earlier known as Military Schools) under the Ministry of Defence located at Ajmer and Dholpur (Rajasthan), Bangalore and Belgaum (Karnataka) and Chail (Himachal Pradesh). These schools are fully funded by the Ministry of Defence. Apart from that, the Ministry does not have any scheme/programme for recognising or providing grants-in-aid to any other Military School.

(c) The pay and allowances of officers and staff of the five Rashtriya Military Schools stated above are paid out of the Defence budget. In addition, the following grants are allotted to each school every year for day to day functioning:

(i) Incidental and Miscellaneous — Rs. 20 lakhs (I and M) Grant

(ii) Annual Training Grant (ATG) — Rs. 2.75 lakhs

(iii) Annual Library Grant (ALG) — Rs. 11.96 lakhs

(iv) Information Technology (IT) — Rs. 1.39 lakhs. Grant

(d) There are comprehensive Army orders and instructions on the running of hostels and provisioning of messing facilities in hostels.

(e) The Principal of the school is responsible for the administration of the hostels. The Principal functions under the overall supervision and control of the Local Board of Administration (LBA), which is chaired by the Commander. of the Sub Area in which the school is located.

[English]

F.A.O. Report on Bird Flu

3788. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has warned the Indian Government that the dreaded bird flu could resurface again;

(b) if so, the reasons given by the F.A.O.; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No such official communication has been received from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

However, all the necessary steps has been taken in time to prevent the re-occurrence of bird flu in the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Effect of Chinese Exports on Sericulture Sector

3789. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese exports are likely to bring down the prices of raw silk affecting India's sericulture sector;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. During the year 2001-02 there was dumping of cheap Chinese raw silk in the Indian domestic markets. The imported Chinese silk was sold at inexplicably low prices. This severely affected the Indian sericulture industry. During 2001-02 the import of raw silk rose to around 6000 MT from 3800 MT during the previous year. The jump in the imports in quantitative terms was around 65% while the prices declined from 24 US \$ to 13.00 US \$ per kilogram during the same period. During the year 2001-02 the Indian cocoon and raw silk prices crashed from Rs. 150 and 1500 per kilogram. to Rs. 70/90 and Rs. 800/900 per kilogram.

(c) **Steps taken by the Government against dumping of cheap silk by China:**

Central Silk Board (CSB) in association with the reelers Associations of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and the state Governments of the above states have filed a case with the Director General of Antidumping and Allied Duties (DGAD), Ministry of Commerce, GOI on 8th July 2002 against dumping of Chinese raw silk into India. After investigations and final findings the DGAD has issued an order on 4th July, 2003 imposing antidumping duty on the raw silk

imported from China PR. This imposition of antidumping duty has brought certain stability in the Indian silk market. The antidumping duty so imposed was in force till Jan' 2008. The sunset review application can be filed by the domestic industry before six months of its expiry for continuation of the duty imposed. The Designated Authority (PGAD) can review the need for the continued imposition of the anti-dumping duty. Such sunset review is done on the basis of request received from an interested party/domestic industry.

Accordingly, CSB in association with various silk Reelers Associations and the State Governments has filed Review Petition during August, 2007 providing all the required documents/evidences for continuation of antidumping duty on Raw silk. The DGAD has considered the request of the domestic Industry for Sunset Review by issuing an Initiation Notification on 14th December 2007. Subsequent to the Issue of the above Gazette Notification, the Customs Authorities in their Notification No. 01/2008-Customs, dated 1st January, 2008 have extended antidumping duty on Chinese raw silk of 2A Grade and below and, the duty imposed will be in force upto and inclusive of 1st January, 2009 pending the final findings.

Software Technology Parks

3790. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) have demanded extension of advantages for units in Software Technology Parks of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has considered the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The

request of National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) to extend the tax benefits under section 10A of the Income-tax Act beyond 31-3-2009 was considered by the Government during the budgetary exercise and was not found to be acceptable.

NASSCOM has subsequently reiterated its request for extension of the tax benefits. As the matter is being examined, it would not be feasible to indicate the precise time by which any decision may be taken.

Difficulties in Getting Telephone Connections

3791. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether people are facing difficulty in getting telephone connections in rural districts and PCO connections at the Panchayat level in the country especially in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether irregularities are being committed in providing quality telephone instruments at the time of issuing new connections;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some difficulties are faced in providing telephone connections (including PCO connections) in rural areas. Presumably "PCO connections at Panchayat Level" referred to in the question refers to the Village Public Telephone (VPT). The provisioning of Village Public Telephone facility in the villages is being done as per the directions of USOF, DOT. Accordingly work was awarded to BSNL in November 2004, by USOF, to

provide Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility in 66,822 accessible, undisputed and undisturbed Villages inhabited with population more than 100 as per census 1991 in the country. Out of these, 53,073 villages have already been provided with Village Public Telephone facility upto 29-2-2008. Remaining villages are to be provided with VPT facility progressively as per the terms and condition of the agreement. In Rajasthan State, 12,386 villages were awarded by USOF for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPT), out of which 11,083 villages have been covered up to 29-2-2008.

The following difficulties are usually faced in providing telephone connections in rural areas:—

- (i) Non availability of cable pair in some cases especially in remote, hilly and thinly populated areas.
- (ii) Non availability of WLL signals in particular area.
- (iii) Disturbed law and order situation.
- (iv) Damage to primary cable mainly by highway authority at the time of digging for road widening affecting provision of new connections.

The following corrective measures are taken to provide the connection in rural areas:—

- (i) The underground cable is laid to make the area feasible.
- (ii) In hilly areas where laying of underground cable is not feasible, overhead lines are erected.
- (iii) BTSs are installed to make the area feasible on WLL.

(c) and (d) Telephone sets, in case of new telephone connections as well as VPTs, are being provided after inspection by the quality and assurance wing of BSNL. However, pca machines are not being provided by BSNL in case of PCO connections.

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

[Translation]

**Relaxation in Criteria for Backward
States under AIBP**

3792. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to amend the norms of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) to help the backward States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government is likely to ensure that Madhya Pradesh is not discriminated against in comparison with hilly States in terms of the norms fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) At present, there is no proposal to amend the guidelines of Accelerated Irrigation. Benefits Programme (AIBP).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposals received from States for assistance under AIBP are processed strictly as per the approved guidelines for AIBP.

[English]

**National Consumer Protection
Court Authority**

3793. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to create a simple, inexpensive and quicker consumer justice delivery system called National Consumer Protection Court Authority has since been finalized; and

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof alongwith the jurisdiction of the proposed Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A proposal to set up a National Consumer Protection Authority is at a nascent stage. The same has not been finalized so far by the Department of Consumer Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice.

**Publicity and Extension
Work in Agriculture**

3794. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for publicity and extension work of Agriculture Ministry in the Eleventh Plan Period;

(b) the amount of funds proposed to be used in the North Eastern Region, year-wise; and

(c) the amount of funds proposed to be used for electronic media and print media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The allocation of funds in respect of the publicity and extension work in Ministry of Agriculture for eleventh Plan period is yet to be decided. However, the scheme-wise allocations decided so far for publicity and extension work during 2007-08 and 2008-09 is given below:—

Scheme	Allocations (Rs. in crore)	
	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3
Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms	230.00	298.00

1	2	3
Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension	84.00	87.00
Establishment of Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business Centres	22.00	10.00
Extension Support to Central Institutions	8.75	7.23
National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	25.98	50.00
National Bamboo Mission	0.21	—
Publicity and Public Relation Scheme of ICAR	1.50	0.85

(b) Ten per cent of the total allocations are proposed to be used in North-Eastern Regions. However, allocation shown under Bamboo Mission pertains exclusively for North-Eastern region.

(c) The allocations under the Scheme, "Mass Media Support to Agricultural Extension" are utilized for producing and broadcasting agricultural programmes on various FM Stations of All India Radio and National/Regional Kendras & Narrow Casting Centres of Doordarshan. Fifty per cent of the allocations under publicity and public relations scheme of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) proposed to be used for electronic and print media. The Scheme 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms' also provides earmarked allocations of Rs. 0.40 lakh per block and Rs.1.00 lakh per district respectively for print and electronic mode of information dissemination. The funds earmarked for publicity and extension under NFSM are proposed to be utilized both for electronic and print media.

[Translation]

Application for Pre-Paid SIM Cards

3795. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for buying Pre-paid SIM Cards of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the country especially in Jharkhand at present, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the time by which SIM Cards are likely to be made available to the Applicants;

(c) the reasons for not issuing the SIM Cards to them till now; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for making SIM Cards available on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Sir, there are no applications pending for buying pre-paid SIM cards of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the country. Pre-Paid SIM cards are available on demand in all circles of BSNL including Jharkhand.

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

Telecom Services in Remote Areas

3796. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL and MTNL have entered into an agreement with the Department of Posts in order to provide telecom services to the subscribers in far-flung areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Sir, an MoU was signed between BSNL and Department of Posts on 3rd December 2002 for launching Gramin Sanchar Sewak Scheme (GSS) on experimental basis throughout the country except in Andaman and Nicobar, Haryana and Punjab Telecom circles. Under the scheme, telephone facility was provided to remote villages through GSSs who carry fixed wireless terminals (FWT) with display unit in a carry bag and visit door to door to provide facility to the rural population in his routine beat. Presently, 11,887 villages are being covered by 2,686 GSSs throughout the country.

MTNL have not signed any agreement with Department of Posts for providing telecom services to the subscribers of far-flung areas. However, MTNL Delhi unit and Department of Posts have signed MoU alongwith an agreement for delivery of telephone bills and MTNL Mumbai unit is utilizing Bill Mail service from Department of Posts. Department of Posts has permitted Bill Mail service for MTNL Telephone Bill in Mumbai for a period of one month (April 2008).

[English]

Setting up of Soil Testing Centre in Orissa

3797. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the soil in Orissa is gradually losing its quality thereby affecting higher production of rice and other foodgrains;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a soil testing centre in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government has reported problem of soil acidity in high rainfall areas, which does not hamper much the production of rice but affects the production of pulses and oilseeds.

(b) The Central Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) by advocating soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary nutrients and micronutrients in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers. The Government is also educating farmers through training and field demonstrations on balanced use of fertilizers for improving soil fertility. The State Government, on its part, is encouraging use of Gypsum, a soil conditioner rich in calcium, sulphur and other micro nutrients, and Paper Mill Sludge for soil amelioration.

(c) and (d) There are at present 11 Soil Testing Laboratories in Orissa. The State Government has proposed to set up four soil testing laboratories.

[Translation]

Waiving of Loans

3798. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loans outstanding against the farmers of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether steps have been taken to waive the loans of such farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the total amount of loan outstanding against the farmers of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Purpose	2004-05 as on 31.3.05	2005-06 as on 31.3.06	2006-07 as on 31.3.07	2007 -08 as on 30.9.07
Crop Loan	12655.00	14758.00	16852.00	18295.00
Agri Term Loan	9030.00	10690.00	15010.00	19460.00
Total	21685	25448.00	31862.00	37755.00

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers has been announced by the Government in the Union Budget for 2008-09. Under the Scheme, all direct agricultural loans disbursed to farmers by scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Credit Institutions up to March 31, 2007 and overdue as on December 31, 2007 will be covered. For marginal farmers (i.e. holding upto 1 hectare) and small farmers (1-2 hectare), there will be a complete waiver of all loans that were overdue on December 31, 2007 and which remained unpaid until February 29, 2008. In respect of other farmers, there will be a one time settlement (OTS) scheme for all loans that were overdue on December 31, 2007 and which remained unpaid until February 29, 2008. Under the OTS, a rebate of 25 per cent will be given against payment of the balance of 75 per cent.

Demand of Foodgrains

3799. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding demand of foodgrains in the country, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra and Punjab; and

(b) the details of assistance provided to farmers by the Government to increase production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The demand of foodgrains in the country for 2007-08 is estimated at 214.03 million tonnes and the demand by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan, i.e., by 2011-12 is estimated at 234.26 million tonnes. State-wise details are not available.

(b) Government has launched the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from Rabi 2007-08 to increase the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes in the country by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan through area expansion, productivity enhancement, restoring soil fertility, creating employment opportunity and enhancing farm level economy to restore confidence of farmers of targeted districts with a total Plan outlay of Rs. 4882.48 crore.

Government has also increased the Minimum Support Prices of rice, wheat and pulses for the agriculture year 2007-08 to provide remunerative prices to farmers and increase the production of these crops.

[English]

Central Assistance to Combat Drought Situation in Assam

3800. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various parts of the Assam which was

hit by devastating floods during last year, have been hit by drought or unusually low rains during current year;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the proposals submitted by the State Government of Assam for seeking central assistance to provide relief to farmers including fish farmers and extent of amount sought; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As reported by India Meteorological Department (IMD), during South-West Monsoon 2007 (1-6-2007 to 30-9-2007), Assam received 1494.1 mm of rainfall against normal average rainfall of 1434.1 mm. According to IMD's report, no Meteorological district in the State received deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2007.

During 2007-08, the Government of Assam neither reported any drought/drought-like situation in any part of the State nor submitted any memorandum for assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for drought relief.

Database of Mobile and Fixed Line Calls

3801. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to create a massive database of mobile and fixed line calls in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new database would be made available to the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI. JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Sir, the Government proposes to set up a Centre

for Communication Security Research and Monitoring, and intends to keep a copy of selected Call Data Records (CDRs) in the Centre for its use. Complete CDRs are already being maintained at present by the respective Telecom Service Providers for a period of one year, as per licence conditions.

(b) The Centre will provide mandatory access to Law Enforcement Agencies for intercepting, monitoring and analyzing the activities of required customers/users and their social networking both proactively online, and through post analysis of information like CDRs.

(c) Such database is not proposed to be made available to the subscribers.

Base Depots in Andhra Pradesh

3802. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing number of base depots of Food Corporation of India in Andhra Pradesh for the supply of foodgrains under Public Distribution System is adequate; and

(b) if not, the location identified for setting up of the new base depots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. At present 138 FCI base depots are in operation in Andhra Pradesh which are adequate for supply of foodgrains under Public Distribution System.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Delay in Money Order Service

3803. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the delivery of money orders by Branch Post Offices located in Bihar and Eastern Regions takes months consequently people are not interested in sending their money through money orders as number of money orders has declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Some delay in payment of money orders in this region is due to inadequate transport facility affecting the transmission of money orders in rural areas. Most of the areas in this region being heavy payment areas, the payment sometimes exceeds permissible cash limit of rural post offices. Sometimes the heavy payments are seasonal and at other times clustered around the period of the month when labour etc. receive their wages, causing delay in payment. Decline in Money Order traffic is also due to alternative remittance options becoming available to the customers.

(c) The Department has issued instructions to facilitate payment of money orders like increasing limit of cash handled by postmen, also constant monitoring of delay in payment of money orders at all levels which has brought down the complaint traffic ratio from 0.42% in 2004-05 to 0.21% in 2006-07.

[English]

Abolition of Child Labour

3804. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any time bound programme for abolition of child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any financial assistance from the World Bank, International Labour Organisation and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for abolition of child labour; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent to which these financial assistance are likely to be helpful in achieving the goal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government does not propose any fixed target date or time bound programme to abolish Child Labour since this problem emanates from other issues such as poverty and it is not possible to fix a specific period for its complete abolition. However, the Government is already implementing the National Child Labour Project Scheme for the elimination of child labour in 250 districts of 20 States of the country. Under the Scheme, children working in identified hazardous occupations and process are withdrawn from work and put in Special Schools where they are provided with accelerated education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and healthcare facilities etc., before they are mainstreamed into regular education system.

(c) and (d) The ILO has supported child labour elimination efforts in the country through the IPEC (International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour). However, the contribution of the ILO in terms of financial aid is not very high in comparison to Government of India allocation. The UNICEF also similarly contributes a very small amount for specific programmes of elimination of child labour. While these financial inputs have been helpful, it is the Government of India funding which is the primary source for combating child labour in the country.

Livestock Productivity

3805. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the productivity of livestock sector in terms of milk, meat, wool and eggs is the lowest in the world; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the steps being taken to increase the productivity of livestock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sectors Schemes are implemented to enhance to the productivity of livestock in terms of milk, egg, meat and wool. These inter-alia, include (i) Intensive Dairy Development Programme, (ii) Central Poultry Development Organizations to maintain and propagate Stock with better productivity (iii) Assistance to State Poultry/Duck Farms. (iv) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding. (v) Integrated Wool Improvement and Development Programme (vi) Quality Processing of Wool and Woolen Products. (vii) National Livestock Disease Control Programme. (viii) Piggery Development and (ix) Project for Feed and Fodder.

Production of Brown Rice

3806. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of brown rice produced during the last three years in comparison to white rice; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote production of brown rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Variety-wise rice production estimates are not maintained. However, total rice production in the country was 83.13 million tonnes during 2004-05, 91.79 million tonnes during 2005-06, and 93.35 million tonnes during 2006-07.

The Government has launched the National Food Security Mission from Rabi 2007-08, which inter-alia, aims to increase the production of rice (including brown

rice) in the country by 10 million tonnes by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan, i.e., by 2011-12.

Restructuring of Postal Department

3807. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to restructure the Postal Department; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) while there is no concrete proposal for restructuring of the Department of Posts as of now, a study on 'Repositioning of Postal Services in the future' has been undertaken which, inter-alia, will include aspects of structural change.

Facilities/Concessions to Handloom Industry/Weavers

3808. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities, and concessions being provided to the Handloom industry and weavers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the above facilities and concessions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILE (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) At present, Government of India is implementing Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme for the development of the Handloom Industry and welfare of the handloom weavers of the country including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of Officers in Armed Forces

3809. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of candidates aspiring for a career in Armed Forces fail in recruitment competitions due to poor knowledge of English and Mathematics;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to launch a special drive for recruitment by permitting candidates who are otherwise eligible but lack knowledge of either English or Mathematics to join the Armed Force;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other step proposed to be taken to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to launch a special recruitment drive for recruitment by permitting candidates who lack knowledge of either English or Mathematics as shortfall in the recruitment process cannot be attributed to these factors. Knowledge of English and Mathematics is not the sole criterion for selection of the officers in the Armed Forces. On the other hand, a good number of candidates pass through the written part of the examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, many fail to make the grade at the stage of Service Selection Board (SSB) interviews, which is mandatory for selection of officers, as they are not able to meet the requisite selection and medical criterion.

The shortfall in recruitment of officers in the Defence Services are largely due to change in the socio-economic environment and the resultant changes in career preferences, better employment opportunities in other sectors, service conditions required for the Defence Forces etc.

To address the problem of shortages of officers, the Armed Forces have undertaken sustained image projection and publicity campaign to create awareness among the youth on the advantages of taking up a challenging and satisfying career. Candidate-friendly recruitment procedures to attract more number of candidates and a focused publicity drive in various institutions to attract potential candidates have been undertaken. Awareness campaigns, participation in career fairs and exhibitions, advertisements in print and electronic media, counselling and motivational talks in schools, colleges and NCC camps are also some of the other measures in this direction. In addition, the commitment and bravery of the Armed Forces is consistently projected through the electronic and print media.

Several steps have been taken by the three Services to attract talented youth to join the Defence Forces. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) have been made eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel, after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively. In addition to the above, 750 posts of Lieutenant Colonels have been upgraded to Colonel's rank. The tenure SSC officers has also been extended from 10 years to 14 years.

Private Participation in Foodgrains Storage

3810. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed participation of private parties in storage of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether the Godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI) were hired out to private parties for storage of foodgrains;

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

(d) whether the said move has led to precarious food security situation in the country;

(e) if so, whether the Government has received

representations from some States for revival of earlier system of storage and management of foodgrains by the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the National Policy for development and operation of bulk foodgrain handling, storage and transport facilities on BOO basis, approved by the Govt. of India, a capacity of 5.5 lakh MTs is being created by M/s Adani Agri Logistics Ltd. as under:

(figure in lakh MTs)

Circuit-I

Base Depot-Moga (Pb.)	2.00
(i) Chennai (TN)	0.25
(ii) Coimbatore (TN)	0.25
(iii) Bangalore (KTK)	0.25

Circuit-II

Base Depot-Kaithal (Hr.)	2.00
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Field Depots

(i) Navi Mumbai (Mah.)	0.50
(ii) Hooghly (WB)	0.25

Both the Base Depots at Moga and Kaithal are under operation since May 2007.

FCI does not allow private parties for storage of foodgrains in its godown. However, wherever necessary, FCI is taking private godowns on rent to accommodate the stocks.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The FCI after thorough examination of its capacity has hired out the surplus

storage space to government agencies/private parties. The year wise earning from renting out of surplus capacity is as under:

2005-06	Rs. 6.34 crore
2006-07	Rs. 15.15 crores
2007-08 (upto Feb. 08)	Rs. 11.02 crores (Prov.)

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Committee on Spectrum
Related Issue**

3811. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy regarding the issue of Spectrum in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new companies in the telecom sector have applied for launching GSM Services in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the companies which have applied for said services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The initial spectrum is allotted to the mobile telecom services in accordance with the relevant provisions of Unified Access Service License (VASL), subject to availability of spectrum. With growth of service and increased subscriber base, additional spectrum is allotted subject to availability as per eligibility criteria which is based on the number of active subscribers, peak traffic of the operator's network, demographic features of the service area. These criteria are reviewed

from time to time taking into account relevant factors and technological developments.

(c) and (d) Recently, Government has issued 126 Letter of Intents (LOIs) for grant of UAS Licence(s) to 17 operators who have applied upto 25-09-2007, out of which 120 UAS Licence have been awarded to 16 operators. Out of this 14, operators have applied for initial GSM spectrum as per provisions of their Service Licence Agreements.

[English]

Translation Support System under TDILs Programme

3812. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made about the translation support system under Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) programme as Konkani language in the country;

(b) the number of proposal sent by the Goa University regarding on-going project about Machine Translation, Universal Networking Language and Wordnet under TDILs programme;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to expedite this project in Konkani; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The first stage of development of Machine Translation system is the development of Text Corpora in that language. Konkani corpora of was developed under the TDIL programme. Under the "Universal Digital Library project implemented at Goa University. 4.35 Lakhs. pages of rare books have been digitized.

(b) to (d) Machine Translation is a very complex technology. A pilot version is being developed for English-Hindi and few other language pairs. Once the

performance of these systems is evaluated, development of machine translation system is proposed to be initiated for other language pairs. Universal Networking Language (UNL) UNL is developed, managed by the UNDL Foundation, an international non-profit organization dependent from the United Nations University/Institute for Advanced Studies.

Preliminary level work was done on the following under project "Indian Language Technology Solution Resource Centres" project implemented at IIT, Bombay:

- Rules for Konkani Morphology Analysis
- Morphology analyser basics worked out
- English Konkani dictionary building
- Konkani wordnet starting from the Marathi wordnet
- A team of students from Goa University visited IIT Bombay to understand the creation of wordnet as well possible machine translation based on the Universal Networking Language (UNL) approach.

Setting up of Internet Exchange

3813. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:

DR. V ALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal to establish Internet Exchange in the country especially in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the proposal;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has proposed to establish Internet Exchange in the year 2003;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has received letter from the States of Gujarat, Punjab and Rajasthan to establish Internet Exchanges. Presently Internet Exchanges are operational at Delhi (Noida), Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bangalore.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Location for establishment of Internet Exchange at Ahmedabad has been fixed up at Gujarat Narmada Fertilizers Corporation (GNFC), Info Tower. The setting up of equipments is in progress.

WTO Agreement on Indian Farmers

3814. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian farmers are reeling under economic recession after the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreement;

(b) if so, whether Indian farmers are not getting even remunerative prices of their produce after the WTO agreement;

(c) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The growth rate of agricultural GDP was below targeted level during the IX and X plan periods. The wholesale prices of a number of agricultural commodities on the basis of average of weeks in a year have by and large shown an increasing trend since 1994-95. The Minimum Support Prices of major crops have recently shown an increasing trend.

(c) and (d) Government of India has not conducted any survey on the specific issue of remunerative prices for farmers after the WTO agreement. However, a study by IIM, Ahmedabad on the impact of WTO agreement on Agriculture was commissioned by Government. The report submitted by IIM, Ahmedabad in 1999 for the study inter-alia, observes that the ex-post-gains accruing to Indian agriculture so far seem to be very little since developed countries have used various escape routes in the WTO agreements to minimize their reform commitments and India will have to concentrate on non-price factors to improve welfare in the agricultural sector.

[Translation]

Zero Rental Plan by Mobile Operators

3815. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has paid attention towards the advertisements like Zero rental i.e. no monthly rent given by the mobile operators to lure the subscribers;

(b) if so, whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has taken any steps to stop such advertisements under the name of "Zero Rental Plan" and to instruct the mobile operators to give complete information about monthly, fixed or club membership tariff including other monthly rent under one head; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA):

(a) to (c) There is no bar in offering tariff plans such as Zero Rental provided that there is no fixed monthly charges applicable in such plans. In order to protect the interest of consumer and to enhance transparency in the provision of service, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued direction to the Telecom Operators on 16th September, 2005 that

- (i) No tariff plan shall be offered, presented, marketed or advertised in a manner that is likely to mislead the subscribers. For example, title of a tariff plan which suggests absence of Rental would be misleading if the plan has Monthly Mandatory Fixed charge in one form or other.
- (ii) All monthly fixed recurring charges which are compulsory for a subscriber under any given plan shall be shown under one head. This should also include charges for Value Added Services, if such Value Added Services are not optional for the subscriber.

Middlemen in Defence Deals

3816. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government in regard to the role of middlemen in defence deals;

(b) the information available about the role of middlemen in various defence deals taking place presently alongwith the details of the defence deals;

(c) whether the Government proposes to evolve a National consensus to decide as to whether the middlemen should play any role in defence deals or not; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove completely any possible role of middlemen in defence deals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) On the basis of Ministry of

Finance's instructions issued on 31st January, 1989 relating to Indian Agents of foreign suppliers for all the Ministries/Departments under the Government of India, supplementary instructions were issued by the Ministry of Defence in April, 1989 and in November, 2001 to regulate authorized Indian representatives/agents of foreign suppliers. The instructions provide for the regulation of representational arrangements through a system of registration, categorical and open declaration by the foreign suppliers of the services to be rendered by their authorized representatives/agents and the remuneration payable to them by way of fees, commission or any other method. So far no authorized Indian representatives/agent has been registered by the Ministry of Defence in terms of these instructions.

Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2006 and Defence Procurement Manual (DPM 2006) under implementation with effect from 1st September 2006, provide for direct dealing with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or Authorised Vendors or Government sponsored Export Agencies (applicable in case of countries where domestic laws do not permit direct export by OEMs). Further, the procedures inter-alia incorporate provisions for penalties being imposed if any seller engages any individual or firm, whether Indian or foreign whatsoever, to intercede, facilitate or in any way recommend to the Government of India or any of its functionaries, whether officially or unofficially, to the award of the contract to the Seller.

[English]

CBI Investigation In Defence Deals

3817. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has completed its investigation into murky defence deals concerning Germany HDW submarine deal and the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov contract;

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to check corruption in defence deals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) As per available information, CSI has not investigated into Defence deal concerning procurement of Russian Aircraft Carrier ex-Admiral Gorshkov. CSI had conducted investigation into HDW submarine case and their closure report was accepted by the Special Judge, Patiala House Court, New Delhi on 4th March 2005.

The objective of Defence Procurement Procedure is to ensure the expeditious procurement of approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought within time frames prescribed by optimally utilizing allocated budgetary resources. While achieving this objective, these procedures would demonstrate the highest degree of probity and public accountability, transparency in operations, free competition and impartiality. The provisions incorporated in Defence Procurement Procedures for achieving this objective include; (i) An 'Integrity Pact; between the Government department and the bidder for all contracts above Rs.100 crores; (ii) Dealing directly with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or Authorised vendors or Government Sponsored Export Agencies (applicable in case of countries where domestic laws do not permit direct export by OEMs); (iii) Major decisions in the acquisition process being taken in a 'Collegiate' manner; (iv) Enhanced transparency in the conduct of field trials; (v) Pre-bid meetings with vendors; (vi) Prohibiting the use of undue influence by the seller for obtaining any contract with the Government; (vii) Prohibiting the engagement of any individual or firm to recommend to the Government the award of a contract to the seller, and the payment of any amount in respect of any such recommendation.

Participation in International Fairs and Exhibitions

3818. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated and released by the Government for the promotion of Exports of Handicrafts and Carpets during the each year of Tenth Plan, separately, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government allow various groups and organisations to participate in international fairs and exhibitions;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria for selection of groups and organisations for the purpose;

(d) the number of persons that participated in such fairs and exhibitions held in various countries during each year of Tenth Plan and thereafter, till date, country-wise; and

(e) the details of expenditure incurred thereon during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) For promotion of exports of handicrafts and carpets, the Government does not allocate funds directly to States.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The criteria for selection of groups i.e. handicraft artisans/entrepreneurs is that the artisan must be a National Award Winner or Shilp Guru entrepreneur must have an annual export turnover Rs. 2.00 lakh and annual turnover of Rs. 10.00 lakh in domestic market. The organizations like State/Central Handicrafts Development Corporations, Export Promotion Bodies, Trade Promotion Organisations are eligible for selection for participation in International marketing events. The selection of groups and organizations is done by a High Level Committee headed by Minister of Textiles.

The details regarding number of persons that participated in fairs and exhibitions abroad and the expenditure incurred during 10th Plan and till date are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement**10th Plan—2002-03 to 2006-07**

2002-03 No group of Master craftspersons was deputed in any of International fairs and exhibitions

2003-04

Sl.No.	Name of place/country	No. of mastter crafts persons
1.	Berlin (Germany)	8
2.	Dalla (USA)	5
3.	Barcelona (Spain)	3

Expenditure incurred = Rs. 16.85 lakhs

2004-05

1.	Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver (Canada)	12 (4 each)
2.	Amsterdam (The Netherlands)	8
3.	Ulaanbataar (Mongolia)	5
4.	Seoul (South Korea)	4
5.	Athens (Greece)	2
6.	Boston (USA)	2

Expenditure incurred = 35.98 lakhs

2005-06

1.	Port Louis (Mauriti)	4
2.	Hoston (USA)	4
3.	Amsterdam (The Netherlands)	3
4.	Trinidad and Tobago (West Indies)	2
5.	Colombo (Sri Lanka)	5

Expenditure incurred=19.35 lakhs 2006-07

2006-07

1.	Vienna (Austria)	4
2.	Frankfurt (Germany)	8

Sl.No.	Name of place/country	No. of master crafts persons
3.	Seoul (South Korea)	5
4.	Belgium (Brussels)	5
5.	Chicago (USA)	6
6.	Sao Paulo (Brazil)	5
7.	Panama City (Panama)	5
8.	Birmingham (U.K.)	5
9.	Munich Basel (Switzerland)	5

Expenditure Incurred=Rs. 50.83 lakhs

11th Plan—2007-08 and 2008-09 (till date)

1.	New York (USA)	10
2.	High Point (USA)	4+ 2 (2 Entrepreneurs)
3.	Chicago (USA)	8+ 1 (1 Entrepreneur)
4.	Cairo (Egypt)	5+ 1 (1 Entrepreneur)
5.	Riga (Latvia)	4

Expenditure Incurred=Rs. 32.70 lakhs

Agreement between IDSA and ISS

3819. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed between the Indian Institute of Defence Studies Analysis (IDSA) and Pakistani Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS);

(b) if so, the aim and objective of the agreement; and

(c) the salient features thereof and the guidelines framed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The agreement was signed and came into force on February 04, 2008 for a

period of five years. The aim and objective of the agreement is to establish academic and scholarly ties between the two Institutes for co-operation in research on national and international security issues, which would include:—

- Exchange of ideas on issues of common concern through the conduct of scholarly conferences, seminars and 'round-tables';
- Mutual consultation and exchange of research scholars;
- Joint research projects;
- Exchange of research works and publications;
- Regular meetings between the representatives of the two Institutes.

In order to promote academic research and related form of cooperation, regular meetings between the representatives of the two Institutes shall be held and will work and cooperate closely for the implementation of this agreement. Any differences or difficulties that may arise in its implementation will be settled by mutual consultations. The present agreement entered into force from 4th February, 2008 for a period of five years and can be further extended for subsequent periods of five years at a time unless either gives to the other a written notice three months in advance of its intention to terminate it before its expiry. Any modification and amendments to the text of the Agreement shall be made only through mutual consultation and by the mutual consent.

**Impact on Pictorial Warning on
Beedi Workers**

3820. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:

SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations from various quarters regarding the adverse affect of the law regarding mandatory pictorial warning on all tobacco products on the livelihood of poor Beedi workers;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the alternative arrangements made by the Government to protect the poor Beedi workers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representations have been received from various organizations/Central Trade Unions such as CITU, HMS, AITUC, TUCC, UTCC, The Tobacco Institute of India, Bihar Rajya Beedi Mazdoor Federation,

All India Beedi Industry Federation, Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations, Federation of Farmers Associations, etc., particularly relating to apprehensions of loss of employment, arrangement of alternative employment to the affected beedi workers, adverse affect on health, etc.

(c) There are studies to indicate that various public health measures such as pictorial health warnings mandated under the Packaging and Labeling Rules, 2008 of the Tobacco Control Act, 2003 do not have any immediate economic impact on the industry due to the addictive nature of the tobacco product and the time taken for demand reduction. However, Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to examine all the aspects relating to the mandatory pictorial warning. It was decided to finalize alternative designs of the pictorial health warnings of appropriate size for the mandatory pictorial warning.

Bridging of Digital Divide

3821. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION pleased to state:

(a) whether bridging the digital divide was a powerful tool to bridge the gender divide as it was found that villagers preferred women to head the knowledge centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Bridging the digital divide would lead to overall development in rural areas. It is expected that development on account of the bridging of the digital divide would also help in bridging the gender divide. While some Common Service Centres/Knowledge Centres in rural areas are manned by women, the Department of Information Technology is not aware of any study which indicates that villagers prefer women to head these knowledge centres.

[Translation]

**Complaint against Distribution of
Spectrum**

3822. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vigilance Commission has Lodged complaint against the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for distributing spectrum without following any guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DoT has provided 6.2 MHz spectrum against the limit of 4.4 MHz spectrum by violating the Mobile Phone Service Provider Licence Policy;

(d) if so, whether any additional fee has been charged from Mobile Phone Service Provider Companies in lieu of the increased spectrum;

(e) if not, the basis on which the licence policy has been violated;

(f) the details of the present spectrum policy;

(g) whether DoT has submitted any written reply to Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) and the CYC is satisfied with the reply of DoT; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (h) The initial spectrum is being allotted to the mobile telecom services in accordance with the relevant provisions of Unified Access Service License (UASL), subject to availability of spectrum. With growth of service and increased subscriber base, additional spectrum is allotted subject to availability as per eligibility criteria which is based on the number of active subscribers, peak traffic of the operator's network, demographic features of the service area. These criteria are reviewed from time to time taking into account relevant factors

and technological developments. Orders regarding latest eligibility criteria for allotment of additional spectrum have been issued on 17th January 2008.

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) had raised some queries on spectrum related issues and necessary information was provided to the CVC.

The service providers pay spectrum charges as a percentage/share of their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), which increases with larger amount of spectrum with a service provider, as per orders in this regard.

[English]

Rental for Godowns

3823. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rentals being paid by Food Corporation of India (FCI) to Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation (APSWC) for hiring the godowns is at par with rental paid to other State Warehousing Corporations and Central Warehousing Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date since when the revised rental is being paid by FCI; and

(c) the reasons for delay in implementation of the revised rentals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The rentals being paid by Food Corporation of India (FCI) to Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation (APSWC) for hiring its godowns is at par with rental paid to other State Warehousing Corporation (SWCs). For godowns, owned by SWCs, they are being paid rent at par with CWC i.e. Rs. 1.79 per 50 kg bag per month. For the godowns acquired by SWC from private parties under Seven Year Guarantee Scheme and rented out to FCI, the SWCs are being paid on the

basis of actual rent paid by the SWCs to private parties investors plus 15% supervisory charges as per the decision taken by the FCI Board of Directors.

(b) and (c) The SWCs were paid Rs. 1.79 per 50 kg bag per month from 1-4-2002. For the godowns taken by SWCs from private parties under Seven Year Guarantee Scheme and hired out to FCI, the rent @ Rs. 1.51 per 50 kg bag per month was paid since inception of Seven Year Guarantee Scheme till 30-04-2006 and @ actual expenditure + 15% supervision charges from 1-05-2006 in Andhra Pradesh. Based on the above decisions and the provisional accounts of APSWC for the year 2005-06, ad hoc payment at Rs.1.27/bag/month is being paid by FCI to APSWC.

Non-observance of National Holidays by Foreign Companies

3824. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM:

(a) whether the Government has issued any direction. to the management of foreign companies. working in the country to observe the national holidays compulsorily;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain companies do not provide national holidays to their employees; and

(d) If so, the action proposed to be taken to ensure that the national holidays are observed by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Law of the land is applicable to all, including foreign companies. working in India. As such, no separate instructions need to be issued to foreign companies working in the country to observe the national holidays compulsorily.

(c) This data is not Centrally maintained.

(d) Foreign companies fall within the purview of the Governments of the State where they are located and are governed by the relevant Acts implemented by

the State Government concerned. Implementation of the statutory provisions with regard to national holidays rests with the appropriate government i.e. the State Government concerned.

[Translation]

Violation of CVC Order

3825. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), Public Sector Undertakings have violated the order of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and posted even the official chargesheeted and facing penalty on sensitive posts; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by CVC and the Government to ensure observance of the rules of CVC in both these undertakings alongwith the time by which these steps are likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): No, Sir.

(b) The CVC has issued circular 98/GL/60 dated 15-4-99 regarding rotation of officials in sensitive posts. The Department has issued the list of sensitive posts vide letter No.17-8/99-VM.I dated 07-01-2000. In case of BSNL, efforts are made not to post chargesheeted and penalty facing officers on these posts as far as possible. As soon as any instance of violation of Commission's or Department's guidelines is reported, the matter is taken up appropriately with authorities concerned.

[English]

Shifting of Office of Postmaster General

3826. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to shift the office of the Postmaster General (PMG) in-charge of the Postal Divisions of Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland from Shillong to either Imphal, Kohima or Aizawl; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be shifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Shortage of Drinking Water

3827. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam faces acute shortage of drinking water despite being on the bank of the Brahmaputra which is a perennial river;

(b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme for supply of water from Brahmaputra river after purification; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY RAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government of Assam has informed that although Assam faces shortage of drinking water, the habitations are provided with drinking water facilities with under ground sources and surface sources schemes from river Brahmaputra and Barak and its tributaries.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) has informed that rural drinking water supply is a state subject and state governments are primarily responsible to provide drinking water facilities to the rural areas and to supplement the efforts of the state governments, the Department of Drinking Water Supply is providing financial assistance and technical support to the state governments through a centrally sponsored scheme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) under Rajiv Gandhi

National Drinking Water Mission. Department of Drinking Water Supply has further informed that the state governments are competent to plan, sanction and implement rural water supply schemes from the funds provided under ARWSP.

Generation of Employment Opportunities

3828. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey by American Company Manpower Ink titled "Manpower Employment Out Look Survey" has indicated employment generation in the country during April-June, 2008 would be more than other countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The survey conducted in some countries covering selected employers by American Company Manpower Ink titled "Manpower Employment Out Look Survey" has indicated the most favourable hiring plan reported by employers in India during April-June, 2008. Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment in India are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of surveys on employment, employment opportunities on usual status basis during the same period have increased from 397 million in 1999-2000 to 459.10 in 2004-05.

[Translation]

Labourers Engaged In Agriculture Sector

3829. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of labourers engaged in the agriculture sector against the total work force in the country has been constantly decreasing in the last one decade;

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

(c) the number and percentage of the total work force engaged in the agricultural sector at present in comparison to 1993-94; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to attract the workforce to agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 1993-1994 and 2004-05, the percentage of labourers engaged in agriculture has decreased from 64.75% to 58.49% of the total workforce in the unorganized sector. The decrease is due to migration to urban areas.

(c) No further survey has been conducted.

(d) The Government has enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which provides for 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The scheme which was being implemented in 330 districts has since been extended to 604 districts in the country from April 2008.

Procurement of Wheat

3830. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum support price of wheat fixed by the Government for the year 2008;

(b) the target fixed by the Government for procuring wheat in the year 2008; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the target fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Minimum Support Price fixed for wheat of crop Year 2007-08 to be marketed in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2008-09 is Rs. 1000 per quintal.

(b) Since procurement by Government agencies is open-ended, no targets are fixed.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Government to increase procurement of wheat in RMS 2008-09:

- (i) The MSP for wheat has been fixed at Rs. 1000 per quintal for RMS 2008-09, an increase of Rs. 250 per quintal over the MSP fixed for RMS 2007-08, in order to encourage farmers to increase their production of wheat. This MSP is Rs. 150 per quintal more than the procurement price of Rs. 850 per quintal (including bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal) given to farmers last year.
- (ii) Import of 18 lakh tonnes of wheat was done in 2007-08 which improved the stock position of wheat in the Central Pool and the wheat stock; (as on 1-4-2008) is more than the buffer norms of 40 lakh tonnes at the start of RMS 2008-09.
- (iii) Wheat export on private account have been banned till further orders. Wheat export from Central Pool is also banned.
- (iv) A notification titled 'Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2008 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 on 11-2-2008. The order provides that any Company or firm or individual which purchases wheat beyond 10,000 tonnes during 2008-09 shall furnish a return to Secretary, Food of the State from where

maximum quantity has been purchased, while a return for purchase of wheat beyond 25,000 tonnes is required to be furnished to the Central Government.

- (v) Department of Consumer Affairs has extended upto 31st August, 2008 notification under the EC Act enabling State Government to impose stock limit on wheat.
- (vi) Import of wheat on private account at zero duty has been permitted till further orders.
- (vii) In order to encourage wheat procurement in States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar etc. Commission to Societies/sub-agents has been enhanced to 2.5% on the lines of the Arthiya Commission in Punjab and Haryana for RMS 2008-09.
- (viii) Nafed has been allowed to purchase wheat for the Central Pool on behalf of FCI in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar.

[English]

Farmers with Small Land Holdings

3831. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made to determine the number of farmers owning less than two hectares of land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per Agriculture Census 2000-01, out of a total number of 11,99,31,017 operational holders, the number of operational holders operating less than 2 hectares of land was 9,81,02,541. The State-wise distribution of such operational holders is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise number of operational holders operating less than 2 ha. of land as per Agriculture Census 2000-01

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Number of operational holders
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	6342
2.	Andhra Pradesh	9541242
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	35053
4.	Assam	2260146
5.	Bihar	10811801
6.	Chandigarh	969
7.	Chhattisgarh	2462788
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11245
9.	Daman and Diu	6006
10.	Delhi	21949
11.	Goa	58894
12.	Gujarat	2554310
13.	Haryana	998115
14.	Himachal Pradesh	789172
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1353454
16.	Karnataka	5161131
17.	Kerala	6562238
18.	Lakshadweep	10096
19.	Madhya Pradesh	4788854

1	2	3
20. Maharashtra		8911349
21. Manipur		124135
22. Meghalaya		171909
23. Mizoram		61668
24. Nagaland		13703
25. Orissa		3408119
26. Pondicherry		35073
27. Punjab		295831
28. Rajasthan		3058693
29. Sikkim		51676
30. Tamil Nadu		7072155
31. Tripura		460386
32. Uttar Pradesh		19745953
33. Uttaranchal		786669
34. West Bengal		6471417
All India		98102541

Note: Agriculture Census 2000-01 was not conducted in the State of Jharkhand.

National Policy for Farmers

3832. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Policy for farmers 2007 calls for a paradigm shift from a Commodity Centered to Human-Centered approach in agricultural planning and programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action plan prepared to implement the policy; and

(c) the details of the target fixed during the current financial year for the implementation of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Policy for Farmers 2007 aims at the economic well-being of the farmers and the major goal of the Policy is to improve the economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of farmers. Many of the on-going programmes and schemes of Government are in line with the National Policy for Farmers 2007. Recently Government launched two new schemes i.e. National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. These two schemes are expected to go a long way in operationalising the provisions of the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 through state specific de-centralized strategy taking into account the agro-climatic and other local conditions for development of agriculture and allied sectors. In addition, other initiatives and schemes announced in the Union Budget 2008-09 for benefit of farmers and for development of agriculture and allied sectors would facilitate implementation of the policy. These include, inter alia, National Rural Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Services, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Agricultural credit including short-term crop loans, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Rainfed Area Development Programme, Micro Irrigation, National Horticulture Mission, setting up of soil testing laboratories, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, pilot scheme of Weather Based Crop Insurance, Package to revive the Cooperative Credit Structure, Debt Waiver and Debt Relief for farmers, Strengthening of Public Distribution System, social security to workers in the un-organized sectors, etc.

[Translation]

**Functioning of Post Office
Savings Bank**

3833. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) functioning in the rural areas of the country as on date;

(b) the share of these banks in the rural savings in the country, as on date;

(c) whether these Banks are not receiving the savings in accordance with the targets set by the Government;

(d) if so, whether the Government is formulating any scheme to encourage rural savings through these Banks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA):

(a) There are 136413 Post Offices in rural areas doing Post Office Saving Bank (POSB) work as on date.

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

(c) The collections under various Small Savings Schemes are broadly categorized as Savings Deposits, Savings Certificates and Public Provident Fund. Estimates of collections for these categories are worked out on the basis of trend over the previous years. Targets are therefore not fixed for small savings on urban or rural area basis.

(d) and (e) Central and State Governments take various measures from time to time to promote and popularize small savings scheme through print and electronic media as well as holding seminars, meetings

and providing training to the various agencies involved in mobilizing deposits under these schemes. As part of this ongoing exercise, Government has recently taken following initiatives to make the small savings schemes attractive and investor friendly:—

- (i) The restriction on opening of more than one account during a calendar month under the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme has been removed with effect from 24th May, 2007.
- (ii) All categories of pensioners have been allowed to open and maintain 'Pension Account' under Post Office Savings Account Rules, with effect from 11th July, 2007.
- (iii) The penalty on pre-mature withdrawal of deposits under the Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) scheme has been rationalized from 3.5% to 2% on withdrawal on or before expiry of three years and 1% on withdrawal after expiry of three years.
- (iv) The maximum deposit ceilings of Rs. 3.00 lakh and Rs. 6.00 lakh under the Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme has been raised to Rs. 4.50 lakh and Rs. 9.00 lakh in respect of single and joint accounts respectively.
- (v) Bonus at the rate of 5% on the deposits made under Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme on or after 8th December 2007 upon the maturity of the deposit has been reintroduced.
- (vi) The benefit of Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 has been extended to the investments made under 5-Year Post Office Time Deposits Account and Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, with effect from 01-04-2007.
- (vii) Measures are also taken to promote and popularize these schemes through print and electronic media as well as holding seminars and meetings, providing training to the various agencies involved in mobilizing collection in Small Savings Schemes etc.

- (viii) A website of the National Savings Institute under Government of India, Ministry of Finance has also been launched to facilitate interface with the public through wider dissemination of information on small savings and on-line registration and settlement of investors grievances. The website address is nsiindia.gov.in.

**Poisonous Chemicals in
Wheat and Rice**

3834. SHRI KIREN RIJUJU:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by agricultural scientists of Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology has revealed that poisonous chemicals have been found in wheat and rice crops; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to prevent the presence of harmful pesticides in food crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) During the last five years, no study has been conducted to detect the presence of poisonous pesticide chemicals in wheat and rice crops at Chandra Sekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur. However, in order to prevent the presence of harmful pesticides in food crops, the following measures are recommended:

1. Integrated pest management practices are advocated to farmers of the region so as to ensure good agricultural practices and judicious application of pesticides in wheat, rice and other food crops.
2. Adequate awareness and guidance are

provided to farmers and other stake-holders to prevent mixing, contamination and direct application of persistent pesticides, without appropriate label claims, in food commodities including wheat and rice.

[English]

**Development and Modernisation of
Powerloom Sector**

3835. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the development and modernisation of the Powerloom Sector during the last three years and thereafter;

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

(c) the production and exports of handloom textile potential likely to be increased due to such development and modernisation during the Eleventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of India has given a thrust for development and modernisation of the powerloom sector through various Schemes like Technology Upgradation fund scheme (TUFS), Group Workshed Scheme (GWSS), Integrated Powerloom Cluster Development Scheme (IPCDS) etc. The year-wise details of powerlooms set up since 2004 is as follows:

Year	No. of Powerlooms
2004-05	19,02,953
2005-06	19,43,892
2006-07	19,90,308
2007-08 (Till February, 2008)	20,97,941

The details of total cloth production by Powerloom Sector are as follows:

Year	Total Production	Production on Powerloom	%age of Powerloom over total production	%age increase over previous year	
				Total Production	Powerloom Production
2004-05	45378	28325	62%	7%	5%
2005-06	49577	30626	62%	9%	8%
2006-07	53389	32879	62%	8%	7%

The developmental programme and schemes of the Government has given an impetus to the powerlooms sector. The different category of looms

installed under modernisation and strengthening of the decentralised powerlooms sector during the last year are as follows:

Types of Looms installed	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
Semi-Automatic Loom	3569	2811	2752	9132
Automatic Loom	2055	2878	1631	6564
Shuttleless Loom	4849	6367	5184	16400
Total	10473	12056	9567	32096

(c) For the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the handloom production has been projected as follows:

Year	Production Projection for Handlooms (Million sq. Mts.)
2007-08	7865
2008-09	8788
2009-10	9828
2010-11	101985
2011-12	12298

In absence of any separate code for the handloom products, export trend is not available since April 2003.

Research in Agricultural Sector

3836. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL:

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of agricultural research and development in the country as compared to that in the developed countries;

(b) the details of the steps taken to accelerate the Research and Development activities for increased productivity and quality of agricultural products in view of the growing population of the country;

(c) whether an agreement has been signed

between India and United States for mutual cooperation in agricultural research; and

(d) if so, whether such an agreement is likely to make Indian agriculture vulnerable to the misuse of patented seeds by United States based companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The National Agricultural Research System comprising of 95 ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) institutes and 42 State Agricultural Universities, is one of the largest in the world. The XI Plan outlay for agricultural research has been more than doubled by Planning Commission over Xth Plan and is approved for Rs. 12,023 crore with an additionality of Rs. 500 crore under *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* for location-specific research. During 2000, India spent 0.34% of total public spending on agriculture as compared to Japan (3.62%), USA (6.25%) and all developed countries (2.36%). In 2005-06, India spent 0.62% of AGDP on agricultural R and D. The Department has oriented research agenda through medium and long term programmes addressing production to consumption system research, sustainable livelihood security in disadvantaged area and basic and strategic research. The other initiatives undertaken by ICAR include production and availability of quality seed; organic farming; climate change; molecular breeding; hybrid technology; water management; resource conservation technology etc. For dissemination of regionally differentiated technologies, ICAR has documented 'State-wise Technologies for Higher Agricultural Growth'. To address the issues of intellectual property rights (IPR) in the patent regime, guidelines on IPR have been put in place.

(c) India signed an agreement on 'Indo-US Knowledge Initiative in Agriculture' during 2006 for mutual cooperation in agricultural research to explore and work on mutually reinforcing priority areas of agricultural education, research service and commercial linkages with initial focus on education and learning resources; food processing, use of by-products and

bio-fuels, biotechnology and water management. The primary focus is on spending their own funds in their own countries with information and scientist exchange.

(d) No, Sir.

Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme for Handloom Sector

3837. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a marketing and Export Promotion Scheme for the Handloom sector;

(b) If so, the aims and objectives thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and released under the said scheme during each year of the Eleventh Plan Period; and

(d) the target fixed and achieved regarding quantum and value of exports of cotton handloom products during each year of Tenth Plan Period, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to develop and promote the marketing channels in domestic as well as export markets and bring about linkages between the two in a holistic and integrated manner, the Government of India has announced "Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme" to the handloom industry after amalgamating the Marketing Promotion Programme and Handloom Export Scheme of 10th Plan. The aims and objectives of the Scheme are:

- i. To assist in the domestic marketing of handloom products by organising of the exhibitions at National level, Regional level, State level and District level etc;
- ii. To serve as a window for promoting awareness among consumers about the latest designs,

varieties of fabrics, technical developments, use of natural dyes etc. in the handloom sector;

- iii. To provide permanent marketing infrastructural support to handloom agencies in major cities and towns with a view to creating permanent outlets to make available quality handloom products to the consumers;
- iv. To promote the development of a brand of handlooms of national and international importance through Handloom Mark and other measures;
- v. To identify and assist suitable handloom cooperative societies corporations and individual

exporters in developing the products that are export-worthy by providing such interventions as engaging of a professional designer for design development, up-gradation of skill, engaging of a professional Marketing Consultant etc.

- vi. Market penetration through participation in International Exhibitions, Buyer-Seller Meets including Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets etc. as also publicity and brand development through Handloom Mark and other measures.

(c) The funds approved by CCEA under the scheme during each year of the Eleven th Plan period are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Outlay under Marketing Promotion	Outlay under Handloom Export Scheme	Total	Funds released
2007-08	30.00	5.00	35.00	23.3
2008-09	57.00	5.00	62.00	Rs. 13.90 lakh (The financial year just started.)
2009-10	48.00	5.00	53.00	Not applicable
2010-11	31.00	5.00	36.00	—do—
2011-12	39.00	5.00	44.00	—do—
Total	205.00	25.00	230.00	—do—

(d) As per the data available, the total value of exports of cotton handloom products during 2002-03 stood at Rs. 2633.27 crores as against the previous year's performance of Rs. 2064 crores. However, due to the absence of separate ITC(HS) codes for handloom products, the export data from April 2003 onwards is not available. The Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms has already taken up the matter for allocation of separate ITC(HC) code for handloom

products with the Ministry of Finance and Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce. The Ministry of Finance has yet to notify the code for the handloom products.

Land Irrigated by Canals

3838. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in irrigation by canals;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the land irrigated by the canals during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the efforts being made to enhance irrigation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. There has been continuous increase in creation of irrigation potential through canal and water distribution system created under major and medium irrigation project and minor irrigation schemes utilizing surface water.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Air Space for Air Training

3839. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is becoming difficult to get air space for Air Training due to boom in the activities of civil aviation;

(b) whether systematic increase in air traffic has made air space between Air Force and civil traffic disproportionate;

(c) if so, whether Air Force has made any plan to search for new air fields; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Airspace sharing and utilization under 'Flexible Use' concept is regularly coordinated with Ministry of Civil Aviation. The need for additional new airbases is analysed at regular intervals from operational and national security perspective and it is a continuous process.

[English]

Control on Price Rise

3840. SHRI RAMESH DUBE:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

DR SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the efforts made by the Government and the Price Monitoring Cell have failed to control the price rise and the prices of essential commodities have reached unprecedented levels during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the price of essential commodities on date and on the same date last month alongwith the reasons identified for the continuous rise in prices; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to check price rise and improve availability of essential commodities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Price Monitoring Cell (PMC) set up under Department of Consumer Affairs is mandated to only monitor on a daily basis the retail prices of 14 essential commodities, viz., rice, wheat, atta, gram, tur/arhar, tea, milk; sugar, vanaspati, mustard oil, groundnut oil, potato, onion and salt. It has not been setup to control/check the rise in prices of essential commodities. Report are prepared in this regard and sent to PMO, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Finance and other concerned Departments. Besides, the situation of prices

of essential commodities is regularly monitored at High Level Meetings of Cabinet Committee on Prices, Committee of Secretaries and Cabinet which take decision to keep the prices under check. Price rise of essential commodities have not reached unprecedented levels during the last three months. Only Retail Prices

of Mustard and Vanaspati oil have shown an increase. Other essential commodities are either steady or declined.

(b) The retail price situation at Delhi as on 15-04-2008 over the last month is indicated below:

Commodity	Current Price 15-04-2008	Retail Prices (Rs./Kg.)		Variation Over 1 month
		1 Week back 8-04-08	1 Month Back 15-03-08	
Rice	18.00	18.00	18.00	0.00
Wheat	13.00	13.00	13.00	0.00
Atta	14.00	14.00	14.00	0.00
Gram dal	37.50	38.00	39.00	-1.50
Tur dal	42.00	42.00	42.00	0.00
Sugar	18.00	18.00	18.00	0.00
Groundnut oil*	121.00	121.00	121.00	0.00
Mustard oil*	73.00	74.00	87.00	-14.00
Vanaspati	75.00	75.00	79.00	-4.00
Tea (Loose)	106.00	107.00	109.00	-3.00
Milk*	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.00
Potato	8.00	8.00	8.50	0.50
Onion	9.00	0.00	9.00	0.00
Salt (Packed)	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00

* Refined oil

During the last one month, retail prices of essential commodities are by and large steady or declined. The basic reason for price rise has been mismatch between demand and supply of most of the essential commodities in India as well as the global inflation in agricultural commodities.

(c) The fresh steps taken by the Government to

check price and improve availability of essential commodities in the country are as follows:—

- (i) The PSUs namely MMTC, PEC, STC and NAFED together have been asked to import 1 lakh tons of edible oils per month for the year 2008-09 to be distributed by the State Governments and their agencies at subsidized rates.

- (ii) Department of Consumer Affairs has issued Order dated 7-4-2008 regarding imposition of stock limits on edible oils and oilseeds.
- (iii) DGFT vide its notification dated 01-04-2008 banned export of non-basmati rice. Department Revenue vide its Notification No. 37/2008-Customs dt. 20-3-2008 has issued orders for reducing import duty on rice to zero upto 31-3-2009. Government also directed that the order regarding removal of restrictions on licensing, stock limits and movement of rice be kept in abeyance for a period of one year.
- (iv) DGFT vide its notification dated 01-04-2008 raised MEP on basmati rice to \$ 1200 per tonne.
- (v) Department of Revenue vide its notification dated 01-04-2008 made the following changes in the import duty of edible oils:—
- Import duty on crude edible oils cut to zero;
 - Import duty on refined and hydrogenated oils reduced to 7.5%;
 - Import duty on hydrogenated vegetable oils also reduced to 7.5%.
 - Customs duty on butter and ghee was reduced to 30%.
- (vi) DGFT vide its notification dated 01-04-2008 prohibited the export of edible oils for a year up to 31-3-2009.
- (vii) Custom duty for maize reduced to zero under a Tariff Rate Quota of 5 lakh per annum vide GFT notification dated 01-04-08.

Inclusion of Telephone Numbers

3841. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to include telephone numbers of peripheral towns of NCR

region, like Ghaziabad, Faridabad etc. in the next issue of telephone directory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the next telephone directory is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Updated directory information of Delhi is already available on

(i) 197

(ii) CD-ROM

(iii) Internet

[Translation]

Exemption of Duty on Import of Textiles

3842. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has exempted the duty on import of textiles from Asian countries;

(b) if so, the revenue loss likely to be incurred due to the said decision;

(c) whether the prices of garments are likely to be reduced in the country due to the said import policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the trade in textiles is likely to be increased due to said steps; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the targeted number of garments likely to be imported every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAR): (a) to (f) India

is a signatory to the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), which became operational from 1st July 2006. The SAFTA envisages duty reduction by member countries to zero to five per cent within ten years and this concession would exclude items in the sensitive list. In pursuance of commitment made during SAFTA negotiations, India would provide zero duty market access for 8 million pieces of garments from Bangladesh, which is to be operationalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Government of India and Bangladesh on 16-9-2007. It has also been decided to provide zero duty market access for 3 million pieces of garments from Sri Lanka without any sourcing condition and port restrictions. An MoU has been signed on 5-10-2007 between Government of India and Sri Lanka. The above concessions being small percentage of the domestic consumption, may not affect prices substantially.

[English]

Package for Dairy Farmers

3843. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:

SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has sought 100% financial assistance from Union Government for implementing a scheme to provide comprehensive insurance package to dairy farmers through Kerala Dairy Farmers Welfare Fund Board; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Kerala. However, Kerala Dairy Farmers Welfare Fund (KDFWF) vide its letter dated 2-1-2008 had submitted a proposal for 100%

financial assistance from Union Government at a total cost of Rs. 10,859.75 lakh covering activities like pension, family pension, assistance for deformity, comprehensive insurance coverage, marriage assistance, assistance to cremation activities, educational scholarship and other benefits for a period of 5 years commencing from 2007-08 to 2011-12. KDFWF was informed on 24-1-2008 that there is no scheme being implemented by this Department under which such a proposal can be financed.

Army Hospital in Shimla

3844. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Hospital at Shimla was burnt down by fire; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposal to reconstruct the hospital?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Military Hospital at Shimla was burnt in a fire accident in December, 1998. The probable cause of fire was short-circuiting. At present the hospital is functioning in a temporary location at Jutogh, 14 km away from Shimla. Administrative approval has been accorded for reconstruction of a 100 bedded Military Hospital, Shimla. The construction work has already started and the provisional date of completion is December, 2010.

[Translation]

Opening of New ESI Dispensaries/ Centres/Nursing Homes

3845. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to approve any scheme for allowing treatment of all individuals other

than Employees State Insurance (ESI) subscribers in ESI Hospitals;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of ESI dispensaries and centres functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to open new ESI dispensaries, centres, and Nursing Homes during the Eleventh Plan Period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The ESI Corporation proposes to provide treatment to non-subscribers on user charges for utilization of ESI, under utilized medical infrastructure. This requires amendment in the ESI Act, 1948.

(c) At present there are 144 ESI Hospitals and 1422 dispensaries functioning all over the India. The State-wise details of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Corporation has approved opening of new ESI Dispensaries and Hospitals. Details regarding hospitals are given hereinunder. The details of Dispensaries are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Hospitals

- (a) Sanathnagar, Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Baddi, Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Gurgaon, Haryana
- (d) Bhiwadi, Rajasthan
- (e) Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu
- (f) Tirupur, Tamil Nadu
- (g) Haldia, West Bengal
- (h) Haridwar, Uttarakhand
- (i) Rudrapur, Uttarakhand
- (j) Peenya, Bangalore (Karnataka)

Diagnostic Centres (10 Bed)

- (a) Raipur (Chhattisgarh)
- (b) Dehradun (Uttarakhand)
- (c) Pithampur (Madhya Pradesh)
- (d) Mand deep (Madhya Pradesh)
- (e) Thudilal (Puducherry)
- (f) Ayanavaram (Tamil Nadu)

Dispensaries. As per Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries

Sl. No.	State	Hospitals 2005-06	Dispensaries 2005-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	133
2.	Assam	1	27
3.	Bihar	3	24
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	1	2

1	2	3	4
5.	Chhatisgarh	—	11
6.	Delhi	4	43
7.	Goa	1	9
8.	Gujarat	12	125
9.	Haryana	05	57
10.	Himachal Pradesh	01	9
11.	Karnataka	09	118
12.	Kerala	13	137
13.	Madhya Pradesh	07	47
14.	Maharashtra	14	72
15.	Meghalaya	—	2
16.	Orissa	06	49
17.	Pondicherry	01	15
18.	Punjab	07	69
19.	Rajasthan	05	64
20.	Tamil Nadu	09	187
21.	Uttar Pradesh	16	143
22.	Uttaranchal	—	7
23.	West Bengal	14	35
24.	Jammu and Kashmir	01	8
25.	Jharkhand	03	29
Total		144	1422

Statement-II***ESI dispensaries Sanctioned under ESI Scheme in Newly Implemented Geographical Areas***

1. Jaggaiahpet in and around in Krishna Distt. Andhra Pradesh

2. Sri Kalahasthi, Chittoor Distt. (Andhra Pradesh)
3. Kurmannapalem, Distt., Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
4. Mobile Dispensary, Tohana Area, Haryana
5. Nainital area, Nainital, Uttarakhand

6. Bhagwanpur, Distt. Hardwar, Uttarakhand
7. Roshnabad Industrial Area (SIDKUL), Uttarakhand
8. Gopichettipalayam, Chennai
9. Bhilai Area/Centre, Chhattisgarh
10. Korba Area/Centre, Chhattisgarh
11. Kuazmunda Sundergarh Distt., Orissa
12. Duburi, Jaipur Distt. Orissa

ESI Dispensaries Approved in Existing Implemented Areas

13. Alwar No. I, (Rajasthan)
14. Bhiwadi (Rajasthan)
15. Diagnostic Centre Jeedimetla (Andhra Pradesh)
16. Auto Nagar, (Andhra Pradesh)
17. Industrial Estate, Vishakapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)
18. Korlim, (Goa)
19. Meenambakkam (Tamil Nadu)
20. Ambur, Tamil Nadu
21. Virudh Nagar (Tamil Nadu)
22. Hissar Industrial State (Haryana)
23. Faridabad, Haryana
24. Manesar (Haryana)
25. Murthal (Haryana)
26. Arryankuppum, (Pondicherry)
27. Reddipalayam, Pondicherry
28. Andoguidy, Karnataka
29. Wazirpur, Delhi
30. Pappan Kala, Delhi
31. Agra, Uttar Pradesh

32. Raipur, Chhattisgarh
33. Mylom, Kerala
34. Vilakudy, (Kerala)
35. Ashramam, Kollam (Kerala)

[English]

Modification in Catalytic Development Programme

3846. DR. M. JAGNNATH: will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to modify the Sericulture Catalytic Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to increase allocation for sericulture sector during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government for the development of sericulture in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. During XI Plan, the Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) is being implemented on a project mode in the form of packages mainly under 3 sectors viz. Seed, Cocoon and Post-cocoon sectors supported by the Support Service sector, in order to benefit all categories of beneficiaries like farmers, reelers and weavers and also to support achieving the targets and objectives of the XI Plan. Within each package, flexibility has been built-in to cater to the specific needs of different sericulture zones in the country. The components under CDP are beneficial for both existing and new farmers for practicing sericulture. The State Departments have to identify existing as well as new farmers and offer the components according to their requirements from out of the basket of components. The unit costs of most of the components have been increased in XI Plan, besides

reducing the financial burden of beneficiaries and State Governments in Special Status States.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. In so far as sericulture sector is concerned, the allocation approved by the Government of India during X Plan period (2002-07) towards implementation of various central sector/centrally sponsored programmes was Rs. 526.99 crores which include Rs. 244.47 crores approved for Catalytic Development Programme. Similarly, based on the proposal of CSB for continuation of the aforesaid central sector/centrally sponsored schemes during XI Plan, the Government of India have approved a total outlay of Rs. 816.49 crores of which Rs. 661.62 crores is meant for implementation of the Catalytic Development Programme. While the Percentage of increase in allocation of XI Plan over X Plan for all Schemes of CSB works out to 55%, in respect of Catalytic Development Programme, the increase is 171%.

(e) In addition to implementation of the CDP, the following steps have been/are being taken by the Government of India through CSB for production of quality silk in the country:

- The Research Institutes of Central Silk Board have developed/improved mulberry variety (V1) and silkworm breeds (CSR breeds) backed by a technology package to produce import substitute high quality silk.
- Central Silk Board has established silk Conditioning and Testing Houses and supported establishment of Cocoon and Raw Silk Testing Centres to promote production of quality silk
- The Research Institutes of Central Silk Board have developed various cost cutting technology packages and also promoted inter cultivation of mulberry/Vanya Silk host plants with other leguminous crops and vegetables to ensure better economical returns to the silk producers at various stages of silk production chain.
- The Research Institutes of Central Silk Board have developed various technology packages

for by-product utilization to support higher returns to the primary producers.

- Under the Post-Cocoon Sector, support is being provided to the entrepreneurs involved in various activities like reeling, twisting, wet-processing and weaving for setting up of Multi-end reeling/twisting/Shuttle less weaving units, either directly or through the State Sericulture Department.
- Under the Vanya Silk Sector, the Central Silk Board has developed improved reeling-cum-twisting machine for Tasar and Muga and improved spinning wheel for Eri silk to produce quality silk at affordable price. These devices are being popularized under the Catalytic Developmental Programme.
- Under the Product Development Programme new products are being developed and popularized specially in Vanya Silk sector for better value realization.

Multi-Fibre Agreement

3847. SHRI ADHALRAO PATI SHIVAJI RAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Industry has demanded stable policy environment, the need to support modernization through financing technological upgradation and to help build global brands for Indian textiles; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to make Indian Textile Industry globally competitive, especially after the Multi-Fibre Agreement regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAR): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the need to support modernization through financing technological upgradation and to help build global brands for Indian textiles. The Government is implementing various schemes, like the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) and the Scheme for Integrated-Textile

Parks (SITP), to enhance the potential of India's textiles industry by equipping it with state of the art technology and world class infrastructure. In addition, the Government is providing financial support under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) and the Market Access Initiative (MAI) Schemes to the textiles sector, through various Textiles Export Promotion Councils, to enable the industry to enhance its share in the global market for textiles.

Various steps have been taken by the Government for the growth of textiles industry, which are as under:—

- (i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textiles sector under the automatic route.
- (ii) The Government has de-reserved readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the Small Scale Industry (SSI) sector.
- (iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and up gradation of the sector. The TUFS has been extended beyond 31-3-2007 and has been modified in consultation with the industry and approval of the Competent Authority w.e.f. 1st November 2007. The Scheme is now in operation. For the speedy modernisation of the textiles processing sector, Government has introduced, w.e.f. 20-4-2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.
- (iv) A new "Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks" has been formulated by merging this "Scheme for Apparel Parks for Exports" and the "Textiles Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme", in order to expand the production base of the textiles and garment sector.
- (v) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole

value addition chain has been given the option of excise exemption.

- (vi) The import of specified textiles and garment machinery has been allowed at a concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investment and to make our textiles product competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (vii) Duty-free import of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items is allowed to garment exporters. This can be upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.
- (viii) In the 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In the 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.
- (ix) 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% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.
- (x) 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.
- (xi) In addition, the government has introduced, since July' 07, several relief measures for Textiles exporters. The measures are as under:
 - DEPB rates enhanced by 3% for 9 sectors including textiles (also handlooms), RMGs and handicrafts. For other items, DEPB rates enhanced by 2%.

- ECGC premium reduced by 10%.
- Amount of Rs. 600 crore released for clearing arrears of CST reimbursement and terminal excise duty.
- Duty drawback rates enhanced by 10-40% of the existing rates.
- Subvention on credit rate allowed upto 4% including interest subsidy of 2%.
- Refund of service tax paid by exporters on services linked to export of goods viz port services for exports, transport of goods by road from container depot to port of export, general insurance services for insurance of goods for export, technical testing and analysis agency services and inspection and certification services, storage and warehousing services and clearing activity services.
- Customs duty on intermediates for Polyester staple fibre and polyester filament yarn reduced from 7.5% to 5%.
- Customs duty on paraxylene, a raw material for the intermediate PTA reduced from 2% to 0%.
- Customs duty reduced on other man-made filament yarn and staple fibres of acrylic and viscose from 10% to 5%.
- Customs duty reduced in spun yarn of manmade staple fibres and filament yarn (other than nylon) from 10% to 5%.
- Customs duty on polyester chips is reduced from 7.5% to 5%.

Distribution of Coins through Post Office

3848. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to

distribute Rs. One, Two and Five coins (RBIs) through post offices in the country especially in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of post offices which have been selected for distributing the coins especially in Gujarat;

(c) whether the Government has also any proposal to involve two post offices in each Taluka for this work; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) In order to find wider avenues for retail distribution of coins and exchange of soiled and mutilated notes the Reserve Bank of India has approached the Department of Posts to utilize the post offices in the country for distribution of coins and exchange of soiled and mutilated currency notes. This scheme has been implemented by various postal circles, including Gujarat Postal Circle in limited number of post offices in association with their respective branches of Reserve Bank of India.

In Gujarat Postal Circle, 5 post offices—Ahmedabad General Post Office, Navarangapura Head Post Office, Vadodra Head Post Office, Surat Head Post Office and Rajkot Head Post Office have undertaken the distribution.

(c) and (d) The identification of post offices where the distribution of coins is to be taken up is decided by the postal circles in consultation with the respective Reserve Bank of India authorities depending on the need of the public and availability of infrastructure in the concerned post office. At present there is no proposal to involve two post offices in a Taluka for this work.

Recovery of Outstanding dues from Subscribers

3849. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has to recover several crores from its subscribers and private telecom operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether BSNL has chalked out plans to recover such dues from subscribers and private telecom operators within the time schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed on officials of BSNL who failed to recover such huge outstanding dues from the subscribers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The outstanding dues as on 31-01-2008 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

The unrecovered dues have been accumulated over a long period of time and in the case of landline customers, are prior to the formation of BSNL and pertain to the period when the services were operated by Government of India.

With the entry of new operators in the market, defaulting customers move to other operators without paying their dues thereby increasing the outstanding.

In the case of Inter connect payments due from private operators, a large amount of dues are locked up in court cases initiated by Other Licensed Operators

on various grounds against BSNL.

Also, the legal resources are limited to the extent of the provisions of Company Law, and BSNL being a company does not enjoy the facility of recovery through Govt. agencies in general as was the practice in vogue which has also resulted in increase of the outstanding amount.

(c) and (d) To recover the outstanding dues within time schedule, detailed plans are chalked out every year for the recovery of these dues. Field units having these outstanding are given targets to recover the dues, also special incentive scheme was launched for the recovery of these dues and special recovery agents have also been appointed for the purpose.

Details of prescribed monitoring procedures for Bill issue, Disconnection, Payment pursuit and subsequent legal action as and when required are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) and (f) In many cases, the outstanding is created on account of the fact, that many customers do not pay the bills on time, change their premises and after defaulting, move to other new operators without paying their dues.

Outstanding cases are constantly pursued for recovery and are being reviewed by Secondary Switching Area (SSA)/Circle case-wise, and suitable action is taken as per departmental procedure.

Statement-I

Outstanding dues as on 31-03-2008

(Amount in crores of Rs.)

Subscribers	Private operators			
	Fixed line Service	Mobile (Post Paid)	IUC (Interconnect usage charges)	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Upto 1997-98	146.42			146.42

1	2	3	4	5
1998-99	140.55			140.55
1999-00	168.36			168.36
2000-01	251.74			251.74
2001-02	310.30			310.30
2002-03	310.18	9.75		319.93
2003-04	441.53	178.94		620.47
2004-05	448.27	90.49	184.07	722.83
2005-06	518.39	111.42	194.35	824.16
2006-07	687.85	133.00	112.89	933.74
2007-08 (up to Jan' 08)	675.28	101.80	272.46	1049.54
Total	4098.87	625.40	763.77	5488.04

Statement-II**Details of Prescribed Monitoring Procedures for Subsequent Legal Action to Recover Dues**

The Following steps have been taken by BSNL to recover its outstanding dues—

- (1) Instruction to Circles to ensure timely issue of telephone bills and to effect disconnection of telephones for non-payment promptly have been issued and are being re-iterated periodically. Time limit for disconnection due to non-payment has been fixed as follows:—

Service	Pay-by-date	Disconnection of out-going facility
Fixed line	21 days from bill date	35 days from bill date
Mobile	15 days from bill date	21 days from bill date
IUC	15 days from bill date	After 30 days notice

- (2) Payment reminders through IVRS are being issued by units.

- (3) If no payment is received despite disconnection, a registered notice followed by a legal notice if necessary, is sent.

- (4) Every year targets for liquidation of outstanding

dues for different billing periods for each Circle/Metro District are fixed and performance thereof is reviewed regularly.

- (5) The State Governments have been requested to amend their respective land revenue acts so that the defaulted Telephone dues of BSNL can be recovered as land revenue arrears.

- (6) Heads of Circles have been authorized to Appoint Private Recovery agents on commission basis to assist BSNL in recovery of outstanding revenue. Circles have also been asked to utilize the services of State Government Departments in recovery of outstanding dues.
- (7) To persuade the subscribers to come forward to deposit the old dues and build better relationship in the competitive era, discount scheme were also launched.
- (8) Procedure for settlement of defaulter cases through Lok Adalat has been introduced.
- (9) For recovery of outstanding telephone dues in respect of permanently closed connections under Basic and WLL service and CMTS, incentive to staff is launched.
- (10) 2nd, 3rd and 6th month's collection efficiency targets have been fixed to improve the collection and it is regularly monitored.
- (11) Automatic disconnection for non-payment as per the schedule.
- (12) Connections remaining disconnected for non-payment even after incoming disconnection are permanently closed and accounts regularized by adjusting Security deposit if any available.
- (13) Implementation of Revised policy for appointment of Private Recovery Agents.
- (14) Implementations of Graded discount to customers, for clearance of more than 2 years old outstanding.
- (15) Implementation of incentive scheme to employees of BSNL for recovery of outstanding arrears from defaulters.
- (16) Circle-wise and Year-wise target for liquidation of outstanding dues has been fixed.
- (17) Legal proceedings are initiated against the defaulters wherever found justified.
- (18) Outstanding arrears are also recovered by pursuing through Lok Adalat.
- (19) Instructions for timely recovery of dues from Private Operators were issued to all operators from time to time.
- (20) The progress in regard to liquidation of outstanding dues is closely monitored and circles are addressed periodically to take all necessary steps to recover the same.

Employment Generation in Tenth Plan

3850. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of employment generated in different sectors during each years of Tenth Plan Period, State-wise and sector-wise;

(b) the provisions made by the Government for employment generation during the Tenth Plan Period; and

(c) the progress made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial Labour Force Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organisation, employment on usual status basis has increased from 397.0 million in 1999-2000 to 459.1 million in 2004-05, registering an increase of 62.1 million. Sector-wise employment is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Tenth Plan targeted creation of around 50 million

employment opportunities; 30 million through normal growth process and 20 million through special employment generation schemes. Government has been implementing various employment generation schemes such as Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY); Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY); Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY); Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and National Rural Employment

Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA), etc. for generating gainful employment opportunities in the country.

(c) As per the 61st rounds of National Sample Survey Organisation survey conducted during 1999-2000 and 2004-05 respectively, 47 million job opportunities have been created on current daily status basis as against the target of creation of 50 million job opportunities during the Tenth Plan Period.

Statement

Industry-wise Distribution of work force as per usual status basis during the period 1993-94 to 2004-05

Industry	Employment in Million		
	1993-94	1999-2000	2004-05
Agriculture	242.46	237.56	268.57
Mining and Quarrying	2.7	2.27	2.75
Manufacturing	42.5	48.01	53.71
Electricity, gas and water supply	1.35	1.28	1.38
Construction	11.68	17.62	25.71
Trade	27.78	37.32	47.29
Transport, Storage and Communication	10.33	14.69	17.45
Financial Services	3.52	5.05	6.89
Community Social and Pers. Service	32.13	33.2	35.81
Total Employment	374.45	397.0	1459.1

[Translation]

Remunerative Prices to Farmers

3851. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enforce a new Rule or Act to enable farmers to get remunerative

prices of their produce taking into account the production cost of farming borne by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various crops are fixed by the Government on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which, among other factors, considers the cost of cultivation/production for recommending the MSPs. The Government does not propose to enforce a new Rule or Act for fixation of MSPs.

**Linking of Villages through
Telecom Service**

3852. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the time limit fixed for the scheme of the Government to link all the villages through telecommunications;

(b) whether there is no telecommunication system in the villages under Tehsils of District Chittorgarh in Rajasthan so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which telecommunication system is likely to be set up in all the Tehsils falling under District of Chittorgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement with Bharat Shanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, laying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. As on 29-2-2008, 53,073 VPTs have been provided by BSNL and the remaining VPTs have been planned to be provided by December, 2008.

(b) and (c) In Rajasthan State, out of 1,159 villages of ~~tehsils~~ of District Chittorgarh, 1,147 villages have been provided with VPTs by USOF. In addition, a scheme

has recently been launched by USOF to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 11 infrastructure sites (towers) in Chittorgarh District for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing mobile coverage. These sites are likely to be commissioned by December, 2008.

(d) All the 13 tehsils of District Chittorgarh have already been covered by BSNL's network.

[English]

Posting of Permanent General Manager

3853. SHRI RAJU RANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL Bhavanagar SSA, Gujarat is not getting permanent General Manager (GM) to look after the Development of BSNL network in totality in the District;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which BSNL authority will give a regular as well as permanent GM in the said areas;

(d) whether the BSNL authority inquired in the cases of the GM posted but never taken the physical charge at BSNL Bhavanagar;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (f) Sir, a regular General Manager (GM) has been posted at Bhavnagar SSA, Gujarat Circle and has joined on 5-3-2008.

[Translation]

Out of Order Telephone Lines

3854. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone lines in the country especially in rural areas of Gazipur, Azamgarh and Faizabad districts of Uttar Pradesh most of the lines remains out of order thereby creating problems for the subscribers;

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

(c) whether the official working in telephone exchanges in rural areas generally belong to local areas and ignore the complaints of subscribers;

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the telephone services in rural areas;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to transfer the local employees to distant places; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. The telephone lines in the country including in rural areas of Gazipur, Azamgarh and Faizabad districts of Uttar Pradesh are generally working satisfactorily. However, sometimes, the services to some of the telephones are affected mainly due to theft of cables and damage to cables done by other agencies, which are restored at the earliest possible.

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

(c) No, Sir. Officials posted in rural areas generally belong to Circle/Secondary Switching Area (SSA) cadres and generally do not ignore the complaints of the subscribers.

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

(e) Employees are generally transferred within their recruiting units i.e. either Circle/Secondary Switching Area (SSA) as per service needs and transfer policy in vogue.

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

Decline in Performance of Postal Service

3855. SHRI PUSP JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the use of Government postal services vis-a-vis the private postal service (courier) is declining in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the decline is mainly because of poor standard of Government postal services and non-performance of duty by the officials of the postal department;

(d) if so, whether the Government has evolved any scheme to tackle it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Sir, the use of Government postal services vis-a-vis the private postal service (courier) is not declining in the country in general. The Department of Posts offers a range of mail products. While traffic in unregistered articles has shown a fluctuating downward trend in the last six years, it has registered robust growth in other products like Speed Post, Bill Mail Service. Even in the case of registered articles traffic shows an increase of 4.2% in the year 2006-07. The traffic figures for Speed Post and International Mail are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The decline in unregistered mail and personal communication is ascribed mainly to technological substitution like telephone, e-mails and competition in mail market.

(c) As per (b) above. The postal officials continue to do their job with sincerity.

(d) and (e) Department of Posts has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to improve the services and

increase its market share. For Business segment, the Department is providing services like Speed Post for time sensitive mail, Business Post to provide pre-mailing solutions, Express Parcel Post to cater to commerce and bulk centers of parcels, Bill Mail service for transaction mail etc. Fresh initiatives like wet leasing of cargo aircraft for North East Region of India, establishing Mail Business Centres, value addition like electronic intimation of delivery, re-designing of pincode for faster delivery have also been undertaken to enhance the quality of service and to improve the productivity of staff.

Statement

Revenue Earned from Speed Post during the last four years

Year	Traffic (in lakhs)	Revenue (in crores)
2003-04	826	298.35
2004-05	959.78	354.16
2005-06	1086	408.42
2006-07	1286	449.15

Traffic of International Mail from India

Year	Letter Mail in kg	Parcels in Nos.	EMS in Nos.
2003	2809076.70	108118	576418
2004	2831375.10	129641	639315
2005	2966894.60	132281	756228
2006	3126065.60	166503	881141

[English]

Problems of Landless Labourers

3858. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought the solution of genuine problems of landless labourers; and

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government has initiated several measures to solve the problems of the landless labourers. Various labour laws like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Workmen Compensation Act, 1923; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RE and CS) Act, 1979 are applicable to these

labourers also. Further, the Janshree Bima Yojana provides life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor persons, including landless labourers who are below and marginally above the poverty line. In addition to this, the Government is also implementing various welfare and employment oriented schemes and programmes through various Ministries/Departments. Some of such schemes are Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Swamjayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana, Sampooran Grameen Rojgar Yojana etc. The Government has enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which provides for 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Government has launched the 'Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana' to provide life and disability cover to rural landless households. The benefits under the scheme include Rs. 30,000 in case

of natural death; Rs. 75,000 in case of death due to accident or total permanent disability due to accident. In case of partial disability due to accident, the insurance cover would be Rs. 37,500.

'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' (RSBY) for BPL families in Unorganised sector has been launched on 1st October, 2007 for the unorganized sector worker's family of five. The scheme provides for smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000 per family per annum on a family floater basis.

Joint Venture Agreements

3857. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether many GSM operators have joint venture agreements for outsourcing deals with global firms viz. Ericsson, IBM, Nokia, Siemens and other global communications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DOT/TRAI has given permission for such outsourcing arrangement between GSM operators and foreign telecom operators; and

(d) if so, the details of rules/regulations under which such outsourcing deals are permitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Improvement in Drainage System

3858. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides funds for the schemes related to the drainage of water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proposals for development of drainage canals has been received from some States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government of India would provide funds for drainage development schemes in critical areas under "Flood Management Programme"—a state sector scheme during XI Plan, for which detailed guidelines for providing central assistance to the State Governments have already been issued by the Ministry of Water Resources on 27-12-2007 to all states.

(c) and (d) A scheme namely 'Improvement of South Saraswati River (both upper and lower portion) from offtake (chainage 0.00) at Nasibpur, Distt. Hooghly to outfall (chainage 1410.00) at Sankrail, Distt. Howrah' has been received from the Government of West Bengal and included under "Flood Management Programme" for central assistance. 1st installment of Rs.1.00 crore has been released to the State Government of West Bengal by Ministry of Finance on 31-3-2008.

[English]

New Incentive Scheme for Powerloom Sector

3859. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADDSUL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to launch new incentive scheme for the development of powerloom sector in the country;

(b) if so, the component of new incentive scheme thereof; and

(c) the allocations made for the implementation of said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) In the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the Government is implementing the following modified plan schemes to develop the powerloom Sector:—

- (i) Integrated Powerloom Cluster Development Scheme.
- (ii) Group Workshed Scheme.
- (iii) Group Insurance Scheme.

The outlay for these schemes during 2008-09 is Rs. 10.00 crores.

Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure

3860. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has notified certain States/Union Territories (UTs) for grant of assistance for investment subsidy on infrastructure projects under the Strengthening/Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Grading and Standardisation Scheme;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the criteria for identifying beneficiary States/UTs;

(c) whether West Bengal would also be considered for grant of assistance under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is a Central Sector Reform-linked Scheme, approved for implementation in those States/Union Territories (UTs) only, which allow direct marketing and contract farming and permit setting up of agricultural produce markets in private/cooperative sector by amending their Agricultural Produce Marketing

Regulation (APMR) Acts. Those States which have no APMR Act are also eligible under the Scheme. On this basis, so far 25 States/UTs have been notified as eligible for implementation of the scheme. Under this Scheme, a credit-linked, back-ended subsidy is provided for developing/strengthening marketing infrastructure on the capital cost of the projects taken up by the individuals, farmers, farmers' groups, companies, cooperatives, NGOs, State Agencies etc. @ 25% of the approved capital cost, subject to an upper ceiling of Rs. 50.00 lakh. For Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) beneficiaries and North-Eastern States, hilly and tribal areas, the rate of subsidy is 33.33% subject to an upper ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh. The State Agencies such as State Agricultural Produce Marketing Boards and APMCs have also been allowed assistance under the scheme with no upper limit of subsidy on an investment from their own funds without borrowing from the financial institutions for developing/strengthening of marketing infrastructure.

(c) to (e) The Government of West Bengal is yet to notify the required amendments in their APMR Act and the State can be notified as eligible under the Scheme on notification of such amendments.

Subsidy for Procurement of Cotton

3861. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Support Price (MSP) cotton operation of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) in Maharashtra are inadequate due to shortage of manpower and infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to allow Government of Maharashtra to procuremet of cotton at MSP;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the benefits and subsidy being currently provide to CCI is also proposed to be extended to Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federmtion Limited (MSCCGMF); and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No Sir.

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

(d) There is no benefit being extended for Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. for Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations.

(e) Does not arise in view of above.

Duty Free Import of Raw Jute and Jute Goods

3862. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has allowed duty free imports of raw jute and jute goods from the beginning of this year;

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

(c) whether such permission is in violation of Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987 as alleged by local jute industry and trade circles;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any limit on import of such Jute;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, whether it is likely to adversely affect the existence of domestic jute industry; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for protection the interest of domestic jute industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) The import on 'Raw jute' and other 'Jute goods' attracts 10% of general effective rate of basic Custom Duty. However, there is 'Nil' rate of basic Customs Duty on Import of these items from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal w.e.f. 1-1-2008.

(c) No, Sir. There is no correlation between import

duty on jute and the provisions of Jute Packaging Material Act.

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

(e) and (f) There is no quantitative restriction on import of such jute.

(g) and (h) No Sir. Yet the Government has taken a number of steps for the development of Jute Sector as a whole:—

- (i) Government has approved the Jute Technology Mission (JTM) which aims at modernization of industry and increase the productivity so that the Jute can become a more vibrant sector.
- (ii) Protection was been provided to Jute Industry through the JPM Act since 1987 for sustainable employment in jute industry.
- (iii) Jute Board Bill, 2006 has been introduced in the Parliament to set up National Jute Board In order to achieve integrated and holistic development of Jute sector.

Fishery in Organised Sector

3863. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the activities of fishery and its ancillary sector are carried out in the small scale and unorganized sector;

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

(c) the steps taken to utilize the potential and generate employment in this sector by bringing it under the organized sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Water Purification Plant

3864. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a water purification plant to save ground water from being polluted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Water Resources has no plan for establishing water purification plant to save ground water from being polluted.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) as above.

[English]

Fresh Cases of Bird Flu

3865. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh cases of bird flu have been reported again in some States particularly in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for recurrence of bird flu cases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The fresh cases of bird flu have

currently been reported in two states i.e. West Bengal and Tripura.

(b) The possible factors which may be responsible for recurrence of bird flu outbreaks are:

- (i) Status of neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, China, Myanmar and Pakistan where the outbreaks are continuing.
- (ii) Sharing of a huge porous international border.
- (iii) India falls on the route of three major flyways of migratory birds.
- (iv) Inadequate bio-security in backyard poultry production system etc.

(c) The remedial measures taken are as follows:

- (i) All the birds in the infected zone are being culled against payment of compensation.
- (ii) Restriction on movement of poultry and poultry products from infected to uninfected areas have been imposed.
- (iii) All the State Governments have been alerted to become more vigilant.
- (iv) Surveillance activities against bird flu has been stepped up throughout the country.
- (v) Awareness campaign on bird flu have been intensified, particularly in eastern and north-eastern India, through Television, Radio, Newspaper etc.

Coconut Insurance Scheme

3866. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture Insurance Company of

India is planning to launch an insurance scheme for coconut palm growers;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme; and

(c) the names of the States where the scheme will be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Recently, a proposal for coconut palm insurance scheme which envisages coverage of coconut palm and is proposed to be implemented on pilot basis in six main coconut growing States, viz, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra is under examination of the Government.

Bamboo Flowering and Famine in Mizoram

3867. SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that Mizoram is facing severe famine due to Bamboo flowering; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to overcome the famine condition and provide relief to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government of Mizoram recently reported damage to crops due to rodent menace on account of bamboo flowering in parts of the State and submitted a Memorandum for assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in this regard. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State recently for assessment of the situation. Further action will be taken in accordance with the existing procedure, on receipt of the Team's Report.

MoUs between Indian and American Companies

3868. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Memorandum of Undertakings (MoUs) have been signed between Indian and American companies for the manufacture of Defence related items;

(b) if so, the details of such MoUs and the amount of capital involved; and

(c) the details of MoUs signed with the foreign companies during the last three years for the manufacture of Defence related items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Foodgrains for Flood Relief

3869. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the details of foodgrains utilized for the relief work carried out in flood affected States of the country during the year 2007;

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

(c) whether the foodgrains available in State Food Corporation godowns for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families were utilised for relief works particularly in 24 districts of Bihar in the year 2007;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to make foodgrains available to those people under the BPL and

AAY who were not provided any foodgrains as relief during the floods of 2007; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Foodgrains have been allocated to States for flood relief during 2007-08 as follows:—

(in tons)

States	Allocations		Offtake	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
Assam	10000	10000		
Bihar	100000	50000	64624	48355
West Bengal	10333	600	2300	
Total	120333	50600	76924	48355

(c) to (f) The State Government of Bihar has informed that foodgrains allocated under TPDS were also distributed for flood relief, in addition to those allocated for this purpose. However, their exact details are still awaited from the State Government.

[English]

Reduction in Postal Parcel Service

3870. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to protect the Postal System keeping in view the challenges being faced by Private Courier companies in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reduce the tariff on Postal Parcel Services in the Islands to mainland; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Posts is providing market oriented services like Speed Post, Business Post, Express Parcel Post, Bill Mail Service, National Bill Mail Service etc. to provide fast and time bound delivery of documents, parcels and business related correspondences. All postal articles including parcels destined to and originating from Andaman and Nicobar Islands are transmitted by air to facilitate fast and timely delivery. Department of Posts has increased the number of Speed Post booking centres to 33 in the Islands, thus providing express mail services even in the remotest islands and all major towns and villages. Further, collection of Speed Post articles customer's premises has also been commenced in the Islands.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to reduce the tariff on postal parcel services in the Islands to the mainland at present.

Construction of Watersheds

3871. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated a comprehensive scheme for construction of watersheds in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of watersheds sanctioned/constructed under the River Valley Project in the country, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra;

(d) the total amount sanctioned under the scheme during the last three years;

(e) whether the small agriculture watersheds are not being properly utilised;

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

(g) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the proper utilization of small watersheds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The major Watershed Development Programmes being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture are (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR) and (iii) Watershed Development Project in shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA). The size of watershed varies from 500 ha. to 2000 ha. And such

watersheds are being treated in an integrated manner with suitable soil and water conservation measures for development and management of natural resources.

(c) and (d) Scheme-wise and State-wise details of number of ongoing watersheds and fund utilized in the last three years (2004-07) under each watershed development programmes, including Maharashtra are given in the enclosed Statement.

In the State of Maharashtra, out of these programmes, two programmes namely, NWDPA and RVP and FPR are being implemented.

(e) to (g) Small watersheds are also included under these Watershed Development Programmes. Thrust has been given for involvement of beneficiaries/farmers in planning, implementation and maintenance of assets created. For this purpose, Watershed Committees/Associations have been constituted to ensure effective participation. The capacity building and trainings of the beneficiaries, demonstrations, exposure visits etc. are organized for the farmers to utilize the resources of small watersheds in sustainable manner.

The Working Group of the Sub-Committee of National Development Council (NDC) on Agriculture and related Issues on Dryland/Rainfed Farming System including Regeneration of Degraded/Watershed Development Programmes has recommended the development of about 38 million ha. of land during Eleventh Five Year Plan with main thrust on treatment and development of watersheds in the country.

Statement

Number of ongoing Watersheds under Watershed Programmes of Ministry of Agriculture and fund utilized in last 3 years (2004-2007)

(Fund utilized in Rs. Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	NWDPA		RVP and FPR		WDPSA	
		Ongoing Watersheds	Amount utilized	Ongoing Watersheds	Amount utilized	Ongoing Watersheds	Amount utilized
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	149	2041.40	21	1679.34	0	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45	1214.53	9	144.78	13	574.80
3.	Assam	50	1009.40	2	68.54	15	1200.00
4.	Bihar	74	1337.99	1	27.40	0	0.00
5.	Jharkhand	200	3380.89	5	0.00	0	0.00
6.	Goa	27	810.34	0	0.00	0	0.00
7.	Gujarat	409	4171.27	39	5397.17	0	0.00
8.	Haryana	37	582.10	4	632.26	0	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	37	926.11	42	2587.11	0	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	111	327.83	15	1348.69	0	0.00
11.	Karnataka	568	6992.73	107	3299.19	0	0.00
12.	Kerala	148	2809.91	9	690.84	0	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	594	4854.27	59	3104.54	0	0.00
14.	Chhattisgarh	185	4478.37	16	901.74	0	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	433	5946.09	130	5478.26	0	0.00
16.	Manipur	79	1916.97	1	163.92	30	1200.00
17.	Mizoram	105	2701.94	12	567.35	42	1600.00
18.	Meghalaya	78	1487.15	6	11.49	38	1147.60
19.	Nagaland	100	2093.50	1	444.00	119	2100.00
20.	Orissa	212	4410.41	13	410.30	0	0.00
21.	Punjab	49	1329.18	2	165.17	0	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	1138	12426.03	75	6584.84	0	0.00
23.	Sikkim	32	699.05	2	235.47	0	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	755	7817.92	41	2360.98	0	0.00
25.	Tripura	62	1030.11	6	79.85	39	876.70
26.	Uttar Pradesh	400	4942.37	100	4940.70	0	0.00
27.	Uttarakhand	158	4125.33	32	1164.09	0	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28.	West Bengal	78	1359.51	12	291.38	0	0.00
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8	92.93	0	0.00	0	0.00
31.	DVC	0	0.00	45	3234.00	0	0.00
Total		6315	87315.63	807	46013.40	296	8699.10

Army Hospitals

3872. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Army Hospitals functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more hospitals in near future; and

(c) if so, the places identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) At present, 109 Army hospitals are functioning in the country. State-wise location of Army Hospitals is as follows:

State/Union Territory	Number of Army Hospitals
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	2
Arunachal Pradesh	2
Assam	4
Bihar	2
Delhi	2
Goa	1
Gujarat	5

1	2
Haryana	2
Himachal Pradesh	9
Jammu and Kashmir	8
Jharkhand	2
Karnataka	1
Kerala	2
Madhya Pradesh	7
Maharashtra	9
Manipur	1
Meghalaya	1
Nagaland	2
Punjab	9
Rajasthan	10
Sikkim	1
Tamil Nadu	3
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	11
Uttarakhand	5
West Bengal	7

Besides, there are 8 Naval hospitals and 11 Air Force hospitals.

(b) and (c) Hospitals are opened/located based on operational requirements both in times of peace and in war/Counter Insurgency operations. The strength of troops, nature of operations and terrain and chain of evacuation determine the kind of medical facility. New hospitals are approved for opening Jaisalmer (Rajasthan) and Ezhimala (Kerala) for the air Force and Navy respectively.

National Agricultural Assistance Scheme

3873. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Agricultural Assistance Scheme has been launched in West Bengal and North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the number of farmers, crops and agricultural land covered under the scheme in these States;

(c) the criteria followed to decide the rate of premium under the scheme, crop-wise; and

(d) the details of financial liabilities shared by the Centre and States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is being implemented in West Bengal and four States, viz. Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim of North Eastern Region.

(b) A statement indicating number of farmers, area and crop covered since inception of the scheme in each State is enclosed.

(c) As per provision of the scheme flat rates ranging between 1.5% and 3.5% (of sum insured) for food and oilseed crops and actuarial rates for annual commercial/horticultural crops, are being charged from the farmers under the scheme.

(d) The financial liability on account of claims (for food and oilseeds crops over and above the premium generated and for annual commercial/horticultural crops above 150% of the premium collected); premium subsidy (10% of premium to small and marginal farmers); bank service charges (2.5% of premium collected from non-loanee farmers) and Administrative and Operational (A and O) expenses 20% of total A and O expenses) as provided under the scheme are shared by the Central and the State Governments in the ratio of 50 : 50.

Statement

Number of farmers, area and crops covered in West Bengal and four North Eastern States since inception of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) in each State

Sl. No.	Name of State	Farmers Covered	Area Covered (in ha.)	Crops Covered
1	2	3	4	5
1.	West Bengal	55,35,517	28,64,185	Aman Paddy, Aus Paddy, Boro Paddy, Maize, Wheat, Rape and Mustard and Potato.
2.	Assam	93,500	73,337	Ahu Paddy, Sali Paddy, Jute, Boro Paddy, Wheat, Rape and Mustard, Potato and Sugarcane.

1	2	3	4	5
3. Meghalaya		14,160	17,047	Ahu Paddy, Sali Paddy, Boro Paddy, Ginger, Potato and Rape and Mustard.
4. Sikkim		1,408	823	Soyabean, Finger Millet, Maize, Arnan Paddy, Ginger, Potato, Barley, Urd, Mustard and wheat.
5. Tripura		9,670	5.957	Aman Paddy, Aus Paddy, Boro Paddy, and Potato

Unlicensed Bt. Cotton

3874. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unlicensed Bt. Cotton seeds have made their way into the market in a big way;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such Bt. Cotton seeds fail to germinate thereby causing heavy losses to farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has taken steps to prevent such seeds from reaching the farmers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken against producers/suppliers of such seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Bt. cotton is the only Genetically Modified (GM) crop approved for commercial cultivation by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), on the basis of environmental and bio-safety evaluations. MoEF has intimated that M/s Navbharat Seeds Pvt. Ltd. of Ahmedabad had supplied unlicensed Bt. Cotton seeds

in the brand name of "navbharat 151" in the market in the year 2001 and a criminal case has been filed against the said company in Ahmedabad High Court.

(c) and (d) The MoEF has intimated that no such reports have been received.

(e) and (f) The MoEF has framed Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous micro-organisms/Genetically engineered organisms or Cells Rules, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 with a view to protecting the environment and health in connection with application of genetically modified organisms or products. Under these Rules, the State Governments have been empowered to constitute State Bio-technology Coordination Committee and District Level Committees to investigate and take punitive actions in case of cultivation of unapproved seeds or non-compliance of the terms and conditions stipulated by GEAC. Besides, awareness campaigns on various aspects of Bt. Cotton cultivation have been conducted in all Bt. cotton growing states.

Expansion of GSM Capacity by BSNL

3875. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has decided to expand its GSM capacity across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BSNL has fixed a target of 2010 crore subscribers base by 2010 in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the BSNL which was ranked second a couple of years also has been slipping in ranking; and

(t) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has planned to add 30 lakh customers per month from 2008 onwards.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Decline in market share of BSNL in wireless segment is due to increase of number of private players like Bharati, Reliance, Vodafone, Tata and Idea and fierce competition among different service providers.

[Translation]

Amendment in Central Labour Laws

3876. SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments particularly Madhya Pradesh regarding amendments in Central Labour Laws relating to Special Economic Zones (SEZs); and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Delay in Disbursement of TUFS

3877. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a delay of one year in disbursing Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) assistance to the textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the total amount of backlog from 2007-08; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to clear the backlog at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the year 2005-06 due to extraordinary performance of the Scheme the requirement of funds has been increasing. The budget allocation has not been commensurate with the requirements. Shortfalls and spilling over of liabilities to the successive financial years have led to a backlog of approximately Rs.1138 crores from 2007-08.

(c) Necessary steps have been taken to clear the backlog. Budgetary allocation has been enhanced to ease out the situation in the year 2008-09.

Development of Agriculture in Hilly Areas

3878. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to lay greater emphasis on the development of agriculture in the hilly areas; and

(b) if so, the specific steps proposed to be taken to develop agriculture in the hilly areas in Orissa in the Eleventh Plan particularly in Koraput district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Upgradation of Dairy and Poultry Markets

3879. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific proposal has been mooted by the Government to develop dairy and poultry markets during Eleventh Plan period alongwith the funds earmarked for the said proposals, State-wise; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, under the Central Sector Reform-Linked Scheme for Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization, being implemented under XI Five Year Plan, the assistance is being provided for the development/strengthening of animal markets also, which cover the marketing and value addition infrastructure for dairy and poultry sectors. Under this Scheme, a credit-linked, back-ended subsidy is provided on the capital cost of the projects taken up by the individuals, farmers, farmers' groups, companies, cooperatives, NGOs, State Agencies etc. @ 25% of the approved capital cost, subject to an upper ceiling of Rs. 50.00 lakh. For Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) beneficiaries and North-Eastern States, hilly and tribal areas, the rate of subsidy is 33.33% subject to an upper ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh. The State Agencies such as State Agricultural Produce Marketing Boards and APMCs have also been allowed assistance under the scheme with no upper limit of subsidy on an investment from their own funds without borrowing from the financial institutions for developing/strengthening of marketing infrastructure.

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

3880. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether appointments on compassionate ground are made in the Postal Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of employment made on compassionate grounds in the country especially in Kanyakumari division of the Postal Department; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the list of applicants on compassionate ground pending in the country especially in Kanyakumari Postal Division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of compassionate appointments made during last three years in the Department is 656 and in Kanyakumari Division, the number of compassionate appointments made during the last three years in NIL.

(c) The number of applications pending in the country is 475 and the number of applications pending in Kanyakumari Division is 11. The list of applicants pending in Kanyakumari Division is enclosed as Statement.

Appointments on compassionate grounds is not being made in Tamil Nadu circle, which includes Kanyakumari Division, since the matter is subjudice in the Hon'ble Apex Court.

Statement

1. J. Santhakumari, Wife of Late C. Ragh, Kottar, Kanyakumari
2. J. Johnly Rose, Son of Late E. Johnson, SPM, Udayamarthandam HO, Kanyakumari Division.

3. H.F. Ghousil Haja Haneef, Son of Late M. Habeebudheen, PA Nagarcoil HO, Kanyakumari Division.
4. P.S. Chellammal, Wife of Late S. Suuyambu, SPM Ammandivilai PO Kanyakumari Division.
5. M. Siva Vidhyathan son of Late C. Manonaran, Postman, Kottar S.D. Kanyakumari Division.
6. S. Punitha, wife of late J. Sekhar, Postman, Alagikpandipuram P.O., Kanyakumari Division.
7. S.S. Beena, D/o Late G. Sadasivam, SPM, Arumanai P.O. Kanyakumari Division.
8. C.S. Justin Lavj, Son of Late C. Raju, Postman, Thakkalay S.O., Kanyakumari Division.
9. I. Leo Jose Festus, Son of Late I. Lenadimai Postman, Neyyur S.O, Kanyakumari Division.
10. P. Kalpana Vidya D/o late I. Ponraj, Postal Assistant, Thakkaly H.O. Kanyakumari Division.
11. R. Padmakumari, D/o late C. Ramakumar, SPM, Colachel Port S.O, Kanyakumari Division.

Auction of Spectrum

3881. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spectrum auction likely in smaller chunks of 5 Mhz. as reported in the *Business Line* dated March 31, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the expected revenue to be earned by the Government from auctioning of spectrum; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The report of the "Business Line" dated 31-03-08 is about entry of more operators in Broadband Wireless Access

(BWA) services and allocation of spectrum to them. The Government has announced broad guidelines for BWA services which is enclosed as Statement.

The revenue earned by the Government from auctioning of spectrum can not be indicated at this stage. In addition to the amount collected by the Government through auctions, the operators pay annual spectrum charges based on their Adjusted Gross Revenue.

Statement

Press Release

The Government has also issued guidelines for Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) services. With this the level of broadband penetration in the country, especially in rural areas, will be addressed. Introduction of Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) services will enhance the penetration as well as growth in broadband subscribers.

Guidelines for BWA Services

- To begin with BWA services will be permitted in the 2.5 GHz band by UASL and Category 'A' ISPs, besides BSNL/MTNL.
- Each service provider will be allotted spectrum upto 2 x 10 MHz in 2.5 GHz band, for use by the service provider in FDD (paired) or TDD mode.
- The BWA services would be permitted through a controlled, simultaneous ascending e-auction, by a specialised agency to ensure transparency in the selection process.
- The base/reserve price would be 25% of amount for 3G spectrum.
- Besides the initial, one time spectrum charge, additional spectrum charge of 0.5% of total Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), will be levied as the recurring annual spectrum charge. This additional revenue share is proposed to be 1% of AGR after 3 years from the time of spectrum assignment.

- The roll out conditions, including rural roll-out, as well as stiff penalties for non-compliance of the same has been stipulated.
- Mergers will not be allowed during the initial five years. No trading reselling of spectrum is allowed.
- Other service providers will be considered for spectrum allotment for BWA services in the 2.3 GHz band and 3.3-3.4 GHz band.
- After assessing the compatibility with satellite based services, the allotment of spectrum in the 3.4-3.6 GHz band will be considered.

Export of Software

3682. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Software Technology Park of India (STPI) has designed and developed in the country.

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the number of units registered under STPI in the country as on date. State-wise;

(d) the details of software exported by member units during 2007-08 and the projections likely to be made during 2008-09; and

(e) the total amount of foreign exchange earned from such exports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Software Technology Park of India (STPI) is having 49 centers across the country.

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) was set up in 1991 with an objective to implement Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme, set-up and manage infrastructure facilities and provide other services like technology assessment and professional training.

(c) As per STPI, 9718 units registered under STPI in the country as on 31-03-2008. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) As per STPI, it is estimated that during 2007-08 the software exports would be around Rs. 187,478 Crores; STPI has also projected that the exports during financial year 2008-09 expected to be around Rs. 224,973 Crores.

Statement

Units Registered in STP Scheme up to 31-03-2008

Sl. No.	Name of Center	New Units Registered from April 07-March 08	Registered units as on 31-03-2007	Registered units as on 31-03-2008
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bangalore	115	1763	1878
2.	Bhubaneswar	20	135	155
3.	Chennai	139	1202	1341
4.	Gandhinagar	44	326	370
5.	Hyderabad	172	1023	1195
6.	Kolkata	34	232	266

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Mumbai and Pune	144	1689	1833
8.	Noida	147	2079	2226
9.	Thiruvananthapuram	29	389	418
10.	Guwahati	1	35	36
Total		845	8873	9718

Above centers contains following States

1. Bangalore (Karnataka)
2. Bhubaneswar (Orissa)
3. Chennai (Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry Andaman and Nicobar)
4. Gandhinagar(Gujarat, Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli)
5. Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
6. Kolkata (West Bangal)
7. Mumbai and Pune (Maharashtra and Goa)
8. Noida (Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh (UT), Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttranchal, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh)
9. Thiruvanthapuram (Kerala and Lakshadweep)
10. Guwahati (Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkam)

Impact of Climate Change

3883. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists of National Agricultural Research Institute revealed that due to climate change, the productivity of wheat and other cereals in North-West region of India has been less;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Institute has also recommended to change the timings of sowing of seeds to mitigate the effects of climate change; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Research studies have shown that climate change in future may reduce the productivity of wheat and other cereals in North-West region of India.

(b) Studies based on simulation models have indicated that in future due to increasing temperatures and possible reduction in availability of irrigation associated with global climate change could cause considerable loss of wheat yields in North-Western India.

(c) and (d) The Institute has not recommended change in the time of sowing of wheat at present due climate change. However, research indicates that changing the time of planting is an important adaptation

strategy in future and could be utilized to reduce the negative effects of climate change.

**Inspections for Identification of
Child Labourers**

3884. SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters laid down for inspections regarding identification of child labourers in different Industries. In the country including the mandatory provisions under the Law;

(b) the number of inspections conducted during each years of Tenth Plan and thereafter, till date, State-wise and Industry-wise;

(c) the number of child labour identified and rescued in the country during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review

the existing system of inspections in view of increase in number of child labourers despite a ban on It; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Inspections and raids to detect cases of violations of Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 are carried out from time to time by the State Governments who are appropriate authorities for enforcement of Act, in the areas that come under their jurisdiction. For the areas lying under the Central jurisdiction, inspections are carried out by the Central Labour Commissioner's machinery.

(b) and (c) State-wise details of inspections and violations during each year of Tenth Plan are given in the enclosed Statement. Industry-wise details are not maintained by the Ministry.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Inspections Conducted

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands UT	11	14	23	330	191	*	594
2.	Andhra Pradesh	18218	28355	14738	11220	53843	*	271895
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	36	189	189		*	434
4.	Assam	1633	1888	487	3506		*	18407
5.	Bihar	48276	36835	22800	19884		*	223766
8.	Chandigarh UT	458	711	1123	894	1454	*	6364

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Chhattisgarh	886	866	1427	1217	3648	*	16037
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli UT	67	69	70	71	68	*	647
9.	Daman and Diu UT	215	310	405	365	150	*	3638
10.	Delhi UT	1482	1017	1400	1020		*	27427
11.	Goa	0	218	147	387		*	2979
12.	Gujarat		1002	323	47	2560	*	15822
13.	Haryana	2817	2830	1200	1136	1856	*	12288
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1843	1749	1086	2072	2287	*	10605
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	842	2383	600	1481	4378	*	11003
16.	Jharkhand	3096	4086	3355	2635	1704	*	17881
17.	Karnataka	18618	17427	16253	27601		*	148474
18.	Kerala	3400	1140	4414	5874	6073	*	25799
19.	Lakshadweep UT	0	0	0	1	0	*	1
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3381	1101	5318	5380	5317	*	42853
21.	Maharashtra	15978	18214	27228	24865		*	198122
22.	Manipur	92	134	244	241		*	799
23.	Meghalaya	242	205	229	299	425	*	2550
24.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	*	0
25.	Nagland	6115	6681	5750	0	5871	6916	37281
26.	Orissa	167	183	238	153		*	2006
27.	Pondicherry UT	12487	17494	15291	16580	*	114427	
28.	Punjab	3128	4725	4948	5737	*	30765	
29.	Rajasthan	6018	3803	2832	3350	6080	*	41455
30.	Sikkim	14	18	21	32	40	*	135

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
31. Tamil Nadu		184948	132618	120265	121156	220667	*	1823157
32. Tripura		334	336	844	898	157	*	3114
33. Uttar Pradesh		2058	8498	3	1926	3807	*	17967
34. Uttarakhand		525	2588	847	2178	2101	*	44138
35. West Bengal		6851	6517	5000	3722	3821	*	87428
Total		329725	289285	261053	267971	340639	6916	3050038

*Information awaited from the State Government.

Violations Detected

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands UT	11	14	23	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	8398	16395	9211	8099	53843
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	13	13	
4.	Assam	119	38	48	1	
5.	Bihar	6065	5431	4332	3488	
6.	Chandigarh UT	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Chhattisgarh	104	0	4	10	19
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli UT	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Daman and Diu UT	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Deihi UT	98	209	243	273	
11.	Goa	0	0	0	0	
12.	Gujarat	7	177	320	1219	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13. Haryana		15	42	40	0	0
14. Himachal Pradesh		0	0	0	0	0
15. Jammu and Kashmir		5	9	2	1	64
16. Jharkhand		103	444	528	82	67
17. Karnataka		350	1508	1434	2405	
18. Kerala		1	29	22	20	23
19. Lakshadweep UT		0	0	0	0	0
20. Madhya Pradesh		35	28	54	37	150
21. Maharashtra		291	124	70	117	
22. Manipur		0	0	0	0	
23. Meghalaya		0	0	0	0	0
24. Mizoram		0	0	0	0	0
25. Nagaland		0	0	0	0	0
26. Orissa		110	162	177	120	
27. Pondicherry UT		10	0	0	0	0
28. Punjab		0	29	9	23	
29. Rajasthan		26	8	12	0	19
30. Sikkim		0	0	0	0	0
31. Tamil Nadu		791	575	553	1434	636
32. Tripura		0	0	0	0	0
33. Uttar Pradesh		493	860	0	246	2513
34. Uttarakhand		8	0	0	0	2
35. West Bengal		94	96	78	36	112
Total		17134	26178	17173	17624	57448

[Translation]

Railway Line along Indian Border

3885. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of Rajasthan being a border State with Pakistan there is a need to lay a broad gauge railway line along the bordering areas of the State;

(b) if so, whether Ministry of Defence has made a request in this regard to the Railways through a charter of demands, memorandum or in any other form;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Railway thereto;

(d) whether there is a parallel rail line in Pakistan along its borders with India;

(e) if so, the details therefore;

(f) whether the attention of the Ministry of Railways has been drawn towards the need of development of Indian Railway network in view of availability of Pakistani's railway network along the border; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (g) The existing rail network provides the requisite infrastructure to meet the requirements of Defence. Therefore, currently there is no requirement of additional railway lines in the bordering area of Rajasthan. A broad gauge railway line exists from Samdri..Jodhpur-Merta City—Bikaner-Bathinda-Jalandhar with adequate feeders towards Munabao, Jaisalmer, Kolayat, Anupgarh, Ganganagar, Fazilka and Firozpur. In addition gauge conversion works on Bikaner-Merta road, Jodhpur-Jaisalmer, Jodhpur-Luni-Marwar and Luni-Barmer-Munabao sections have already been completed. Further gauge conversion work on Rewari-Sadulpur, Sadulpur-Bikaner, Ajmer/Nasirabad, Chittorgarh-Mawli-Marwar and Bandikui-Bharatpur-Agra is also under progress as per the request made by Ministry of Defence.

Details of Railway lines in Pakistan along the Rajasthan Border are as under:—

(a) Amrukha-Bahawalnagar-Bahawalpur-Rahimyar-khan-Sukkur-Nawabshah-Karachi.

(b) Bahawalnagar-Fort Abbas (in state of disuse).

(c) Nawahshah-Mirpuarkas-Naukot.

(d) Mirpuarkas-Khokhropar.

Since the existing rail network in Rajasthan, as of now, provides the requisite infrastructure to meet the requirements of defence, additional requirement for development of railway lines are being reviewed regularly and will be taken up as and when required.

Marketing Yard

3886. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of marketing yards in the country including marketing yards which have been computerized, State-wise; and

(b) whether the Government proposes to computerize marketing yards so as to provide information to farmers regarding prices of agricultural produces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There are 7465 market yards consisting of 2459 principal market yards and 5006 sub-markets yards as on 31.3.2007 in the country. Under the Central Sector Scheme of Marketing Research & Information Network (MRIN), the Ministry of Agriculture has provided computer sets to 2902 such market yards up to 31st March 2008 in order to collect and disseminate market information (price and market related) through a portal called AGMARKNET for the benefit of the farmers and other stakeholders. State-wise details in this regard are given in the enclosed statement. The portal provides market-related, price-related, infrastructure-related and promotion-related information and has linkages with several related sites such as Commodity Exchanges in India, FAO, Marketing Boards, etc. AGMARKNET initiative has achieved creation of a national database comprising daily market information in respect of about 300 commodities, 2000 varieties. Presently the daily market information is accessible in 10 languages of the country.

Statement

*Number of Market Yards in the Country including Marketing Yards which have been
Computerized as on 31-03-2008*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Principal	Submarket Yards	Total	Market Yards Computerized
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	312	577	889	324
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		APMR Act not yet implemented		15*
3.	Assam	20	204	224	23
4.	Bihar†	95	415	510	58
5.	Jharkhand	28	170	198	26
6.	Goa	1	7	8	6
7.	Gujarat	196	214	410	319
8.	Haryana	106	178	284	150
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	32	42	35
10.	Jammu and Kashmir		APMR Act not yet implemented		41*
11.	Karnataka	146	352	498	144
12.	Kerala		APMR Act not enacted		92*
13.	Madhya Pradesh	235	256	491	218
14.	Chhattisgarh	73	106	179	73
15.	Maharashtra	294	586	880	346
16.	Manipur		APMR Act not enacted		5*
17.	Meghalaya	2	—	2	11
18.	Mizoram		APMR Act not implemented		9*
19.	Nagaland		APMR Act not yet implemented		14*
20.	Orissa	45	269	314	73
21.	Punjab	145	292	437	181
22.	Rajasthan	125	301	426	166

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Sikkim	1	—	1	7
24.	Tamil Nadu	277	15	292	205
25.	Tripura	21	—	21	13
26.	Uttar Pradesh	245	342	587	257
27.	Uttarakhand	25	31	56	20
28.	West Bengal	43	641	684	56
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island		APMR Act not enacted		0
30.	Chandigarh	1	—	1	1
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli		APMR Act not enacted		1*
32.	Daman and Diu		APMR Act not yet implemented		2*
33.	Delhi	9	14	23	9
34.	Lakshdweep		APMR Act not enacted		0
35.	Puducherry	4	4	8	2
Total		2459	5006	7465	2902

#Bihar Agril. Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act Repealed from 1st September, 2006.

*Unregulated market yards

[English]

Increase in ESI Pension

3887. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding the partly amount given as Employees State Insurance (ESI) Pension;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for payment of such a small amount; and

(c) if not, the reasons for non-payment of annual increment to ESI pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The ESI Corporation does not pay Pension to the beneficiaries of the Scheme. However, the ESI Corporation makes the periodical payments of Permanent Disablement Benefit to those employees who sustain employment injury during the course of employment and out of employment according to loss of their earning capacity assessed by the Medical Board.

The eligible dependants of those employees are also paid periodical payments of Dependants' Benefit based on average daily wages drawn by the deceased employee who dies due to employment injury.

The ESI Corporation has been granting increase in the Permanent Disablement Benefit/Dependants'

Benefit rates due to erosion in the real value on the basis of Actuarial calculations. The periodical increase have been granted earlier on 01-10-1977, 01-04-1980, 01-01-1987, 01-01-1989, 01-01-1992, 01-01-1993, 01-04-1995, 01-08-1997, 01-08-1999 and 01-08-2002. The ESI Corporation has again enhanced the rates of Permanent Disablement Benefit/Dependants' Benefit on 18-12-2007 giving effect from 01-08-2005.

Flood Insurance Scheme

3888. SHRI S.K. KHAERVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a): whether there is any proposal to introduce Flood Insurance Scheme in flood prone areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Home is concerned with matters relating to floods and necessary information is being collected from them.

[Translation]

Production of Cow Milk

3889. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of cow milk has been declining every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, in addition to the steps taken by the State Governments for increasing the milk production, the Government of India has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by way of the following Schemes:

(i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB)

(ii) Central Cattle Breeding Farms (CCBF's)

(iii) Central Herd Registration Scheme (CHRS)

[English]

Medical Colleges under ESIC

3890. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has decided to start Medical Colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether request has been received from Kerala for sanctioning a Medical College under ESI at Paripally in Kollam District; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b): The ESI Corporation is exploring the feasibility of starting Post Graduation in Medicine Medical Colleges, Nursing Colleges and Para-Medical Training Schools under ESI Medical Scheme. A consultant has been appointed on 29-02-2008 for submitting the feasibility report on the proposal.

(c) A letter has also been received from Government of Kerala requesting for taking necessary steps for starting a medical college at ESI Hospital, Paripally in Kollam District.

(d) A Sub-Committee constituted by the ESIC had recommended amending the ESI Act, 1948 for facilitating

imparting of medical and para-medical education with a view to improving quality of services provided under the ESI Scheme. The ESIC has approved the recommendation in its meeting held on 22-02-2008. Further action on be taken only after the proposed amendment to the ESI Act is carried out and on the basis of feasibility report.

IT Park in Gujarat

3891. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sought any assistance to Union Government for setting up of I.T. Parks in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Ministry of Communication and Information Technology has got a scheme to give financial and technical assistance to the State Government proposing to establish I.T. Parks in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposal for setting up of Software Technology Parks (STPI) Center at Surat, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar in the State of Gujarat has been received. It has been decided to set up STPI center at Surat.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Department of Information Technology has set up Software Technology Park of India (STPI) in 1991 with an objective to implement Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme, set-up and manage infrastructure facilities and provide other services like technology assessment and professional training.

As per current policy for setting up a new STPI Centre, the State Government has to provide 3 acres

of land, 10,000 sq. ft. of built up space and a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1 Crore to STPI. The Department of Information Technology, Government of India provides a seed capital of Rs. 50 lakhs to STPI for setting up of new STPI Centers. A feasibility study has to be conducted by STPI jointly with the State Government to evaluate the export potential and commercial viability of the proposal.

Funding in Rural Operations of BSNL

3892. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether opposing the idea of charging private operators to fund BSNL's rural operations major telecom operators said industry regulator should not finance the State-run telecom behemoth from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) as reported in the *Asian Age* dated February 10, 2008;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal alongwith the objections thereto; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No such news report on the subject in the *Asian Age* dated February 10, 2008 could be noted. However, during the consultation process carried out by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for review of Access Deficit Charge (ADC) for the year 2008-09 for funding of Bharat Sanchar Nigma Limited (BSNL) Wireline operations in rural areas. Specific questions in this regard were posed by TRAI to stakeholders:—

(i) Is there a case for providing support to BSNL from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for their fixed wireline operations in rural areas? if no, give reasons.

(ii) If the answer to the above is yes, suggest a suitable framework, specifying the details of

implementation like amount of subsidy, period of support etc.

While some of the major telecom service providers supported the proposal of funding of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) wireline rural operations, some other opposed it. Some of the main objections of the stakeholders in this regard were:—

- (i) In a technology neutral environment, there is no need to support any specific technology, particularly the wireline technology which is more expensive.
- (ii) The funding should not provide incentives for incurring losses but should promote improved performance of service providers.
- (iii) It must be ensured that there is no duplication of support between what BSNL is currently getting from USOF under various schemes and the subsidy support to be considered.
- (iv) BSNL should not be provided support from USOF for fixed wireline in rural areas as this support like ADC would distort market conditions.
- (v) There does not seem to be any loss to BSNL for providing wire line rural technology and therefore there is no justification for providing any additional support under USOF.
- (vi) BSNL should not be allowed to offer lower tariff than the prescribed rural tariff in rural areas as well as in other areas for wireline services to ensure that the subsidy is not used as an incentive to drop the tariffs, which is below cost and other competitors cannot match.

(c) On the basis of consultation process, TRAI's recommendations on "Support for Rural Wireline Connections installed before 01-04-2002 from USOF, on phasing out of ADC" were issued on 27th March, 2008.

The TRAI's recommendations are presently under examination of the Government.

Organic Farming

3893. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding growth rate in the organic food business during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new policy to encourage consumption and growth of organic produce by popularizing its utility and profitability among consumers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Organic food sector is in nascent stage and State-wise information on its growth is not available. However, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) have reported export growth rate of organic produce at 31%, 10% and 187%, valued at Rs. 95.33 crore, Rs. 104.87 crore and Rs. 301.24 crore during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

(b) and (c) At present the Government has no proposal to formulate a new policy to encourage consumption and growth of organic produce. However, the Government has already taken up a National Project on Organic Farming from the year 2004-05 onwards for production, promotion and market development of Organic Farming in the country. The main components under the project are: training programmes and field demonstrations on organic farming; setting up of organic input units; capacity building through service providers and market development.

Apart from above, assistance is being provided under National Horticulture Mission for organic cultivation

of horticultural crops, setting up of vermin-compost units and organic certification.

**BSNL Mobile Phone Connections
in Maharashtra**

3894. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) mobile phone users in the country especially in Satara District of Maharashtra;

(b) the number of mobile towers in the country especially in Satara District of Maharashtra;

(c) the number of mobile towers proposed to be installed in the Country especially in Satara District, Tehsil-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide mobile service to remote areas of Satara District?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA):

(a) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has 4.07 crores mobile phone users in its area of operation as on 31-03-2008, out of which 97,816 number of mobile phone users are in District Satara of Maharashtra.

(b) 32,208 number of mobile (GSM) towers are in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited network as on 31-03-2008 out of which 105 mobile towers are in Satara district of Maharashtra.

(c) About 21,007 mobile towers are proposed to be installed in the BSNL's network in the current GSM project and out of these 116 towers are proposed in Satara District (Tehsil-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement).

(d) The proposed towers are mostly in rural areas of Satara District and work will be done on top priority basis.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Tehsil	No. of Proposed Towers
1.	Dahiwadi	14
2.	Karad	13
3.	Koregaon	8
4.	Mahabaleshwar	4
5.	Medha	7
6.	Patan	8
7.	Phaltan	20
8.	Satara	11
9.	Shirval	8
10.	Vaduj	14
11.	Wai	9
Total		116

[Translation]

**Agreement with Chambal Control
Board in Water Sector**

3895. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chambal Control Board has signed an agreement with the Government of Rajasthan for use of Chambal water through the Gandhi Sagar, Rana Pratap Sagar, Jawahar Sagar and Kota Barrage projects;

(b) if so, whether any State is free to encroach upon water catchment areas of another States without permission;

(c) if so, the reasons for construction of hydraulic structures in the water catchment area of the Gandhi Sagar Project;

(d) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh proposes to demolish such illegal structures which Government of Rajasthan as constructed without taking permission; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the Chambal Control Board has signed an agreement with the Government of Rajasthan for use of Chambal water through the Gandhi Sagar, Rana Pratap Sagar, Jawahar Sagar and Kota Barrage on dated 30th June 1948.

(b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has further informed that no such conditions mentioned in the agreement but in the minutes of 13th meeting of the Madhya Pradesh-Rajasthan Interstate (I and P) Control Board held on 25-08-2005 at Jaypur, the Board decided for any project, a State could use yield from its own catchment plus 10% of other State in down stream of Kota Barrage in the territory.

(c) As per information furnished by Government of Madhya Pradesh, as at the time of construction of Gandhi Sagar and after that, there was no agreement in between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for not constructing any project in the catchment area in Gandhisagar. Therefore 151 Nos. schemes has been constructed with the water capacity of 231.67 Mcum.

(d) Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that no such illegal structures has been constructed.

(e) Does not arise.

Sugar Production in Maharashtra

3896. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent report of sugarcane

commissioner has indicated a decline in production of sugar in the State during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor indicating the extent of decline expected; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken to increase the production of sugar in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The latest report received from the Commissioner (Sugar), Government of Maharashtra indicates likely production of 88 lac tons as against 91 lac tons initially estimated. The decline in sugar production is mainly due to decline in the productivity of sugarcane leading to less production of sugarcane.

(c) There is adequate availability of sugarcane in Maharashtra commensurate with the crushing capacity of sugar mills in the state.

Opening of Handloom Centre

3897. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom centres functioning at present in the country, State-wise location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more ha.dloom centres in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(d) the amount allocated and released to said handloom centres during each year of the Tenth Plan Period State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) At present, 25 Handloom Weavers Service Centres are functioning in the country. Details of these Centres, State-wise, location-wise are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Location of the Centre(s)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad and Vijayawada
2.	Assam	Guwahati
3.	Bihar	Bhagalpur
4.	Chhattisgarh	Raigarh
5.	Delhi	Delhi
6.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
7.	Haryana	Panipat
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
9.	Karnataka	Bangalore
10.	Kerala	Kannur
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
12.	Maharashtra	Mumbai and Nagpur

1	2	3
13.	Manipur	Imphal
14.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar
15.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
16.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Kancheepuram and Salem
17.	Tripura	Agartala
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Meerut and Varanasi
19.	Uttarakhand	Chamoli
20.	West Bengal	Kolkata

(b) and (c) At present, two proposals to open Weavers Service Centres at Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand are at various stages of examination. No proposal is under consideration for opening of a Weavers Service Centre in Uttar Pradesh.

(d) On the basis of the viable proposals received from these Centres, funds are released. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The expenditure incurred during the X Plan of 5 years in respect of all WSCs, State-wise from 2002-03 to 2006-07

Sl. No.	Name of WSC	State	(Rupees in lakhs)				
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Delhi	Delhi	134.06	1138.46	143.64	137.25	117.82
2.	Varanasi/Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	93.13	99.38	107.49	107.98	111.51
3.	Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	20.09	28.715	41.76	35.92
4.	Chamoli	Uttarakhand	25.82	26.71	37.52	30.19	52.04
5.	Panipat	Haryana	47.16	49.14	45.76	48.20	50.56
6.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	47.04	49.91	51.15	57.87	58.93
7.	Guwahati	Assam	76.03	78.03	67.36	76.14	76.55
8.	Agartala	Tripura	38.08	40.82	57.03	52.68	52.08
9.	Imphal	Manipur	39.00	42.85	41.29	72.97	86.18
10.	Kolkata	West Bengal	82.15	85.84	93.12	92.91	116.08
11.	Bhagalpur	Bihar	40.10	42.92	46.84	49.28	54.59
12.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	45.80	47.55	68.76	71.04	66.99
13.	Chennai/Kancheepuram/ Salem	Tamil Nadu	153.48	159.58	159.02	175.91	169.48
							817.47

14. Bangalore	Karnataka	49.90	50.29	51.82	62.50	61.58	276.09
15. Kannur	Kerala	52.19	55.11	43.85	54.60	68.44	274.19
16. Vijayawada/Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	126.87	198.49	162.62	220.73	121.33	830.04
17. Mumbai/Nagpur	Maharashtra	134.01	139.79	132.98	141.28	165.58	713.64
18. Ahmedabad	Gujarat	38.10	39.75	45.57	49.09	38.47	210.98
19. Indore	Madhya Pradesh	34.19	36.76	34.01	35.90	39.63	180.49
20. Raigarh	Chhattisgarh	29.60	31.60	29.69	32.86	37.56	161.31
Total		1286.71	1433.07	1446.28	1611.14	1581.32	7358.52

[English]

Apatani System of Agriculture

3898. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the Apatanis system of agriculture, prevalent among the Apatani Tibe of Arunachal Pradesh in view of its highly sustainable, eco-friendly and energy efficient merits;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified areas and regions in the country where this system of agriculture and irrigation can best be promoted and adopted to maximise productivity of farm land and obtaining richer harvests; and

(c) the steps since taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Apatani system of agriculture is highly location specific system of agriculture including wet land rice, agro-forestry and fish cum paddy culture practiced by Apatani Tribes without any use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh which has round the year water availability for irrigation. Attempts have been made by the State Government to adopt this system of agriculture especially wet land rice cultivation elsewhere in the State. However, because of limitations of irrigation management owing to drying up of perennial sources of water during winter, Apatani system of agriculture can not be adopted successfully in other parts of the State. For promotion of rice including wet land rice, integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP-Rice) is in operation in Arunachal Pradesh under Macro Management Programme.

Reduction in Economic Cost of FCI

3899. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to reduce the economic cost of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the extent of benefits likely to accrue from such steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (c) No, Sir. The economic cost of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has increased during the last several years due to increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy and wheat and consequential increase in procurement incidentals. However, the FCI have taken the following steps to reduce their operational cost:

- (i) Freight: Linear Programming model is being implemented to reduce rail freight charges.
- (ii) Handling Charges: FCI have decided not to bring any further Depots/Units under Departmentalized labour till existing surplus labour force available with them is exhausted.
- (iii) Storage Charges: Efforts have been made to dehire the excess godown capacity and let out the surplus capacity to generate revenue.
- (iv) Interest: The FCI have issued Bonds to reduce the interest cost.
- (v) Shortages: The FCI have made efforts to restrict its losses towards storage and transit.

Handloom Export Zones

3900. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Handloom Export Zones (HEZs);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the location identified for setting up of the same, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated and released for the purpose, State-wise;

(d) the extent to which the handloom industry likely to be benefited by such zones;

(e) whether the Government also proposes to set up expert panel for preparing fibre policy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition of said panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) The Handloom Export Promotion Council has started implementing Handloom Export Zone projects in Nagercoil, Kancheepuram, Thiruvannamalai, Nagapattinam and Thiruvallur with the financial aid from State agencies. These projects aim to establish Common Facility Centres, increase productivity and quality of handloom products, looms upgradation etc.

(c) The Handloom Export Zone projects are being implemented with financial aid from State agencies.

(d) The Handloom Export Zone projects will create a supply hub for home textiles for export markets with trained workforce.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to set up expert panel for preparing fibre policy.

Schemes for Small and Marginal Farmers

3901. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any new irrigation schemes for the benefit of small and marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated and proposed to be allocated therefor;

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

(e) the number of farmers likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) Ministry of Water Resources has not prepared any new irrigation scheme. However, a scheme for "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells" has been approved for implementation during the period 2007-10 in seven States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, with the objective of improvement in ground water situation, increasing the sustainability of wells during lean period and improving the overall irrigated agricultural productivity, socio economic conditions and quality of life of the local population in the affected areas.

[Translation]

Urban and Rural Tele-Density

3902. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the breakup of urban and rural tele-density in the country at present separately, State-wise;

(b) the place India occupies in the world in this regard;

(c) the targets prescribed for increasing the tele-density in the country;

(d) whether the targets have been set out on lower side and not in accordance with the world tele-density; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The urban and rural tele-density in the country as on 29-02-2008 is 64.48% and 9.03% respectively. The State-wise urban and rural tele-density as on 29-02-2008 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) In terms of number of telephones, India's telephone network is the third largest in the world.

(c) As per Eleventh Five Year Plan, target of 600 million telephones by end of March 2012 has been set to increase the tele-density in the country.

(d) and (e) By the end of December 2006, world tele-density was 61.01 % (latest available). The Eleventh Plan target of 600 million telephones will translate into the tele-density at around 50% in the country by the end of March 2012.

Statement

State-wise Urban and Rural Teledensity as on 29-02-2008

Sl. No.	Name of Circle/ State	Tele-density (in %) as on 29-02-2008		
		Rural	Urban	Overall
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	13.89	24.77	17.94
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10.15	72.44	27.34
3.	Assam	3.85	72.46	13.67
4.	Bihar	3.10	89.13	12.13
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.31	14.27	4.18
6.	Gujarat	15.57	58.15	32.34
7.	Haryana	16.06	57.67	29.45
8.	Himachal Pradesh	30.50	118.64	39.90
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.35	59.40	20.99
10.	Jharkhand	1.14	11.38	3.49
11.	Karnataka	11.14	73.38	33.68
12.	Kerala	25.50	97.46	43.98
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4.96	58.34	19.54
14.	Maharashtra (-) Mumbai	11.66	55.16	26.18
15.	North East-I	6.65	89.45	26.32
16.	North East-II	3.06	27.47	8.71
17.	Orissa	6.66	53.64	14.28
18.	Punjab	24.83	80.63	46.85

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Rajasthan	12.07	57.98	22.98
20.	Tamil Nadu (–) Chennai	15.37	56.80	34.01
21.	Uttaranchal	5.03	24.43	10.37
22.	Uttar Pradesh	6.00	50.36	15.58
23.	West Bengal (–) Kolkata	7.02	55.43	13.78
24.	Kolkatta	#	57.43	62.30
25.	Chennai	#	100.13	101.62
26.	Delhi	#	107.96	107.96
27.	Mumbai	#	81.41	81.41
All India		9.03	64.48	25.34

No rural population data is available for metro cities Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai.

Note: Private operators provide data service area wise only and not separately for Andaman and Nicobar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and NE-II which are included in West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and North East-I respectively. However, Bharti Airtel provides landline figures separately for Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Participatory Irrigation Management Programme

3903. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Participatory Management of Irrigation (PMI) launched with the objective of development of irrigation and cautions management of water in the country failed to achieve its objectives;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of States in which the said programme has been implemented so far; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Ministry of Water Resources has not

launched any scheme or programme in respect of Participatory Management of Irrigation. However, the National Water Policy envisages that management of water resources for diverse uses should incorporate a participatory approach; by involving not only various governmental agencies but also the users and other stakeholders in an effective and decisive manner in various aspects of planning, design, development and management of the water resources scheme. Ministry of Water Resources encourages Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) through the scheme for Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD and WM).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Construction of Dams

3904. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many dams in the country lack sledging facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for not providing that facilities at the time of construction;

(c) whether complaints have been received regarding problems being faced in management and maintenance of dams due to lack of such facilities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) "Sledging facilities" do not constitute a component of design, management or maintenance of dams in India.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Maintaining of Cellular Towers

3905. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) proposes to formulate any scheme to hire and maintain cellular towers for its mobile telephony operations in the country;

(b) if so, whether the BSNL has now decided to outsource hiring and maintenance of such towers from independent third-party vendors in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BSNL has already formulated a scheme to hire cellular towers for its mobile telephony operations in the country. However, maintenance of hired cellular towers is being done by the owner itself.

(c) So far, BSNL has signed the agreement for hiring of cell towers from one telecom service provider (M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.) and six independent infrastructure providers viz. M/s GTL Infrastructure Ltd., M/s Aster Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., M/s Quipo Telecom Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd., M/s Essar Telecom Infrastructure

Pvt. Ltd. M/s TVS Interconnect System Ltd., and M/s XCEL Telecom Pvt. Ltd.

[Translation]

Land Ownership to Women

3906. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up any proposal for providing land ownership rights to-women dependent on agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the target fixed by the Government for making land available to women under the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Land is a State subject; and therefore, it is for the State Governments to bring suitable legislation regarding land distribution including land ownership rights to women dependent on agriculture.

However, based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers, Government of India has approved the National Policy for Farmers 2007, which is already under implementation through various schemes and programmes of various Central Ministries and Departments. The Policy provides for issue of joint pattas to women farmers for both homestead and agricultural land as this is essential for empowering women to access credit and other services.

Licences for Telecom Services

3907. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI V. K. THUMMAR:

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received applications from private sector new telecom companies for seeking Landline/Mobile telephone Licences to start telecom services in the country;

(b) if so, the number of companies granted licence alongwith the circles for which said licences have been granted during the last three years, as on date alongwith the reason for cancellation of their applications;

(c) whether the Government has not issued licence to other company under the influence of certain private telecom operators so as to save them from competition;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry to remove this apprehensions in this regard;

(f) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(g) whether there is a proposal to make local calls in all circles at the rate of 25 paise per minute as reported in Dainik Jagran, dated March 6, 2008;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the time by which call rates are proposed to be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has received applications from private sector companies for grant of Unified Access Services (UAS) licences in various service areas in the country which includes wireline and wireless access services.

(b) to (f) 143 new UAS licences have been granted to 20 companies in 22 service areas during last three years. New UAS licences have not been issued to the companies who did not fulfill the eligibility conditions of UASD guidelines dated 14-12-2005 for grant of UAS licence. Out of the 143 new UAS licences, 120 licences have been issued recently in February-March, 2008 to

16 companies adding 4 to 7 new telecom service providers in 22 service areas in the country. This will result in enhanced competition in the telecom sector.

Certain applicant companies, who did not fulfill the eligibility criteria and were not granted UAS licences, have approached courts and the matters are subjudice.

(g) to (i) Tariffs for the telecom services in the country are governed by the frame work laid down in the Telecommunication Traffic Order (TTO), 1999 as amended from time to time by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). As per the existing provisions of TTO, Traffic for telecom services are under forbearance except with regard to fixed line service in rural areas, national mobile roaming service and leased line service. The service providers have the flexibility to offer lower call charges.

Cooperative Organisations

3908. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the most of the Government-aided co-operative organizations like National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED), National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) have not implemented the reservation policy for SCs/STs and OBCs;

(b) if so, the percentage representation of SCs/STs/OBCs in the posts of various categories in the said and the other Government Organizations; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to ensure the adequate representation of the people belonging to these castes/classes in various organizations under the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Discrepancies in Eurocopter Deal**

3909. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and number of discrepancies found in the selection process of the Eurocopter deal and its short and long term consequences;

(b) the person/agency identified as a go-between for Eurocopter and the details of technical discrepancies found in the selection process causing delay in procurement of suitable helicopters for the army;

(c) whether the Government proposes to cancel the deal and start afresh the procurement of suitable machine for the Army Aviation Corps at the earliest and also further strengthen the mechanism to eliminate the existence of middlemen in defence deals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The helicopter offered by M/s. Eurocopter for field trials was a civilian version whereas helicopter offered in their bid was the military version. Further, the engine fitted on the helicopter during trial was different from the one offered along with the military version of helicopter in the bid of M/s. Eurocopter. This Ministry is not aware of any person or agency as a go-between for Eurocopter in this acquisition process.

(c) and (d) This case has been foreclosed and the process as per the extant Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), has been initiated afresh. Requisite provisions to eliminate middlemen in defence deals already exist in the extant DPP.

**Tariff for Mobile Phone
Service Providers**

3910. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to fix the minimum tariff for mobile phone service providers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is exploring the possibility of enhancing the capacity of spectrum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. The power to regulate Telecom Tariff in the country has been mandated to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI has put the tariffs for mobile services (except for roaming charges, for which there are certain ceilings) under forbearance. Thus, the mobile service providers are free to offer a variety of tariff packages to subscribers, as per the prevailing market conditions, customer needs and TRAI guidelines.

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

(c) and (d) The Radio frequency spectrum is a natural, limited and scarce resource. The Government has been advising the mobile operators to use spectrum optimally and efficiently by deploying latest technological developments/solutions.

Production of Cashew

3911. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cashew produced in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is a large scope for value addition of the cashew fruit.

(c) if so, the details regarding parts (excluding cashew nut) that can be used for such value addition; and

(d) the details of the steps taken with regard to such value addition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The details of cashew produced in the country during the last three years, State-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The cashew fruit i.e. cashew apple has large scope for value addition. This juicy fruit can be used for preparing various edible products such as Syrup, squash, juice, jam candy, canned apple, pickle and vinegar. The cashew apple is used for making "Feni" in the state of Goa.

(d) Protocols for the preparation of juice, jam, jelly, pickle and various other products have been developed at Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore and at AICRP (Cashew) Centres at Cashew Research Station.

In order to create awareness among the farming community on the utility of this valuable edible product, Government of India has envisaged a programme "Pilot Demonstration on Utilization of Cashew Apple" under National Horticulture Mission for popularizing preparation of these products. Demonstrations are conducted in major cashew growing states to impart training to the cashew farmers especially farm women through Research Centres, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Non Governmental Organizations from 2006-07 onwards.

Statement

Area, Production and Productivity of Cashewnut in India

A—Area in 000 Ha

P—Production in 000 MT

APY—Average Productivity per Hectare in kg.

State	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
	A	P	APY	A	P	APY	A	P	APY
Kerala	102	64	900	80	67	900	80	72	900
Karnataka	95	43	680	100	45	700	102	52	700
Goa	55	26	660	55	27	690	55	29	690
Maharashtra	160	174	1200	160	183	1300	164	197	1500
Tamil Nadu	105	53	610	121	56	640	123	60	670
Andhra Pradesh	150	88	840	170	92	880	171	99	890
Orissa	126	74	810	120	78	860	125	84	860
West Bengal	9	8	800	10	10	950	10	10	1000
Others	18	14	800	21	15	900	24	17	700
Total	820	544	810	837	573	815	854	620	820

FDI Telecom Sector

3912. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the total amount of share of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Telecom Sector as on March 31, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): The total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received in the country in the Telecom Sector from August 1991 to March 2007 was Rs. 16,691 Crore, whereas the total FDI received in the country during the same period was Rs 2,32,041 Crore. The total FDI in Telecom Sector constitutes 7.19% of the total.

Harmful Insects

3913. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI M. APPADURAI:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to quarantine harmful insects coming with imported agricultural consumer items;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether in a recent meeting of SAARC countries on agriculture, it has been agreed to develop surveillance and early warning system for trans-boundary pests in the wake of climatic change;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details regarding research programmes to develop more effective pesticides for pesticide resistant pathogen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The import of plants and plant material is regulated under the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 and the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003, keeping in view the agricultural bio-security of the country. Under this Order it has been made mandatory to conduct a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) of each commodity or part thereof and plant quarantine testing before allowing its import into the country.

(c) and (d) In a recent meeting of SAARC countries on agriculture, agreement to develop surveillance and early warning system for trans-bound pests in the wake of climatic change was considered.

(e) Research is undertaken to study the extent of resistance development by various pests to the pesticides. However, development of new pesticides is done by the pesticide industry. Evaluation of new pesticide molecules that are brought out by the pesticide industry are subjected to evaluation against all target pests and they are deployed in the event of any suspected resistance to any recommended pesticide.

Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees

3914. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total inputs/arrivals of farm produce of these Committees alongwith the total market fees levied by these APMCs, during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether certain States have changed their APMC Acts and published them in official gazettes as suggested by the S.L. Guru Expert Committee on strengthening and developing of Agricultural Marketing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There are 2170 Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs) at present in the country as reported by the different States/Union Territories Government. The State-wise information is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The total inputs/arrivals of farm produce of these Committees alongwith the total market fees levied by these APMCs during the last three years as received from different States/UTs are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. As per available information, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal

Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Punjab, Sikkim and Tripura have amended their Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation (APMR) Acts and notified in Official Gazettes, on the basis of the model APMR Act circulated by the Central Government, which was prepared in consultation with the State Governments after taking into consideration the recommendations of Shri S.L. Guru Expert Committee. The Act of Punjab is applicable in the UT of Chandigarh also. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has decided not to amend their Act as already provide for required arrangements relating to market reforms. The State Government of Bihar has repealed their APMC Act w.e.f. 1-9-2006. The State Governments of Haryana, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Union Territories of NCT of Delhi and Puducheri are also in the process of implementing the required amendments in their Acts. The States/UTs of Kerala, Manipur, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep have no APMR Acts.

Statement-I

No. of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs)—State-wise

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of APMCs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	316
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14
3.	Assam	24
4.	Bihar *	Act repealed w.e.f. 1st Sept. 2006
5.	Jharkhand	28
6.	Goa	1
7.	Gujarat	209
8.	Haryana	106
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	APMR Act yet to be implemented

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of APMCs
11.	Karnataka	146
12.	Kerala	APMR Act yet to be implemented
13.	Madhya Pradesh	233
14.	Chhattisgarh	73
15.	Maharashtra	295
16.	Manipur	APMR Act yet to be implemented
17.	Meghalaya	2
18.	Mizoram	APMC Act yet to be implemented
19.	Nagaland	12
20.	Orissa	61
21.	Punjab	145
22.	Rajasthan	125
23.	Sikkim	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	21
25.	Tripura	21
26.	Uttar Pradesh	247
27.	Uttarakhand	20
28.	West Bengal	47
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	APMR Act yet to be implemented
30.	Chandigarh	1
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	APMR Act yet to be implemented
32.	Daman and Diu	APMR Act yet to be implemented
33.	Delhi	9
34.	Lakshadweep	APMR Act yet to be implemented
35.	Puducherry	3
Total		2170

Statement-II

Total Inputs/Arrivals of Farm Produce of these Committees alongwith total market fee during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Total Inputs/Arrivals (in lakh MT)			Total Market Fee levied (in lakh MT)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	216.94	219.32	233.15	20358	20284	2474
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.86	1.40	1.62	23.89	32.12	17.51
3.	Assam	52.88	58.27	60.56	1729.94	1906.26	2233.48
4.	Bihar	Repealed w.e.f. 1st September, 2006					
5.	Jharkhand	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1618.47 (2005-06)	1793.54 (2006-07)	1728.95 (2007-08 upto Feb' 08)
6.	Goa**	0.42	0.40	0.45	135.33	151.25	148.65
7.	Gujarat	138.66	125.9	115.3	6296.55	7340.96	8625.85
8.	Haryana	122.61 (2005-06)	107.16 (2006-07)	115.45 (2007-08)	17182.00 (2005-06)	16662.00 (2006-07)	22830.00 (2007-08)
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.73 (2005-06)	2.78 (2006-07)	3.31 (2007-08 upto Feb '08)	1919.62 (2005-06)	1394.88 (2006-07)	1327.60 (2007-08 upto Feb '08)
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	APMR Act yet to be implemented					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Karnataka	823.37	919.65	259.98	109.23	130.40	152.06
12.	Kerala	APMR Act yet to be implemented					
13.	Madhya Pradesh	126.96	135.52	157.26	27795.45	32739.65	37023.46
14.	Chhattisgarh	54.85	59.23	59.34	4425.88	5042.43	8331.92
15.	Maharashtra	175.94	179.32	152.33	15331.64	17408.92	20003.05
16.	Manipur	APMR Act yet to be implemented					
17.	Meghalaya	0.45	0.45	0.43	28.53	28.00	32.47
18.	Mizoram	APMC Act yet to be implemented					
19.	Nagaland	The notification of commodities are under process by the Government					
20.	Orissa	51.03	54.32	57.28	3118.48	3277.34	3458.64
21.	Punjab	277.70	273.47	252.00	35310.00	38230.00	34539.00
22.	Rajasthan	89.55 (2005-06)	85.83 2006-07	97.81 (2007-08)	19097.01 (2005-06)	19077.14 2006-07	19361.04 (2007-08)
23.	Sikkim	Negligible arrival					
24.	Tamil Nadu	15.04	13.87	16.43	14241.07	4277.2.5	4287.24
25.	Tripura	1.02	1.39	1.06	18.48	28.86	25.44
26.	Uttar Pradesh	371.82	347.51	1338.16	30498.00	29824.00	306.00
27.	Uttarakhand	120.16 (2005-06)	22.13 (2006-07)	18.32 (200708)	1486.68 (2005-06)	1413.91 (2006-07)	1584.02 (2007008)
28.	West Bengal	1667.63	1272.17	270.78	3835.37	3875.23	3920.18
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	APMR Act yet to be implemented					

30. Chandigarh	6.54 (2005-06)	4.40 (2006-07)	6.45 (2007-08)	276.90 (2005-06)	274.20 (2006-07)	339.40 (2007-08)
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	APMR Act yet to be implemented					
32. Daman and Diu	APMR Act yet to be implemented					
33. Delhi ③	145.96 (2005-06)	207.30 (2006-07)	167.79 (2007-08)	4511.84 (2005-06)	5071.25 (2006-07)	5835.66 (2007-08)
34. Lakshdweep	APMR Act yet to be implemented					
35. Puducherry	1.29 (2005-06)	1.28 (2006-07)	1.34 (2007-08)	62.74 (2005-06)	71.30 (2006-07)	67.15 (2007-08)

* Excludes number of animals.

** Excludes number of coconut.

③ Excludes arrivals of flowers which are in bundles and number of sticks.

N.A.—Not Available.

Defence Deal with USA

3915. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any old defence ship has been purchased from United States of America for Rs. 200 crore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the utilization of that ship?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) A letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) was signed by the Indian side on 31st July 2006 for the acquisition of a Landing Platform Dock (ex-USS Trenton) from the USA at a total cost of US Dollar 48.23 million. The total cost included the cost of the ship, cost of 04 Landing Craft Mechanized (LCMs), spares, documentation, crew training, cost of the ship refit, etc. During the execution of the refit work package, it was considered necessary by Indian Navy to increase the scope of work. The refit work package was, therefore, completed with increased scope of work. On the whole, the total cost of the project increased by US Dollar 2.4 million. The ship was old but the Indian Navy assessed her residual life to be above 10 years. After completion of refit, the ship arrived in India in September 2007. The ship can be used for amphibious operations as well as disaster relief.

[Translation]

Misuse of ISI Mark

3916. SHRI V.K THUMMAR:

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of misuse of Bureau of Indian Standards ISI marks have been reported recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three year and in the current year;

(c) whether raids and tests were conducted by BIS in this regard during the above period;

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

(e) the number and details of producers/traders that failed to clear the tests; and

(f) the remedial action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the misuse of ISI mark in the last three financial year by the person not having BIS licence and by the persons having BIS licence are as under:

Year	Misuse of ISI mark by persons, not having BIS licence	Misuse of ISI mark by the BIS licensees
2005-06	241	1135
2006-07	212	1149
2007-08	125	1378

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of the raids conducted by the BIS on shops/establishments including premises of the manufacturers in the various parts of the country misusing ISI mark without having a valid licence and samples tested of its licensees for the last three financial years are as Under:—

Year	Raids conducted on non licensees	Samples tested of licensees
2005-06	241	21882
2006-07	212	29081
2007-08	125	25794

However, no tests are conducted on the material seized during the raids conducted by the BIS.

(e) There were 219 cues as per details below in which the licensees could not take required corrective action and/or their improved samples failed to clear the tests. Such cases were processed for cancellation as per BIS Act and rules and regulations framed thereunder.

Year	Number of licence cancelled
2005-06	53
2006-07	52
2007-08	114
Total	219

(f) To check misuse of ISI mark by non licensees, BIS initiated a process to strengthen its enforcement activity by appointing outside agencies to help it in providing crucial information about the manufacturers misusing ISI mark without obtaining the licence from BIS. Besides this, regular interaction with industry/trade associations as well as BIS licensees is also organized to develop information network to get the information about the misuse of ISI mark by such manufacturers. In respect of its licensees, BIS through its Scheme of Testing and Inspection and Market Surveillance ensures that they strictly adhere to the specifications laid down in relevant Indian Standards and do not misuse ISI Mark.

Textile Parks

3917. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH

DEO:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

YOGI ADITYA NAATH:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Textile Parks sanctioned and established in the country during each year of the Tenth Plan Period alongwith proposals for the Eleventh Plan State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and released to these parks during the said. period, State-wise and Park-wise;

(c) the time by which the remaining sanctioned parks are likely to start functioning;

(d) whether these parks are not functioning in accordance with their objectives;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) was approved in July 2005 to facilitate setting up of Textiles Parks with appropriate support infrastructure facilities. As per the target for the 10th Five Year Plan, 30 Textiles Park projects have been approved. These projects are at various stages of implementation. Although, the Scheme has been continued on the 11th Five Year Plan to sanction ten (10) new Textiles Park projects in the first phase, no project has been sanctioned so far.

(b) Funds released to the sanctioned projects, year-wise and State-wise, are given in the table below:—

State	Number of Projects	Year-wise. Release of Funds (in Crore Rupees)			
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	5	0.00	12.74	49.92	62.66

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bihar	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	7	8.00	8.00	64.00	80.00
Karnataka	1	0.00	2.12	10.62	12.74
Maharashtra	5	4.82	6.89	45.39	57.10
Punjab	1	0.00	0.00	4.00	4.00
Rajasthan	3	0.00	3.87	15.75	19.62
Tamil Nadu	6	5.73	5.39	40.91	52.03
West Bengal	1	0.00	4.00	8.00	12.00
Total	30	18.55	43.01	238.59	300.15

(c) All the projects sanctioned so far are expected to be functional by 2009.

(d) No report has been received by the Government suggesting that the parks are not functioning in accordance with their objectives.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[English]

**National Agricultural
Insurance Scheme**

3918. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme has become redundant as the farmers who earlier availed of the same are now opting out of it;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch a new scheme to provide insurance cover to the farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) which is being implemented in the country with effect from Rabi 1999-2000 season, covered about 105 lakh farmers over an area of 163 lakh hectares in 2000-01. The coverage of farmers during 2006-07 has increased to 179 lakh farmers over an area of 273 lakh hectares.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) To overcome the limitation of delayed settlement of claims under NAIS, the Government has introduced Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) with effect from Kharif 2007. The scheme insures farmers against the likelihood of financial loss on account of anticipated loss in crop yield resulting from adverse incidence of weather parameters like deficit/excess rainfall; high/low temperature; frost etc. The WBCIS has been implemented on pilot basis in

selected areas/crops of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in Kharif 2007 and Rabi 2007-08 crop seasons. It has also been extended for implementation in Kharif 2008.

**Integrated Handloom
Development Scheme**

3919. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of the Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS);

(b) the target fixed and success during the Tenth Plan under IHDS;

(c) whether the Government proposes to IHDS for the weavers of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds allocated for the purpose during each year of Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The Government of India has introduced Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme for its implementation during the XI Plan period with the objectives of focussing on formation of handloom weavers' groups as a visible production group in selected handloom clusters, to assist the handloom weavers' groups for becoming self sustainable, to cover weavers both within and outside the cooperative fold, to provide need based inputs in a holistic and flexible manner specific to each cluster/group etc.

(b) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS) has been introduced in December 2007 i.e. during the XI Plan period.

(c) to (e) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme is meant for the handloom weavers of the country. The main components of the scheme are Cluster Development Programme, Group Approach for

Development of Handlooms, Marketing Incentive, Strengthening of Handloom Organizations etc. Year-wise allocation of funds under Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme for the XI Plan period is as follows:

Sl.No.	Year	Allocation of Funds (Rs. in cr.)
1.	2007-08	111.00
2.	2008-09	125.00
3.	2009-10	160.00
4.	2010-11	175.00
5.	2011-12	190.00

**Expansion of Broadband
Infrastructure**

3920. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for expansion of broadband infrastructure in urban and rural areas of the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed plan to cover all Gram Panchayats and higher secondary schools and public health centres in the plan period;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred and funds allocated for the said purpose;

(d) the manner in which broadband users will be benefited by such expansion; and

(e) the resources from where the Government proposes to manage funds for such expansion plan in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has inter-alia taken the following steps to increase the penetration of broadband in the rural and urban areas:—

- (i) With the aim to provide e-governance and data services to rural masses, the Indian Telegraph Rules have been amended to bring provisioning of broadband connectivity to the rural areas under the purview of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
- (ii) Broadband services have already been provided in 2850 Blocks covering 15,000 villages and more villages are being covered in a progressive manner.
- (iii) Wi-Fi access in major public utility places like Airports, Malls, Hotels etc. is being implemented in a progressive manner by BSNL.
- (iv) All Gram Panchayats will be covered under Rural Broadband project in a progressive manner and will be provided with broadband connectivity by the end of year 2012.
- (v) All Government Higher Secondary Schools will be covered in progressive manner, and will be provided with broadband connectivity by the end of year 2012.
- (vi) As part of e-governance Project, all Public Health Centres will be covered with broadband connectivity in a progressive manner by the end of year 2012.

BSNL and MTNL have planned the broadband expansion through their own resources.

(d) The broadband users will have access to various facilities like e-governance, tele-education, telemedicine, video conferencing, digital entertainment, faster web search, e-commerce etc.

(e) DoT, through USOF, will also subsidise the infrastructure cost for broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas.

Incentives and Funds under T.U.F.S.

**3921. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGÉ
PATIL:
DR. DHIREHDRA AGARWAL:**

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for textiles, jute and related industries functioning at present in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the incentives being granted by the Government to these Industries under the TUFS;

(d) the funds allocated and released to these Industries under the TUFS since its inception, year-wise and industry-wise; and

(e) the details of Jute production during each of the last three years and thereafter till date, State-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Scheme are given in the enclosed Statement-I

(c) The incentives being granted by the Government to the industries under the TUFS are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The funds allocated and released year-wise and industry-wise under TUFS since inception are given in the enclosed Statement-III and IV.

(e) The details of jute production of the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-V.

Statement***Details of the Technology Upgradation
Fund Scheme (TUFS)***

- (i) It is a Plan Scheme.
- (ii) It aims at providing capital for modernization of Indian textile industry at international interest rate.
- (iii) Technology levels are bench marked in terms of specified machinery.
- (iv) There is no cap on funding under the scheme.
- (v) Segments such as spinning, cotton ginning and pressing, silk reeling and twisting, wool scouring and combing, synthetic filament yarn texturising crimping and twisting, manufacturing of viscose filament yarn (VFY)/ viscose staple fibre (VSF), weaving knitting including non-woven and technical textiles, garments; made-up manufacturing, processing of fibres, yarns, fabrics, garments and made-ups and the jute sector are eligible to avail of concessional loans under this Scheme for their technology upgradation requirements.
- (vi) Investments in common infrastructure or in facilities by industry association, trust or co-operative, society and other investments specified are also eligible for funding under the scheme.
- (vii) Improved metal frame hand looms used by the handloom weavers have also been covered under the scheme.

Statement-II***Incentives being Granted by the
Government under TUFS***

- (i) 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, the rate of interest reimbursement on spinning machinery is 4%.

- (ii) In addition to this the Scheme provides coverage of exchange rate erosion not exceeding 5% points per annum in respect of foreign currency loans instead, of 5%, interest support. However, for the spinning machinery the coverage is 4%.
- (iii) The Scheme provides an additional option to the powerlooms units to avail of 20% Margin Money subsidy under TUFS in lieu of 5% interest reimbursement on investment in TUF compatible specified machinery subject to a capital ceiling of Rs. 200 lakh and ceiling on subsidy Rs. 20 lakh.
- (iv) The Scheme provides 15% Margin Money subsidy for SSI textile and jute sector in lieu of 5% interest reimbursement on investment in TUF compatible specified machinery subject to a capital ceiling of Rs. 200 lakh and ceiling on subsidy of Rs.15 lakh.
- (v) The Scheme provides 5% interest reimbursement plus 10% capital subsidy for specified processing machinery, garmenting machinery and machinery required in manufacture of technical textiles.
- (vi) The Scheme provides 25% capital subsidy on purchase of the new machinery and equipments for the pre-loom and post-loom operations, hand looms/up-gradation of handlooms and testing and Quality Control equipments, for handloom production units.
- (vii) The Scheme provides Interest subsidy/capital subsidy/Margin Money subsidy only on the basic value of the machineries.

Statement-III

Budget allocation and year-wise release of funds towards reimbursement of interest/capital subsidy under TUFS

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	Budget Provision	Total Amount released
2000-01	70.00	70
2001-02	200.00	198.894
2002-03	220.00	202.59
2003-04	250.00	249.06
2004-05	284.00	283.604
2005-06	485.08	485.00
2006-07	835.00	823.92
2007-08	1143.37	1143.37
Total	3488.37	3457.438

Statement-IV

Segment-wise/Institution-wise progress under TJFS (Provisional) w.e.f. 1-4-99 to 31-3-2007

As on 17-11-2007

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Industry segment	Sector	Received			Sanctioned			Disbursed		
			No. of applications	Project cost	Amt. of loan required	No. of applications	Project cost	Amt. of loan required	No. of applications	Project cost	Amt. of loan required
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1.	Composite Upgradation	Non-SSI	525	27385.06	14357.58	501	25344.42	11213.33	465	8646.55	
		SSI	225	275.83	171.20	216	257.25	164.47	208	127.13	
	Sub total		750	27660.89	14528.78	717	25601.67	11377.80	673	8773.68	
2.	Cotton Ginning and pressing	Non-SSI	25	118.31	80.58	24	108.31	69.37	24	66.77	
		SSI	65	91.87	46.56	62	84.15	34.45	53	26.52	
3.	Fabric Embroidery	Non-SSI	148	1014.20	540.57	142	824.73	442.55	134	395.37	
		SSI	2194	661.98	471.37	2189	659.66	466.24	1992	404.57	
	Sub total		2342	1676.18	1011.94	2331	1484.39	908.79	2126	799.94	
4.	Garment Manufacturing	Non-SSI	191	1998.37	1181.53	184	1920.59	1105.19	167	905.38	
		SSI	625	686.81	416.59	610	661.35	388.95	557	321.30	
	Sub total		816	2685.18	1598.12	794	2581.94	1504.14	724	1226.68	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5.	Independent weaving preparatory	Non-SSI	8	115.89	80.27	7	101.89	68.88	6	37.57
		SSI	85	27.45	16.20	82	26.43	15.52	77	13.04
	Sub total		93	143.34	96.47	89	128.32	84.29	83	50.61
6.	Jute industry	Non-SSI	29	306.31	172.35	27	287.54	157.45	24	134.48
		SSI	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Sub Total		29	306.31	172.35	27	287.54	157.45	24	134.48
7.	Knitting	Non-SSI	94	2130.25	723.93	90	1958.66	560.02	85	449.69
		SSI	1003	763.45	537.30	991	729.24	510.02	955	445.92
	Sub total		1097	2893.70	1261.23	1081	2687.90	1070.04	1040	895.61
8.	Made-up manufacturing	Non-SSI	69	2079.16	1434.17	66	1718.97	950.25	62	817.28
		SSI	139	121.15	80.02	136	117.21	67.39	125	46.37
		Sub total	208	2200.31	1514.19	202	1836.18	1017.64	187	863.65
9.	Manufacturing of viscose filament yarn	Non-SSI	29	630.64	397.95	29	630.84	385.95	28	216.95
		SSI	12	20.42	9.52	12	20.42	9.52	11	4.10
		Sub total	41	651.06	407.47	41	651.06	395.47	39	221.05
10.	Non-wovens	Non-SSI	15	148.02	61.22	15	148.02	59.27	14	37.43
		SSI	2	0.63	0.49	2	0.63	0.35	2	0.35
		Sub total	17	148.65	61.71	17	148.65	59.62	16	37.78

11. Others	Non-SSI	2	2.97	52.24	2	2.97	52.24	2	52.24
	SSI	1	2.80	2.00	1	2.80	2.00	1	1.00
	Sub total	3	5.77	54.24	3	5.77	54.24	3	53.24
12. Processing of fibres, yarns fabrics, garments and made-ups	Non-SSI	479	8683.1	4125.38	449	7987.34	3562.79	433	2763.17
	SSI	596	642.2	397.43	580	595.45	356.07	523	271.49
	Sub total	1075	9325.30	4522.81	1029	8582.79	3918.86	956	3034.66
13. Silk reeling	Non-SSI	12	354.58	274.24	11	335.58	94.2	9	21.82
	SSI	71	26.87	15.61	67	22.13	11.77	67	9.46
	Sub Total	83	381.45	289.85	78	357.71	105.97	76	31.28
14. Spinning	Non-SSI	1165	27885.2	13460.17	1083	24703.26	11917.51	956	7916.88
	SSI	344	484.17	310.72	339	472.66	303.10	305	192.46
	Sub total	1509	28369.37	13770.89	1422	25175.92	12217.61	1261	8109.34
15. Synthetic Filament yam Texturing, crimping and twisting	Non-SSI	225	1711.72	1009.46	216	1557	905.10	208	804.30
	SSI	916	394.52	250.58	905	350.76	221.86	871	196.40
	Sub total	1141	2106.24	1260.04	1121	1907.76	1126.96	1079	1000.70
16. Technical Textiles	Non-SSI	26	405.75	167.66	25	387.9	162.41	24	96.78
	SSI	45	42.88	27.65	44	38.71	24.96	43	20.51
	Sub total	71	448.63	195.31	69	426.61	187.37	67	117.29
17. Weaving	Non-SSI	374	13488.44	2545.79	349	13233.33	2136.48	330	1653.50
	SSI	1526	708.56	485.48	1520	699.83	501.52	1443	343.25
	Sub total	1900	14196.00	3031.27	1869	13933.16	2638.00	1773	1996.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
18.	Wool Scouring and combing	Non-SSI	5	31.01	18.96	5	31.01	18.96	3	5.86
		SSI	9	5.62	3.11	9	5.62	3.11	9	2.95
		Sub total	14	36.63	22.07	14	36.63	22.07	12	8.81
19.	All Segments	Non-SSI	3421	88488.98	40684.05	3225	81282.16	33661.84	2974	25022.02
		SSI	7858	4956.21	3241.83	7765	4744.30	3088.30	7242	2428.82
		Total	11279	93447.19	43925.88	10990	86026.46	36950.14	10216	27448.84

Note: 1. AIFIS and SIOBI include their respective their PUS.

2. Project cost would include equity (non-loan amount), loan for non-TUF eligible investment.

3. Government out-flow under TUFIS is around 5% of the disbursed amount

Statement-V*Details of Jute production during the last three years*

(Qty in '000 bales)

States	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Andhra Pradesh	455.0	560.0	486.0
Assam	603.6	583.3	126.4
Bihar	1386.6	1389.8	1443.2
Chhattisgarh	3.0	3.5	4.0
Jharkhand	6.0	5.0	5.0
Karnataka	2.7	6.5	5.0
Madhya Pradesh	1.2	6.0	4.5
Maharashtra	36.0	38.0	38.0
Meghalaya	55.7	72.6	73.0
Nagaland	10.5	23.5	25.0
Orissa	141.5	209.5	227.0
Tamil Nadu	0.0	1.5	3.0
Tripura	23.3	15.3	22.0
Uttar Pradesh	0.0	0.8	4.0
West Bengal	8114.5	8506.0	8316.1
Others	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	10839.6	11421.3	11382.2

Source: Directorate of Jute Development

[Translation]

**Crops under National Agricultural
Development Scheme**

3922. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the National Agriculture Development
Scheme has been launched in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the crops that have been included for development alongwith the funds sanctioned under the said scheme, State-wise particularly in the North-East;

(c) whether any time bound targets have been fixed for the implementation of the said scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the Resolution adopted on 29-05-2007 by the National Development Council (NDC), a new State Plan scheme of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for agriculture and allied sectors, namely, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) or National Agricultural Development Programme (NADP) was launched during 2007-08.

The broad objective of RKVY is to incentivise the

States to increase public investment to achieve 4% growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors in the 11th Five Year Plan.

The scheme provides the States flexibility and autonomy in the process of planning and execution of schemes as per the local agro-climatic conditions to improve farm productivity and production. The State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by the Chief Secretary approves the projects under RKVY with definite time lines and clear objectives for agriculture and allied sectors excluding forestry, wild life and plantations (i.e. coffee, tea and rubber). The indicative list of activities which can be taken up under RKVY includes integrated development of major food crops such as wheat, paddy, coarse cereals, minor millets, pulses, oilseeds etc.

The allocation and release of funds to the States under RKVY during 2007-08 is given in the attached Statement.

Statement

State-wise Allocation and Release of Funds under RKVY during 2007-08

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States	Eligible/Ineligible	Allocation	Release
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Eligible	93.13	61.08
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Eligible	2.85	1.90
3.	Assam*	Ineligible	23.77	
4.	Bihar	Eligible	64.02	57.77
5.	Chhattisgarh	Eligible	60.54	52.96
6.	Goa	Eligible	2.29	1.70
7.	Gujarat	Eligible	53.71	49.81
8.	Haryana	Eligible	23.12	21.52
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Eligible	17.39	16.17

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Jammu and Kashmir*	Ineligible	6.85	
11.	Jharkhand	Eligible	61.66	55.68
12.	Karnataka	Eligible	171.97	154.30
13.	Kerala	Eligible	61.41	55.40
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Eligible	110.01	101.62
15.	Maharashtra	Eligible	142.20	128.20
16.	Manipur*	Ineligible	1.35	
17.	Meghalaya	Eligible	7.00	6.37
18.	Mizoram*	Ineligible	1.05	
19.	Nagaland	Eligible	9.45	3.19
20.	Orissa	Eligible	46.59	39.30
21.	Punjab	Eligible	39.85	36.05
22.	Rajasthan	Eligible	71.68	55.76
23.	Sikkim	Eligible	2.77	2.77
24.	Tamil Nadu	Eligible	188.21	153.60
25.	Tripura	Eligible	4.69	4.16
26.	Uttarakhand	Eligible	30.54	28.25
27.	Uttar Pradesh	Eligible	116.15	103.90
28.	West Bengal	Eligible	60.87	54.93
Total States			1475.12	1246.39
UTs				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Eligible	9.52	
2.	Chandigarh	Eligible	0.22	
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Eligible	0.25	0.10
4.	Daman and Diu			
5.	Delhi	Eligible	0.56	0.10
6.	Lakshadweep	Eligible	0.92	0.10

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Puducherry	Eligible	3.13	0.40
	Total UTs		14.58	0.70
	District Agriculture Plan		10.30	
	NIRD			0.50
Grand Total			1500.00	1147.59

***Note:** As per criteria to determine eligibility of States under RKVY four States of Assam, Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir and Mizoram were ineligible to get benefits under RKVY in 2007-08. However, a notional allocation was made in favour of these States subject to the condition that these States would provide additional outlay as indicated against their name at RE stage under agriculture and allied sectors in the State's Plan 2007-08: Jammu and Kashmir (Rs. 107.10 crore), Assam (Rs. 102.77 crore), Manipur (Rs. 12.74 crore) and Mizoram (Rs. 4.42 crore) to become eligible to access the benefits under RKVY during 2007-08. As these States have not provided additional allocation under agriculture and allied sectors in the State Plan during 2007-08, no fund was released to these four States during 2007-08.

[English]

Suicide by Women Farmers

3923. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an assessment has been made to determine the number of women farmers who have committed suicide during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by when the Government proposes to make such an assessment;

(d) whether the Government proposes to develop suicide prone districts into special agricultural zones as suggested by the Swaminathan Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) State Governments do not report the number of suicides committed by the women farmers separately. No assessment has been made by Ministry of Agriculture to determine the number of women farmers who have committed suicides during the last three years. However, a diagnostic study on "Farmers' suicidal deaths in Andhra Pradesh State" by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, observed that the majority of the sample victims were the male folk. Similarly, as per the study titled "Farmers' Suicides in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka" by National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, it was observed that 04 suicides out of 40 suicides in Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh were women farmers and in the state of Karnataka, the number of women farmers' suicide was 01 out of 22 suicides.

(d) and (e) As part of the Rehabilitation Package for the farmers in suicide prone districts, the Ministry of Agriculture has proposed to declare the Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system in Kerala as Special Agricultural Zone. There is no other proposal to develop suicide prone districts into special agricultural zones.

[Transtation]

Agricultural Development

3924. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has made any observation stating that no considerable progress has been achieved in the development of agriculture sector in the past few years;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of the researches being undertaken to promote new techniques for the development of agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan had drawn attention to the loss of dynamism in agriculture and allied sector after the mid 1990s. The growth rate of agricultural GDP during Tenth Five Year Plan was less than the target of 4% per annum. However, in the last two years of the Tenth Plan i.e. 2005-06 and 2006-07, agriculture sector recorded an average growth rate of 4.35%. However, for revitalization of agriculture and allied sector, Government of India has approved the National Policy for Farmers 2007, with provisions which, inter alia include, asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies for improving productivity in a sustainable manner; the agricultural bio-security system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material; measures to improve soil health and integrated nutrient and pest management system etc. In addition, Government has launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise

the states so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector and to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing agriculture and allied sector schemes. Besides, a number of initiatives, plan schemes and programmes have been taken up which include National Bamboo Mission, National Horticulture mission, Micro Irrigation, Integrated Nutrient Management and Integrated Pest Management and schemes covered under Macro Management of Agriculture.

(d) The research priorities of XI Plan include adaptation of agriculture to climate change, availability of quality seed, enhancing water and input use efficiency and conservation of natural resources through conservation agriculture. Emphasis is being laid on the use of modern tools including biotechnology, marker assisted breeding, hybrid technology etc. The research focus is on basic and strategic research and addressing issues from production to consumption system, sustainable livelihood security in disadvantaged area. To generate regionally differentiated technologies, research agenda has been re-oriented through mid-term and long-term programmes for laying stress on location specific research for enhancing productivity particularly in the arid and fragile agro-ecosystem.

[English]

Poor Connectivity of Trump and Dolphin Connections

3925. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL Telephones in Delhi were not functioning properly during the previous month;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government to solve the problem;

(d) the present position of the efficiency of these telephones;

(e) whether the Government has received number of complaints in regard to poor connectivity of Trump and Dolphin connections of MTNL;

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

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide better services to the subscribers of MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) MTNL, Delhi was in the process of expanding its Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network by 7,50,000 lines and also upgrading the network to Internet Protocol based new General Network with 3G capability. Due to total transformation of MTNL, Delhi GSM network architecture and large-scale migration activity, there was some deterioration of service between February and mid-March, 2008.

The GSM network in Delhi has since been upgraded and expanded by 750K lines. System is now functioning normally. All efforts have been made to ensure that efficiency parameters are met.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not in view of (e) above.

(g) The following steps are taken to provide better services to the subscribers:

- Commissioning of 750K GSM lines in 2007-08. 146 Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) have been added along with the above capacity.
- Optimisation of network is done on continuous basis to improve coverage and hence to reduce congestion, call drop etc.
- MTNL is providing a lot of Value Added Services for both PSTN and Mobile subscribers like news, songs astrology, e-ticketing, SMS,

Voice SMS, Internet, Broadband, Internet Protocol TV etc. in line with the emerging trends.

- New tariff plans both in landline and cellular based PCOs are launched to retain PCO holders and attract new PCO franchisees.
- MTNL is taking care of its customers by opening Sanchar Haat, Customer Service Centre, appointment of Dealer and Agent and special care of corporate customers.
- MTNL is reviewing its tariff for various products and services so as to make them customer friendly and to suit various segments of the society.
- Separate call centre for mobile subscribers are functioning for subscribing to the new services as well as complaints redressal.

Medical Facilities to Beedi Workers

3926. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hospitals and medical facilities available for Beedi workers in the country;

(b) the number out of the above that are facing problem of shortage of staff and medicines and also diversion of medicines; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Statement showing the detail is enclosed.

(b) and (c) There is by and large no shortage of staff and medicines in these hospitals. No diversion of medicines has been noticed. Some vacant posts of

Medical Officers have been filled up by engaging the Doctors on contract.

Statement

The number of hospital and medical facilities available for beedi workers in the country:—

Hospitals

Health care is provided to the beedi workers and their dependents through 5 hospitals mentioned below:—

- (i) 65 bedded hospital at Dhulian, (West Bengal),
- (ii) 50 bedded T.B. hospital at Koderma (Jharkhand),

- (iii) 50 bedded hospital at Mysore (Karnataka),
- (iv) 10 bedded hospital at Gursahalganj (Uttar Pradesh),
- (v) 30 bedded hospital at Sagar (Madhya Pradesh).

Two more hospitals are under construction at Biharsharif (Bihar) and Mukkudal (Tamil Nadu).

Medical facilities available for beedi workers

The medical facilities are being provided to the beedi workers and their family members through various welfare schemes administered by Labour Welfare Organisation as under

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Benefits available
1.	Treatment of Cancer	Reimbursement of actual expenditure on treatment, medicines and diet charges incurred by beedi workers and their dependents. Subsistence allowance Rs. 750 per month where the worker has one or no dependent and Rs. 1000 where the dependents are more than one for a period not exceeding nine months.
2.	Treatment of Heart Diseases	Reimbursement of expenditure upto Rs. 1.30 lakh to beedi workers and their dependents. Subsistence allowance Rs. 750 per month where the worker has one or no dependent and Rs. 1000 where the dependents are more than one for a period not exceeding nine months.
3.	Kidney transplantation and allied treatment	Reimbursement of expenditure upto Rs. 2.00 lakh. Subsistence allowance Rs. 750 per month where the worker has one or no dependent and Rs. 1000 where the dependents are more than one for a period not exceeding nine months.
4.	Treatment of Minor Diseases like Hernia, Ulcer etc.	Reimbursement of expenditure upto Rs. 30,000.
5.	Maternity benefits	Lump sum grant of Rs. 1000 per delivery for the first two deliveries.
6.	Monetary compensation for sterilization	Monetary incentive of Rs. 500 over and above the incentives given by other agencies to the workers/spouses undergoing vasectomy/tubectomy.

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Benefits available
7.	Treatment of worker suffering from T.B.	Reimbursement of treatment charges upto Rs. 50 per month to cover cost of medicines. Subsistence allowance Rs. 750 per month where the worker has one or no dependent and Rs. 1000 where the dependents are more than one for a period not exceeding nine months.
8.	Financial assistance for purchase of Spectacles	Financial assistance upto Rs. 300 towards the cost of frame and lenses.

Decline in Onion Prices

3927. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL:

*Production of Onion during 2004-05,
2005-06 and 2006-07*

(In '000 Tonnes)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the declining trend of onion prices due to heavy production of onions in Maharashtra, Kamataka and Gujarat and arrivals of onion in the markets of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has received any request from Government of Maharashtra to declare Minimum Support Price for Onion by the Union Government to protect the interest of onion growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to declare the MSP of onion price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The movement of weekly Index for Wholesale Prices (WPI) for onion has declined from 377.6 on 6th October 2007 to 162.7 on 29th March 2008. The production of onion in 2006-07 has declined compared to 2005-06. The production of onion in the country as well as in States of Maharashtra, Kamataka and Gujarat in recent years is given below:—

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Maharashtra	1645.0	2469.0	1112.0
Karnataka	856.0	870.0	845.0
Gujarat	1223.0	2128.0	2128.0
All India	6434.6	8682.6	7158.4

(c) and (d) Government is implementing Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in order to protect the growers from making distress sale in the event of fall in prices. Procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities of perishable nature, are not covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP). However, the same can be procured under MIS on the request of State/UT Government. The Government of Maharashtra has been requested to send proposal for implementing MIS for onion. However, so far no proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for procurement of onion under MIS.

Change in Mobile Plans

3928. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of mobile service providers

particularly Vodafone are changing the mobile plans of subscribers frequently without getting written confirmation from their subscribers thus overcharging the subscribers;

(b) if so, the policy frame by the Union Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Subscribers are free to choose from various tariff offers available. The subscriber has also right to migrate from one tariff package to another. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has mandated that in migration from one package to another, the subscriber should not be charged any migration fee. Written request/confirmation by the subscriber for migration from one tariff plan to another is not mandated.

In order to protect the interest of the subscribers from frequent revision in tariff, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued guidelines against hike in tariff as per which:—

- (i) A tariff plan once offered to the subscribers by the Service Providers should be available for subscriber for a minimum period of six months.
- (ii) Any tariff plan presented marketed or offered as valid for any prescribed period exceeding six month or as having life time or unlimited validity in lieu of an upfront payment shall continue to be available to the subscriber for the duration of the period as prescribed in the plan and in case of life time or unlimited validity plans, as long as the Service Provider is permitted to provide service.
- (iii) No tariff item in a plan shall be increased by the Service Providers in the following situations:
 - (a) In respect of tariff plans with prescribed periods of validity of more than six months

including tariff plans with life time or unlimited validity and also involving an upfront payment to be made by the subscriber towards such validity period, during the entire period of validity specified in the tariff plan;

(b) In respect of other tariff plan, within six months from the date of enrolment of the subscriber, and;

(c) In the case of recharge coupons with a validity of more than six months under a tariff plan, during the entire period of validity of such recharge coupon.

TRAI had directed M/s Vodafone Essar Mobile Service Ltd. on 13th March 2008 to refund charges levied for Value Added Service where it was provided without explicit consent of consumers.

[Translation]

Rise in Prices of Edible Oil

3929. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of edible oil in the country has been rising due to exorbitant profit being appropriated by the middlemen on import of edible oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the import price of edible oil alongwith the price at which the same is being sold in the market and the profit accruing to the middlemen; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to check excessive profiteering by middlemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Department of Consumer Affairs of this Ministry vide notification dated 7-4-2008 have kept in abeyance in respect of purchase, movement, sale, supply, distribution or storage for sale in the Removal of (Licensing Requirements, stock limits and Movement Restriction) on Specified Foodstuffs Order, 2002 for certain commodities including edible oils and edible oilseeds for a period of one year, so as to tackle the present situation in availability and prices of these commodities.

[English]

**Central Marine Fisheries
Research Centre**

3930. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:

SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the project status of the proposal to construct buildings of Vizhinjam Research Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kerala;

(b) whether the title and possession of the land offered by the State Government to CMFRI has since been transferred;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has made a provision in the XI plan EFC proposal to construct Laboratory-cum-Office building for the Vizhinjam Research Centre, which is under process.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The Government of Kerala offered 1.7 acres of land to CMFRI for establishment of Centre for Development and Transfer of Mariculture Technology (CDTMT) at its Vizhinjam Centre. The construction of permanent buildings at the site was not possible because the title of the land was vested with the State Department of Fisheries. However, in March, 2003, the Government of Kerala offered to lease out the land in favour of CMFRI/ICAR for 25 years at a concessional rate of 1% of the market value of the land. Meanwhile, while formulating the X Five year plan proposal of the Institute, the Expenditure Finance Committee decided to merge the Centre with the Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI. Subsequently, the decision of EFC was kept in abeyance until further orders. In the XI Five year Plan EFC proposal, a provision to construct Laboratory-cum-Office building for the Vizhinjam Research Centre has been made.

Green and Evergreen Revolution

3931. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding green and evergreen revolution in the country alongwith the action plan proposed for the future in this regard;

(b) whether the Government proposes to seek the help of foreign countries to mitigate agrarian crisis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The revitalization of the agriculture sector, improvement of agricultural production and productivity and enhancement of the income of the farmers are some of the major thrust areas identified by the Government for focused and concerted action. In order to achieve

these objectives, the National Policy for Farmers 2007, incorporating the key recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers, has been approved by the Government. In addition, a number of programmes/schemes are already under implementation, which are in line with the provisions contained in the National Policy for Farmers 2007. Two new schemes, i.e. "Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana", which aims to achieve 4% annual growth in agriculture sector during the Eleventh Plan period by ensuring a holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors and to incentivise States to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sectors and the "National Food Security Mission" to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses have been launched recently. Several other schemes including National Horticulture Mission, Micro Irrigation and National Bamboo Mission have also been launched by the Government. A comprehensive credit package has also been announced by the Government in June 2004 which, inter alia, aims to enhance flow of credit to agriculture sector and debt restructuring of outstanding loans for farmers in distress and in arrears. Further, the scheme of debt waiver and debt relief has been announced in the Union Budget for 2008-09 in order to address the problems faced by the farmers due to indebtedness and to enable them to access fresh institutional credit. States and Union Territories are advised from time to time for effective implementation of the schemes for development of agriculture.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Government has already taken steps as indicated above to address the problems faced by the farmers.

National Agricultural Innovation Project

3932. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched/set up a National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP);

(b) if so, the objectives and functions of the project; and

(c) the total amount earmarked and spent for the activities under the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objectives and functions of the projects are to facilitate accelerated and sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture for enhancing productivity, profitability, income generation and livelihood security.

(c) The total amount earmarked is USD of 250 million (about Rs.1190 crore) of which Government of India contribution is USD 50 million. The amount spent for the activities under the project is Rs. 48.52 crore during the year 2007-08.

Foreign Exchange Service

3933. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to operate foreign exchange services from post offices;

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

(c) whether the Government had invited open tender seeking a partner to operate the service;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Department of Posts is unable to handle the operation of foreign exchange services from its Post Offices;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make the services operational from Post Offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Posts has entered into an agreement in March 2008 with the Centurion Bank of Punjab to retail their foreign exchange products like Foreign Currencies, Travellers Cheques, Travel Cards, Foreign Currency Demand Drafts and Wire Transfers to customers through select post offices of the country.

(c) and (d) The Department of Posts had issued a notice inviting 'Expression of Interest' with respect to introduction of Money Changing facilities in selected post offices in the country in July 2005. However, the exercise did not fructify.

(e) to (g) The scheme of retailing foreign exchange products like Foreign Currencies, Travellers Cheques, Travel Cards, Foreign Currency Demand Drafts, and Wire transfers to customers has commenced on a pilot basis in select post offices of the country.

Upgradation of Equipment by MTNL

3934. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL has failed to upgrade its Mission Critical equipment on time due to which lakhs of mobile subscribers in Delhi are facing connectivity problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether MTNL has totally failed to compete with the private telecom operator and even mobile subscribers are receiving inflated bills; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. MTNL has recently expanded capacity of mobile network in Delhi by 7,50,000. There was some temporary problem during transition period for which subscribers were informed. The same has now been addressed.

(c) No, Sir. Market share of MTNL in GSM has grown from 4.56% as on 31-03-2003 to 16.47% as on 29-02-2008. MTNL is taking all possible steps to beat the competition in order to retain the customers base as well as undertake expansion of its network. Percentage of billing complaints are within the norms prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(d) The following corrective steps have been taken/ proposed to be taken:—

- Commissioning of 750K GSM lines in 2007-08. 146 Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) have been added along with the above capacity.
- Optimisation of network is done on continuous basis to improve R/F coverage and hence to reduce congestion, call drop etc.
- MTNL is providing a lot of Value Added Services for both PSTN and Mobile subscribers like news, songs astrology, e-ticketing, SMS, voice SMS Internet, Broadband, Internet Protocol TV etc. in line with the emerging trends.
- New tariff plans both in landline and cellular based PCOS are launched to retain PCO holders and attract new PCO franchisees.
- MTNL is taking care of its customers by opening Sanchar Haat, Customer Service Centre, appointment of Dealer and Agent and special care of corporate customers.
- MTNL is reviewing its tariff for various products and services so as to make them customer friendly and to suit various segments of the society.
- Separate call centre for mobile subscribers are functioning for subscribing to the new services as well as complaints redressal.
- Due care is taken for maintaining accuracy in billing thereby minimizing the wrong billing complaints.

- Proper checking of discrepancy in billing.
- Special attention is given to verify bills of heavy calling subscribers.
- Call rebate is allowed to consumers wherever justified after due examination of the excess billing complaints of the subscribers as per prescribed procedure.
- MTNL plans to commission convergent billing and CRM solution in 2008-09. The system will provide one bill for all services to a subscriber and will also address customer request of services, tariffs, complaint resolution etc.
- Telephone Adalats are organized to resolve customer grievances on the spot.
- Easy payment of bills by online, ECS, Automatic Teller Machines, Easy Bill Centres, Sanchar Haats, Cash Counters.

Elimination of Hunger

3935. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

DR. K.S. MANOJ:

SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Global Hunger Index (GHI) prepared by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the report of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has painted a very grim picture regarding access of poor to food and incidence of hunger in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the causes identified for prevalence of hunger and shortage of food in the country;

(c) the details regarding the efforts made for eliminating hunger in the country alongwith the success achieved therein; and

(d) the efforts being made for strengthening food security in the country in order to remove hunger and improve availability of foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The IFPRI press release dated October, 12, 2007 on New Global Hunger Index notes that inter alia, India has made a notable progress, and is very close to being on track to achieve the Global Hunger Index target based on the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Besides as per the FAO's publication No. 2, April, 2008 on 'Crop Prospects and Food Situation', India is not having shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies and forecast for total cereal production is of 251.7 million tonnes during 2008.

(b) to (d) Question do not arise.

Polavaram Project

3936. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people and area of Orissa would submerge due to setting up of Polavaram Multipurpose project of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether environmental clearance has been granted without considering the adverse impact of the project on people and area of Orissa;

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

(d) the reasons for ignoring the views of State Government of Orissa in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the information provided by the project authority to Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) at the time of seeking environmental clearance, 6315 persons from Orissa are likely to be affected by this project. The area of Orissa likely to be submerged is 12 sq. km.

(b) to (d) MOEF has informed that the Expert Committee of the Ministry of Environment and Forests had examined this issue and suggested to provide rehabilitation and resettlement as per Andhra Pradesh Government's Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy 2005 which was better than National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation 2003. The MOEF has further informed that the Government of Orissa did not raise any objection till the project was accorded environmental clearance.

Budget Allocation for Defence Sector

3937. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of deals finalised and implemented for purchase of weapons, aircraft, ships and helicopters during 2007-08 and that proposed for 2008-09; and

(b) the amount earmarked for fresh purchases?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) An expenditure of Rs. 14439.65 crore was incurred upto the 3rd quarter of the financial year 2007-2008 towards various kinds of defence acquisitions including weapons, aircraft, ships and helicopters under Capital Acquisition head. The final expenditure figures for the financial year 2007-2008 and the amount earmarked for acquisition under Capital Acquisition head during the financial year 2008-2009 would be available in due course.

[Translation]

Funds for Milk Production

3938. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has demanded the release of next instalment of funds under the Clean Milk Production Scheme;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the next instalment for the said scheme is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Out of the 10 approved projects for Rajasthan under the scheme 'Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production' entire funds for 08 projects have already been released by Government of India. Funds for the ongoing project in Pali District will be released after receipt of utilization certificate of the funds already released. Release of next installment for the project in Churu district is subject to the receipt of clarifications sought from State Government, which is awaited.

Discontinuation of Dolphin 'Jeevan Sathi' Plan

3939. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dolphin 'Jeevan Sathi' plan of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) was discontinued all of a sudden in March, 2008 before the date fixed for the same;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a large number of incidents of black-marketing of mobile numbers came to light under the said scheme;

(d) if not, the reasons as to why the said scheme was discontinued a month before the date fixed for the same;

(e) the total number of applications received by MTNL under the, said plan;

(f) whether Dolphin connections have been made available to all the applicants; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) 'Dolphin Jeevan Sathi' Plan in Delhi was launched on 15-02-2008 as a promotional plan for limited period keeping in view the available capacity. The same was closed on 01-03-2008. The scheme is continuing in MTNL, Mumbai.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) In Delhi, 32,169 applications were received during the promotional period of 15-02-2008 to 01-03-2008. In Mumbai, 528 new applications were received during the month of March, 2008.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

[English]

Sale of Land and Mills of NTC

3940. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of land and mills of National Textile Corporation was opposed by various Environmental and Civil Rights Groups;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOANI): (a) to (c) Bombay Environmental Action Group (BEAG) had filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) before the High Court of Mumbai on the issue of sale of mills land of National Textiles Corporation (NTC) in Mumbai. As the decision

of the High Court was not in favour of NTC, an appeal was filed before the Supreme Court which, vide judgment dated 07-03-2006 set aside the decision of High Court and upheld sale of land of NTC mills.

In addition, the Indian Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) had also filed a Writ Petition before the High Court of Mumbai in June, 2005 against the State Government of Maharashtra and seven others including NTC. The Petitioner *inter alia* prayed for directing the State Government of Maharashtra and Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) to ensure that no permission for development or re-development of structures listed as 'Heritage Structures' is granted except in accordance with the Regulation No. 67 of Development Control Regulation (DCR), which provides conservation of listed buildings of historical, esthetical, architectural or cultural value. In February 2006, injunction against demolition of structures in NTC Mill was granted. The High Court, vide their order dated 5th May 2006 allowed NTC to carry out demolition work in India United Mill No. 2 and 3 and New Hind Textile Mills. In March 2007, NTC has approached the High Court seeking directions to BMC and Government of Maharashtra to consider following proposals:

- To retain 6 Heritage structures at only one site.
- Set up Textile Museum at the same site.
- NTC would fund Rs. 15 crores for the museum.
- Allow NTC to demolish other notified structures of the mills to enable it to go ahead with sale of land and implementation of Rehabilitation Scheme approved by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, (BIFR)

The Government of Maharashtra has accepted the proposal of NTC and vide its Gazette Notification No. MH/MR/South-229/2006-08 dated 04-03-2008 has notified structures of only India United Mills No. 2 and 3. Based on these lines, the High Court of Mumbai has been requested to dispose of the petition.

Cultivation of Oilseeds

3941. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a 40% decrease in the production of oilseeds;

(b) if so, the details regarding production of oilseeds during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether oil mills are unable to utilize their installed capacity due to shortfall in production; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the 2nd Advance Estimates released on 7th February 2008, production of oilseeds during 2007-08 is estimated at 27.16 million tonnes which is 11.8% more than the oilseeds production of 24.29 million tonnes during 2006-07. The State-wise details of production of oilseeds during the last 3 years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The oilseeds production in the country is less than the installed processing capacity of oil mills, solvent extraction plants, refineries and vanaspathi units. The capacity utilization of these units ranges between 10% to 45%. The steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of vegetable oil industry include:

- (i) Import of oilseeds/edible oil except copra/coconut oil has been allowed under Open General Licence (OGL).
- (ii) To increase the production of oilseeds in the country a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is under implementation.
- (iii) Enhancement of incentives to the farmers through higher Minimum Support Prices of oilseeds.
- (iv) Import duty on crude vegetable oils of edible grade has been kept at zero per cent and at 7.5% on refined oils to facilitate raw materials availability.
- (v) Excise duty on food grade hexane has been reduced from 32% to 16% to encourage production of solvent extracted oils in the country and to promote export of extractions.
- (vi) Crude and refined edible grade vegetable oils have been exempted from 4% Special Additional Duty (SAD) with effect from 01-03-2007.

Statement
Estimates of Area, Production and Yield of Total Oilseeds

States	Area ('000 Hectares)			Production ('000 Tonnes)			Yield (kg/hectare)			
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10
Andhra Pradesh	2918.4	2922.0	2235.0	2209.4	2041.0	1362.0	757	698	609	609
Arunachal Pradesh	25.9	27.1	27.1	27.0	22.7	22.7	1042	838	838	838
Assam	277.4	243.4	270.5	146.8	113.2	134.0	529	465	495	495
Bihar	131.8	139.0	142.9	116.9	136.5	147.4	887	982	1031	1031
Chhattisgarh	290	302.1	321.1	123.7	126.5	161.4	426	419	503	503
Goa	3.4	3.3	2.6	5.4	7.9	4.6	1588	2394	1769	1769
Gujarat	3016.1	3032.0	2828.0	2986.9	4682.0	2569.0	990	1544	908	908
Haryana	714.6	734.2	621.0	840.5	825.2	834.6	1176	1124	1344	1344
Himachal Pradesh	19.0	15.1	14.9	12.0	5.2	7.1	632	344	477	477
Jammu and Kashmir	110.4	6.3	69.4	124.2	2.7	42.3	1125	429	610	610
Jharkhand	29.0	27.3	118.5	7.0	8.5	50.0	241	311	422	422
Karnataka	2674.0	2857.0	2354.0	1570.0	1715.0	1125.0	587	600	478	478
Kerala	2.4	3.9	3.6	1.9	2.6	3.2	792	667	889	889
Madhya Pradesh	5760.2	5668.3	6086.7	4797.7	5721.9	5814.2	833	1009	955	955
Maharashtra	3359.0	3648.0	3863.0	2744.1	3373.0	3721.0	817	925	963	963

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Manipur	1.8	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.7	0.7	444	7000	7000
Meghalaya	9.8	9.8	9.8	6.5	6.7	6.6	663	684	873
Mizoram	7.3	4.8	4.1	5.6	5.4	3.8	767	1125	927
Nagaland	70.3	67.8	69.5	81.9	62.8	62.6	1165	926	901
Orissa	316.0	332.0	318.1	179.5	187.7	175.1	568	565	550
Punjab	91.4	81.7	70.4	100.4	89.6	78.2	1098	1087	1111
Rajasthan	5133.4	5257.0	4508.0	5541.1	5964.0	5166.8	1079	1134	1146
Sikkim	9.9	9.9	9.9	7.6	7.2	7.2	768	727	727
Tamil Nadu	715.7	709.9	592.4	1061.1	1152.9	1083.5	1483	1624	1829
Tripura	5.4	5.5	4.4	3.9	3.9	3.1	722	709	705
Uttar Pradesh	1105.6	1073.5	1234.2	952.3	1066.5	1033.3	861	983	837
Uttaranchal	41.0	35.0	28.0	38.0	30.0	21.0	927	857	750
West Bengal	677.5	641.1	703.4	652.9	610.4	645.4	964	952	918
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1000	1000	1000
Delhi	4.1	3.8	0.2	5.0	2.9	0.3	1220	763	1500
Pondicherry	1.7	1.8	1.8	3.3	3.2	3.2	1841	1778	1778
All India	27523.3	27862.8	26512.7	24353.5	27977.9	24289.4	885	1004	916

Cattle Feed

3942. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cattle feed grain trade is higher than wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any shortage of cattle feeds in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The 11th Plan Working Group has assessed the following feed situation:

(million tones)

Feed Stuff	Consumption	Requirement
Total Concentrate	62	87

(d) The Government is making efforts to increase the production of feed ingredients, including coarse grains, to improve feed availability. Further, a scheme is also being implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme to improve the roughages by adding nutritive ingredients.

Counselling Units in Armed Forces

3943. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether counselling units are functional in all the wings of Armed Forces to address stress related issues among personnel;

(c) the functioning of these units to help their personnel to overcome difficult emotional situations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Stress counselling mechanism is existing in the Armed Forces to address stress related issues among the personnel. No separate counselling unit has been set up by the Army. However, counselling facilities are available in 22 Psychiatric Centres. In addition to this, arrangements have been made to ensure availability of psychological counselling at unit level. A total number of 46 Army Medical Corps Personnel have been trained as psychological counsellors along with 74 non-medical personnel who have been trained as Unit counsellors. Two Psychiatric Centres in operational areas, one each in Northern and Eastern Sectors have been augmented to address the stress related problems of troops deployed in these areas. Army is continuously evolving steps to improve the mental health of its troops and providing them with stress busting facilities.

In the Navy, counselling units are functioning in the Psychiatric Centres located at Mumbai, Vishakhapatnam and Kochi. Besides, Psychiatrists from different Commands visit remote places like Andaman and Nicobar Islands to attend to the problems of persons located in such areas. Senior sailors from non-medical establishments are also being trained to perform counselling duties in their respective units. Civilian counsellors have also been employed in family clinics at major Naval stations for attending to the requirements of the families of Naval personnel.

In the Air Force, counselling is being done by Medical Officers to address stress related issues among its personnel. Non medical personnel have also been trained to function as counsellors. A total number of 62 psychological counsellors have been employed on trial basis over the past year at a few selected locations on part time basis to augment the availability of counsellors.

[Translation]

Resettlement of Ex-Servicemen

3944. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Ex-servicemen in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the details of the schemes being implemented for the welfare and rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen;

(c) the number of Ex-servicemen benefited from the said schemes, State-wise;

(d) the expenditure incurred on the said schemes during the last three years, State-wise;

(e) whether there is any proposal to increase the fund for the rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) As per the data compiled by Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB), there are 20,54,230 ex-servicemen and 4,58,134 widows, as on 31-12-2007, registered with Zila Sainik Board/Rajya Sainik Board. State wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare runs following self-employment schemes through Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR):

- (i) Ex-servicemen (ESM) Coal Transportation Scheme.
- (ii) Tipper Attachment scheme for Widows and Disabled ESM.
- (iii) Allotment of Oil Product Agencies under 8% Defence Quota.

Army Central Welfare Fund:

Sl. No.	Description	Amount entitled
(a)	Discharged soldiers (BC) of all operation after 15th August 1947 excluding OP Vijay "invalided/boarded out/prematurely released from service in low medical category	One time grant of Rs. 1 lakh
(b)	Disabled soldiers (BC) retained in service based on percentage of disability w.e.f. 1st May 1999:—	

(iv) Allotment of GHAR Outlets.

(v) Allotment of Class V 'B' Army Surplus Vehicles to ESM/Widows.

(vi) Allotment of mother Dairy Milk and Fruit and Vegetable Booths.

(vii) Management of CNG Stations in National Capital Region (NCR).

(viii) KIDZEE Education Centres—A franchisee scheme for Ex-Servicemen and Dependants to run schools for kids.

Apart from these self-employment schemes, retiring Officers and PBORs are imparted training through DGR, to prepare them for gainful employment after retirement.

Welfare Schemes:

Grants for Marriage, Medical care, House Repair, Education, Funeral etc. are provided on need basis to ex-servicemen. Besides, 4000 scholarships, under the Prime Minister's Merit Scholarship Scheme, @ Rs. 1250 PM for boys and Rs.1500 PM for girls, are provided to wards/widows of ex-servicemen. Financial assistance from Raksha Mantri Discretionary Fund (RMDF) @ Rs. 16000/- for daughters marriage and Rs. 20,000 for house repair is provided. Financial assistance for serious diseases upto Rs.1,25,000/- is provided to the needy Ex-servicemen. Also Rs.75,000/- per year is provided for dialyses and for treatment of cancer. Besides the following grants from various funds are also provided.

Sl. No.	Description	Amount entitled
(i)	Below 50%	Rs. 10,000
(ii)	50% to 74%	Rs. 20,000
(iii)	75% and above	Rs. 30,000

Assistance from Army Welfare Corpus:

(a)	Agro based venture	Rs. 25,000
(b)	Mobility Equipment	Rs. 40,000
(c)	Daughter marriage	Rs. 20,000

For Operation Vijay Veterans the following assistance from National Defence Fund (NDF) is provided.

(a)	Ex Gratia (invalided/boarded out)	
	(i) Upto 50% disability	Rs. 3 lacs
	(ii) More than 50% upto 75% disability	Rs. 4.50 lacs
	(iii) More than 75% disability	
(b)	Dwelling Unit	Rs. 5 lacs
(c)	Children Education Allowance	Rs. 2 lacs @ Rs. 1 lac per child max to two children

Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) was launched in 2003 as a welfare measure and currently 6,33,596 ex-servicemen and 14,59,269 dependents are availing of the facility.

(c) The total number of Ex-servicemen provided employment in Central Government State Government and PSUs through Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) and Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) during the year ending 31-12-2007 was 6191. Besides, 44405 Ex-servicemen were provided employment in Non Government Sectors. State-wise list is not maintained for all the schemes. However State-wise placement of Ex-servicemen during the last three years through the Rajya Sainik Board (RSB) is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The expenditure incurred on the welfare and training schemes during the last three years are as under:

(figures in Rs. lakhs)

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Welfare	93.47	197	336.17
Training	240.17	786.76	1226.95

The State-wise details of last three years of welfare grants are given in the enclosed Statements-III, IV, V and VI.

ECHS funds are not allotted state-wise. However, as follows:—
the expenditure incurred during the last three years is

Sl. No.	Budget (crs)	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
(a)	Rev	181.78	320.80	489.91
(b)	Capital	16.81	20.22	8.10
	Total	198.59	341.02	498.01

(e) and (f) It is proposed to increase the BUDget for training of ex-servicemen from Rs. 13.50 erores to

Rs, 17.00 crores in this finanial year and for welfare activities from Rs. 24.00 crores to Rs. 41.50 crores

Statement-I**Numbers of Registered Ex-servicemen/widows State-wise (As on 31st December 2007)**

Sl. No.	RSB/ZSB	Ex-Servicement				Widows			
		Army	AF	Navy	Total	Army	AF	Navy	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57587	10336	4250	72173	18018	1174	429	19621
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	284	0	0	284	5	0	0	5
3.	Assam	27086	2155	488	29729	2410	236	34	2680
4.	Bihar	64972	3075	1458	69505	5892	245	125	6262
5.	Chhattisgarh	4073	279	147	4499	919	45	22	986
6.	Goa	1123	203	619	1945	116	116	78	310
7.	Gujarat	15780	3708	545	20023	1897	232	46	2175
8.	Himachal Pradesh	93302	1938	3103	98343	24056	208	317	24581
9.	Haryana	209019	12490	9771	231280	54927	1899	1760	58586
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	63413	568	430	63311	17480	104	45	17629
11.	Jharkhand	16444	1027	796	18267	2013	124	154	2291
12.	Karnataka	52220	8901	2021	63142	14609	1379	420	16408
13.	Kerala	121021	19463	10587	151071	31712	2753	1393	35858
14.	Madhya Pradesh	34272	1491	1011	36774	6683	200	140	7023
15.	Maharashtra	130363	10930	13010	154303	37867	1104	832	39803

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
16.	Manipur	5815	73	33	5921	643	13	8	664
17.	Meghalaya	2030	81	51	2162	696	21	19	736
18.	Mizoram	4551	20	20	4591	1692	14	12	1718
19.	Nagaland	2533	8	17	2558	597	0	0	597
20.	Orissa	19848	4053	1903	25804	2268	297	98	2663
21.	Punjab	256323	9482	4922	270727	49264	1356	714	51334
22.	Rajasthan	131027	6136	3451	140614	33006	1088	696	34790
23.	Sikkim	1141	1	9	1151	429	1	0	430
24.	Tamil Nadu	103867	10169	3305	117341	47153	2129	828	50110
25.	Tripura	2010	100	49	2159	509	16	11	536
26.	Uttar Pradesh	213031	17986	10251	241268	37477	3044	1225	41746
27.	Uttaranchal	114779	1940	2004	118723	23186	230	264	23680
28.	West Bengal	46327	8925	3231	58483	5839	824	283	6946
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	392	96	125	613	75	0	5	80
30.	Chandigarh	5774	2292	319	8385	1130	379	40	1549
31.	Delhi	27715	6018	2670	36403	4481	839	628	5948
32.	Pondicherry	1202	288	78	1568	360	24	5	389
Total		1829324	144232	80674	2054230	427409	20094	10631	458134

Note: Figures for the states of Arunachal, Bihar, Pondicherry, are provisional.

Statement-II
RSB-Wise Placement of Ex-Servicemen (January-December 2007)

Sl. No.	Rajya Sainik Board	Center Govt.	Center PSUs	State Govt.	State PSUs	Local Bodies	Disabled	Private Sector	Total EXCLCG/CG	Total
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	20	2		9		6	17	48
2.	Assam	9	6		6			21	27	42
3.	Arunachal Pradesh								0	0
4.	Bihar	10	2	25					25	37
5.	Chhattisgarh	3		32				49	81	84
6.	Goa			5					5	5
7.	Gujarat	9	8	12		2		59	73	90
8.	Haryana	9	17	69	9	95		309	482	508
9.	Himachal Pradesh			61					61	61
10.	Jharkhand		30			6	10		16	46
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	31	16	1			34	51	90
12.	Karnataka	4	16	31		22		55	108	128
13.	Kerala	2		48	115	53		135	351	353
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12	12	7		5		58	70	94
15.	Maharashtra	45	19	74	21	546		88	729	793

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
16.	Manipur	5	5	6	2	36		16	60	70
17.	Meghalaya				1				1	1
18.	Mizoram			49					49	49
19.	Nagaland	48							0	48
20.	Orissa	4	4	127	8	1		64	200	208
21.	Punjab	2		1				2	3	5
22.	Rajasthan	6	16	7	3	2		213	225	247
23.	Sikkim			10	8			2	20	20
24.	Tamil Nadu	8	18	54	3	13		2	72	98
25.	Tripura	1		34				1	35	36
26.	Uttaranchal	1		1	7	14		18	40	41
27.	Uttar Pradesh	17	8	7	62	192		198	459	484
28.	West Bengal	3	19	19	0	0		17	36	58
29.	Andaman and Nicobar								0	0
30.	Chandigarh	5			3			72	75	80
31.	Delhi								0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total (1 to 32)	222	231	697	249	996	10	1419	3371	3824
33.	Total C. Govt. and P (a+b)	453								

34. Employment through DGR	0
(a) Ministries/Dept.	0
(b) PSU's	72
(c) Nationalised Bank	406
(d) Para Mil Forces	452
Total (a+b+c+d)	930
35. Ordnance Factory	0
36. DSC	1437
37 Total Central Government (33+34+35+36)	2820
38. Total State Govt PS 1952 Etc. (c+d+e+f)	
39. Total Pvt. Sector (g)	1419
Grand Total	7610

Note: Figures for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, H.P. Haryana, Jharkhand, A&N, Chandigarh, Karnatka, Kerala, Maharastra, Meghalya, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, U.P. Uttranchal. W.B. Delhi, Pondicherry are provisional.

Placement is not forthcoming from the Public and Private Sector.

Statement-III

RMDF's Sanctioned Cases/Amount for the Year 2005-06

Sl. No.	State/Country	Marriage Grant		Medical Grant		House Repair Grant		Education Grant	
		Cases	Amount in Rs.	Cases	Amount in Rs.	Cases	Amount in Rs.	Cases	Amount in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	56000	24	308700	0	0	0	0
2.	Anunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	10	80000	4	41300	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	3	24000	1	15000	1	10000	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Delhi	3	28000	5	58500	0	0	1	7200
7.	Goa	0	0	1	15000	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	0	0	2	21000	1	10000	0	0
9.	Haryana	9	69500	8	99000	1	10000	1	7200
10.	Himachal Pradesh	31	248000	13	155830	2	20000	0	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	9	68500	3	37000	2	20000	0	0
12.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Karnataka	17	136000	26	340000	0	0	0	0
14.	Kerala	48	381500	40	510800	2	20000	0	0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3	24000	6	35150	1	10000	0	0

16. Maharashtra	2	11000	33	470950	5	50000	1	2400
17. Manipur			3	25700	1	10000	0	0
18. Meghalaya	1	8000	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Nagaland	2	16000	2	17100	0	0	4	26400
21. Orissa	19	160000	4	44000	1	10000	3	21600
22. Punjab	30	240000	64	827324	2	20000	0	0
23. Rajasthan	44	404000	10	132400	7	80000	1	7200
24. Sikkim	2	16000	0	0	0	0	0	0
25. Tamil Nadu	41	320000	73	903550	1	10000	0	0
26. Tripura	5	40000	0	0	1	1000	0	0
27. Uttar Pradesh	11	92000	8	91000	4	40000	0	0
28. Uttaranchal	10	80000	5	66000	3	30000	1	7200
29. West Bengal	5	40000	5	49000	0	0	1	4800
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands			0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Chandigarh (UT)	1	8000	1	8123	0	0	0	0
32. Pondicherry (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	24000
33. Nepal	1	8000	21	294000	0	0	0	0
Total	314	2558500	362	4566427	35	360000	13	84000

Sl. No.	State/Country	Monthly Grant		Penury Grant		Total	
		Cases	Amount in Rs.	Cases	Amount in Rs.	Cases	Amount in Rs.
1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	31	364700
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	4	96000	0	0	18	21730
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	5	4900
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Delhi	3	72000	0	0	12	16570
7.	Goa	0	0	0	0	1	15000
8.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	3	31000
9.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	19	185700
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	46	423830
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	24000	0	0	15	149500
12.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Karnataka	1	24000	0	0	44	500000
14.	Kerala	1	24000	0	0	91	936300
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3	72000	0	0	13	141150
16.	Maharashtra	7	168000	0	0	48	702350
17.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	4	35700

18. Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	1	8000
19. Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
20. Nagaland	6	14400	0	0	14	203500
21. Orissa	1	24000	0	0	28	259600
22. Punjab	11	240000	0	0	107	1327324
23. Rajasthan	3	72000	2	30000	67	725600
24. Sikkim	0	0	0	0	2	16000
25. Tamil Nadu	27	644400	0	0	142	1877950
26. Tripura	0	0	0	0	6	50000
27. Uttar Pradesh	2	48000	0	0	25	271000
28. Uttaranchal	2	48000	0	0	21	231200
29. West Bengal	1	24000	0	0	12	117800
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Chandigarh (UT)	0	0	0	0	2	16123
32. Pondicherry (UT)	0	0	1	24000		
33. Nepal	0	0	0	0	22	302000
Total	74	1748400	2	30000	800	9347327

Statement-IV
RMDFs Sanctioned Cases/Amount for the Year 2006-07

Sl. No.	State/Country	Marriage Grant		Medical Grant		House Repair Grant		Education Grant	
		Cases	Amount In Rs.	Cases	Amount In Rs.	Cases	Amount In Rs.	Cases	Amount In Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	32000	19	242500	1	5000	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	8	64000	3	3240	1	5000	0	2
4.	Bihar	2	16000	0	0	2	20000	1	2400
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Delhi	0	0	2	30000	1	10000	0	0
7.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	3	27500	0	0
9.	Haryana	4	32000	0	0	12	110000	1	4800
10.	Himachal Pradesh	97	1776000	2	20000	9	85000	0	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	30	240000	3	32000	7	55000	0	0
12.	Jharkhand	1	8000	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Karnataka	16	128000	6	67300	2	20000	5	21600
14.	Kerala	60	480000	35	349100	3	30000	4	16800
15.	Madhya Pradesh	8	59000	7	195000	33	317500	2	9600

16. Maharashtra	11	85000	7	82000	12	117500	11	43200
17. Manipur			1	15000	2	20000	0	0
18. Meghalaya	3	24000	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Mizoram	0	0	2	20000	54	525000	0	0
20. Nagaland	41	32000	5	74000	2	20000	16	82800
21. Orissa	32	1256000	2	20000	3	30000	2	7200
22. Punjab	52	424000	7	86900	5	47000	0	0
23. Rajasthan	37	304000	8	56300	50	470000	1	2400
24. Sikkim	2	16000	1	5200	1	10000	7	24000
25. Tamil Nadu	68	539000	31	350900	9	85000	32	124800
26. Tripura	6	48000	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Uttar Pradesh	23	184000	18	198600	28	27000	9	4800
28. Uttaranchal	62	500000	6	72000	113	1005000	7	3120
29. West Bengal	10	80000	0	0	0	0	0	0
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Chandigarh (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32. Pondicherry (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33. Nepal (Country)	2	16000	56	679000	0	0	0	0
Total	542	4343000	221	2628200	353	3284500	98	418800

Sl. No.	State/Country	Monthly Grant		Penury Grant		Total	
		Cases	Amount in Rs.	Cases	Amount in Rs.	Cases	Amount in Rs.
1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	24000	9	135000	34	438500
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	2	48000	2	30000	16	17940
4.	Bihar	1	24000	0	0	6	6240
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	1	1500	15000
6.	Delhi	4	96000	7	10500	14	241000
7.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	3	27500
9.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	17	146800
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	2	3000	110	911000
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	2400	1	1500	42	366000
12.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	1	8000
13.	Karnataka	2	24000	1	1500	32	275900
14.	Kerala	6	144000	79	117300	187	2192800
15.	Madhya Pradesh	5	120000	31	41900	86	1120100
16.	Maharashtra	9	216000	59	872000	109	1415700
17.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	3	35000

18. Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	3	24000
19. Mizoram	0	0	2	30000	58	575000
20. Nagaland	6	144000	9	135000	42	487800
21. Orissa	1	24000	6	90000	46	427200
22. Punjab	1	24000	12	162000	77	743900
23. Rajasthan	19	456000	27	375000	142	1663700
24. Sikkim	0	0	1	15000	12	70200
25. Tamil Nadu	35	840000	106	1590000	281	3529700
26. Tripura	0	0	0	0	6	48000
27. Uttar Pradesh	7	16800	5	75000	90	943600
28. Uttaranchal	27	64800	48	707000	263	2963200
29. West Bengal	0	0	1	15000	11	95000
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Chandigarh (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
32. Pondicherry (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
33. Nepal (Country)	0	0	0	0	0	58 695000
Total	127	3024000	409	6003000	1750	19701500

Approve Budget for 2006-07—Rs. 233.00 Lacs

Statement-V
RMDF's Sanctioned Cases/Amount for the Year 2007-08 (Till 21 Jan. 08)

Sl. No.	State/Country	Marriage Grant		Medical Grant		House Repair Grant		Education Grant	
		Cases	Amount In Rs.	Cases	Amount In Rs.	Cases	Amount In Rs.	Cases	Amount In Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	24000	2	29000	1	10000	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	15	128000	2	18900	5	70000	1	2400
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	1	20000	2	8400
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	24000	3	34000	7	90000	0	0
6.	Delhi	2	40000	2	30000	4	70000	3	12000
7.	Goa	1	8000	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	1	8750	0
9.	Haryana	17	187000	1	14000	11	200000	1	2400
10.	Himachal Pradesh	55	458000	2	27000	23	320000	1	7200
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	51	618000	1	8000	15	255000	1	4800
12.	Jharkhand	2	16000	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Karnataka	14	144000	2	23000	30000	3	12000	0
14.	Kerala	18	168000	12	118500	4	40000	3	14400
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2	24000	4	47000	25	302000	1	4800

16. Maharashtra	15	152000	6	85000	5	80000	0	0
17. Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Meghalaya	3	24000	0	0	0	0	0	0
19. Mizoram	0	0	7	113000	191	3537500	0	0
20. Nagaland	5	40000	2	3000	1	20000	17	81600
21. Orissa	11	98000	3	45000	2	20000	2	16800
22. Punjab	25	216000	5	77000	2	20000	0	0
23. Rajasthan	34	392000	1	25000	135	1925000	0	0
24. Sikkim	31	284000	0	0	1	20000	13	57800
25. Tamil Nadu	28	272000	10	148400	36	390000	151	582000
26. Tripura	3	24000	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Uttar Pradesh	23	248000	7	94000	48	800000	4	19200
28. Uttarakhand	54	488000	1	1500	97	1500000	28	127200
29. West Bengal	5	88000	0	0	1	20000	0	0
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Chandigarh (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32. Pondicherry (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33. Nepal (Country)	0	0	43	598500	0	0	0	0
Total	423	4159000	116	1566800	619	9748250	231	952800

Sl. No.	State/Country	Monthly Grant		Penury Grant		Funeral Grant		Total	
		Cases	Amount In Rs.	Cases	Amount In Rs.	Cases	Amount In Rs.	Cases	Amount In Rs.
1	2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	72000	15	360000	0	0	24	495000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	1	30000	0	0	24	249300
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	28400
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	6	105000	0	0	18	253000
6.	Delhi	1	24000	13	345000	0	0	25	521000
7.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8000
8.	Gujarat	0	0	1	30000	0	0	2	38750
9.	Haryana	0	0	10	225000	0	0	40	628400
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	810200
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	29	720000	1	5000	98	1608800
12.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	16000
13.	Karnataka	0	1	15000	0	0	2	224000	
14.	Kerala	6	144000	86	1710000	1	5000	130	2199900
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	48	1170000	0	0	80	1547800
16.	Maharashtra	1	24000	82	1680000	4	20000	113	2041000
17.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

18. Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	1	5000	4	29000
19. Mizoram	0	0	46	1380000	0	0	244	5030500
20. Nagaland	1	24000	62	1485000	0	0	88	1680600
21. Orissa	1	24000	3	90000	0	0	22	291800
22. Punjab	0	0	4	60000	0	0	36	373000
23. Rajasthan	11	288000	48	1185000	0	0	229	3815000
24. Sikkim	0	0	25	735000	0	0	70	1096600
25. Tamil Nadu	26	624000	105	2085000	13	65000	369	4166400
26. Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	24000
27. Uttar Pradesh	3	72000	8	165000	0	0	93	1398200
28. Uttarakhand	20	480000	72	1710000	0	272	4306700	
29. West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	108000
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Chandigarh (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32. Pondicherry (UT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33. Nepal (Country)	0	0	1	30000	0	0	44	628500
Total	73	1776000	666	15315000	20	100000	2148	33617850

Statement-V**Details of Financial Assistance of Serious Diseases for the last Three Years**

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	No. Cases	Amount	No. Cases	Amount	No. Cases	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	8	376350	4	286490	3	276209
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	0	0	1	83776	0	0
Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh					1	112500
Delhi	3	276750	4	208485	3	337500
Goa	1	58500	0	0	2	187500
Gujarat	1	9750	2	34835	1	93750
Haryana	12	769223	9	495708	11	929344
Himachal Pradesh	11	973923	7	529921	4	343898
Jammu and Kashmir	5	298556	3	129790	2	164700
Jharkhand			0	0	0	0
Karnataka	13	1041668	13	774975	6	299937
Kerala	21	1300138	29	1699199	11	850338
Madhya Pradesh	1	93600	4	191850	0	0
Maharashtra	9	786324	14	875033	3	132358
Manipur					0	0
Meghalaya					0	0
Mizoram					1	23543
Orissa					0	0
Punjab	29	2356691	8	752817	10	893130

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan	5	412923	5	75029	2	9270
Sikkim					0	0
Tamil Nadu	6	357263	10	482071	4	234947
Tripura					0	0
Uttarakhand	5	426214	4	103729	1	35371
Uttar Pradesh	9	655268	14	1004467	6	310627
West Bengal					0	0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands					0	0
Chandigarh UT	3	260600			0	0
Puducherry UT					0	0
Nepal	10	319606	41	1679162	37	1598329
Nagaland					1	75000
Total	152	10773347	172	9407255	109	6848251

Approved Budget:

2005-06	350.00 Lac;
2006-07	250.00 Lac;
2007-08	90.00 Lac

*[English]***MoU with Various Countries**

3945. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreements or MoUs have been signed with various countries particularly with Italy and New Zealand with regard to agricultural cooperation, biosecurity, exchange of technology among others;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken thereon; and

(c) the likely impact of such agreements/MoUs on agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The position in respect of Italy and New Zealand is as follows:

An MoU between Ministry of Agriculture of India and Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies

of Italy has been signed on 16-1-2008. The MoU inter-alia provides for cooperation in agriculture and horticulture, rural development, food quality and safety, plant science, animal health, animal breeding, fisheries, biotechnology, agricultural engineering and food processing.

India and New Zealand already have an MoU on plant quarantine issues. A tripartite MoU among Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Land Care Research and Massey University, New Zealand is also being discussed and will be signed as soon as all the clearances are available.

(c) The bilateral cooperation envisaged in the MoU will improve trade between the two countries, encourage exchange of ideas and technology and will be beneficial for agricultural sectors of both the countries.

Wheat Import by States

3946. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given permission to States to import wheat directly to meet the demand of Public Distribution System (PDS) in these States;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of States that have been granted such permission;

(c) whether such imports are proposed to be subsidised by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which this is likely to help the States in improving availability of wheat in these States; and

(f) the steps being taken to help the States that have not been given such a permission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Given the low procurement

of wheat for the Central Pool during 2007 and high demands for white/domestic wheat received, the State Governments of 4 States, namely Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal were directed to import wheat from international market as per their choice from March to May, 2008, to meet about half of their requirement of wheat under the TPDS and welfare schemes during this period. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala were also suggested to consider import of wheat from international market.

A subsidy equal to the level of subsidy to be given by the Government of India to FCI for import of wheat for the aforesaid months would be re-imbursed to the State Governments for the wheat to be imported by them.

[Translation]

Consumer Complaints Redressal Centres

3947. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the occasion of National Consumer Rights Day the Union Government had directed the State Governments to set up complaint centres and provide telephone service on lines of Railway enquiry service at various levels for speedy redressal of consumer complaints;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the States thereto;

(c) the number of Districts in the country where such centres have already been established; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be extended to other districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Department has sanctioned 103 District Consumer Information Centres in 24 States. Scheme of District Consumer Information Centres has been discontinued since 2004. However, the Department initiated recently a new scheme "State Consumer Helpline" in XI five year plan and funds have been released so far to State Government of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Orissa.

[English]

Agricultural Production in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3948. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural production and

productivity has declined in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Table below gives the production and productivity of different agricultural commodities grown in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the last three years:

Crop	Production ('000 Tonnes)			Productivity (kg/hectare)		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Rice	29.2	30.7	30.7	2729	2896	2896
Maize	0.1	0.1	0.2	1000	1000	2000
Pulses	0.4	0.4	0.4	571	500	571
Foodgrains	29.7	31.2	31.3	2583	2713	2746
Sugarcane	5.7	5.9	2.6	28500	19667	26000
Areca nut	4.8	4.8	5.8	1091	1091	1415
Banana	17.8	17.8	13.7	8900	8900	8563
Coconut	87.1	87.1	89.0	3402	3402	4159
Chillies	1.0	1.0	0.9	2500	2500	2250
Ginger	1.8	1.8	1.9	3600	3600	9500
Sweet Potato	2.6	2.6	0.5	5200	5200	5000
Turmeric	0.7	0.7	0.5	7000	7000	5000
Tapioca	5.0	5.0	2.0	6250	6250	6667

*Production in Million Nuts and Yield in Nuts/Hectare.

In most of the cases, both production and productivity show increase during 2006-07 over the previous two years.

Government is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) since 2005-06 covering the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the holistic development of Horticulture sector through area based, regionally differentiate strategies to enhance horticulture production, improve nutritional security and income support to farm house holds.

National Horticulture Mission

3949. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the activities under National Horticulture Mission to create export potentiality in the States during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of Central schemes proposed to be implemented for the purpose alongwith the funds allocated for the same, State-wise and to educate farmers to approach markets and evaluate clients; and

(c) the role played by the National Horticulture Board in addressing the problems of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission is being continued during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the holistic development of horticulture by adopting an end-to-end approach. The activities taken up under the scheme includes production of seed and planting material, area expansion, rejuvenation, organic farming, Integrated Pest Management, creation of infrastructure for Post Harvest Management and marketing Human Resource Development (HRD) is also an important component of the scheme. These activities enable the enhancement of production of horticultural produce for domestic consumption as well as exports. The state-wise details of funds provided for these activities during 2007-08 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing the following schemes for the development of horticulture in the country:

1. Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management.
2. Capital Investment subsidy for construction/ expansion/modernization of cold storages and storages for horticulture.
3. Technology Development and transfer for Promotion of Horticulture.

The NHB has facilitated the setting up of Commodity based Growers Associations for addressing the problems of farmers and 19 such Associations have been formed under the overall aegis of Confederation of Indian Horticulture.

Statement

Physical Targets and Financial Targets under NHM—(2007-08)

Financial (Rs. in Lakh)
Physical * Area in Ha.
**Quantity in No.

States	Area Coverage*		Rejuvenation*		Organic Farming*		IPM*		Nireru**	
	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	32156.000	2839.439	9410.000	837.848	3700.000	314.500	20200.009	171.700	51.000	216.000
Bihar	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Chhattisgarh	32872.000	2853.900	820.000	104.550	3800.000	323.000	10800.000	91.800	15.000	183.600
Goa	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Gujarat	11615.600	1011.120	260.000	33.150	185.000	15.730	3100.000	26.350	14.000	124.950
Haryana	8032.050	703.380	477.000	60.860	358.000	30.410	3950.000	33.580	38.000	323.850
Jharkhand	3151.000	293.910	85.000	10.840	700.000	59.500	56.000	0.480	9.000	73.950
Karnataka	33809.900	2929.691	6000.000	765.893	3110.000	284.350	40800.000	365.925	114.000	304.725
Kerala	30800.000	1019.665	12016.680	1506.090	1020.000	86.700	2617.000	22.420	51.000	302.175
Madhya Pradesh	17896.000	1901.325	3290.000	419.480	3755.000	319.180	1871.000	15.900	71.000	402.900

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Maharashtra	25127.000	4410.011	11100.000	1640.500	4767.610	405.247	1810.000	15385	36.000	307.875
Orissa	22255.000	1665.920	800.000	102.000	800.000	68.000	1159.000	9.650	52.000	288.150
Punjab	11636.000	1138.030	2048.000	261.120	1250.000	106.250	0.000	0.000	5.000	53.550
Rajasthan	15420.030	1468.951	550.000	70.125	2350.000	199.750	5850.009	49.725	44.000	248.625
Tamil Nadu	46931.000	4018.393	7951.000	1013.727	6152.000	522.900	10168.000	86.428	0.000	0.000
Uttar Pradesh	28603.690	3039.970	3460.000	441.150	8366.000	940.530	9064.000	77.045	150.000	448.800
West Bengal	1650.000	206.710	130.000	16.575	0.000	0.000	350.000	2.975	0.000	0.000
Total	321955.270	29501.415	58397.690	7283.908	40313.610	3656.047	111795.000	969.563	650.000	3279.150

Financial (Rs. in Lakh)
Physical * Area in Ha.
**Quantity in No.

States	HRD**			PHM**			Markets**		
	Physical	Financial		Physical	Financial		Physical	Financial	
1	12	13		14	15		16	17	
Andhra Pradesh	34146.000	89.895		8.000	130.210		5.000	7.968	
Bihar	—	—		0.000	0.000		0.000	0.000	
Chhattisgarh	4126.000	54.350		0.000	0.000		0.000	0.000	
Goa	—	—		0.000	0.000		1.000	3.190	
Gujarat	400.000	15.300		1.000	36.120		1.000	3.190	
Haryana	1415.000	55.590		1.000	0.850		0.000	0.000	
Jharkhand	—	—		0.000	0.000		0.000	0.000	
Karnataka	473.000	10.073		4.000	58.363		30.000	375.590	
Kerala	1504.000	148.965		0.000	0.000		20.000	82.340	
Madhya Pradesh	3222.000	186.810		1.000	2.890		0.000	47.180	
Maharashtra	11297.000	70.157		253.000	208.620		2.000	6.375	
Orissa	7074.000	105.600		0.000	0.000		0.000	0.000	
Punjab	1751.000	33.130		2.000	86.110		0.000	0.000	

1	12	13	14	15	16	17
Rajasthan	5487.000	146.005	7.000	174.980	0.000	0.000
Tamil Nadu	24671.000	322.597	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Uttar Pradesh	24170.000	671.230	12.000	230.380	1.000	115.820
West Bengal	—	—	2.000	197.100	3.000	6.024
Total	119716.000	1909.762	291.000	1125.603	63.000	647.677

**Assistance for Setting Up
Effluent Treatment Plant**

3950. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided financial assistance for setting up of parks for modern high-tech weaving/knitting modern processing units and Effluent Treatment Plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and released for the purpose during each year

of Tenth Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) The Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) was approved in July, 2005 to facilitate setting up of Textiles Parks with appropriate support infrastructure facilities. SITP provides for giving assistance @ 40% of the project cost (common infrastructure, common facilities and factory buildings) subject to the limit of Rs. 40 Crore. As per the target for the 10th Five Year Plan, 30 Textiles Park projects have been approved. Funds released to the sanctioned projects, year-wise and State-wise, are given in the table below:—

State	Number of Project.	Year-wise Release of Funds (in Crore Rupees)			
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Andhra Pradesh	5	0.00	12.74	49.92	62.66
Bihar	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	7	8.00	8.00	64.00	80.00
Karnataka	1	0.00	2.12	10.62	12.74
Maharashtra	5	4.82	6.89	45.39	50
Punjab	1	0.00	0.00	4.00	4.00
Rajasthan	3	0.00	3.87	15.75	19.62
Tamil Nadu	6	5.73	5.39	40.91	52.03
West Bengal	1	0.00	4.00	8.00	12.00
Total	30	18.55	43.01	238.59	3

**Ban on Wheat Procurement by
Private Companies**

3951. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has imposed ban on procurement of wheat by private traders from

the States of Punjab and Haryana;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor particularly when the same is not applicable in other States;

(c) whether the Bhartiya Kisan Union and other organisations and individuals have requested the Government to lift such a discriminatory ban; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Re-Employment of Extra-Departmental Employees

3952. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Extra-Departmental Employees and Gramin Dak Sevaks who have served for more than a decade (10 years) are being sent out of service without any fault in Nagercoil Division of Postal Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of employees have been sent out;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to reinstate them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

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

Telephone Lines on Lease

3953. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the public sector Banks taken lease of the lines of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) particularly for Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and core banking solutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether frequent disruptions have been occurred due to the repairs of the lines by the BSNL staff which are connected to ATMs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has formulated any specific guidelines for the BSNL to make alternative stand by arrangements meandatory; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main Public Sector Banks which have taken leased circuits from BSNL are as follows:

1. UCO Bank
2. State Bank of India and its associated banks.
3. Canara Bank
4. Central Bank
5. Union Bank
6. United Bank of India
7. Syndicate Bank
8. Punjab National Bank
9. Reserve Bank of India
10. Allahabad Bank
11. Indian Bank
12. Bank of Baroda
13. Vijaya Bank
14. Bank of India
15. Bank of Maharashtra
16. Bank of Rajasthan
17. Oriental Bank of Commerce
18. Indian Overseas Bank

19. Corporation Bank

20. Andhra Bank

21. Dena Bank

22. Punjab and Sind Bank

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. BSNL has its own guidelines. Standby cable pair is being provided as back up wherever technically feasible in local lead portion. The long distance media is being provided on self healing OFC rings for standby connectivity. BSNL also provides backup Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) connections on demand of the subscribers.

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAR): (a) Out of the Twelve (12) Apparel Park projects sanctioned under the Apparel Park for Exports Scheme (APES), one Park in Tamil Nadu is fully functional. Basic Infrastructure facilities have been developed in eight projects where production activities have started in some units. These projects are located in the States of Andhra Pradesh (1), Gujarat (1), Karnataka (1), Kerala (1), Maharashtra (1), Tamil Nadu (1) and Uttar Pradesh (2).

(b) Number of Apparel Park projects sanctioned, year-wise and State-wise, is as under:—

Apparel Parks

3954. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Apparel Parks for Exports working at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of Apparel Parks for Exports sanctioned and set up during each year of Tenth Plan, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated, released and spent for the purpose during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to open more such parks during Eleventh Plan; and

Year	Name of the State (Number of projects)
2001-02	Gujarat (1), Uttar Pradesh (1)
2002-03	Andhra Pradesh (1), Karnataka (1), Kerala (1), Tamil Nadu (2), Uttar Pradesh (1)
2003-04	Madhya Pradesh (1), Rajasthan (1)
2004-05	Maharashtra (1), Punjab (1)

(c) Assistance under the APES is released to the Implementing Agency on reimbursement basis. Year-wise and State-wise release of funds is given in the table below:—

State	Year-wise Release of Funds (in Crore Rupees)					
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	0.00	1.25	1.12	0.67	1.68	4.72
Gujarat	4.22	5.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.61
Karnataka	0.00	2.41	8.74	0.00	4.15	15.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kerala	1.54	1.73	4.09	4.44	4.42	16.22
Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.69	2.82	4.51
Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	4.18	0.00	5.74	9.92
Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.88	1.52	2.46
Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00	0.98
Tamil Nadu	1.33	7.43	13.10	1.90	0.00	23.76
Uttar Pradesh	3.05	3.78	7.16	6.61	8.20	28.80
Total	10.14	21.99	39.43	16.19	28.53	116.28

(d) No, Sir. Apparel Park for Exports Scheme (APES) was discontinued in July 2005. However, assistance is being provided to the sanctioned projects where work had started before 31-07-2005.

(e) Does not arise.

Decrease in Postal Saving Scheme

3955. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is decrease in household savings particularly investment in postal securities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to restore bonus on Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA);

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expected increase in postal deposit in the coming years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The deposits in Post Office Small Savings Schemes are in decreasing trend.

(b) The Scheme-wise details of deposits in last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) The Government has already declared bonus at the rate of 5% on the deposits made under Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme on or after 8th December, 2007 upon the maturity of the deposit. It may attract more deposits in the scheme in coming year.

Statement

Details of deposits in different Post Office Savings Bank Schemes for the last three years

(Figures in Crores)

Year	Saving Account	Recurring Deposit	Time Deposit	Monthly Income Account	Sr. Citizen Savings Scheme	Public Provident Fund	Total
2004-05	25416.55	20135.3	20428.29	48691.8	8818.14	3112.84	126604.02
2005-06	31432.28	23488.41	20526.45	47272.63	7435.42	3024.47	133179.66
2006-07	35958.42	26333.05	19799.86	26460.37	7238.19	3797.87	119587.76
Increase/ Decrease in 2005-06 over 2004-05	6015.73	3353.11	97.16	(-)1419.17	(-)1382.71	(-)88.47	6575.66
Increase/ Decrease in 2006-07 over 2005-06	4526.14	2844.64	(-)726.58	20812.26	(-)197.23	773.39	13544.28

*Details of deposits in Kisan Vikas Patras and 6 Year National Savings Certificate (VIII Issue)
Schemes for the last three years.*

(Figures in Crores)

Name of the Certificate	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Increase Decrease in 2005-06 over 2004-05	Increase Decrease in 2006-07 over 2005-06
KVP	23600.73	29281.00	23495.00	5680.27	-5786.00
6yr. NSC VIIIth issue	10246.88	10539.91	8971.00	293.03	-1568.91

Recommendation in Regard to IPTV

3956. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations given by Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in regard to Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) as reported in 'Dainik Bhaskar' dated February 19, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Government has received recommendations from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on "Provision of IPTV Services" in January, 2008. These recommendations contain matters relating Licensing, content regulations and down linking policy with reference to IPTV Services. Recommendations of TRAI on "Provision of IPTV Services" are being considered. Being a policy matter, no specific time frame can be provided for implementation of the recommendations.

[Translation]

Indo-Japan Defence Talks

3957. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in Indo-Japanese talks on defence cooperation since May, 2006;

(b) the number of such talks held and the success achieved therein during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken to actively pursue Indo-Japanese cooperation in defence sector?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Consequent upon the visit of Raksha Mantri to Japan in May 2006, the inaugural Defence Policy Dialogue was held in Tokyo in April, 2007. Besides, as a part of our ongoing security dialogue the 5th Comprehensive Security Dialogue alongwith the 4th Military to Military Talks, was held in Japan in February, 2008.

From Japanese side both Senior Vice Minister of Defence and Minister of Defence visited India during August 2007.

Both sides are actively pursuing cooperation in the field of training, exchange of high level visits, participation in seminar and conferences etc. An Annual Calendar of

Events including above mentioned activities has also been drawn.

Restart of Telephone Exchanges

3958. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to restart the telephone exchanges and instal the mobile towers damaged by naxalites in naxalite affected areas of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At Yelchil, microwave repeater and powerplant etc. was burnt by naxalites which affected the telecom services including the landlines, WLL and GSM mobile at Etapalli Short Distance Switching Area (SDCA). Tower was intact but restoration of repeater by providing replacement of power plant and microwave equipment was not advised by the state administration at same location.

All the telecom services for Etapalli SDCA have now been restored by providing microwave tower, microwave repeater equipment at Perimili.

[English]

Unemployment Problem in North Eastern Region

3959. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unemployment has been identified as the major problem of North Eastern Region of the country;

(b) if so, the details regarding the number of educated, uneducated, skilled, unskilled and technically

trained unemployed youths in this region; State-wise; and

(c) the schemes formulated, target fixed and funds allocated for generation of employment opportunities in said categories of youths during the Eleventh Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Government of India is fully aware of the unemployment problem that the country including the North Eastern Region is currently facing.

(b) States wise details of number of educated, uneducated, skilled and unskilled jobseekers including youth, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, registered with employment exchanges in the North Eastern Region are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Government of India has been implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes all over the country, including north eastern region. Some of these are Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana. Progress of special employment generation programme of north eastern region during 10th Plan are given in the enclosed Statement-II. During 11th Five Year Plan, 10% of total Plan outlay has also been earmarked for north eastern region. The 11th Plan document, approved by National Development Council, has projected that 58 million job opportunities are likely to be created during the 11th Plan period. The additional employment opportunities in the future will be generated mainly in the services and manufacturing sectors, in particular, labour intensive manufacturing sectors such as food processing, leather products, footwear, and textiles, and service sectors such as tourism and construction in the country, including North Eastern Region. Economic growth in different sectors is normally accompanied by growth in employment opportunities as well. Under the projects on "Establishment of new ITIS in the North-Eastern States and Sikkim", 22 new ITIs are being

established, 35 existing ITIs are being modernized and 3 additional new ITIs have now been approved by Planning Commission. On completion of implementation

of the project scheme, the capacity in ITIs in the Northern Eastern States would increase by 8900 seats, from the existing 7244 to 16144.

Statement-I

Number of Job Seekers Registered with Employment Exchanges as on 31-12-2005

(In thousands)

	Total	Educated	Uneducated	Ex-ITI	Full-Term Apprentices
Arunachal Pradesh	25.1	15.4	9.7	0.01	—
Assam	1760.8	1224.0	536.8	14.0	0.5
Manipur	532.3	342.8	189.5	2.1	⊙
Meghalaya	38.0	24.3	13.7	0.3	⊙
Mizoram	34.4	20.4	14.0	1.6	—
Nagaland	44.3	25.8	18.5	0.3	—
Sikkim*					
Tripura	399.7	175.7	224.0	3.2	0.2
Total	2834.6	1828.4	1006.2	21.6	0.7

*No Employment Exchanges is functioning in this States.

⊙ Figures less than fifty.

Statement-II

The number of persons actually provided employment under special employment generation schemes in the North Eastern Region during 10th Five Year Plan

Sl. No.	Name of States	PMRY Estimated Employment Generated (in numbers)	REGP Estimated Employment opportunities (in numbers)	SJSRY No. of Mandays of work generated (in lakhs)	SGRY Mandays Generated (in lakhs)	SGSY Total Swarojgaries Assisted (in numbers)	NREGA No. of household provided employment (in numbers)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3049.5	6253	2.49	64.73	6864	16926

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2. Assam		38743.5	116832	1.33	3094.85	283810	792270
3. Manipur		2892	4986	1.16	106;70	5524	17880
4. Meghalaya		2878.5	11466	0.00	163.37	17904	96627
5. Mizoram		2361	41169	0.00	60.59	17242	50998
6. Nagaland		4542	15485	260.27	505.72	15009	27884
7. Sikkim		208.5	8722	28.62	35.24	7800	4107
8. Tripura		11604	15933	0.50	511,45	39398	74335
Total		66279	220846	294.37	4542.65	393551	1081027

ESI Facilities to Agricultural Labourers

3960. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of male, female farmers and agricultural labourers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of medical facilities/services available to this community in the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce separate medical facilities for them on the pattern of Employees State Insurance (ESI); and

(d) If not, the steps taken by the Government to ensure fulfilment of medical need of this community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per Census 2001, the details of number of agricultural labourers (Male, Female) State-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission to provide basic health care delivery system in rural areas. The Government has also launched the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)' for BPL families in Unorganised Sector on 1st October, 2007 for the unorganized sector worker's family of five which, *Inter-alia*, include agricultural labourers. The scheme provides for smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000 per family per annum on a family floater basis. Presently, there is no proposal to implement separate medical facility on the line of 'Employees State Insurance' for the agricultural labourers.

Statement

Details of Agricultural workers in respect Male, Female separately, State-wise

(Source: Census 2001)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Number of Agricultural Labourers		
		Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6453741	7378411	13832152

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10329	8511	18840
3.	Assam	832508	431024	1263532
4.	Bihar	8730251	4667493	13417744
5.	Chhattisgarh	1262559	1828799	3091358
6.	Goa	15970	19838	35808
7.	Gujarat	2509851	2852007	5181858
8.	Haryana	717133	581888	1278821
9.	Himachal Pradesh	55858	38513	94171
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	190339	58082	246421
11.	Jharkhand	1485322	1385975	2851297
12.	Karnataka	2820927	3808015	8228942
13.	Kerala	1078354	542497	1820851
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3518388	3882302	7400870
15.	Maharashtra	4924034	5891228	10615282
16.	Manipur	49928	83702	113830
17.	Meghalaya	90888	80808	171894
18.	Mizoram	12775	14008	28783
19.	Nagaland	15985	14922	30907
20.	Orissa	2587198	2411908	4999104
21.	Punjab	1104140	385721	1489881
22.	Rajasthan	1055332	1488387	2523719
23.	Sikkim	8782	8238	17000
24.	Tamil Nadu	4256380	4381270	8837830
25.	Tripura	182840	113482	278132
26.	Uttar Pradesh	8245599	5155312	13400911
27.	Uttarakhand	190494	89189	259883
28.	West Bengal	5080236	2282721	7382957

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4043	1128	5189
30.	Chandigarh	461	102	583
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5429	9288	14715
32.	Daman and Diu	347	978	1323
33.	Delhi	11224	4549	15773
34.	Lakshadweep	00	00	00
35.	Puduchery	42117	30134	72251
Total		57329100	49448230	108775330

*Note: Manipur figures exclude Mao Maram, Paomata and Purul sub-divs of Senapati District in Manipur state as census results were cancelled due to administrative and technical reasons.

Reduction in International Call Rates

3961. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has recently reduced the international call rates to various countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BSNL has also proposed to follow suit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) MTNL has reduced the ISD call rates for the VOIP customers only w.e.f. 1st February, 2008. The reduced rates are applicable to 100 countries and 22 mobile destinations at a rate of Re. 1 per minute. In general for countries where call rates were Rs. 2 and

Rs. 3 per minute have been reduced to Re. 1. For countries where call rates were Rs. 6, 8 and 12, the corresponding reduction has been made to Rs. 4, 6 and 8 per minute.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Tariffs offered by BSNL are reviewed from time to time keeping in view, the needs of the customers, prevailing market conditions and settlement rate payable for carrying the international call to the foreign carriers/ ILDO operators. It is already offering 'Call Now' Card under which a customer can make ISD calls at very low competitive rates.

Revenue Through Spectrum Fee

3962. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of revenue earned through spectrum fee during the last three years as on date, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government is planning to increase the spectrum fee;

(c) if so, whether it would have an impact on the tariffs;

(d) whether the Government is planning to check the tariff and earn more revenue through spectrum; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Revenue collections relating to spectrum charges for the last three financial years as on date are as under:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
2005-06	1376
2006-07	2090
2007-08	3015

(b) to (e) The review of spectrum fee/charges is undertaken from time to time, taking into account various relevant aspects. The stake holders are consulted with a view to bring spectrum charges to a realistic level and reflect a realistic value of this scarce natural resource.

Substandard Inputs

3963. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether substandard, spurious and fake inputs like seeds, fertilisers, insecticides, pesticides etc. abound in the market that adversely affect the farming community;

(b) if so, the details thereof and preventive/punitive steps taken to check the menace;

(c) whether the Government has received

complaints from the farming community that seed corporation have failed to provide quality seeds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government is taking all possible measure to check sale of sub standard inputs like seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides etc. Government have provided legal framework to strengthen the quality assurance regime for various agriculture inputs under the Seeds Act, 1966, Seeds Rules, 1968, Seed (Control) Ordex, 1983, Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, Insecticides Act, 1968 and Insecticides Rules, 1971 as amended from time to time. Enforcement of these legal instruments is vested with the State Governments and Union Territories. Inspectors notified under these legal instruments are empowered to draw samples, verify stocks and issue stop sale orders in case the agriculture inputs do not conform to the provisions of these Acts/ Rules and Orders.

(c) and (d) No such report has been received.

[Translation]

Procurement of Automatic Mail Processing Machines

3964. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts proposes to procure automatic mail processing machines for sorting of mail;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the number of cargo planes with the Postal

Department and the routes on which they are being used in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Installation of automatic mail processing machines for sorting of mail forms a part of the 11th Five Year Plan scheme of the Department of Posts. The details of the machines and their procurement depends on approval of the Government. Automatic mail processing machines at Delhi and Kolkata were approved by the Government in 10th Plan, and action has already been initiated to firm up the request for proposals.

(d) The Department of Posts has chartered one Cargo plane from Air India for a period of one year. The cargo plane operates on Kolkata-Guwahati-Imphal-Agartala-Kolkata route six days a week.

[English]

Permission for Deep Sea Fishing

3965. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued letter of permission to Fishing Units operating in deep sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain agencies are obstructing fishing activities on the excuse of letter of permission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) So far 158 Letters of Permission (LOPs) have been issued to 40 Companies for fishing in the Deep Sea, out of these 119 are for Tuna Long Lining, 25 for Mid Water/Pelagic Trawling, 07 for Hook and Long Lining, 05 for Pure Seining and 02 for Squid Jiggers.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in Agriculture

3966. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the agriculture sector out of the total FDI in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to reserve a certain percentage of foreign investment for the agriculture sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A statement, made available by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, indicating financial year-wise FDI inflow from April, 2004 to January 2008 in various sectors including Agriculture Services is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their techno-economic judgments and commercial considerations. Government has not fixed any target for FDI.

Statement*Financial Year-wise FDI Inflows from April 2004 to January 2008*

(Amount in US\$ million)

Sl. No.	Sector	2004-05 Apr.-Mar.	2005-06 Apr.-Mar.	2006-07 Apr.-Mar.	2007-08 Apr.-Jan.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Metallurgical Industries	182.39	146.89	172.85	519.62	1,021.75
2.	Mining	9.92	6.15	6.62	441.60	464.29
3.	Power	52.94	87.09	157.47	232.50	530.00
4.	Non-Conventional Energy	0.01	0.11	2.11	32.96	35.20
5.	Coal Production	0.00	0.00	1.30	14.08	15.38
6.	Petroleum and Natural Gas	113.47	14.17	89.37	378.48	595.49
7.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	0.54	0.00	3.31	0.97	4.82
8.	Prime Mover (other than electrical Generators)	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.34
9.	Electrical Equipments	97.70	35.18	76.85	619.56	829.29
10.	Computer Software and Hardware	538.52	1,374.84	2,614.43	1,254.74	5,782.53
11.	Electronics	86.16	39.05	41.45	16.27	182.92
12.	Telecommunications	124.53	623.55	477.74	1,084.63	2,310.44
13.	Information and Broadcasting (including Print Media)	10.24	55.95	43.56	233.10	342.86
14.	Automobile Industry	122.17	142.97	275.73	447.79	988.66
15.	Air Transport (including Air Freight)	4.11	10.27	92.14	93.24	199.76
16.	Sea Transport	34.91	53.63	72.52	87.78	248.84
17.	Ports	13.04	0.50	0.00	0.00	13.55
18.	Railway Related Components	4.48	14.67	25.82	12.36	57.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19.	Industrial Machinery	8.89	42.80	19.27	19.19	90.15
20.	Machine Tools	11.04	23.00	37.34	47.54	118.92
21.	Agricultural Machinery	0.00	92.71	25.19	6.10	125.00
22.	Earth-Moving Machinery	0.10	50.87	0.99	66.09	118.06
23.	Miscellaneous Mechanical and Engineering Industries	12.34	51.26	64.32	182.83	310.75
24.	Commercial Office and Household Equipments	14.12	25.54	44.88	6.15	90.69
25.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	5.25	1.53	13.43	10.08	30.29
26.	Industrial Instruments	1.08	0.38	0.00	2.23	3.69
27.	Scientific Instruments	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.00	0.21
28.	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing Instruments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Fertilizers	13.46	4.24	5.01	1.17	23.88
30.	Chemicals (other than Fertilizers)	198.07	389.77	205.43	194.15	987.43
31.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	6.30	0.00	2.81	52.84	61.95
32.	Dye-stuffs	1.18	0.00	0.00	1.93	3.11
33.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	292.07	172.44	214.84	236.98	916.33
34.	Textiles (including Dyed, Printed)	43.04	94.33	125.26	93.87	356.49
35.	Paper and Pulp (including Paper products)	2.70	27.38	5.08	29.72	64.88
36.	Sugar	2.94	3.00	16.54	10.07	32.54
37.	Fermentation Industries	9.13	169.83	27.58	25.85	232.39
38.	Food Processing Industries	38.51	41.74	98.24	61.70	240.20
39.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	9.09	12.31	16.22	0.26	37.88
40.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	0.89	88.51	6.04	9.78	105.23
41.	Rubber Goods	40.06	34.01	18.75	5.98	98.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
42.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	0.44	1.11	8.26	5.28	15.10
43.	Glue and Gelatin	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.71	1.71
44.	Glass	8.36	0.81	1.43	10.37	20.98
45.	Ceramics	26.79	5.59	57.46	90.29	180.13
46.	Cement and Gypsum Products	0.16	452.08	242.69	9.43	704.36
47.	Timber Products	0.07	0.33	0.00	0.39	0.79
48.	Defence Industries	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
49.	Consultancy Services	254.61	46.89	115.36	173.29	590.15
50.	Services Sector	443.55	543.42	4,663.65	3,040.81	8,691.44
51.	Hospital and Diagnostic Centres	25.16	32.53	38.14	219.12	314.96
52.	Education	1.91	4.53	47.29	23.23	76.96
53.	Hotel and Tourism	37.01	71.78	194.83	324.02	627.65
54.	Trading	14.56	27.82	115.42	539.75	697.55
55.	Retail Trading (Single Brand)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.98	1.98
56.	Agriculture Services*	3.83	7.59	15.11	106.38	132.90
57.	Diamond, Gold Ornaments	8.33	15.37	61.78	37.62	123.10
58.	Tea and Coffee (Processing and Warehousing Coffee and Rubber)	0.00	1.43	6.20	18.94	26.57
59.	Printing of Books (including Litho Printing Industry)	12.03	9.52	51.19	19.50	92.25
60.	Coir	0.47	0.59	0.04	0.01	1.12
61.	Construction Activities	152.00	150.58	985.36	1,313.32	2,801.26
62.	Housing and Real Estate (including Cineplex, Multiplex, Integrated Townships and Commercial Complexes etc.)	0.00	38.04	467.34	1,635.66	2,141.04
63.	Miscellaneous Industries	123.91	198.92	319.62	361.54	1,004.00
Sub Total		3,218.69	5,539.72	12,491.77	14,467.16	35,717.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
64.	Advance of Inflow	540.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	540.25
65.	Stock Swapped	0.00	6.23	3,234.42	0.17	3,240.82
Grand Total		3,758.94	5,545.95	15,726.19	14,467.33	39,498.40

Note: Agriculture Services include Floriculture, Horticulture and Hybrid Seeds and Plantation.

**Deceitful Campaigns by Private
Telecom Companies**

3967. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private telephone companies are befooling the people through advertisement and marketing campaigns and the Government is not taking any action thereto;

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

(c) the objectives for which Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been constituted by the Government;

(d) the reasons for not taking action against these deceitful campaigns by this Authority;

(e) whether any action has been taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA):
(a), (b), (d) to (f) Transparency in the provision of telecom services and marketing thereof by the companies has been an issue of high priority. A number of measures have been taken by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) since its inception to promote transparency in the offer of services in the interest of

protecting consumers. These include the issue of Regulations, Directions, Orders and Advisories from time to time and this is an ongoing process. Some of the important measures mandated by TRAI to improve consumer transparency include the following:

- (i) With a view, to remove confusion in respect of tariff plans marketed as having 'Lifetime Validity', TRAI issued regulatory guidelines vide Telecom Tariff Order 43rd Amendment notified on 21st March, 2006. Any tariff plan presented, marketed or offered as having lifetime or unlimited validity shall continue to be available to the subscriber as long as the service provider is permitted to provide such telecom service under the current license or renewed license. The service providers were told to inform the customers the current period of expiry of their license.
- (ii) All publication/advertisements of tariffs shall be in a specified format and shall provide certain essential information vide Direction dated 2nd May, 2005.
- (iii) The websites of the service providers and the tariff brochures available in the retail outlet shall contain complete details of the tariff plans vide Direction dated 2nd May, 2005.
- (iv) No chargeable value added service shall be provided to a customer without his explicit consent vide Direction dated 3rd May, 2005 and 30th October, 2007.
- (v) The pulse rate/tariff for premium rate service

shall be published in all communications' advertisements vide Direction dated 3rd May, 2007.

- (vi) Service providers shall inform customers in writing, within a week of activation of service, the complete details of his tariff plan. The changes in any item/aspect of tariff in the chosen package shall also be intimated to the customers, in writing vide Direction dated 29th June, 2005.
- (vii) No tariff plan shall be offered, presented, marketed or advertised in a manner that is likely to mislead the subscribers vide Direction dated 16th September, 2005.
- (viii) All monthly fixed recurring charges which are compulsory for a subscriber under any given plan shall be shown under one head vide Direction dated 16th September, 2005.

Compliance with the Regulations, Directions, Orders mandated by TRAI is closely monitored. TRAI has intervened in a large number of cases of telecom service providers. The service providers have promptly responded to these interventions of TRAI and have made necessary amends. Overall, the action taken by TRAI from time to time has resulted in enhancing the transparency in the service provision by the telecom service providers. Recently (on 29th January, 2008) TRAI has mooted a consultation process on the subject of "Issues arising out of plethora of tariff offers in Access Service Provision". This exercise is aimed to bring in further transparency.

(c) The objective of establishment of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India as envisaged in TRAI Act, 1997 is to regulate the telecommunication services, to protect the interest of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector, to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The unprecedented growth witnessed in the telecom sector itself is evident of the fact that these objectives are uppermost in the action plan of TRAI.

Promotion in Defence Services

3968. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jawans have not been getting opportunities for promotion in Defence Services;

(b) if so, the clarification of the Government in this regard;

(c) the names of the highest post to which a Jawan can get promotion during his service tenure; and

(d) the reaction of the Government to the lack of opportunities before the defence personnel for promotions?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d): Personnel Below Officers Rank (PBOR) in Armed Forces are provided opportunities for promotion provided they meet the laid down eligibility criteria. Subedar Major, Master Chief Petty Officer First Class (MCPO-I) and Master Warrant Officer in Army, Navy and Air Force respectively, is the highest post to which a PBOR can get promotion during his service tenure. In addition, PBORs of all the three Services can also get promoted as officers on meeting the requisite selection criteria. Further, provision exists for Assured Career Progression (ACP) of all PBORs in Defence Services. However, improvement in the service conditions and promotional opportunities of the PBORs is a continuous process.

Reduction in Call Rates

3969. SHRI V. K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private mobile operators have slashed the local, STD and ISD call rates recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the public sector telecom companies will also follow the suit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The local, STD and ISD call rates are under forebearance and are constantly modified/reduced by the operators under various tariff packages as per prevailing market forces. Most of the private mobile operators have reduced the call rates recently.

(c) and (d) Based on the needs of the customers, prevailing market conditions and TRAI guidelines, public sector companies Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. review the tariffs from time to time. Recently BSNL has reduced the local call charges under Prepaid General Cellular service from Rs. 1.20 to Rs. 0.90 for calls made to other networks within circle.

[English]

Increase in Trend of Small Saving Accounts

3970. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal circle of Indian Post Offices has lost a minimum seven lakh small saving accounts during the previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the trend of small saving in the Post Offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decline in number of accounts refer to inter-alia, investor's choice of alternative instruments for effecting savings.

(c) In the recent past, the Government has taken

following steps to increase the trend of small savings and make the small savings schemes more attractive:

- (i) The restriction on opening of more than one account during a calendar month under the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme has been removed with effect from 24th May, 2007.
- (ii) All categories of pensioners have been allowed to open and maintain 'Pension Account' under Post Office Savings Account Rules, with effect from 11 th July, 2007.
- (iii) The penalty on pre-mature withdrawal of deposits under the Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) scheme has been rationalized from 3.5% to 2% on withdrawal on or before expiry of three years and 1% on withdrawal after expiry of three years.
- (iv) The maximum deposit ceilings of Rs. 3.00 lakh and Rs. 6.00 lakh under the Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme has been raised to Rs. 4.50 lakh and Rs. 9.00 lakh in respect of single and joint accounts respectively.
- (v) Bonus at the rate of 5% on the deposits made under Post Office Monthly Income Account (POMIA) Scheme on or after 8th December, 2007 upon the maturity of the deposit, has been reintroduced.
- (vi) The benefit of Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 has been extended to the investments made under 5-Year Post Office Time Deposits Account and Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, with effect from 01-04-2007.
- (vii) Measures are also taken to promote and popularize these schemes through print and electronic media as well as holding seminars and meetings, providing training to the various agencies involved in mobilizing collection in Small Savings Schemes etc.
- (viii) A website of the National Savings Institute under Government of India, Ministry of Finance

has also been launched to facilitate interface with the public through wider dissemination of information on small savings and on-line registration and settlement of investors grievances. The website address is nsiindia.gov.in.

Test of BrahMos Missile

3971. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether trial of BrahMos missile was held in the month of March, 2008;

(b) if so, whether the government has assessed its impact on environment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether several countries have shown their interest in procurement of the missile; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to prove an additional capability of the BrahMos missile from ship to land target, a flight was carried out. The mission was executed with high precision, taking care of ecology and environmental protection. The mission proved the perfection of the missile. There was no damage to the ecology and environment.

(d) and (e) There are countries showing interest on the product. Both the Indian and Russian governments will have to take joint decision on the countries to whom the missile could be exported.

[Translation]

Production of Pulses

3972. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States where there is production and cultivation of Rice and Pulses in large quantities;

(b) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the annual requirements of Wheat, Rice and Pulses, Chana, Arhar, Moong, Urad and Masoor;

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

(d) whether the Government encourages the States to increase the production of pulses by bringing additional area under pulses, utilization of rice fallows and intercropping of pulses with other crops;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount spent on the National Pulses Mission during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The details of States where rice production is more than one million tonnes and pulses production is more than 5 lakh tonnes during 2006-07 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Based on Behaviouristic Approach, the demand of Wheat, Rice and Pulses during the first year (2007-08) and the terminal year (2011-12) of the 11th Five Year Plan are given in the table below:

(Million Tonnes)			
Year	Wheat	Rice	Pulses
2007-08	71.19	90.91	16.77
2011-12	77.36	98.79	19.91

State-wise and pulse-wise details of demand are not available.

(d) to (f) Government has launched the National

Food Security Mission (NFSM) from Rabi 2007-08 which, inter-alia, aims to increase the production of pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan by bringing additional area under pulses, utilization of rice fallows and inter-cropping of pulses with other crops in 170 identified districts in 14 States of the country with the total Plan Outlay of Rs. 1239.88 crore. An

amount of Rs. 103.65 crore has been released under NFSM-Pulses during 2007-08 against the allocation of Rs. 104.63 crore. In addition to this an amount of Rs. 106 lakh to the Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur and Rs. 88 lakh to ICRIISA T has been released for improvement of pulses production in the country during 2007-08.

Statement

Estimates of Area, Production and Yield of Rice during 2006-07

State	Area ('000 Hectares)	Production (000 Tonnes)	Yield (kg./hectare)
West Bengal	5687.0	14745.9	2593
Andhra Pradesh	978.0	11872.0	2984
Uttar Pradesh	5920.6	11124.0	1879
Punjab	2621.0	10138.0	3868
Orissa	4450.3	6824.7	1534
Tamil Nadu	1931.4	6610.6	3423
Chattisgarh	3723.6	5041.4	1354
Bihar	3357.1	4989.3	1486
Karnataka	1395.0	3446.0	2470
Haryana	1041.0	3371.0	3238
Jharkhand	1623.6	2967.8	1828
Assam	2189.0	2916.0	1332
Maharashtra	1529.0	2569.0	1680
Gujarat	734.0	1390.0	1894
Madhya Pradesh	1661.3	1368.4	824
Others	1971.7	3981.2	2019
All India	43813.6	93355.3	2131

Estimates of Area, Production and Yield of Pulses during 2006-07

State	Area ('000 Hectares)	Production (' 000 Tonnes)	Yield (Kg./Hectare)
Madhya Pradesh	4108.1	3203.1	780
Maharashtra	3828.0	2304.0	602
Uttar Pradesh	2724.3	1975.1	725
Rajasthan	3207.6	1481.3	462
Andhra Pradesh	1984.0	1347.0	679
Karnataka	2389.0	893.0	377
Gujarat	1000.0	593.0	593
Others	3970.7	2401.0	605
All India	23191.7	14197.5	612

*[English]***Farm Produce**

3973. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the United Nations (UN) estimates, the value of farm produce in developing countries is much less than that of developed countries like United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to promote agro industries to provide cheap food, reduce poverty and providing employment to farmers;

(c) whether the Government has issued an advisory to States for promoting best farm practices including intercropping to maximise production in the ensuing kharif season:

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to bear

the risk in case the farmers don't get adequate profits due to such intercropping; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per information available in the World Bank's World Development Report 2008 on agriculture for Development, the agricultural productivity per worker in 2001-03 for low and middle income countries was \$ 557 as compared to \$ 24,438 for high income countries.

The Government of India has taken new initiatives for revitalization of agriculture sector, by launching two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an objective to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector, to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing agriculture and allied sector schemes and to maximize returns to farmers.

(c) to (e) In the National Conference on Agriculture for kharif campaign 2008 held in February 2008 states have been advised to take all necessary steps in time for maximizing kharif production including ensuring input supply, energizing the extension network and promoting best agronomic practices. Through the various schemes such as NFSM, Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton and Mini Mission of Jute Technology Mission appropriate production technology indicating suitable intercropping are popularized through Field demonstration, Training of Farmers and Extension Workers.

[Translation]

Closure of 'Single Post Offices'

3974. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make the Postal network services efficient in the country especially in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the proposals in this regard during the Eleventh Plan;

(c) whether the Government is going to close down Single Post Offices in rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of 'Single Post Offices' closed during the last three years, State-wise; and

(f) the reasons for closing the said Single Post Offices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the Eleventh Plan Period, it is proposed to open:

(i) 3,000 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices,

(ii) 2,000 Departmental Sub Post Offices and

(iii) 10,000 Franchisee Outlets throughout the country.

3,000 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices given in (i) above are proposed to be opened mainly in rural areas of the country.

(c) There is no general policy decision to close down Single handed Post Offices in rural areas.

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

(e) During the last three years viz. 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, only 9 single-handed Post Offices have been closed down. State/Circle wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) Closure of post offices is resorted to in very rare and unavoidable circumstances, completion of construction work of a dam, dilapidated accommodation, court orders for vacation of buildings and availability of post offices in close proximity etc.

Statement

*Circle-wise Number of Single Handed
Post Offices Closed*

Sl. No.	Circles	No. of Post Offices closed
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Assam	Nil
3.	Bihar	Nil
4.	Chhattisgarh	Nil
5.	Delhi	Nil
6.	Gujarat	Nil
7.	Haryana	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil

1	2	3
10.	Jharkhand	Nil
11.	Karnataka	Nil
12.	Kerala	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2
14.	Maharashtra	1
15.	North East	6
16.	Orissa	Nil
17.	Punjab	Nil
18.	Rajasthan	Nil
19.	Tamil Nadu	Nil
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil
21.	Uttarakhand	Nil
22.	West Bengal	Nil
Total		9

[English]

**Command Area Development and
Water Management Programme**

3975. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued guidelines for correction of system deficiencies for providing assistance under Command Area Development and Water Management Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Rajasthan has submitted proposals for correction of system deficiencies for 36-canal system of Chambal Command Area;

(d) if so, the details and current status thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose;

(e) whether the Government proposes to reimburse funds every year as per the expenditure so that work is not hampered due to shortage of funds and benefit start immediately; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the guidelines, financial assistance is provided for correction of system deficiencies in minors and distributaries of capacity up to 4.25 cumecs (150 cusecs). The work of correction of system deficiencies has to be carried out only in those distributaries/minors where legalized Water Users' Associations (WUAs) and their federations at minor/distributary level have been formed and are active. Further, the work can be carried out only in those distributaries/minors under which all On-Farm Development works have been completed. Also the distributary/minor committees should be willing to take over the systems after correction of system deficiencies.

(c) and (d) The Government of Rajasthan has submitted proposals for correction of system deficiencies for 40 canal systems of Chambal Command Area out of which proposals of 20 distributaries/minors have been sanctioned in which On-Farm Development works have been completed. The details of the proposals submitted by the State Government and the proposal approved are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The funds will be reimbursed to the State Government only after handing over of the system to the legalized WUAs formed under the Rajasthan Farmers' Participation in Management of Irrigation Act 2000.

(f) The projects which have already been approved are likely to be completed by the State Government during current financial year.

Statement

Details of Schemes Received from the Government of Rajasthan and Approved by the Ministry of Water Resources for Correction of System Deficiencies in Chambal Project under Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development and Water Management Programme

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes on Correction of System Deficiencies received from the States	CCA covered in ha	Estimated cost in Rs. lakh	Approved or not	If not approved, reasons/status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Kishan pura sub Branch	6230	250.20	Yes	
2.	Jhalinura Distry	8168	279.00	Yes	
3.	Manasgaon Distry	3421	136.25	Yes	
4.	Dillod Distry	4789	192.00	Yes	
5.	Kalyan pura Distry	3867	154.70	Yes	
6.	Bhonra Distry	2904	116.16	Yes	
7.	Kishan Gani Distry	2840	110.00	Yes	
8.	Hanotia Distry	2197	87.86	Yes	
9.	Palaitha Distry	8082	323.28	Yes	
10.	Ayana Distry	6618	264.70	Yes	
11.	Bajar disty system	6770	270.80	Yes	
12.	Dehit disty system	1632	65.28	Yes	
13.	Sunwasa disty system	2503	100.12	Yes	
14.	Balkasa disty system	6073	242.92	Yes	
15.	Patan disty system	4110	163.59	Yes	
16.	Chari disty system	1275	51.00	Yes	
17.	Chitawa and Kulinda distry System	5983	239.32	Yes	
18.	Ishwamagar distry	1272	55.88	Yes	
19.	Ametha distry	3176	127.04	Yes	

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Anantpura distry system	6098	243.92	Yes	
21.	Itawa Branch Canal System	5624	224.96	No	*
22.	Khatoli Distry.	4156	166.00	No	*
23.	Murena Distry.	1389	55.56	No	*
24.	Laxmipura Distry.	8775	351.00	No	*
25.	Mau Distry.	2210	88.30	No	*
26.	Kankara Distry.	880	35.20	No	*
27.	Gainta Distry.	5406	216.00	No	*
28.	Barnawali Distry.	1273	50.92	No	*
29.	Neemola Distry.	566	26.00	No	*
30.	Chhapol Distry.	1221	48.84	No	*
31.	Kunari Distry. System	2108	84.32	No	*
32.	Jamitpura distry. System	4159	166.36	No	*
33.	Talera distry System	1794	71.76	No	*
34.	Alfanagar Distry system	3414	136.56	No	*
35.	Andher distry system	4126	165.04	No	*
36.	Khat-arh distry system	5051	202.04	No	*
37.	Dolara system	3074	122.96	No	*
38.	Onkarpura distry system	1396	55.84	No	*
39.	Dayalpura distry system	1161	46.44	No	*
40.	Kapren Branch 43.89 to 51.35 km. and System	7533	301.32	No	*
Total		153324	6089.44		

* These schemes have not been approved as On-Farm development works have not been completed in them which is a pre-requisite for approval.

*[Translation]***Maize Hybrid**

3976. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce maize hybrid in the country to supplement the nutritional needs of children and the poor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil-palm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 15 major maize producing states in the country with effect from 01-04-2004 to increase the production and productivity of maize and also to supplement the nutritional needs of children and the poor. With a view to enhancing the productivity of maize, high yielding varieties and hybrids of maize including High Quality Protein Maize (HQPM) are being promoted under the scheme.

The hybrids viz. HQPM-1, HQPM-5, Shaktiman-1, Shaktiman-2, Shaktiman-3, Shaktiman-4 of Quality Protein Maize (QPM) have been released for cultivation on the farmers' field in the country.

Further, in order to popularize the public sector maize hybrids, the seed minikits of maize hybrids are made available to the states under seed minikits component of ISOPOM for distribution amongst farmers free of cost.

*[English]***Handloom Mark Scheme**

3977. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Handloom Mark Scheme;

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

(c) whether some problems have arisen in the enforcement of the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to overcome the above problems and to popularise the scheme among the general public; and

(e) the Financial assistance provided to weavers for marketing and selling their products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Handloom Mark was launched by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 28-06-2006.

(b) The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Government of India Introduced the 'Handloom Mark' which will serve as a guarantee for the buyer that the product being purchased is genuinely hand woven and not of powerloom or mill made origin. In that sense, Handloom Mark will provide a distinct identity to the handloom products and help in popularizing the hand woven products in India and abroad. Handloom Mark will not only help in enhancing the sales of handloom products but also in providing better remuneration to the weavers. Textiles Committee is the implementing agency for Handloom Mark, Weavers, master weavers, handloom cooperatives and corporations, handloom retailers and handloom exporters are the stakeholders of the Scheme and can avail of its benefits. The Handloom Mark Logo is in two forms. One for domestic use with the word 'Handloom' written below the logo and the other for exports with the same logo but the word 'hand woven in India' written below it. Textiles Committee issues Handloom Mark labels, priced at 60 paise per label, to the stakeholders. The scheme covers all handloom fabrics and products made thereof. Handloom Mark label is being affixed on each handloom fabric, made-up item or handwoven garment. The scheme is voluntary and operational throughout the country.

Achievements: Till 31st March, 2008, a total of

76,54,686 Handloom Mark labels have been sold; 3545 stakeholders have been registered and more than 500 retail shops all over the country are selling handwoven products bearing Handloom Mark.

(c) and (d) No problems have arisen in the enforcement of Handloom Mark. To popularize the Scheme against the weavers as well as the general public, 29 handloom cluster level seminars, 3 State level seminars/training programmes have been organised and advertisements in regional language newspapers have been released across the country for popularizing the Scheme amongst the stakeholders. In addition, advertisements have been released in magazines in English, Hindi and Vernacular languages across the country to popularise the Handloom Mark amongst consumers. Further, participation in national and international events like Milan Fashion Week, Wills Lifestyle Fashion Week, Heimtextil Frankfurt, India@60 celebration in New York etc. was organised to popularise Handloom Mark amongst consumers, importers and exporters etc.

(e) No financial assistance is being provided under Handloom Mark to stakeholders. However, the one-time registration for weavers and master weavers is only Rs. 100 and 500 respectively. Further, the Handloom Mark label has been priced at only 60 paise per label.

Penalty for Unsolicited Calls

3978. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has announced stiff penalties on telecom service providers and telemarketers of unsolicited calls and SMSs are made to mobile subscribers registered with the National Do-Not-Call Registry (NDNC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has penalised to telecom service providers and telemarketers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the earlier regulations issued by the Regulator were failed in regard to compliance and enforcement;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether service providers have lodged their disappointment with the Government in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued 'The Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations, 2007' in June, 2007 to curb the nuisance of unwanted calls. In order to increase the effectiveness of compliance of these Regulations, the following amendments have been made:

(i) To discourage the registered telemarketers from sending Unsolicited Commercial Communications, the Telecom Tariff Order (47th Amendment) has been issued which has the following provisions:—

- Payment of Rs. 500 as tariff to the Service Provider in case the telemarketer makes the unsolicited commercial communications for the first time.
- Payment of Rs. 1000 as tariff to the Service Provider in case the telemarketer makes the unsolicited commercial communications for second (subsequent) time.
- Disconnection of the telecom facilities of the telemarketer by the Service Provider if unsolicited commercial communication is not stopped even after imposition of the prescribed Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 tariff by the Service Provider.

- (ii) In case Service Provider do not take action as per the above Regulations and a complaint is made to the Authority, an amount by way of financial disincentive is imposable on the Service Providers. (An amount not exceeding five thousand rupees for the first non-compliance and in case of second or subsequent non-compliance an amount not exceeding twenty thousand rupees for each such non-compliance).

(c) In regard to penalization of telemarketers, as per information available with TRAI, the service providers have taken action against the telemarketers as per TRAI's Telecom Tariff Order. In regard to financial disincentive for Service Provider, the amendment to the Regulation was to come into force from the date of its publication in the official gazette. The amendment has been published in the Gazette only on 09-04-2008.

(d) Details of action taken as on 31-03-2008 by Service Providers against telemarketers for violation of the Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communication Regulations, 2007—

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| (i) Number of warning letters issued to registered telemarketers | = 11346 |
| (ii) Number of registered telemarketers charged with Rs. 500 | = 1026 |
| (iii) Number of registered telemarketers lines disconnected | = 321 |
| (iv) Number of unregistered telemarketers lines disconnected | = 718 |

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The earlier Regulation was not a failure. As per the data available with TRAI in the month of March 2008, on an average, daily 20 to 25 million numbers were submitted by telemarketers with National Do Not Call (NDNC) Registry. These numbers fall in category of Do Not Call list.

As per the available reports, approximately

10 million subscribers have registered with National Do Not Call Registry. Further, Service Providers have informed that as on 29 February 2008, they have received only 29,665 complaints which is a negligible 0.29 % of total subscribers who have registered with NDNC.

Therefore, in order to make the principal regulation's compliance effective, it was decided by TRAI, to make service provider liable to pay an amount by way of financial disincentive by bringing Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communication (Amendment) Regulation, 2008 (1 of 2008).

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise in view of (g) above.

Functioning of DRDO

3979. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether P. Rama Rao Committee set up by the Government to examine the functioning of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee;

(c) the details of the recommendations so far accepted and implemented; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the working of DRDO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Dr. P. Rama Rao Committee has submitted its report on 5 March 2008 and the same is being studied by the Government.

New Spectrum Policy

3980. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of spectrum policy announced recently along with the lacunae found out in such policy;

(b) the criteria developed for allotment of such spectrum;

(c) whether any representations have been recently received from different Telecom operators;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to review the spectrum policy; and

(f) the time by which new and modified policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The initial spectrum is being allotted to the mobile telecom services in accordance with the relevant provisions of Unified Access Service License (UASL), subject to availability of spectrum. With growth of service and increased subscriber base, additional spectrum is allotted subject to availability as per eligibility criteria which is based on the no. of active subscribers, peak traffic of the operator's network, demographic features of the service area. These criteria are reviewed from time to time taking into account relevant factors and technological developments. The latest criteria were issued in January, 2008.

(e) and (f) At present the service providers are paying spectrum charges based on percentage/share of their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). The spectrum charges are reviewed from time to time, taking into account various relevant aspects.

[Translation]

Setting up of Telecom Infrastructure

3981. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the target set by BSNL and MTNL to provide fixed line, WLL and GSM connections for the last three years alongwith the connections provided in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the infrastructure has been set up as per the connections being provided; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The Circle-wise target and achievements of BSNL and MTNL for Wireline, WLL and GSM during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I (a) to 1(c) and Statement-II respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The equipped capacity added by BSNL and MTNL during the last three years are as under:

(Unit in lakhs)

Item	BSNL		
	2005-66	2006-67	2007-68
Wired line	2.87	-0.95	-5.66
WLL	12.86	13.78	19.52
GSM	98.61	76.55	51.02
WLLBTS	1715	837	2949
GSMBTS	8636	9474	5090
Consolidated capacity including fixedline, WLL and GSM	MTNL		
	2005-66	2006-67	2007-68
	10.85	6.7	7.7

Statement-I (a)*Circle-wise MOU target and achievements of Wireline for the last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of Circles Metro Districts	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		MOU Target	Achievement	MOU Target	Achievement	MOU Target	Tantative Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	87	362	100	-6,699	534	-6,767
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2,185	-145,268	20,600	-257,893	35,130	-315,112
3.	Assam	4,498	8,516	3,700	-17,418	11,138	-72,078
4.	Bihar	28,303	85,396	19,400	-50,425	22,010	-13,305
5.	Chhattisgarh	728	419	600	-11,792	5,793	-17,279
6.	Gujarat	12,332	-109,981	8,300	-201,231	29,737	-214,776
7.	Haryana	9,669	6,777	15,500	-96,748	17,303	-77,888
8.	Himachal Pradesh	905	-1,865	1,200	-22,175	10,005	-42,662
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	9,173	2,366	4,200	-7,061	6,546	-35,974
10.	Jharkhand	2,935	14,864	6,000	-20,971	9,671	-2,809
11.	Karnataka	10,175	-66,352	21,500	-157,309	31,338	-162,512
12.	Kerala	75,625	143,800	49,800	61,870	62,838	-44,448
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3,054	2,183	13,100	-35,754	22,105	-73,734
14.	Maharashtra	15,455	12,908	31,900	-129,310	48,136	-340,493
15.	North East-1	1,455	3,050	1,200	2,976	4,402	1,321
16.	North East-2	1,597	-793	1,500	-789	3,335	-22,496
17.	Orissa	7,464	18,844	5,400	-14,601	17,084	-3,953
18.	Punjab	19,435	-131,731	19,100	-224,213	26,898	-163,163
19.	Rajasthan	30,121	-28,938	25,900	-89,308	28,727	-92,590
20.	Tamil Nadu	6,805	6,501	8,900	-173,822	31,843	-246,648

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21. Uttranchal		1,797	1,038	1,200	-20,480	7,260	-21,361
22. Uttar Pradesh East		22,267	-61,548	17,600	-76,938	26,145	-54,491
23. Uttar Pradesh West		9,129	-101,035	4,200	-116,967	17,208	-72,743
24. West Bengal		35,652	8,539	29,200	-34,177	20,943	-91,976
25. Kolkatta		4,174	329	16,700	16,716	16,484	53
26. Chennai		1,391	-104,974	1,200	234	12,387	567
BSNL		316,411	-436,593	328,000	-1,684,285	525,000	-2,187,317

Statement-I (b)*Circle-wise MOU target and achievements of WLL for the last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of Circles Metro Districts	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		MOU Target	Achievement	MOU Target	Achievement	MOU Target	Tantative Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	175	443	300	-509	2,917	4,036
2.	Andhra Pradesh	25,363	46,577	40,000	24,028	58,333	73,328
3.	Assam	6,621	17,993	7,500	34,012	23,333	19,253
4.	Bihar	40,864	31,927	40,600	22,694	43,750	35,187
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,129	9,366	7,500	25,295	29,167	25,031
6.	Gujarat	17,239	47,028	28,700	30,470	58,333	43,527
7.	Haryana	36,069	12,442	18,800	20,449	17,500	14,303
8.	Himachal Pradesh	23,857	27,034	14,900	12,917	20,417	30,607
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	12,470	21,804	8,400	32,717	23,333	35,375
10.	Jharkhand	4,589	6,171	11,300	17,869	14,583	21,046
11.	Karnataka	34,970	54,410	63,000	55,651	58,333	100,684
12.	Kerala	182,446	155,875	76,800	122,489	116,667	120,758

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13. Madhya Pradesh		9,517	84,584	26,000	67,961	87,500	116,066
14. Maharashtra		65,497	63,127	62,400	142,008	87,500	39,159
15. North East-1		2,426	2,832	2,100	16,298	11,667	16,270
16. North East-2		2,355	3,863	2,700	8,486	11,667	6,957
17. Orissa		10,393	24,910	10,800	38,841	29,167	40,008
18. Punjab		26,875	12,204	37,000	-2,934	11,667	-5,579
19. Rajasthan		44,593	106,508	50,200	2,900	43,750	52,049
20. Tamil Nadu		26,790	95,407	24,800	187,715	102,083	66,639
21. Uttranchal		2,679	13,196	2,700	14,072	14,583	9,485
22. Uttarpradesh East		30,447	54,566	34,300	58,921	58,333	96,660
23. Uttarpradesh West		13,014	16,007	8,100	13,246	26,250	36,709
24. West Bengal		49,062	28,401	56,700	30,672	58,333	18,587
25. Kolkatta		12,016	867	34,000	3,473	20,417	-2,008
26. Chennai		2,133	6,872	2,400	3,997	20,417	10,044
BSNL		683,589	944,414	672,000	983,738	1,050,000	1,024,181

Statement-I (c)*Circle-wise MOU target and achievements of GSM Mobile for the last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of Circles/ Metro Districts	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		MOU Target	Achievement	MOU Target	Achievement	MOU Target	Tantative Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6,000	21,404	3,600	12,005	12,805	9,727
2.	Andhra Pradesh	450,000	431,832	545,400	600,147	563,415	394,095
3.	Assam	130,000	225,022	100,800	206,213	230,488	234,703

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4. Bihar		380,000	331,282	540,000	190,324	256,098	313,653
5. Chhattisgarh		100,000	64,100	72,900	250,582	256,098	208,707
6. Gujarat		400,000	232,256	333,000	215,133	409,756	951,555
7. Haryana		170,000	199,061	308,700	469,296	358,537	266,138
8. Himachal Pradesh		80,000	117,334	144,900	283,050	179,268	51,508
9. Jammu and Kashmir		120,000	353,744	113,400	289,589	204,87	8 23,832
10. Jharkhand		150,000	190,828	155,700	149,977	204,878	48,466
11. Karnataka		500,000	575,525	760,500	495,767	512,195	9,006
12. Kerala		450,000	802,240	1,139,400	349,360	435,366	201,217
13. Madhya Pradesh		200,000	111,889	351,900	509,352	409,756	401,481
14. Maharashtra		500,000	281,523	848,700	1,108,815	717,073	943,231
15. North East-1		45,000	45,814	29,700	83,432	76,829	89,400
16. North East-2		45,000	90,397	37,800	106,440	76,829	119,834
17. Orissa		224,000	267,559	145,800	200,292	204,878	245,148
18. Punjab		220,000	-13,819	504,900	758,337	563,415	800,866
19. Rajasthan		410,000	727,923	684,900	951,809	614,634	206,499
20. Tamil Nadu		400,000	561,301	303,300	606,200	486,585	329,678
21. Uttaranchal		80,000	152,116	35,100	209,031	102,439	131,198
22. Uttarpradesh East		570,000	884,497	467,100	1,219,242	512,195	1,424,533
23. Uttarpradesh West		250,000	252,451	110,700	233,613	307,317	516,223
24. West Bengal		220,000	403,298	773,100	367,774	307,317	310,256
25. Kolkatta		200,000	182,076	456,300	189,819	204,878	403,154
26. Chennai		200,000	224,951	32,400	209,298	192,073	149,020
BSNL		6,500,000	7,716,404	9,000,000	10,284,897	8,400,000	8,783,128

Statement-II**Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)**

Year	Delhi		Mumbai	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
2005-06 DEL*	400000	370045	400000	400900
2006-07 DEL*	500000	371980	500000	370563
2007-08 DEL*	350000	182638	350000	360238

*Including fixed line, WLL and GSM.

Mustard Cultivation

3982. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether area under mustard cultivation has declined; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise, particularly in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the 2nd advance estimates, the area coverage under Rapeseed Mustard during 2007-08 is estimated at 64.46 lakh hectares which is less than the 67.90 lakh hectares of area coverage estimated for 2006-07. The State-wise details of area coverage under Rapeseed and Mustard during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement**Estimates of Area of Rapeseed and Mustard**

State	Area ('000 Hectares)			
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	4.0	6.0	5.0	4.0
Arunachal Pradesh	21.4	22.2	22.2	#
Assam	244.9	212.5	238.0	232.0
Bihar	83.1	82.1	86.9	85.0
Chhattisgarh	57.1	57.2	58.9	56.0

1	2	3	4	5
Gujarat	291.2	338.0	361.0	341.0
Haryana	702.0	709.0	597.0	550.0
Himachal Pradesh	12.0	9.6	8.9	9.0
Jammu and Kashmir	103.0	3.2	57.0	59.0
Jharkhand	NR	NR	67.3	NR
Karnataka	6.0	5.0	4.0	4.0
Madhya Pradesh	681.8	809.4	694.2	585.0
Maharashtra	9.0	13.0	14.0	9.0
Manipur	1.0	0.0	0.0	#
Meghalaya	7.2	7.2	7.2	#
Mizoram	2.2	1.2	0.5	#
Nagaland	26.3	26.5	27.5	#
Orissa	16.0	17.4	15.2	13.0
Punjab	60.0	49.0	41.0	44.0
Rajasthan	3681.9	3685.3	3211.7	3159.0
Sikkim	6.0	5.9	5.9	#
Tamil Nadu	0.6	0.5	0.3	1.0
Tripura	2.9	2.8	1.7	#
Uttar Pradesh	818.7	790.2	826.9	790.0
Uttaranchal	17.0	18.0	16.0	16.0
West Bengal	457.0	421.5	421.5	425.0
Delhi	4.1	3.8	0.2	#
Others	NA	NA	NA	64.0
All India	7316.4	7276.5	6790.0	6446.0

NR=Not Reported

NA=Not Applicable

* 2nd Advance Estimate

#Included in others

[English]

Problems of EPF Pensioners

3983. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representations from Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Pensioners regarding their grievances;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to solve their problems; and

(c) the total amount available in the Provident Fund in the country as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 demanding increase in benefits like grant of annual relief, sanction of pension at par with Government employees, etc.

A Committee has been constituted for a comprehensive review of the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 in order to examine the suggestions/views received on the issue from various quarters.

(c) The consolidated amount available in the Provident Fund Investment Account as on 31-12-2007 is Rs. 1,13,492.29 crores (at face value).

As investment is a centralized activity, State-wise information is not maintained.

Wage Structure in Fishery Sector

3984. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of wage structure being followed in the fishery sector of the country;

(b) whether there is gender disparity in the wage structure in the sector,

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government for the compliance of law/rules related to wage parity;

(d) whether the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is applicable in the fishery sector; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to implement the said law in the interest of workers engaged in fishery sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (e) Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix/revise minimum wages in the scheduled employments in Central and State sphere respectively. Since fishing and allied activities fall under the purview of State Sphere, the State Governments at appropriate Governments have notified minimum wages for such scheduled employments. On the basis of information available, a statement showing minimum wages fixed for unskilled workers engaged in fishing and allied activities by different States/Union Territories is enclosed in Statement.

Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the rates of minimum wages notified for scheduled employments by the appropriate Governments apply equally to male and female workers. Besides, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers.

The enforcement of ensuring payment of minimum wages in the State Sphere is secured through the State Enforcement Machinery. They conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment or under-payment of minimum wages, they advise the employers to make payment of the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions prescribed in the Act are taken recourse to. Similarly, provisions existing in the Equal Remuneration Act are availed for its enforcement.

Statement***Rates of Minimum Wages for Unskilled Workers in Fishing and Allied Activities in Different States/Union Territories***

Sl. No	State/Union Territory	Name of Scheduled Employment	Rates in Rupees per day
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Fisheries and Sea Foods	136.19
2.	Assam	Fishing	73.60
3.	Bihar	Fisheries	68.00
4.	Goa	Processing and Canning of food Stuffs including fish and Beverages	103.00
5.	Gujarat	Fisheries Industries	103.70
6.	Jharkhand	Fisheries	86.40
7.	Karnataka	Fishing, Fish Curing, Fish Peeling and Frog Legs Exporting	106.77
8.	Kerala	Fish Peeling and Fish Canning, Freezing and Exporting of Sea Foods	100.39
9.	Orissa	Fisheries and Sea Foods Industries	70.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	Sea Food processing Industry	77.98
11.	West Bengal	Fishery	77.50
12.	Daman and Diu	Sea Food Industry	95.00
13.	Lakshadweep	Department of Fisheries	71.90
		(a) Boat Building Yard	
		(b) Canning Factory	

Closure of Powerloom Units

3985. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage share of United States in the exports of the powerloom sector from the country;

(b) whether a large number of powerloom units closed down due to recession in the United States market;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of units that closed during the last one year and the current year till date, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government is exploring new markets to meet this decline;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the strategy chalked out to engage new markets; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for the development and promotion of Powerloom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The percentage share of United States in the exports of the powerloom sector from the country can not be indicated since the international data is not maintained on the basis of technology. The ITC HS classification system, of which India is a signatory, is based on commodities. However, the total share of exports of textiles and clothing from India in the United States was 26.65% in 2005-06.

(b) No such incident has been reported.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

(f) Following schemes have been introduced for promotion, development and modernization of powerloom sector in the country:

1. Integrated scheme for powerloom sector development having components of
 - (i) Marketing Development Programme;
 - (ii) Exposure visit of powerloom weavers to other cluster;
 - (iii) Survey of powerlooms
 - (iv) Powerloom cluster development;
 - (v) Development and upgradation of skills.
2. Modified Group Work Shed Scheme.
3. Group Insurance Scheme.

Further powerloom sector is also eligible for support under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme.

Loss of Paddy Crops

3986. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to delay in monsoon kharif crops like pulses, oilseeds and cereals have affected;

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

(c) whether Kerala has suffered huge losses of paddy crops due to abnormal rains;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the fact finding report term that visited the State to assess the losses; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government on the basis of the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Diseases in Mango and Litchi Orchards

3987. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the livelihood of heavy losses to be incurred by the farmers in several States particularly in Bihar due to the spread of Madhuwa and Kal-Jharand diseases in the mango and litchi orchards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps being taken by the Government so far to check the spread of such diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per reports available there is no likelihood of heavy losses due to the spread of Madhuwa and Kal-Jharand disease in mango and litchi orchards.

(b) The Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) a main plank of plant protection strategy in overall crop production programme in the

country. 31 Central IPM Centers have been established in 28 States and one UT. The mandate of these centers is pest/disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of biocontrol agents and Human Resource Development in IPM by imparting training to Agriculture/Horticulture extension officers and farmers at grass root level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs).

[English]

Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme

3988. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dwelling units sanctioned under Workshed cum Housing Scheme during each of the last three years and current year, till date, state and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether all sanctioned dwelling units have been constructed;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor, State and Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether any review of the progress in construction of dwelling units was made;

(e) if so, the findings thereof indicating the steps taken to avoid delay in construction work, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(f) the funds allocated, released and spent on the construction of such units during each of the last three years and thereafter till date, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Under Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, 17971 number of units were sanctioned during 2005-08. Thereafter, no new units were sanctioned during 2006-07 and 2007-08 since it was the terminal year of the 10th plan and this scheme, has been discontinued w.e.f. 2007-08. The State-wise number of units sanctioned and constructed is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The utilisation certificates for construction of 14217 number of units have been received so far from the State Governments.

(c) The Central funds are released to the State Governments for further release to the implementing agencies which may cause delay sometimes. Therefore, there is consequent delay in submission of utilisation certificate by the State Governments. The State Governments are however, requested from time to time to submit the utilisation certificate and the progress report in time so that the subsequent installment can be released.

(d) Yes, Sir. During the year 2006-07, a review of the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme was undertaken including the progress of construction of units through NISIIT, Hyderabad.

(e) As per the findings of NISIET, Hyderabad the reasons for delay in construction process were as follows:—

- (i) Weavers faced impediments/bottlenecks in securing bank loans/in getting instalments due, probably because of late submission of UCs to complete the construction as per schedule.
- (ii) In several cases, rains hampered pace of construction work, notably in NER.
- (iii) Difficulties were faced in securing required material for construction from different and distant sources.
- (iv) Sometimes, installment amounts were not released by the States concerned, in time leading to delay in construction.

The Central government has been constantly asking the State Governments to submit the UCs and the progress report in time so that subsequent releases can be made.

(f) Under the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, funds are not allocated State/UTs wise. Funds were released on the basis of viable proposals submitted by the State Governments as per enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I
Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme
Number of units sanctioned during last three years

(Amount Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2005-06*	
		No. of Units sanctioned	No. of units constructed
1.	Andhra Pradesh	803	803
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2150	1570
3.	Chhatisgarh	209	209
4.	Himachal Pradesh	612	306
5.	Kerala	89	19
6.	Madhya Pradesh	104	104
7.	Manipur	3963	1982
8.	Meghalaya	558	279
9.	Nagaland	6590	6590
10.	Orissa	841	841
11.	Tamil Nadu	1084	1084
12.	Tripura	860	430
13.	Uttarakhand	108	—
Total		17971	14217

*During 2006-07, no new units were sanctioned under the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme since it was the terminal year of the 10th Plan.

*During 2007-08, the Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme has been discontinued. As such, no new units were sanctioned under the scheme.

Statement-II
Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme Funds released during last three years

(Amount Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2005-06 Amount Released	2006-07 Amount Released	2007-08 Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57.33	05.24	—

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	218.00	74.32	32.55
3.	Assam	172.45	19.92	—
4.	Chhatisgarh	7.92	12.83	—
5.	Himachal Pradesh	21.42	—	21.42
6.	Karnataka	—	764.45	—
7.	Kerala	42.14	—	—
8.	Madhya Pradesh	10.38	—	—
9.	Manipur	158.07	208.16	—
10.	Meghalaya	19.53	—	19.53
11.	Mizoram	12.75	—	—
12.	Nagaland	247.60	247.60	—
13.	Orissa	29.44	53.48	—
14.	Rajasthan	26.61	—	—
15.	Tamil Nadu	162.95	388.70	—
16.	Tripura	31.60	—	31.60
17.	Uttar Pradesh	218.20	—	—
18.	Uttarakhand	7.85	20.30	—
Total		1444.24	1795.00	105.10

*During 2006-07 and 2007-08, funds were released towards second instalment for sanctioned projects of the earlier years.

GSM Operators into Outsourcing Deals

3989. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether GSM operators like Bharti, Vodafone and Idea have entered into outsourcing deals with foreign companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the license under which GSM telecom operators have outsourced their network and IT requirements to foreign companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Cantonment Boards in the Country

3990. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Cantonment Boards in the country as on date location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to hold elections to the Cantonment Boards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K.

ANTONY): (a) There are 62 Cantonment Boards in the country. State-wise location of the Cantonment Boards is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The election to 61 Cantonment Boards in the country (excluding Cantonment Board Meerut) has been notified to be held on 18-5-2008.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Number of Cantonment Board	Name of Cantonment Board
1	2	3	4
1.	Uttar Pradesh	13	Agra, Allahabad, Babina, Bareilly, Jhansi, Faizabad, Fatehgarh, Kanpur, Varanasi, Lucknow, Mathura, Meerut, Shahjahanpur.
2.	Gujarat	01	Ahmedabad.
3.	Maharashtra	07	Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Dehuroad, Deolali, Kamptee, Kirkee, Pune.
4.	Rajasthan	02	Ajmer, Nasirabad.
5.	Uttarakhand	09	Almora, Chakrata, Clement Town, Dehradun, Landour, Lansdowne, Nainital, Ranikhet, Roorkee.
6.	Haryana	01	Ambala.
7.	Punjab	03	Amritsar, Ferozepur, Jalandhar.
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	02	Badamibagh, Jammu.
9.	Himachal Pradesh	07	Bakloh, Dagshai, Dalhousie, Jutogh, Kasauli, Khasyol, Subathu.
10.	West Bengal	03	Barrackpore, Jalapahar, Lebong.
11.	Karnataka	01	Belgaum.
12.	Kerala	01	Cannanore.
13.	Bihar	01	Danapur.
14.	Delhi	01	Delhi.

1	2	3	4
15.	Madhya Pradesh	05	Jabalpur, Mhow, Morar, Pachmarhi, Saugor.
16.	Jharkhand	01	Ramgarh.
17.	Andhra Pradesh	01	Secunderabad.
18.	Meghalaya	01	Shillong.
19.	Tamil Nadu	02	St. Thomas Mount Wellington.

[English]

Release of Information

3991. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Information Commission (CIC) has asked his Ministry to spell out the details and records to be revealed to the public at large;

(b) if so, whether the CIC has also asked the Defence Ministry to outline a de-classification for release of information in public domain; and

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) The Central Information Commission (CIC) has forwarded a copy of decision No. CICIWB/AI2007/01192, dated 31st December, 2007 in which CIC have recommended that the Indian Armed Forces build up their storehouse of information as mandated under Section 4(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005. However, the said decision does not ask for declassification of any information for release in public domain. The recommendation of CIC will be examined by Government.

Hallmarking Centres

3992. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold and jewellery, sold in the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of Gold Hallmarking Centres presently operational in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is considering any proposal to set up more Gold Hallmarking Centres in the country:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the above Centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Data regarding the Quantity of Gold and Jewellery sold in the country is not maintained by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)/Department of Consumer Affairs.

(b) As on date 93 Assaying and Hallmarking Centres recognized by Bureau of Indian Standards are operational in the country and the State-wise details are as under:

Sl. No.	State	No. of Centres
1.	New Delhi	9
2.	Karnataka	11
3.	Kerala	15
4.	Andhra Pradesh	7
5.	Tamil Nadu	18

Sl. No.	State	No. of Centres
6.	Gujarat	10
7.	Maharashtra	11
8.	West Bengal	5
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2
10.	Rajasthan	1
11.	Punjab	1
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1
13.	Chhattisgarh	1
14.	Chandigarh	1
Total		93

(c) and (d) In order to facilitate establishing adequate infrastructure in the country, under the Scheme for setting up of Gold Hallmarking and Assaying Centres, one time financial assistance @ 15% of cost of machinery and equipment subject to maximum of Rs. 15 lakhs per centre for all States except locations of North-East and special category States namely Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand for which such financial assistance @ 30% of cost of machinery and equipment subject to maximum of Rs. 30 lakhs per centre is extended to the eligible applicants.

(e) The Plan Scheme for setting up of Gold Hallmarking and Assaying Centres was introduced during X Plan period and has been extended to the XI Plan (2007-12) also. The target for the XI Plan is to facilitate setting up of 50 Gold Hallmarking and Assaying Centres.

[Translation]

Setting up of Cotton Mills by NTC

3993. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of bumper crop of cotton in

Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, National Textile Corporation has decided to take over and revive the cotton mills lying closed in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up new cotton mills equipped with State of the art technology in the region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAR): (a) to (d) There are 5 National Textiles Corporation (NTC) mills situated in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra; out of which 3 unviable mills have been closed under Industrial Dispute Act. As per the scheme approved by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), 2 mills i.e. Sri Savatram, Akola and Rai Bhadur Bansilal Abirchand Spinning and Weaving Mill, Hinghghat are proposed to be modernized and run through joint venture route. NTC also proposes to set up a greenfield mill with new technology on the land of one of the closed mills i.e. Vidarbha Textile Mills, Achalpur by shifting Finlay Mills from Mumbai keeping in view the cotton growing area of Vidarbha region, which will also provide employment to the people of the region.

[English]

Number of Private Telecom Companies

3994. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private companies providing cellular phone services in the country along with their investment and the number of subscribers, as on date;

(b) the comparison of private telecom companies with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in terms of size, technology and infrastructure;

(c) whether some of the private telecom companies

are using the infrastructural facilities of BSNL and MTNL for their cellular services in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) 134 private licensees are providing mobile telephony services with total subscriber base of 20,86,22,799 till 29th February, 2008 with a total investment of Rs. 95,000 crores. Besides these, 120 new private licensees are yet to commence their service.

(b) The total market share of BSNL and MTNL is 16.86% as on 29th February, 2008 in this segment. The deployment of latest technology for provision of mobile telephone service is a continuous process and BSNL and MTNL are also permitted to deploy GSM as well as CDMA macro-cellular architecture based technologies for provision of such services. The technology deployed by BSNL and MTNL is comparable with that of private operators. BSNL and MTNL are the incumbent operators in terms of infrastructure for provision of inter and intra service area long distance services while the private companies have commenced their roll-out at a later date as compared to both Public Sector Units. Thus, their infrastructure cannot be compared in equitable terms.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Subject to technical feasibility and commercial arrangements, some private telecom companies are using passive infrastructure facilities of BSNL and MTNL, such as building space, ducts, towers.

National Policy for Land use

3995. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any National Policy on Land Use in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether soil management techniques like nutrient buffer power concept are not adequately recognized in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it affects our foodgrain output; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, has set up a National Council for Land Reforms under the chairmanship of Prime Minister of India with a view to lay down broad guidelines and policy recommendations on agrarian relations and land reforms. The other members of the council include Union Ministers of Rural Development, Agriculture, Environment and Forests, Panchayati Raj, Tribal Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, other distinguished members and Secretary, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development as Member Secretary.

(c) to (e) As per Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the soil fertility evaluation based on nutrient buffer power concept is well recognized in the country. However, its application in regular soil testing programme does not find a place due to its complex and cumbersome methodology. In view of above, ICAR has developed simple, cheap and quick soil fertility evaluation methods like soil testing to estimate external plant nutrient demand for better agricultural output. ICAR also recommends soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources of plant nutrients to sustain good soil health and higher crop productivity.

Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizer through Macro Management of Agriculture for promoting soil test-based application of chemical fertilizers and strengthening of soil testing facilities as well as for setting up of compost plants for conversion

of biodegradable city waste into organic manure. In addition to above two new Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, National Project on Management of Soil Health & Fertility and National Project on Organic Farming have been started for promoting use of organic manure, market development of organic farming and also for maintenance of soil fertility in the country.

[Translation]

Sprinkler Irrigation Equipments

3996. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make the sprinkler irrigation equipments available at cheaper rates after getting them plastic moulded;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such equipments are likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The plastic moulded sprinkler irrigation equipment is already in use and available in the market at cheaper rate than that of metallic/aluminium equipment. The Government is promoting sprinkler irrigation under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation. Many of the components like nozzles, bends, connecting nipples, end plug, tee, sprinkler pipes etc. are made of plastics as it is almost 35% cheaper than conventional aluminium sprinkler irrigation system.

[English]

Non Cultivable Land In Andhra Pradesh

3997. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the available estimates, 11,650,000 hectares out of 27,440,000 hectares in

Andhra Pradesh is still non-cultivable land inspite of having potential for cultivation;

(b) whether there is no special or separate scheme or programme to bring non-cultivable land under cultivation in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of Watershed Development Programmes that are implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh to bring noncultivable land under cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per Land Use Statistics, the uncultivable land in Andhra Pradesh is 11,668,000 hectares in 2005-06 out of the reporting area of 27,440,000 hectare.

(b) to (d) There is no special or separate scheme to bring non-cultivable land under cultivation in Andhra Pradesh. However, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR), and (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS) for development of degraded lands in the country including Andhra Pradesh. Parts of such developed lands are also brought under cultivation.

[Translation]

Officers Mess in Armed Forces

3998. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of officers mess in the country and the total expenditure incurred on them during the last three years;

(b) whether jawans are also entitled to avail the facilities of officers mess; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Officers' messes are maintained by all the Units/Formations/Establishments of the Armed Forces. Therefore, no centralized data is maintained on the total expenditure incurred on them. They are run on 'no loss, no profit' basis with contributions from all officers. While the buildings are maintained by the Military Engineering Service along with other buildings in the respective establishment, Mess Allowance is authorized on the basis of the number of officers in each establishment. Officers' messes are meant exclusively for Officers. Persons Below Officer Rank have similar facilities separately.

Handicraft Zone

3999. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Handicraft Zone sanctioned and established in the country particularly in Rajasthan by the Export Promotion Council during each year of the Tenth Plan and thereafter till date, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed and achieved by the Handicraft Zones during the said period, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/efforts being made to make handicrafts items produced in the country particularly in Rajasthan more export oriented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) None of the two Export Promotion Councils dealing with handicrafts and carpets have sanctioned and Established any handicrafts zone anywhere in the country during Tenth Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to increase the Export of handicrafts from the country including from the State of Rajasthan include: participation in

exhibitions/fairs; organizing Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair twice a year; organizing Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair twice a year; organizing thematic exhibitions; development of innovative value added products through Product Development Programme; organising programmes for packaging and export procedure, etc.

[English]

Introduction of 'Manik Jod' Scheme

4000. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Manik Jod Scheme has not been introduced in West Bengal Telecom Circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) except Kolkata Telecom Circle;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced in West Bengal Telecom Circle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Sir, BSNL Corporate Office has delegated powers to Heads of Circle to offer promotional schemes as per the market conditions under prevailing competitive scenario.

"Manik Jod" scheme is a promotional scheme launched by Kolkata Telephone District within their territorial jurisdiction only.

This scheme was not found suitable for West Bengal circle due to high traffic congestion & overloading of network which is widely spread over the geographical area of the Telecom Circle.

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

Use of Bio-Technology for Production of Fodder

4001. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to use biotechnology for producing cattle fodder in the country as appeared in 'Jansatta' dated March 16, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Veterinary Research Institute has made any research in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme 'Biotechnology Research Project' is being implemented as part of the Centrally Sponsored Fodder Development Scheme since 1-4-2005 to improve feed and fodder crops through biotechnological interventions. During 2006-07, an amount of Rs. 50.67 lakhs was released to the Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi for the two following projects.

1. Development of better quality and disease resistant lines (Root rot and Stem rot) in berseem through inter-specific hybridization using embryo rescue technique.
2. Use of molecular markers in improvement of stylo with special reference to quality and draught.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Provision of New SIM

4002. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been providing new SIM on depositing BSNL telephone bills;

(b) if so, whether this would lead to increase in the number of mobile phone connections in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of mobile phone connections in the year 2006-07 and the expected number of the same by April, 2008 alongwith its position in comparison to other companies in the country State-wise;

(d) whether BSNL and MTNL mobile phone networks get jammed during evening in the country; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Sir, There is no such scheme in BSNL. However, in MTNL Delhi, new SIM are being provided against the telephone bill. The detail of connections provided is given below:

Year	Plan name (mobile connections given against MTNL telephone bills)	No. of connections
2006-07	Mobile Plan 100	21870
	Landline 1+1 FW plan	Nil
	Total	21870
2007-08	Mobile Plan 100	7159
	Landline 1+1 FW plan	5857
	Total	13016

In MTNL Mumbai, Free Trump SIM scheme for existing Dolphin and Landline customers has been launched from 28-01-2008. In view of the overwhelming response received, a 'Free Dolphin 81M' scheme has been launched for the existing Dolphin, Gamda postpaid and landline customers from 24-3-2008 on submission of paid bill of Feb. 2008.

The 'Free Dolphin 81M' scheme has lead to an increased nos. of subscriber as per details given below:

Month	Net Addition
Feb. 2008	58934
March 2008	88733

(c) Does not arise in respect of BSNL. Data for other companies (Private telecom operators) is not available. However, status of cellular mobile phone connection working in MTNL Delhi and MTNL Mumbai is given below:

As on	Delhi	Mumbai
31-3-2006	936146	1005009
31-3-2007	1331428	1415386
31-3-2008	1478440	1763411

(d) and (e) GSM based Cellular Mobile Telephone service being provided by BSNL and MiNi are working satisfactorily in their respective Licensed Service Areas and are, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by TRAI. However, congestion has been observed in the mobile network at some places sometimes due to network capacity constrains for which BSNL and MTNL have already initiated action for augmenting its mobile network. The augmentation will also enhance coverage and QoS. BSNL and MTNL are Monitoring and optimizing their network continuously for better performance.

[English]

Impact of Climatic Change on Water Resources

4003. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made or proposes to make assessment of climate change on water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to evaluate the consequence of climate change in river flow or groundwater characteristic and also to identify adaption strategies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Realising the need for proper assessment of the effect of climate change on water resources and flow characteristics, studies have been taken up by Central Water Commission, Brahmaputra Board and National Institute of Hydrology with active participation of reputed academic institutes. The study is being coordinated by Central Water Commission. The objective of the study is to examine the effect of climate change on water resources with a view to (a) assess the extent of likely changes in the water availability and the flow characteristic (b) evaluate the effect of such changes on the performance of the water resources system, and (c) to identify appropriate measures to address the effect of climate change on water resources.

MIG-29 Fighter Aircraft

4004. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed any contract with Russia to upgrade five squadrons of MIG-29 fighters inducted in mid 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of fighters crashed since then;

(c) the details of expenditure likely to be incurred on such upgradation programme; and

(d) the time by which the process of upgradation will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Government has signed a contract for upgradation of 63 MiG 29 aircraft with M/s. RAC - MiG, Russia, at a total value of about 964 Million USD on 7-3-2008. Thirteen MiG 29 aircraft have crashed till date since their induction in mid 1980s. The upgradation of all 63 aircraft is likely to be completed by March 2014.

[Translation]

Poor Mobile Service of BSNL/MTNL

4005. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is receiving complaints regarding poor mobile services being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether a large number of connections were got disconnected due to poor service of BSNL and MTNL during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details of the fixed line, WLL and GSM connections got disconnected during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the reasons for getting these connections disconnected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Sir, Government has been receiving complaints against the Service Providers including MTNL and BSNL regarding poor mobile services. These complaints are forwarded to the concerned Service Providers for redressal. However, GSM based Cellular Mobile Service of BSNL and MTNL are working satisfactorily and are, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by TRAI. However, congestion has been observed in the mobile network sometimes at

some places for which action has already been initiated by BSNL and MTNL for augmenting their mobile network capacity. The augmentation will also enhance coverage and QoS. Also BSNL and MTNL are monitoring and optimizing their network continuously for better performance.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Both fixed line as well GSM based cellular mobile service of BSNL and MTNL are comparable to the service being provided by private operators. In the present competitive scenario of telecom in India, reasons for disconnection of fixed line/mobile connections of BSNL could, inter-alia, include

- (i) Tariff offered by competitors
- (ii) Dissatisfaction of the subscriber from the service provided
- (iii) Surrender of fixed line in lieu of mobile connection
- (iv) Disconnection by BSNL due to non-payment of bills
- (v) Surrender of fixed line connection taken for internet due to availability of broadband service.

Despite disconnections in GSM based mobile connections, there has been an impressive increase in total number of GSM based mobile connections of BSNL and MTNL.

Special Programme for Welfare of Agricultural Labourers

4006. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to announce a special programme of the welfare and upliftment of agricultural labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact any legislation in the interest of agricultural labourers; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government attach high priority to the welfare and well being of the unorganized sector workers, including agricultural labourers. Various Ministries/Departments are implementing poverty alleviation/employment generation schemes like Swamjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, Sampooma Gramin Rojgar Yojana, Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Swama Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana, etc. are applicable to these labourers. The Government has launched the 'Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana' to provide life and disability cover to rural landless households. The benefits under the scheme include Rs. 30,000 in case of natural death; Rs. 75,000 in case of death due to accident or total permanent disability due to accident. In case of partial disability due to accident, the insurance cover would be Rs. 37,500. 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' (RSBY) for BPL families in Unorganised Sector has been launched on 1st October, 2007 for the unorganized sector worker's family of five. The scheme provides for smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000 per family per annum on a family floater basis.

(c) and (d) The Government has introduced the Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007 on 10-09-2007 in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill envisage formulation of social security schemes for unorganized sector workers, including agricultural labourers.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

4007. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after opening telecom sector to private sector, the first choice of the people of the country is still MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, whether Government has fulfilled its promise the telephone on demand;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the waiting list for telephone connections in the country, as on date, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government proposes to open new telephone exchanges with latest technology especially in rural areas;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that whole country is telecommunicationally linked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. MTNL and BSNL being Government Service providers, common man has a trust in both the PSUs. They are doing aggressive marketing to promote their services through various media.

In urban areas, telephone connections are being provided on demand in most of the places through Wireline or WLL technology. Also, mobile connections are available on demand in all the Circles.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

(e) There is no waiting for telephone connections in MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai. The waiting list for telephone connections in the country, as on date, State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) and (g) There is a plan to open 92 new Telephone Exchanges in the country as given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Number of new Exchanges proposed
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11

1	2	3
2.	Chhattisgarh	08
3.	Haryana	02
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	05
5.	Karnataka	15
6.	Madhya Pradesh	02
7.	North East-I	07
8.	North East-II	01
9.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	24
10.	Uttaranchal	09
11.	Chennai	08
Total		92

As per policy followed by BSNL, new rural exchanges are to be opened at places which are having a minimum demand of 150 within 5 km radius of the

proposed telephone exchange site. It is making all efforts to provide the telephone service through WLL technologies wherever practicable and feasible.

The steps taken by BSNL to provide Telephone on demand in rural areas are given below:

- BSNL has deployed WLL network in rural areas to meet the demand of scattered and farflung rural areas where connection of telephone is not techno-commercially feasible on landlines.
- Remote and far-flung areas which are not possible to be covered with terrestrial technology, are planned to be covered with Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs).
- The mobile network of BSNL covers most of the national highways, important towns, pilgrim centers and state highways.

(h) All exchanges in the country are already linked through reliable media i.e., Optical Fiber Cable, Satellite and Microwave systems.

Statement

Circle-wise waiting list of Wiredline, WLL and Mobile Connections as on 31-03-2008

Sl. No.	Name of Circles/Metro Districts	Status of Waitig list as on 31-03-2008			
		Wiredline Phones	WLL (F and M)	Cell Phones	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	198	390	0	588
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11,014	9,486	0	20,500
3.	Assam	1,063	705	0	1,768
4.	Bihar	35,925	12,717	0	48,642
5.	Chhattisgarh	603	1,102	0	1,705
6.	Gujarat	13,278	0	0	13,278

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Haryana	2,912	1,246	0	4,158
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11,724	0	0	11,724
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4,471	0	0	4,471
10.	Jharkhand	710	277	0	987
11.	Karnataka	40,301	60,925	0	101,226
12.	Kerala	45,304	0	0	45,304
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5,348	49,860	0	55,208
14.	Maharashtra	32,480	38,742	0	71,222
15.	North East-I	0	0	0	0
16.	North East-II	807	0	0	807
17.	Orissa	4,529	9,911	0	14,440
18.	Punjab	120	226	0	346
19.	Rajasthan	5,530	0	0	5,530
20.	Tamil Nadu	11,822	0	0	11,822
21.	Uttanchal	357	0	0	357
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	16,523	1,041	0	17,564
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	2,483	194	0	2,677
24.	West Bengal	49,217	0	0	49,217
25.	Kolkata	0	0	0	0
26.	Chennai	656	0	0	656
BSNL		297,3751	186,822	01	484,197

[Translation]

**Non-Working of Telephone
Exchanges**

4008. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the several Telephone Exchanges especially Bithauli and Darbhanga are not working for the last one year but the monthly rent is being charged from the subscribers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reason for not returning or adjusting the

monthly rent so charged in the absence of telephone facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In Bihar Telecom Circle, 82 telephone connections at Bithauli Exchange were affected for average period of three months due to cable damage because of road construction activity. Monthly rent for these connections have been waived off for the said period. However, no such type of incidence has occurred in Darbhanga exchange.

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

Persons Engaged in Different Sectors

4009. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any survey to find out the number of percentage of persons engaged in Agricultural, Industrial, Service, Public and Organised Private Sectors at present in the country;

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

(c) the number of persons in the age group of 18 to 60 years estimated to be added to the work force in the Eleventh Plan Period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to create additional job opportunities in various sectors during the Eleventh Plan Period to meet the increase in the said sectors, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Estimates of employment and unemployment in different sectors of the economy are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Percentage distribution of persons on usual status basis engaged in agriculture, industry and service sectors in major states is given in the enclosed Statement-I, number of employed in organised sector is given in the enclosed Statement-II and sector wise employment is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) The 11th Plan document approved by National Development Council, has projected that 58 million job opportunities are likely to be generated during the 11th Plan Period. The additional employment opportunities in the future will be generated mainly in the services and manufacturing sectors, in particular, labour intensive manufacturing sectors such as food processing, leather products, footwear, and textiles, and service sectors such as tourism and construction.

Statement-4

Percentage distribution of persons engaged in Agriculture, Industry and Service Sectors in major states on Usual Status Basis during 2004-05

Major States	Rural Male			Rural Female			Urban Male			Urban Female		
	Agricul- ture	Industry	Servi- ces	Agricul- ture	Industry	Servi- ces	Agricul- ture	Industry	Servi- ces	Agricul- ture	Industry	Servi- ces
India	66.5	15.5	18.0	83.3	10.2	6.6	6.1	34.4	59.5	18.1	32.4	49.5
Andhra Pradesh	66.4	14.6	19.2	78.5	11.6	10.0	6.9	31.2	62.1	17.7	27.3	55.1
Assam	69.6	6.4	23.8	88.3	4.5	7.1	4.3	21.4	74.5	7.3	8.7	84.1
Bihar	75.8	8.4	15.8	86.4	8.1	5.4	17.2	19.5	63.3	46.7	14.8	38.4
Chhattisgarh	80.3	9.6	10.0	93.3	4.1	2.5	8.2	28.7	63.1	29.9	25.2	44.9
Delhi	4.6	30.2	65.3	44.6	0.0	55.4	0.2	33.5	66.3	0.0	19.8	80.2
Gujarat	69.3	14.6	16.2	89.1	6.6	4.3	4.1	48.4	49.4	15.6	40.1	44.3
Haryana	49.4	25.4	25.2	90.6	4.2	5.2	7.3	37.3	55.1	29.3	19.0	51.7
Himachal Pradesh	49.4	28.3	22.2	91.0	3.5	5.6	2.6	41.4	56.0	28.4	23.5	48.2
Jammu and Kashmir	53.8	22.1	24.1	86.6	9.8	3.6	9.4	38.6	52.0	38.7	32.4	29.1
Jharkhand	61.5	24.2	14.2	85.3	11.3	3.5	6.7	33.9	59.5	32.0	30.0	37.8
Karnataka	77.7	9.0	13.3	85.5	8.5	5.8	6.0	32.9	61.1	16.0	31.4	52.7
Kerala	37.1	27.4	35.5	51.7	23.0	25.3	1.4	30.1	55.7	19.8	26.5	53.6
Madhya Pradesh	79.1	10.0	11.1	88.1	8.5	3.3	9.0	29.5	61.5	23.7	31.8	44.3
Maharashtra	71.4	12.4	16.2	90.7	4.5	4.9	4.6	35.5	59.8	14.2	30.3	55.6

Orissa	65.9	16.2	17.9	74.6	19.8	5.8	10.1	28.7	61.1	28.3	19.0	52.8
Punjab	54.7	24.1	21.1	88.7	3.8	6.4	4.1	36.6	59.3	15.2	25.1	59.6
Rajasthan	60.2	23.8	15.9	89.5	7.6	2.9	7.1	34.2	58.7	33.9	38.4	27.6
Tamil Nadu	58.7	22.8	18.6	73.8	16.6	9.8	6.2	38.1	55.8	13.7	40.7	45.7
Uttaranchal	63.3	16.5	20.2	96.0	1.8	2.1	7.2	25.7	67.0	33.4	13.5	53.1
Uttar Pradesh	66.3	17.3	16.3	86.5	8.2	5.1	7.2	35.3	57.5	26.5	41.2	32.3
West Bengal	63.9	14.3	21.9	58.8	29.5	11.8	2.7	34.8	62.3	3.1	36.9	59.8

Source: Report of NSSO based on survey conducted during 2004-05. Totals may not tally due to rounding off and non response cases.

Statement-II*State-wise employment in organised sector as on**(in million)*

Sl.No.	State/UT	31st March 2005
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20.43
2.	Assam	11.12
3.	Bihar	5.27
4.	Jharkhand	10.42
5.	Goa	1.12
6.	Gujiarat	16.94
7.	Haryana	6.48
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.17
9.	Jammu. and Kashmir	2.10
10.	Karnataka	18.62
11.	Kerala	11.40
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10.71
13.	Chattisgarh	3.39
14.	Maharashtra	35.41

1	2	3
15.	Manipur	0.81
16.	Meghalaya	0.82
17.	Mizoram	0.42
18.	Nagaland	0.72
19.	Orissa	7.50
20.	Punjab	7.73
21.	Rajasthan	11.81
22.	Tamil Nadu	22.79
23.	Tripura	1.23
24.	Uttar Pradesh	20.88
25.	Uttaranchal	2.61
26.	West Bengal	20.39
27.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.38
28.	Chandigarh	0.89
29.	Delhi	8.31
30.	Pondicherry	0.58
31.	Daman and Diu	0.15
32.	Total	264.58

Statement-III

Industry-wise Distribution of work force as per usual status basis during the period 1993-94 to 2004-05

Industry	Employment in Million		
	1993-94	1999-2000	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Agriculture	242.46	237.58	268.57

1	2	3	4
Mining and Quarrying	2.7	2.27	2.75
Manufacturing	42.5	48.01	53.71
Electricity, gas and water supply	1.35	1.28	1.38
Construction	11.68	17.62	25.71
Trade	27.78	37.32	47.29
Transport, Storage and Communication	10.33	14.69	17.45
Financial Services	3.52	5.05	6.89
Community Social and Pers. Service	32.13	33.2	35.81
Total Employment	374.45	397.0	459.1

12.00 hrs.

Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2008-2009.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8543/08]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Goa Shipyard Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8541/08]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineering Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8542/08]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited and the

- (4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Electronics Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8544/08]

- (5) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mazagon Dock Limited and the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8545/08]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8546/08]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8547/08]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Narmada Control Authority, Indore, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8548/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) on the recommendation No. 198 concerning the Employment Relationship, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 95 Session at Geneva on 15th June, 2006.
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, for the year 2006-2007.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 2006-2007.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8551/08]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Agricultural Produce Grading and Marketing Act, 1937:—
 - (i) The Tapioca Sago Grading and Marking Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 193 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2007.
 - (ii) The Sattu Grading and Marking Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 230 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd November, 2007.
 - (iii) The Sheekakai Grading and Marking Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 86(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd February, 2008.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): Sir, I beg to
lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 8553/08]

12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

32nd, 34th, 35th Reports

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment:

- (1) Thirty-third Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- (2) Thirty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- (3) Thirty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

12.05½ hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Committee on Public Accounts

[English]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from amongst themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Accounts for the year 2008-2009 vice Shri Raghunath Jha appointed Minister."

MR. SPEKAER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from amongst themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Accounts for the year 2008-2009 vice Shri Raghunath Jha appointed Minister."

The motion was adopted.

12.06 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

48th Report

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, I beg to move:

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

"That this House do agree with the Forty-eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th April, 2008."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th April, 2008."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have done seven Questions today, although my target is 10. I am grateful to all sections of the House for their very kind co-operation. I shall try my best to accommodate as many hon. Members as possible. I know they are keen although many of the items do not meet the requirements of national and international importance. Even then I will accommodate as many as possible.

I will start with Yogi Adiyath.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards heavy load-shedding in the country. Uttar Pradesh is the highest populated state from population angle. It has a population of around 17 crore. But the State is facing so much load-shedding that power is being supplied to major cities hardly for 6 to 8 hours and that too when people need it less while earlier the Government had announced that power would be supplied for 18-20 hours. There is shortage of civic amenities. Load-shedding takes place early in the morning, at noon, in the evening and in the night from 12 to 4. ...*(interruptions)* Public life has been thrown out of gear completely. Common man is in trouble. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the Power should be supplied to States by the Power Grid Corporation and there should be no discrimination against any city, particularly Gorakhpur

which is one of the cities of the State. Power is being supplied to that city only for 6 to 8 hours while Tala Power Project was commissioned during NDA Government and around 2000 Megawatt Power has to be supplied to Delhi from Bhutan and North East States. A sub-station of that has also been established in Gorakhpur. ...*(interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak about the Centre.

Sir, Power Grid Corporation is an organization of the Government of India and it has established a sub-station there. However, power is neither being supplied to the people nor to industries. The functioning of industries would definitely be affected if they don't get power. This kind of situation is prevailing there. Sir, through you, I would request the Government that power should be supplied to eastern Uttar Pradesh, particularly Gorakhpur from the sub station established in Gorakhpur by Power Grid Corporation and from Tala Power Project from which more than 1,000 Megawatt Power is being supplied presently. The Government should ensure the implementation of its pre-announced policy to supply 18-20 hours Power to city areas and 14 hours to rural areas so that difficulties of common people could be removed and interests of the industries could be protected.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I want to raise about the Panchayati Raj Convention which is going to be held.

MR. SPEAKER: If you are so anxious, you have to go somewhere else to raise it. You can raise it here only with my permission. I would have called you next but I will not do it. I will do it later. Now Shri Hannan Mollah may speak.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter. You may know that next year will be the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal gas tragedy. Sir, 25 years back, I raised this matter first in this House. Now, 25 years have passed but most of the problems remain unsolved. The second disaster has started now with water contamination around the Union Carbide area. Two years back, hon. Prime

Minister promised to look into this matter. But still enough has not been done. There is a demand for a special commission for rehabilitation to look after and monitor these things. That is not yet done. Legal action against the Union Carbide also is not properly followed up. As regards extradition of Warren Anderson, in spite of repeated demand from the whole country, the Government still fails to bring him to our country for judicial action. There are three pesticides already given registration in this country and it is alleged that it has been done in collusion with the Ministry of Agriculture. Their licence should be abrogated. That is also not being done.

In this situation, I demand that the Government should take immediate action to solve the problems pending for 25 years. Next year, the whole world will be looking at Bhopal as it will be the 25th anniversary. We should solve the problem and get praised by the world. Otherwise, we will be criticised by the whole world for failing to solve these problems.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Hon. Minister of Agriculture that in the State of Rajasthan there was frost in January and February, and then untimely rains and hailstorms. Assessing the damage caused thereby, I would like to submit that 22 districts of the state have been affected. The crops on 8.96 lac hectares have been damaged and thus 1.40 lacs farmers have been affected. In this way the loss of crores of rupees, particularly, to mustard crop to the tune of 1000 crore Rupees have been suffered. Therefore, I request the honourable Minister of Agriculture to provide a special package to farmers of Rajasthan to compensate the loss of crores of rupees inflicted on them.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Government of India is organising a National Convention of Presidents of Zilla Parishads and Intermediate Panchayats from 22nd to 24th April, 2008 at New Delhi.

I understand that neither the Government of Tamil Nadu nor any rural local body representatives of Tamil Nadu was taken into confidence while the Ministry of Panchayati Raj prepared the draft Charter. The Charter contains many clauses which are not acceptable to the State Governments. The Tamil Nadu Government has selected 68 elected representatives to attend the above Convention. But due to certain unwanted clauses in the Charter, they are not able to attend the Convention. Panchayati raj is a State subject under the Constitution of India. To strengthen the Panchayati raj system, the State Governments should be consulted and a common Charter should be drafted for the whole country. Organising a National Convention without consulting and taking into confidence the Tamil Nadu Government will not serve any purpose.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to have a dialogue with the Government of Tamil Nadu and to give an opportunity to the State Government and to the elected representatives of the Panchayati raj institutions for eliciting their views in these kinds of national level conferences.

[Translation]

SHRI PRUBHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker Sir, I discussion to implement Sixth Pay Commission recommendation has been going on in the country is being reviewed. These recommendations have several anomalies that except IAS cadre, the employees of all the cadres be it IPS or other, particularly the army personnel are not satisfied. It has been clearly stated in the report of Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee of Ministry of Defence that Army Officers and staff are compelled to resign from their Jobs. No cadre is satisfied with these recommendations. If the anomalies of these recommendations are not removed, I think there will be situation of... * in the country.

[English]

SPEAKER: Hope-not. Do not refer to that.

...(interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I will conclude in two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: The word that has been used for army be deleted. [English] Do not give those ideas to Army.

...(interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have not used any unparliamentary word.

MR. SPEAKER: Sometimes you should accept my instruction.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, I always comply with them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Delete that word.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: There is acute resentment among the officer of IPS cadre on this report of Pay Commission. If these anomalies are not removed, then it does not augur well. I would like to request the Government to take appropriate steps to make this report balanced. I also want to say that whenever a committee is constituted, IAS officers are appointed to the important posts including Secretaries of the committee. They get the recommendations made in their favour which benefit them but others suffer loss I want that a parliamentary committee be constituted to review the recommendations of this report. After removing anomalies these recommendations should be implemented so that no cadre remains dissatisfied.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We had earlier a very good debate on the climate change and you also had made your appreciation public on the debate. Now, I want to draw your attention to a piece of information

available from the image of Google Earth, which can be seen through satellite, that eight km of Bhagirathi river has already dried up. In 2004, it was only one km, but within four years, seven km of Bhagirathi river had already dried up. Apart from that, four or five other rivers that emanate from Gangotri glacier are also fast drying up.

This is because of the faulty construction of dams, bad designs, and bad planning. This is such a serious issue.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to immediately constitute an Expert Committee to go into the whole gamut of the issues involved in order to make appropriate recommendations regarding that.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure this serious matter will be looked into at the appropriate level.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN (Cooch Behar): Sir, I would like to speak in Bengali language.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope there is a translator present in the House. Bengali is a permitted language in this House.

[Translation]

*SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Hon. Speaker Sir, in Dinhat sub-division that is in my constituency Sitai is a border area where about two lakhs of people reside. For connectivity in this area, there is a need to construct a bridge over River Manchai (Singimari) and this demand has been raised many times in this august House. Funds were to be released by the Border Area Development Fund and a letter was written to the Chief Secretary of Government of West Bengal. Later the BADF demanded additional funds from the Planning Commission. It had sent the planned estimate also but to no avail. No initiative has been taken to date by anyone to construct this bridge. I would like to draw the attention of the Government in this regard and would urge upon the Central Government to take up the project immediately with the help of the Border Area Development Fund so that the common people of the district benefit out of it.

*English Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the Industrial Development Bank of India Limited was established in 1964 by IDBI Act as a principal financial institution for coordinating, in conformity with national priorities, the working of the institutions engaged in financing, promoting and developing industry, for assisting the development of such institutions for providing credit and other facilities for the development of industry. The IDBI (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill was passed and when the question was raised in this House in 2003 as to the fact that after the passage of the Bill, whether the developmental character of the IDBI will be diluted.

It is because we raised certain objections and we also tabled amendments. We were assured by the hon. Minister of Finance on the floor of this House—you know it very well as you were also present—that the developmental character of IDBI would not be diluted and the service conditions of the staff, after amendment of the Bill when the IDBI will be changed to IDBI Bank, will not be changed and will not be affected. But the present management of IDBI unilaterally is violating what has been assured on the floor of the House by the then hon. Minister of Finance and they are changing the service conditions of the staff also. Thus, they are changing the purpose for which the IDBI was set up in 1964 and the IDBI will function as like any other commercial bank.

So, I urge upon the Government that the present management of the IDBI should be desisted from doing so. They should not violate what has been assured on the floor of the House and they should not unilaterally change the service conditions of the staff from what they are now doing. I also urge upon the Government that some instructions should be sent to the IDBI management to desist from such action.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.S. Gadhave—absent.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, and specifically the attention of the Ministry dealing with Defence.

We are all for the testing of missiles. But a new problem has cropped up relating to the nesting of Olive Ridley turtles. This matter relates to the nesting of the Olive Ridley turtles which has been disrupted because of the missile tests that are being conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) violating the stipulated agreement with the Orissa Forest and Environment Department. Environmentalists are up in arms now as the annual mass nesting of endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles has not taken place so far this year at Gahiramatha Marine Sanctuary, the largest nesting grounds of endangered turtles in the world.

Missile launches by the DRDO are affecting nesting patterns of this endangered species that enjoys the same legal protection as the tigers. As per the agreement with the Orissa Wildlife Department, the DRDO is not supposed to either conduct missile tests or use bright lights during the turtle nesting season. Despite the agreement, missiles were test fired and at that time turtles were approaching the beach of NASI-I and NASI-II, the two tiny islands of the Northern Portion of Gahiramatha. That is why, I would request the Government to find out how this agreement was breached and to take further steps because, in the near future, towards the end of this month, the Agni-III is going to be tested. So, adequate measures should be taken to protect the endangered Olive Ridley turtles. At the same time, the missiles should be tested without affecting the endangered turtles.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Sir, I draw the attention of this august House through you regarding the acute shortage of supply of primary vaccines for the National Immunisation Programme in the country which aims at protecting our children against six vaccine-preventable-diseases like diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, typhoid and childhood tuberculosis.

The Universal Immunisation Programme vaccines include the BCG, DPT, OPV and the measles vaccines. These vaccines are in acute shortage and the allotment to the State of Kerala—where the Universal Immunisation Programme is strengthened so much—is cut.

[Shrimati P. Satheedevi]

There is only 30 per cent allotment whereas the actual requirement is huge. There is only 30 per cent supply of this.

Recently, it has been reported that the licences of three major public sector drug manufacturing companies in the country have been cancelled without making any alternative arrangement for the production of these vaccines and other drugs. Actually, it has paved the way for the unscrupulous private and the multinational companies in the field of drug manufacturing.

The licences of the Central Research Institute, Kasauli in Himachal Pradesh, the PII in Tamil Nadu, the BCGVL in Chennai which are the drug manufacturing companies have been cancelled without making any alternative arrangement. The State of Kerala is suffering a lot due to the shortage in the supply of vaccines.

Hence, I urge upon the Ministry to take immediate and proper action for the adequate supply of these vaccines to the State of Kerala as also the other States to ensure safety and protection of our children. Thank you.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I would associate myself with Shrimati Satheedevi in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you please associate with it. I thank you for your cooperation.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to a very important matter. Despite repeated written protests by the Government of Orissa, the Government of Andhra Pradesh recently has laid the foundation stone for the construction of an Offshore Reservoir Irrigation Project over the inter-State river Mahendratana between Chapara village of Andhra Pradesh and Agarakhadi village of Gajapati district of Orissa thereby ... * violating the Inter-State River Treaty of 1962.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make allegations against the State Government.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Just state the facts, but do not make allegations.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I am not making any allegations. They have started the construction...violating.

MR. SPEAKER: I think you have said, "illegally."

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : ... * the treaty of 1962, the inter-State treaty of 1962, between the two States—Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. This Mahendratana...

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Mr. Speaker, Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: This is the problem.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rao, do not say that. I have already taken this action. Do not write those words. I have already intervened. I have seen this. State the facts please.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The Mahendratana River originates from Mahendragiri hills of Orissa. What Andhra Pradesh is trying to do is to divert the river channel through a sluice on the left bank of the river. This may result in the water getting totally diverted to the State of Andhra Pradesh thereby adversely affecting Orissa territory which lies below this point. Let me...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you, Mr. K.S. Rao.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You will not allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you to speak.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You have allowed me, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You are kind enough.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: That's why, I called you. Please speak. I have permitted you.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The technical opinion is that the channel may cause sand casting which may ultimately lead to a change in the course of the river. So, if they divert the river, it will change the course of the river—that is the technical report. In this connection, the Prime Minister of Orissa has protested so many times and has written a letter to Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to stop this project. In accordance with the treaty, construction of any project over the inter-State river mandates consensus between both the States, as various points regarding the prospective damage to the other State, submerging of the land area are to be resolved. All these things are there in the treaty itself. Before any construction starts, both the States should decide about it and the affected State should also be consulted as to what is the damage to the other State. This has not been taken into consideration by the State of Andhra Pradesh. This river is a major source for providing drinking water and irrigation to the naxal-infested Gajapati district of Orissa. You know, Sir, this is the most naxal-infested district. There is a lot of agitation going on in the district itself and the people are agitating, because they are not even likely to get drinking water, if the river course is changed. The whole of Paralakhemundi and Gajapati district will be affected by it. It is now urgently required by the Union Government to intervene in this matter for resolving the inter-State river dispute by setting up an Inter-State River Tribunal. Even the Central Water Commission has not been consulted. They also have not given their opinion on this. On any subject concerning an inter-State river dispute, it is necessary that the Central Water Commission should give their opinion, their technical opinion, and which should be binding on both the States. This is the mandate and provision in the Inter State River Tribunal Dispute Act. So for this thing, the State of Andhra Pradesh is not consulting. They are going on unilaterally... * without consulting the State of Orissa and without consulting the Government of India, without taking the opinion or technical report of the Central Water Commission. They are doing all these things. This

*Not recorded.

is not a one-way traffic. That is why, the State of Orissa will be affected very seriously. So, I request the Union Government earnestly that they should immediately set up as Inter-State River Tribunal for the settlement of this dispute of the two States. This is the spirit of our federalism. The Government of India should immediately intervene and come forward to help both the States. Otherwise, bad blood will flow between the two States.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure you can all cooperate and come to decisions.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Now both the States have good relations. Then, the bad blood will flow and this will create a very serious situation in future. That is why, my request to the Government is to intervene in this. I have also written a letter in this regard. The Chief Minister has also written a letter to the Union Government. I have also written to the hon. Prime Minister regarding this matter.

I have brought this matter to his attention for his intervention. I would request that the Government of India should respond immediately on this matter. I would like to know the opinion of the Minister. Even the Leader of the House is also present here. So, I want a response from the Government of India and they should immediately set up an Inter-State River Water Tribunal.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. Thank you for your cooperation. Shri K.S. Rao will make a submission now. But please do not make any mutual allegation.

SHRI K.S. RAO: No, Sir. I will not make any allegation. The point is, Polavaram Project is being constructed to a level of 150 feet. Hon. Members from Orissa have earlier raised this issue stating that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is constructing this dam beyond 150 feet. Later it was clarified that technically as per the Bachawat Award the Government of Andhra Pradesh is constructing this project and it is not crossing its limit with regard to utilization of water also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the issue is not regarding Polavaram Project. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I say these matters should not be raised here. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is not here to reply. He is not authorized by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I kept quiet when he spoke. Let me also say that the hon. Member was telling that the State of Orissa will be deprived of the water that they should actually get. The actual fact is that 3,600 TMC feet of water is going to the sea even today and what the Government of Andhra Pradesh is utilizing is less than 300 TMC feet of water in Polavaram Project. ...(Interruptions) It was not a technical objection and hon. Members were not responsible for it. I can understand if it was a technical aspect, but it was made a political issue.

MR. SPEAKER: No politics here.

SHRI K.S. RAO: No, Sir, it was made a political issue in Andhra Pradesh. ...(Interruptions) I am not making any allegation against Members from Orissa. In Andhra Pradesh, the Opposition parties are actually provoking the Orissa Government which has not made any objection. Even when this matter went to the court it was only at the instance of the Opposition parties in Andhra Pradesh. So, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has not violated any technical aspect and it is going as per the Bachawat Award. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has referred to some other project.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I am not telling anything against them. But some Opposition parties in Andhra Pradesh and some vested interests think that if the Polavaram Project is completed, they will become unpopular and the Congress Party will become popular. So they are provoking the Government of Orissa on this matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Water is a national resource for people's benefit. I am sure it will be shared in a manner

which will be to the interests of everybody. Nothing more on this now. We are going to the next item.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

(Interruptions)..."

12.33 hrs.

[English]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. SPEAKER: Now we take up matters under rule 377.

Dr. Karan Singh Yadav—Not present

- (1) **Need to abolish TDS imposed on compensation money given to farmers by ONGC in lieu of acquisition of land**

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): In my parliamentary constituency, Mehiana, oil and gas is being found in abundance and farmer's land is being acquired on large scale. ONGC gives compensation to those farmers whose land is acquired for oil and gas exploration but it is said that Union Government charges TDS against the amount of compensation. The farmers have to hire advocat and they have to visit courts time and again to get refund of this amount. And all this exercise requires to spend a lot of money. TDS should not be imposed on compensation become farmers get this for there agricultural land and also because this matter is related to agriculture. After acquisition, the land is used to explore oil and gas by ONGC. I would like to request the Government through this House that TDS should not be imposed at all on the amount of compensation given to the said farmers by ONGC when the company acquire their land.

*Not recorded.

(ii) Need to run a direct passenger train between Amreli, Gujarat and Mumbai

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have time and again, requested the Government to introduce a direct train service from Amreli to Mumbai. We have raised this matter in the Parliament also on several occasions because my constituency and other adjoining districts have so far, even after 60 years of Independence, not been provided with a direct train service between these two destinations to ensure the connectivity of the area with other parts of the country. The people of this area have to change trains three times to travel to other parts of the country. They have to face more inconvenience when they travel with their families. You will be surprised to know that daily 500 buses are running between Amreli and Surat and diamond industry of Surat is totally dependent on the labourers from Amreli. Therefore, steps should be taken by the deptt. of Railways to introduce a direct train service between Amreli and Mumbai and other regions should also be connected properly for providing rail facility to the people of Saurashtra. There is also an urgent need to convert Metergauge into Broad gauge in Amreli district.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government, through this house, to consider my request immediately.

(iii) Need to generate work-orders for Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. and Clear all pending dues of its workers

[English]

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): The Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh a PSU is under the control of the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, with over six decades of rich experience in ship building and ship repairs, construction, repairs of offshore and on-shore structures and refit, modernization of submarines, now presents a rosy picture with an order book of about Rs. 2000 crores, reinforced technology, improved productivity, improved financial condition and excellent industrial relationship. It is pertinent to mention that the

HSL has overcome continuous crippling losses and averted a major financial crisis during the last 3 to 4 years. In the backdrop of expertise and experience of serving the domestic needs, HSL is poised for further growth in the coming years. In accordance with the decision of the Group of Ministers, HSL is now being taken over by the Ministry of Defence. Unless HSL receives continuous orders to generate the work for the employees, it would land itself in an idle situation.

The Ministry of Defence, therefore, should issue instructions to the Indian Navy and Coast guard, to place ship building orders immediately with HSL to ensure continuity of work to the employees, adequate working capital and payment of wages/salaries to the employees.

I would also request the Defence Ministry to clear all pending wage revision arrears to the extent of Rs. 40 crores to over 5100 employees before transferring HSL to Ministry of Defence besides implementation of merger of 50 per cent DA with basic pay as per the Government's order of 28-02-2008.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S.K. Kharventhan—Not present

Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava—Not present

Shri Santosh Gangwar

(iv) Need to provide basic infrastructure facilities in Bareilly at par with other metro cities in the country

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, my Parliamentary constituency, Bareilly is one of the main metropolitan cities of Uttar Pradesh. Keeping in view the utility of this city, the union Government have decided to develop it as a counter magnet city under National capital Region and accordingly the Centre is making efforts to develop basic infrastructure for the City. But it has come to our notice that Bareilly which is one of the main metropolitan cities of Uttar Pradesh, has not got the status of a metropolitan city in the list of Union Government. This has been classified as medium or a small city in the list of union Government. And

[Shri Santosh Gangwar]

only due to this region, development in this city is not progressing properly. I urge upon the Ministry of Urban Development that Bareilly, which has remained as a metropolitan city in the list of the state Government for the last 25 years, should also be included in the list of Metropolitan cities of the Union Government and accordingly essential basic infrastructural facilities should be made available for this city on a priority basis.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaban B. Thakkar—Not present.

Shri Avinash Rai Khanna.

- (v) **Need to provide monetary allowance to the unemployed youths in the country**

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, almost 60 years have passed since the country achieved independence but young technicians, skilled and unskilled youths still have no jobs. Many youths have fallen victims to drug addiction and many of them have finished their life by taking suicidal steps. This necessitates that the Government should give these youths Rs. 2500 per month or unemployment allowance till there youths get some employment otherwise they will remain in distress.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ganesh Singh—Not present.

Shri A.V. Bellarmin—Not present

Shrimati C.S. Sujatha

- (vi) **Need to extend Prime Minister's Food Security Scheme to Kuttanad in Kerala**

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Sir, Kuttanad is known as the rice bowl of Kerala. The rice productivity rate in this region is much higher than the national average. Kuttanad is spread over parts of three districts i.e., Alappuzha, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta.

Kuttanad is one of the areas identified as being badly affected by the agrarian crisis. The recurring natural calamities also added to the problems of the farmers. The parameters set for the inclusion in the Prime Minister's Food Security Scheme would deny this most important rice producing area of the State the benefits of this Scheme. Hence, the Government should consider the entire Kuttanad area as an agricultural district comprising above 70,000 hectares as a special case so that the benefits under the Scheme are extended to the farmers of this area too.

I urge upon the Government to consider the request.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman—not present.

Shrimati Jayaprada.

- (vii) **Need to provide compensation to the victims of rail accident that occurred in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh on 22nd November, 2007**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a railway accident occurred on 22nd Nov. 2007 at Kemri unmanned railway level crossing in my parliamentary constituency, Rampur in which a tractor collided with a railway engine. Many people traveling in the ill-fated tractor died and many of them suffered serious injuries but so far the department of Railways have not even given any compensation to the families of dead persons and to the injured people. Families of dead persons are facing starvation and injured people have to spend a lot of money on their treatment.

I urge upon the Government, through this House that at least two lakhs rupees should be given immediately to the families of the dead persons and one lakh to the injured people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri E.G. Sugavanam—Not present.

Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad.

(viii) Need to include Fatehpur district in Uttar Pradesh under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Urban Development towards my parliamentary constituency, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh and add that Union Government have selected various districts of different states under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. Under the programme, a new shape is being given to the urban areas of the said districts by providing sewer line, storm water, supply of drinking water, etc. I, therefore, would like to request the Government to kindly include Fatehpur which is one of the most backward districts of Uttar Pradesh under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission Scheme.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaben. D. Thakkar

(ix) Need to set up an Indian Institute of Information Technology and Indian Institute of Information Technology Academy in Gujarat

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, the Planning Commission, Government of India had recommended that those States which have potential growth in IT industry require an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT). The Government of Gujarat had agreed to fulfill all the requirements as stipulated by the Central Government.

I, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Human Resource Development to set up an Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) and Indian Institute of Information Technology Academy in Gujarat at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil—not present.

Shri Devidas Pingle—not present.

Shri Mohan Jena—not present.

Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma.

Thank you for being present.

(x) Need to provide Central aid to unaided Government recognized schools in Assam

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, attention of the Government is drawn towards large number of Non-provincialised, unaided but Government recognized schools and colleges in Assam, which covers nearly 50% of the total formal education in the State. At present 8587 nos. of Lower Primary (LP), 4638 nos. of Middle English (M.E.), 1825 nos. of High schools including Madrassas and High Madrassas along with 133 nos. of recognized Colleges in Assam are established and run by public through the Government approved Managing Committees. They are also regularly inspected by the Inspector of schools and by University authorities. These institutions are located in rural areas and run by Community effort without imposing Tuition fee unlike the commercial Private institutes. As such they are also referred as 'Venture' Schools and Colleges peculiar to Assam only.

Unfortunately, about One lakh teachers and employees of these institutes are rendering education for decades without getting any kind of grant or aid from Central or State Government for infrastructure, salary, etc. They are imparting education at par with any other provincialised or Government Institutions. Owing to financial constraint of Assam Government, the Union Government also deprives these unaided institutions from Central Grants categorizing them as private Institutes.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to evolve a suitable mechanism to fund these institutes, as they constitute almost half of the formal education in Assam. If necessary, special provisions should be made by changing the existing norms of the Central Government considering the long-term contribution of these institutions in supplementing the Government efforts towards education for all.

MR. SPEAKER: Today, after a long time, we have invited the hon. Members to read out their Matters under Rule 377. But the Matters under Rule 377 of those hon. Members, who are not present, will also be placed on the Table of the House. They will be treated as laid on the Table.

- (xi) **Need to undertake measures for repair and maintenance of N.H. 14 linking Bharatpur-Alwar-Behrod in Rajasthan with Narnaul in Haryana***

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my constituency, the condition of National highway no. 14 from Bharatpur to Narnaul via Alwar is in very bad shape. The stretch from Alwar to Narnaul via Behrod is totally damaged.

Therefore I urge the hon. Minister of shipping, Road Transport and highways that a budgetary allocation be made immediately from Central Road Fund for strengthening and renovation of this highway no. 14.

- (xii) **Need to abolish export duty on E.I. Tanned Leather***

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Tamil Nadu is the first State producing large quantity of E.I. Tanned Leather and exporting the same throughout the world for the last 15 decades until it was banned in the year 1990. Large number of Dalits, Minorities, Women are employed in this industry. Now those industries which claim to export Value Added Product have stopped buying this sort of Leather which has pushed this industry to a dormant stage of working to 20 to 30% of the capacity. Leather industries in Tamil Nadu already increased Rs 100 crore for establishing Pollution Treatment Plants and decided to spend Rs. 150 crore for zero discharge.

The Leather Industry is facing a stiff competition from Pakistan and Bangladesh. To make this situation worse, there is a 15% Export Duty on the export of

Export Duty on the export of E.I. Tanned Leather which makes the export impossible. Therefore, the revenue expected from the export of this Tanned Leather has also not been achieved. If this situation continues, there is a danger of lakhs of Dalits, women and minorities being thrown out of jobs and made to starve eventually due to closure of tanneries permanently, particularly in Dindigul, Trichy, and other Districts in Tamil Nadu. There is a wrong perception that export of E.I. Leather from India will lead to a shortage of semi-finished leather to feed their industries. But the real case is that most of the value addition leather industries import raw skins and semi-finished leather at cheaper prices from Gulf and African countries instead of buying in the Indian Market. Tamil Nadu's contribution towards the total leather Export of India was 70% before the recommendations of Dr. Seetha Ramaiah Committee which has now diminished to 40% last year and there is a genuine fear that Tamil Nadu may cease to contribute towards the export of leather.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps for removing the export duty on E.I. Tanned Leather and to rescue the dying E.I. Leather industry in the country.

- (xiii) **Need to regulate shipment and storage of chemical waste causing pollution and threatening marine life in Ankleshwar, Gujarat***

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a major fire broke out in chemical waste store in Ankleshwar falling in my parliamentary constituency Bharuch in the first week of April and it took several days to douse the fire. The above chemical waste is brought in Ankleshwar for re-cycling but it is not stored properly and even prescribed rules for its storage are not followed. As a result Ankleshwar has become a litter ground and its environment has been badly polluted. Such waste is being brought from the foreign countries to the sea-shore of Bharuch in a large quantity that contains material which cannot be re-cycled and the same is dumped in the sea. As a result sea

*Treated as laid on the Table.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

fishes are dying and the environment of the sea-shore is adversely affected.

I, through the House, request the Government that strangled possible action should be taken against those responsible for bringing the waste by unfair means in the district and not storing it properly and not following the prescribed rules regarding storage of chemical waste.

(xiv) Need to extend social security benefits to the Beedi workers in the country*

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 2.70 crore beedi workers of the country are facing serious problem. While on the one hand, beedi contractors are exploiting them on the other, the facilities provided by the Union Government are inadequate. Till date, their minimum wage has not been fixed. Somewhere they get a wage of Rs. 40 and somewhere Rs. 50. Majority of them do not have Identity cards and even do not have provident fund accounts. The Union Government has made provision for providing health and housing facilities to them. Due to absence of doctors, the hospitals are lying closed and housing facility is also negligible.

Under the pressure of the 'World Health Organization, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India is taking initiatives to close the beedi industry. But, the beedi industry should be closed after making alternative arrangement for the livelihood of crores of beedi workers. As of now, Identity Card, housing and medical facility should be provided to all the beedi workers and even their provident fund accounts should be opened.

(xv) Need to extend loan-waiver scheme to all agricultural loans availed upto 29-2-2006*

[English]

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that the particulars of Agricultural Loans, including Gold Loans, advanced by the Commercial Banks up to 31-3-2007 and remain unpaid as 31-12-2007, are being collected by the

Government. It is pertinent to note the following realities in this matter before computing this item of Loans. Gold Loan for Agriculture purposes, are advanced as a term loan for just one year at a very lower rate of interest far below the Bench Mark lending rate. If the loan is either not paid in full with interest within the stipulated one year, the Jewels will be auctioned and the dues will be adjusted from the auction proceeds. The poor loanees, either release the jewels, by borrowing from neighbours and repledge the same on the very same day or in the next day. At times some prefer to avail of the gold Loan at a higher rate prevailing then. Thus the loanees are compelled to part with their jewels with the Banks either way. As such the cut off date given by the Government for loan sanctioned till 31-3-07 and remain unpaid as on 31-12-07 will not serve the purpose and will not help the loanees who availed the Gold Loan on or before 31-12-2007. I, therefore, request the Government to extend the waiver for all loans outstanding as on 29-2-2008, the day the decision was announced in the Budget.

(xvi) Need to check emission norms of Sulphur-di-oxide gas released in atmosphere from Indian Oil Refinery, Mathura*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government spends lakhs and crores of rupees in the name of environment protection and awareness every year. But, caring time meets about the issue of environment protection, most polluting sulphur-di-oxide gas is being released in uncontrolled manner in the atmosphere. This gas causes environment pollution. The situation has turned worse and it is slow poison for the human life.

This situation has emerged due to going out of order of one of the three recovery units controlling emissions of sulphur-di-oxide in Mathura refinery unit of the Indian Oil Corporation located at a distance of 150 km from Delhi. Sulphur-di-oxide gas is being released in the atmosphere along with the fire emanating from the refinery's chimney. Chimney gas level is not in compliance with the emission norms as a result of which the environment is polluting and also causing health hazards.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

It is a very serious issue related to health and environment aspect. The Government should pay attention in this regard immediately. Action should be taken against the guilty officers in this regard. Nobody should be allowed to play with human life.

(xvii) Need to provide adequate security to the Indians working in Afghanistan*

[English]

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Sir, on 12 April, 2008, two Indian engineers, viz., Shri C. Govindaswamy and Shri M.P. Singh were killed and five others injured who were working with Border Roads Organisation (BRO) project in Afghanistan for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan in a suicide bomber attack.

Shri Govindaswamy is a resident of Village B. Tippanapalli, of my Krishnagiri Lok Sabha Constituency, Tamil Nadu. He was expected to be back home shortly but his untimely tragic death is unfortunate and condemnable. He is survived by his wife, three young daughters and one son.

This is not the first incidence that the Taliban is targeting the Indians working on BRO project. The BRO project began 2-1½ years ago. In November, 2005, BRO driver, Shri M.R. Kutty was kidnapped and killed. In April, 2006, Shri K. Suryanarayana was abducted and his headless body was found later. Even in January, 2008, two Indians were killed in Taliban suicide attack.

India's assistance to Afghanistan, the landlocked country, to road projects is a genuine gesture but it should not be at the cost of the lives of innocent workers. This project has seen continued attacks. Both India and Afghanistan have failed to provide adequate security to them. We have no words to describe the cruel act of terrorists but the slain families are more agonized by the indifferent attitude of the Government. They have not got any official information about the timely dispatch of their bodies from Afghanistan.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government that

*Treated as laid on the Table.

the compensation in full may be provided to the victims' family and the injured immediately and steps may be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future and to safeguard the lives of the Indians working in Afghanistan.

(xviii) Need to set up a cotton-based industry and Textile Park in Parbhani, Maharashtra*

[Translation]

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, good quality cotton is produced on a large scale in my parliamentary constituency Parbhani. But, there is neither any cotton based industry nor any processing unit in this area. As a result of this the cotton is sent to other areas, leading to increase in the production cost. If the Government give concessions and provide other facilities to set up cotton based industry and textile Park in this area then textile production at cheaper cost could be made. By doing so, balanced development of this backward area would take place and even the people would get employment.

I, through the House, request the Government to take steps to set up cotton-based industry in Parbhani.

(xix) Need to develop Nasik Road railway station in Maharashtra*

SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE (Nasik): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nasik is a developing city. It is developing at a fast pace. The population of Nasik has approximately doubled during the last five years. At present, approximately 1000 to 1500 small and big factories are functional in Nasik. Many industrialists are keen on setting up factories in Nasik. Inadequate mean of transportation is the main hurdle in the development of Nasik. Therefore, through you, I demand from the Minister of Railways that he should make an announcement that Nasik Road railway station would be developed as a terminal.

The Department of Railways has requisite land at the Nasik Road railway station. If additional land is required for the above purpose, the State Government is also ready to provide it. I, through you, request the

*Treated as laid on the Table.

Minister of Railways that he should make an announcement for developing Nasik Road railway station as a terminal.

- (xx) **Need to augment road and rail services to Naavi Gaya, a place of religious importance at Jajpur, Orissa***

[English]

SHRI MOHAN JENA (Jajpur): The Naavi Gaya, situated on the bank of river Baitarini at Jajpur in the Jajpur district of Orissa is very important from the religious point of view. The Naavi Gaya is the first of the three places for 'Pitru Shraadha'. The next places being 'Mastaka Gaya' at Gaya, Bihar and Paada Gaya at Rajmahindri in Andhra Pradesh. While Gaya and Rajmahindri are well connected, the Naavi Gaya remains to be connected by both rail and National Highway link. Jajpur was the most ancient capital of the then Kalinga. This tirtha belongs to pre-Mahabhaarata era and most probably, more ancient than both the Jagannath Temple at Puri and Smya Temple at Konark. Numerous Puraanas and the Mahaabhaarata has mentioned the importance of this place which needs its existence proved and certified by the Archaeological Survey of India. Prominent people like veteran freedom fighters and Chief Ministers of Orissa, Late Biswanath Das, Late H.N. Bahuguna and Late Surendranath Dwivedi had demanded recognition of this place. I, therefore, demand that the Government should take immediate steps for the overall development of the "Naavi Gaya" alongwith the "Dwaadasamedha Ghata" on the river Baitarini. This place should also be connected with a 12 km National

Highway link from Sathipur on NH 5 and also by a rail* link from the Jajpur-Kendujhar Road railway station.

12.47 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
(2008-09)**

Ministry of Home Affairs

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 12—The Budget (General), Second Stage, discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2008-09. The time allotted for this discussion in four hours.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the Second column thereof against Demand Nos. 51 to 55 and 95 to 99 relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs."

Demands for Grants (General) for 2008-2009 in respect of Ministry of Home Affairs and Union Territories submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha

No. and Name	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 14, 2008		Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the Vote of House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	5
Ministry of Home Affairs				
51. Ministry of Home Affairs	148,20,00,000	11,71,00,000	740,97,00,000	58,52,00,000

*Treated as laid on the Table.

1	2	3	4	5
52. Cabinet	50,45,00,000	1333,00,000	252,24,00,000	66,67,00,000
53. Police	2753,30,00,000	890,75,00,000	13766,52,00,000	4453,74,00,000
54. Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	166,51,00,000	4,37,00,000	832,52,00,000	21,83,00,000
55. Transfers to Union Territory Government	294,73,00,000	12,00,00,000	1473,66,00,000	60,00,00,000
Union Territories (Without Legislature)				
95. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	205,67,00,000	125,14,00,000	1028,34,00,000	625,69,00,000
96. Chandigarh	212,89,00,000	38,28,00,000	1064,45,00,000	191,39,00,000
97. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	199,94,00,000	5,23,00,000	879,69,00,000	26,12,00,000
98. Daman and Diu	82,26,00,000	7,88,00,000	411,32,00,000	39,39,00,000
99. Lakshadweep	64,28,00,000	30,01,00,000	321,41,00,000	150,06,00,000

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has presented before us different datas relating to Ministry through books but these datas are far away from ground realities. I would not oppose the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs but I would like to urge upon the hon'ble Minister that the situation of internal security of the country is in bad shape, very sensitive and at stake. The way, the Ministry is handling internal situation of the country, people are left with no other option but to weep.

Sir, when we talk about the security of the people of the country, it is clear that announcements are made but how many these are actually implemented sincerely is something not needs to be discussed in the House. Be it the situation of Kashmir, the North-East states of the country, the problem of naxalism or the activities of separatist and terrorist organizations taking place in the

southern parts of the country, all are dangerous for the country.

Speaker Sir, it is very unfortunate that we are still making big promises in Kashmir. By now, 18 years have passed but no sincere efforts have been made to rehabilitate the displaced Kashmiries except making promises in this regard. Efforts that should have been made to resettle them in Kashmir have also not been made. The most unfortunate thing is that they are living like a home less persons in their own country for the last 15 to 18 years.

As far as figures are concerned, the hon'ble Minister has stated that the number of incidents have come down in Kashmir. But if one goes through these figures one will find that the existing trends is built up on the premises that if the cases are not registered about any incident that took place, the figures would come down automatically. No doubt, ULFA has intensified its activities in North-East States, be it Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Manipur or Arunachal Pradesh, situation of all these states in view of law and order and internal security has become very sensitive. There is no

decrease in the number of incidents of targeting locals and North-Indian people especially Hindi-speaking people by ULFA during the last one year. Only announcements have been made that action is being taken against ULFA. How ULFA has started to raise its ugly head all of a sudden? Likewise, NSCN is intensifying its activity in Nagaland. The situation in Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh is also worsening. The most painful thing is naxalite activities. The hon'ble Minister has also admitted that the incidents of naxalism have increased in the entire country. The most unfortunate thing is the manner in which the Indian leaders have supported the Maoists activities of violence, loot and anarchy and sent their best wishes to them. This will encourage naxalites in India to do the same. We have been keeping a close watch on the situation of Nepal for the last two years and have felt that there is no decrease in the incidents of loot and violence inspite of the fact that the King of Nepal had handed over the power to 7 party coalition and the Maoists to restore the democratic process. You may distort figures but the truth is if we try to see the problem of naxalism in India in a casual manner, we would not be able to curb it and the same is happening today. The moment the elections to the Constituent Assembly were held in Nepal and the Maoists took a lead, the Naxalites of India also started celebrations and intensified their attacks on army personnels, paramilitary forces and even on cantonments. The incidents of genocide have started. The railway tracks are being blown. These types of incidents are taking place in several parts of the country. Besides, during the last four years the incidents of naxalism have increased in the entire country.

Speaker Sir, in 2003-04, there were hardly 56 districts out of 6-7 States, which were partially or completely affected by naxalism. But during the last 4 years the naxalism has spread its tentacles in more than half of the states of the country and now there are almost 175 districts that are partially or completely affected by naxalite activities. Naxalite activities were altogether curbed in Uttar Pradesh but now these activities have again started in Sonbhadra. The moment Sun sets in Sonbhadra, Mirzapur and Chandoli district, the common man shut themselves inside the home and

even the policemen scare to go out. How such a situation has developed, how naxalites have become so resourceful that they are getting stronger day by day; it's a matter of concern for us. Unless it becomes a matter of concern for us, or we do not try to recognize our enemy we would not be able to cure this disease. Only promises will not solve this problem.

The hon'ble Minister has said time and again that a central investigation agency will be constituted which will function all over the country. There could be problems involving many matters. The State Government looks after law and order situation. The Union Government looks after the matters relating to Union list. But under these conditions the central investigation agency is not doing the work to curb the naxalite and terrorist activities, which should have been done by it.

[Translation]

The way Islamic terrorist activities are spreading throughout the country and the way Uttar Pradesh is becoming the nerve center of these activities and also being used as hot bed for spreading these activities throughout the country, is highly dangerous. Until and unless we take stringent action to curb terrorism, it will not be eliminated.

Sir, when NDA was in power, they had announced to go ahead with the work of modernization of state police, but with the change of power, under the UPA regime this announcement has remained mere on paper. Some initiatives were taken in some fields but the required seriousness was missing there. Similarly, the required efforts to be taken for strengthening the internal intelligence system were also not taken seriously.

Every state has local intelligence system. There is no coordination between State intelligence agencies and I.B. so that their informations can be co-related or exchanged. There is not a system in place to ensure coordination with intelligence agency of army so that the problem of terrorism, extremism and separatisms or naxalism in the country can be checked. We have not tried honestly neither to bring coordination among the various intelligence agencies and to ensure mutual

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

exchange of informations among them nor have we succeeded in doing so. I think that only by making declarations after holding meetings with Chief Secretaries and Director General or by making declaration to modernize police force, we cannot strengthen the internal security of the country. As I think, many rounds of discussion on the Demands for Grants will not pay until and unless we have control over the separatist forces taking shape in the country and until and unless the Government makes any programme to have strict check over the elements involved in anti-national and anti-social activities.

Sir, until and unless we show seriousness towards the instability prevalent not only in our own country but also in the neighbouring countries, we can neither establish peace in India nor we would be able to strengthen our internal security. It is sad affair that earlier we used to blame Pakistan for backing terrorist activities. After Pakistan, now Bangladesh has become the biggest hub for anti India activities, who gives shelter to Huji and SIMI terrorists, whether the Government has no such information? A terrorist is caught, then he is interrogated and after that he is jailed. After some days, it comes to notice that the said terrorist fled away from the police custody or jail. What is the reason behind it. Has India become so weak that it cannot put pressure on Bangladesh to check terrorist activities in the country? Why we have not been able to put pressure on Bangladesh as N.D.A. Government had put pressure on Bhutan to take stringent action against all the ULFA terrorists present there.

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Jogiji will you take more time to put your points?

YOGI ADITYANATH: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, We take launch break first.

13.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at
Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH in the Chair]

DEMANDS FOR GRENTS (GENERAL),
(2008-09)-Cont.

Ministry of Home Affairs

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yogi Aditya Nath, you may continue your speech.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Chairman Sir, in regard to demands for grants for Ministry of Home Affairs presented by the Home Minister, I would like to continue my statement and request the Home Minister, through you, not to give lesser importance to internal security of the country vis-a-vis external security. Unfortunately, continuous efforts are being made to undermine the same. Negligence is being shown towards every issue. The demands presented by the Minister of Home Affairs have our support and there is no hitch in that, the entire House unanimously favours the augmentation of facilities to strengthen the security mechanism of the country. But lack of concrete strategy against terrorism, militancy, separatism or naxalism is always apparent. The leadership of the country lacks the kind of will power that is required and I want to say in this regard that the way number of Bangladeshi infiltrators has gone up, Bangladesh has also accepted this fact in its census of 2001 that three crore of it's citizens are missing from the country. Naturally, these three crore people have not vanished...(interruptions) if the report by the Governor of Assam is taken seriously, he has drawn the attention of India towards this serious threat that everyday five thousand to six thousand people from Bangladesh are coming to India. Many states in the North East are facing demographic imbalances. Who does not know that Bangladeshi infiltrators are working as largest network of HUJI in India. Bangladeshi infiltrators are playing important role in the network spread by ISI throughout the country. They will wander whole

day in various areas and streets and then they carry out bomb explosions in those areas or kill innocent citizens. Bangladeshi infiltrators have created dangerous situation not only for law and order but also for internal security of the country. But, despite all these, it is very unfortunate to have such statements from the Minister of Home Affairs about Bangladeshi infiltrators. Secondly, two incidents have taken place, two unfortunate incidents had occurred in Uttar Pradesh, serial bomb blasts took place in Lucknow, Faizabad and Varanasi. Thereafter, CRPF Camp in Rampur came under terrorist attack. In both the incidents, the State Government was holding the Union Government responsible and the Union Government was passing the buck on the state Government. So we should have better coordination for national security and internal security in combating terrorism. When the State Government and the Government at the center lack coordination then naturally, chances of coordination amongst intelligence mechanism or police and paramilitary forces automatically become nil. This is worrisome for the country. It is affecting national unity and integrity and this is the reason that those outfits who had been crushed by the earlier Governments are once again raising their heads in many areas posing a challenge to nation's unity. They are again raising their head and posing a challenge and incidents of Nepal can be seen in this context also. Today, there is no doubt about it. We had been naming Pakistan for abetting terrorist activities in our country. We have always been trying to take Bangladesh lightly but today all the terrorist organizations present in North Eastern states and all the other terrorist outfits like HUJI, SIMI, Laskar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad operating in the country have their base...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): You should also tell about the RSS and the Bajrang Dal.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I am amazed, what relation they have with Laskar-e-toiba or Jaish-e-Mohammad? *(Interruptions)* If any Member supports terrorist organization inside the House then he should be thrown outside from this House, in a humiliating way. If some Member openly patronises terrorist outfits despite being

a member of the apex House of the country then it will be a shameful situation. Such people should be exposed before the nation. Bangladesh was already involved in these activities. But the ill fate of our brotherly and friendly country Nepal is pitiable the way in which Maoists have gained hold through elections ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: You could not save ever only Hindu nation of the world, now what are you talking, in Kashmir via Kathmandu. Therefore, Nepal has become a center for anti-India activities.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: During the last two years, Maoists have forcefully made anti India terrorist activity center there. Today, Our 1751 km long border with Nepal has become very sensitive and dangerous. Sashastra Seema Bal was deployed there during the NDA regime but Sashastra Seema Bal lacks resources. I had written a letter to you in this regard on 31st of March. The headquarters and group centre of Sashastra Seema Bal is located in FCI campus. Sometime ago when I had visited there, the situation was such that here was no power supply for the last five days. This had led to a worse situation, a rebellion-like situation was there when I visited the site. I had called the officers of Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation there. Local officers denied restoration of power supply there. I told them that they are doing their duty of protection of border then why they are being deprived of. I was told that they have outstanding power bills to the tune of three crore owing to which power supply has been disconnected by orders from Lucknow. I talked to the MD of Power Corporation as well in this regard. I told him that power supply should be restored for one month and meanwhile we will request the Minister of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs for the payment of outstanding bills.

Sir, when the SSB was deployed in this area then we were assured that the smuggling of narcotics and arms would be checked. SSB has had achieved some success also in this work but in the last February when many trucks crossed border from Gorakhpur via Sonauli border into Nepal and were caught in Bhairahwa and local people found ammunitions in these trucks then it

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

became a burning issue in Nepal that how these ammunitions found their way into Nepal. It should be a matter of investigation that if SSB is there then whether they have authority to search these vehicles or monitor the movements. If they do not have this authority then they should be given these powers so that vehicles should cross border either way after search. Who does not know that one of the masterminds of attack on the Parliament of this country, Ghazi Baba, who was killed by the BSF in Kashmir, used to visit Kathmandu from Karachi time and again and gain entry. Be it Naxalites or the terrorist outfits of the North-East, every outfit has its base in Nepal. Nepal has become a base for all these outfits. Hence, we should take the situation in Nepal seriously and not lightly as we have been doing in the past. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs the reasons for the existence of Naxalites, terrorists and extremists in India. Why we have not treated Nepali Maoists as terrorists? How can Nepali Maoists be Nationalists. Why we have given them opportunity to grab power and why did we inspire them? It is very unfortunate that some political parties of our country have been openly patronizing them. It should also be discussed who are these people who are at the center of politics and express confidence in democratic traditions and at the same time openly patronize terrorist outfits. This is the situation in Nepal.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister had once expressed his view in a meeting of Chief Ministers that Naxalism is dangerous for the internal security of our country. If Naxalism is dangerous, I would like to know who is trying for electoral alliance with MCC in Bihar? Who are taking support from PWG in Andhra Pradesh? Why the situation in different parts of the country has turned unfortunate? With the UPA Government coming to power at the center, ULFA is once again raising its head in Assam and North-Eastern States. These are the issues which should be discussed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to request the Minister of Home Affairs that Nepal is going to become more dangerous than Pakistan and Bangladesh. Maoists are talking about Maoland. Their

Maoland is not confined to Nepal only, it includes territories from the peaks of Himalayas to South India. How will you save India from this Maolando. Has the Ministry of Home Affairs initiated any effort in this direction. So far Maoists used to resort gorilla warfares, but the day they come to power in Nepal, will be very unfortunate for India. It will be dangerous for the internal security as well as unity and integrity of India, as Naxalites and the outfits indulging in terrorist activities will get encouraged.

Some suggestions were given for the police force. What happened to police modernization? Whether any mechanism has been put in place to monitor the funds given to different states for modernization? Where the money allocated under this head has been spent? According to our information, many states have diverted the money allocated under this head. I would like to give some information about the status of police in different States. In Bihar, there is one police constable for every 1262 persons and in States like Uttar Pradesh there is one police constable for every 1060 persons. This situation has developed because you are not providing employment to people, you are not giving jobs to them. Naturally a large number of posts are lying vacant. It was said that instructions will be issued for filling up those posts, they will be provided basic facilities, police force will be equipped with sophisticated weapons to fight against terrorists and naxalites and supplies of these weapons will be ensured and monitored. But nothing has been done. If we provide the police 303 Gun and expect them to counter A.K. 47 or 9 mm pistol, it is quite impossible. So, our security forces should be given sophisticated weapons along with other facilities.

A new trend has emerged. Rampur incident has opened our eyes. So far such incidents had taken place only in Jammu and Kashmir. The process of recruiting terrorists in Para Military and Police forces has been initiated. It should be stopped immediately unless their thorough investigation is completed, they should be absorbed only in civilian jobs. If you recruit them in police or para-military forces and give them guns, then we have witnessed where will and against whom they

will direct their guns. A terrorist was recruited in CRPF, and deployed at Rampur and there he misused his position and how the whole matter is being hushed up. This should be given special attention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, you have taken a lot of time.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I would like to request that the items submitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs should not be opposed. Every citizen of this country is concerned about internal security of the country. We wish there should be no fear in the mind of people. But along with it Government is duty bound to provide security to every citizen of the country. Government should take it seriously. There should be better relations between States and Centre, there should be better coordination between intelligence agencies and there should be better coordination between police, Ministry of Home Affairs and agencies of Armed forces, so that we can perform our responsibilities related to the internal security of the country.

With this hope and confidence I support, though unwillingly, the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[English]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is a rare privilege that we have been allowed to discuss not only the internal security but the entire gamut of the Ministry of Home Affairs which is extremely vital because after all the Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry on which development and progress of the entire country depend.

[Translation]

As House is everything for a person and if atmosphere at home is peaceful and trustworthy, outsiders cannot harass him, can't harm him. If we do business outside and come to home with profit, but atmosphere at home is not peaceful, it is of no use.

[English]

The commerce and business may flourish but if there is no peace at home, this becomes meaningless.

[Translation]

What is the use of maintaining our friendship with outsiders. When there is no peace at home.

[English]

I am talking about foreign affairs.

[Translation]

We run our home very well, bring everything that is needed at home like potato, onion and other things, but if everyone at home is at loggerheads there is no meaning of home.

[English]

What I am trying to say is that if the Ministry of Home Affairs does not function properly, if the internal security situation in the country does not remain peaceful, if there are contradictions amongst ourselves within the home, then progress in other spheres including foreign relations, commerce, trade and the entire gamut of other activities does not have much meaning. I want to congratulate our Government. In the last four years I must say under the UPA rule, the performance of the Ministry of Home Affairs has been commendable.

[Translation]

I would like to congratulate Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that at least he did not try to be a Loh Purush.

[English]

He did not want to be become an iron man. Man is made of flesh and blood.

[Translation]

A man should remain a creature made of flesh and blood. But if he is stone hearted, it can be dangerous.

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

Instead of a Loh Purush, we have got a human being as our Minister of Home Affairs. I would like to congratulate him and say that his approach during the last four years

[English]

On various issues concerning the internal security and other aspects of the country has been commendable. I must say that the security situation as a result of that has improved vastly. There are areas of concern and we have been very honest about it. The statistics which have been given show that there has been considerable improvement at all levels. Yes, there have been extremists activities in the Northh-East and the naxalite menace is the cause of concern but we have not been hypocrites. We have not been hiding facts. We have been placing the facts. We have been stating the initiatives that are being taken. We welcome any more suggestions in this regard.

[Translation]

Whatever Swami Aditya Nath Jee has said, I was a little surprised to hear because systematic attack was made by the NDA by calling the Ministry of Home Affairs Weak. [English] Systematic attack was made.

It looks like they have now realized that it did not yield any results and that their attacks no longer have any thrust. That is why a junior person was made to speak on Home Affairs. I did not understand whether he was speaking more about the internal affairs of India or of Nepal. Nepal has undergone certain constitutional changes. A new Government has come into being in Nepal. I know somebody may have personal pangs about that; somebody may have certain personal affiliations towards certain political equations in Nepal, But I do not hink that such thoughts need be paraded here and so ebody should shed tears for that.

[Translation]

Aditya Nathji has been in the habit of shedding tears. Earlier he had shed tears due to his party and we have sympathy with him. Whatever is happening in

Nepal and Whatever he has said in his Speech regarding that, I think it proves that the stand of our country is correct. Yes, there is threat of naxalites in Nepal. I will speak about that.

[English]

Sir, statistics do not show certain truth, if statistics do not reveal the picture, then what does statistics do? If there are aberrations in statistics that should be corrected. That has not been done by my eloquent friend from the Opposition. I agree that there has been a spurt of violence in Kashmir. The issue of Kashmir has been debated innumerable times on various occasions whether it be under the NDA Government or under this Government. There has been a cause for concern. But is it not true that Kashmir situation has shown vast improvement now? Is it not a fact that there has been greater participation of people in the democratic process in Kashmir? It is true that because of some positive developments taking place in Pakistan and maybe because of certain changes in international equations on terrorism, the situation in Kashmir has become by far less dangerous than it was before. I am not trying to undermine the detrimental effects that are taking place even now. But the fact remains that Kashmir today gives us certain amount of hope. At one point of time we gave up Kashmir. But thanks to the initiative of the Government and the country as a whole that we find improvement in the situation in Kashmir. I do not wish to politicise on the Home Ministry by raising the issue of how it functioned during the NDA regime and how it is functioning during the UPA regime. As I said right in the beginning, I do not think that one has to be an iron man to iron out the differences. But the fact is that today there are signs of progress and people are optimistic about the future of the State. A lot of developmental works are taking place. The Central Government is taking a lot of initiatives to see that the situation that prevailed earlier does, in no way, deteriorate any further.

Sir, on the issue of the Kashmiri migrants and their rehabilitation I would like to submit that throughout the Government is taking a lot of steps to mitigate their sufferings. Many people are gradually going back to the

State and an atmosphere is being consciously created even by the State Government of Kashmir. I must compliment the State Government for having taken a lot of initiative to build the confidence amongst people so that people who have been displaced comes back to their places. It is not proper that some people should leave their homeland under any circumstances, under any provocations. The steps taken to rehabilitate them, both by the Centre as well as by the State, are commendable.

Sir, on the issue of the naxalites I would say that it is not a simple police problem. That has been our approach. It is true that one has to tackle terrorism with a strong hand and has to take very strong steps to tackle terrorist activities in this country. But I do not believe in a one-sided approach. There should be multi-dimensional and a multi-pronged strategy as has been adopted by the Central Government. That is yielding fruits. The menace of terrorism is there. But it is being tackled earnestly and it is being tackled properly. I think, the situation is showing signs of improvement. I am not saying that naxalite movement can be prevented only by police action because it is a social problem, just like terrorism. A lot of efforts are required for that. After all, the internal security is not just mere policing. It involves a lot of other aspect as well. I would come to that as I go by.

Sir, certain comments have been made about terrorist activities in the North-East. I would say and statistics also would reveal that that there has been a spurt of violence in extremist activities in States like Assam. Instances of sporadic violence were reported from Manipur. There have been attacks on specific ethnic groups. But *[Translation]* I do not have any to hesitation saying that whatever is happening there is the handiwork of the extremist groups. The local people do not have any thing to do with it. Common men hate those who attack Hindi speaking people.

[English]

With a design. I can assert with confidence and I am speaking from experiences on the ground that people in the North-Eastern region do not believe in

such secessionist attitudes. The younger generations there have a positive outlook. Hundreds and thousands of students from North-Eastern region are studying in cities like Delhi and Bangalore. There is a process of integration. I think, this is a positive trend and not a negative trend and the support for the secessionist forces at the base has diminished.

[Translation]

I would like to say that the ULFA does not have any support base today. The ULFA which used to enjoy the support of common man on one time.

[English]

There is no patronage for them. Nothing is there and being time desperate they are selecting soft targets and attacks at various places are taking place. To check such attacks necessary steps are being taken and I must say that we must all work hard to see that the situation improves further.

Sir, the Home Ministry is not merely to look at internal security. Its functions encompass a whole lot of other activities. Talking on the demands of the Ministry I must point out certain things that should be mentioned. For example, take the case of modernisation of the police force. The Demand shows that there has been an increased allocation for this purpose. As all of us would know, law and order is a State Subject. The Central Government has a supervisory role and it is the States which are the implementing agencies. I think it is not correct to make a sweeping statement that States are misusing the funds, or diverting the funds allocated for modernisation of police force. If there are specific complaints to this effect, then that should be brought to the notice of either the Central Government or the State Government and anybody will take corrective steps in this regard. I do not believe that there is any substance in some of the allegations that are being made in this respect.

Sir, next I would come to border management. I think the steps that are being taken for border management is on good footing. But here I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Home Minister about

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

certain instances that took place in the Indo-Bangladesh border. Only yesterday the local TV channels had reported that the BDR Rifles were opposing border fencing construction in Assam Bangladesh border. I think we need to take strong steps in this regard. It is a fact that border fencing has to be given due priority because border fencing alone can help prevent further infiltration of people from Bangladesh into the North-Eastern States.

One good thing that has happened is that people are responding well to the disaster management aspect, an initiative taken by the Central Government. This is a new initiative. We have seen people going from the Central Home Ministry and looking into disaster management aspects and enlightening people, educating people on how to take necessary steps in emergency situations like earthquakes, Tsunami and even floods. I think, more attention should be paid to this aspect and this should be developed as a full-fledged Ministry.

Sir, I am happy about the fact that more allocation has been given to the Union Territories. Demand Nos. 95, 96, 97, 98 and 99 shows the allocations given to the Union Territories and their allocations have been increased a little. I think, it should be increased further because the Union Territories, whether be it Dadra Nagar Haveli or Andaman and Nicobar Islands, have been islands of peace and progress. It is really a very commendable thing which we tend to overlook. The Union Territories have hardly seen any of the aberrations that are taking place elsewhere. We hardly hear about crime or terrorism in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Chandigarh has been very peaceful in spite of being in a sensitive area. Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep have been islands of peace. We have to make efforts to see that they remain so.

I would like to have a word on the Narcotics Control Bureau. Drugs have been a cause of concern in at least the North-East. The flow of drugs from across the border in the North-East and the effect of drugs on the younger generation are causing concern and we feel that certain more initiatives are necessary to see that

these things do not deteriorate any further. Many stories come out in the newspapers and many people get arrested carrying illegal drugs like narcotics, ganja, etc. which come from across the border. Unfortunately, in Assam, recently we have seen even vicious murders of some of the officials who have been fighting the drug menace. I think we have to be very sympathetic to those people who have laid down their lives fighting for a terrible cause and we must increase and strengthen the forces of the Narcotics Bureau and take efforts to see that the drugs menace does not envelop the whole region.

Regarding terrorism, naturally, emphasis will have to be on terrorism. We all agree that terrorism is the greatest threat to the free world. I will say that today democracies face their greatest threat from terrorists. If we say that terrorism is an isolated expression of somebody's anger, it will be a wrong attitude. Today, terrorism has become a big business. Today, people become terrorists to espouse a cause not so much for the cause but because terrorism gives them instant money, instant clout and instant recognition and that is why, I am of the opinion that more than the terrorists, anybody who idealises terrorists, who idealises the activities of terrorists should also be treated harshly. I would say that a lot of administrative and legal provisions are needed to tackle those forces. I am not saying that some intellectuals can also be spared from that. Terrorism now is becoming a kind of big business. Terrorists operate outside, they collect money and they become a huge extortion racket. Terrorists have become something like the mafias. So, in those cases, one has to deal with them very firmly to give a message to the people, specially the youth, that terrorism can never pay. It appears that terrorism pays and unfortunately, there has been a feeling that you can become a terrorist for three or four years, collect a lot of illegal money, come back, join the mainstream by surrendering something and run a very lucrative business. I think, Sir, we must see that some of the concessions that we give the terrorists do not become the breeding grounds for future terrorists.

Sir, in this context, let me just point out one

experience I had. There was a young boy in Assam. He had just passed the higher secondary examination.

[Translation]

He told me that if he became an activist of the ULFA, he would get at least Rs. Five hundred and if he want to them with a gun he would become a very influential man in a few days and would get lakhs of rupees. I am a higher Secondary pass student and I do not get employment and I am without employment and business.

[English]

Unemployment, specially educated unemployment in the North-Eastern has also become one of the breeding grounds for terrorism. It has become some kind of an occupational incentive for the growth of terrorism. We must tackle this issue with a foresight and a lot of planning is required to deal with this menace. I would not like to take much time of the House. I would only say that even the major Opposition Party has decided not to oppose the Demands for Grants of the Home Ministry. Initially, the NDA people said so much about the weak handling of the law and order situation by the UPA Government. But today they had decided to support the Home Ministry's Demands for Grants without any rancour. The absence of the expected gun fire is a feather in the cap of our very sober and humane Home Minister. I am grateful to the House.

I once again appeal to all the hon. Members to support the Demands for Grants of the Home Ministry. Let us all untidily try to make India peaceful. Let us not try to communalise the situation because communalization is one of the biggest threats to internal security. [Translation] It becomes a great problem if a quarrel takes place among brothers in our family and to do all that our opposition parties and all other parties have a responsibility. I am citing the last example.

[English]

Yesterday my son came and confronted me on a issue. I got so angry and I got so annoyed.

[Translation]

Later on I thought that he was my son and how would I far sake him. I myself shall have to set him right.

[English]

I have to make him understand.

[Translation]

Today in the morning I called him and made him understand that he should not do like that. It was wrong.

[English]

That is also very much part of tackling anger. Be it naxalism or be it terrorism, I think our Home Minister is tackling things very well.

[Translation]

He is following the policy of carrot and stick. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Home Affairs and the UP A Government that our Government have secured our country very successfully.

[English]

With these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are having a discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Recently published facts state that the number of violent incidents have slightly come down in year 2007 in comparison to the year 2006. The issue of discussion is not that there is increase or decrease of a few incidents but the vital point is that terrorism is a colossal problem being faced by the country and it should be eliminated. It is quite obvious from the recent incidents that the terrorists are not under any psychological pressure and they strike at their will. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is present here. Mr. Narayan, the Security Advisor of the country had stated while delivering P.C. Lal Memorial lecture a few days ago

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

that I.S.I. sponsored terrorist organizations can strike India at any time. In this way, the situation is very dangerous. All of you know that we are facing a challenge on three fronts-terrorism, extremism and naxalism. As far as terrorist activities are concerned, these are being conducted not only from Pakistan but Bangladesh is also fully adding and abetting it. Bangladeshi intruders have intruded into the North-Eastern States in large numbers. In addition to it, the network of naxalism which was very limited initially has extended to 15-16 states. Prominent among such states are Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattishgarh etc. where the entire Government machinery including the police are in a state of fear. In many states, naxalites are running parallel governments. I would like to request to the Minister of Home Affairs that as far as naxalism is concerned, it cannot be solved through bullet only. The naxalites enjoy a popular support. This popular support for the naxalites needs to be weaned away from them and the only way to do so would be to expedite the pace of social justice. I would, therefore, expect you to ascertain whether neglected and backward areas got any share in national wealth and economic growth because economic and social backwardness is the main cause of naxalism.

It is a matter of great concern that whenever a terrorist incident takes place in the country the Central Government comes out with a statement and the State Governments irrespective of the party they belong to scream that it is not our responsibility. The states and the Centre utterly lack the will to fight terrorism. I must say that the Police forces should be imparted high-tech-training and we should also learn from the experience of other countries in the world. Take the example of the intelligence agencies of the United States of America and Britain. These countries have not only modernized their intelligence agencies but have made these accountable and that is the reason no terrorist organization has dared to strike there after the attack on World Trade Centre in America.

It is true that law and order is state subject. But structure of these terrorist organizations is of national

and international level. Therefore, a common mechanism needs to be evolved today. I am aware that a few days ago the honorable Minister of Home Affairs had convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers and probably this issue was discussed there but unless there is a mutual understanding between the Govt. of India and the State Governments in view of the texture of the naxalism and terrorism in present context, these circumstances cannot be dealt with. It is important that you will have to take in confidence the world community also. The U.N. Security Council have passed effective resolution on terrorism. But most of the countries have not approved the same. The Resolution had stated that the Member countries would punish such persons who give moral or economic support to the terrorist organizations but no country is taking steps in this regard and anti-terrorism conventions are not being complied with. Sometime back, we had evolved a joint mechanism with Pakistan and in that context the Government including the Prime Minister had made long speeches. It was stated that the joint mechanism would yield good results but after October 2006 when this mechanism came into existence, what purpose did it serve? Pakistan refused to hand over 11 Pakistani terrorists involved in the train blasts of Mumbai. Lately, officials of India and Bangladesh had talks over terrorism. India stated that there were 141 terrorist camps in Bangladesh and sought cooperation of the Government of Bangladesh but the Government of Bangladesh did not render desired cooperation. I would also like to point out that we share a 4096 kilometre long border with Bangladesh and only 67% of the border is fenced. The rest of the border does not have this. How serious the problem is that India has lost only 8023 lives in the wars it has fought since independence and terrorism has claimed 71000 lives in India during the last two decades. The Sorabji Committee on Sep. 22, 2006 had drafted the blue print of an Act on Police reforms. The Minister of Home Affairs had a meeting with the Chief Ministers. There was an agreement over framing a new police Act. I am not aware of the progress made in this regard till now. It is my humble request to you to apprise us in this regard while replying to the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That has not been agreed to.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request you to again have a talk about this if no consensus has been reached after convening a meeting once as it is a very serious matter. If today, the State Government don't give their required co-operation to the Union Government, its result will not at all be good. These terrorists have intruded in the Share Market. Your security advisor says so. It is also to be seen by you as to how the things could be set right. As I have already said, contradictory statements are found to be coming from wherever such incidents take place. It's a strange drama. I am not talking of the Union Govt. and the State Govts. Raza Singh Rawatji is sitting here. When terrorist attack took place at the Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Dargah in Ajmer Sharif, even the statements of the State's Home Minister and the Chief Minister differed. Home Minister of Rajasthan says that he was aware of it all but he could not help it. Such type of the contradiction of statements should be stopped with immediate effect.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, the hon'ble Minister would tell, while giving reply, that it was said at that time that it was the handiwork of the foreign terrorists...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rawatji, you please give your reply only when you are allowed to speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The incidents took place at two places in Hyderabad on 25th August. The Home Minister also made the statement that he was aware of that but unluckily, nothing could be done to prevent that. The Government has to come out of this hapless and dismal situation.

At last, I would like to humbly submit through you that I am happy that after partition, the Muslims of India did not vote for the party claiming to be representative of the Muslims or appealing in the name of the Muslim. I am very glad and satisfied about that. They had their faith in the non muslim-led organization. I wish even a single terrorist should not be born in the country. But their faith is shaken by the incidents that took place in

Babri Masjid and what happened with the Muslim in Gujarat. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it's a very dangerous tendency and when even a common Indian muslim is doubted, he is treated as secondary citizen resulting into loss of their faith.

Mr. Chairman, today, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister through you that some stringent steps are needed to be taken in this regard. I once again urge upon you that the practice of beating their own trumpet by the State Govts. as well as the Union Government should be stopped. A strategy should be evolved which would enable the country to overcome this problem...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Choubeyji, you please take your seat.

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as he has directly levelled the charge that Muslims are losing their faith, I would like to ask as to who has said that Muslims are losing their faith and why. How are they weak and in what way they don't have any share in the country...(Interruptions).

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Choubeyji, you are my old colleague...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mutual conversation is not written down. Choubeyj, you please speak when you are allowed to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): It is not the way interrupt and speak like this (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: You are speaking without permission, none of your words is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Kolkata—North East) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion is being held here on the provision for the Ministry of Home Affairs in the budget as well as

*Not recorded.

[Md. Salim]

their functioning. It is not only in this session, rather in the last session also, the discussion had been held several times on the internal security in the Lok Sabha. But when we discuss about the Ministry of Home Affairs, there are many issues involved therein. I have already spoken on the internal security. I think some other issues should also be highlighted on this occasion. The Mandate of the Ministry of Home Affairs contains two mandates and is the maintenance of communal harmony and promotion of national integration and the second is providing relief and rehabilitation to refugees and displaced persons'. There are several issues which mostly do not surface. If I find time, I shall speak on those issues too. This time, I have seen a provision of rupees 29820.99 crore in the Demands for Grants i.e. a provision of approx. 30 thousand crores has been made in this budget. This time, it has been increased. I find a continuous increase in it. It is 3.97 per cent of the total Union Budget which is nearly four per cent. It is more than what we spend on education and health. Day by day, such type of incidents are increasing. Therefore, nobody can deny this, but, is there only this way out left? The Government is paying attention to the strategic question of our security. But there are several issues which are non-strategic and pertain to security. If we look at countries all over the world, we shall find that the sense of insecurity and feeling of war is not as much in border areas.

Today, the technology has gone high-tech, politics has become very complex and the situation in the world has become complicated.

15.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, nowadays wars do not take place on borders, rather they take place within the country. Iraq and Afghanistan could not do anything by protecting borders. Incidents of bomb blasts, insecurity, terrorist attacks and Maoist activities are noticed in the country. There is militancy in north-east and Kashmir. A Congress member of treasury bench was just saying that youth are getting recruited in the ULFA because they are getting money for that. They are not able to make both their ends meet, they are unemployed.

[English]

These are non-strategic aspects of our security prelated issues.

[Translation]

I had this expectation from the UPA Government. In the Common Minimum Programme document also, it was written that they would give emphasis on this issue. It will be very beneficial for us in the long run. Otherwise, the bomb blasts would be taking place and we would be talking of the post-blast situation, statements would be made, the Cabinet would also visit and the enquiry would also be going on. Blame-game would also continue. You should try to stop such things. But, after the bomb blasts; we would be saying that we would strengthen the intelligence more. In every case, we say that we would further strengthen the intelligence.

Sir, bomb blasts took place in Ludhiana. The Central Government attributed these blasts to the failure of intelligence service in the State Government. The State Government blamed the Union Government for not giving them the exact information in this regard. The Union Govt. did not give the State the exact information related to intelligence and there was no security lapse on the part of the State. I am not going into this blame but the fact is that the civilians are dying.

Sir, as per the figures made available by the Government, terrorism-related incidents have reduced in Jammu and Kashmir during the last year and it is a fact. It is the success of the Govt. If we have a look at these incidents, we would find that number of such incidents in Jammu and Kashmir has reduced as compared to past years. Also, the number of attacks on civilians or losses suffered by them have reduced but are still occurring. Sir, such incidents are harmful whether these are in the North East, Maoist infested areas or in Jammu and Kashmir. Civilians are the ultimate sufferers due to terrorist attacks and bomb blasts. The figures indicate that I mostly civilians killed. Of course, it is also a fact that some terrorists, Maoists and soldiers of our security forces are also being killed. If you look at the casualties, innocent people top the

list. So, it is a two sided loss. On the one hand civilians are becoming victims due to inadequate security measures and on the other it is again the common man who has to suffer losses directly and indirectly as a result of counter insurgency measures taken in the name of security.

Sir, as we are running short of time, I would like to submit without going into depth that if we do not secure our food security, our Shelters, housing, our rural-urban infrasturature, drinking water, our river waters etc. we shall not be able to secure our country of 110 crore people only through security measures. You might have seen that France is a developed country but a few days ago how unemployed people agitated and set vehicles on fire thae. Therefore, we understand that the concept of inclusive growth and allround development will have to be brought into the security mechanism as well. We need to evolve inclusive environment rather than exclusive one. If we fail to do so we would not be able to instill a sense of security despite spending even 40% of our budget on defence instead of the pre cent 4%.

Allocation for police modernization has been increased. It is also requirement of the hour but we observe from the Report of our Standing Committee where do we put emphasis, whether it is a matter of border area development or that of police modernization. Today, in the morning there was a report on border areas that a bridge on Kooch-Bihar border is in dilapidated condition and it is to be reconstructed but the Standing Committee say in their report of the current year that the funds meant for the development of border areas are being spent at some places on developing parks and gardens. We need to fix priority. We shall have to think whether we should give priority to develop connectivity with the people of border areas and to construct roads and bridges for their development or we would give priority to develop parks in the vicinity of our camps? These are of course necessary but priority and non-priority should also be taken into account.

Sir, I start from the border itself. Recently electios were held in Tripura. We observed from the election campaign spearheaded by Members of Union Cabinet

as well as the tongress party that they were blaming the state government because there is considerable pressure on the land. There is same situation in Bengal, Punjab, Assam so far as border fencing is concerned where we had to raise fencing away from the zero level. It is the policy of the country. Election to the State Assembly were in progress there and people said that since we are Member of Parliament, kindly clarify this position as people are alleging that so much area of land has gone under control of Bangladesh due to the misdeeds of the State Government and the C.B.M. and fencing has been done on this side. They were saying that they would shift the fencing to the zero level if they were voted to power. I, cited this as an example of competitive politics. There are millions of farmers in Punjab, Assam, Tripura and West Bengal who have to grapple with the problem of closed gates. Their lands lie across the border. Women cannot venture there a there is no provision for ladies' frisking there. There are no female police constables in the B.S.F. So many problems of this kind exist in border areas. Earlier, this problem was not there but it is happening ever since fencing has been done there but fencing is also a must. We shall have to see as to what steps have been taken by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs to bring that to the zero level. The Government of India themselves will have to shoulder this responsibility. Whenever there are elections in Punjab the Government of Punjab will be blamed. Similarly the Government of Tripura will be blamed when election will be held there. But it is a policy on all India level which we cannot avoid.

Thirdly, we need to promote border trade. The Prime Minister has also stated this. This is South Asian Economy. We are corrupting the B.S.F. by not doing so. We are posting our military still smuggling is continuing. The tax which was supposed to come to the Government exchequer is being paid unofficially. It is leading to insecurity in the border areas. Chieftains and smuggling gangs are emerging. Apart from it, you are corrupting even those officials who are being posted there. It would be better if local markets of border area given preference and are legalize? You are declaring some commodities as free trade and withdrawing some

[Md. Salim]

commodities from the negative list. It will be better to have a border trade and local people will also be benefited.

Sir, earlier communism was being talked about and before me an hon'ble member was saying that we indulge in blame game. In our country the incident of Ayodhya had occurred in 1992 and the Babri Mosque was demolished. The Librahan Commission was then constituted to go into it. We never saw such a lingering Commission. In 1992 Shri Narsimha Raoji was the Prime Minister. Around half a dozen Prime Ministers and Home Ministers have followed him but the one-man commission is still continuing. Last year when I had stated in this very House that despite giving frequent extension to this commission it has not reached any conclusion and it should be its last extension, the Minister of Home Affairs had frowned upon me. I do not have any document with me otherwise I would have quoted. He had stated that these people do not understand them but it would be last extension and there would be no further extension. Approximately Rs. 8 crore have been spent on this one commission during the last 16 years but we still are not aware of the progress made in the case of Ayodhya. The persons who hatched conspiracy have been exempted in the case. I am not saying it alone, Uma Bharatiji has also stated it. She has stated that the issue of 'Ram Yatra' and construction of 'Ram Mandir' was a matter of sentiment for them. It was not sentiment but politics for her erstwhile leader and our present leader of Opposition. Doesn't the Government which has been formed in the name of secularism, owe any responsibility if it smacked of political conspiracy? The Government have completed four years in office and it should have exposed as to what was the political conspiracy? Who were its masterminds? Gujarats incidents are only an after-effect. Similarly in case of Gujarat we had demanded from the very beginning that as we have formed the Government in the name of communal harmony and secularism, all the serious cases which cannot be decided in Gujarat should be transferred to the C.B.I. and the Supreme Court of India, as has been recommended by the Human Rights

Commission, Supreme Court and the Tribunal. It was our long standing demand and we found in the budget that budget provision for compensation to Gujarat was increased last year. It was announced that the riot victims of Gujarat would be compensated on the lines of anti Sikh riot victims of 1984. It was stated in the Budget that funds had been increased. It has also been stated in the Report of Standing Committee that the objective of increase in Budget allocation was to compensate the riot victims of Gujarat but even today riot victims of Gujarat are lying at road side and by the side of dumping ground. Mistriji was with me and we went there and personally saw conditions are they living in. Nothing is being implemented there (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Take out Nandigram that would be taken out. The government came to power twice in Gujarat. ..."

MD. SALIM: ...* The issue about which I am not speaking why is she speaking about it therein?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Salimji, you please address the Chair.

MD. SALIM: That's why it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Shri ShriPrakash Jaiswalji, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, announced that we would grant compensation, on the lines of SE-4 but the same has not been implemented so far. While holding discussions on this budget, we will have to take into account the Governments announcement an its intention and provisions and achievements so far. If the Government of Gujrat doesn't do anything in this regard, what are you doing to have a delivery mechanism to implement the same. A commission was appointed in case of Gujarat, that commission is still working. You know the seat of the judge got vacant there. I don't want to name the judge who was subsequently nominated there. But it was shown in the operation Tahalka, operation Kalank that those who had themselves indulged

*Not recorded.

in the activities of sabotage and killing were happily saying that the previous judge had not granted them bail whereas, the present one had granted the same to them. Those people, in a way, were giving a certificate of goodness to this nominated judge. That judge took up the case of the persons who were well known and related to him. You are allowing a person who is with the murderers, to dispense judgement and do the justice. What is the Central Government doing? It is not the State Assembly. Though it is a State Assembly. Though it is a State subject, the responsibility to preserve the communal harmony lies with both the Central Government and the Parliament. The Government has failed in this matter.

It was promised in the Common Minimum Programme that a comprehensive Bill to prevent communal violence would be introduced. The same has not been introduced so far. I disapprove of the draft of the said Bill. It defeats the very purpose of the Bill. The Bill needs to be introduced undertaking the process of dialogues and consensus. For this, an initiative needs to be taken, consensus needs to be made. Besides, discussions should be held with the UPA Government and its supporting parties, anti-communal people fighting against the riots and the affected people. I don't think that any discussion is going on about this point, but that too is very necessary.

Sir, points also came up regarding series of blasts. During the discussion on the internal security I said that undoubtedly, it was going on at international level and our country was no exception to it and we were its victims. I am not imploring for those resorting to the path of terrorism and militancy, but the attempt to target a particular religious community in the name of the U.S.-sponsored war against terrorism i.e. the war against Islam all over the world is not right, it is wrong. The mindset behind this attempt is wrong and has proved wrong. There was no terrorism in Iraq, but it was created there. When Brajesh Mishraji accompanied the then Prime Minister to America, he, in the meeting of the Lobby of Gionist there said that the U.S.-India-Israel would fight against terrorism unitedly. This idea still exists in our country even after the UPA Government

has come to power and this matter is going on as per that idea itself.

I would like to tell about a matter pertaining to Tamil Nadu. Serial blasts take place there, the Govt. says something about that and statements are made. The Tamil Nadu police enquired into the matter. It was published in the newspapers about the bomb blasts in Tenkashi that these blasts were the handiwork of the Muslim militants while three leaders of the RSS were reported involved in the matter and detained, the bomb blast took place even in the office of the RSS and an investigation team at the DIG level was constituted. Investigation was carried out and those three persons were detained. All the three confessed. You know Tenkashi is termed as the 'KASHI' of the south. The Kashi Vishwanath temple is situated there. They told that a high level conspiracy was hatched. They were deployed and trained and thereafter were made to cause bomb blast in their office itself, so that Hindu-Muslim ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): How is the RSS related to this?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Where from did you get this information ?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: I read out the investigation report. The case is subjudice. ...*(Interruptions)*

Be brave enough to hear the truth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Uproar will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Salim sahid, your time to speak is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Where have you got this report from?...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: If you listen you would come to know. You don't go through...(Interruptions) Sir, he wants to hear, he should know...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: But now, your time to speak is going to be over.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: You read the newspaper, but I don't.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude your speech.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MD. SALIM: You would not understand.(Interruptions) I am quoting a Special Police Team led by Deputy-Inspector General of Police, Tirunelveli Range has arrested three persons in connection with the Tenkasi RSS Office bomb blast case."(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You tell us as to where did you get this information...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: He does not want to listen to it. Sir, Should I lay it on the Table of the House?(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can't lay it. You now conclude please, your time to speak is over.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: It is his chronic habit that whenever there is something to be disclosed against him, he is not ready to listen to that...(Interruptions) I have not one case, but many. He is conspiring here also. He doesn't want me to speak.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please speak.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM : Similarly, in Nanded, Parbani in Maharashtra...(Interruptions) could I lay it.(Interruptions) It is the report by the I.G. of Tamil Nadu Police.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time to speak is going to be over.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Chaiman, Sir, please ask him as to where did he get this information(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: Please sit down. There are certain things, which you would not understand...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, he is disturbing him; this is not fair.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mistry, Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Uproar is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: Sir, he is suppressing my right to speak...(Interruptions) I am saying that it is the report by the Tamilnadu Police. What more do you want(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We know your ideology...(Interruptions) I am challenging you. Where did you get this information...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: You sit down first.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This all will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MD. SALIM: O.K., if you challenge like this, I challenge Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to call for a report of investigation carried out by DIG, Tamil Nadu Police Shri Kanappa regarding Tenkashi Blast from State Government of Tamil Nadu and present it in the House. Then, he will know the facts...(Interruptions). Report can be sought from the State Government

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put forth your point, don't blame others.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MD. SALIM: That is not fair. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MD. SALIM: (Interruptions)..."

I beg your pardon, Sir...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer):
...(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: I would like to read out another report.

[English]

This is despite the revelation during narco analysis of the accused that the Rashtriya Swamsewak Sangh
...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should not raise the matter

of interrogation of any accused before this House. If you have any authentic documents, then you give its reference.

MD. SALIM: All right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can't discuss every interrogation here.

MD. SALIM: Sir, it is DIG's report regarding Tenkashi bomb blast case. I have challenged, the Minister of Home Affairs should call for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You challenged and Minister of Home Affairs will reply to it. The matter ends there.

MD. SALIM: Second article is by Jyoti Munnai, published in Times of India dated 22 October, 2007. This is a different article. This is regarding Nanded. I would like to read it out.

[English]

Sir, I will quote.

[Translation]

SH. KHARABELA SWAIN: If some one has written an article on any matter, it does not mean that what he has written is authentic.

[English]

MD. SALIM: Sir, you control him.

[Translation]

Do I have the right to read out something in House or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They want that you should react like this. You just put your views.

[English]

MD. SALIM: "This is despite the revelation during narco-analysis of this accused." ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Salim, this is not right. This

[Mr. Chairman]

is not as per rules. You can't present any interrogation here.

[English]

MD. SALIM: I am quoting an article.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. If Minister of Home Affairs wants to reply, he will give reply later.

MD. SALIM: O.K., I will not quote from Newspaper, but I think there is no restriction in making a speech.

Sir, some accused were apprehended while making bomb in Nanded. There was an explosion and Maharashtra police apprehended them. From the Narco analysis test conducted on them it was revealed that they were the members of RSS and they had taken training from RSS...*(Interruptions)*. Before this incident, there was another bomb blast in the last month of February. There have been three cases of blast in Maharashtra in which persons from RSS were involved. In this article, it has been pointed out that Ministry for Home Affairs, Intelligence set-up and Maharashtra Police, all are having one sided approach to the matter. There are some Islamic Terrorist Forces also and there are different types of gangs operating. Besides bomb blasts have taken place at different places but if we are having pre conceived notion on some matter, our approach will be one sided. Therefore, we say that the Government and security forces both should investigate these incidents with open mind. In last 11 years, there have been many incidents of bomb blasts in our country and different organizations and different persons were involved in these blasts but till date we have not been able to apprehend master mind behind blast in any of these incidents. Which ever party might have been in power, no master mind has been arrested from the year 1998 to 2008. For example, we have the case of 1993 bomb blasts in which masterminds of incident, Tiger Menon, Daud Ibrahim both are living safely outside the

country. They have not been arrested even after 15 years. Therefore, I want to say that whenever an incident of bomb blast takes place, it reflects the loophole in our intelligence gathering, and if the culprits are not apprehended after the incident, it shows our weakness. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, your time is over. Please conclude.

MD. SALIM: To give a sense of security to the citizens of this country. I want to submit that Government should take every precautions with regard to such incidents because after every blast any Minister can say that a call was made on mobile phone and Commissioner of Police can give a statement in Press Conference that such and such organization is behind it and that the Police are tracking it and but after that we find nothing concrete about the case. The citizens of this country have every right to know who is killing the innocent people, how and why.

Regarding refugees, I would like to say something. Internal refugees, Kashmiri Pandits were forced to leave Kashmir valley and even today Jammu and Kashmir Government make a claim that terrorist activities are under control and there is an atmosphere of peace; Confidence building measures are being taken, but if the persons who are natives of Kashmir living in Delhi, don't return there and use their properties, it is the responsibility of Union Government to redress their problems. There are some refugees also in Jammu, who came from Western Pakistan in the year 1947, 1965 or 1971 during wars. Their number is in thousands but they are neither citizens of any country, nor they have any rights. Their problem is still unsolved, only politics has been done in this matter. Neither the NDA Government nor the UPA Government or earlier Congress Government have done anything for them, the state Government are also ignoring their problem. It is a human tragedy. I myself visited their camps. They are stateless citizens in our country. It is also against our approach towards the refugees and International Convention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude your speech.

MD. SALIM: Mr. Chairman, Sir I am going to conclude my speech. The last thing I want to say that the menace posed by the maoist has been widely discussed. They are spreading the extremism in left wing. It comes from Bengal, we have a big pressure from Jharkhand and Chattisgarh, they hit and run. It is said their people are hired, rather they are well organized, well. They have a revolutionary outfit. They arrested their Secretary who has explained how they recruit, what is their network. As such this crime syndicate is expanding.

Several incidents are taking place in Delhi and Noida and in other cities also daily. If you look at the crime records you will find that it has now become high-tech and well organized and also it has a huge network now. So, it is not right to say that security is a subject of State and it is the responsibility of the State. There should be sharing of information to tackle the interstate crime syndicate. Recently, Brajesh Singh of Uttar Pradesh was caught in Orissa. He was running a syndicate there for the last 30 years. He is now in a jail in Delhi. He was also operating in Bengal. He had killed a sitting MLA there. They operate like this only. Our intelligence deptt. and Ministry of Home Affairs also need to have an active networking to tackle their network. Ministry of Home Affairs is also responsible for Centre-State relationship. When UPA Government came into power, we were committed to strengthen the Centre-State relationship. Before this, Sarkaria Commission also said the same thing. It has been a long time since then. Later new Commission were constituted but they haven't submitted their reports till date. Our federal structure is being attacked and it is taking place in the name of reforms and decision of the Government. It is a serious matter. As Ministry of Home Affairs looks after this, it should make efforts to maintain the relations between the Centre and the State and to keep the federal structure of our country intact.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Home Affairs which is being discussed in this supreme House today. In order to know

about the decision taken by the Union Govt. to strengthen the internal security of the country, the department has provided us, all the Members [*English*] status paper on internal security situation.

[*Translation*]

I won't go into the details as everything has been mentioned here. A lot of information has been given in the [*English*] status paper on naxal activities.

[*Translation*]

I would like to say few words on the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2008-09.

I would like to discuss the steps taken by the Government for the internal security of the country and how far these have been successful at the ground level. Many other Hon'ble members have already discussed the problem. But I think, its causes and solution should also be discussed and therefore, I would like to pay attention towards this matter. All the issues of extremism, naxalite violence or terrorism prevailing in the country or the religious, fundamentalist forces trying to disrupt the peace, brotherhood, harmony and national integrity of the country by spreading communal violence and instigating riots in the country and thus trying to divide the country in the name of religion to come to the power, are related to the internal security of the country. Until communal harmony is strengthened there will be no internal security in the country. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain the same. Let's take the example of Assam. I don't want to discuss any particular state but with the permission of the Chair such issues of extremist violence perpetrated by Ufa or any other group in Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam and Nagaland in North-East have been discussed here as special mentions. Sometime back 12 Hindi speaking labourers were killed in Assam. Thereafter, 4 Hindi speaking labourers were burnt alive in Meghalaya. Later on, when it was discussed, Ufa extremists were found to be involved in it. Union Government was also said to have initiated a special campaign to stop this massacre, but it continued. This is very strange.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

But why this is continuing relentlessly. The massacre of Hindi speaking labourers is continued, why it is not stopping or ceasing? The violence is taking place in Assam every two-three months in the name of region, language or against the Hindi speaking people. Who are the people behind these violent incidents. Whether they are of Ulfa or from any other terrorist organization, the series of continuous attacks, murder and massacre is ongoing in Assam. In these attacks, sometimes Ulfa terrorists and sometimes a group of Dinshaw extremists called Black-Widow are carrying out these massacres. For the last few years, labourers and tribals of Bihar, Bengal, Rajasthan and Jharkhand are being attacked and murdered in Assam. What initiatives are being taken by the State Government. I think, it is a matter of concern for the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs and he should think about it. With your permission, I would like to cite an example of the Judicial Enquiry Commission constituted by the Assam Govt. The Judicial Enquiry Commission says about the recent elections in Assam as follows:

[English]

...The last Assembly election could be held without any disturbance, thanks to the cooperation of the local banned outfits.... "

[Translation]

Look at the language used by the Judicial Commission? Isn't it encouraging for Ulfa. You can see how an extremist organization is being encouraged. The State Government constitutes a Judicial Commission which encourages them, thanks them for not causing much disturbance in the election. Commission should also thank them for killing the Hindi speaking people. It is very unfortunate that it has been said by the Judiciary Committee headed by Justice K.N. Saikia. I mentioned this to convey to the Hon'ble Home Minister to think about the matter. This should be monitored at your level. Why the campaigns initiated at the Central level and the forces sent from the Centre are not effective. Why these continued activities of violence are not stopping?

Why the massacre of Hindi speaking people is not stopping? If there is some fault in joint operation or in regular monitoring, it should be reviewed.

Secondly, the naxal violence is increasing incessantly from Pashupati to Tirupati and when the Hon'ble Member discussed about the Red-corridor, he interpreted it in some other way. I do not agree with him and that is why I want to put forward my views. Nepal is our friend and we have cultural ties and relations in all spheres with it. For years we are having social and cultural relations with Nepal. The changes which are taking place in the polity of Nepal today have been brought through the public mandate given in the elections. So, if any fundamentalist ideology does not accept this change it doesn't mean that India won't give importance to it. If democracy is revived in any country of the world India will have to support it and it should be like that only. India will always be in support of the people wanting independence whether their ideologies match with ours or not. New Government is being formed in Nepal and we hope that it will take care of Madhesis and common people there and will bring peace in the country. Whenever the Government is formed, it will be under a constitutional frame made by the constitutional body. We believe that all these facts will be mentioned in the Constitution and a democratic Government will be formed on these lines. We also hope that relations with India will be strengthened and become permanent and also there will be more support. The people subscribing to extrivist ideology don't tolerate even those who have come as public representatives after winning elections and in the process they even go against the democratic process due to their ideological differences. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very peculiar situation. This is an apex House. Here Government is formed through democratic process. The citizens of Nepal have right to form a Government through voting. I think, such debates will continue in democracy but such things are being said about an elected Government, this is not good.

As far as naxal violence is concerned, be it in Chhattisgarh or Bihar, be it in West Bengal or Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tirupati,

I want to make a submission in this regard that when I was going through the status paper of the year 2007, it has been stated there that tribals will have right over forest and water. The Act passed one year back in this regard has no rules framed thereon till date. When the hon. Minister gives his reply then I think he will update us. When rules will be framed then only it can be implemented. Naxal activities cannot be checked only by modernization of police force or by the use of guns. This is my belief and I want to say this thing categorically. When a BPL family is given only twenty rupees for food, this is not my personal view but has been revealed by a report of survey done by NSS, then what will happen in the country? The youth of the country will be directionless and they will move towards violence. As long as economic inequalities are there, naxalism will continue to flourish. There are backward areas, tribal areas and remote areas where light of development has not reached even after sixty years of independence, if you want to curb naxalism there, it is necessary to remove economic inequalities. Concrete actions have to be taken for alleviation of their poverty. It is a good thing that rules about tribals, water and forest are being framed, it will give tribals their rights and pave the way for their development.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, two percent people of this country travel above 35,000 feet in the sky. In ancient times, rich people used to sit on elephant. A five feet tall person used to travel at the height of 15-16 feet. The gap between a rich and a poor person used to be from 5 to 16-17 feet. But that gap has increased to 35000 feet. Economic disparity has grown manifold therefore, people are getting inclined towards violence and arms. I accept that everybody cannot be equal, but equality to the maximum possible extent can be achieved. You know that Dr. Lohia had said that everybody cannot be equal but possible equality can be achieved. Live and let live should be the motto but today naxalists who subscribe to ideology of not let live are larger in numbers. They do not let the development works to be carried out in the areas. Naxalist activities hinder the development works. The Government has taken initiatives on many occasions for the development of naxal infested areas by providing funds and

additional assistance but so far we have not been successful.

Sir, now I want to speak on the last point. The internal security is threatened not by terrorist activities or naxalist activities alone but I want to state clearly that fundamentalist forces, bent upon destabilizing the country, and weakening the bonds of fraternity and secular fabric of the country, do also pose a very big threat to the internal security of the country. I think that fundamentalist who want to damage the communal harmony are as dangerous for the country as terrorism is, because riots claim innocent lives. Internal security faces threat from terrorism, communal discords and the country is also weakened by fundamentalist ideology. Our country cannot be debilitated by external aggression because our country is strong and we can fight at border since we have military power and security forces but when riots and communalism debilitate brotherhood and communal harmony of the country then the country is under severe threat. The hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had said that a Bill will be introduced to check it. Nothing will happen by mere introduction of a Bill, for that you need will power also. The Union Government should have power to send their own agency and look into the matter by amending Article 355. The Union Government should have powers to contain such elements wherever in the country they are active. As per existing arrangement of Centre and State relation, Centre has to take consent of State under the Article 355 of the Constitution of India. Stringest action should be taken against those who weaken the internal security of the country, the fundamentalist forces who strike at unity and integrity of the country. What happened in Maharashtra, free hand was given there to strike at unity and integrity of the country. Will they be given free hand? No compromise should be made with regard to unity and integrity of the country. Such states should be identified through amendment in Article 355 in order to maintain it. Government should have power to send central security forces to districts and there should be no need to take permission from states for a CBI inquiry. It is the responsibility of the Union Government to safeguard the unity and integrity of the country, protect the life and property of citizens of India.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

Law and order may remain a state subject but the Union Government should have powers to intervene in special situation. The Union Government should acquire this power by bringing an amendment to the Article 355 in this House. Then only internal security could be secured and people of the country can live with peace. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to stand here to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2008-09. The Ministry, of course, deals with lot many subjects starting from internal security to disaster management. As internal security is one of the major concerns of our country and citizens, I would delve into it.

Every Indian today is asking why terrorism is rearing its head in our country. What is the Government's answer? Are terrorists coming from abroad? Who are the locals who are helping them? Why are they helping them? My answer to these questions is that there is very little fear of law.

A United Nation confidential report has punched holes in India's anti-terrorism preparedness. In their first ever scrutiny of everything from national law to border check posts, to judiciary, to banks, to police work and to passports, the report of Counter Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council is a slanging indictment of how the country's counter-terrorism structures are in disarray.

This Report was given to the Government in July. When terrorism in India, according to some estimates, has claimed 90,000 lives over the year, delegates have found that the country's laws on terrorist financing did not fully comply with the UN Resolution 1373 adopted after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. This is a serious indictment on this Government.

Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the Government has set up a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) in March, 2006. the FIU sifts through hundreds of

thousands of cash transaction reports and receives details of suspicious transactions. But has the Unit been fully staffed? Do they get adequate support from other domestic law enforcement agencies? The Report says that there are no comprehensive strategies in place to prevent terrorist organisations getting financial support. The United Nation's Report further states that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has developed measures to protect the financial system from being used to fund terrorism. However, when counter-terrorism cases are not dealt with by Judges who specialise in this field, the problems before the nation are that we have a soft law, slow mechanism to counter terror and chaos in the courts. What has stopped the Government to have stringent laws, strict law enforcing agencies and an alert and vibrant judicial mechanism, which can only create fear in the mind of the terrorists and those who have a soft corner for them. Unless fear is there for law, how can the Government put a stop to it?

The Home Minister has tried to wake up States to the new age challenges of policing. Terrorists and criminals are playing smart and using technology to their advantage. Sophisticated weapons and devices are being used by terrorists. Some months ago, the National Security Advisor had underlined the rising threat of misuse of legitimate financial enterprises and channels to fund terrorist activities. He had admitted that stock exchanges on occasions been reported fictitious or notional companies engaging in stock market operations. Terror-market link is a serious worry. The Finance Minister has confirmed it. Saudi businessman, linked to Osama Bin Laden is suspected of having made investments in our financial markets through Participatory Notes. What is the Government doing? Is the Home Ministry taking cognizance of this?

India is now surrounded by a number of failed States. According to the recently published Failed States Index, Pakistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, in that order, are among the 25 most unstable States in the world. There are also nurseries of terror. If we had to check incidents of terrorism within our borders, we have to cast aside our obsessions with Pakistan alone, and engage constructively with all our

neighbours, especially Bangladesh. Political vacuum has meant that terrorist groups are mushrooming for some years in that country. Analyses have linked the growth of militant groups to the rising number of Madrasas, which are mainly funded by Saudi money. What is happening in India is causing grave concern.

There are three issues which I would like to elaborate upon—naxalism, insurgency and international terrorism, which are the three major threats to our country. Naxalism is attributed to social disorder; terrorism on account of misplaced ideology; and insurgency is perceived as the result of lack of development.

Governments at different levels are battling on all three fronts with not much success as the increasing attacks show. What is the remedy? International terrorism needs to be tackled with better diplomatic coordination and cooperation with the neighbours. More money may be spent on countering terrorism and on training people to tackle the terrorists. If after 9/11 the United States has set up a Homeland Security with vast powers and has been able to keep the terrorists at bay why can we not do it?

There have been discussions on TADA and POTA. These two stringent laws have hurt the innocents and were not successful in neutralising the terrorism, no doubt, but there is no flaw in the law. It is our inability to enforce it which was compounded by lack of coordination across security agencies that gave rise to mishandling. There was no redressal mechanism but some States have started enforcing such stringent laws in their States respectively. Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are the two such States. But the UPA Government thinks otherwise.

I, now come to the most shocking aspect. Today, one in six Indians or about 180 million people—thrice the United Kingdom's population—live under the shadow of insurgency. And, Maoists have an influence in a fifth of the country's 600 odd districts. Recently, it has come to light that naxalite-Maoist-sponsored Terror Inc's rogue chest is loaded with Rs. 1000 crore. The Minister may corroborate it or not but un-confirmed intelligence agency's estimates put forth that Bihar is contributing

Rs. 200 crore; Chhattisgarh, Rs. 150 crore and mineral rich Jharkhand contributes even bigger. How much Andhra and Orissa contribute, I do not know. How much the Government is disbursing to the States for police modernisation?

When the Annual Budget of naxalites is Rs. 1000 crore, is it not an obvious source of worry? Is it true that on interrogation some arrested urban supporters of Maoists have thrown light on an aborted bid to buy AK 47 from Australian dealers and have them illegally shipped to India via Malaysia? I would like to know whether the West Bengal police have confirmed the despatch of an Arms consignment from North-East via West Bengal. A hard look at the terrorists, strikes and the question whether the Intelligence Bureau warning was acted upon are relevant not so much for fixing the blame as for the pointers they throw up for the corrective actions required. The focus must shift to the ways of preventing such tragedies and should they occur, responding to them.

We have an under-equipped, under-trained, under-motivated and under-resourced police force. I went through the Annual Report published by this Government which has given the total authorised tentative strength State-wise and the actual position/strength of police force in different States. I would give the total. The total is 3886; that is the authorised strength whereas the position strength is 3234 and in certain States where insurgency, Maoists or terrorists activities are taking place, there the personnel is quite less.

The all India rate of conviction of crimes—recorded and prosecuted—still hovers around a pathetic 6 to 8 per cent. Is it this pathology of system which led to recrudescence of popular violence? The ratio of police personnel to the total area served is very poor and varies from State to State. The all India ratio stands at 42 per 100 square kilometres with one policeman for 728 people. Around 6.5 lakh villages being policed by only 13,000 police stations. There is, therefore, an urgent need to correct not only the police-population ratio but also train police which could respond to contemporary challenges and demands by the positive value of police service. There has been a mid-term evaluation of the

[Shri B. Mahtab]

Modernisation of State Police Force Scheme by BPRND. It is marked that more than 50 per cent of the fund is utilised in the police housing and police building activities. There is a need, therefore, for technology upgradation. Differentiate between these two when bulk of money goes to the State, more than 50 per cent of the money is invested in construction activity. I am given to understand that a comprehensive composite proposal has been forwarded to the Planning Commission. This project is called CIP A which would deal with crime registration, investigation and prosecution modules which is to be linked through 54 3 broad-band CDMA V-SAT network. This CIPA scheme is a path breaking initiative in networking the entire policing system of the country. No doubt this will bring a perceptible change in the police-public interface. Therefore, there is a need to emphasise on the attitude and behaviour of the police personnel.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would now deal with the National Disaster Management Authority. I am constrained to state here that this Government is yet to formulate a national policy on disaster management. It was in 2005 the National Disaster Management Act was enforced. If a draft policy has been prepared by the National Disaster Management Authority, then finalize it at the earliest. It is unfortunate that the constitution of National Disaster Respond Fund is still at consultation stage, even though the Act came into force in 2005. Why is this undue delay? Is it because of the Ministry of Finance or the Planning Commission or something else? We are informed that the Government has taken up the implementation of pilot project for preparing a national register of Indian citizens and the issue of multi-purpose national identity card. At the same time, you have another unique identity number scheme. That is being done by the Ministry of Information Technology.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, that is enough.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I will conclude by saying this.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over and now you may conclude. You can lay the rest of your speech.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, these are the points. Should I continue?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It would like you to conclude because so many hon'ble Members are yet to speak and the time is limited.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: This unique identity number scheme deals with PDS and BPL scheme. Is it true that a Group of Ministers has been constituted to see how the MNIC scheme and DID scheme can be converged? Why do you have this type of ad hocism? The MNIC was launched on pilot basis prior to the announcement of DID scheme. Why do you run two parallel schemes? Can the Government assure this House that after convergence, this programme be made feasible within a reasonable and restrictive time frame?

Lastly, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the issue of freedom fighters.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister relating to the issue of *samman* pension. It was started in the year 1969 during the tenure of the late Indira Gandhi which has helped a large number of freedom fighters who were poor and dejected. This *samman* apart from providing financial support, has given them prestige in the society and also to their

families. The amount of *samman* pension today is quite substantial and it has been linked to Price Index. Now, they have been provided with a free pass to travel by rail. For this, as I was given to understand the Ministry of Home Affairs has deposited a fund with the Railways. When I went through the Annual Report, I found that the total number of freedom fighters who are drawing this pension is hardly about one lakh seventy thousand and odd. It was some four lakh odd or five lakh odd when the scheme started in the 70s. My concern here is that most of the freedom fighters are above the age of 75. I had made a request to the Railway Minister and now I am requesting your goodself, since yours is the nodal Ministry which has made this fund available to the Railways, that you may please consider allowing them to travel in Shatabdi and Rajdhani express trains. The number is less and the amount also will not be more as it is being reimbursed by the Railways, if at all it is being done.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Money is being saved that way. They are travelling less.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, thank you very much for supporting this cause. I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to consider this aspect and provide support and *samman* to the freedom fighters.

Sir, with these words, I support the Demands.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, today we are discussing the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Our country is a very big country and the Ministry of Home Affairs has to deal with different types of problems. It has a gigantic task. The House has to examine how this task is being performed by the Ministry.

Internal security is one of the important subjects being dealt with by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Unfortunately, there have been several instances that disturbed our internal security in the last few years. There were inhuman attacks of terrorism on mosques, temples,

churches, public parks, restaurants. There is a feeling of insecurity amongst the general public. There is a feeling that no place is safe today. But our people are courageous and they have risen above the fear-psychosis that was sought to be created by these terrorist activities. They refused to be pawns at the hands of those evil designs and refused to be communalized.

Sir, I come from the city of Hyderabad. It is a beautiful city inhabited by peace loving and secular minded people. This city was rocked by repeated bomb blasts in the recent past. Many young and innocent people have fallen a victim of such terrorist acts. Though law and order is a State subject, yet there has to be a co-ordination at the Central level to fight against terrorism. Some steps have been taken, but as has been rightly pointed out by my colleague Md. Salim, the real culprits, the masterminds, who are responsible for these attacks have not yet been identified and have not been arrested. Every time there is an incident, we try to find out who are the people behind such acts and we try to nab some people. Unfortunately, repeatedly there are attempts made to accuse people from one particular community for such acts of terrorism. This is not only unfair. It is also a very wrong methodology of trying to solve a problem. Terrorism has no religion. Terrorists are terrorists. They should be dealt as criminals only.

As if some criminals or some terrorists belong to a particular community, repeated attempts are being made to brand a particular community as if it is supporting the entire terrorism in the country. This is not going to solve the problem. Moreover, it is going to create more and more new problems. Sir, in the last few years or probably in a decade, about 70,000 people have lost their lives including 11,000 security personnel due to terrorist activities in the country. More security people died than in all the wars which we fought. Every time there is an attack, we all feel angry but we feel helpless. More serious efforts are to be made to prevent, identify and arrest the culprits so that terrorism will not be repeated in the country.

16.06 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

Madam, my request is that diagnosis should be more perfect so that we can give proper medicine to prevent terrorism getting repeated in our country. Terrorism in different States has got different types of roots. In Jammu and Kashmir, it is different. In the North-East, it is different. And the Maoist violence is different in some other States. There is also cross-border terrorism which should be dealt with more efficiently and effectively by strengthening our border security forces and counter intelligence.

On this occasion, I would like to say that the Left Parties are supporting the CMP in which it was promised that an Anti-Communal Act will be brought forward which will deal with communalism very firmly. There was a discussion about this and it has been introduced. I do not know what is happening to it. This is the last year of the Government. I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister whether the promise which was given to the nation to bring Anti-communal Act will be fulfilled this year or not. Or is it going to be pending for ever? This will be, in a way, doing injustice to the nation.

I would like to say on this occasion that communalism is the biggest danger that we are facing in this country. Recently, we have seen how the non-Maharashtrians and North Indians were attacked in Mumbai. It is an act of frustrated political group which wanted to get some support from some sections of the society. The entire nation condemned it. But I would like to ask, how did they dare, in a huge city like Mumbai, to come forward and attack a section of the society. It has become possible because the Government failed earlier to arrest the culprits of communalism in Mumbai city. Those who are supposed to be arrested after the Sri Krishna Commission Report and those who are supposed to be punished for their earlier communal acts are moving around free and that is why, this type of frustrated activities are being repeated. What happened in the Mumbai city is a shame for all of us. This will not help national integration. This will add to more and more such activities to get repeated in various parts of the country. I would like the Home Ministry to take these things more seriously, put an end

to them and create confidence in different sections of the society, particularly among the minorities, by providing equal opportunities in employment, in education, in budget allocation, etc. If that cannot be done, there cannot be real national integration. I know that, by making this type of a comment, some sections will say that this is appeasing the minorities and this is all for the vote bank and all that.

This is done by them exactly for the vote bank of the majority community and in order to sow the seeds of communalism among the people. The Home Ministry has to deal with these issues very firmly and punish the guilty.

Madam, I would like to refer to the issue of naxalism which is being repeatedly discussed in our House also. It is said that naxalism has spread and the naxalite activities are continuing in about 112 to 140 districts. According to reports given by the Home Ministry, from 2003 to 2007, there were about 1,500 to 1,600 naxalite incidents on an average; civilian casualties were between 450 and 500 every year; and security casualties were between 200 and 250. About 150 to 250 naxalites were also killed during these years.

A lot of information has been given about what type of action is being proposed and what action is being taken by the Home Ministry in collaboration with various States. But I would like to say that from 2003 to 2007, that is in the last four years, more or less the same figures were being repeated. Naxalism could not be curbed. More and more police personnel are being appointed; more and more modern weapons are being supplied. The problem is being looked at as a law and order problem. Bullets are not going to solve the problem. It is again and again repeated by the Government of India that they also agree that this is a socio-economic problem. But the socio-economic problem is not being dealt with in that manner. In the last few years some special amounts have been earmarked to develop the areas where naxalite activities are spreading more and more. Due to untouchability, caste discrimination, social injustice, poverty, and unemployment, there is continued recruitment for naxalism. If you cannot solve these problems, you

cannot solve the problem of naxalism even if you provide ten times more police personnel.

I would request that land reforms should be introduced. Economic activities in the remote areas should be increased as promised by the Home Ministry and by the Government of India earlier. Whatever schemes are announced, they are more on paper and less on implementation. I would like to say what is happening in Chhattisgarh, a State where naxalism is very much spread. I had been to the districts of Bastar and Dantewara. Salwa Judum is being encouraged. It was created and encouraged during the earlier Congress Government. It is being continued by the BJP Government. Salwa Judum is one of the most unpopular organisations. In a way, the Government is spending crores of rupees, but the people are unhappy. The people in that State feel that they are the enemies. There, human rights and civil liberties are being crushed in the name of encouraging Salwa Judum. I demand that the Government of India should stop all the financial help. Even the Supreme Court expressed its unhappiness over it. An Inquiry Committee has been constituted. There should be more proper and meaningful reforms to solve these problems. It should be tackled as a socio-economic problem rather than a law and order problem.

On the question of freedom fighters, in the erstwhile Hyderabad State, there were several thousands of freedom fighters who applied for the freedom fighters pension very late. A Committee was appointed during Shri V.P. Singh's regime. Around 13,500 names were recommended for the freedom fighters pension. For almost 15 to 20 years the issue has been kept pending.

Here I would like to say one very important point.
...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Madam, this is a very important aspect. I would like to say that I come from Telangana area where thousands of freedom fighters are suffering. Unfortunately, the recent attitude of the Ministry of Home officials is trying to deny the freedom fighters' pensions for those who are really

worthy of it. For the last 15 years, several committees have been appointed; and again inquiries and re-verifications are going on every week. They are dying because of the old age and ripe age. As MPs, we feel ashamed going to the funerals of burns these people and apologizing that we could not do justice for them when they were alive. A very few people, maybe four or five thousand people, are alive. This should not happen. They should not be denied pension.

Madam, now there is a rule that a person who is getting the pension should recommend the case of others. If the recommendation proved to be false or the application proved to be false, even the original freedom fighter will lose his freedom fighter's pension. All those cases recommended by him are also getting cancelled. This is very inhuman. This cannot be done. If an officer is arrested for some sort of a corruption, are you going to cancel all the allocations or the orders issued by that officer earlier? What sort of thing is being done? Several freedom fighters' pensions were cancelled because some of those recommendations which they had made are not accepted by the Home Department. This should be corrected and this pension should be given. The bureaucracy should not decide whether the freedom fighters' pensions are to be given or not. It should be a political decision and this decision should be implemented. The Ministry has decided to give and how dare the pensions are again and again rejected! How many days are needed to deal with these cases? All those names, who have been recommended for freedom fighters' pensions by the Special Screening Committee appointed by the Union Government, should be honoured.

Madam, I would like to say that there is a wing in the Ministry of Home Affairs for freedom fighters. Freedom fighters are being insulted and they are not allowed inside the office. There is an office for freedom fighters. The freedom fighters have to stand outside on the foot path. Is it the way respect should be given for the freedom fighters? It is a shame for the entire country. This should not be the way to deal with the freedom fighters. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to look into these issues of our freedom

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

fighters—I do not know whether they will be given *samman* or not but—should not be insulted like this. All these cases should be dealt with properly.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Madam, Demands for Grants related to the Ministry of Home Affairs is being discussed now. I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. I also thank our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi to have enabled me to represent the people of Nagapattinam along with the people of Tamil Nadu in this august House.

We feel proud of our unity in diversity. So, Centre must take note of the sensibilities of people of various States. Every matter in the domain of the State Government must be carefully handled by the Centre. All the Union Ministries including the Ministry of Panchayati Raj must take note of this.

Law and order and internal security are like two eyes of the Civil Administration in the country. They are shared by both the Centre and the States. That is why the Ministry of Home Affairs spends about Rs. 21,860 crore on police. They include the Central Security Organizations like BSF, CRPF and CISF that goes up to Coastal Guards. All the Central Forces must have uniform service conditions and pay and perks. Wherever cross border problems persist, the Central forces must be vigilant. They must defend our land while taking care not to offend the local people. In the light of Jammu and Kashmir experiences, Centre needs to be careful. Like Jammu and Kashmir, involving local youth to defend the borders through Central forces must be taken up in all the States including Tamil Nadu.

We are talking about jail reforms. Our laws aim at providing opportunities to people to change their lives. But, unfortunately, the Centre has allocated just about rupees one crore for jails.

Relief for National Calamities is also under the Union Home Ministry. In this year's Union Budget, the allocation made under this head is a meagre sum of Rs. 86 crore. Allotment for Grants-In-Aid to State

Governments is also a meagre sum of Rs. 269 crore. But the demands from the States are more. I wish the allocation is increased more to help the States better. For instance, the flood-affected areas in my constituency did not get a better deal even after the visit of the Central Team there.

When it comes to the number of incidents of violence and casualties of civilians in Jammu and Kashmir, the numbers were 2565 and 1092 in both 2004 and 2007 respectively. A big change is witnessed. It is a hope for the future. I appreciate the Union Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh and guided by Madam Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of the UPA.

At the same time, the problems in the Naxal-affected States or in the North-Eastern States remain unchanged. In 2004, the incidence of violence in the North-East was 1234; in the Naxal-affected States, it was 1533. In 2007, it continued to remain at 1489 and 1565. The casualty of civilians also remains in 2007 at 498 and 460 in the North-Eastern States and the Naxal-affected States respectively. In 2004, the figures remained at 414 and 466, which are more or less, the same. But casualty of security forces is still more while the casualties of Naxalites are still less. So, there is a need to have a re-look. Disaffection of people due to economic reasons must not be there, especially when an economist is at the helm of affairs.

More employment opportunities must be created and the misguided youths must be brought into the mainstream. The Jammu and Kashmir experience shows that induction of the unemployed youth in the Central Forces as a special drive can help the State and the country.

In Tamil Nadu, law and order is handled firmly. But the problems from across the borders especially in the Bay of Bengal need to be controlled still better by the Centre.

For instance, the loss of lives of poor fishermen in the Tamil Nadu coasts is increasing. The hardships faced by the poor fishermen are also mounting up. In my

Nagapattinam constituency, it has become a recurrent feature. I would urge upon the Union Government to take steps to protect the lives of poor fishermen.

Tamil Nadu has got a long maritime history. Probably, it is the Tamil history alone that talks about spreading Tamil empires beyond the boundaries of the sub-continent. Such coastal people with a rich traditional background in sea-faring are ignored. Such youth from such fishermen community must be inducted in the Coast Guard and in coastal policing. In the absence of it, the local people in the coastal region will be exploited.

Strengthening the Judiciary and expanding its services will also really improve the law and order situation. For instance, in Tamil Nadu, nearly 5 lakh civil cases and 4.3 lakh criminal cases in the subordinate courts are pending as on 31st December, 2007. In the High Court, 3.9 lakh court cases and 36,000 criminal cases are pending. Prolonging the civil cases also lead to criminal cases. Though the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is taking effective steps with Rs.100 crore of allocation this year itself, the need for infrastructure is more. The massive programme of the Tamil Nadu Government will cost Rs. 300 crore more.

Evening courts, alternate dispute redressal mechanisms along with mediation and conciliation are being strengthened in Tamil Nadu. Introduction of Tamil as language in Madras High Court can also help ease problems. Speedy disposal of cases may be possible then. I know we are not discussing 'Law and Justice'. We discuss only Home Affairs. But that covers law and order and social amity also. Hence I urge upon the Home Ministry to go in for a coordinated effort in this regard. To strengthen coastal security scheme, liberal assistance from the Centre must be there. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the need for protecting the livelihood of our own fishermen cannot be ignored. Similarly, mega city policing needs more funds from the Centre. Modernizing police force also needs Centre's attention. Urging upon the Union Home Ministry to help Tamil Nadu strengthen further the infrastructure facility for effective policing, I conclude my speech expressing our support for this Demands for Grants.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Madam Chairman, I am taking part in the ongoing discussion on the demands of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The demands of the Ministry of Home Affairs would be granted because the opposition parties with a positive mindset never oppose the motion moved for money demanded for a good cause. We would also like to get it passed. The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs has presented a very good document. It gives even minute details of everything. But I would like to tell the hon. Minister that he has taken charge as Minister of Home Affairs in 2004. We do not doubt his bonafides and he might be making sincere efforts to maintain a foolproof internal security. But despite his innumerable efforts and after having spent such a huge amount, the official figures indicate that the desired success could not be achieved. If a particular year witnesses decrease in the number of such incidents, these register a corresponding increase. Police Jawans one killed, paramilitary forces personnels are killed, common men are killed, some naxalities, maoists and terrorists are also killed. Today, the people of the country are living under constant fear and apprehension and not only the people of the country but I feel that the Government is also under constant fear and apprehension.

Recently, Olympic Torch rally was organized at India Gate in Delhi. It appeared as if the venue was converted into a cantonment. Ironically, whenever we hold any function in the country we do not feel at home and are apprehensive about the safety of our lives are so much panic stricken that the venue is converted into a cantonment area. I would substantiate my contention. The flag hoisting ceremony takes place on 15th August and 26th January every year. Hon. President and hon. Prime Minister hoist the flag. But the Police and army personnel cordon the area in such a manner that the people have to walk on foot for two-to-three kms. Army is deployed around the houses. Due to the police cordon people are not able to reach the venue to pay respect to the national flag.

It speaks volumes about the fact that not only the common people but even the Government is scared

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

The life of fear is worse than death. So, Madam, I would like to urge upon the hon. Home Minister that there is need to take measures to dispel this apprehension and fear from the minds of the people as well as the Government. Through media it has come to our notice that there are 175 terrorist organizations in India. Out of these 115 organisations are operating in Jammu and Kashmir and approximately 60 organisations are operating in other parts of the country. These organizations operate in parts. In the past, the terrorists run their writ in the forests and mountains. But now they are operating in the plains as well. Rural areas are demarcated as Naxalites areas or Maoist areas. One day, the Home Minister gave a statement in the Lok Sabha saying that they have even started operating through the sea route as well and now only skies are the other route which they have not explored yet. It means that notwithstanding the Government's efforts they are moving from strength to strength and not only that their morale has also gone up. I would like to give an example in this regard.

Mr. Mishra Besara is a Maoist leader in Orissa. In his recent press conference, he said that he is running naxalite organizations in 15 states. As many as 15,000 to 20,000 Maoists equipped with arms work in his organization as maoist army. He has direct links with the terrorists of Jammu and Kashmir, Maoists of Nepal and LTTE of Sri Lanka. This news item was published in the newspapers with such a prominence as if the President or the Prime Minister had made a statement in an important function. Such news items are telecast by the news channels with prominence and even its minute details are covered. They are dubbed as heroes by giving prominence to such news items. I would like to request the mediapersons that if their statements are published with prominence it would boost the moral of Naxalites, Terrorists and Maoists. What are the reasons for their high morale? In Such news ites reveal that the number of terrorists died is less than the common men and the police personnel killed. They can strike at will despite all security arrangements put in place by the Government. When they strike our Jawans are not ready

to face them and the reason that they do not get information from the intelligence well in time. A discussion in this regard has taken place in the House in the past also and it is felt by all of us that our intelligence network is weak. The Government has to deliberate on how to strengthen the intelligence network. What are the new techniques the Government is going to adopt? Are there any better training facilities available in other countries of the world through which the Government can provide them training and strengthen the intelligence network? If he has any technique or knowledge other than what he has written in the book, he may share it with the House. Our friends from left parties have left the House. Just now Mr. Salim was delivering his speech enthusiastically. I was listening to him carefully. He was saying that he was speaking the truth. He speaks the truth. On the one hand he enjoys the power by being in the Government and on the other hand he criticizes the Government whenever he gets the chance.

If he was speaking the truth, then he should have told what was the nexus between him. Mamun Mian who is an illegal arms dealer from Bangladesh and a Minister in the Tripura Government and which party he belongs to. I want to tell as to why he was removed from the Cabinet. He belongs to left party and our colleague was delivering his speech vociferously. Of course, he has resigned from the Cabinet but he has not been expelled from the party. His party is in power in that State and the Minister of that Government indulges in smuggling of arms and this is very shameful that a leader of this party delivers vociferous speech on the security of the country. That party is supporting the Government at the Centre and is in power in Tripura. I, think, all efforts made to check terrorism, Naxalism and Maoism cannot succeed if such people will continue to get patronage.

Madam Chairman, I don't want to call his name because we cannot call the name of a person who is not present in the House. There is a powerful Minister in the Government of Asama. Sometime we sit and chat in the Central Hall. An hon. member who was delivering speech here, was saying there something else and here

he was saying something else. I was watching his face and thinking how much is the difference between that he was saying in the Central Hall and what he was saying in his speech in the House. He was saying that one of his Ministers in Assam Government himself patronizes ULFA. When a Minister in the Government patronizes terrorist organisations and is engaged in the supply of the arms from other countries, indulges into smuggling of arms and supplies these arms to the terrorist organizations. In such circumstances, I do not think that hon. Home Minister would achieve success. He will have to take action against such people also. Whenever we talk of POTA for this purpose these parties oppose it and create an uproar. There is a provision in our CrPC and IPC that without any evidence there cannot be any action. The Maoist, Naxalite and Terrorist organizations execute their plans at three levels similar to our three tier legal system. First, there is a group of people who move in higher echelons of society, they are known as VIPs and they command respect also. They are thinkers of these organisations who provide guidance and issue instructions. Their instructions are followed by the second rung people. After the compliance of these instructions, the third group of people execute their plans at the ground level. This is the group which confronts the police and armed forces. First and second rung people move in the higher circle and have links with the high ups and go scot-free. So, there is a need for such a law that if the police and military forces are satisfied that these very first or second rung people are patronizing them, executing the plans, issuing instructions to them, they must be detained for five, ten or twenty years.

The provisions of the CRPC and IPC are quite ineffective since under these provisions a person cannot be prosecuted in the absence of evidence, and it is very difficult to find proof against such persons. Therefore, they walk freely after committing the crime and no action is taken against them. There is an I.B. report against a Minister of Assam and I.B. functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Someone has informed me in this regard and I am speaking on that basis. If my information is correct, I would like to know from the Minister of Home Affairs as to, who is that

particular Minister in the Government of Assam and what is his name? I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs whose blessings that person is enjoying because in spite of IB Report against him, he is holding a ministerial post in the Government.

After the division of Bihar it has 38 districts now. Out of these 30 districts are completely in the grip of Naxalism. Though Government of Bihar has been doing an excellent job to deal with this problem and the statistics of the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs also indicate that the number of naxal activities has come down. But I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that given the fact that 30 districts are naxal affected, the Union Government did not take it as seriously as it should have. 23 companies of para military forces have been deployed in Bihar and out of them one company has been deployed in the security of a Union Minister on the direction of the Union Government. As a result, only 22 companies remain there whereas at least 75 companies are required in these 30 districts. Less than that will not help to check the growing influence of Naxalism and Maoism in Bihar. Therefore, I would request the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that Bihar is also under his jurisdiction and very much a part of the country. Hence, he should take action to increase the strength of para-military forces there. If the strength of para-military forces is not increased there, it will be very difficult rather impossible to counter Naxalism and Maoism.

The discussion has been going on about the relationship of India with its neighbouring countries and in this discussion it has been proved that a neighbouring country, Pakistan is behind the terrorist activities taking place in this country. The Government have also said so and there are proofs in this regard. A neighbouring country, which came into existence by the brave initiative taken by none other than our ex-Prime Minister, Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, is also carrying out subversive activities against us. About 148 Training centres are being run there so as to use them against us. The Union Government had written to its Bangladeshi counterpart to ban these training camps but no positive response was received. We often try to offer a hand of friendship

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

to them. Even now, we have started train service from our country to Bangladesh. We have always been trying to have friendly relationship with Pakistan also. However, whenever we showed such gesture, some untoward incident took place in our country. From the day we have offered a hand of friendship to Bangladesh, we are worried as to whether something wrong is going to happen in the country again. I would like to make a submission to the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that there is no problem in having friendship with them but whenever we have done so, some untoward incidents have taken place. We kept on offering a hand of friendship to our neighbouring countries and they kept on indulging themselves in causing disturbances in our country under a conspiracy for which we need to strengthen our armed forces and equip them with the modern weapons.

Our neighbouring country, Nepal has witnessed a change of regime. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that a conspiracy against India is being hatched in Nepal in a very systematic way. When Hon'ble L.K. Advani was the Minister of Home Affairs during the NDA Government, I had told this fact in this House, but it seems that he did not take my statement seriously. Nepal Radio broadcasts anti-India statements. From Nepal fake currency is being pumped into the country via Bihar for circulation in other parts and Indian Economy is targeted through ISI.

Madam, Chairman, Nepal has become the centre of Maoism. If armed forces are not deployed properly on the Nepal border, each and every village of Bihar would come under the grip of Naxalism and Maoism. Incidentally, eight districts are presently out of the grip of Naxalism. Uttar Pradesh also lies adjacent to Nepal border. If strict vigil is not maintained on the border then Uttar Pradesh would also not remain free from naxalism. We have good old relations with Nepal. We don't want to strain them, but the new Government in Nepal is looking at us with suspicion. Earlier, there was not so much suspicion but now they are looking with suspicion.

I would like to conclude my speech after making a point to the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that constitutional rights are being regularly violated in the country. You have also said in the House that every citizen of the country has right to go anywhere in the country, he can live there and can earn his livelihood anywhere in the country but the same is not happening. The people of other states, living in Assam, Maharashtra and particularly in states governed by Congress Party are being attacked. The Minister of Home Affairs must be aware that this country has suffered on account of protecting the separatists and terrorists in the form of losing the life of Late Smt. Indira Gandhi. Now, if the Government protects such people, another Bhindarawala will be born...(Interruptions). I am not blaming anyone. If I do not express my feelings in the House, before the Minister of Home Affairs then what is the use of expressing them before the Hon'ble Member who says with grief that he himself is unheard. Therefore, this is the proper place to express the feelings.

I would like to urge the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, through you, that he should pay attention to all these issues. I would like to draw his attention specially towards the statement given by the Chief Minister of Delhi, in which she has said that Delhi becomes dirty due to the people coming from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. It is highly shameful. She is the senior leader of Congress. On the one hand, people's self respect gets hurt due to such statement and on the other hand if she goes on doing so, Congress will get finished. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Madam, these sorts of words should not be allowed to go on record. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): She had already withdrawn the statement, which was attributed to her. He should not go on repeating these things all the time. ...(Interruptions) These words should be removed from the records.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The name will be deleted.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please don't talk with one another. Nothing is being recorded.

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Madam Chairman, Demands of the Ministry of Home Affairs are being discussed in the House. While speaking in the House on Defence Budget, the Minister of Finance had emphatically mentioned that we are spending maximum funds on Defence. The Government should give the amount required for Defence. His role is really commendable. After Defence special attention is being paid to the Ministry of Home Affairs and it is a welcome step. I don't think that there is any shortage of funds for the Ministry of Home Affairs. I raised this point here because if we go into the depth of the matter of funds spent on Defence and the financial burden on the Ministry of Home Affairs, we will find that its reasons are the same. The country's security should be the topmost priority and it's definitely the priority of any Government. Since the independence of the country, our relations with Pakistan were never good. Since the day of our independence, our relations were far from good. There have been many wars between India and Pakistan and every time Pakistan launched the offensive. We have only defended ourselves. I don't want to go into the details. Last war fought was in Kargil. Thereafter, the situation in the country is such that there are 175 terrorist organisations in the country. Out of these, 115 organisations are active in Jammu and Kashmir and 60 organisations are operating in the rest of the country as mentioned by Prabhunath Singhji. In a way, we all agree that a proxy war is being unleashed against our country by Pakistan. Once, terrorism was limited to Jammu and Kashmir only. Now, gradually, it has spread its tentacles all over the country. Today, no state is insulated from this menace. Although, law and order is a state subject, yet in terms of terrorist incidents, the Center and state Governments should share equal responsibilities. Organisations committing subversive

activities are not limited to any one state. Unfortunately, now the incidents of Maoist and Naxalite attacks are also increasing. Our east Coast is surrounded by Naxalites and now Maoist activities are also gaining momentum. All these organizations are getting support and funds from foreign countries. As Prabhunathji mentioned that Naxalite organisation's budget is in Rs. One thousand crores. So, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Home Affairs towards some basic points. Unfortunately, these terrorist organizations are not afraid of the Government at all despite the fact that ours is a sovereign country. We have our own Army and Border Security Force, Police is there in all the States in the country. We are capable of protecting our country, perhaps no other country has the kind of capable and brave soldiers as we have. But unfortunately the situation today is that we are afraid of terrorism and terrorists. Government is afraid of them. This kind of situation is prevailing in the country. I agree with what Mr. Prabhunath Singhji has said that we should have good relations with our neighbour. There are no two opinions about it. But if they have malefic intentions, and we extend our hand of friendship and they are not interested in the friendship, then we have to face its consequences. So, for how many years are we going to play this drama of friendship despite knowing the fact that for years these terrorists are being trained and sheltered in our neighbouring countries, for how many years are we going to tolerate all this in the name of friendship? It is very unfortunate that Parliament was attacked and the people who have attacked the Parliament, and the terrorist who has been found guilty by the Supreme Court has not been hanged. We have failed to hang him so far. What kind of a Government we have? How can we protect internal security of our country? Hon'ble Prime Minister had convened the Chief Minister's conference. In the conference Prime Minister Stated that the Government is also very concerned about the internal security. It means that our Prime Minister also admits that situation regarding our internal security is worrisome. If terrorists and terrorist organizations are not afraid, they will become more bolder. Terrorist attacks are taking place one after another and we keep extending our hand of friendship every time. For how many years we are going to play

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

the dram of one side friendship? Whether our country, our government and Prime Minister need to say that there is a limit of tolerance and we will not be able to tolerate beyond a certain point. I think, there is a need that the Government should give signals to enemies. Just now, Prabhunath Singhji was saying that today People are afraid, common man is afraid, we had to cancel the Olympic Torch Relay at several places. What kind of situation is this? Stringent law is needed for the security of ourselves, the country and the people. Strict laws are required for the persons who are involved in the activities of providing money and shelter to such terrorist organizations. But it is unfortunate that we don't even make such laws. A law had been made but that was repealed by saying that it was being misused. The people, who want to misuse the law, will keep doing so. Riots keep happening, the law has been misused, is misused and will be so in future, but it doesn't mean that we don't make any law for our security.

17.00 hrs.

Shall we tie our hands, what kind of a politics is this. So, Minister of Home Affairs should reply and explain about the problem.

Madam Chairperson, Another problem in our country is of Bangladeshi infiltrators. Proxy war is being carried out by Pakistan. I think the situation may improve a bit now because the governance of Pakistan President Shri Parvez Mussharaf is gradually shrinking. Elected Government has taken over there. I think that some change, some improvement will come there. But all happenings occur under the policies adopted by the Government. Today, more than two crore Bangaladesi infiltrators are in our country. These are official figures. If these are not correct, hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs can correct them. The Government provides these figures. These figures are given in the replies of questions asked in the House. The figures we get from newspapers are also provided by the Government. Today, more than two crore Bangladeshi infiltrators are in the country and around thirty to forty lakh infiltrators are in Mumbai only. Because of them, law and order situation deteriorates in the states.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Whether they are all Muslims?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: No, we are not saying this against the Muslims. Please don't divert the issue.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: All the Muslims put together will not make thirty-forty lakhs in Mumbai. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please, don't indulge in cross talk.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: You are not aware about the figures of Mumbai.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Geete, Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am just concluding. The figures of thirty to forty lakh which I have been mentioning, include Mumbai, Thane and Pune industrial belt, where a number of development works are going on. If my figures are wrong then hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs can modify them. All these persons are Bangladeshis. I am not naming any religion. Bangladesh is our neighboring country. But if any neighbour becomes infiltrator and starts living here illegally then it is a crime. If you want to support that you can do so.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: They should be expelled immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: That is what I am saying. We already have so many unemployed persos here...*(Interruptions)* there is so much unemployment, there is unemployment in our villages, due to which people are migrating from villages to cities. People are migrating from one state to another. There is unemployment and starvation, there is poverty in our country and in a situation like this if we have two crore Bangladeshi infiltrators, it is dangerous for us. It certainly affects our economy. It can have adverse impact on our law and order. If they indulge in acts of dacoity and theft, we have no proof against them, they have neither any residence nor any address. It can certainly have adverse impact on our law and order situation. I would

like to say that if strict action is to be taken against Bangladeshi infiltrators, it is the responsibility of the Central Government. State Governments are ineffective in these matters. Hence, State Governments need to be assisted thoroughly in this matter.

Madam Chairman, when bus service for Lahor was started from Delhi for the first time, there was NDA Government and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was our Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* I am telling about my government also. I am not accusing you only. There was NDA Government at that time and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was our Prime Minister, we were in power, we are constituent party of N.D.A. Even then we had warned that by starting bus service for Lahore, you are in a way openly encouraging terrorism.

Amamath Yatra was attached at that time. As the Bus went there, Amamath Yatra was attacked. I am afraid that we have started New Rail Maitri Express and Samjhauta Express, it has been started in Bangladesh, whether it is being given as a permit or whether you are allowing for 2 crore infiltrators to become 5 crore very soon...*(Interruptions)*. If you hold those people responsible then it is a matter of those countries, it is not a matter concerning our country...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Geete Jee, you please conclude.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam, if this is a mistake, you ask the people who have made mistake. If you accept it, accept it openly that you have made a mistake and that is why Bangladeshi infiltration has become a big problem. It is a problem for entire country. Delhi is also reeling under the same situation. There are not lesser number of infiltrators in Delhi. There are more than 3 lakh infiltrators in Delhi also. Whatever be the figures, the Government must have figures. Government can give information in this regard, there are more than 3 lakh infiltrators in Delhi. Situation is the same in Kolkata and Assam. The same situation exists in every state and on the other hand entire east coast is surrounded by naxalites. On the one hand terrorism is spreading in every state of the country from Jammu and Kashmir to the entire country and in this

situation our internal security is weakening day-by-day. Common man is afraid he is fearful, his life is not safe nowadays. Persons injured in Mumbai train bomb blast two years ago are still suffering in hospitals, no one is paying attention towards them. What was their fault that who went to their workplaces and were returning home after job, business, they were travelling by rail and there happened bomb blast in the train. Some lost their hands, some their legs, some lost their eyes and a few died at the spot. They have become handicapped and are in hospitals, what was their fault? What sins they had committed that they will remain forever in hospitals and it is happening in every part of the country, therefore, Ministry of Home Affairs should take it seriously.

You may have dismissed law like POTA on the ground that it is misused against a particular section. If it has been misused against a particular section by somebody, Government can take action against them.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Are you referring to Vaiko?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: That is what I am saying. If any Government has done this you are having friendly relation with them. You have given example of Vaiko and Government is running with their support. If Government has made mistake in the matter of Vaiko, then why you are with them? If it is misused, Government can take legal action against them, but it doesn't mean that if some has got injury in his hand, you chop off his hand, this is not a treatment, if somebody is ill provide him some treatment. Why are you repealing the law? Presently, we need most stringent law and unless terrorists have fears in their minds, they would reach our homes, our Parliament and Delhi. They stayed here for two months, terrorists had staying here for two months, this is the reply of the Ministry of Home Affairs. When action was taken against these terrorists, when these terrorists were arrested, it was revealed that they were in Delhi for two months. Where did they stay? In whose house did they stay? Who provided them shelter? Who provided them vehicles? who fed them? Who provided them money? Are those people not responsible for it?

Whether only those five terrorists are responsible

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

for it who attacked and got killed? Where did they stay for two months? Under which law action against those people will be taken, in whose houses these terrorists stayed? Since POTA has been repealed, in a way we have given freedom to the terrorists of this country to blast bombs wherever they like and so law like POTA is required and it should be brought back immediately. Strict action should be taken against Bangladeshi infiltrators. Each and every infiltrator should be driven out of the country. Until and unless the Government takes strict action against them, there will be no end of terrorist attacks threat to our internal security will remain there. It will not improve by giving data. So I would request the Minister of Home Affairs to pay attention towards these basic things. Pakistan was never a friend in the past, nor it will ever be in the future. In the name of friendship Pakistan has always betrayed India and it should be kept in mind.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Each hon'ble Member should please try to conclude in five minutes. It is a fact that this is an important topic, even then, there time limit should be kept in mind.

Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda): Whenever a Member from Punjab is about to speak, there is shortage of time. I don't know why?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please start.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda): Thank, you, Madam. I rise to support the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2008-09, on behalf of my party Akali Dal. However, there are certain points that I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Home Minister. Many Hon. Members have spoken about terrorism and terrorists. But, I would like to draw the attention of the Members of this august House towards another facet of terrorism. I am sorry that no Hon. Member said

anything on this aspect of terrorism. When terrorists wreak havoc on the infrastructure of the country, we can rebuild the infrastructure with the passage of time. However, once the psyche of the women folk of the country is scarred, it is scarred forever. Women are at the receiving end of the violence unleashed by terrorists and criminals.

Today, women are not safe and secure in our country. Women are being raped with impunity. Young school girls are being molested and raped by their own teachers. Women tourists from foreign countries are being raped and murdered. It is a matter of shame for the entire country. Women labourers working in the fields are not safe. Girl-students are not safe. Women are not safe at their work-places. Atrocities are being committed on women throughout the country. I appeal to the Hon. Home Minister to take stringent action against such criminals. A woman who has been raped is stigmatized by the entire society. Her psyche is scarred. The entire society looks down upon her. I appeal to the Government to frame strict laws to check the crimes against women and to give exemplary punishment to the criminals. Criminal elements go scot-free in our country. They are not brought to book. Young men from the influential and affluent sections of society are involved in these heinous crimes. Many a time, the sons of our police officers are also involved in these crimes. The need of the hour is to provide capital punishment to these criminals. Only then can we rein in these crimes against women.

I am a woman. So, today, I will highlight the problems faced by the women. It is the responsibility of the Home Ministry to provide safety and security to the women folk of this country. However, the Home Ministry has miserably failed to do so.

There is another issue that demands our serious attention. Female foeticide is on the rise in our country. Crores of rupees have been earmarked in the Budget of this year for the welfare of women. But, mere allocation of funds cannot solve this problem. Lakhs of cases of female foeticide are taking place in private nursing homes across the country. The Government has

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

turned a blind eye to this problem. I appeal to the Government to enforce the various laws in this regard and check this menace at the earliest. The judiciary should be directed to give exemplary punishment to the criminals who indulge in this heinous act.

Drugs, narcotic substances and intoxicants are being smuggled through the porous borders of our country. Young men, who are the future of the country, are getting addicted to drugs. Heroin and other such drugs are being smuggled with impunity through our borders. BSF and army are deployed on our borders. How then are these drugs finding a way into our country? Why has the Government failed to check this menace? It seems as if some of our police-men and personnel of BSF and army are hand-in-glove with these drug-peddlers and smugglers. Young men from the influential and affluent families are involved in this illegal trade. Drugs and intoxicants are being recovered even from the police-stations. Several SSPs, SPs, DSPs and SHOs are involved in this murky affair. Sadly, the Government has decided to look the other way. Even chemist shops are openly selling these intoxicants. The menace of drugs will wreak havoc on our future generation. The Government must come down on these activities with a heavy hand.

Madam, anti-Sikh riots took place in 1984. Innocent Sikhs were butchered. However, those involved in such heinous acts were allowed to roam scot-free. Many innocent Sikhs had to migrate to foreign countries to escape police atrocities. But the Government put their names in a 'Black-list'. The names of these black-listed men have not been made public by the Government. These innocent people have been forcibly exiled from their country. These people want to visit their motherland. I urge upon the Hon. Home Minister to make public this 'Black list' of people. The names of these innocent men and women should be removed from this 'Black list'.

Madam, I thank the Government for starting the Amritsar-Lahore bus service. However, most of the times, majority of the seats in this bus are vacant. People have to run from pillar to post to get visas in Delhi. People have no time to spare for the bureaucratic

red-tapism. So, a visa-office should be opened in Amritsar. Only then will the people of Punjab benefit from this move. Also, granting of visas should be made easy.

Madam, the Punjab Government has opened a N.R.I. wing in Punjab. Many N.R.I.s visit India. They marry women from India. However, many a time, they go back to the foreign countries leaving behind their brides in India. There is no one to take care of such unfortunate women. So, the Punjab Government has taken the initiative in this regard. There is a proposal to start a special wing comprising of police-women. This wing comprises of police-women. This wing will tackle the rape cases and cases pertaining to N.R.I.s where women are involved. This is a commendable step taken by the Punjab Government. I appeal to the Central Government to open a special wing comprising of police-women at district level too, so that confidence is instilled in the women-folk of the country and timely justice is provided to them.

Madam, sometimes, people lose their passports while they are on a visit to a foreign country. They approach the Indian embassy for a new passport. However, it proves to be a very lengthy and cumbersome process. Many a time, people have to wait for their new passports for six months or even an year. I appeal to the Government to make this process easy, so that people are saved from such an inordinate delay.

Madam, I have a very important question for the Hon. Home Minister. I seek an answer from him. This is what the common man says: Why is it that the thieves and criminals start ruling the roost and commit crimes with impunity when the Congress Party is in power at the centre or in the states? During the time of the erstwhile NDA Government, things were under control. But, whenever a Congress Government is in power, such shady elements go scot-free. This encourages and emboldens them further. I seek a reply from the Hon. Home Minister. Thank you.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Madam Chairperson. I rise to participate in the discussion on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[Shri Kiren Rijiju]

Before saying something, I would like to make a comment that our Home Minister is a little bit strict whereas the Cabinet Minister is somewhat weak. I would give a logic for the same also ...*(Interruptions)*. Why cannot I say so. I would give logic as to why I said so? I approached the Home Ministry and met the Minister and his officials many a times, but no action was taken. About inaction, I would throw light here later on. First of all, when we talk of internal security, the border areas of our country should be well protected. Particularly, at the whole of Eastern border area, neither there is any check post nor any fencing. There is no check over the movement. If you take media, Parliamentarians or Committee there, you can move about freely without any restriction. I had gone there leading a group and found that given the situation there, our country appears not to be safe in any way. I would like to mention something which has come to my notice and I would like to say with your permission that some Bangladeshi Organisation has given a statement about a political party in India that is the favourable one for the Greater Bangladeshi design.

[English]

Incidentally and unfortunately that political party is the Ruling Party of India today.

[Translation]

This is the situation. We have been hurt by the decision you have taken regarding withdrawal of the statement given by the Minister of State in Rajya Sabha. When the correct figures of the Bangladeshi infiltration into the North East, Assam were presented, it led to so much of pressure that the statement had to be withdrawn. This is a wrong move. This is a matter of concern and this is not a political issue. Every political party should be concerned about the issue. I assume that anybody coming from Bangladesh does not vote for BJP. We do not look at somebody also from the religion point of view. Some political party is getting the political benefit from the same. This is a serious problem, therefore, I

am mentioning it. I am not talking on this issue for the first time. I have spoken on the issue a number of times.

Naxalism, red corridor has been talked about, however, I think that the bigger threat is from the emergence of Green corridor in the North East and Bengal, it is equally dangerous as the red corridor is considered. You have given the statistics that in Assam in the year 2007.

[English]

There is a spurt in violent activity in Assam.

[Translation]

Especially, there have been many incidents of bomb blasts. When there is a blast in Hyderabad, in Maharashtra the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and all such people reach there, but when there is a bomb blast in the North East, it finds mention in a small column in some corner of the newspaper, nobody has the time to go there and to see that such incidents are taking place there and that it is also a part of India. The Home Minister is a very learned person. It is also necessary to be effective along with being learned and what steps are needed for being effective have been mentioned by all the members.

The second thing which several members have mentioned is [English] the nexus between the politicians and the ultras [Translation] this is a very serious matter. The Army Chief has himself said that the transaction of so much of money has taken place in the name of Chief Minister of Manipur. I am not saying this, it is there in the official statement of the Army Chief. Besides, Assam has found a mention and when the nexus of a Minister in Tripura with the Naxalities was revealed, he had to resign. So, I would like to make a special request to the Home Minister for setting up a Commission as it may be Judicial Commission or a Commission of any level. A complete inquiry should be conducted as to

[English]

who are those politicians, particularly in the Government having direct contact and nexus with the ultras?

[Translation]

It should be done otherwise what is the use of our discussion. Those in the power are themselves giving support to its. All activities against the country are commencing right from there. This is a very serious issue. Therefore, this would be my demand.

A junior colleague of the Home Minister, who has been the former MP of Arunachal Pradesh and who was a Congress leader used to speak strongly against terrorism, was himself shot in the chest with 17 bullets of A.K. 47 in his own house. Why did it happen? What has happened in this case till date? How far the inquiry in this regard has progressed? He was your Congress leader and a very nice man. He died in Arunachal Pradesh three months back. We have, over the years repeatedly said that do not ignore those States which are peaceful. That State will be ruined where the people begin to move with A.K. 47 rifles. Our fear has become a reality today. Arunachal Pradesh used to be known as island of peace in India. Terrorism has found its presence there. Over the years, we have asked to curb it,

[English]

it was known as the island of peace, be cautious, take precautionary measures.

[Translation]

But nobody is there to pay heed to it, you have thrown it into the hell of terrorism as well. Someone should take its responsibility. Recently, forty-fifty children were taken away to Burma. Home Minister, Sir, when you give reply, please state as to how many children out of them have come back and how many are yet to return? Do tell this.

I would like to tell that unlike other ministries, the reply of which we receive in four five days, whenever someone among us write a letter to the Home Ministry, there is no time frame regarding giving the reply and sometimes some of the letters do not receive any reply at all. When this is the state of affairs in Home Ministry, what will be the fate of the country? When we as

Members raise issues in this House, the reply in this regard is received after two or four months. This should be streamlined, made effective and the reply should be given at the earliest. Minister Sir, you are so senior, if you don't run your Ministry effectively, the security of the country will be a mammoth task for you.

I would like to speak on Police modernization. From here, you say that we have provided a huge funds to the states. When we discuss this issue with states, we are informed that we don't have money even to purchase vehicles. I would like to tell you that I bear the expenses of petrol for the Police Escort Vehicle provided to me. What for the Ministry and the Government is there? I have written so many letters to the Ministry but no reply has been received and no action has been taken. I am expressing my pain and the reality, therefore, I'm speaking so. If your attitude remains the same, it is not a good indication.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KIREN RIJU: Madam, I am speaking on the points only, not giving the speech. Besides, Police modernization, its conduct should also be considered.

[English]

I am not going to talk on the issue. I am talking on the point.

[Translation]

I am talking about Olympic torch. Tibetan women staged a demonstration in Delhi. Delhi Police directly comes under Home Ministry. The male police personnel beat women with batons and today they are detained in Tihar jail. What can be more shameful than this? Madam, you can understand. There should be female police to handle the women. The scene of male policemen beating with batons is not worth watching, they are still in Tihar jail. This is a democratic country. There should be full right to organize a peaceful demonstration.

Now, I come to the developmental point. Today, I asked the Telecom Minister also that when we go to

[Shri Kiren Rijju]

the border areas of North-East, the mobile service of the neighbouring country suddenly starts operating and mobile service of our country is not available there. The logic given is that it is

[English]

on security grounds. For your own purpose why are you punishing the innocent People? You can have a better equipment. You can intercept with various means. We have got technology.

We have got technology but you are not able to do that and you are punishing the local people.

[Translation]

Even roads are blocked at several places. Roads are being blocked in the age of satellite, but you are watching the live telecast through Google Earth. Mr. Home Minister, you are very senior and therefore, I would request you to hold an enquiry immediately in such matters of north-east.

Language also come under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Home Affairs. I would like to say that Bhoti language is a very ancient language. Several times requests have been made for its recognition. So far as its scriptures are concerned, nothing is left. Ramayana, Mahabharata etc. which used to be written in Pali script have been written in Bhoti script also. Now, we have to refer to Bhoti script for knowing Indian history. It is a very rich script and time and again we have asked for its introduction, but you are not giving any positive response in this regard. Therefore, I request the Ministry of Home Affairs to ponder over it. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Madam Chairperson, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the internal security situation which is of vital importance to all of us and it is part of the Demands for Grants, 2008-09.

I will confine myself to my State, Andhra Pradesh. So far as naxal violence in Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the number of incidents have come down from 310 in 2004 to 34 in 2007. Therefore, we can see that the Government is able to contain naxal violence in Andhra Pradesh. I congratulate the UPA Government and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for controlling it but still, there are some sporadic incidents.

Development and peace go hand-in-hand. Good internal security situation will definitely foster faster developmental activities. Here, I want to stress that internal security depends on the external situation and world events, especially peace in our neighbouring countries. We all know that events and non-events in our neighbouring countries are having their impact on the internal security situation in our country. Fortunately, the communal situation remains under control but unfortunately, the terrorists are selecting soft targets. To check this, our country should evolve a zero tolerance policy towards all terrorist activities. The incidents of crime per one lakh population of our country is as low as 455.8 and out of this, serious assault account to 24.6. In 2007, incidents of terrorist violence increased marginally. Casualties of police personnel and civilians decreased by 9.6 per cent. There have been three major incidents of bomb blasts in Hyderabad and Lucknow. Many precious lives have been lost in these bomb blasts. What is happening is that Bangladeshis are infiltrating into India and mingling with the local population. After settling down, without creating any kind of doubt, they are indulging in terrorist activities in our country. Many Bangladeshis are staying in India illegally. They have to be detected and deported to their country immediately. The Home Ministry should also undertake a survey of foreigners who are overstaying in our country after the expiry of their visas and suitable action should be taken against them. Participation of local community leaders should be enlisted to help prevent terrorist activities.

In America, after 9/11 terrorist attack, no other major incident had taken place because of the unprecedented security measures taken by them. But in our country, terrorist attacks are taking place regularly,

one after the other. Our Government also should take new and innovative security measures. Our people also should adjust to the new security environment without blaming the security officials. The Government also should take steps to fill up vacant posts in the police organisation. The Ministry also should pay attention to the modernisation of the police force. There should be effective coordination among the State police forces. The Government should strengthen the investigation capabilities of the police force by imparting advanced training. These measures will help in containing the naxalite violent activities, which is the single most rampant challenge for internal security. This investment is necessary and essential if we need to turn the tide in favour of the Government.

We all know that our borders with our neighbouring countries are porous. The fencing of borders should be completed. Recently, Parliament had passed the Sashastra Seema Bal Bill to guard our borders with Nepal and Bhutan. I congratulate the hon. Home Minister for creating this force.

The Government should check the flow of funds from abroad to the terrorist outfits through hawala transactions.

Women constitute half of our country's population. My hon. Colleague also made a mention of it while delivering her speech. Most of the violent activities are targeted at women and weaker sections. Now, it is high time to control crime against women. I demand that at least one women police station should be set up in each assembly constituency. There should be a mandatory provision to increase the number of women staff in each police station.

For increased emergency response, I demand that double the number of fire stations should be set up in each assembly segment.

I also request to allocate more funds to control cyber crime, which is spreading like a wild virus and affecting internal security.

The police-citizen interaction forum should be given a legal sanctity to improve the coordination between the

people and the police. The ultimate solution for these activities is socio-economic development.

I congratulate the UPA Government for implementing various schemes, like the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana, NREGP, National Rural Health Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Integrated Child Development Service Scheme and various income generating schemes of rural development. The implementation has to be done in a systematic and qualitative manner. It also needs closer monitoring.

To conclude, I want to stress on the development activities under Indiramma Programme (Integrated Novel Development Activities in Rural Areas and Model Municipal Areas). A comprehensive development programme on housing, social security, health, infrastructure, education, etc., is bringing good results in our Andhra Pradesh under the dynamic leadership of our hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. If the coordination is taken to a higher level, I am sure, the terrorist and naxal activities will be greatly contained and the internal security improves and a conducive atmosphere for development will evolve.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Madam chairman thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Earlier, I did not want to speak, but the way my one or two colleagues indicated that Muslim organizations are responsible for terrorism.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I don't think anyone has said that.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: It is not a good sign for our country and the society. I would like to remind them that during the last one year, all the arms and ammunitions seized from Uttar Pradesh to Tamil Nadu have been seized from organizations of RSS Parivar and maximum arms and ammunition have been seized from Maharashtra. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Your

[Shrimati Karuna Shukla]

allegations are baseless. RSS is an organization which serves the country, it is not a terrorist organization. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: They are the real terrorist, Who raise fingers at arrested ...*(Interruptions)* They are all RSS people. It is also there in the Fact Finding Report ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Don't mention the name of any organization time and again. Just say your point.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Sangh people are the people who serve the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: The persons arrested in Parbani and Nanded were all RSS people. It is a fact ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You just say your point. Do not mention the name of any organization time and again.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Trials are being run against them in a number of courts and in Raibareli court, one person named Raja Ram was arrested and I forgot the name of other person who was let off, because he was not a Muslim. Had he been a Muslim, then perhaps he would have been associated with terrorist organization Lashkar-E-Tayyaba...*(Interruptions)* Not one or two but six bombs were seized from him. RSS persons were arrested in Nanded and Parbhani...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: They were all Muslims, no one was from Sangh.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Karunaji, speak only when your turn comes. It is not fair to interrupt in between.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Her interruptions should be deleted from the record.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Faked beards, caps, arms and ammunitions were seized from the Maharashtra office of Bajrang Dal. It is not their Government there, but Congress Party is ruling there. Despite seizure of huge explosive material from there, they were not booked

under MCOCA and they were let off after routine interrogation. There came a shameless statement from the Home Minister of that state that they were arrested and RDX was also seized from them, but they were not involved in terrorist activities. Had their names were Asit, Iqbal or Ilyas, then they would have been arrested. It is a matter of shame for the Government of Maharashtra that in its view no one was considered as terrorist.

There have been discussions here about the infiltration from Bangladesh. I am strongly against infiltration. As a member of BSP, as Ilyas Azmi and on behalf of Muslims, I would like to say to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that if he has got any figures or information that two or three crore Bangladeshi are living here, leave alone that even if there are two-four or five, ten, I would only...* to whom till now you extend your hospitality is perhaps now planning to leave the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: It is not fair to pass such a comment on Taslima Nasreen...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please do not interrupt time and again. You can speak, when your turn comes.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: If I quote even one page of her book, the House will not be able to tolerate that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt. Your point will not be recorded. Speak only, when you will be asked to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: You like only two persons. One is ... * you don't like any other Muslim except them ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Azmi, Please conclude now. A number of members want to speak.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: I have not even started. They are disturbing me. I will conclude in two minutes. I would like to make a submission to the hon'ble Minister of Home affairs. Do tell this House, if you have figures

*Not recorded.

with you, if you have the knowledge of presence of such a number of Bangladeshis here. If they are here then why haven't they been deported? I fully agree that any infiltrator be it Bangladeshi or Pakistani or Chinese, they should be deported. I, as a representative of Indian Muslims, am saying that I endorse it but those who make false charges should be given strict punishment. I, as a representative of Indian Muslims, endorse it but those who blame without base should be given bigger punishment. He said that there are 40 lakh Bangladeshis in Mumbai. I say that total number of Muslims in Mumbai is not 40 lakh let alone the number of Bangladeshi Muslims. Total population of all the Muslims in Mumbai will not reach 40 lakh.

Second thing I want to say about Nepal. Our brother Yogi Aditya Nathiji is not present here at the moment. I say that these people...* want to convert a secular country like India into a Hindu Rashtra. A Hindu rashtra was there in our neighbourhood but the local Hindu citizens rejected that and espoused Maoism, I ask as to what is your problem. Ours is a democratic nation, we should welcome the decision of Nepalese people and try to have better relationship with the present Government. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, we should not repeat the same mistake in Nepal which we had committed with a friend like Afghanistan in the past when Russian empire captured that country and we....* We supported capture by another country. Today, Americans...* have captured it and how shamelessly we...* are supporting Americans, this policy is not good. We should not repeat the same mistake in Nepal which we have been repeating in Afghanistan. We, even today, should support the real representatives of Afghani people, but...* America calls them terrorist and we twenty times...* calling them terrorist. Tomorrow, they are also going to be in power in Faghanistan, therefore, we should increase the number of our friends not the foes. You should not call anyone terrorist just because America is calling them so. ...(*Interruptions*)

In the interest of the country, I want to say that you should not get carried away by whatever they are saying about Nepal. Instead you should try to make

better relationship with the people and Government of Nepal while giving respect to the decision of Nepalese people. Afghanistan is our neighbour and we should also reconsider our policy towards Afghanistan. We should stop supporting middlemen and sycophants of America and develop relationship henceforth with those who will come to power there tomorrow. We are a democratic nation and time and again it is being said that POTA has been abolished. If terrorism could has been stopped just by draconian laws then TADA was ten times more draconian than POTA, TADA created thousands of terrorists and failed to check terrorism. If terrorism could have been checked through laws and internal security could have been achieved through justice, then it could have been a better thing. The terrorism will die on its own, the day we start treating everyone without discrimination from Brahmin to Shudra, Hindu-Muslim-Sikh-Christian. Those who have been disillusioned from justice and they feel that they could not get it because of their caste, religion or economic status, such misled people should be given justice. A rebellion is always born because of injustice and they are called terrorist by us, they all are byproduct of social injustice. You can strengthen the internal security by establishing rule of law in the society. A gun cannot be answer to another gun. You can never strengthen the internal security of the country by adopting the policy of bullet for bullet.

Madam, I want to say few more things but there is a time constrain, therefore, with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Respected Madam, I rise to support the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs. This Demand is fully justified in terms of the functioning of the Ministry of Home Affairs. There are 10 Demands under which the Ministry of Home Affairs is seeking the approval of the House for an expenditure of Rs. 29,820 crore. You know that this Ministry is discharging a number of onerous responsibilities which cannot be or whose results cannot be so easily quantified. It is easy to blame the functioning of the Ministry rather than giving concrete suggestions. You know that this Ministry is involved in

*Not recorded.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

the maintenance of internal security, management of paramilitary forces, border management, Centre-State relations, administration of Union Territories and disaster management. Currently, the Ministry is implementing 22 very important schemes which have the potential of augmenting the capacity to maintain the internal security and the law and order situation in the country.

So, for the implementation of these schemes, we require this amount of money which represents considerable increase over the last year. Therefore, I submit that this House must approve the expenditure sought by the Ministry of Home Affairs. One of the important subjects under the Home Ministry is the administration of the Union Territories. There are seven Union Territories in the country today—five without Legislatures and two with Legislatures. One such Union Territory is represented by me, that is, the Union Territory of Puducherry. Therefore, as a lone elected Member of this Union Territory of Puducherry, I would like to indicate some of the unresolved issues of Union Territory of Puducherry to the attention of the Home Minister.

This Union Territory was liberated from the French Rule in 1954. It was brought under the ambit of the Union Territories Act, 1963. Now, the Union Territory of Puducherry, unlike Lakshadweep, the Andamans and Nicobars or Chandigarh, has got an elected Assembly with 30 Members. These 30 Members sit in the Assembly and they pass legislations. But, the pity is that even before the legislation is presented to the Assembly, they have to get the vetting and approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs. They are the elected representatives of the people. The people's powers vest with the Legislative Assemblies, but we have been asked to get the approval before that. Even after that, there is no guarantee that it will be approved by the Home Ministry. A very pitiable situation politically and an untenable situation is prevailing. Then, if it is a Union Territory without a Legislature, the things are different. But, we have a Legislature, but for everything, the Lieutenant Governor is responsible and the Ministry of Home Affairs is administering. Therefore, I would plead

with the Home Ministry that you should give us more powers consistent with the political dogmas, political philosophies of democracy, because democracy can be enshrined only when elected people get the power. Therefore, I would urge upon the Home Ministry to find our ways and means of devolving more of political powers to the Union Territory of Puducherry, administrative powers and the financial powers. Then, when the time comes and when the situation is ripe, please think of giving us more and more powers so that we are able to live as an independent unit within the Government of India.

18.00 hrs.

The second issue is with regard to the local bodies. The local body representatives met the hon. Home Minister and explained their plight. Puducherry was the only Union Territory where the local body elections were not conducted for 38 long years and these elections were conducted only in 2006, but necessary powers, functions, functionaries and funds have not yet been devolved to the local bodies. This is also a serious democratic question in the Union Territory of Puducherry which must be addressed by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The third point is, Pondicherry city, the Capital city of the Union Territory of Puducherry is one of the most dynamic cities in our country and there are a number of people who come to Puducherry and say that this is one of the finest cities in the country. Small is beautiful is amply proved in the city of Puducherry, but this city has been kept as a 'C' class city for a very long time. In terms of urbanisation, the Union Territory of Puducherry is having 64 per cent of the people living in urban areas which is the 4th position in the all India level.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadass, please take your seat for a minute. Still there are 15 to 16 members who want to speak in this debate.

[Translation]

Everyone please conclude within 2-3 minutes. We will extend the time of the House but everybody should

kindly mind the time limit and conclude within 3-4 minutes. The time of the House is being extended till conclusion of the debate but Members are requested to be brief.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Please allow those Members who wish to lay their speeches.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If anybody wants' to lay his speech then he is welcome to do so.

Prof. Ramdass, you may please go ahead now, but please conclude within two minutes.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Madam, Puducherry city is one of the most urbanized cities in the country today. The Standing Committee on Home Affairs which visited Puducherry unanimously recommended that Puducherry should be conferred with B-2 status and the Sixth Pay Commission is also concurring with this view. Therefore, the Home Minister must immediately make arrangements to declare Puducherry city as a B-2 city.

There are about seven tribal communities in the Union Territory of Puducherry living here for more than 100 years, but these communities have not been still recognized as Scheduled Tribes. We have made several representations and we have given authentic evidence even to the Registrar General of India, but no action has been taken. As a result, these people are languishing without the benefits entitled to them as tribal communities. So, these communities should be recognized as Scheduled Tribes immediately.

Madam, as you know, tsunami struck in 2004 and the fishermen of the Union Territory of Puducherry were one of the most affected lot, but even today the Government of Puducherry has not constructed many houses and only the NGOs have constructed some houses. So, all the money that has been given to the Union Territory must be translated in terms of action by providing houses to them.

The next point is, the financial resources given by

the Home Ministry consist of two parts, one is Non-Plan Gap Grant and another is Plan Grant. The Non-Plan Gap Grant is reducing year after year. With regard to the Plan assistance, the Home Ministry has asked us to borrow from the market which is very difficult for the Union Territory Administration. Therefore, as in the past, 90 per cent of the grant must come as Plan Grant. Then, Swadesi Cotton Mills and Barathe mills of the NTC have been handed over to the Union Territory and we have to pay Rs. 38 crore for that, but the release of that amount is also pending with the Ministry of Home Affairs. So, this has to be released soon by the Government of India.

My last point is, Karaikal district has now been declared as a district recently and we have to create a lot of infrastructure for the social and economic development of this area. So, I would request the Ministry of Home Affairs to grant as much money as possible under the Backward Regions Grant Fund.

Madam, administration of Union Territories is the responsibility of the Home Ministry. So, it must take into consideration these unresolved issues which are pending for a long time and resolve them as quickly as possible. If it is done quickly, it will go a long way in accelerating the development of this small but beautiful Union Territory with the patronage of the Home Ministry.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Madam, I rise to speak on some law and order situation prevailing in the country. I have materials before me to speak for hours, but I will do it within a short time.

We are faced with a situation that we will have to think of bringing fundamental changes in our investigating system. As you know, our conviction rate is far below the international standards. If I may put it, it is seven per cent. That is, out of 100 cases so far registered and investigated 93 persons escape. This is the situation prevalent in the country and daily we hear about dacoity, robbery, bomb blasts, human bombs, rapes committed in day-light and murders equally committed along with rape. This is the situation now prevailing in the country. What is our law system? We will have to think about it.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

I will illustrate my argument by a simple example. Let us assume for a moment that we could apprehend Dawood Ibrahim, who is abroad and we got him, brought before a court of law in India. The trial will take years. During the entire trial, Dawood Ibrahim will be a silent spectator inside the dock. He would have taken the burden of disproving the offence, but the court would not allow it and he has no liability or burden to participate in the trial.

Ours is a system, which presumes that accused be innocent and we are also bound to prove the offence beyond the shadow of a doubt. This is the quantum of evidence that is required for proving a case. Now, all along, a witness will be examined for years and at the last moment, the Trial Judge will put in certain questions under section 313 of the Criminal Procedure Code and Dawood Ibrahim will answer those questions. After hearing both the cases, Dawood Ibrahim will go as a free man out of India. The Judge is not duty bound to disprove offences against him.

Therefore, the first important thing is that the accused must be made liable to disprove the offences charged against them. The law should be changed. It is not the duty of the prosecutor to prove the offence beyond the shadow of a doubt. So, the law must be changed.

There are three types of crimes committed in India. One is State crime, the second is inter-State crime and the third is international crime. The State crimes will be taken over by the State police. What about inter-State crimes and international crimes? We will have to think over it.

I would like to draw your attention to the present law and order situation. Law and order is primarily a subject of the State. The Central Government has no role to play in investigating in such cases and we have a premier investigating agency known as Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which was organised under the Old Delhi Police Establishment Act. It cannot *suo motu* take up the investigation. It will have to be entrusted

with the investigation either by the State Government or the Central Government or by a court.

When a multi-State or an internationally connected crime is committed in a particular place in India, the local police will come into play.

They are not well-equipped. These terrorists have the most modern equipments. The local Police are quite incompetent to meet such a situation. In the matter of crime investigation, the first information is the material information, and the evidence collected initially is the most important thing. CBI comes into play after a long time. The terrorists who are behind these offences have the most modern equipments, and this is the situation. So, most of the criminals behind these crimes are acquitted. So, there must be an attempt on the part of the Home Ministry to change the law. You can have a discussion with the State Governments in this regard.

Our founding fathers did not define federal crimes in our Constitution. In all other countries, federal crimes are defined. Even in the American Constitution, federal crimes are investigated, and a federal agency is there but we do not have a statutory federal agency like that. We have not defined federal crimes in our Constitution. The net result is that the State Police will have to take up all these multi-State crimes and internationally connected crimes. So, I urge upon the Central Government to tell the State Governments to see the situation, make them understand that it is not an encroachment in the powers of the State because the situation is such that we will have to deal with the terrorist activities having network throughout the nation, and the State Police are not competent enough to take up the investigation of those crimes. You will have to make some procedural changes also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, you have made a very strong and good point. It is really a very good point. You please conclude now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I would like to make one more point. Now, all these crimes end up in acquittal. Why? There are hostile witnesses, and it has become the order of the day. We will have to take up the case of hostile witnesses. When an offence is

committed, the most important occurrence is that the witnesses will turn hostile and the offence will not be proved beyond doubt. So, the question of hostile witnesses will have to be dealt with and some provision will have to be made to deal with the position of hostile witnesses.

Then, another important point, which you will have to bear in mind, is the provision about confession in the law. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, you can make only one more point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is an old law. Now, we are at the information stage. We have the most modern equipments to record the statements of the witnesses. Previously this—confession before a Police Officer is inadmissible under the provisions of the Evidence Act—may be correct. Now, the Evidence Act will have to be changed in the changed situation because of information technology. We have every technology now. Even media processing and media trial are also possible. Then, why do we not change this condition in the Evidence Act? The statement under Section 162 of the Criminal Procedure Code can be dispensed with, and you can take the statement before a competent officer as a proof, and that too recorded under the scientific method, which is possible nowadays. Then, why should we stick on to this confession before a Police Officer? So, some drastic changes are required to be made. We are the law-makers. We are duty bound to change the law. Until and unless we make some changes in our procedural law as well as in our basic law, we would not be able to deal with terrorism in this country.

India is having the largest number of terrorist victims and it is next to Iraq. Hundreds of innocent lives have been lost due to bomb blasts and human bomb blasts. The number of such victims in our country is equivalent to the number of such victims of Iraq.

This cannot be prevented unless and until you come prepared on the recommendations of the Law Commission, implement them and bring out a law with drastic changes.

I think that my friend, Shri Shivraj V. Patil will take this historic law and make some changes in our legal system so that these terrorists and other heinous offenders may not escape.

With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Madam, Chairman, while supporting the demands for grants of Ministry of Home Affairs, I would like to draw kind attention towards some important points. First of all, I would like to say that unity, integrity, strength, power and force of a country depend upon internal situation. If the internal law and order is good, and atmosphere peaceful then country will move on the path of progress and achieve all round development as well. But if provincialism, separatism, militancy or terrorism or any other activities of treason prevail there then definitely that country will be debilitated.

Madam, there is no need to remind that freedom fighters laid their lives willingly to unshackle Bharat Mata from slavery and along with "Vande Matram and Hail Mother India" they used to say with pride:

Na ijjat De, na azmat de,
Na Surat de, na sirat de,
Ya Rabb! Mujhe vatan ke vaste
Marne ki himmat de.

What kind of vision those people must have had about India who made supreme sacrifice saying these words? They must have imagined an India which is strong, united, from Kashyimir to Kanya Kumari; Gujarat to Nagaland, whole nation standing united and which is always marching on the path of progress so that our country again could be called a golden bird and retrieve its pristine glory. But I have to say with regret that ever since the UPA Government has come to power rather I would say, every Government after Independence have made efforts but I would like to say about the current Government that you can say by showing the data regarding situation in Jammu and Kashmir that terrorist activities are slightly on decline but today the PDP which

[Prof. Rasa Sing Rawat]

is part of the Congress led Government in Jammu and Kashmir is saying that currency of Pakistan should be allowed in Kashmir and Army should be withdrawn from Kashmir. How far it is right to say such things or take the case of Assam where the Congress is in power, in that Congress governed state, Hindi speaking people are being killed and north Indians are being killed. Is this the way Congress rules? I want to say through you, that today a situation of imminent President's rule is prevailing in Manipur. The local Government has failed to maintain law and order there. Manipur is the only state where it is not the elected Government but terrorists who are running the Government.

The situation is out of control there, the State Government is helpless. Since their party is ruling the State, they are not dismissing it. Had the Opposition Party been in power, they would have dismissed it's government, I am telling this because all the officers, and employees of Central Government and the State Government residing there, are being forced to give money to the militants for their own survival and in this small state, 39 terrorist organizations are operating. In Assam 36 terrorist organizations are operating while in Jammu and Kashmir 32 such organizations are operating. You can imagine the terrible situation prevailing in the small State like Manipur. This is not good for the country. We were discussing about the internal security. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. Now conclude. Other members of your party are to speak now. Please conclude quickly.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Chairman Madam, for how long the Centre will regard the law and order situation as a State matter and remain inactive. If it does not show political willpower, our internal security will be weakened.

18.19 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHA KRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

But the Union Government is harping on the same thing that the country does not need any stringent-law

to deal with the criminals, rascals and check terrorist activities. A stringent law is definitely needed.

We formulated stringent law like POTA so that the witnesses might not be afraid of their safety and evidence might be taken, but the Government scrapped the POTA law the moment it came into power. Sir, even in those countries where there is not much terrorism their Governments formulated stringent laws. We are the worst victims of terrorism from the North-East to Kashmir, still our Government is not formulating stringent laws to tackle the terrorists. Consequently, no witness comes forward for evidence by putting one's life in danger. After all, who are the persons giving them shelter, taking care of their boarding and lodging and transportation? A stringent law is indeed needed to bring them to the book.

Sir, I want to add one more point. We have been discussing about some central investigating agency for a long time. Though we have an agency like CBI but it conducts its investigation at the request of State Government. The matter for setting up a federal agency was under consideration but it seems that the same has been forgotten. Had all the State Governments and their Chief Ministers been informed about that proposed federal agency, its jurisdiction and its power, while seeking their comments on it, they would certainly have given their consent for the same. The federal investigating agency should be under the Central Government so that if any State Government does not take action against terrorists, the Centre, equipped with such federal agency, may have power to investigate in such case.

Sir, as we are proud of our army, in the same way, we are also proud of our para-military forces. They too are doing their duties for maintaining internal security and border security of the country by putting their own lives in danger. But they are not being provided the same honour, cash reward and other facilities like pension and other benefits after having lost their lives while being on duty, as in the case of armed forces. Therefore, I request that the soldiers of para-military forces like CRPF, SSF, CISF, ITBP or BSF should be accorded the same honour and facilities. You may

provide less facilities in comparison to the army but they must be given facilities because they defend our country by putting their lives in danger.

Sir, with regard to the Disaster Management I want to make some requests. Rajasthan is most affected. The frost does not damage other States so much. Hon'ble Soniaji is also present here. Even the colleagues of Congress party from Rajasthan have requested her. We also request her through you that even the frost be included in the list of disaster management in which flood is already included because the frost has damaged crops worth crores of rupees. So, by including the frost in the list, the rules of CRF and NCCF be changed so that State Governments may help the poor farmers properly.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You speak always. You speak on every subject. Then, why do you worry?

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, I am coming to the last point. The Government should take strict action to deal with the Naxalism, otherwise, as the Maoists started ruling Nepal, the red corridor prevailing in Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, other States, Maharashtra, or Orissa—which are spreading from North to South, may become a great threat in days to come. So, unified command is necessary to deal with the Naxalism. There should be coordination among all the States and unified command should work under the Central Government and all the information be collected under this unified command, there should be an intelligence network to trace out the hideouts of the terrorists and provide prepare strategy to fight against them. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not conclude, then I will announce that nothing will go on record. Please conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Chairman Sir, a strong Government rules the country well. If the Central Government is weak, the State Governments will also be weak and consequently the country will be weak. If the States are strong and Centre is strong, our nation will be strong and we will be able to say that India is a powerful nation and no power in the world can disintegrate the country.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, I rise to speak, through you, in favour of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs which I support. I am extremely happy and I would like to congratulate the U.P.A. Government that since the time our U.P.A. Government has come to power, the conditions in my state Jammu and Kashmir are tending to be quite congenial and for the very cordial atmosphere that has been there, I would like to congratulate it. I would also like to congratulate those who sacrificed their lives, our policemen—whether they belong to CRPF, JKP Armed Police and Parliamentary Force have sacrificed for the state and for them, I can say that we are proud of them and I would like to congratulate them for this. 425 youths of the SPSSs, BDC and DDC in my state have sacrificed their lives there, those who were adopted in the voluntary force, are provided honorarium only. My Government provided Rs. 1500 to 3100, but BDC gets nothing, BDC is provided with an SPO and the money is divided among four youths. A person gets Rs. 500 for a month, that is too meagre. It is an injustice to them if you are not making any provision for salary heightened and honorarium, and nice dress, shoes and arms to the young ones who have been sacrificing their lives for the country. From where they will get justice? They need justice. People are very puzzled there for this thing to happen, especially SPOs, BDC and DDC got nothing, who do their duty in the distant hills.

Sir, there is a very important matter and I would like to attract the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to this, that no leader and the Member of Parliament has the right to go to Pakistan and to have an hour-long in-camera discussion with any leader of

[Chaudhary Lal Singh]

Pakistan, he does not have the right to decide for Jammu and Kashmir there. [English] They have no right

[Translation]

He does not speak in such a tone there that day what Jardari Ji was speaking earlier and after an hour-long meeting with him he reversed his tone. I would like to say that

[English]

it is a serious note

[Translation]

Nobody has this right to say that the currency of Jammu and Kashmir will be changed and the currency will be a part of Pakistan. Who among us wants currency and what right do those people have?

[English]

You take action against those nonsense people. How dare they?

[Translation]

I would like to, submit to you that nation is priority, none has any priority beyond that. I feel unhappy when many a time some people say Hindu and some people say Muslim. I say that they are damned and if we talk of a divisive tone of Hindu, Muslim, the country will be destroyed. The same is what you are doing, it is only for want of support of the people that we become so hellish and want to represent the country. They forget country, even the big guns, who boast of themselves of the progressive thinking, talk of Hindu-Muslim, it is a matter of shame. I would like to say that all these petty things should be stopped. This should be noticed that nobody will represent caste or race and all will represent the country and country only [English] you must make the law. It is serious.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir many Pakistanis have been in

Jammu and Kashmir for 60 years. There generations have passed. The punishment to them is that neither they can vote for an M.L.A. nor they can become Sarpunch. They do not get IAY house or BPL ration, they have been living a life of misery for 60 years. I am sorry for this, who will decide it, I want to know? [English] Government of India should take interest

[Translation]

Which part of Government of Jammu and Kashmir is of the view that they should not be adopted. I am an M.P. There are two MPs from the state of Jammu and Kashmir. We and MLAs of my state are of the view that let it be settled, it is not surprising if someone makes a hue and cry over this. The people from Pak occupied Kashmir arrived, they did not even get the things which they ought to have got and which were bound to be given to them. I am sorry that we have 24 seats in assembly. We did one thing more. We permitted Pakistan to construct Mangla Dam over our land. The Mangla Dam was constructed over our lands but we have not yet got the compensation. By whose permission this dam was constructed in Pakistan though that is a disputed part? That is certainly a part of ours. [English] How Pakistan dare to do it?

[Translation]

Pakistan succeeded in utilizing our own part. We did get nothing.

The people who arrived in Jammu-Kashmir are the inhabitants of this country, those who adopted India at the time of division of the country, failed to get anything even today. Why they are being punished, why they are not being settled? The people of our Chamb-Jorian were called back in the war of the year 1971, but 37 thousand Kanal of their land was given to Pakistan. Even today, those farmers have not got any land in return for that. They have not been settled even today. These are most important matters. I would like to know that a person wants to prove his identity and his identity is on Boot, whether they are west Pakistani, devoid of being Indians, or they are people hailing from POK, or Chamb, nobody got anything.

Sir, today Madam Soniaji is present here. I have a submission and I request to have mercy on these poor people. I would like to say one and all that it is a sin. Without any hindrance, the world is with you. People are with you. There in the state the rule is of ours and here in the centre we have the government led by our own party. If we are not settled as yet, when it will be? I have this submission.

Sir, in the last, I would like to say how U.N. aids dared to segregate the part of Jammu and Kashmir map of India and represented it as a different part. They have not yet added this part to the map of India. Nobody took action for that, nobody asked? I would like to know why this carelessness is being exhibited. See the daring of U.N. aids that it is presenting Jammu-Kashmir as a separate nation after segregating it from the map of India and thus making a division of India. I would certainly like to know about this from the Minister of Home Affairs when he comes to discuss it.

Sir, our people went to take part in fight in Goa. They were freedom fighters. Some of them died and returned only when Goa was freed. Till now there are nine persons of Goa left in Jammu-Kashmir. They have not been accorded the status of freedom fighters I would like to know why this is happening? They talk of recruitment in B.A.D.P. I want to say) through you, that recruitment did not take place in Basoli, Bilawer, Bani, Kandi area of Kathna and border area of Kishtwar. I regret that there are some places in the whole of Jammu-Kashmir where recruitment takes place but there has been no recruitment till date in the areas which I have mentioned and there is no strong desire to conduct recruitment. I would like that you should take action and recruitment should be conducted in those areas also.

Sir, lastly, I support demands for grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs. I am even ready to cooperate with you.

[Translation]

*SHRI HITEN BARMAN (Cooch Behar): Thank you Hon. Chairman I rise to support the Demands for Grants

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2008-09 and I would raise a few vital points. In this country, terrorism and extremism were born when the partition took place. When India and Pakistan were carved out, this problem became a permanent phenomenon and the persons who divided the country are entirely responsible for it. We are just bearing the brunt of their misadventure. Especially I would like to make a mention of the Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal. In the area, roads have been built, BSF camps have been set up at a distance of 1 km each, fencing has been done to check infiltration from Bangladesh. Crores of rupees have been spent for all these. I think the policy which has been adopted by the Central Government is grossly trafficking just by constructing barbed wire fence in the bordering area. The border with West Bengal is about 2200 km long and only by spending a huge amount of money on BSF and fencing, nothing can be achieved. People of the area are not benefitting out of it and terrorism is also not being checked. It can be seen that there are gates in the entire stretch, BSF personnel are deployed but there is no let up in smuggling and illegal trafficking. These have been going on since independence. Terrorists and infiltrators are pouring in and they cannot be stopped like this. The gates are manned by the BSF jawans who actually help the smugglers to flourish. Nothing is done in this regard. I know very well what is happening in the border area because I hail from that place and everyday I come to know of the problems that are faced by the people. After 6 pm, markets open in the area, transactions are done at that time; at night with the connivance of BSF, commodities are smuggled, even cattle are smuggled surreptitiously. This is the ground reality. Therefore, security should be beefed up in the area. People today consider the BSF personnel as their foes, not friends because just 150 yards away from the border, they are not able to cultivate their land.

What a pitiable situation they are in ! when a farmer crosses the gate with his family for tilling his land, he is not allowed to come back for lunch. Situation is such that even water bottles are to be thrown across the gate. The cultivator remains hungry and thirsty. This is the plight of the people there. This kind of inhuman

[Shri Hiten Barman]

treatment is being meted out to them by the BSF jawans and that is why they are considered as enemies.

In so far as border security is concerned, only BSF patrolling is not enough. So I believe that the people of the area, and local police should also join hands to help the BSF. There, in fact, should be a consensus among the people, police and BSF—they should work together to tackle the problem of terrorism and infiltration, otherwise nothing would be possible. I would urge upon the Government to close the gates which have been installed at a regular interval of 1 km.

Approximately 3 lakh acres of land of West Bengal lie within the territory of Bangladesh. Either the Central Government should acquire that land by paying adequate compensation to the farmers or the barbed wire fencing should be installed at zero point of the border to seal it for good. Only then the problem can be tackled and this is my proposal.

The six districts of North Bengal are plagued by rampant terrorism. There are Maoists threats from Nepal, on one hand and on the other, there are threats from ULFA in Assam. Along with those, the KLOs also pose a security threat in North Bengal's Cooch Behar. Thus it is a burning problem of the state. Maoists are taking shelter in Siliguri and after the Bhutan operation, the KLOs have sought the patronage of Bangladesh. In order to check the menace, security aspect of West Bengal, particularly of North Bengal should be looked into.

I would mention of another problem here. If terrorism needs to be curbed, the exchange of 'Chhitmahals' or enclaves between India and Bangladesh should be implemented at the earliest. Various treaties were signed during the times of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi but not a single treaty has been put to force. So on one hand terrorists are imparting training to local youths and on the other they are intruding into our territory. Thus immediately something has to be done.

The Border Area Development Fund should be monitored so that the money is properly utilised in the

border areas. Also the allocation of money should be increased in this fund which in turn, can be used to develop the bordering areas. This is my earnest appeal to the Government.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record, if you keep on speaking.

(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mani Charenamai.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded. Only the speech of Shri Charenamai would be recorded.

(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you speaking, Shri Charenamai?

SHRI MANI CHARENAMAI (Outer Manipur): Thank you, Sir. First of all, before I come to my main point, I would like to thank our hon. Home Minister for releasing a package of relief for ethnic violence victims in Manipur in 2006. A sum of Rs. 8.80 crore was released. Sir, I would like to remind here that still there is a demand for relief for more than 700 houses in Manipur and the matter has been forwarded by the State Government to the Home Ministry. I would like to urge upon the Home Minister to kindly look into the matter.

At present, there is a burning situation in Manipur in the remote place of Churachandpur district. Around 20 children have died due to prolonged starvation, prolonged malnutrition due to the on-going gregarious bamboo flowering. This is a very serious problem. Hence, I would like to draw your attention and I would also like to remind you that the insurgency movement in Mizoram started due to gregarious bamboo flowering. Starvation and famine took place due to this bamboo flowering. So, if the situation is not brought under control, anything may happen tomorrow.

*Not recorded.

I would like to come to a very important point. The progress between the Government of India and the NSCN (IM) has been going on very slow. This is making the Naga people very doubtful about the success of the peace talks. This delay in finding a peaceful solution during these 10 long years is making the Naga people, particularly the youths, very restive. This delay is not at all good for both the parties because the faith and confidence on the Centre is slowly eroding and it is creating more room for the youth to indulge in more and more underground activities. If this situation continues, the blame game may start between the parties involved in the peace talks for the slow progress and the Centre may ultimately walk away from the peace process putting the blame on the other parties involved in the peace talks. I want to make one thing very clear in this august House that if the Central Government's aim is only to contain the Naga underground group, particularly, NSCN (IM), instead of committing to give peace a chance to the suffering Naga people in the North-East by removing the injustice done to them, I am afraid, real peace may not return or may not come in the years to come, even if the Centre is able to exterminate or abolish all the Naga insurgents groups. The Naga people deserves peace; their demand is legitimate; and their demand for unification or integration to live under one administration is not at all unconstitutional; it is not at all illegal. This has happened with respect to all the States of the country. The States have been formed on the basis of language and culture. All the Nagas have shared a common history. They share common culture and tradition. Their demand needs to be looked into. The tenure of the UPA Government is also running out. I would urge the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister to take a bold step to give peace to the suffering Naga people who have been fighting for justice.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing demands for grants to the tune of Rs. 29,800 crore for the Ministry of Home Affairs. I support these demands and want to draw the

attention of the Minister of Home Affairs, through you, towards some points. Internal security is of paramount importance for unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country. We cannot counter external threats unless our internal security is well intact. By internal security, I mean we face threats to unity of our country from 175 organizations like Maoists, terrorists and Naxalites which are raising their heads. I want to ask you, when after sixty years of independence our internal security is in danger and the Government is talking of Bharat Nirman, what kind of Bharat Nirman they are going to do. Some Members in this House have expressed just views on this demands for grants and I support them, but there are a few such people who have expressed separatist views. You have brought three crore infiltrators from Bangladesh into this country but your Government could not provide shelter to a writer, a literary person who writes against Mullas, Maulvis and fundamentalists and people in this House have audacity to speak against her. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to say in this House that every Muslim is not a terrorist but whenever a terrorist is caught, why he turns out to be a Muslim, it is a question before the Government and the Government must ponder over this. Our Prime Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh has...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): This is wrong.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: This is not wrong Krishnaji, accept the facts. You were not present in the House when allegations were made against the RSS People. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: It can be an individual but not the entire community. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: I am saying that Muslims are not terrorist. ...*(Interruptions)* They have talked about Community, they started to talk about separatism, I also have right to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: When others put allegation then I have the right to refute it.(Interruptions) Terrorists in Chhattisgarh have come from West Bengal and they are operating in the garb of NGO. Minister of States in the Ministry of Home Affairs has visited there. They are making Salva Judum a failure. Salva Judum movement has been launched by Tribals in Chhattisgarh against Naxalism which is a peaceful movement.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Can you prove that?

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): What is going on in the House? Is it proper?(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let her speak. You do not bother about it.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Why should I be quiet. When you were speaking, I was listening. Mr. Chairman, Sir how could I speak. I seek your protection.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: How can she talk about a particular community?....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: I am not talking against any community. I am only putting forth the bitter truth before the Minister of Home Affairs.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing, except what Shrimati Karuna Shukla says, will go on record.

(Interruptions)...

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: I cannot speak if I am interrupted.

Sir, I am not fiddling with anyone's emotions. I am just replying to those who have done this. Those who have left after their turn could have argued with me. What is wrong in it, which I have said about Taslima Nasrin. Our Government could not provide shelter to her. Three crore people from Bangladesh are here.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shrimati Karuna Shukla.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Those who have spoken earlier, were also not speaking on the subject. I have heard them all, who said what.

I am saying these things because you need strength, courage to deal with internal security. Minister of Home Affairs is a very respected person. When he used to be Speaker here, I was an MLA at that time. I have heard him many times and accompanied him on many occasions. I respect him. There is no doubt about his intentions but his will power is definitely under suspicion. It will be better to have a person of strong will power as a Minister of Home Affairs. His will power has withered. If persons holding constitutional posts talk of separatism then it can do no good. From Kanyakumari to Kashmir, Porbandar to Silchar, India is one. Therefore, such behaviour is not just for people occupying constitutional posts. Citizens of India can move within the country to any other states and it is not just for people occupying constitutional posts. Citizens of India can move within the country to any other states and it is not proper for people holding constitutional posts to talk of separatism.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Sir, how can I complete my Speech, I have just begun.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you wasting your time in answering them? You do not listen to them.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: You kindly stop these people. If they continue interrupting like this then how can I speak?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if separatism is supported then it will become a problem like Naxalism and Maoism in future. If Ex-Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir is saying that currency of Pakistan should be accepted in his state then it should because of concern for the Government. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, you have witnessed Naxalism from close quarters. You have provided wherewithal to states for fighting Naxalism, but there is lack of coordination between the Centre and the State Governments. Your job does not end mere with providing money only. You give money and means but will boost their morale. State's morale will get a boost in fighting Naxalism when you visit Bastar and Dantewara and get the first hand experience as to what kind of situation they are really facing. One thing is that development has not taken place in those regions, other works have not been carried out there, but I want to say that Naxalism, terrorism has nothing to do with social engineering or development. There are few directionless people who want to create an atmosphere of fear in the country. Our NDA Government had formulated POTA but you encouraged them by repealing POTA. I want to tell to the Minister of Home Affairs that 'Bhay bin hoye na preeti' that means there cannot

be love without fear; unless you create fear, you cannot contain terrorism. Naxalism, Maoism etc. Wrong doers must be punished.

With these words I support these demands for grants. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2008-09. While supporting the Demands for Grants, I seek your kind indulgence to some of my humble observations on the overall internal security and law and order situation in the country.

The Status Report on the internal security situation rightly pointed out that the main challenges to internal security and law and order situation centres around terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir, North East and naxal affected areas and communal violence. While the situation in Jammu and Kashmir continues to show definite improvement, the overall situation in Assam and Manipur in the North-Eastern region remain an area of concern. I belong to the North-Eastern region and from that point of view I would like to report to this august House that the counter insurgency operations having been stepped up in that part of the country, many killings are taking place in the name of counter insurgency. Killings of civilians, security personnel along with insurgents are taking place. This is extremely unfortunate. The big question in that area is, why killings of human beings by human beings are taking place like this?

Sir, Manipur continues to be affected by insurgent activities by a large number of militant outfits divided on ethnic lines. This is in spite of the fact that a very infamous Act, namely, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act is still in vogue in that area. Here, once again I would like to bring to the notice of the House that this particular Act is not helping to solve the problem of insurgency in that area in any form.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to conclude now.

*Not recorded.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Sir, you have to give me some more time. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that our Central Government had constituted a Committee under Justice Jeevan Reddy to look into this matter. The Committee after having studied the entire spectrum of this particular Act and its effects has now recommended for repeal of this Act. I stand for that. This particular Report is now with the Government and I would like to urge upon the hon. Home Minister and the Central Government to look into the recommendations of this Committee and repeal this Act. ...*(Interruptions)* People are discussing these security problems. This matter is being discussed at the Union Home Ministry level and at the level of the Cabinet Secretary. In the last Chief Ministers' Conference at Simla, Manipur has been termed as one of the most troubled States in the country. Of course, we do agree that we have got problems like insurgency, law and order, extortions, killings, Governments inability to spend money for various reasons. The hon. Members may feel bore about the fact that I am repeating the same points every time in the House but this is also a fact that the people of the State are suffering a lot and very badly because of these problems. I am afraid that the situation in the State might go out of control. The State of Manipur is becoming lawless and the militant groups are playing havoc. They are threatening doctors, killing Government officials including women and Hindi-speaking migrant labourers and extortions from temples are also taking place.

18.57 hrs

[SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH *in the Chair*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If you have a written speech you may lay it on the Table of the House.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Sir, I am only referring to the points.

Madam, we cannot allow the situation in Manipur to continue like this. I would just like to disclose a very interesting phenomenon. The very frustrating and intolerable question is, how can anybody who has taken the forbidden rewards of corruption ever seriously do

away with corruption? How the law-keepers who have joined hands in extortion ever be interested in fighting extortion? How can dishonest contractors and businessmen having full knowledge that those who make rules can be bribed ever refrain from taking illegal profits? This is the situation that is prevailing now. There is a nexus all around. This is rather a merry-go-round. One is running after the other but nobody is catching anybody. This is the whole problem.

Madam, I have a suggestion to make to the hon. Home Minister. We have got plenty of security personnel, particularly along the international border areas in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. The only problem is that these security personnel are kept in towns and small towns. I suggest that they should be spread to remote places along the borders. Now if that is done, and if they fall sick then, a hospital in that place would be constructed; for their transportation to such places, roads will be built.

19.00 hrs.

If they do not have anything to eat, they will do agricultural work. If they do not have water supply, they will go for a water supply scheme. If they do not have power supply, they will make some scheme for power supply. In this way, civilisation will reach that part of the region and cover the disadvantaged section of the people who are suffering in the border areas. Since we are all confined to small towns, no development is happening in the remote border areas. This is really a very serious problem. Once the military or security personnel are deployed there, perhaps these problems can be easily solved. There are many things which I would like to refute specially those expressed by the Opposition Members. But since time is short, I do not take all of them seriously.

Manipur and Tripura were princely States and they got merged with the Union of India in 1949. When merged with India, we had clear cut geographical boundaries. Manipur and Tripura were independent States. Therefore, we cannot tolerate any compromise with our territorial integrity.

With these words, I urge upon the Union Home Ministry to look into this and I support the Demands for Grants.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri): Madam, I support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Home Affairs. When we are discussing the Demands for Grants for Home Affairs, it is just and proper to analyse the situation in our country, namely, internal security problems. Of course, law and order has to be maintained by the concerned State Governments but we have to look into the broad aspects of internal security in the country. Even in the city of Delhi, we come across many incidents of kidnappings, burglary, gang rape, dacoity and atrocities against women. We cannot forget the Gurgaon and Noida incidents.

We see that naxalite atrocities are increasing day by day. They get money, arms and ammunition in plenty. From where are they getting them? We could not take any effective action on who is supplying them. We are also facing the problems of tribals in border States. Sometimes they are allowed to carry arms for self-defence but they sometimes join the naxalites.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have got the written paper with you. You can lay it on the table of the House because your Party time is over.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Through the border States, people from neighbouring countries like Bangladesh are intruding into our country. They are smuggling narcotics. Sometimes arms and ammunition are also smuggled. In the same line, terrorism is also increasing.

When we see the real picture of our country, we may find that communal troubles are also increasing. Attacks against Christians in Orissa, Gujarat and Bihar may be recalled. The places of worship and properties are being destroyed and even murder was reported. Atrocities against nuns had taken place.

From 2005 onwards, we heard that the Government is going to bring forward a law to prevent communal violence. It was the policy of CMP of the UPA Government to bring out an enactment, namely, The Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and

Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill, 2005. Four years have lapsed but this law has not been introduced in Parliament by the UPA Government so far.

The people of Tibet may be here as refugees but how can we allow them to create problems here? They are making agitations and holding demonstrations here. These may be controlled.

I have a word to say about freedom fighters' pension. The persons involved in freedom struggle are very few now in number in our country. Some are getting pension but a section of them are denied the benefit for the reason that they are not included in the list of Government of India. For example, there were struggles in Punnappra, Vylar, Karuvallur and Kavumbai in Kerala and Telengana in Andhra Pradesh. Kerala Government is giving pension to people who participated in the struggle but the Government of India is not allowing it. So, my request is that there should be a reconsideration of the matter.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Madam Chairman, we are discussing the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Peace and harmony are essential pre-requisites for developing and building a strong and prosperous nation. For this purpose, the Ministry has enhanced its Budget allocation. Within these four or five years, the enhancement is 71.89 per cent. This Ministry has been given more allocation in comparison to other Ministries. In 2004-05 the Budget allocation was Rs. 17,348.04 crore. In 2008-09, it is 29,820.99 crore, which represents an increase of 71.89 per cent.

This Ministry out of its ten grants is directly responsible for Grant Nos. 51, 53 and 54. It has also been enhanced to Rs. 23,700 crore for the year 2008-09, which is an increase of about Rs. 3,000 crore. So, it seems as if we are proceeding towards a Police State from a Welfare State. But I understand that this is the compulsion of the Government and that is why it is increasing the Budget allocation.

This Government has miserably failed in controlling

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

or combating the worsening internal security which is the main responsibility of this Ministry. The main challenges to the internal security are the law and order situation centering around terrorist violence both in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts in North-East, naxalism, communal violence, etc. What is happening now in India is causing grave concern. Naxalism, insurgency and terrorism have caused threats to India. It means that terrorists can strike anywhere, any time and against any target. It is not only bad, what is worse is the way we are reacting to it. This has exposed the Government's failure and weakness in the management of law and order, in the affairs of internal security. It seems this Government has no political will. I am just giving one example in this regard. On August 14, 2005, the Cabinet Committee on Security had cleared tough new measures to act as a deterrent against the hijacking of Indian aircraft. On August 15, hon. Prime Minister, in his address to the nation, buttressed his Government's tough approach, but the Government is yet to keep its promise. The Anti-Hijacking Act of 1982 is yet to be amended. During these three years, it did not have the time to make necessary amendment which they had promised three years back. They are trying to engage a political strategy, but hopelessly it does not have the power to execute that for fear of political consequences.

I am giving you another example. This Government and also its allies are behaving in a way which is encouraging these terrorist activities in the country.

...(Interruptions)

This country is completely kept in dark regarding the Jammu and Kashmir policy of this Government.

...(Interruptions)

What did the former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, who was supported by the Congress Party—and they are ruling the State together—and he was also the former Home Minister of this country, demand?

What is the demand of the PDP led by Shri Mufti Mohd. Sayeed? They have demanded for use of Pakistani currency as dual currency in Kashmir, and

have also added that the Jammu and Kashmir Governor be elected by the State Legislature, and phasing out Central services like IAS, IPS in Kashmir, and abolishing the application of Article 356 in Kashmir etc. I want to know the reaction of the Government. Their ally is demanding such things and they are also ruling the State with the support of the P.D.P. What is the perception of this Government? Are they supporting the demand of the PDP? Shri Mufti Mohd. Sayeed has also said that he would also meet the hon. Prime Minister and he would express his desire to fulfil this demand. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what really has happened to these demands. I would also like to know whether the Union Government and the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir are also considering safe passage of militants who have crossed over to Pakistan-administered Kashmir. What is the real position of the Government of India? Is the Central Government conceding to this demand?

Madam, several parts of the North-Eastern Region have been in the influence of insurgency for quite some time. This has been mentioned by the other hon. Members also. The number of incidents was 1,234 in 2004 and in 2007, it has increased to 1,489. So, it has increased manifold. The civilian casualties 630 have also increased in the North-East. Members have mentioned about it. Even a CPM Minister of Tripura, an ally of UPA, has resigned because of his involvement in these activities. Some allegations are also coming from Assam and Manipur. So this is a very critical area in the North-East where the very important personalities, the Ministers, the Chief Ministers have been alleged to be involved in these militant activities.

So, I want to know the actual policy of the Government of India, whether a high-level inquiry will be conducted, or a judicial inquiry will be conducted or any kind of such inquiries which are necessary will be conducted. Otherwise, will it not create such an environment and how will we be able to combat this terrorism problem? It is not possible to combat this problem of terrorism if people in the high positions are involved in these types of activities.

The security problem in the naxal-affected States

is also very serious. The State Government of Orissa has also demanded for more money for modernisation of police force and other things. I would like to know whether the Government is conceding this demand or not. What is the Government doing just to tackle the naxal problem because it is also increasing? The casualties in the naxal-based States are also increasing.

Madam, now I would like to come to the Report of the C and AG. The C and AG has also made some observations in their Report No. 2 of 2007, Para 10.1 concerning I.T.B.P. and Para 10.2 on BSF and the Report of the Committee on Petitions in its Seventh and Eleventh Reports and the observations of the Estimates Committee in its Eleventh Report. The Government has not reacted or clarified to all these reports.

So, I would request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to look into all these things because serious allegations have come against the affairs of this Department. I would request the hon. Minister to look into all these things.

Madam, lastly, I would like to touch upon the atrocities on women and women trafficking. It is also increasing to a great extent in the country. Why is it so? This is also the responsibility of the Government of India. It is not a simple law and order problem. The cases of women trafficking are increasing manifold. What is the Government of India's perception? What action do they want to take to control these cases of women trafficking that are increasing in a great extent in this country?

So, in all fronts, I hope, we are just giving permission for utilising funds. Hence, the funds should be utilised properly and the police force should be modernised. Whatever thing is necessary to just combat terrorism, the Government should come forward to provide that. We are here to help them.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Madam, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Home Minister to the Status Paper on Internal Security Situation. In this, on the Border Area Development Programme, hundred per

cent Central funding is provided for agriculture, social services, infrastructure and border security schemes.

As the hon. Home Minister also knows, there is the construction of one very important road called the Gadhuli-Hajipur-Khavda-Santalpur Road bordering on Kutch—joining Kutch and Banaskantha districts—which is very much useful for our security personnel, which remains incomplete since last more than 10 years. The price escalation has become beyond our control. So, my only request to the hon. Home Minister is to see that this road, which is very important for the security personnel, the BSF and also for the *Dholavira* site which is one of the ancient heritage sites on the border of Kutch, is constructed. If it is done, tourists can very well easily go from Bhuj to *Dholavira*. At present, they have to take more than six hours' time. If this road is constructed, then the tourists can reach *Dholavira* from Bhuj in two hours. The *Gadhuli-Santalpur* roadwork has started ten years back and it still remains incomplete. So, I would request the hon. Home Minister to look into this issue.

Secondly, I come to the initiative proposed to strengthen internal security systems. It has been mentioned:

"The Central Government will continue to coordinate with the States and closely monitor the internal security situation in the country and provide all possible assistance to supplement their efforts and resources in successfully managing the challenges and threats to internal security and law and order situation in the country."

The Gujarat Government is fighting terrorism and it has passed one Bill. A Bill was passed by the Gujarat Government in 2003—the Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2003. It was sent to His Excellency the President of India for his assent on 1st April, 2003. Thereafter, some amendment was proposed from the Central Government. That proposed Bill was also passed by the Gujarat Government in 2004. Since 2004, this Bill is awaiting the Assent of His Excellency the President of India. What are the reasons for not giving the Assent? Why has Assent not been given when

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similar Bills are in force in Karnataka and Maharashtra also? So, I would request the hon. Home Minister to see that the Assent is given as immediately as possible.

Next, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the Confidence-Building Measures. These measures have been mentioned in this booklet. Several Confidence-Building Measures have been initiated as: Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service; Amritsar-Lahore bus service; Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus service; The Samjhauta Express; The Thar Express; Munabao-Khokhrapar rail link re-established after a gap of more than 40 years; Poonch-Rawalakot bus service. To join Western India and the Sind part of Pakistan, there was a regular steamer service which continued up to 1967. It was stopped in 1967. So, we have requested the Government of India to start the road link between Karachi and Ahmedabad which takes only 16 hours. From Karachi, if one comes to Hyderabad in Pakistan then to Mithi and then to the border, one can easily reach India. Only the missing-link 35 is required to be constructed. If that missing link is completed, then the whole Sind and the Western Part of the country like Gujarat and Maharashtra can be joined. So, we have requested the Government to consider this request.

There is one submission. I would request the hon. Home Minister to consider my request. The Government of Gujarat had requested for grants to the tune of Rs. 113 crore for the period 2007-08 out of which only Rs. 22 crore has been received as grant by the Government of Gujarat. Still, more than Rs. 90.58 crore is awaited from the Government of India which I would request the hon. Home Minister to see that the remaining grant is released as early as possible. I would also like to request the hon. Home Minister to see that the proposals which were submitted by the Government of Gujarat for long-term cost involved in reconstruction, flood proofing and mitigation and key infrastructure such as for water supply Rs. 56 crore, for power Rs. 150 crore and so on and so forth.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is written. You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: The total expenditure required for these six critical infrastructure sectors had been estimated to be Rs. 2284 crore. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Home Minister to see that these proposals of the Gujarat Government may please be approved as early as possible. I also lay it on the Table of the House.

*Madam, I rise to express my views on Demands for Grants from the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2008-2009.

Madam, under Border Area Development Programme (BADP), Government of Gujarat had submitted a proposal for construction/improvement of one of the very important Border Road covering Gadhuli-Hajipur-Khavda-Santalpur (in 8 stretches 151.71 kms, joining Kutch and Banaskantha Districts.

This connectivity is in the area facing Greater Rann of Kutch, so that the mobility and accessibility of our security forces improve further to maintain vigil in an effective way.

Moreover ancient historic site of Dholavira, which has been declared Heritage site of Harappan age which is of tourist importance, can be covered by the construction of this Road, which will boost tourism activities of that area to a great extent.

At present for going to Dholavira from District H/Q Bhuj, it takes more than six hours, but if this road is constructed, Tourist can reach Dholavira within period of two hours from Bhuj.

This road will also be much useful to BSF personnel who have more than 30 check posts in this area. Without this road, BSF find it very much difficult to get their Daily Ration, Drinking water and other essential supplies.

The construction of this Road though sanctioned by Home Deptt. under BADP and other Schemes more than 10 years back, but not more than 10% work is completed, hence cost of this road has accelerated substantially. Revised estimates for completion of this

"..." This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

road has been sent by Government of Gujarat to GOI, is Rs. 127.11 Crores and I request Hon'ble Home Minister to direct concerned authorities of his Ministry to see that work of this road is completed as early as possible.

Madam, I would like to request Hon'ble Home Minister that under various schemes, GOG had requested for grants to the tune of Rs. 113.39 Crores for the period of 2007-2008 out of which only Rs. 22.80 Crores of Grants has been received by Government of Gujarat. Thus, still more than Rs. 90.58 Crores is still awaited from GOI, which I request to Hon'ble Home to see that this remaining grant be released in favour of Government of Gujarat as immediately as possible.

Madam, the Government of Gujarat is fighting with terrorism and other organized crime, and to meet with all these challenges, Gujarat State Legislative Assembly had passed one Bill entitled "The Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill" in 2003, and which was forwarded to H.E The President of India by H.E the Governor of Gujarat on 1-4-2003.

Madam, thereafter the Ministry of Home Affairs vide its letter dtd 24-12-2003 recommended certain amendments in clauses 14 to 16, and accordingly again Gujarat State Legislative Assembly made amendments in the 636 said Bill and again sent back the said Bill for assent of H.E the President on 19-4-2004 since then the assent of H.E. President is awaited by Gujarat State Legislative Assembly.

Madam, similar Bills were also passed by Maharashtra and Karnataka States and many other States are also having such laws.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to kindly see that this Bill receives assent of H.E. The President, as immediately as possible.

Madam, I would also like to request to Hon'ble Home Minister to see that the proposals which were submitted by Government of Gujarat for long term costs involved in reconstruction/flood proofing/mitigation of the key infrastructure sectors such as

Sl. No.	Item	Amount (in Crores)
1.	Water Supply	Rs. 56.86
2.	Power	Rs. 1104.16
3.	Irrigation	Rs. 43.79
4.	Health	Rs. 98.73
5.	Roads and Buildings	Rs. 557.68
6.	Urban Development and UMD	Rs. 960.72

Thus, the total amount required for these six critical infrastructure sectors had been estimated to be Rs. 2280.44 Crores.

I, therefore, urge the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that these proposals of Government of Gujarat may please be approved as immediately as possible. I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs that with our neighbouring country i.e. Pakistan, we have got three road linkages i.e. from Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan. Similarly, it is very much necessary have road linkage between southern Pakistan i.e. from Sindh side and western India i.e. States of Gujarat and Maharashtra. I have many times requested GOI to consider the proposal of having direct land route joining Karachi to Ahmedabad (via Hyderabad and Mithi in Pakistan and Khavda, Bhuj in India). By this route, business between two countries will be give more boost and also there is a long standing demand from people of both the countries to visit pilgrimage places in both the sides. Here, I may mention that in my Constituency, a large number of Dalits and Sodha Rajputs and other people have their pilgrimage places in Pakistan which are known as Pithora Pith and Hinglaj Mata and on this side of the border, minority community in Pakistan and also Muslims have got their pilgrimage centres in my constituency i.e. Kutch Districts known as Hajipir, Matana-Madh and Naryan Sarovar and Koteswar.

Secondly, I would like to request the Hon Home Minister to consider the long standing demand of

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

simplification of visa formalities for the persons desired to visit Kutch in Gujarat from Pakistan.

*DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Madam, thank you very much for having allowed me to participate in the debate on Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Home Affairs. I congratulate the Government for taking the discussion on Demands of Grants for Ministry of Home Affairs, which look after the internal security of the country.

The Police Stations attend to one of the most important sovereign functions of the State of protecting the life of the country. They do the services of protecting the country by the BSF, ITBP, CRPF etc. and protect. Security against the extremists and criminals as well as foreign inspired terrorists. Many police personnels had to sacrifice their life while defending the country. During the period from 1989 to 2007 there were 19000 police officers lost their life. More than just a law enforcement agency, the police is as all purpose public services attending to even distributions of stations and dealing with all emergencies. They have to most efficient hours of work in stress and strains.

But there is growing anxiety and resentment among the police personnel right from the police constables to the senior IPS after the announcement of the VI Pay Commission recommendations. They feel that they have been degraded by the Pay Commission and this has demoralized the entire police force. I would urge upon the Government to look into the matter. Now the Government has constituted a Committee a Committee of Secretaries to look into the matter. I would suggest a group of Ministers should deal with the issue.

Madam, even after the growth of police force is higher than the population growth, still police population is only 1:699. Police from State should be strengthened both in Human resources and in form of skill. For the State, it is mentioned that out of Rs. 3 740 crores rupees allotted for modernization of police forces, Rs. 1607 crores have been unspent. This should not happen.

*Speech was laid on the table.

There should be a short and long term modernization plan for the police force.

The existing Police Act, 1861 is very much outdated. This should be amended. Even then a draft Model Police Act is draft, it is not yet amended. There should be fully amended of the Police Act.

Community Police: In view of rise in police crime rate and constraints in the number of police force, the idea of community policing is a novel idea, and wherever it was implemented, there was a well acceptance from the part of public also. It has even changed the concept of police in common man. This has brought down the minor crimes also. This concept of community policing should be scientifically implemented in more number of police stations.

Recruitment of Retired Defence Personnel in Police and Para-Military Force: Defence personnel retire at a very young age. If they are retained to the State Police and Paramilitary force PMF therefrom get more trained manpower and the amount spend for training could be spared.

Recruitment to Delhi Police: Delhi Police force come under the administration under the Home Ministry. Being a police force deployed in the National Capital, recruitment to Delhi Police were held in almost all States in the country. Similar to the recruitment in the Defence Services. But now it is stopped. In 1982 when IX Asian Games was held in Delhi, more personnels were recruited to Delhi Police. Last recruitment was held in 1990. Since it is stopped, regional representations is not there in Delhi Police. So I request to Government to restore the recruitment drive in the State which is there for CRPF, CISF, ITBP etc. in view of ensuing Commonwealth Games of 2010.

Attack on Christian and minority Institutions: Attack on minority institutions especially attack on Christian churches and minority institutions have been increased in the recent past. It has created sense of insecurity and unrest among the Christian in the country. Government. should provide special protection to these institutions in places where such incidents have occurred.

Lack of Infrastructure in the Border areas especially in the China Border: On border areas, lack of infrastructure facilities both transport and communications facilities, Government has taken various steps to improve this. Border Road Organisation is doing a lot of construction of work there. But the manpower of BPO have not enhanced. In spite of more and more work entrusted to them. Human Resource Planning should be done for BRO and recruitment ban as per Annual Draft Recruitment Plan (ADRP) should be exempted for BRO and other Police Force.

Disaster Management: Government has passed the disaster management act and National Disaster Management Authority is yet to began. This should be launched without any delay.

National Calamity Assistance to the State: Government is providing assistance to State Government in cases of National calamity from CRF/NCCP. But there is undue delay in sanctioning these grants to the State. Very often these grants are sanctioned after the on-the-spot visit of the central team. But usually visits of these teams are delayed. Recently in Kerala devastating damages caused to the paddy crops and other cash crops due to the unprecedented unseasonal, torrential summer rains. Members of Parliament from Kerala raise the matter in the Parliament, State Government has written to the Home Ministry and Agriculture Ministry. But the central team visited Kerala only after two weeks. It is learnt that the officials from the Home Ministry appointed for the visit was on leave. The team has to wait till that particular officer to join duty after leave. So I would suggest the Ministry of Home Affairs should establish team comprising officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs and other concerned Ministries and should visit the affected areas immediately and a time frame should be made for this. Guidelines set for provide for cash assistance should be modified.

Madam, sea erosion is a natural calamity taking the life and livelihood of many coastal people every year. But it is not as a natural calamity for providing financial assistance from CRF and NCCF. Government has appointed the 13th Financial Commission. Ministry of Human Affairs should recommend the 13th Finance

Commission to include sea erosion as natural calamity. This is very important in view of the global warming and water level rising to the sea.

Swantatra Sainik Samman Pension (SSSP): SSSP was instituted to freedom fighters in 15th August 1972 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of our independence. Now we are commemorating the Diamond Jubilee of our Independence. Sir many Freedom Fighters of Punnappra-Vyalar Struggle, Kayyur, Karivekkoor, Kavumbai, Morazha and Malabar Special Force. Struggle were not awarded SSSP. Those who are participated in this struggle and recognized as Freedom Fighters by the State Government should be awarded to SSSP. A political committee may be constituted to scrutinize the applications of the freedom fighters and there should be no further delay in this regard.

Amendment of Police Evidence Act: In many police stations, there is piling up of vehicles arrested in various cases and kept it as evidence. They will remain rusted there and the entire thing get waste. I would urge upon the Minister to amend the act, so that after taking the evidence, these vehicles can be return to the owner.

Security to Metro Rail should be enhanced: In view of the terrorists threats and the damage that may occur in case of attack, enhanced security may be provided for all the important metro rail stations and baggage security facilities should be provided into the Metro Stations.

With these words, I would like to support the demands for grants for the Ministry of Home Affairs.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The hon. Home Minister will reply now.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Madam Chairperson, I would like to thank and appreciate those hon'ble Members who have participated in today's discussion. They have raised a number of issues and there are so many issues on which we have to take well-thought out steps. We of course have taken some steps and if any further action

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is required in this regard we shall have to take that also. We had prepared some hand books which have been distributed among the Members for their use in this debate and these hand-books contain the present security scenario in brief. Our Annual Report and budget documents distributed among the Members also contained a lot of information which has been discussed here. I would like to submit to all the hon'ble Members that they should utilize all these hand books and Reports since replies to most of the point raised here would be found in them. We have been discussing the subject of security for the last four years and no other subject has been discussed so much as this one in this House as well as the other House. Most of the points raised today had also been mentioned in all these debates and each point has been discussed threadbare from every angle. I would, therefore, humbly say that it would be difficult for me to reply to all the points due to paucity of time. Now it is 7.30 p.m. and I find it a bit difficult to reply to all these points in the House.

We have to remember one thing as some hon'ble Members have also pointed out that the mandate of the Ministry of Home Affairs is not solely of security. Some hon'ble Members have stated very rightly that security is one of the functions. The function of security is one of the numerous functions assigned to the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is difficult to mention all the functions we have to do in this ministry within the available time. The important functions the Ministry is supposed to do are as follows:

The Ministry of Home Affairs have to do the function of maintaining cordial relations between the Centre and the States. The Ministry of Home Affairs have to see to it whether Government in the states are being run in accordance with the constitutional provisions. It is okay if these are being run as per constitutional provisions, they are asked to take but if these are not being run as per constitutional provisions remedial measures. If there is gross violation of constitutional provisions, the governments are issued warning and also action is taken against them. This function is very important and that is why this Ministry

has probably been named as the Ministry of Home Affairs. This Ministry has not been named as the Ministry of Home Affairs for internal security and law and order, I am very happy that we discharge these functions comfortably and we could do so easily and properly. The work could be done easily and properly not just because of what we do here but it has been facilitated thanks to the attitude of the state government as well. We had no problem in interactions with the state government, in eliciting their suggestions or giving our suggestions and in issuing directions to them to take particular action irrespective of the party in power in those states. The reason is that fortunately all the state governments have adopted right attitude. I think whatever has been accomplished is very good. Sometimes, we hear over here that hon'ble Members rise to intervene, express resentment and criticize us in very harsh words but their governments and their Chief Ministers never talk like this because they know what can be done and what cannot be done. Having known this they understand that under what constraints work is being done and to what extent demands can be made and how the work which has been done is to be viewed, that is why we have not received any complaints from all state governments but we have indeed heard complaints from some hon'ble Members who are sitting here. Sometimes We have heard complaints in a very acerbic language. They discharge their own duties we need not be angry and we cannot afford to be angry in the discharge of our duties. Earlier the Sarkaria Commission was constituted to ensure that this work is performed in a better way. The Sarkaria Commission gave its report and the Report was implemented. The Report of Sarkaria Commission was very good and action was taken on many recommendations and some of them were also implemented. There was also a demand that we should have more deliberation in this direction. We should delve deeper and understand what better can we do than what we are already doing. A new commission for center state relation has been appointed in this regard and its Report is going to be submitted. One Hon'ble Member asked why the Report is not being submitted early. It is not such a subject on which Report can be submitted immediately.

The Sarkaria Commission also had to work for a fairly long time. Work is to be done on this Report also. The people who work here at the Centre will have to be consulted. Discussion will also be held with the people who work in the states. Opinions of people from outside and constitutional experts will also be sought. On the basis of all these the Report will be finalized, if that Report comes we shall certainly discuss. We have a National Development Council to improve Centre-State relations. It was constituted by Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru and he constituted another council namely, National Integration Council. There are many other committees. In our Constitution also, there is a mention regarding regional meetings of Chief Minister. The Home Minister visit different areas and talk to the Chief Ministers on the problems and gives suggestions for their solution and discuss about the obstacles.

I have to submit it with all humility that in my view this part of the functions is the most important obligation of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Perhaps we cannot hold the performance of Home Ministry satisfactory if it falters in fulfillment of this obligation and if we succeed in fulfilling this obligation, performance of the Ministry will be considered of commendable. We have faced lesser difficulty in this regard. We did face some problems here and there. But comparatively we faced lesser difficulty here. We have not received any complaints from any state government irrespective of their party affiliations but they have given us a number of suggestions.

The other function supposed to be done by the Ministry of Home Affairs relates to security of our country. I have stated a number of times in replies to the questions in this House. I had stated during discussion on Naxalism and Internal Security and on other subjects that as per Constitutional provisions the subject of law and order rests with the State Governments. The first subject on the State list is law and order and the first subject on the Union List is defence. We all know that what is placed on the Union List is exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Union Government and what is placed on the State List is exclusively within the jurisdiction of the State. It is very essential to understand that all the problems lie here. It

is believed that if some thing happens in any State at any place here in this House we are blamed. We can neither send our police on our own nor can we direct any police officer of any State to take any action. But we, however, can do one thing, on the request of the State Government concerned. We can send our men and material, money and intelligence for their help. In this way we can assist them fully. Law and order has to be maintained by the State Government and the Union Government can only lend a helping hand in this regard. In spite of having so much discussion on many occasions over this in the House and outside, it is asked to any Central Minister or any Government Officer as to why not a particular action was taken.

Madam, Chairperson a number of incidents have taken place. I have visited there also, but I did so informing the Govt. there and accompanied with them. I can't give order after going there. I can send the paramilitary forces from here, but can't issue any order. It is very necessary to understand this point otherwise, we have to make amendments to our Constitution and ask for such type of rights. A number of members here have said about it. You as well as other hon'ble Members have asked to amend this law and provision of the Constitution and get such type of rights that may enable you to take action from here itself in case such sort of mishappening takes place anywhere. Suppose, any disturbance is being created in Orissa, Maharashtra, Kerala or Rajasthan, in that case we may sent our personnel there to control the situation by exercising our rights. You should make such provisions. If such provisions are made, we would act accordingly. But, at present, when there is no such law or provision, it may not be possible to do so. I am saying this to all because this point is frequently repeated. I am frequently asked as to what I have done? Actually, you may elicit the opinion of the Government of your state and also give your opinion to them and get done what you want. We may provide as much assistance to the State Govt. as they demand. It is very very necessary for us to keep it in mind.

Madam, a lot of discussion has also been held here on the issue of internal security. I would like to

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submit that it is such a subject about which it is necessary to think deeply. What do the national security, internal security and the law and order mean? It is very necessary to understand these three things. Which sort of circumstances cause the arising of the question of national security? When a country attacks ours, the question of national security arises. The question of law and order arises in case of any incident of murder, rape or dacoity taking place in a village and a house. If people in same Taluka are disturbing the peace of that area this type of circumstance attracts question of law and order. If the entire states gets afflicted with unfavourable circumstances and the people of the state want the change of Government there, this type of situation may be termed as the situation demanding internal security. But if we want to approach there in the name of internal security, we have to dismiss the Govt. there otherwise we can't approach there; or have to approach there on being called by them. Therefore, it is very necessary to understand the difference amongst the national security, internal security and law and order.

Madam, I would very humbly like to say that the question of law and order is a very big one. This question is many times bigger than that of the internal security. Not many members have discussed about it. Only one hon'ble Member here discussed about the law and order and asked to amend the laws, the criminal procedure code, the Evidence Act as well as the Indian Penal Code. This is what you have also said. It is not possible unless these are amended. It's a different matter whether that may be valid or not. But the feeling that the law and order is a very big question was very much clear in your speech.

Madam, in this connection, if we consider the internal security, I would like to tell you that the figures available with me show that the number of people killed in activities of bloodshed and anarchy is much higher than that of persons killed in terrorists activities. I would like to tell you the number of bloodsheds and ordinary murders. You would be surprised to learn that the number of persons killed in terrorist activities is approx.

2000 while the number of murders is 32 thousand. Nobody pays any attention towards it. It is good that you have paid attention on it. Of course, you might be doing criminal practice that's why you have paid attention towards it.

You have paid attention towards that and it is very necessary for us also to keep that in mind. This task is to be performed by the State Govt. and I am repeatedly asking them to do so. I said that the population is increasing in the country and every year we are enacting fresh laws and the criminals are committing crimes following different methods. Therefore, the police force has to be extended and more expenditure incurred on security. One hon'ble Member very rightly said here that the importance of the issue of security should not be underestimated. Security is as important as the development. So, more attention has to be paid towards security and more expenditure incurred on it. More manpower and equipments have to be provided and the importance of security has to be increased. In this connection, I have contacted the State Governments and am happy that some of them have given their nod to it. These are the Govts. of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. They have increased funds in their budget for this activity. For this, I would like to thank and welcome them. I would like to ask other states also to increase their budget because it would not be possible without increasing the budget. For your kind information, I would like to tell that the Union Government has also taken steps in this regard. An hon'ble Member was saying that considerable funds are being allocated to the Ministry of Home Affairs for police-related activities. I have presented the figures showing that the Ministry of Home Affairs has increased their budget upto 72 per cent. Maharashtra has doubled it and we have increased upto 72 per cent. They asked if we were going to make a police state instead of welfare state? I would like to tell that security is needed ever for welfare. No welfare could be done without ensuring security and vice-versa. It's necessary for us to know it. The steps we have taken are to provide better security it is necessary to keep it in mind. I have asked a number of state governments to increase the number of their police force. We are doing so at a very

large scale. We have increased the number of battalions of the BSF and the SSB. 20 battalions in the ITBP are being increased and this number would go to two to three hundred in five years. When we asked the Government of Maharashtra, they told that they are going to increase by 50 thousand. When we asked the Government of Andhra Pradesh, they told that they were going to increase thirty thousand. Chattisgarh and Jharkhand also told they too were going to increase. It is necessary to do so. If the number is not increased, nothing good could be delivered. We have noticed one thing that the State Governments have not taken any steps which they should have taken for their existing police force. I would not name those states but there are certain states where there are upto approx. 21 per cent, 24 per cent and 28 per cent vacancies in their police force. If the states don't fill up these vacancies and ask the center to send the police to them, how could the Center send the force to them. The Centre is to take care of not only a single state, rather it is to take care of 30 States in this regard. The states should fill up these vacancies existing therein. We are asking all the States to do so and I am glad that they are getting our point. We have told that it is very necessary to fill up the vacancies.

Some states have tried to increase the number of their police force upto thirty and fifty thousand. They are filling up the vacancies. We are also acting here from that point of view. Some of the colleagues have asked as to how much funds have been allocated for the modernization of police and blamed us that we don't provide assistance for the modernization of police. Figures with regard to quantum of funds allocated are available with me. Four or five thousand crore rupees were allocated during a year. I have these figures in respect of all states. Again we are blamed for not spending these funds. Who can spend there funds? That funds is to be spent by the state Governments. If the state governments have not spent 50 per cent of the funds, we request them to spend the same. They should spend it for themselves and for making their police force pro-active. Until and unless the state police is strengthened, our country will not become strong. For your kind information, I would like to tell that approx. sixty to

seventy per cent of the Central police force is deployed at borders. That has been deployed for the security of the borders. Only CRPF is meant for deployment at other places. Remaining forces like BSF, ITBP, SSB, Assam Rifles are deployed on the borders. Forces are not deployed on International borders, Para-Military Forces are there. Forces are deployed on LOC only. We are increasing the number of para-military forces on International borders. We provide them CRPF Personnel, but how many personnel we can provide them? CRPF is sent to all the States. CRPF means Reserve Police. Reserve Police means they will go there for the assigned job and will return after completing the job. We provided Reserve Police, but they never come back. We are repeatedly told that we do not increase the number.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If any state does not send the Force back, then you should impose penalty on the concerned state. The State will have to bear the penalty.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We are saying the same thing, if a State does not send the forces back, then how we will be able to meet the demand of other States? In this scenario, we are not in a position to entertain such demands. That Reserve Police becomes regular police. It is necessary to send them back. We are talking to our colleagues and it is a matter of happiness that our colleagues now have started to understand this and all the people are thinking on the same lines and this is making me happy. Some people asked as to what we have done? Nothing has been done after giving funds. What should I tell you? It is not good to give figures about the money that we have given to them for establishing police stations and how many police stations have been established by them. We have set up 2,588 police stations and around 58 thousand houses have been constructed for the state police. 19 thousand light vehicles have been given. Somebody has just said that he does not have petrol in his car, he has to arrange for that and still the car does not move. We have given 19 thousand motor vehicles from here. Around 19 thousand Medium-Heavy vehicles and 27 thousand motorcycles have been given and I am not going to tell you figures about the weapons

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given to them. Those figures are such, if I disclose them, you will be very happy. I am not going to tell the figures as to how many NSA rifles, AK-47 rifles, M.N. carriage, SLR we have given them. It is not necessary to disclose this, but we have given all that. Moreover, we have given twenty thousand bullet proof jackets, around seven hundred night vision wave devices and around eight thousand mine metal detectors, three hundred thirty five bullet proof vehicles and one hundred sixty five mine protected vehicles have been given. In addition to this, we have helicopters, and UAVs. State Police have been given all this.

If you ask us, what we have done? If we give you figures, we will be in trouble, and if we do not do so, we will be in trouble. You will keep saying that we have not done anything, you will say, we have not planned. We will retort that we have planned, then you will say that funds have not been given. We will again say that we have given the funds, thereafter you will say that money has not been spent, then we will ask you to spend the money and you have to take care of all these things. In my opinion law and order should definitely be discussed in the House. When you start discussions, it also encourages us. Whatever you say, we can approach the State Government keeping that in view, we can request them but we can not force them. They are equal to us. They are not inferior to us. They are equal to us. We can definitely help them. But our countrymen should not have this misconception that we have to do everything and State Government does not need to do anything. That's why I told you all these things.

I do not want to say anything about modernisation. But what transpired here in the discussion, one hon'ble Member raised a point and other colleagues replied to that. One hon'ble Member asked us to check naxalite and terrorist activities strongly and with an iron will. An other hon'ble Member has said that you are very intelligent but perhaps you do not have sufficient will power, act strongly. What does it mean? If anybody comes across you, shoot him if you think that it is necessary. Hon'ble member have said just today in this

very House. They have said so in your presence and you might have heard that. What they have said? They said that guns and bullets are not going to solve these problems. You need to deal with them with humane approach. They said if their financial condition is poor, then help them, stop social injustice meted out to them and if there is any regional inequality, then correct it. A conducive atmosphere is needed to solve these problems. You tell me as to what we should do as the Government. Should we act strongly or use our brains. You should tell me what needs to be done there.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Use both methods.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Absolutely right. You have replied that we should act strongly where strong action is needed and where wisdom is required, we should use it. One hon'ble Member raised the issue of thesis, another raised anti-thesis and synthesis is coming from your side. You are saying that both methods are to be adopted, you will have to do, whatever is required. We are exactly doing that. That's why some people say that we are making it a police state, you want to do everything at gunpoint, it is dictatorship and some people say that you are soft on terror. What is the meaning of soft on terror? When we act intelligently, it is called we are soft on terror and when we act strongly, then it is called brutality. All these things are involved in this.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Adopt middle path.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You are talking about Middle path. I am very happy that you are all unanimous about middle path and we are following that very path. This is the advantage of this discussion that when a question is raised, an answer comes and this helps in making a way that is liked by more and more people. We should follow that way. Such an atmosphere is here. We will definitely talk about that. Earlier we had asked them to have a discussion, if they want. Government of Andhra Pradesh has said that they want to have a discussion, we asked them to go ahead. It is said whether talks can solve the matter. What are you saying.

We told them that we have not asked them to have a discussion. They want to have a discussion. We asked them to have a discussion if they feel that it may be useful in their case. After some days they told us that matter is worsening through talks, it is not improving. We want to solve it forcefully. We told them that it depends on you. They did it on their own and it is a matter of happiness that terrorist activities in Andhra Pradesh and Tripura have come down, considerably. Terrorist activities in Andhra Pradesh have come down to 70% and 40 to 50 per cent in Tripura. They use both wisdom and force, and thus the terrorist activities have come down. We are also applying the same method here. But it is not possible for us to tell everyone that we are acting strongly and intelligently.

We are saying, you can understand it as you like. As you said we are adopting the appropriate methods here as we can. Another point has been raised here that you arrest anybody in the name of religion and say they are spreading terrorism or secessionism. Is it true? I believe this happens at many places, but it should not happen. This should be kept in mind. But on the other hand we say that it happens, so change the law and make it clear that the one who is accused, he will have to prove that he is innocent. For thousands of years, it is prevailing in the form of Jurisprudence, Roman Jurisprudence, British Jurisprudence and now Indian Jurisprudence that till someone is convicted, he should not be considered as culprit, he should be considered only as an accused and we will have to free him. The question arises here whether this will be easy or not. Several members have asked here as to why we have repealed POTA or TADA. I would like to tell you that those people compelled us to repeal TADA, who brought POTA later. POTA contained the same thing, which was there in TADA. When so many people from international organizations asked us as to why we are changing the law, which we, ourselves, have made, we said that we are not changing the whole law. However,

[English]

shifting the onus of proof from the prosecution to the accused,

[Translation]

which use to create problem to the people, we have removed that portion only. We have retained the law dealing with money and extortion. But POTA is exercising the same thing about which suggestions were made here to change the law. After changing the law, make such a law under which the accused has to prove that he is innocent. On the one hand, there is powerful machinery of the Government and on the other, the only an individual who has to prove that [English] I am not guilty, and I am innocent.

[Translation]

Only those, who have practiced the criminal law, can understand as to how easy or difficult it is going to be. At some places and in certain situations, the onus do take a shift. These two contradictory things have appeared about which we need your guidance. Tell us as to what should we do. As you have told as to either behave strictly or sensibly. Similarly, let us know about the law as to what should we do.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): It is the French jurisprudence. We still have that amendment, especially, in dowry death cases. In dowry death cases, the onus lies with the husband, and with the in-laws to prove that they are innocent. Therefore, it is not that we do not have French jurisprudence, but there was flaw in implementation of it. This is all that I have said.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yes, you are 100 per cent correct.

[Translation]

I have also said that we have laws under which the onus of proving innocence lies with the accused. However, it is not there in all the laws, and if we include this provision in all of them, the police will detain any person and it will become difficult for him to prove his innocence and in this way this remedy will become more painful than the pain itself. We are in this dilemma. We have to find the way out. Whatever you are saying is

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absolutely right. In Dowry Act, in some other Acts, in some cases in IPC and Evidence Acts also, there is a provision under which it becomes necessary for the person to prove that he is not guilty. If somebody possesses a blood stained dagger, he will have to prove as to how the dagger got into his possession.

20.00 hrs.

The onus does lie on the criminal but not the whole of it, so it is not so difficult to change the provision, which is prevailing for thousands of years after the careful consideration. However, whatever you are saying, it has got a substance and it needs to be considered. I think that it will not be correct to rush through this matter. In this matter, it would be wrong to shift from one extreme point to another and the Government cannot do it. Even you will not allow the Government to do the same and when a bill to this effect is brought in the house, you will not agree to it and will not allow it to pass. Thus, these problems seem to appear in this matter and we have to do something in a sensible manner.

It has also been mentioned here that so many incidents took place. Terrorism in Jammu-Kashmir or in North Eastern states or the problem of Naxalism, all this has been discussed here. It is a matter of satisfaction that incidents of terrorism in Jammu-Kashmir has come down 70 per cent. In Andhra Pradesh also, it has come down by 70 per cent. It has gone down to a great extent in Tripura and other states also. Some of the states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa are facing the problem. We are neither blaming somebody nor we say that since our party is not ruling there, so this situation is prevailing there, it is not so. It has got some reasons and we would try to find a solution after having discussions here. You abuse us and then we abuse you outside and get it published in some newspapers. It is also not correct. We are not asking for the same also. We are looking into the problem in right perspective and trying to find its solution.

I would like to say another thing. This matter is no doubt complicated but it is not so that we cannot

solve it. You must have seen that such matters did arise in other big countries also and they resolved it too. It happened in America also, like Liquor Crime took place there, but they resolved it. Similarly, other countries also resolved their issues and we will also resolve it. The issue is complicated and difficult, therefore, we have to work hard, we have to work with vigilance and with great caution. At the same time, I would also like to say that fear psychosis is not going to help. Creating fear will not lead to any gain. Actually, what the terrorist means,

[English]

Terrorist means, he who creates terror and fear psychosis.

[Translation]

Other meaning implies that kill one person and create fear psychosis among thousand others. If we begin to do the same thing, it will create trouble. So, it should not happen. It also does not mean that we ignore whatever is happening and say that it is alright. It is also not appropriate to say so. Here also, it will be correct to adopt some middle path and it needs to be seen that the fear psychosis and the feeling of fear do not rise. There is a need of something to be done about it.

Border area was talked about. This is an important issue. The issue of International security is most important. It is also necessary to see that nobody from outside come and create disturbance here or do something, which may create trouble. Everywhere, in every region somewhere, there is a problem, whether more or less. However, to say that the extent of this corridor is from here to there is also not correct. People told me that it was happening in ten states. Ten states mean

[English]

one third of the country is infested with it.

[Translation]

someone said that it was happening in 180 districts. 180 districts means that one third of the country is

infested with it. I asked, under how many police stations it is happening, they said that it is taking place under 300-350 police stations, which comes to 3 per cent. If we take the figures of police stations, it comes to three per cent and if we take the figures of villages, it comes to less than one per cent. If we take the figures before the public in this way, it will bring relief in respect of the cause which has created this atmosphere or feeling of fear. If we do not present these in this way, it is not going to help the people rather those people will take advantage who want to serve their own interests by creating the feeling of fear. Therefore, we should not allow the fear psychosis to be spread. We have to stop it. If we need to take the help of police in this regard, we will do that also but we will act wisely and resort to development.

We are often asked as to what we are doing for economic development. Our Employment Guarantee Scheme is also a part of the economic development. For Employment Guarantee Scheme, we are spending Thirty Thousand crore of rupees. Ten states are affected with Naxalism. Ten Thousand crores of rupees are being spent there, which are spent for providing one year employment and the figure becomes Rs. Fifty Thousand crores in five years. If I make a total calculation in respect of our Backward Area Development Scheme and other schemes formulated by us, we will be spending about 75 thousand crores of rupees in 5 years for the economic development within ten states. On an average 75 thousand crore rupees are given to ten States. How much work we are carrying out there is another thing. We have not neglected that part also and have carried out economic and social development works there. We also worked for granting right of land to the tribals. One brother asked me whether we have framed rules or not. I would like to inform that we have framed rules and the same will be got published and that work will also be taken up under it.

In our view checking terrorism in multi-dimensional. It is not focused on one point. For that we will use police force, we will do economic development, we will do social justice and by solving their problems we will try to bring our brothers and

sisters in the mainstream. I said that they are also brothers and sisters, why to quarrel with them. Then objections were raised against me even on calling them as our brothers and sisters. It was said that the Minister of Home, Affairs is calling them brothers and sisters. Should we consider them as enemies instead of brothers and sisters. If bullets are to be fired, then fire but we need not terrorise them. If we do not consider them as our brothers and sisters then how they should be treated. They are part of us and from that view point we have to do all these things. Our sister has asked me to come forward to boost their morale. I will come not once but several times. I shall go there as you have invited me but it is not enough. One's responsibility should not be passed on to others. I do not find any fault in the work being done by the people and the Government of that state but it is not fair to say that I have provided them money only. Perhaps you do not know that we have deployed thirteen battalions and thirteen thousand manpower in Chhatisgarh. We have given manpower equivalent to the military of a small nation. We have provided 33 thousand police force, 33 battalions to the naxal affected states and have allowed them to raise 25 more battalions. We are not lacking in our endeavour to help them. I have told you that 75 thousand crore rupees are to be given for economic development during five years and approximately 16 thousand crores rupees are to be given to ten states for modernisation of police. The Union Government is not giving step motherly treatment to this State? We are taking their good and bad as ours. We have done everything for safeguarding our borders. We have not fenced Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet and Myanmar borders. We have fenced our borders at with Pakistan and Bangladesh. Some questions have arisen out of it and many times it has been discussed. I do not want to reply those questions here. We shall certainly try to improve it to the maximum. We cannot do that in border areas. They are discussing it with other states as to whether fencing work is to be done at a distance of 150 metre or at the zero point. On our part, the people from the Ministry of External Affairs are discussing the matter with them but it is a matter between two nations. We are doing this for the same.

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

We want to keep good relations with Nepal. Whatever has happened in Nepal has happened in accordance with elections held there. We have no right to call it right or wrong. They have decided their fate and we need not comment on that. They have formula government and run it smoothly. Our relations with them may remain cordial. We may help each other. This will be our approach towards Nepal.

We are trying to improve our relations with Nepal and Bangladesh. We are doing it very cautiously. We have approximately 7000 km of coast line. Our economic zone is adjacent to these countries, therefore, it needs to be protected. Navy and Coast Guards help us in this regard. We have given about 550 crore Rupees to the State Government to raise coastal police. We have asked them to build police station, purchase boats and recruit police personnel. We are not doing this work, we are simply providing them money for the same. We are giving money for five years to meet the expenditure on coastal police. But we are not supposed to spend that money, it has to be spent by the state, we are simply giving money to them.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: But you will have to monitor the expenditure.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We can monitor everything and ultimately we can take action also. But if I take action against Rajasthan then what will be your reaction about me...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It need not be spoken, he himself will put his points.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If I take action against any state, you will say that I am becoming very strict. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I will reply to it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: This is not our intention. Our intention is whether monitoring is being

done or not in regard to the money being provided to the states?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is not so, that we are doing favour to them. This money belongs to the people and it is being spent for their welfare. The money belongs to that state and therefore, it is not a question of favouring them.

But we should not think that nothing is being done. One should not try to spread such a feeling. I am saying this because it will leave negative impression on our social psyche.

Madam, my last point relates to disaster management. Even this has become a great task as thousands of people lose their lives in a minute. In my region, in Latur 10,000 people lost their lives in two minutes due to earthquake. 35,000 people lost their lives in Gujarat due to earthquake. Thousands of people lost their lives due to cyclone in Orissa, therefore one such calamity in Tsunami, however disasters flowing from the skies take comparatively a far heavier toll. Such calamities take heavier toll than a war. We have made efforts to prevent this and enacted Disaster Management Act. For this Smt. Sonia Gandhi has encouraged us and provided assistance. Perhaps without her assistance we would have not achieved this much success. We have enacted Disaster Management Act. We have constituted Disaster Management Authority at national level and we have asked the States to constitute State Disaster Authority at State level. We have also asked them to constitute District Disaster Management Authority at district level. A huge amount is being allocated for Disaster Management. Even the States have taken many steps for infrastructure development, fire and emergency services. Here has been asked as to why no policy has been formulated for Disaster Management. The policy has been formulated, however the purpose of policy is to provide us a long term guidelines to tackle this problem. The Ministry of Home Affairs and other Ministries have formulated the policy. All these have already been discussed. After its discussion in the Cabinet the policy will be finally adopted and you will see it. the projects which have been prepared regarding Disaster Management are—

[English]

National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project, National Earthquake Risk Mitigation Project, National Land Slide Risk Mitigation Project, National Disaster Management Communication Network, National Flood Disaster Management Project and other Disaster Management Projects.

[Translation]

All these are ongoing projects. Their only purpose is that we should not start digging the well after the fire has broken out. We should rather take precautionary measures before hand. We have witnessed the agony and the sufferings of the people in the aftermath of catastrophic Tsunami and the loss of life and property in Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Andman and Nicobar Islands. We were able to overcome the disastrous effects of the Tsunami with the concerted efforts of the Central Government the State Governments, the NGOs and our brave people. Financial assistance was released to the State Government immediately after the floods before being asked for. May be we are able to take up relief and rehabilitation measures after the disaster has struck. All the sections made commendable remarks in this regard and tried to avoid charges and counter charges. We, in our countries affected by Tsunami. We would further strengthen our efforts in future, however disaster management can prove to be a panacea in such events. It would, perhaps, prove to be more effective than internal security arrangements from the point of view of human tragedy and financial loss. There is a need to further strengthen the Disaster Management Authority, by providing more manpower and funds to it so that it is capable to handle more and more such unfortunate events. Then alone can it become more powerful in the days to come.

I have not gone into the details as after writing the details...(Interruptions) The Question of infiltrators from Bangladesh is before us. All the State Governments are empowered to solve this problem. It is the responsibility of the State Government to identify Bangladeshi nationals and take action to repatriate them.

The Union Government has no machinery in the states for this purpose. We have entrusted this responsibility to the State Government and we are also trying to correct mistakes with the help of State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: In Delhi, the law and order situation is worse. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The hon'ble Minister has given a detailed reply. People from all walks of life are living in Delhi. You talk to the hon'ble Minister about them in his room.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I shall now put Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs to the vote of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If I allow the clarifications, it will take hours together.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You go to the hon'ble Minister and ask him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please co-operate. Much time has been taken. There are many such members who want to raise a point.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He has said that there is no need to give detail about many things.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please respect the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJUJU: The hon'ble Minister has not given reply to my point. Hence, I walkout in protest.

20.19 hrs.

Shri Kiren Rijju then left the House.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, I shall put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the Second column thereof against Demand Nos. 51 to 55 and 95 to 99 relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs."

The motion was adopted.

The House now stands adjourned to meet on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 11.00 am.

20.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, April 22, 2008/Vaisakha 2, 1930 (Saka).

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